

Fr. Dr. Arokya Swamy SJ, a name synonymous with education and social change, dedicated his life to empowering individuals and communities. As the Manager and Principal of St. Xavier's College in Jaipur, he is a beacon of relentless pursuit for justice and equality. Born into a world rich with diverse cultures and complex societal structures, Fr. Arokya Swamy's journey began with a profound curiosity about human societies. He earned a Master's degree in Socio-Cultural Anthropology from Pune University, where he explored the intricate dynamics of culture. His academic journey continued as he pursued a PhD in Sociology from Leopold-Franzen's University in Innsbruck, Austria, focusing on the intersections of caste, gender, and power. These academic endeavours laid the groundwork for his lifelong mission to address systemic societal issues.

Before embarking on his academic career, Fr. Arokya Swamy spent over a decade working in rural development across Delhi and Uttarakhand. Immersed in the realities of rural India, he witnessed firsthand the struggles faced by marginalized communities—limited access to education, healthcare, and economic opportunities, exacerbated by entrenched caste and gender discrimination. This transformative period solidified his mantra: *“Transformation of Society through Education and Empowerment.”* He recognizes that genuine and holistic development of persons and society for a sustainable future requires dismantling and transforming oppressive systems that perpetuate inequality. For him, sustainability is not just about environmental conservation but about creating systems that are equitable, inclusive, and resilient. He believes that education plays a crucial role in achieving this vision, as it empowers individuals to think critically, act responsibly, and work collectively towards a better future.

One of his most significant contributions is his work in challenging the “Indian Caste-Patriarchal Habitus.” He recognizes that caste and gender discrimination are deeply entrenched in societal structures and mindsets. Through his teaching, writing, and community work, he raises awareness about these issues and inspires others to work towards a more inclusive and equitable society.

Fr. Dr. Arokya Swamy is a passionate advocate for gender equality and social justice. He highlights that women make up 50% of the population, and their empowerment is essential for building a just and sustainable society. Within educational institutions, he actively promotes gender equality, encouraging students to assume leadership roles and challenge patriarchal norms.

At the heart of Fr. Dr. Arokya Swamy's philosophy is the belief that life is inherently relational. He emphasizes the interconnectedness of humanity, asserting that our well-being is intrinsically tied to the well-being of others and nature. This relational worldview shaped his approach to education and social justice. At St. Xavier's College Jaipur, he relentlessly aspires to cultivate an environment of collaboration, critical thinking, and social responsibility, inspiring students and staff to look beyond textbooks and classrooms and actively engage with the world around them. His unwavering commitment to social justice and education leaves an indelible mark on countless lives, making him a true champion of change.