

# Size or poverty does not hinder these graduates

DC CORRESPONDENT  
CHENNAI, JAN 25

S. Vincent is on cloud nine. The glowing dwarf on Friday received not only his B.A. degree in History but also a special medal for top scores in the academics as well as extra-curricular campus activities at the 91st graduation ceremony of the prestigious Loyola College here.

"I am extremely happy, thrilled in fact. It's not just the fruits of my hard work that got rewarded but also the selfless love and care that my teachers, my guardian and my roommate bestowed upon me. I am eternally grateful to them all", said the 25-year-old youth who had been brought up in an orphanage from childhood.

Vincent is particularly fond of his roommate Immanuel, who had been carrying him around wherever he needed to go these past three years - for academic as well as the extra-curricular activities - without complaining and expecting anything in return. While Vincent is a native



of Kallakurichi, Immanuel is from Manapad village in Thoothukudi district. Both friends have been looked after in the orphanage run by L. Somasundaram, a kind philanthropist who has been the foster father for over 40 such orphans in the city.

"Vincent and Immanuel are an inspiring team. Their friendship is unbelievably strong and undemanding. And despite their heavy odds, such as poverty and the physical disability in the case of Vincent, the two boys with rural Tamil education have been consistently scoring high in their academics at college here", said Somasunda-

ram, while heaping high praise upon Loyola for "taking such kind care of the poor boys".  
Immanuel is now doing his second year Masters in Commerce at Loyola while Vincent is in the first year M.A (History). "I will do M.Phil and B.Ed. I will be a teacher", said Vincent with awesome confidence.  
As for Immanuel, he wants to do C.A., but is worried about funds.  
"I have been a good student throughout and I am confident I can clear C.A., but I need financial support for this", says the young man. Should any kind soul want to respond to that stretching hand, his phone number is 7904773713.

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# Loyola example inspiring: Jindal VC

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The most important goal in all institution-building efforts should be "to inspire, encourage and enable our students not only to graduate into successful careers but also to consistently strive to make a positive difference in the societies around them", said Vice-Chancellor Prof C Raj Kumar of the O. P. Jindal Global University.

"This has been Loyola's mission since its inception. The secular nature of Loyola and other similar institutions is the bulwark in these times when there are growing



New graduates at the 91st Graduation Day in the Loyola open-air auditorium.

forces in this country and around the world that threaten the basic standards and accomplishments of the pluralistic values that are essential to bring together diverse communities in social and political union", he said delivering his convocation address at the 91st Graduation Day at Loyola College here on Friday.

Complimenting Loyola

for its "long history of sustaining inclusivity and diversity within its institutional community", Prof Raj Kumar said in the Indian context, it is "particularly crucial that higher education institutions enable all individuals to gain the opportunities and resources necessary to participate fully in social, political, cultural and economic life".

A total of 1,954 UG&PG students, including 34 differently-abled students and 37 M.Phil candidates received their degree at the ceremony. Among them were 64 prize winners, including a dwarf, Vincent, who won a medal for all-round meritorious performance while receiving his degree in history.

Loyola Rector Fr A M Jayapathy Francis, secretary Rev Dr D Selvanayakam and Principal Rev Dr F Andrew were among those who addressed the large gathering of the new graduates and their proud families in the open air auditorium.