



RAJIV GANDHI NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF YOUTH DEVELOPMENT
(Institution of National Importance by the Act of Parliament No. 35/2012)
Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports
Government of India
Sriperumbudur – 602 105, Tamil Nadu.

Programmes for Development of North Eastern Youth through Higher Educational Institutions

Title of the Programme: Empowering the Youth of North East India through the Advancement of Technology and Skill.

REPORT ON THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE ACTIVITY

Name and address of the University : Chandraprabha Sikiani Centre for Women Studies , Tezpur University, Napaam , Tezpur, Pin :784028, Assam

1. Type & Format of the Activity : Youth Conclave/workshop
2. Title of the Activity: Empowering the Youth of North East India Through the Advancement of Technology and Skill
3. Dates: from 9th December 2021 to 10th December 2021
4. Venue : Council Hall, Tezpur University
5. Need for the Activity:
Need for technology-based skill development training to the youth of North East India for sustainable of economic growth.
6. Objectives of the Activity:
 - To enable the youth with proper understanding of the cyber world and its dynamics.
 - To offer training on E- commerce to contribute to the economic sustainability of youth.
 - To focus on simple innovative technology and skill for the youth.
 - To emphasize on the awareness of higher productivity, food value and marketing.

7. Proceedings of the Activity

The inaugural programme began with a welcome address delivered by Dr. Mousumi Mahanta, Programme Coordinator. The welcome address was followed by an inaugural address by Prof. Dhruva Kumar Bhattacharya, Pro Vice Chancellor, Tezpur University. Prof. Bhattacharya began his speech by acknowledging the importance of learning beyond the syllabus given to a student. He laid emphasis on the generation of new ideas that would only be possible when the youth are enthusiastic enough to exercise their creativity and remain associated with the society around them. The Chief Guest Prof Sibnath Deb (Director, RGNIYD) greeted the audience and spoke on the importance of skill development especially for the youth of our country. He put emphasis on the development of communication and vocational skills among the youth which would build their confidence and help in their overall growth. He further added that owing to the increasing dependency on Technology today, we need to be familiar and adapt ourselves with the advanced technology. Monoj Kumar Basumatary, Enterpreunor, shared about his journey as an entrepreneur and appealed to the audience that people need to learn how to connect the Lab to the Land.

Prof. Debendra Chandra Baruah, Department of Energy, Tezpur Univrsity as key note speaker, addressed on 'Empowerment of the Youth of North East India through the Advancement of Technology and Skill' and drew the link between the sustainable use of resources and sustainable evolution of the future societies. He discussed about the UN Sustainable Development Goals and emphasised on the importance of reviving our trust on the nature.

First session was started with the resource person Pulak Kumar Mandal, Deputy Manager of North East Cane and Bamboo Council. On his topic 'Skill Development for Youth: Incense Sticks and Bamboo Industry', he shared the avenues provided by NECBC, Guwahati (training of how to use bamboo as a resource to sustain livelihood as well as for commercial purposes).He educated the participants about the various ways where bamboo can be used, for example, bamboo charcoal can be used as a bio-fertilizer, bamboo vinegar as a bio-pesticide and bamboo briquette as fuel.

Manju Gogoi Talukdar, Deputy Director, Industries and Commerce, Govt. of Assam discussed on 'India's National Youth Policy and the Sustainable Development Goals'. She highlighted the Sustainable Development Goals related to youth empowerment in particular. She further discussed on the importance of quality education and decent working environment. She also educated the participants about the various government programmes, start-up policy and schemes which have been drafted to support entrepreneurship.

In the second session, Dr. Kamatchi Sankarnarayanan, Assistant Professor of Institute of Advanced Study in Science and Technology, Guwahati discussed on 'Promotion of Scientific Temper among the Youth'. She analysed how human societies developed an attitude of reasoning and rationality with the advent of enlightenment and further got expanded with every new intellectual revolution like the Copernican Revolution. She emphasised on the importance of developing a scientific attitude among the youth. Dalimi Choudhury Deka, the proprietor, DBD Enterprise, spoke on 'Traditional Livelihood Skills in Demand for Income Generation and Entrepreneurship Development'. She shared her journey with the participants and motivated them with her experiences and achievements.

To make the session more interactive, the students were given activities to do. The students were at first divided into four groups to develop a competitive spirit among them. In their first activity they were given a time-frame of 15 minutes and were asked to jot down few uses of bamboo. All the students participated actively in it. In the second activity, each group was provided with chart papers and pens. They were asked to draw in paper how they imagine their lives 5 years from now. After the end of the task, members of each group came over to the stage and shared the posters made by them and explained how they wished the world around them to be. They painted their dreams in the most innovative ways possible. They dreamed of a clean, plastic free environment, a socially just society, one of the groups also shared their dream of starting up small enterprise.

The second day (third session) of the Youth Conclave began with a presentation delivered by Madhurjya Mohan Gogoi, research scholar, Tezpur University. His topic of discussion was 'Human Hair management and Entrepreneurship'. Mr. Gogoi started his discussion by citing the unique properties of human hair along with its limitless potential. Manoj Kumar Das, Managing Director, North-Eastern Regional Agricultural Marketing Corporation, Ltd. talked on the different qualities of soil and the various crops that can be cultivated in the Northeast region. He laid emphasis on the capacities the region holds in terms of cultivation of food crops. The North East region is abundant in resources, for instance, the region has the largest wholesale market for banana. He further discussed on how with the use of food technologies one can maximise the use of local resource and eventually benefit in creating new avenues for entrepreneurship.

Mr. Abhijit Baishya, on, 'Use of ICT and Skill Development' introduced the participants to the important topics of Information and Communication Technology like Graphic Designing, Blogging, Coding, Transcribing and the like. Through his presentation, he tried to explain that by developing the ICT skills one can open up new avenues of employment and income. He further added that ICT is a multi-disciplinary concept and everyone can develop their knowledge on computers and technology based on their areas of interests. He also educated the participants about the basic technical know-how and the safe use of gadgets.

Fourth session was started with the speech of Mr. Gangaram Dahal, an organic farming expert. His topic of discussion was 'Promotion of Low-cost/ Alternate/ Rural Technologies for Livelihood and Farming'. He is an expert in Bee-Keeping and is also a mushroom cultivator. He also knows the art of making homemade low-cost fertilizer. He educated the participants on the minute details about the lifecycle of bees and how they work. He also discussed about the various equipment needed in bee-keeping like the Beehive Box, the Queen Chamber Frame. He also trained the students on the techniques of mushroom cultivation. Later he brought the students to the field and showed different techniques of bee preservation and mushroom cultivation.

In the valedictory session Dr Madhurima Goswami, Head Chandraprabha Saikiani centre for Women Studies interacted with the students on their learning outcomes of the programme. The two-day programme summary was delivered by Ms. Nigar Sultana, CSCWS, Tezpur University. Prof Vasanthi Rajendran, Head of CTO and BC/CNIC, RGNIYD, Tamil Nadu delivered the special address. She greeted everyone and explained the motive of the youth conclave in brief. She then insisted to hear from the participants about their learning experiences in the programme. Students shared their feedback. At last, the vote of thanks was delivered by Dr. Mousumi Mahanta, Programme Coordinator of the two-day Youth Conclave.

8. Number of total students participated: Male: 9 Female: 41 Total: 50

9. Number of total resource persons participated: 8

10. Highlights of the students' participation:

1. Students are mostly from rural background
2. Most students are undergraduates (conducting bachelor's degree) and from all the streams. Some are research scholars and doing post graduates.
3. Students were attentive and punctual throughout the sessions
4. Students were interactive in all the sessions.
5. They actively participated in all the activities.

11. Highlights of the student and resource person feedback: Students found the programme to be very beneficial. Some suggestions from the students are given below:

1. More activities and field work can be added
2. More programme on women empowerment and welfare schemes can be given
3. Additional programme on knowledge of using ICT is required
4. More practical sessions should be added
5. Intensive training is required to encourage the youths and to execute the plans.

12. Learning outcomes of the Activity:

1. Sustainable use of resources
2. Learning on National Youth Policy and Sustainable Development
3. Skill development on cane and bamboo industry
4. Development of Scientific temperament among the youths
5. Traditional Livelihood skills and entrepreneurship development(food processing, poultry framing, food production)
6. Use of natural resources
7. Uses ICT skills (E-commerce, blog development, cybercrime)

8. Promotion of Low- cost/Alternate/Rural Technologies for Livelihood and Economic (bee keeping, mushroom cultivation, fertilizers)

13. Highlights of the Activity:

1. The students were divided into four groups in the beginning. They were asked to prepare skits on youth and entrepreneurship.
2. They were given a time-frame of 15 minutes and were asked to jot down few uses of bamboo
3. In the second activity, each group was provided with chart papers and pens. They were asked to draw in paper how they imagine their lives 5 years from now. After the end of the task, members of each group came over to the stage and shared the posters made by them and explained how they wished the world around them to be. They painted their dreams in the most innovative ways possible. They dreamed of a clean, plastic free environment, a socially just society, one of the groups also shared their dream of starting up small enterprise.

14. Suggestions to RGNIYD, if any

1. Looking forward for more training programmes on empowerment of the youth.
2. Long term project for more effectiveness and for best practices of the topics like empowerment, capacity building, career counselling, interpersonal communication, ICT training are required in this region.

Mousumi Mahanta
Dr Mousumi Mahanta 22.12.21

Assistant Professor & the programme coordinator
Chandraprabha Saikiani Centre for Women Studies
Tezpur University
Assam

VK
Prof. Vinod Kumar Jain 23/12/21
Vice Chancellor
Tezpur University
Assam

कुलपति
तेजपुर विश्वविद्यालय
Vice Chancellor
Tezpur University