

EVENT REPORT
NORTH EAST YOUTH CONCLAVE
6-8 September 2019

ABOUT THE DEPARTMENT OF MASS COMMUNICATION AND JOURNALISM, TEZPUR UNIVERSITY

Established in 2001, the Department of Mass Communication & Journalism, Tezpur University provides state-of-the-art facilities for the students with an objective of producing skilled manpower in the ever-changing dynamic media and communication world.

Since the inception, the Department has been offering an intensive two-year **MA program in Mass Communication & Journalism (MCJ)** that includes print journalism, television production, advertising and public relations, new media, development communication, communication theory and research, etc. In 2016 it launched another **MA program in Communication for Development (C4D)** to cater to the growing demand for trained development communicators in the country and the region, becoming the first university department in India to be offering a comprehensive full-time two-year Master's program in C4D. The course emphasizes on upgrading the human resource with specialized knowledge and skills on communication for social change using a participatory and people centric approach.

The department owns some of the most modern infrastructure, allowing a rich exposure and hands on experience on the equipment(s) of the media such as audio-edit suit, television studio, exclusive computer workstations with 24 hours net connectivity, new media lab and many more. There is a balanced emphasis between theory and practice in the curriculum designed keeping in mind the regional, national and global skills and competencies required to be a communication professional. Overall the pedagogy aims at creating responsible communication professionals with aptitude for technical skills combined with a sense of ethical and social commitment.



The department was ranked No. 1 in the entire country in the Times Higher Education Survey 2018. The Department has also been designated by the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) as the National Resource Centre (NRC) for conducting online refresher programmes in the Mass Communication and Journalism discipline for Higher Education faculty using the MOOCs platform SWAYAM.

ABOUT THE EVENT - NORTH EAST YOUTH CONCLAVE

The Department of Mass Communication & Journalism, Tezpur University in collaboration with Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti, New Delhi organized a three day North East Youth Conclave on the theme 'Role of Youth in Contributing to a Culture of Peace and Non-violence' during 6-8 September 2019. A total of about 160 participants from 18 institutions across North East India participated in the Conclave. The conclave witnessed one of the most wonderful confluence of youthful energy, vibrancy and enthusiasm that demonstrated the power and potential of young people to create change in the world.

The event saw a rich amalgamation of specialists and academia where experts in the field of peace building and journalism shared their thoughts and experiences about Mahatma Gandhi and his pioneering work in advocating peace. The invited speakers and the student participants reflected on the theme and brought forth their knowledge and opinions as to how youth can promote peace in the nation through collaborative experiences and information exchange.

All the speakers talked about one common aspect. They said that peace in the world can be obtained only when we are at peace with ourselves. The various ways in which one can achieve inner peace were discussed. It was also mentioned that fighting against a conflict would not establish peace but instead working towards the destruction of the various underlying reasons that lead to a conflict through collaborative and empathetic efforts can help bring about a sustainable peace in our world.

Under the aforementioned backdrop, the three day programme was aimed towards realizing the importance of youth's involvement in peace building and the necessity of attaining inner peace before embarking on a journey to foster and spread peace all throughout the world. Gandhi's philosophy of non-violence and peace communication is very relevant in this context. The purpose was to mainly orient the participants towards becoming advocates of peace.



OBJECTIVES OF THE NORTH EAST YOUTH CONCLAVE

- To acclimatize young volunteer leaders understand different dimension of culture of peace and nonviolence
- To understand and integrate the vision of peace apostles like Mahatma Gandhi, Nelson Mandela and Martin Luther King in frameworks of leadership to promote a culture of peace and nonviolence
- To identify and discuss critical areas of intervention of youth leaders for mutual coexistence
- To develop strategies of action on how to promote sustainable and regenerative leadership amongst youth of the region
- To develop nonviolent communication skills amongst youth participants
- To acclimatize young volunteers leaders on the role of media in peace and nonviolence and develop their media and information literacy skills.

DETAILS OF PARTICIPANTS

RESOURCE PERSONS

Sl. No	Name	Designation & Affiliation
1	Mr. Samudra Gupta Kashyap	Veteran Journalist and Author
2	Dr. Pranjal Buragohain	Associate Professor, Dept. of Education, Dibrugarh University
3	Mr. Dibyajyoti Saikia	Founder Secretary General, Brothers
4	Ms. Suravi Sarkar	Communication for development specialist, Banglanatakdotcom
5	Mr. Shantu Guhait	Communication for development specialist, Banglanatakdotcom



6	Ms. Anokhi Parikh	Independent Trainer and Peace Activist
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REPRESENTATIVES FROM GANDHI SMRITI & DARSHAN SAMITI & TEZPUR UNIVERSITY

Sl. No	Name	Designation	Affiliation
1	Mr. Gulshan Gupta	North East Coordinator	Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti
2	Prof. Dilip Kumar Saikia	Pro Vice-Chancellor	Tezpur University
3	Prof. P.K. Das	Dean, School of HSS	Tezpur University
4	Mr. Samaresh Barman	Public Relations Officer	Tezpur University
5	Prof. S.K. Behera	Professor of Eminence	Dept. of MCJ, Tezpur University
6	Prof. Abhijit Bora	Professor	Dept. of MCJ, Tezpur University
7	Dr. P Anbarasan	Associate Professor	Dept. of MCJ, Tezpur University
8	Dr. Uttam Kr Pegu	Associate Professor	Dept. of MCJ, Tezpur University
9	Dr. Joya Chakraborty	Associate Professor	Dept. of MCJ, Tezpur University
10	Dr. Anjuman Borah	Assistant Professor	Dept. of MCJ, Tezpur University
11	Dr. Junali Deka	Assistant Professor	Dept. of MCJ, Tezpur University
12	Dr. Manoj Deori	Assistant Professor	Dept. of MCJ, Tezpur University
13	Dr. Kapou Malakar	Assistant Professor	Dept. of MCJ, Tezpur University
14	Dr. Ratul Nath	Senior Technical Officer	Dept. of MCJ, Tezpur University
15	Mr. Chanchal Sinha	Technical Assistant	Dept. of MCJ, Tezpur University

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46.	Thongam Mocha Singh				



47.	Angom Sanatombi Chanu				
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2.	Panchali Bhagawati	Social Work	
3.	Bipasha Sonowal	Sociology	
4.	Ringchaengdin Pamei	Sociology	
5.	Ananya Singh	Women Studies	
6.	Mousumi Sharma	Women Studies	
7.	Tanjima Arafat	Law	
8.	Deborsee Borah	Law	
9.	Gaurav Sarkar	Education	
10.	Puja Mucahary	Education	
11.	Kuntala Das	Mass Communication and Journalism	Phd. Scholar
12.	Saket Kumar Bhardwaj	Mass Communication and Journalism	Phd. Scholar
13.	Kumari Pallavi	Mass Communication and Journalism	Phd. Scholar
14.	Eishita Das	Mass Communication and Journalism	Phd. Scholar
15.	Madhusmita Boruah	Mass Communication and Journalism	Phd. Scholar
16.	Muktismaan Hazarika	Mass Communication and Journalism	Phd. Scholar
17.	Vansanglura	Mass Communication and Journalism	Phd. Scholar
18.	Richa Chattapadhyay	Mass Communication and Journalism	Phd. Scholar
19.	Subhajit Paul	Mass Communication and Journalism	Phd. Scholar
20.	Harshwardhani Sharma	Mass Communication and Journalism	Phd. Scholar
21.	Manaswinee Mahanta	Mass Communication and Journalism	Phd. Scholar
22.	Prabhat Kumar	Mass Communication and Journalism	Phd. Scholar
23.	Prashant Pradhan	Mass Communication and Journalism	Phd. Scholar

24.	Lohita Raulo	Mass Communication and Journalism	Phd. Scholar
25.	VI Chhanchhuahi Fanai	Mass Communication and Journalism	Phd. Scholar
26.	Ujjaini Chakrabarty	Mass Communication and Journalism	Phd. Scholar
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35.	Raktim Anurag Gogoi	Mass Communication and Journalism	I
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87.	Happy Das	Mass Communication and Journalism	III
88.	Aseem Muhammed Kannancheri	Mass Communication and Journalism	III
89.	Thomson Brahma	Mass Communication and Journalism	III
90.	Vasudha Roy	Mass Communication and Journalism	III
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104.	Sangita Kalita	Mass Communication and Journalism	III



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PROFILES OF THE INVITED SPEAKERS

Mr. Samudra Gupta Kashyap

Born in 1960, Samudra Gupta Kashyap is a Guwahati-based journalist who holds the record of having reported the Northeastern region of India to the outside world for the past nearly four decades. An MA in English Literature from Cotton College, Guwahati and a distinguished alumnus of the Indian



Institute of Mass Communication, New Delhi, (where he did PG Diploma in Development Journalism), he began his journalistic career with Prantik, the most respected Assamese fortnightly, from its conceptualization stage in July 1981. In 1987 he moved to DainikAsam, the oldest Assamese newspaper, and subsequently joined The Indian Express in October 1991. He retired in February 2018 and currently writes a fortnightly column in The Assam Tribune.

He has won several prestigious awards for his contribution to journalism and society. Some of them are as follows:

- The Rai Bahadur M S Oberoi Media Award for Exposing Corruption instituted by Transparency International India (2005);
- Bhupen Hazarika National Award for projecting the Northeastern Region in the right perspective (2015);
- The first DAY Award for Excellence in Journalism (2008-09);
- Enajori Award, for contribution to Journalism and Society (2015);
- DPRC Best Journalist of Assam award (2015);
- 'Sangbad Prahari' award conferred on the occasion of Silver Jubilee of All Assam Journalists' Union(2016); and
- Leo Expo Sambadik Sanman (2016).

He is currently a Member of the Academic Board of Indian Institute of Democratic Leadership, Mumbai; a Member of the Governing Body of OKD Institute of Social Change and Development, Guwahati; a Member of the Media Trust, Assam; a Member of Srimanta Foundation, Assam; a Member of the Board of Studies, Department of Political Science, JB College, Jorhat; a Member of the UNICEF Assam Media team for National Nutrition Mission; former Member of the Academic and Administrative Audit team for Dibrugarh University; a former Member of the State Executive Committee of Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority, Dept of Forest, Environment & Climate Change, Govt of Assam, a former Member of the Journalists' Accreditation Committee, Govt of Assam, a former member of Journalists Medical Welfare Committee, Govt of Assam, and so on.

He is also a State Resource Person for the Right to Information Act, a Media trainer and Child Rights trainer, apart from being a youth animator. He is often invited as resource person for training programmes conducted by different institutions including the Indian Institute of Mass Communication, Assam Administrative Staff College, Govt. of Assam, North-East Police Academy (Shillong), National Institute of Public Cooperation & Child Development (Guwahati), Assam Police, Police Training College (Dergaon, Assam), Gauhati University and Tezpur University among others, with issues ranging from Child Rights, Human Rights, Trafficking in Persons, Media, RTI and Youth. In 2002-2004, he was part of Project Aashwas, an Assam Police initiative to train police personnel on Community-friendly Policing. He also conducts training on Media, Positive Thinking, Responsible Citizenship and other topics for executives of PSUs, government and private sector organizations.



Mr. Dibyajyoti Saikia



Activist Dibyajyoti Saikia was born in Lakhimpur district of Assam. He is actively involved with a number of social issues in Assam. Saikia is a prominent voice in Assam, in the field of human rights and communal harmony. He began his social work in 1999 in Assam. Now, his field of work includes Bihar,

Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, and many other states. He has been involved with various social organizations since his college days. Saikia is the founder Secretary General of national level social organization 'Brothers' which work towards creating social awareness among the masses, particularly in the rural pockets and tea belt of Assam.

In 2007, he founded Samanwita Yuva Tirtha, the youth wing of Assam Satra Mahasabha - an influential socio-cultural organization, which has completed 102 years of its existence. He is the national member of Anuvrat Mahasamiti and National Human Rights Council of India. He is the core committee member of Team ANNA.

As an anti witch-hunting crusader, he has handled 230 cases of so called witch-hunting, saving the lives of at least 70 people. His activism was instrumental in bringing the Assam Witch Hunting (PPP) Act, 2015.

Dr. Pranjal Buragohain

Assistant Professor in the Department of Education, Dibrugarh University, Dr. Buragohain attained his Bachelor's Degree in Education in 2004 from Moridhal College, Dhemaji under



Dibrugarh University as a 1st class 1st rank holder with distinction. He then completed his Master's Degree in Education in 2007 from the Department of Education, Dibrugarh University again as a 1st class 1st rank holder. Other degrees include a B.Ed. in 2009 from the Department of Education, Dibrugarh University.

His areas of Interest lie in Positive Education, Positive Psychology, Creativity, Educational Technology and Philosophy of Education. He has completed an ICSSR sponsored research project as Project Director on Emotional Intelligence as an Associated Variable of Academic Achievement of the Post Graduate Students of Dibrugarh University. He has been providing consultancy services (free launch) to the adolescents on different educational and emotional issues through positive psychology interventions. He has covered almost 1 lakh adolescents throughout the country during last 7 years of consultancy service with significant success rate.

He has been organizing positive education intervention camps for research and service purposes. A theatre activist (playwright, director and actor) and staged number of plays in different places of the nation.

Ms. Suravi Sarkar



Suravi Sarkar has over 13 years of experience in Communication for Development. She works with women and young people to build their skills as grass root change makers in West Bengal, Assam, Bihar and Jharkhand. Suravi has been involved in capacity building in culture and entertainment based social communication and led art. She has led theatre based campaigns on issues related to gender rights, prevention of violence against women and children, health, human trafficking, HIV/AIDS, consumer rights, and energy conservation. She has participated in the International Conference on Anti Human Trafficking: Theory to Practice, SAARC/SAIVEC forum on child protection (NACG-EVAC India), TIP conclave, 2017 & 2018 supported

by U.S. Consulate General Kolkata. She co-presented case studies of Contact Basis work on child marriage prevention in West Bengal at the 2018 International Social and Behavior Change

Communication Summit at Bali. She has undergone training on 'addressing child marriage and violence against women and girls' by UNICEF Breakthrough Partnership project and on 'online safety and security by Learning Link Foundations. Banglanatak dot com is working with young people in India, Bangladesh and Nepal to mobilize and empower them to work for building peace and ending violence.

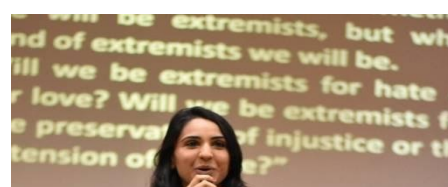
Mr. Santu Guchait

Santu Guchait has more than 10 years of pan India experience in Theatre in Development methodologies. He provides crucial inputs as a theatre specialist in strengthening and developing education and communication tools and engages in workshops for training stakeholders and beneficiaries. He has trained NGO personnel, government frontline workers and adolescent peer educators in West Bengal, Odisha and Jharkhand on life skills and adolescent-related issues. Santu has worked extensively with youth groups and theatre groups on community mobilization techniques and developing theme-based theatre productions. He has a specific interest in photography and AV documentation. His film 'ULFA' was awarded second prize in One Story at a Time film festival on ending gender-based violence held at the American Center.



Dr. Anokhi Parikh

Anokhi is an independent trainer and has previously been the Director of The Foundation, a Mumbai based organization working with children from disenfranchised



parts of India such as Manipur and Kashmir. She holds a PhD in Economics from the University of Mumbai and M.Sc. Finance from Manchester Business School. Before shifting career to social development, Anokhi worked with CNBC TV18 as an anchor & analyst. Amongst other things, she has facilitated workshops on gender, refugees social discrimination, and human displacement, violence and religion, feminist leadership for various age groups.

DETAILS OF THE TWO DAY EVENT

DAY 1: INAUGURAL FUNCTION

The North East Youth Conclave based on the role of youth in contributing towards a culture of peace and non-violence began on the morning of 6th September 2019 when the three-day event, organized by the Department of Mass Communication and Journalism, Tezpur University in association with Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti took off at 10 am.

The inaugural ceremony was graced by Senior Journalist Samudra Gupta Kashyap as the Chief Guest, prominent social activist Dibyajyoti Saikia as special invitee and Gulshan Gupta, the North East Coordinator of Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti as part of the guest panel.

The session began with the national anthem followed by a Borgeet presentation. The Head of the Department of Mass Communication and Journalism, Dr. Joya Chakraborty delivered the welcome address where she greeted the 150 youth representatives from 18 different universities across northeast India that included Tripura University, Sikkim University, Manipur University of Culture, North East Hill University and many others.





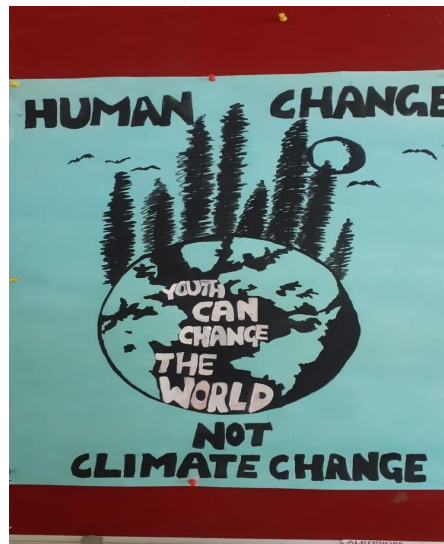
Glimpses of the inaugural session: Dibyajyoti Saikia lighting the lamp (left) and borgeet presentation (right)

Thereafter, Gulshan Gupta shared his insights on Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti. Speaking on the occasion, he quoted, “By birth, we are all non-violent.” Following this, the inaugural address was delivered by Professor Abhijit Bora, Department of Mass Communication and Journalism, where he highlighted an important aspect of the theme by saying, “You are the only community that can give peace a chance.” In line with the spirit of the occasion, Samudra Gupta Kashyap enlightened the gathering with his inspiring words. He talked about the freedom struggle in North East India, about it being the biodiversity hotspot of the country and the role of Mahatma Gandhi in peace building exercises among the youth. He said, “Once you put Gandhi in your heart, he will never go away. Anyone and everyone can become a Gandhi.”

The event concluded with the vote of thanks by Dr. Anjuman Borah, Assistant Professor of the Department of Mass Communication and Journalism and the conclave coordinator. Recalling her mentor, Dr. Daisaku Ikeda, she ended the session with the words, “Peace is a decision.”

POSTER EXHIBITION

It must be mentioned that the students also presented a “Poster Exhibition” that added colors to the event. They created artistic pieces on topics of Gender conflicts, Gender stereotyping, Change, Equality, etc. All the invited guests and dignitaries walked through the exhibition and praised the efforts of the students and encouraged them for more such endeavors in the future.



Poster depicting the power of Change

DAY 1, SESSION I: UNDERSTANDING A CULTURE OF PEACE AND NON-VIOLENCE IN THE CONTEXT OF NORTH-EAST

Mr. Dibyajyoti Saikia conducted the first session of the day. A core member of the team of Anna Hazare, Mr. Saikia is the founder secretary general of the national level social organization, Brothers.

Keeping in sync with the theme of the conclave, he started off the first session by speaking about Mahatma Gandhi and how *satyagraha* has been a tool of non-violence and has always been effective. Talking mainly on non-violence, he said that only refraining from hitting or destroying is not non-violence but having a sense of positivity in mind and soul is the true essence of it. Interacting with the youth representatives, he asked them about the major conflict issues prevailing in the Northeastern region. He mentioned that humanity should be above any religion or caste. As he neared the end of his session, he emphasized the importance of youth towards the progress of the country. He said that there is no point of progress if violence is still being practiced. Thereafter, he concluded the session by highlighting the role of youth to take forward the virtue of non-violence.

DAY 1, SESSION II: TOWARDS A SCIENCE OF HUMAN STRENGTHS AND VIRTUES

Dr. Pranjali Buragohain, Associate Professor, Department of Education, Dibrugarh University conducted the second session of the North East Youth Conclave. The session was centered around the topic, towards a science of Human Strengths and Virtues, wherein he spoke to the representatives about positive psychology and the role it plays to promote and establish the conception of peace and non-violence, especially in the lives of youth.

Applauding the participants' enthusiasm to have a talk on peace in today's times, Dr. Pranjali Buragohain talked on how in modern times, religion and politics have given rise to conflicts, and has become a major contributor to violence in the society. He said, "Every human's intention is to want something better in life," emphasizing upon the five dimensions responsible for a positive and peaceful outlook on life, namely- positive emotions, positive engagement, positive purpose, positive relationships and positive accomplishment.





Glimpses from the first day session with Dr. Pranjal Buragohain

Towards the end of the session, he cited a few scientific real-life examples of how inculcating such positive practices have led to not only a higher standard of living, but have also significantly contributed to less aggression or violence, in people's personal lives. He concluded by mentioning his idea, that is, "Peace within one's own self contributes largely to peace in society."

DAY 1, SESSION III: EDUCATION FOR CULTIVATING PEACE, HARMONY AND SELF-IMPROVEMENT

The third technical session of the day was also conducted by Dr. Pranjal Buragohain, who made it an activity based session, and began by introducing a couple of group activities where unknown participants were asked to sit in groups and talk to each other in order to get to know their partners and find out a point of strength and weakness of each other. Similar activities went

on further, seeking to boost interaction between the participants and being productive and fun in the process.

At the end of the day, there was a cultural evening where the students of TU and participating universities showcased their skills and enthralled the audience, which was followed by dinner, marking the end of the day.



Glimpses from the final session of the first day of the conclave

DAY 2, SESSION IV: UNDERSTANDING THE CHEMISTRY OF A SOCIAL EMOTION

On the second day of the event, the first session was conducted by Dr. Pranjal Buragohain. He started off by making everybody understand the chemistry of a social emotion and how emotions are needed in youth for prevailing peace and harmony. Mr. Pranjal shared some of his personal life experiences and the emotional aspects in relation with the theme of the youth conclave. The speaker conducted various activities to increase the level of one's well being and the sense of gratitude towards someone. Sharing stories from his childhood and hostel life, he expressed how emotions have helped him grow, acknowledging the presence of largely two emotions- 'gratitude' and 'generosity'. These were certain values that he had imbibed from his teacher, to whom he shall remain ever grateful for having taught him the value of those. Talking about his teacher further, he mentioned about the practice of writing a letter of gratitude to him, thanking him for each and every help that he had received from his teacher, and how humbled he felt when he received a reply from his teacher, promising him that he shall continue helping others in the future. Proceeding further, he mentioned the three mantras of a good sustainable life- firstly, acknowledge the gift, secondly, recognize the value of the gift and lastly, appreciate

the intention of the donor. In his words, gratitude is a social reinforcer, gratitude is a social motivator, gratitude is a social barometer and gratitude is a social repenter.

DAY 2, SESSION V: BUILDING AN EMOTION THROUGH SKILLS FOR PEACE AND HARMONY

The second technical session of the day was continued by Dr. Pranjal Burhagohain, which focused on developing skills that builds up the feeling of gratitude within an individual. To do so, he conducted various activities and asked the participants to continue the same for not only their well-being but also for the greater good of the society. “Well-being of my life is my choice,” he said, to emphasize on which, he shared his own experiences with his students in the past wherein he found that students continuously writing journals had a higher level of gratitude and well-being.

Focusing on the emotion of gratitude, Dr. Burhagohain conducted a total of four exercises to foster the growth of the emotion- one, maintaining a gratitude journal that kept a record of all the good experiences of their life, for according to him, the mind is sensitive to bad experiences; two, writing gratitude letters; three, the WWW, i.e the ‘what went well?’ exercise, to keep a record of all the good experiences which inevitably empower the positive emotions, and fourth, the “Hero-of-the-Day” exercise wherein he asked the participants to name a person who had changed their life somehow or added value to it, with the objective of realising the value of a person in one’s life.

He concluded the session with a practice called ‘gratitude prayer’, a cathartic experience where the participants were asked to imagine their mothers and offer heartfelt gratitude for each of her deeds, followed by a question answer session between the speaker and the participants.

DAY 2, SESSION VI: CONFLICT RESOLUTION- TOOLS AND STRATEGIES-I

The speakers at the event were Ms. Suravi Sarkar and Mr. Santu Guchait, Communication for Development specialists and Ms. Anokhi Parikh, an independent trainer, from Banglanatakdotcom. The session began with an activity of self-introspection followed by an analysis of the concept of conflict and peace-making. Thereafter, the entire mass of participants was divided into three groups, headed by each of the three speakers.



As the teams dispersed to their respective locations, the sessions began. The one headed by Ms. Suravi Sarkar consisted of around 20 participants. The participants were shown how conflict ensues in social media and is miscommunicated in the virtual world, through a group activity where all the participants had to make a perfect square without verbally communicating. The exercise entailed a lot of related issues like gender-based violence, leadership qualities, push factors of violence, the essence of global peace, the core of violence etc. The discussions were punctuated by real-life situations where the participants had to apply their reason on issues such as mob mentality etc. and try to understand the whats and whys of conflict. Moving along the lines of understanding the concept of conflict, certain conflict resolution strategies were devised, namely- competing, avoiding, accommodating, compromising and collaborating.



Glimpses from one of the afternoon sessions with Mr Santu Guchait

With another group, the session had Mr. Santu Guchait who got the participants involved in an activity that asked the questions, “What are the main causes of conflict and non violence?” and “What are the three things that describes you?”. He also made the participants perform an exercise where he asked them to hold a rope and make a perfect square of it without using verbal communication. He then made a human loop and tangled it. Then he asked the participants to untangle without letting go off their hands.

With the remaining group, Ms. Anokhi Parikh asked everyone to write down three words that described themselves and later asked them to strike out two. The difficulty they faced in striking out the two was equated to the turmoil being faced by the various ethnic groups at present. They are losing their identities bit by bit because of external forces. She then passed around a chart paper where the students wrote down their idea of peace and conflict. Then, based on the

various insights, a discussion was held where the deeper reasons of conflict were discussed and activities similar to those of the other groups were carried out, that highlighted the importance of cooperation and planning in conflict resolution and peacebuilding.

Through the exercises he showed the complex nature of conflict and how it can only be resolved through united effort.

DAY 2, SESSION VII: CONFLICT RESOLUTION - TOOLS AND STRATEGIES-II

The post tea session with Ms. Suravi Sarkar began with the discussion of conflict resolution strategies where the efficiency of each of them based on the degree of assertiveness or cooperativeness they allowed for, was evaluated by the speaker and the audience. In the course of the discussion, the speaker mentioned, “every problem has a solution; no matter however critical the problem may be, it is born with a solution.” As a part of conflict controlling measures, she discussed the importance of preventing future conflicts and not letting prevailing conflicts spread. Majorly an interactive activity based session, participants were explained how conflicts ensued through miscommunication through a game of Chinese whispers, followed by a brief discussion on the skills for conflict resolution namely- leadership, interpersonal relationship, listening, empathy, mediation, kindness, negotiation, assertiveness and cooperation. In the process of explaining the importance of these skills, the speaker divided the audience into groups of two and gave them a chance to interact, in an attempt to get to know each other. Further, they were asked to write thank you letters to their partners. Thereafter, the participants were asked to recollect a conflict situation of their respective lives and write about it in brief, anonymously for future sessions.





Students being divided into groups in the first afternoon session of the second day

In Mr. Santu Guchait's group, the last session of the second day saw the participants come together in groups of seven where each student discussed the various conflicts they faced and how they resolved them. Taking cues from the exercise, he said that there are 5 ways to resolve a conflict, namely- Competing, Avoiding, Collaborating, Accommodating and Compromising.

Ms. Anokhi Parikh began with an exercise of making a square with a rope. This was a non-verbal exercise where the group members could not communicate with each other verbally and rather use hand signals and body language. Chart papers and ribbons were assigned to note the skills involved while making the square. Skills such as coordination, leadership, teamwork, etc. were mentioned by several participants. The motive behind this exercise was to explain how peace and non-violence cannot be attained single handedly. Push factors detailing why violence occurs in the society was the second phase of the activity. Participants were handed small chits to jot down the factors they perceived as leading the society towards violence.

As the technical sessions of the day ended, all the participants assembled in the screening hall of the host department, to enjoy a rich cultural evening packed with an array of spellbinding performances by the students of Tezpur University and other participating universities.



A glimpse of the cultural evening on Day 2

DAY 3, SESSION VIII: TOOLS AND SKILL PRACTICE PREPARATION OF PRESENTATION FOR 'APPRECIATING DIVERSITY'

The final day of the event started with a technical session conducted by Ms. Suravi Sarkar and Mr. Santu Guchait, Communication for Development specialists from banglanatakdotcom. The session was in continuation of the previous day's activity of understanding self identity. In this session, the students were asked to describe their social identities, that is, how they portray themselves in the social media. The activity threw some light on the contrast between our real self and virtual self, and how the virtual self is a projection of what we would like to see our real selves as being. The participants were then asked to find similarities between the qualities of their virtual self within their real self. They also mentioned that it is our duty to react or comment to a post responsibly since social media is a volatile space.

Thereafter, all the youth representatives were categorized into group as story writers, instruments players, vocalists, actors, and so on. This activity was done to form a team which would later perform a drama.

Following this, a drama was performed by the team as a part of the valedictory session with the assistance of Ms. Suravi Sarkar and Mr. Santu Guchait. Racism, gender based violence (witch hunting), and cyber bullying were the underlying themes of the drama.



Picture from the final day session: the drama being rehearsed

VALEDICTORY SESSION

The valedictory session of the North East Youth Conclave began on the afternoon of the third day of the conclave, that is, August 8th, 2019. The session was hosted by Abhilash Bapanasha and Sangita Kalita, students of the Department of Mass Communication and Journalism, Tezpur University.

At the very beginning of the session, Dr. Anjuman Borah, the conclave coordinator, shared her remarks and experiences of the three-day conclave. She mentioned how in a very small period of time everything was arranged. The conclave got an overwhelming response at the very beginning itself when 18 institutions responded by sending their youth representatives. She also acknowledged the contribution of Samudra Gupta Kashyap as he successfully set the tone for the entire conclave. She thanked the research panel who did their best to keep the sessions informative and engaging and ensured that each participant took home an experience.

Appreciating the bond between all the participants, she said the conclave was a “beautiful confluence of youthful minds”. She also expressed her gratitude to all the teams who worked backstage to make the event a success. The teams were categorised as Reporting, Video documentation, Registration and Reception, Poster, Photography, Social media and Cultural.

This was followed by a drama presentation that was prepared under the guidance of the resource persons from banglanatakdotcom, Ms. Suravi Sarkar and Mr. Santu Guchait. It involved a video telecast of the previous day’s (Session VI and VII) exercises. The theme of the performance was surrounded around Racism (racial conflict faced by people belonging to the Mongoloid race in India), Social evils and superstitions, and Cyber bullying. It dealt with different kinds of conflicts, how one deals with them in real life and how one can resolve differences by means of peace and justice. It showed that addressing small issues and working towards resolving the underlying factors of conflict, one can restore peace and harmony in the world. The message that the act sent across was that *“we are one, we are human, we come with nothing and we will go back with nothing, so don’t discriminate”*.



Stills from the cyber bullying skit on the final day

After the drama, Ms. Chinmoyee Deka and Mr. Abdul Wadood from the reporting team presented a brief session-wise report on the three-day conclave where all the various activities that were carried out throughout the Conclave were re-lived and appreciated.

The resource persons then shared their experiences. Ms. Suravi Sarkar called it just the beginning and promised further and continued association with the Department of Mass Communication and Journalism, Tezpur University. She said that in order to live a peaceful life, one must stay positive and spread positivity. Mr. Santu Guchait asked the participants to pat

themselves on their backs and say “you did well”. One of the visiting participants ensured the creation of an instagram account which will connect all the participants in the conclave so that they can stay connected among themselves and also with banglanatakdotcom.

This was followed by a puppetry video presentation of about six minutes. Students of the nearby Panchmile HS School were the puppeteers. It was titled “The Lesson” and was based on the theme of ‘respect for all’.

Mr. Gulshan Gupta then expressed his gratitude towards everyone and said, “We are about to begin the journey towards peace”. He also shared a story about Guru Nanak that went like this: *Guru Nanak was once travelling with his disciple “Mardana” when he came across a village that was filled with hypocrites. He was disappointed but he still blessed the village on his farewell, saying, “May you always stay and flourish in this same place.” Mardana was shocked but could not ask anything. Then he reached the next village where people were waiting to receive them. He spent three days there and received a lot of love and warmth. On the last day he blessed them too, by saying, “May you get displaced from here.” Mardana could not stop himself and asked, “Why such contrasting blessings?” Guru ji replied, “People of the first village have their eyes closed with ego so wherever they go they will spread their ego but people from the second village will spread peace and love wherever they go”.* Mr. Gupta equated Nanak’s lesson to the message of the Conclave and said that all the participants must now spread the message of peace and the importance of youth in peace building, wherever they go.

The session then welcomed the Chief Guest for the evening, Professor Dilip Kumar Saikia, Pro Vice Chancellor of Tezpur University and felicitated him by presenting him a *gamusa* and a sapling. He congratulated the department for hosting a successful conclave and said, “Peace is the need of the hour and you (youth) are the main source of peace”.

The feedback session saw many students coming up to share their experiences. A student from Sikkim University said, “Thanks everyone. I learnt a lot and hope for a continued brotherhood”. Another student praised the accommodation and well planned conveyance facilities provided by the department and said that the Conclave gave him an opportunity to see and present their own as well as others’ skills. A participant from the Manipur University of Culture said, “Hope to come again. We are the youth so we should plan and come together to work for peace”. A Tripura University participant said that the Conclave was a great platform to make friends and



that whatever they learnt from it they can apply in real life as well. A student of North East Hill University expressed his satisfaction with the department and called it one of the most advanced Mass Communication departments.

Later, the certificates were distributed to all the visiting participants by the Pro Vice Chancellor and the Head of the Department, Mass Communication and Journalism.



The pro-vice chancellor handing out certificates to participants

Then there was a special gesture by the students of Manipur University of Culture where they gifted a traditional Manipuri memento, *Lengyan Phee* to the Pro Vice Chancellor and the Head of the host University's department.

The session ended with a formal vote of thanks by Joy Chakraborty, a student of the third semester, M.A. in Mass Communication and Journalism, followed by a photo session.



Group photo after the event

MEDIA COVERAGE

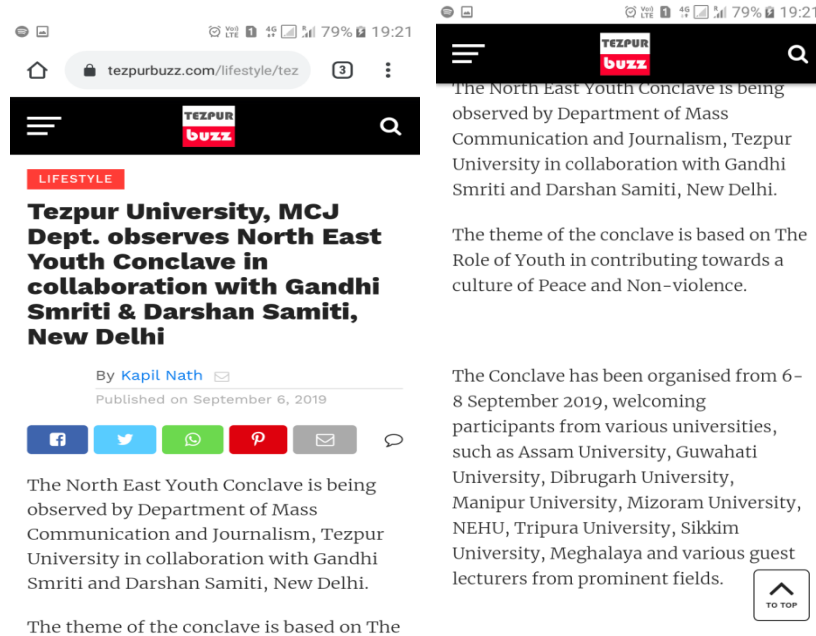
The event was covered by a number of media houses with detailed reports published in their leading dailies, including The Assam Tribune, The Sentinel, Tezpur Buzz, Etv Bharat and Asomiya Pratidin. These were published across English and Assamese newspapers. The reports showcased the objective of the Conclave and how it proved to be a heartwarming confluence of aspiring minds from different parts of North East India.

Head
Deptt. of Mass Communication
and Journalism
Tezpur University, Tezpur 784028

A few snippets of the e-newspaper clips are added below for reference:

Tezpur Buzz

Date: September 6, 2019



The North East Youth Conclave is being observed by Department of Mass Communication and Journalism, Tezpur University in collaboration with Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti, New Delhi.

The theme of the conclave is based on The Role of Youth in contributing towards a culture of Peace and Non-violence.

The Conclave has been organised from 6-8 September 2019, welcoming participants from various universities, such as Assam University, Guwahati University, Dibrugarh University, Manipur University, Mizoram University, NEHU, Tripura University, Sikkim University, Meghalaya and various guest lecturers from prominent fields.

<https://www.tezpurbuzz.com/lifestyle/tezpur-university-mcj-dept-observes-north-east-youth-conclave-in-collaboration-with-gandhi-smriti-darshan-samiti-new-delhi/>

The Sentinel

Date: September 7, 2019



Head
Deptt. of Mass Communication
and Journalism
Tezpur University, Tezpur 784028




Inauguration of North East Youth Conclave at Tezpur University

September 7, 2019 3:28 pm









Tezpur: The Department of Mass Communication and Journalism, Tezpur University, in association with Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti, Delhi, inaugurated the three-day North East Youth Conclave on Friday. The theme of the North East Youth Conclave is Role of youth in contributing towards a culture of peace and non-violence.


The inaugural ceremony was graced by senior journalist and noted author Samudra Gupta Kashyap as the chief guest. Prominent social activists Dibyajyoti Saikia and Gulshan Gupta, the North East Coordinator of Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti also spoke on the occasion.

The session began with the national anthem followed by a *Borgeet* presentation. The Head of the Department of Mass Communication and Journalism, Dr. Joya Chakraborty delivered the welcome address where she greeted all the 150 youth representatives from 18 different universities across northeast India including Assam University, Silchar, Tripura University, Sikkim Manipal University and Manipur University of Culture. Thereafter, Gulshan




Assam University, Silchar, Tripura University, Sikkim Manipal University and Manipur University of Culture. Thereafter, Gulshan Gupta shared his insights on Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti. Speaking on the occasion, he explained that “during the time of birth all human beings are non-violent but as we grow, we also indoctrinate violent means.” Delivering the inaugural address, Professor Abhijit Bora of Department of Mass Communication and Journalism highlighted the important role youth can play in contributing towards culture of Peace and Non-Violence. In line with the spirit of the occasion, Samudra Gupta Kashyap enlightened the gathering with his inspiring words. He talked about the freedom struggle in Northeast India, about it being the biodiversity hotspot of the country and the role of Mahatma Gandhi in peace building exercises among the youth. “Once you put Gandhi in your heart, he will never go away,” he said. “Anyone and everyone can become a Gandhi, if they follow the principles of Gandhism.” Kashyap further





the inaugural address, Professor Abhijit Bora of Department of Mass Communication and Journalism highlighted the important role youth can play in contributing towards culture of Peace and Non-Violence. In line with the spirit of the occasion, Samudra Gupta Kashyap enlightened the gathering with his inspiring words. He talked about the freedom struggle in Northeast India, about it being the biodiversity hotspot of the country and the role of Mahatma Gandhi in peace building exercises among the youth. “Once you put Gandhi in your heart, he will never go away,” he said. “Anyone and everyone can become a Gandhi, if they follow the principles of Gandhism,” Kashyap further added. The event concluded with the vote of thanks by Assistant Professor of the department and the conclave coordinator Dr. Anjuman Borah. Recalling her mentor Japanese Buddhist philosopher, educator, author Daisaku Ikeda, she ended the session with the words, “Peace is a decision.”



<https://www.sentinelassam.com/north-east-india-news/assam-news/inauguration-of-north-east-youth-conclave-at-tezpur-university/>

Etv Bharat (Assam)


 Head
 Deptt. of Mass Communication
 and Journalism
 Tezpur University, Tezpur 784028

Date: September 7, 2019

Screenshot of the ETV Bharat Assam website showing a news article about a North-East Youth Conclave at Tezpur University. The article is published on 07 Sep 2019 at 12:08 pm IST. The website interface includes a search bar, navigation menu, and social media sharing options.

Another screenshot of the ETV Bharat Assam website, showing a different article or a continuation of the same one. It features a 'Hot' tag and a video player interface. The website interface is consistent with the previous screenshot.

Third screenshot of the ETV Bharat Assam website, showing a video player for a news report. The video is titled 'আজিৰ পৰা তেজপুৰ বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ত নৰ্থ-ইষ্ট কনক্লেভ' (North-East Youth Conclave at Tezpur University from today). The video player includes standard controls like play, pause, and volume.

Fourth screenshot of the ETV Bharat Assam website, showing a video player for a news report. The video is titled 'আজিৰ পৰা তেজপুৰ বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ত নৰ্থ-ইষ্ট কনক্লেভ' (North-East Youth Conclave at Tezpur University from today). The video player includes standard controls like play, pause, and volume.

<https://www.etvbharat.com/assamese/assam/state/sonitpur/north-east-youth-conclave-at-tezpur-university/assam20190907120816472>



অসমীয়া প্ৰতিদিন

07 Sep, 2019



উত্তৰ-পূবৰ ১৮ খন বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়-মহাবিদ্যালয়ৰ শিক্ষার্থীৰ অংশগ্ৰহণ

তেজপুৰ বিশ্ববিঃত উত্তৰ-পূব যুৱ সন্মিলন আৰম্ভ



প্ৰতিদিন বিশেষ সেৱা-সংবাদ, তেজপুৰ, ৬ ছেপ্টেম্বৰ
ঃ দেশৰ ক্ষমতামে অসমীয়া উচ্চ শিক্ষানুষ্ঠান তেজপুৰ বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ত আজিৰে পৰা তিনিদিনীয়া কৰ্মসূচীৰে উত্তৰ-পূব যুৱ সন্মিলনৰ আৰম্ভ হৈছে। গান্ধী শৃতি আৰু দৰ্শন সমিতি, নতুন দিল্লী আৰু তেজপুৰ বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ৰ গনসংযোগ আৰু সাংবাদিকতা বিভাগৰ যৌথ উদ্যোগত আয়োজিত এই যুৱ সন্মিলনখনি আজি বস্তি প্ৰাঞ্চলমেৰে শুভাৰম্ভ কৰে বিশিষ্ট সাংবাদিক সমুহৰ উপস্থিতিত।
বাষ্টায় সংগীতৰে আৰম্ভণি হোৱা অনুষ্ঠানটিত গনসংযোগ আৰু সাংবাদিকতা বিভাগৰ ছাত্ৰ পাৰ্শ্বজিৎ শইকীয়াই এটি বন্ধনীত পৰিবেশন কৰাৰ পাচত বিভাগটোৰ মূৰব্বী অধ্যাপিকা ■ ১৪ পৃষ্ঠাত

তেজপুৰ বিশ্ববিঃত উত্তৰ-পূব যুৱ সন্মিলন

■ **সপ্তম পৃষ্ঠাৰ পৰা** ড° জয়া চক্ৰৱৰ্তীয়ে উদ্বোধনী ভাষণ দিয়ে। ইয়াৰ পাচতেই গান্ধী স্মৃতি আৰু দৰ্শন সমিতিৰ উত্তৰ-পূবৰ সমন্বয়ক গুলছন কুমাৰে আলোচনাৰ বিষয়বস্তুৰ সম্পৰ্কে ধূলমূল আভাস দাঙি ধৰে। বিভাগটোৰ জ্যেষ্ঠ প্ৰবক্তা অভিজিৎ বৰা আৰু সমাজকৰ্মী দিব্যজ্যোতি শইকীয়াই গান্ধী দৰ্শন আৰু অহিংসাৰ ওপৰত সাৰগৰ্ভ ভাষণ প্ৰদান কৰে। উল্লেখ্য যে উত্তৰ-পূব ভাৰতৰ আঠোখন ৰাজ্যৰ ১৮ খনকৈ আগশাৰীৰ বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় আৰু মহাবিদ্যালয়ৰ শতাধিক ছাত্ৰ-ছাত্ৰীৰ অংশ গ্ৰহণ কৰা সন্মিলনত মুখ্য অতিথি তথা বিশিষ্ট সাংবাদিক সমুহ গুপ্ত কাশ্যপে কয়— 'এবাৰ নিজৰ হৃদয়ৰ মাজত গান্ধীক ৰাখি চোৱা, গান্ধী তোমাৰ পৰা কেতিয়াও এৰি নাযায়। ছাত্ৰ-ছাত্ৰীসকলক উদ্দেশ্যি দিয়া ভাষণত বিশিষ্ট সাংবাদিকগৰাকীয়ে বৰ্তমান সময়ত গান্ধীবাদৰ প্ৰাসংগিকতা আৰু প্ৰয়োজনীয়তাৰ বিষয়ে উল্লেখ কৰাৰ লগতে হিংসা পৰিত্যাগ কৰি অহিংসা আৰু মানৱতাক নিজৰ ধৰ্ম হিচাপে আঁকোৱালি ল'বলৈ আহ্বান জনায়। সহকাৰী অধ্যাপিকা ড° অঞ্জলিন বৰাই বক্তব্য প্ৰদানৰ পাচতেই বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ৰ শীৰ্ষ গীতেৰে সন্মিলনৰ উদ্বোধনী অনুষ্ঠানৰ সামৰণি পৰে।



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<https://epaper.asomiyapratidin.in/m/92745/5d730edcf187f>

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