



**Report on Collaborative Activity**

**North East Youth Conclave**

**6-8 September 2019**

- 1. Name of the Collaborative Activity:** North East Youth Conclave
- 2. Nature of Activity:** Organizing a conclave of young people from different states within the Northeast region on the theme 'Role of Youth in Contributing to a Culture of Peace and Non-violence'
- 3. Name of the Collaborating Agency/ Individual with affiliation, and contact details:** Organized by Dept. of Mass Communication & Journalism, Tezpur University in collaboration with Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti (Contact person – Vedabhyas Kundu vedabhyas@gmail.com)
- 4. Summary of collaboration:** Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti (GSDS) was formed in September 1984 as an autonomous body. The basic aim and objective of the Samiti are to propagate the life, mission and thought of Mahatma Gandhi through various socio-educational and cultural programmes. A three-day conclave organized by the Dept. of MCJ in collaboration with GSDS witnessed a most wonderful confluence of youthful energy, vibrancy and enthusiasm that demonstrated the power and potential of youth people to create change in the world. A total of 150 participants from 18 institutions across North East India participated in the Conclave.
- 5. List of detailed activities under the collaboration:**

**DAY 1: INAUGURAL FUNCTION**

The North East Youth Conclave began on the morning of 6<sup>th</sup> September 2019. 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 dais was also graced by Dr. Joya Chakraborty, Head, Department of MCJ-TU and Prof. Abhijit Borah, former Head and Professor in the Department.



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.

### **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.

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

Dr. Pranjal 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.

### **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.

### **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 wellbeing 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'.

#### **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.

#### **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.

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.

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.

#### **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.



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.

### 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.

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"*.

This was followed by a participatory puppetry video presentation of about six minutes. Students of the nearby Panchmile HS School were the puppeteers. It was titled "The Lesson" and addressed two important themes for creating peace – 'Respect' and 'Love'.

Following this, representative from Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti, Mr. Gulshan Gupta expressed his gratitude towards everyone and said, "We are about to begin the journey towards peace".

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.