



**SOUTH ASIAN
YOUTH FESTIVAL**
#IAMTHESOLUTION

UNITED NATIONS
**INTERNATIONAL
YOUTH DAY**

2020
YOUTH ENGAGEMENT
FOR GLOBAL ACTION

12TH AUGUST- 3RD SEPTEMBER, 2020

SOUTH ASIAN YOUTH FESTIVAL REPORT

#IAMTHESOLUTION



ABOUT **SOUTH ASIAN** YOUTH FESTIVAL 2020

“

South Asian Youth Festival 2020 organized to gather youths from South Asian Countries, connect them, share and learn their perspective, and develop a strong bond. The 3- weeks-long program was organized on the occasion of International Youth Day 2020 to celebrate youth power, energy, creativity, success, and capabilities.

This festival was organized virtually and concluded on the 3rd of September with the Closing Ceremony of the Festival with the presence of dignitaries, inspirational youths from South Asia.

This virtual festival was organized in collaboration with *UNICEF- ROSA; UNESCO; Cabinet Division; A2I Bangladesh; ICT Division, Bangladesh; UNDP; National Youth Council Nepal; Maldives National Youth Council; Plan International; Coca-Cola; South-South Network; Konnect; Turkish Airlines; CYDA, India; CYN, Srilanka; Dynamic Youth, Afghanistan, and Pinnacle Consultancy Pvt. Ltd, Maldives.*

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FORWARD

Youths are the present and future of the World, we should be aware of the power young people have, we should be able to create the necessary platforms to groom them in a better way to make them capable in every means.

The event was held in the presence of participants from South Asian countries. South Asian Youth Festival became a platform for the youths of South Asia to engage in skillful workshops, creative competitions, and interactive panel discussions that addressed different issues related to youth, skills, development, education, leadership, and active citizenship. The event was majorly focused on encouraging youths to get skilled as per the need of the 21st Century. The discussions were organized in all South Asian Countries to understand their educational policies, challenges in the youth sector, and possible solutions towards global issues.

We have been conducting several events and programs to facilitate youths and teenagers for their skill enhancement. This festival proved to engage South Asian youth in a single platform for 23 days, sharing ideas and building a skilled community of youths and teenagers.

Glocal is a business enterprise working in the areas of education, entrepreneurship, and skilling, we had many organizations that directly and indirectly supported in different ways possible to make the event a huge and successful one. I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to our organizing team, collaborators, partners, and amazing youth across South Asia who recognized this event at a South Asian level and participating meaningfully.

We are determined to work for such projects in days to come. And I would like to invite everyone for further collaboration, Partnership for Goals, to create a bigger impact, and bringing the community closer and implement solutions to address the challenges of youths and teenagers not only in our country, Nepal, but at larger in South Asia, and eventually towards the world.

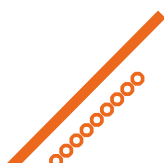
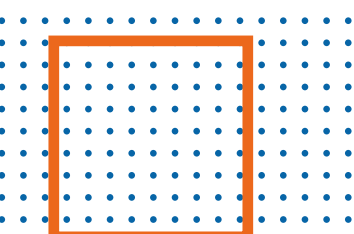
Thank you, everyone!



Mr. Asish Thakur

Executive Director

Glocal Pvt. Ltd., Nepal



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

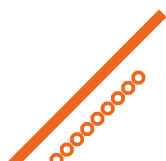
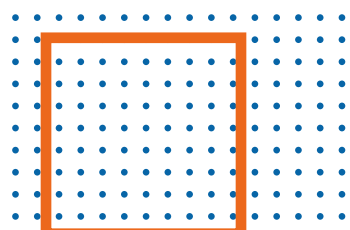
The Festival organized to collect youth from South Asian in one platform, learn and share succeeded with the active participation of youth from the South Asian Region. The festival started on 12th August 2020 comprised of exciting categories like Panel Discussions, Workshops and Competitions ended on the 3rd of September with the Closing Ceremony of the festival.

We had an amazing number of participants of more than 800+ in various events from 8 countries of South Asia with the clear intension of building a strong bond among the youth and learn at the same time. Panel Discussions were more focused on sharing the context of the respective country to the youth of South Asia; most of the discussion was based on Youth, Skills, Education, and Employment. Creative Competitions of the festival was organized to provide an opportunity for the youth to showcase their abilities and creativity through various means of expression; application received in various categories was commendable. Looking after the number of creativities, we can say youth are truly storehouse of imagination and creation.

The skillful workshop was another essential component of the festival, youth from South Asia participated in workshops we organized. Most of them were so enthusiastic to learn new things and some were there to sharpen their skills.

South Asian Youth Festival 2020 was completed with the huge success in creating a positive impact among the youth of South Asia and connecting them with amazing youth through one platform.

The Festival was organized with the tagline of **#IAMTHESOLUTION** to flow the information that- Youths are the Solution for various issues, we just need is collaboration, coordination, and connect.



MAJOR OBJECTIVES OF ORGANIZING THE FESTIVAL

Sessions and Objectives	Highlights and Key Statements
<p>Session 1: Opening Panel</p> <p>To share about the youth engagements and youth voices in South Asian Level in presence of Delegates and Inspiring Youths</p>	<p>"This is the time for the youth to come forward, come together, and brainstorm some ideas and solutions; youth gives confidence and raises hopes".</p> <p>"You have to do everything on your own. No will take your hand and take you to the success".</p> <p>"Youth is one of the valuable aspects of the country, this is the time for youths to develop skills, attitudes, knowledge which are essential to uplift themselves for the future".</p> <p>"All the government should facilitate young people to develop their skillful attitudes, organize an online platform in this pandemic for better enhancement and development".</p>
<p>Session 2: Entrepreneurship and Skill Panel</p> <p>To discuss the conditions, challenges, and opportunities in an entrepreneurial journey with young entrepreneurs from South Asian.</p>	<p>To share about their ventures and motivations.</p> <p>"Success and failures are part of the journey".</p> <p>"To develop skills, mindset play important role in entrepreneur journey. Entrepreneurial programs, skillful and motivational sessions need to be initiated for the development of an entrepreneurial mindset".</p> <p>"Try whatever you have, it's never too late to start. It's never too early to start. Start whenever you think".</p> <p>We should be focused on one specific skill i.e., "Emotional intelligence skill". When it comes to happiness and success in life, emotional intelligence matters a lot just as an intellectual ability. Also, if you have potential or capabilities then develop emotional intelligence skills that help you to start your entrepreneur journey".</p>

MAJOR OBJECTIVES OF ORGANIZING THE FESTIVAL

Sessions and Objectives	Highlights and Key Statements
<p>Session 3: Youth Social Engagement Panel</p> <p>To share about the social impacts being created by the youth in respective countries.</p> <p>To discuss the hindrances in the youth sector and solutions in South Asian Perspectives.</p>	<p>"As there is a saying youth are the future of our nation; youth plays an incredible role in the mission towards the development of their community, region, country, and the world. It is the crucial time in their life to learn, invest, prepare for the future development connecting within the development activities, creating networks, developing skills, and much more. As a result, it helps youth to grow up to be confident, commitment, creative, inspirational, capable in every aspect of your life to develop the whole region".</p> <p>"There is a link between adolescence, teenager, and young people like a pyramid. So, youth can build knowledge to grow up. Through youth engagement, youth can get opportunities, services, and support for social change".</p> <p>"Youths are not just our future. Youth are the present of our country as well as the world. Social engagement is being part of the social change that youths want to create".</p> <p>"Youth cannot establish a project or social action project without the help of mentors, partners, and leaders. Youth leadership is important to encourage young people to reach their full potential for youth development".</p>
<p>Session 4: Keynote on Policies for Better Education</p>	<p>"Education is not just for those studying formally in schools, colleges, and universities. Everyone is the student of the future, and those who refuse to accept this fact, the future will refuse to accept them. So, start learning NOW, to be accepted by the Future".</p> <p>"People normally think when they got a degree makes them educated, but a degree is just a starting point. When education is applied, it becomes knowledge. And the final take is wisdom. Knowledge means knowing what to say and wisdom means to determine whether to say or not. If we want to be future-ready, if we want to make the best out of our education, we need to reach the ultimate stage of knowledge and higher education. Education essentially doesn't make the future-ready, and he said that as a Global Perspective".</p> <p>"We have to transform everything we can trace, be it education, health, economy, governance, environment, and so on. The people we need today should have high imaginative quotient value. Youths need to focus on their crucial abilities that can be curiosity, ability to ask questions, problem-solving, and decision making. Also, Youth needs to find their Stressbuster and their purpose –inner calling. They should read more, research more significantly to broaden up their knowledge".</p>

MAJOR OBJECTIVES OF ORGANIZING THE FESTIVAL

Sessions and Objectives	Highlights and Key Statements
<p>Session 5: Country Specific Panel- Nepal</p> <p>Topic- Youth, Skills, and Education</p>	<p>"Education is not a primary base of skills; it is meant to sharpen it. Education helps to sharpen the skills but just education is not the base of all skills."</p> <p>Education not only gives an academic degree but also makes us confident in every means. Skills are necessary to achieve success.</p> <p>The main skills that should be implemented are discipline mentality and discipline skills. In every action, if we go to have a good thing then discipline is the key thing.</p> <p>"The first skill that youths need to know is to identify themselves, their values instead of coping with others or following others. He mentioned, their self-identification, self-realization plays a significant role in their life. Thus, firstly we have to fight with ourselves to be with us then we can gain skills. Instead of gaining skill, we can internalize the power of myself and realize the skill that we have and what we need to sharpen."</p>
<p>Session 6: Country Specific Panel- India</p> <p>Topic- Impact of COVID on Young People in India</p>	<p>Due to the COVID situation, 31 lakhs youth in India lost their jobs. Youth who are educated and skilled have returned to their homes, in that way they can contribute towards the development of their country and places. There is a gap between jobs and skills in India as well. Therefore, there needs to be self-employment training, research, and engagement for Youths at the local level. Inclusion is really necessary for every sector.</p> <p>Lockdown has affected the rights of people with disabilities, caretakers. The plans' policies need to be implemented as this makes a lot of difference.</p> <p>Covid-19 has taught corporate decision-makers that in formulating future supply chain designs, apart from cost, quality, and delivery they would also need to stress-test the chains on new performance measures including resilience, and responsiveness.</p> <p>If we can control the local economy, we can control the whole of India. We need to create scope to encourage local sources, providing them with the skills and knowledge required in the job market.</p>

MAJOR OBJECTIVES OF ORGANIZING THE FESTIVAL

Sessions and Objectives	Highlights and Key Statements
Session 7: Country Specific Panel- Sri Lanka Topic- Youth Engagement and Youth Economic Empowerment	<p>SDG is ultimately a life cycle which will save the planet earth and reshaping our learners as human resource. Youth should prepare themselves to solve any problem and make them prepared as a problem solver.</p> <p>Youths must be empowered to make them ready for the future workplace. Youth should take the responsibility to face the change enabling.</p>
Session 8: Country Specific Panel- Bangladesh Topic- Youth SDG Mission: I am the Solution	<p>SDG is ultimately a life cycle which will save the planet earth and reshaping our learners as human resource. Youth should prepare themselves to solve any problem and make them prepared as a problem solver.</p> <p>Youths must be empowered to make them ready for the future workplace. Youth should take the responsibility to face the change enabling.</p>
Session 9: Country Specific Panel- Afghanistan Topic- Youth, Education and Employment	<p>With a staggering 63% of the population being under the age of 25, Afghanistan holds one of the largest percentages of youth populations in the world. Due to their large number, youth have become a target for extremist organization recruitment efforts.</p> <p>Afghanistan's education system has been devastated by more than three decades of sustained conflict. For many of the country's children, completing primary school remains a distant dream – especially in rural areas and for girls – despite recent progress in raising enrolment.</p> <p>Youth education needs to be market-driven. Ministry of Education, Labor should form a committee to work together to access market demands, and based on that they can organize curriculum. Youth educated in these institutions, be trained.</p> <p>The Afghan government needs to work in proper infrastructure, private investment for development, and education sectors.</p>

MAJOR OBJECTIVES OF ORGANIZING THE FESTIVAL

Sessions and Objectives	Highlights and Key Statements
<p>Session 10: Country Specific Panel- Pakistan</p> <p>Topic- Mobilizing Youths on Creative Solution</p>	<p>As a youth, we all have the energy to bring change and be a responsible citizen. People need to invest their knowledge and expertise in the development of their community and society.</p> <p>It is important to prepare better policies to engage Youth in the right direction and to prepare them for playing their due role in society by empowering them with due skills and capabilities.</p> <p>Different kinds of youth development programs need to be initiated that provides support to young people in fixing their issues and problems with the help of their strengths.</p> <p>Confidence is one of the major qualities that youths of today need to have. Only then, creative solutions can be explored as this quality take hold of all other qualities that are essential to bringing the change.</p>
<p>Session 11: Country Specific Panel- Maldives</p> <p>Topic- Youth - building resilience, focusing on future skills and achieving dreams</p>	<p>Building resilience in young people is an important goal to strengthen capacity and promote skills that help to reduce their problems and create solutions. One way to foster resilience in young people is through meaningful youth participation.</p> <p>The youth of today needs to learn from mistakes and have a broad mindset. Even if they have a specific degree, this should not end there. A young mind needs to grasp the learnings and skills in their life.</p> <p>There should be more opportunities for youth, adults, and Government to interact. This can be done by organizing volunteer and community work, promoting mutual understanding amongst youth and adults, increasing opportunities for youth to become more involved in community life and decision making, promoting awareness among youth, overcoming traditional obstacles to gender equality, and acquiring resources to provide beneficial leisure activities.</p> <p>In addition to bringing together youth from different specters of society, identifying their concerns and bringing out their opinions on issues is truly essential.</p>

MAJOR OBJECTIVES OF ORGANIZING THE FESTIVAL

Sessions and Objectives	Highlights and Key Statements
Session 12: Discussion on Taking Charge of Our Future	<p>Youth movements and organizations are taking the role of youth empowerment. Youths are deliberately seen to be interested in environmental development and sustainability and mental health.</p> <p>Though it is considered that the elder people are prone to be affected easily by the pandemic, youths are affected more. Thus, by focusing on the youth, the government engages youth in civil society, local government authority by creating platforms.</p> <p>It is a time for youth to come before and believed that bringing youth together brings progress.</p> <p>Regarding political participation and youth empowerment, youth are interested in centralization acts and goals of government.</p>
Session 13: Digital Storytelling Workshop To assist participants in understanding the power of storytelling.	<p>Storytelling is the process of communicating ideas to the audience through storytellers. Robert McKee, "Storytelling is the most powerful way to put the ideas into the world today".</p> <p>The purpose of storytelling bridges the gap between perception and reality. The effectiveness of storytelling can be evaluated based on the impact of the story on the life of the audience. The story must be relatable to the everyday life of the audience. Understanding the process of storytelling includes two agents first, 'storyteller', and second 'audience' whereas different ideas, information, emotions, etc. be the means or process of storytelling.</p> <p>The fundamental purpose of storytelling bridges the gap between perception and reality; it brings people closer to reality and the reflection of community or idea to the targeted audience.</p> <p>The storytelling process platform gives a platform to amalgamate the skills.</p>

MAJOR OBJECTIVES OF ORGANIZING THE FESTIVAL

Sessions and Objectives	Highlights and Key Statements
<p>Session 14: Public Speaking Workshop</p> <p>To help participants in becoming more persuasive and doing better-content, style, and strategy-wise during communication.</p>	<p>The key points of possible communication include; creating awareness, imparting knowledge, projecting an image, shaping attitudes and behavior, stimulating desire, and effecting a sale. There are plenty of reasons to communicate.</p> <p>We all have a good speaker within ourselves. We need to explore and make that quality of the speaker improve through a creative approach.</p> <p>Persuasion is a sort of demonstration since people are most fully persuaded when we consider a thing to have been demonstrated. Aristotle's modes of persuasion are believed to be the heart of almost every speech.</p> <p>Communication can also be simultaneously in one more than the forum.</p>
<p>Session 15: Youth Empowerment for Active Citizenship</p> <p>To develop self-capabilities and help them in developing their resilience power, empathetic skills, and respect toward diversity.</p>	<p>It is very important to turn our disadvantage into an advantage and lead further to bring change in the society and country.</p> <p>Joys and sorrows are similar in every humankind. As human has the same problem, we connect with people and share our thoughts. Therefore, we need to have empathy towards people.</p> <p>Democracy is not about electing a government. Democracy should be participative, rather than elective or representative.</p> <p>Leaders should not be conquered; leaders should be formed automatically. Respect cannot be demanding; it should be commanding. Concentration is important. If we want to rediscover yourself, buy time for yourself.</p> <p>Solidarity is the need and power to lead a good life.</p>

MAJOR OBJECTIVES OF ORGANIZING THE FESTIVAL

Sessions and objectives

Highlights and Key Statements

Session 16: Virtual Strategy for Productive Team

To make participants understand how to engage team virtually; use of virtual productivity tools for managing and solving team members problems.

Productivity is more of an achieving something and it is more of a tangible form.

Be authentic, be true to yourself as well true to the audience; be productive in a very authentic way.

Miscommunication leads to misinterpretation and also leading to more conflict in interpersonal relationships. This largely happens in a lot of organizations all over the world because, in the virtual mode, it is very easy to assume things.

Engaging in something you do together or alone for the sake of something. It is a process rather than an outcome. It is said that engaging people is productive but not all the time. Sometimes engagement cannot be related to productivity.

If we are interested in improving the quality of your life then core human skills should be focused on developing.

MAIN CATEGORIES OF FESTIVAL



Creative Competitions



Skillful Workshops



Insightful Discussions

INFOGRAPHICS



OPENING PANEL



Hon. Rameshwor Ray Yadav

Minister of Labour, Employment & Social Security,
Government of Nepal

Chief Guest



Hon. Aishath Athiya Naseer

State Minister of Education, Government of Maldives

Special Guest



Ms. Jean Gough

Director, Regional Office for South Asia, UNICEF

Speaker



Dr. Md. Mozammel Haque Khan

Commissioner, Anti-Corruption Commission, Bangladesh,
Chairman, SAANSO

Speaker



Smt. Vandana Chavan

Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha, Government of India

Speaker



Dr. Dewan Md. Humayun Kabir

Joint Project Director & Joint Secretary, A2I,
Cabinet Division, Bangladesh

Speaker



Mr. Madhab Dhungel

Executive Vice-chairperson, National Youth Council Nepal

Speaker



Ms. Humayra Ibnat Badhon

MoP hero 2018 & Founder, Team Wings

Speaker



Mr. Pamir Hassas

Director of Relations to IPU, House of People, Afghanistan

Speaker



Mr. Kusala Fernando

Principal, Prince of Wales College, Sri Lanka

Speaker



Ms. Sudthida Keophaitool

Regional Civil Society Strengthening and Partnership Advisor Asia
and Pacific Hub, Plan International.

Speaker



Mr. Mohammad Rafiqul Islam Sujon

Education Technology Expert, a2i, ICT Division, Bangladesh

Speaker



Mr. Asish Thakur

Executive Director, Glocal Pvt. Ltd., Nepal

Speaker

Synopsis

OPENING PANEL

On the 12th of August, the virtual festival started with the opening panel comprised of dignitaries and inspiring youth from South Asian Countries. The panel was organized in the presence of the Chief Guest Hon.

Rameshwor Ray Yadav, Minister; Ministry of Labour, Employment, & Social Security, Government of Nepal; Special Guest, Hon. Aishath Athiya Naseer, State Minister of Education, Government of Maldives; Ms. Jean Gough, Director at Regional Office for South Asian, UNICEF; Dr. Dewan Md. Humayun Kabir, Joint Project Director and Joint Secretary, A2I, Cabinet Division Bangladesh; Smt. Vandana Chawan, Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha, Government of India; Dr. Md. Mozamel Haque Khan, Chairman, SAANSO, and Director of Anti-Corruption Commission, Bangladesh; Mr. Madhab Dhungel, Executive Vice- Chairperson, National Youth Council Nepal; Ms. Humayra Ibnat Badhon, Senior Rover Mate Samatat Open Scout Group, Bangladesh; Ms. Sudthida Keophaithool, Regional Civil Society Strengthening and Partnership Advisor Asia and Pacific Hub, Plan International; Mr. Pamir Hassas, Director of Relations to IPU, House of People in Afghanistan and Mr. Kusala Fernando, Principal, Prince of Wales College, Srilanka.

The panel was organized for the official announcement of the festival and also to share the words, ideas, and insights on the theme of International Youth Day 2020- "Youth Engagement for Global Action" from all the dignitaries Ministers, Parliaments, and Policymakers of different South Asian countries.

ENTREPRENEURSHIP & SKILL PANEL

About Speakers and Moderator



Mr. Md. Shefatul Islam

Coordinator, Konnect (a2i) & Lecturer, Economics, Bangladesh
Moderator



Mr. Jubayer Hossain

CEO, Enamelbd Limited, Bangladesh
Speaker



Mr. Naikbeen Naikpay

Co-founder, TASEES Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship
Afghanistan
Speaker



Mr. Sudarshan Subedi

President & CEO, Idebus Global Pvt Ltd., Nepal
Speaker



Ms. Priya Kothari

COO, Youth Aid Foundation, India
Speaker



Mr. Lorenzo Cooray

Casterly Crown Private Limited, Sri Lanka
Speaker

Synopsis

The second-panel discussion of the South Asian Youth Festival on "Entrepreneurship and Skill Panel" was held on Thursday, 13th August 2020. The second-panel discussion was organized to discuss Entrepreneurship and Skills with the young entrepreneurs and inspirational youth from South Asia.

The day was an opportunity to hear from young entrepreneurs, about their entrepreneurial journey, motivation skills, insightful ideas, and highlighted the challenges and success from the speakers like Mr. Jubayer Hossain, CEO, Enamelbd Limited, Bangladesh; Mr. Naikbeen Naikpay, Co-Founder, TASEES Centre for Innovation and Entrepreneurship, Afghanistan; Mr. Sudarshan Subedi, President and CEO, Idebus Global Pvt. Ltd, Nepal; Ms. Priya Kothari, COO Youth Aid Foundation, India and Mr. Lorenzo Cooray, Casterly Crown Private Limited, Sri Lanka.

The panel concluded with the presence of 100+ youth from South Asia.

YOUTH SOCIAL ENGAGEMENT PANEL

About Speakers and Moderator



Mr. Kaushal Raj Sapkota

Director, MBA Non Profit, King's College, Nepal

Moderator



Ms. Bipana Sharma

Child Right Activist, Nepal

Speaker



Mr. Ali Fayez

Youth Activist, Afghanistan

Speaker



Mr. Kazi Ismail Hossain Rumon

Education & Health Activist, Team Leader, Project Golden Ribbon, Bangladesh

Speaker



Mr. Pritesh Kamble

Team Member, Youth4Change, India

Speaker



Ms. Ruhi Rusaba Jahwa Jahan

Messengers of Peace Hero 2019 and Founder, Odrik Talks, Bangladesh

Speaker

Synopsis

The third panel discussion of the South Asian Youth Festival on "Youth Social Engagement Panel" was focused on social engagement, encouragement, and impacts. The third-panel discussion was held on Friday, 14th of August 2020.

A discussion among the well-known, hardworking, and insightful panelists; Mr. Kazi Ismail Hossain Rumon, Education & Health Activist, Team Leader, Project Golden Ribbon, Bangladesh; Ms. Ruhi Rusaba Jahwa Jahan, Rover mate, Open Scout Group, Bangladesh; Mr. Ali Fayez, Youth Activist, Afghanistan; Ms. Bipana Sharma, Child Right Activist, Nepal; Mr. Pritesh Kamble, Team Member, Youth4Change, India. The session was moderated by Mr. Kaushal Raj Sapkota, Director, MBA Non-profit, King's College.

The enthusiastic discussion among the experienced panelists highlighted their perspective on social engagement, their experienced stories, and their initiation towards the nation to bring positive change. The discussion turns out to be an intellectual, very interactive, and insightful way. It was indeed an exceptional discussion with the South Asian youths for sharing their perception of social engagement, their thoughts, and experience stories in the platform of the South Asian Youth Festival.

Country Specific Panel - Nepal

YOUTH, SKILLS & EDUCATION

About Speakers and Moderator



Mr. Ajay Pandey

Brand & IT Manager, Glocal Pvt. Ltd.

Moderator



Ms. Bonita Sharma

Co Founder and CEO, Sochai

Speaker



Mr. Ganesh Dhungana

Executive Director, Action Nepal

Speaker



Ms. Prashansha KC

Youth Activist

Speaker



Mr. Saurav Thapa Shrestha

General Secretary, Yuwa

Speaker

Synopsis

The country panel discussion from Nepal was centralized on the theme "Youth, Skill, and Education" at the South Asian Youth Festival 2020. The discussion was held on Thursday, the 13th of August 2020. The discussion provided the opportunity to hear wonderful insights from the inspirational youths of Nepal. The session highlighted the youth perspective on Education and Skills and also their inspiration in terms of working in different sectors. The discussion among the experienced panelists certainly helped us to learn a lot and gave an intuition into the learning skills.

The country-specific panel discussion comprised of panelists; Ms. Bonita Sharma, Co-founder & CEO Sochai; Mr. Ganesh Dhungana, Executive Director, Action Nepal; Ms. Prashansha KC, Youth Activist, and Mr. Saurav Thapa Shrestha, General Secretary, YUWA and moderated by Mr. Ajay Pandey, Brand & IT Manager, Glocal Pvt. Ltd.

Country Specific Panel -India

IMPACT OF COVID -19 ON YOUNG PEOPLE IN INDIA

About Speakers and Moderator



Mr. Debashis Majumder

President, Yuva Vikas Kendra & NIFAA Tripura
Moderator



Ms. Malvika Fernandes

Mental Health Leader, Project Mumbai,
India's largest Municipal School Mental Health Program
Speaker



Mr. Nitesh Singroul

Youth Activist
Speaker



Ms. Mudita Jagota

Disability Rights Activist and Youth Leader at VartaLeap Coalition
Speaker



Mr. Rupam Ghosh

Scientist and Technology Entrepreneur
Speaker

Synopsis

The country panel discussion of India was held on the topic "Impact of COVID-19 in Young People in India" at the South Asian Youth Festival 2020. The panel session was held on Thursday, 20th of August 2020. The discussion was surrounded by how the impact of the pandemic has been magnified on the lives of young people of India, specifically concerning their mental health, education, employment, and participation.

The country-specific panel discussion comprised of panelists; Ms. Malvika Fernandes, Mental Health Leader, Project Mumbai; Mr. Nitesh Singroul, Youth Activist; Ms. Mudita Jagota, Disability Rights Activist and Young Leader at VartaLeap Coalition, and Mr. Rupam Ghosh, Scientist and Technology Entrepreneur and moderated by Mr. Debashis Majumder, President, Yuva Vikas Kendra & NIFFA Tripura.

Country Specific Panel -Bangladesh

YOUTH SDG MISSION: I AM THE SOLUTION

About Speakers and Moderator



Mr. Md. Abul Kalam Azad

President, Bangladesh Scouts &
Former Principal Coordinator (SDG) to Hon'ble Prime Ministers Office
Chief Guest



Dr. Abdul Mannan PAA

Project Director & Additional Secretary,
Aspire to innovate (a2i), ICT Division
Special Guest



Mr. Md. Murshid Akhter

Head of Education,
Plan International, Bangladesh
Special Guest

Student Panel



Ms. Reneka Ahmed Antu

Young Activists, Girl Advocacy Alliance, Bangladesh
Speaker



Mr. Munir Ahmed Bhuiyan

President's Rover Scout, Member,
National Program Committee, Bangladesh Scout
Speaker



Ms. Fatema Farzana Nirjana

Konnnect Ambassador, Student, University of Dhaka
Speaker

Synopsis

The country panel discussion of Bangladesh was on the topic- Youth SDGs Mission: I am the Solution which was held on Sunday 23rd of August 2020. The discussion was an opportunity and platform to listen from the disguised guest and speakers who share their insights and experience on the topic highlighting Youth as a power. Through SDG how can we engaged youth in various works to create a positive impact and what are the opportunities being created in the country were the major points discussed in the panel.

For the panel discussion, we had Mr. Md. Abul Kalam Azad, President, Bangladesh Scouts & Former Principal Coordinator (SDGs) to Honorable Prime Minister's Office as Chief Guest along with the Special Guests Dr. Abdul Mannan PAA, Project Director & Additional Secretary, Aspire to innovate (a2i) ICT Division; Mr. Md. Murshid Akhter, Head of Education, Plan International, Bangladesh. We had amazing speakers as Ms. Reneka Ahmed Antu; Youth Activists, Girl Advocacy Alliance, Bangladesh; Mr. Munir Ahmed Bhuiyan, President's Rover Scout, Member, National Program Committee, Bangladesh Scouts; Ms. Fatema Farzana Nirjana, Konnect Ambassador, Student, the University of Dhaka. The discussion was moderated by Ms. Amina Moni, Plan International, and Mr. Rafiqul Islam Sujon, Education Expert, A2i, ICT Division, Bangladesh.

The panel concluded with the new initiation of the campaign- "My commitment My Achievement" (Youth SDGs Mission – I am the Solution). The campaign will encourage youth and adolescents for the commitment to share and contribute towards SDG.

Country Specific Panel -Pakistan

MOBILIZING YOUTHS ON CREATIVE SOLUTION

About Speakers and Moderator



Mr. Zafar Waseem

Ambassador PM Youth Program

Moderator



Mr. Ammar Altaf Satti

Lawyer | Educational Activist | Social Activist

Speaker



Mr. Farhan Ahmed Bhatti

Cyber Security Engineer

Speaker



Ms. Marva Sohail

Psychologist

Speaker



Ms. Mehwish Faraz

Social Activist

Speaker

Synopsis

The country panel discussion of Pakistan was on the topic, "Mobilizing Youths on Creative Solutions." The panel session was held on Wednesday, 26th of August 2020. The discussion comprised of inspirational youths of Pakistan as Speakers and moderator. The panelists talked about mobilizing youths on creative solutions as youth have the potential to propel sustainable development more widely.

The country-specific panel discussion amongst elite panelists that included; Mr. Ammar Altaf Satti, Lawyer, Educational Activist, Social Activist; Mr. Farhan Ahmed Bhatti, Cybersecurity, Engineer; Ms. Marva Sohail, Psychologist, and Ms. Mehwish Faraz, Social Activist. The session was moderated by Mr. Zafar Waseem, Ambassador, PM Youth Program.

Country Specific Panel -Sri Lanka

YOUTH ENGAGEMENT AND YOUTH ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

About Speakers and Moderator



Mr. Gayan Rajapaksha

President – CYN Sri Lanka | Youth Activist | Trainer
Moderator



Ms. Anoka Abeyrathne

Forbes Under 30 | Social Entrepreneur | Advocate
Speaker



Mr. Darshatha Gamage

Co-Founder, Impact Voices | Youth Activist
Speaker



Mr. Kapila Rasnayaka

Global Activist | Motivational Speaker | Artist
Speaker



Mr. Milinda Rajapaksha

Author | Broadcaster | Political Activist
Speaker



Ms. Shiromi Smarakoon

Secretary – CYN Sri Lanka | Rights Activist
Speaker

Synopsis

The country panel discussion of Sri Lanka was centralized on the theme, "Youth Engagement and Youth Economic Empowerment." The panel session was held on Friday, 21 August 2020.

The discussion provided the opportunity to hear wonderful insights from the inspirational youths of Sri Lanka regarding the need for Youth engagement and participation that facilitates opportunities for their leadership and economic empowerment. The panel discussion highlighted exceptional youth initiatives, engagement helping to drive forward sustainable development.

The session was moderated by Mr. Gayan Rajapaksha, President, CYN-Sri Lanka, Trainer, Youth Activist. The country-specific panel discussion amongst elite panelists included; Ms. Anoka Abeyrathne, Forbes Under 20, Social Entrepreneur, Advocate; Mr. Darshatha Gamage, Co-Founder, Impact Voice, Youth Activist; Ms. Shiromi Smarakoon, Secretary CYN- Sri Lanka, Rights Activist; Mr. Kapila Rasnayaka, Global Activist, Motivational Speaker, Artist; Mr. Milinda Rajapaksha, Author, Broadcaster, Political Activists.

Country Specific Panel -Maldives

YOUTH - BUILDING RESILIENCE, FOCUSING ON FUTURE SKILLS AND ACHIEVING DREAMS

About Speakers and Moderator



Ms. Safa Shafeeq

Television Personality
Moderator



Mr. Afrah (Ahmed Mohamed)

Co-Founder & CEO, Coffee Lab Roasters
Speaker



Ms. Hawwa Leesha

Co-founder and Advocacy Director, Institute for Wellness Education
Speaker



Ms. Nada Sharyf

Co-founder and Psychologist, Thibaa Psychology
Speaker

Synopsis

The country panel discussion of Maldives was centralized on the theme, "Youth Building Resilience, Focusing on Future Skills and Achieving Dreams." The panel session was held on Friday, 28th of August 2020.

The discussion provided the opportunity to hear wonderful insights from the inspirational youths of the Maldives about the prospects of developing skills in Youth, strengthening resilience through meaningful youth participation, and creating solutions.

The session was moderated by Ms. Safa Shafeeq, Television Personality. The country-specific panel discussion amongst elite panelists included; Mr. Afrah (Ahmed Mohamed), Co-founder, CEO, Coffee Lab Roasters; Ms. Nada Sharyf, Co-Founder, Psychologist, Thibaa Psychology; Ms. Hawwa Leesha, Co-Founder and Advocacy Director, Institute for Wellness Education.

Country Specific Panel -Afghanistan

YOUTH, EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT

About Speakers and Moderator



Mr. Mohammad Kazim Haidari

President and CEO of Dynamic Youth Afghanistan

Moderator



Mr. Abdul Ehsan Mohmand

President & CEO of Dynamic Vision

Speaker



Mr. Hassan Rezaei

Youth Activist

Speaker



Ms. Roqia Gharjistani

Senior Advisor, Education Management

Speaker

Synopsis

The country panel discussion of Afghanistan was based on the theme, "Youth, Education, and Employment." The panel session was held on Monday, 24th of August 2020. The discussion was organized to discuss the topic with the inspirational youth of Afghanistan. The panelists shared about the education system in Afghanistan, the need for bridging the Skill gap in their country to enhance the mindset of Youth towards youth engagement and empower them as it is a key to global progress.

The country-specific panel discussion amongst elite panelists included; Ms. Raqia Gharjistani, Senior Advisor, Education Management; Mr. Abdul Ehsan Mohmand, President & CEO of Dynamic Vision and Mr. Hassan Rezaei, Youth Activist and was moderated by Mr. Mohammad Kazim Haidari, President, and CEO of Dynamic Youth Afghanistan.

KEYNOTE ON POLICIES FOR BETTER EDUCATION

About Speaker



Prof. Rajendra Pratap Gupta

Member, National Education Policy, Government of India

Key Speaker

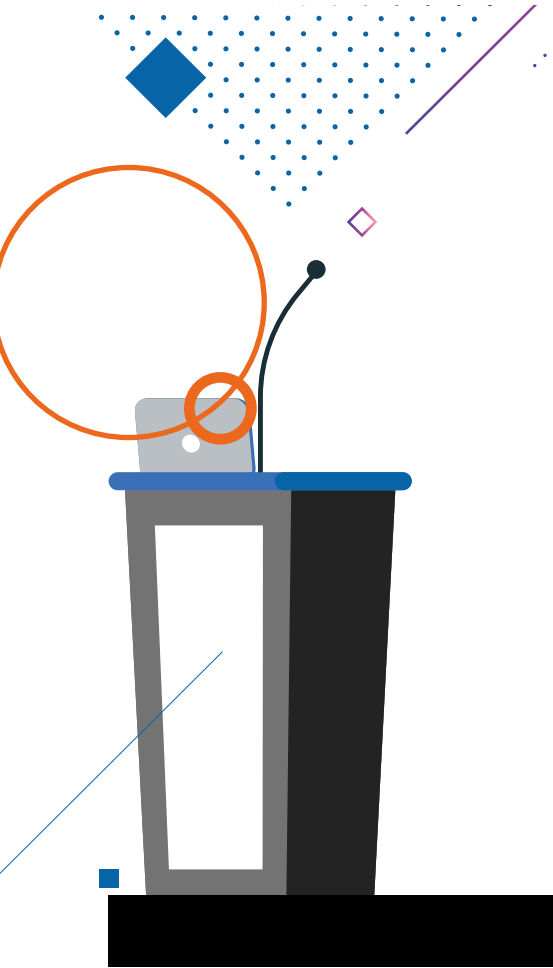
Synopsis

The Keynote session on "Making Youth Future-Ready" was presented by Prof. Rajendra Pratap Gupta, Member, National Education Policy, Government of India on Saturday, 15th of August 2020. The session was very insightful with the discussion on education, policies, and major highlight that youths need to explore their purpose of learning and reskilling is truly essential.

Mr. Gupta also shared his survey that he did on the relevance of education for jobs in 113 countries which summarized as people who are aware of education can explain its usefulness more promptly. The survey showed that education, a degree alone is not essential, one must have skill-oriented learning to meet with the Global trends and needs in terms of education and employability.

The session was comprised of guests from the education sector in Nepal Mr. Tulsi Prasad Thapaliya, Director-General for the Department of Education in Nepal; and Mr. Syed Md. Golam, Director General in Education, Bangladesh.

The session ended with saying that their education policy had led a great foundation for education. It can shape the country through real-world application-oriented education in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) while making equally important progress in communication skills and interpersonal attributes to help India reclaim its historical role as a global leader in the field of education. Therefore, new education policy is made to revamp the education system of the 21st century.

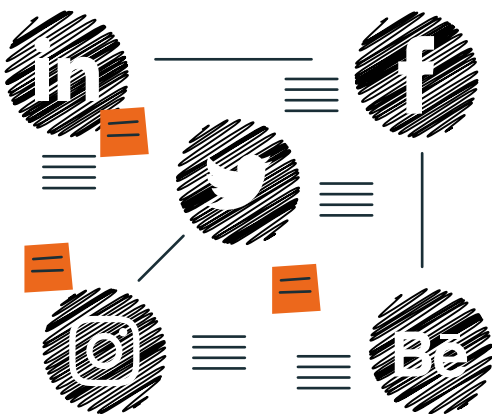


PUBLIC SPEAKING WORKSHOP

Synopsis

A brief, yet fun, powerful, and skillful workshop was organized for the youth of South Asia. The workshop was facilitated by Mr. Pradeep Ghimire, Co-Founder at Debate Network Nepal.

For the workshop, we had 202 amazing and active participants from South Asian Countries. The workshop helped them to improve their public speaking abilities, highlighted the public speaking experiences of youths, their challenges, and provided an opportunity to learn tricks and tips. The Public Speaking Workshop was held on Wednesday, 19th of August at the South Asian Youth Festival 2020.



DIGITAL STORYTELLING WORKSHOP

Synopsis

The Digital Storytelling workshop was facilitated by Mr. Benislos Thushan, Founder & Chief Instructor, Digital Storytelling, Sri Lanka on Monday, 17th of August 2020 at the South Asian Youth Festival.

The workshop was conducted for the 161 youths for South Asia. The skillful workshop helped them to understand the concept of storytelling, narratives, about the storyteller and audience, tools for storytelling, and tips to make the story attractive and informative.

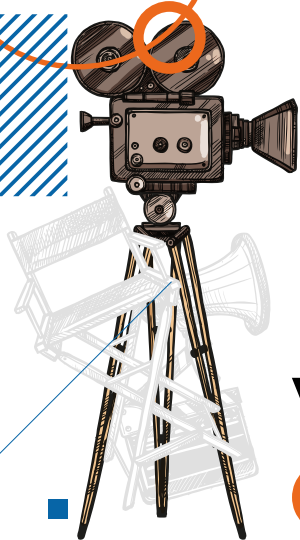


The Virtual-Strategy for Productive Team workshop was facilitated by an amazing personality, Mr. Rajiv Sharma, Managing Director, Jobs Dynamics Pvt, Ltd, Nepal on Thursday, 27th of August 2020 at the South Asian Youth Festival.

YOUTH EMPOWERMENT FOR ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP WORKSHOP

The workshop “Youth Engagement for Active Citizenship” at South Asian Youth Festival 2020 by Glocal After School was very interesting and engaging. The session was held on August 25, 2020, and was facilitated live by Prof. Ujjwal K Chowdhury, Pro-Vice-Chancellor at Adamas University, India.

There were a total of 148 participants from South Asia and they all shared their perspective on youth engagement with the facilitator.



VIDEO MAKING COMPETITION

Description

The video making competition was centralized with the theme of "Reimagining Youth Employment and Skill-ing Solution" where applicants were asked to share their ideas and perception by video.

The video must highlight how the issues have been identified, how it is relevant to the cause, and, most importantly, how strongly the message has been conveyed through this video. In addition to identifying a key area, participants projected solutions for the highlighted issues in their video.

117 videos were submitted by the youth from South Asia for the competition.

About the Winner

The winner of the competition was selected with the criteria of better solutions for the youth issues, where the winner of the competition Mr. Shivu Pandey from Nepal shared his entrepreneurial journey. The video with the message of the importance of skills and its necessity for success has been beautifully portrayed.

‘Skill leads to Success’ was the major idea/ solution embedded in the video.



CREATIVE WRITING COMPETITION

Description

To make youth engaged and show their writing skills and share their ideas and thinking about the solutions to global issues, the competition was announced on the 12th of August. The competition was based on the solution to one of the biggest issues i.e. Skill Gap among youths in the South Asia Region.

The competition announcement was made in the call for informative and innovative solutions from the youths itself and write about their approach to the issue titled "Reimagining Youth Employment and Skilling Solutions".

We got a total of 624 writings from the South Asian Youth portraying their thoughts on the topic.

About the Winner

Among 624 writings from the youth of South Asia, 3 winners were felicitated with the certificate of the competition. The writings were selected as per the content, ideas, and solutions mentioned in their articles. All the articles received in the competition were amazing and had solutions regarding the issues of employment and skills from individual perspectives.

Ms. Aminath Altaf Shaheen from the Maldives; Ms. Prashamsa Thapa from Nepal and Mr. Sushobhan Chimoriya from Nepal were announced as winners on 2nd September 2020.



PAINTING COMPETITION

Description

Painting Competition with the theme of "Reimagining Youth Employment and Skilling Solution" to shed light on how youths in the South Asia region are rising to meet the challenges of the Skill Gap was one of the exciting categories of the festival.

The competition was to encourage youth for the artistic expressions to present their emotions, ideas, and innovative thoughts to the solution, as they say, "A Picture is worth a thousand words".

For the competition, we got 422 paintings from the youth.

About the Winner

Ms. Afshara Tasnim for Bangladesh; Ms. Sanghmitra Gaikwad from India and Mr. Mohamed Mishal Hameed from the Maldives won the Painting Competition of South Asian Youth Festival 2020.

Among 422 paintings, 3 were selected as winners based on creativity and presentation. We have to balance both the mind and body to balance our life; as we are in the digital era technological intervention have created many opportunities and platforms which might be a solution for the youth issues. Those were the major theme of the winning painting of the competition.





South Asian Edition

22nd August, 2020

Description

Knowledge Maestro by Glocal After School – South Asian Edition was organized during the South Asian Youth Festival 2020; we had 148 participants from South Asia where they were given 30 questions related to South Asian Affairs.

This was a friendly, online real-time quiz competition organized to make young people engaged in intellectual activities. The competition was accessible to the South Asian Youth aged 15-24 years. The quiz was based on youth engagement in world affairs and was organized to make youth aware of the things happening around the world as well as make them intellect in different aspects.

At the end of the quiz, 3 winners Mr. Risal Chettri from India; Mr. Kritik Rawal from Nepal, and Mr. Pritam Das from Bangladesh were announced as Winner, 1st Runner Up and 2nd Runner Up respectively. Winners of the competition were felicitated with the certificate from the organizing organization.



SOUTH ASIAN YOUTH GROUP

#IAMTHESOLUTION

The South Asian Youth Group is all about youth representation having different insights, perspectives, cultural backgrounds from all over the South Asian Region. Youth have the creativity, the potential, and the capacity to make change happen – for themselves, for their communities, and the rest of the world.

The SAY Group is created to connect youth from South Asian Countries, share, learn, and support each one's initiations or ideas.

We have a total number of 119 youth in the group. The group accompanies young people with the spirit of the team to work together in driving innovation and change, with full participation in the development of their societies.

#IAMTHESOLUTION

MEDIA COVERAGES



MEDIA COVERAGES



WORDS TO HEAR

Aishath Ifa Naseer Maldives

It was refreshing to talk with a bunch of people, about informative topics, and the knowledge maestro was fun and enjoyable. It taught me the importance of having some general information about my country and region, regardless of the fact we don't study geography in our schools. It was wonderful being the part of the South Asian Youth Festival 2020. I hope that such festivals will continue shortly as well. I enjoyed it and made new friends from it as well! Thank you for this opportunity.

Mr. Bikee Kumar Jha Nepal

The systematic management and the coordination were the most appreciable over there and even I got a huge experience from the speakers. Hoping to be part of the other events too from Glocal!

Md. Seikh Sadiul Islam Tanvir Bangladesh

The multicultural environment and knowledge sharing were the best part of the festival. I request the organizers to conduct similar events again so we can get engaged.

Ms. Anushka Bashyal Nepal

I liked most that the discussions were very practical and we could learn more about ourselves, as youths. It was a fairly productive session for me personally. I hope to participate in future programs as such too.

Ms. Mainul Islam Risan Bangladesh

I liked the part of the festival. But most importantly, the knowledgeable session like public speaking is so enjoyable. It will be a great learning session I've ever joined. Thanks for getting a chance to join this big event.

Ms. Sanghmitra Gaikwad India

The festival made the youth confident by different kinds of sessions and workshops. You are empowering youth talent and intelligence. You took this festival very nicely, beautifully. I hope to engage in other events in days to come. Thank you, organizers.

WORDS TO HEAR

Ms. Swastika Rai Nepal

Various youths were connected from different countries of South Asia. It was nice to communicate and know about the participants who attended the sessions. We were able to achieve the skills and knowledge regarding various things with the help of experienced facilitators and speakers of the respective session. Thank you for organizing this youth festival. We hope you will organize these types of sessions and workshops next year as well. Thank you to the entire team of Glocal for organizing this festival for youths of South Asia.

Mr. Rajshree Shrestha Nepal

I loved everything about this festival. It was really interesting to know about the different perspectives of people from other countries. And the courses were priceless. Great facilitators!! Loved everything about it! Great festival! I would love to take part in further events if it's possible. Great going. Biblical sessions!! Thank you.

Ms. Puja Lamsal Nepal

I'm just grateful for being exposed to the opportunities. The whole experience was wholesome. It was a great experience to interact with people from all over Asia, I feel a stronger sense of brotherhood and togetherness with the region now, I'll make sure to pass what I've learned and stayed in touch with coming opportunities.

Ms. Bhawana Joshi Nepal

We learned many new things that we were unaware of. We come to know many people and their stories as well as their views. The thing that I liked most about the festival is, it gathered/ united people of different South Asian countries in one platform. Looking forward to more programs like this. Thank you for helping us learn a lot of new things.

Md. Aftabh Ahmed Nepal

Honestly, I liked every event. I especially liked that there was harmony among everyone, no matter what country they came from. I hope that such a festival will be organized by this organization next year as well.

Ms. Anusha Shrestha Nepal

The way the facilitator delivered his words in such an effective way and it easily was able to catch the attention of the participants and the things I learned were really helpful. This type of event should be continued. It not only engaged us in creative work during this pandemic but also helped us to boost our knowledge more.

Challenges

Solutions

Hard to change the thought and perception of people for the development in any means.

Youth, adults, or any other stakeholders cannot change the thought of society because this is the reality that we live in together and which is being followed by years and years which tends to drag against development. We should be able to track down the issues and adopt a policy approach in every plan/ activity.

To change traditional thought, we have to go from the grassroots level in improvising the newer perspectives.

Still prevails the culture of being optimistic and expecting of getting things better without any effort makes among youth.

Youth should concern about themselves, their role, their participation, and engagement in society. Interaction, Communication, sharing stories, and experiences are the most essentials aspects to improve the situation and will lead to better solutions and opportunities.

Education is taken only as a formal study in schools, colleges, and universities; people think getting a degree makes them educated.

A degree is just a starting point- when education is applied, it becomes knowledge. And the final take is wisdom. Knowledge means knowing what to say and wisdom means to determine whether to say or not. If we want to be future-ready, if we want to make the best out of our education, we need to reach the ultimate stage of knowledge and higher education.

Education is not only about making sure all children can attend school. It is about setting young people up for life, by giving them opportunities to find decent work, earn a living, contribute to their communities and societies, and fulfill their potential. At the wider level, it is about helping countries nurture the workforce they need to grow in the global economy.

Formal education is provided in institutions that are not preparing for the future.

We have to transform everything we can trace, be it education, health, economy, governance, environment, and so on. The people we need today should have high imaginative quotient value. Youths need to focus on their crucial abilities that can be curiosity, ability to ask questions, problem-solving, and decision making. Also, Youth needs to find their Stressbuster and their purpose –inner calling. They should read more, research more significantly to broaden up their knowledge.

Education, a degree alone is not essential, one must have skill-oriented learning to meet with the Global trends and needs in terms of education and employability.

Challenges

Solutions

Lack of qualitative teachers' recruitment and mobility in providing good education; people think the profession does not carry good social value as other professions which discourages youth to involve them in the profession.

The creation of an opportunity to research can help in being a qualitative mentor. Teachers are confined only to take lessons, we need to try to address, training recruitment, growth, and salary. No good teacher means no good education.

The teacher is the platform between knowledge and knowledge seeker. Therefore, an eco-system needs to be created where there will a good opportunity for research and growth of teachers. And youths also will get attracted to the profession eventually.

Many policies have been formulated, but the impact is not visible on the ground.

We have to stress more about formulating the relevant and necessary policies with a higher rate of priority. Proper plans, Direction, Commitment to timelines, Accountability should strictly be followed. Timely monitoring and evaluation; changes and up-gradation in policies should be carried out.

Lack of multidimensional thought and perception among youth which creates issues.

The main skills that should be implemented are discipline mentality and discipline skills. In every action, if we go to have a good thing then discipline is the key thing. In today's era, critical thinking, creativity, communication skills are very much important skills and this has to build from the school level. We need to change the theoretical aspects of the learning aspect.

As we are living in the digital era, the different kind of literacy skills (information literacy, digital literacy) needs to be obligatory in today's life. Regarding life skills, youth needs leadership skills to lead their life for the better achievement of career goals. Moreover, social skills are also an important skill to develop good networking, communication with people.

Unemployment, economic, and financial crisis are the major youth issues in today's context.

Along with academic education, youth should get engaged in the development of skills, should be able to research, learn, and grow to fit in the market. They should be able to identify the need and demand and then implement the ideas they have.

Youth should take part in innovation and help the national economy coming with new business ideas and meeting different organizations and coordination with governmental bodies.

Challenges

Minimal youth participation in the decision-making process not only in government not only in the political system but everywhere.

Solutions

Young people should be recognized and look equally and give the same value in the decision-making process. Exception and recognition should be given to young people. Young people should have equal rights and value in decision making, they should not be taken as one group of people.

Youth participation is about today and many young people are actively working for the betterment of the society and the community. It is important to create opportunities, or spaces, platforms where young people can be engaged.

ORGANIZERS



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Public Service Innovation





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YOU!**