

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON EMERGING TRENDS IN YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

Day 1

A two-day International Conference on “EMERGING TRENDS IN YOUTH DEVELOPMENT” (Best Practices & Sustainable Models) was Jointly organised by P.G & Research Department of Social Work, Sacred Heart College (Autonomous) Tirupattur & Don Bosco Youth Animation South Asia (DBYASA) New Delhi in partnership with FSL – India, Bengaluru held at Sacred Heart College (Autonomous) Tirupattur from the 20 – 21 January, 2017. A gathering which brought together a lot of Scholars, Researchers, Educationist, Practitioners and people from all from all over the globe who came and contributed to the Conference.

The Day begun with the registration of all the Participants. Dr Maria Charles (Director, DBYASA) gave the welcome address in which he further extended his gratitude towards the eminent speakers and researchers. He welcomed the gathering and said that we are here with one motive, to document the best practices/interventions/models of youth development presented by Practitioners, Researchers and Academicians. This international Conference aims to discuss various concepts and models connected with Youth Development to evolve appropriate strategies and plans which will help alter substantially the lives of young people especially the poor and marginalized. Both organizations which work with young people and Youth-led organizations are looking for strong theoretical inputs or hypothetical constructs and innovative or operative models and practices regarding Youth Development. He also stated that these papers and models from different contexts will serve as great sources of learning for those who have been carrying out various services to the young, often traditional and stereo-typed. He ended by saying that the focus of this conference is to document both concepts as well as effective and innovative practices of Youth Development.

The welcome address was followed was followed by the lighting of the lamp by Prof Jim Campbell (Full Professor of Social Work, School of Social Policy, Social Work and Social Justice, University College, Dublin, Ireland), Dr Sevasti- Melissa Nolas (Senior Lecturer in Social Work and Principal Investigator of ERC funded Connectors Study, Centre for Innovation and Research in Childhood and Youth, University of Sussex, United Kingdom), Mr. Rakesh Soans (President, FSL) , Dr D. Maria Antony Raj SDB (Principal, Sacred Heart College, Tirupattur) and Dr Maria Charles(Director, DBYASA) which was followed by the felicitation of our dignitaries.

Mr Rakesh S. Soans (President, FSL India) spoke about the objectives of the conference. He spoke about different things that have been important in youth development. A multi-dimensional perspective which includes Education, Skill development, Physical well-being, Psychological well-being, Political participation & Civic engagement, Role of stakeholders and Inclusive approach which is needed. He also said the Youth Development calls for more models, moderators, people stakeholders with experience will add value to the process of youth development.

The felicitation address was given by Dr D. Maria Antony Raj SDB (Principal, Sacred Heart College, Tirupattur) and he welcomed everyone and said that it was an honour to host an International Conference in his college and looks forward for many more such Conferences.

The Keynote Speaker for Day 1 Prof Jim Campbell spoke on the Theme: The role of youth, social and community workers in dealing with the mental health needs of the young people affected by

political conflict. Prof. Jim Campbell started with thanking the organizers, the department of Social work, Don Bosco Youth Animation South Asia and FSL India. He started his key note address about the role of youth in society and community dealing with the mental health problems and the needs. He said very clearly that stress, addiction, etc... leads to mental ill health and conflict. This is same to all the individuals of youth. As well, the problems do not vary from individual to individual based on the gender, class, religion and country. He also spoke about the education system in Ireland which are being practiced. He also said that psychological problem in the society is prevailing there especially among the youngsters. He said that there are three approaches the social workers should follow that is called tiered approach Psychiatric service, Family intervention, Group & community strategy. He ended by saying that in UK the young people take power to themselves with the identity among the society and the community. And he wishes more for the Youth development.

The Panel Session-1 which was moderated by Dr. A.J. Christopher, Principle (St. Ann's College of Arts & Science, Tindivanam).

Ms. Lisa Heydlauff (Founder Director, Going To School, New Delhi) the First Panel Speaker spoke on the theme: Building Local News Services with Young People in Rural India. She started by saying that she visualizes the problems of the young people in two ways, scribbled and straight. The straight, is the problem which follows one after the other but the scribbled takes many forms and directions in the problem itself. Since the problems are same with all the youth it results in chaos. The System that she follows in her school is "Scrappy" that's why she named her school "Scrappy School". She believes that going to school is the most beautiful, powerful story that we could ever dare to imagine and can change the way millions of children learn. This makes the children face sustainable challenge. She also made us aware about the "Scrappy News" and the "Scrappy app".

Rev Fr Arul Maran SDB (Director, Don Bosco Skill Mission) the Second Panel Speaker spoke on the theme: Enhancing Youth Employability through Skill Training: An Integrated Approach for Youth Development. He started with a quote "The world is aging but India is growing young". He said that DB Tech is making difference by the following things 1. Curriculum 2. Mobilization 3. Training 4. Assessment & Certification 5. Placement 6. Tracking & Online data. He also gave an insight of the work of DB Tech. He said DB Tech works for the dropout children to give them the social status & to make them competent person to earn for their lively hood. He said handling the dropout children is not easy because they focus on the money than the social status so they often run away from this center but with all the efforts and the right guidance the final result was good. He also stated that DB Tech has benefitted 3 lakh Youths.

Mr. Khaled Saifullah (Deputy Manager, Curriculum Development, Bangladesh Youth Leadership Centre, Dhaka) the Third Panel Speaker spoke on the theme: Building Bridges through Leadership Training: A case study of connecting youth diverse background and equipping them with leadership skills to solve the society's problems. He started by saying that there are three challenges that the youth in Bangladesh face today, lack of interaction, lack of critical thinking and lack of opportunities to channel it to positive energy. In the trait theory of leadership, the leaders are born not made which he opposed and said that the leadership can be taught via training. He also gave an insight about the three different classes of youth in which the Bangladesh Youth is categorized. He said that their intervention with the youth are large class discussion (Class in - point technique), small group case consultation and communication workshop. Class in-point method is nothing but placing the student in the state of confusion or conflict to bring courage to address the situation.

The Panel Session-2 which was moderated by Dr. P. Sigamani, Research Fellow, Associate Professor & Head, Public Health & Human Resource Management, Department of Social Work, Central University of Tamilnadu, Tiruvarur.

Dr. C. P. Anto Chwaran (Founder and Director, Peace Channel, North East Institution of Science and Research, Dimapur, Nagaland) The First Panel Speaker spoke on the theme: Peace Channel a Model for Youth Development for Sustainable Peace. He started with a quote "Aspire to Inspire before you Expire". He then asked Why young people die so young? He pointed out clearly that India is the largest youth population with 365 million youth. Peace channel which is the initiative that he follows, believes in community and the community is one origin as we have one god and one earth. Peace channel aims at transforming a culture of violence into peace goes beyond religion, caste, gender. Peace channel creates the peace makers in order to bring peace in the society. Peace channel obtains two levels of approach 1. Institutional, 2. Educational. The peace education follow two methods to nurture the youth one is through peace clubs and another is PFP (People Forum for Peace), here the peace clubs are focusing on peace celebration as well through PFP peace skills are developed. He termed peace as internal, external, transformation and universal.

Mr. Franklin Paul Anand (Monitoring, Evaluation and Research Manager, Restless Development, New Delhi) The Second Panel Speaker spoke on the theme Unleashing the Power of Youth to change our world – A new Vision for 2030. He started by saying that "WE ARE RESTLESS DEVELOPMENT". He also told us about his agency which is a global agency for youth-led development. We support young people to demand and deliver a just and sustainable world. We know that young people's agency is the key to leading long-term, real, lasting, transformative change, and we've built this strategy around that idea. He spoke about the United Nation 17 Goals, a common commitment from every country in the world to address poverty, inequality and climate change by 2030. He stated about the Restless development's Tested models, Peer Education, Volunteerism, Technology, Policy Influence. He said that we asked young people and organisations across 63 countries about the issues that most concern young people and the role that they would play in addressing them. He also mentioned about the "M- sathi App" and the Youth resource Centres.

Mr Agyat Mitra (Director, Play for peace, Pune) The Third Panel Speaker spoke on the theme: From Potential to Action: Stories of the Youth Transformation. He began with engaging the audience with couples of games (Find a partner on your left write front and back, together you have to count 1 to 3 in sequence I am not joking, but if you trust me you will be laughing in a minute). He then Shared 3 Stories of dropout youth. He then said after looking at their journey and transformation and after asking them what supported them to transition they designed a Youth Leadership Development Program, now called YouLead.

There were nearly 30 research papers which were presented during the Conference on day 1.

The Day 1 of the Conference Ended with dinner and a culture program which showed the different cultures of the world.