

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON EMERGING TRENDS IN YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

Day 2

The second Day of the International Conference on “EMERGING TRENDS IN YOUTH DEVELOPMENT” (Best Practices & Sustainable Models) began with the welcome and introduction speech by Mr Devadas Regland (Deputy Director, FSL-India, Bengaluru). He Introduced the Keynote speaker for the Second Day, 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).

The Keynote Speaker for Day 2 Dr Sevasti Melissa Nolas spoke on the Theme: Youth Development in Time: The Pasts, Presents and Futures of an Evolving Practice. Dr Sevasti Melissa Nolas started with thanking the organizers, the department of Social work, Don Bosco Youth Animation South Asia and FSL India. Then she started her key note address talking about the short history and a long past of Youth Development. She said that her focus and aim in the address would be to locate youth development as a historical, sociological and cultural practices. She said that Positive Experiences + Positive Relationships + Positive Environments = Positive Youth Development. She also charted the appearance of discourses of youth development as a set of both universal and targeted practices intended to support young people that emerged in the late 1990s and the early 2000s. She went on saying that the rise of youth development programmes has been coupled with the decline in Western governments support for older forms of engaging with and supporting the young people, such as youth work. She went on to Quote “the mobilization of positive and negative images of youth is always linked to particular political projects and visions in the context of changing social and economic structures” (Sukarieh and Tannock 2011, p. 688). She also went on to discuss the relationship between these two trends and how youth development has travelled internationally and what the globalization of the youth developments means for local intergenerational practices of support and challenge and of creating spaces and cultures for youth participation. She by concluded by analyzing so as to what is gained and what is lost in the rise and fall of different practices of supporting young people.

The Panel Session-3 which was moderated by Dr Vinnarasan Aruldoss (Research Fellow, E121 Essex House School of Education and Social Work, University of Sussex, Brighton, UK)

Dr Thaddeus SDB (Director, BiCS InfoTech, Yelagiri Hills) the First Panel Speaker spoke on the theme: Empowerment of the Rural Youth at BiCS Infotech, Guezou Nagar, Yelagiri Hills. He started by saying that Empowerment of the Rural Youth through Professional Education is very necessary today. There is a high intellectual potential in rural India with lack of opportunities to develop due to many constraints (economic, social, gender, geographical) and Information Technology is a powerful mediator. It is very necessary to Identify the suitable candidates and provide quality education which blends knowledge acquisition with skill development and exposure to industry. He spoke about BiCS a Don Bosco enterprise for education, training and placement of rural youth in IT sectors Established in 1998 with the patronage of Fr Francis Guezou SDB. He spoke about the different centres of BiCS and the services which is rendered there. He spoke about the process how the children were identified and then through entrance exams interviews and home visits the selection was made are given Education and training. He ended by speaking about the challenges which BiCS faces.

Mr K. Sridar (CSR Head, Hyundai Motor India Ltd, Chennai) the Second Panel Speaker spoke on the theme: Role of CSR in Initiating Youth Development Projects in Rural Areas. He started by thanking the organizer for inviting him for the conference. He said that main purpose of the business is to make profits which are made from services and goods. He also stated the importance of the business and corporate social responsibility. He said that CSR has a very important role to play in initiating youth development. He then went to tell about the initiatives which is taken by his company, Hyundai Motor India Ltd. Nursing Courses, Computer courses, Driving course for the youth. He also spoke about the how many youths have benefitted from these courses and how has it helped in youth development. He also spoke about the Dream Village project which he had undertaken and finished within minimum time frame. He also spoke about the purpose of the dream village. Dream Village 1 was in year 2015 in Mevalurkuppam Dream Village 2 & 3 was in year 2016 in Vallakottai, Maduramangalam and the Dream Village in year 2017 is to adopt 58 Villages. He ended by saying that these were all sustainable projects and would go on working for the Social cause.

Mr. Yashveer Singh (Director, Youth Venture, South Asia, Ashoka Innovators for the public, Bengaluru) the Third Panel Speaker spoke on the theme: Everyone a Changemaker. He started by saying, "Let's not plan for the future. It's already here". He spoke about the changes and the New Strategic Landscape which emphasises on everyone's contribution, Everyone leads, Interaction and transparency. He said that business model does not matter first, what the work will impact matters. Not everything can and should have a business model. He gave the example of CEO of Tesla Motors Elon Reeve Musk who believes in letting go. He also spoke about the levels of change. He said that it was important to measure what matters. He gave examples of two young entrepreneurs who not only brought a revolution at a young age but also the changes in the development. He said, at Ashoka's Youth Venture they inspire, invest and support young people to become changemakers. He ended by saying that we should believe that everyone is a changemaker.

The Panel Session-4 which was moderated by Dr. Y. Edison Nesados (Professor & Head, Dept. of Social Work, Voorhees College, Vellore)

Mr. Devadas Regland (Deputy Director, FSL- India, Bengaluru) the First Panel Speaker spoke on the theme: Promoting Peace and Volunteerism through Youth Exchange and Community Building Programmes. He started by saying 'Global Youth for Sustainable future' is what which needs attention. He then spoke about FSL and said that we envision to promote world peace, mutual respect and intercultural exchange by facilitating international volunteerism among youth in the field of natural resource management and socio economic development of local community. He then spoke about their different programs i.e. long term volunteering, work camps, csr projects, sustainable agricultural project, training centre, youth development program and outbound. He also mentioned about the different streams they are working on i.e. education, medical and healthcare, environment conservation, heritage conservation, sustainable agriculture, women and child care and youth in action. The Volunteers from FSL also introduced themselves. Pratibha a volunteer spoke about the changes in her life and also quoted the line "Someone's opinion of you, does not have to become your reality". International Volunteers from Germany Felix and Clara also introduced themselves and spoke about the work they are doing.

Rev. Thomas Aquinas SDB (National Director, Don Bosco National Forum for the Young at Risk (YaR), New Delhi) the Second Panel Speaker spoke on the theme: Homelink: A Technology Driven system of care for the Young at Risk providing scientific temper for policy changes. He started with introducing the different work that YaR does. He then went on to talking about Homelink which is rare combination of technology, documentation system, system of care for young. He talked about the model for Bottom up rather than Top Down. He gave the history of the Homelink when it started,

how was it initiated, what changes has it gone through. He also spoke about the progress of Homelink network over the years. The Basics of Homelink are the database of the young, database of missing complaints, database of organizations. He also explained how with the help of this software the missing children complaints are kept as a record and many children are also traced. Different organizations and even the govt are using the software for keeping a track of the missing children. He also gave the statistics of the no of missing children complaints and no of children traced back and been united to their families. He spoke about the Child information which is gathered and the entire process which is followed and the analysis and documentation. He said that this is system for a progressive institution. He ended by telling us about the awards and achievements of Yar.

Prof. Prabhakara K.V. (Principal, SBRR Mahajana, First Grade College, Mysore) the Third Panel Speaker spoke on the theme: Social Entrepreneurship through student's self-help: a prelude to start up Eco System. He started by thanking the organisers and for inviting him for the conference. He Quoted "Social Business is a 'Cause Driven' business with the primary objective of serving the society underlying a profound Economic Sense. He then explained about reaching the youth. He spoke about the higher education in India and the academic degrees. He spoke about the dependence syndrome and different economic models. He spoke about Student self-help and the ASIC Mantra and the micro finance. He also spoke on Social Business Youth Network with an aim to educate and create awareness among people, especially students and school children, about the depleting natural resources and the path to sustainable development. He ended by saying the venture intends to make good business profit only to be channelized back into business and sustain itself.

The Plenary Address was Given by Mr. Soumen Biswas (Development Professional Consultant with UNDP, New Delhi, India) he spoke on the theme Attracting Young Professionals and engaging them in Development actions: Experience from two large Rural Poverty Alleviation Programmes. He started with, talking about the challenges of poverty in India. He also spoke about the spread of the poverty in India. He said that the task of poverty eradication is complex. Professional intervention is therefore needed not only at policy level but also for implementation. He said that There has always been an acute scarcity of human resources with "head and heart" who would engage in development practice" in a sustained way. He then spoke about Engaging Young Professionals in Development Action. Many attempts have been made to attract, groom and engage youth with "head and heart" for the work of rural poverty eradication. He described and compared "Development Apprenticeship Programme" of PRADAN and "Prime Minister's Rural Development Fellowship", of the Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India. While both aimed to engage youth in development, they also appealed to the "young professionals" on the aspect of "self-development" and "sense of fulfillment" in the profession. He also Spoke about the Development Apprenticeship Programme of PRADAN. He also spoke about the Prime Minister's Rural Development Fellowship of Ministry of Rural Development and the programme objectives. He also spoke about who they are, Inductions and placements, work and support and beyond fellowship/ DASHip. He ended by talking about the Development practice of PRADAN.

There nearly 30 more papers which were presented on the Day 2 of the conference.

The Policy Brief on Youth Development Intervention was released by Dr. Maria Charles.

The Concluding remarks was given by Rev. Dr. C. Antony Raj. SDB. (Secretary, Sacred Heart College(Autonomous), Tirupattur).

The Vote of Thanks was given by Dr. J Henry Rozaria (Associate Professor & head, Dept. of Social Work. Sacred Heart College(Autonomous), Tirupattur).