

BEST PRACTICE-1

ACTIVE CITIZEN DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

The Context:-

Youth participation in civil society is increasingly being recognised as an important development objective towards global citizenship. With increased access to information, knowledge and technology coupled with mobility and cultural Interaction, there has been an increased engagement of young people with society, both in their cities, country and beyond borders. They have become more global in their outlook and behaviour — though there are regional variations. These trends clearly establish the need for programmes that help youth essay their roles as global citizens and motivate them to utilise the opportunities that exist in this context.

The Objectives:-

To connect thousands of likeminded people around the world who collectively want to make a fairer and more inclusive society • To raise the desire among young people to become active citizens, bringing social action to life for participants and by not just working locally, but globally, through study visits and social media networks.

The Practice:-

A global network of delivery partners is responsible for delivering the programme locally. Partners are trusted organisations and institutions working with local communities. Delivery partners recruit facilitators who then attend Active Citizens training inspiring the community to learn, share and take action together. Facilitators may be recruited from the partner organization or from the partners' network of organisations and contacts. Facilitators are responsible for delivering the learning journey to local participants Active Citizens. They develop new skills, knowledge and motivation to work with their communities, building trust and taking meaningful social action. Active Citizens communities connect globally through international workshops, study visits, partner networking, and online resources and for social media. They share experiences and build skills and generate ideas for social action. To translate the idea from paper to ground two assistant professors from college attended the workshop at RGNIYD, Sriperumbadur. They after returning then conducted a workshop in the college. The main aim of the five day workshop was development of 30 active citizens for which 30 NSS volunteers participated and were involved in various activities to develop their personalities and to shape them into more aware and responsible citizens. This whole workshop was a learning journey like a course of river which starts minutely from mountains and becomes vast when in plains. As per instructions from RGNIYD and BRITISH COUNCIL we at our college level planned for 5 social action plans (SAP) which we sent to them in a prescribed format by end of this month. Then we executed those 5 SAP'S in our selected working areas from March till May end. From eight participating colleges 40 SAP'S were executed and out of those 8 were selected at national level and funding was provided to those SAP'S BY British council.

Obstacles faced / Problems encountered:-

1. Time constraint
2. Hostile behaviour of local people Hostility of workers collecting waste and garbage
3. Lack of awareness on the part of the community about various scheme
4. General apathy and cynicism towards government programmes

Evidence of Success:-

- Improved social awareness
- Improved ability to take social action
- Improved skills, experience, and confidence Improved connectivity and access to networks for social action
- Improved ability to deliver or support projects and programmes focused on social impact
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- Improved staff capacity • Improved structures, policies and procedures
- Improved processes and practices Resources required Quality human resources awareness and willingness to engage in community activities finance to meet various expenses availability of experts to interact with beneficiaries organisational knowledge of community to generate a people's movement.

Contact details:-

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