

International Seminar
on
Role of youth in Social Transformation
18-19 Feb, 2012 Peterhof, Shimla.

Attendance: 180 delegates from 33 countries.

Himachal Pradesh CM calls youth to transform the society

Shimla: Prof. Prem Kumar Dhumal, Chief Minister, gave a clarion call to the youth to bring about transformation in the universal society through responsive, responsible and democratic government with full accountability for its actions and an equitable economic management, central to which is the fight against corruption. He was inaugurating two-day long 6th International Seminar on 'Role of Youth in Social Transformation' organized by World Organisation of Students and Youth (WOSY), here today.

Chief Minister said that in Western developed countries, there was a huge mobilization against the privatisation while European countries had to go for massive European Union bailouts. He said that unemployment was a global problem which was getting compounded by increasing austerity measures by the governments and the message was not lost on the decision makers. He said that the World Economic Forum which met in Davos recently devoted lots of its attention as to how to check capitalism. He said that it had been a common view of all social thinkers that the capitalism needs to become more inclusive and balanced and less prone to recurrent meltdowns. He criticized the system under which corporates were being given bailouts through tax cuts and other concessions without thinking of the welfare of common man and weaker sections of the society. He said that in many of the under developed countries healthcare continued to be an expensive privilege and for much of the toiling world it had simply no access. He said that there was world-wide grouse against tax havens, corruption and nepotistic leaders.

Prof. Dhumal cited the example of Africa, where a new nation, South Sudan, was born amidst much atrocities and genocide. He said that birth of South Sudan and continuous deprivations of the common man show how societies rupture when governments and states fail in delivering the goods to its masses. He said that although Africa happened to be a resource rich continent made

up of 26 countries, a burgeoning middle class in the continent was attracting world attention. Factually many international relations experts opined that Africa was emerging a new Asia. He added that if Africa's natural resources and wealth were to benefit the common people, the youth had to understand their historic responsibility. He said that with the globalization and universalization the entire world had turned into a global village and the youth had to come forward to transform the social system world over. He said that youth had vast potential of energy which had to be channelized towards constructive and positive activities so that a strong nation was built.

Chief Minister lauded the theme of the Seminar 'Role of Youth in Social Transformation' and said that it was evident that the youth was catalyzing change the world over and Middle East was seeing its moment of catharsis as the youth had taken to the streets demanding freedom and responsible governance. He lauded the contribution of WOSY for organizing youth to demonstrate unity to bring about harmony amongst all sections of the society the world over and for preparing youth to assume leadership roles in thinking about the problems respective countries were facing. He welcomed delegates from about 30 nations participating in the Seminar to Himachal Pradesh and wished them a fruitful Seminar and memorable stay in Shimla.

Dr. Rashmi Singh, Chairperson, WOSY, welcomed the Chief Minister, and detailed the itinerary of the two-day International Seminar which would be focused upon channelization of the energy to transform the society and fight against corruption.

Shri Sunil Ambedkar, National Organising Secretary, said that WOSY had adopted the 'Vasudev Kutumbkam' (World is a Family) as its theme of training youth to lead the world in different capacities in coming years. Shri Aniket Kale, Secretary General, WOSY, Shri Rohit Sharma, Convenor, State ABVP, Shri Kenneth Kiyaga and Sanjeev Ningombam, International Secretaries also addressed while Shri Ashmat Muradi, International Secretary proposed vote of thanks. Shri Narender Bragta, Horticulture and Technical Education Minister, Shri Suresh Bhardwaj, MLA, Smt. Veena Thakur, Chairperson, State Social Welfare Board, Shri Ganesh Datt, Vice Chairman, HIMUDA, Shri R.K.Bawa, Chairman, Reception Committee, Shri Umesh Datt, National General Secretary and other office bearers of WOSY were present on the occasion.

Youth Participatory Role in Social Transformation,

Shri. K.A Badarinathji: Mr. Badarinath spoke on various avenues of youth participation in Social movement. He expresses the need of understanding our responsibilities and our right to vote. He is of the opinion that the question of debate on social transformation may not arise if we all exercise our rights and responsibility. He also expressed the need of taking a pledge on this Shimla Seminar that we youths from 33 countries shall never seek help of corrupt practices to get our work done easily, we will take up issues to control our natural assets, we will stand together to fight for our rights and we campaign for equitable opportunities and to mobilise people from all over the world.

Dr. Umesh Londhe:

Global Economic Crisis and its possible solution,

Sri Sunil Ambekarji:

Talking on the possible solutions on braving the global economic challenges Sunil Ambekarji said that there is a need of finding solutions at local level which is suitable in the social context. The Capitalist policies have been proven wrong. Russia and China has changed their economic policies. He says that economics is related to moral and ethics and quotes the saying 'Dharma artha kamo moksha'. He remark the need of revisiting basic economic policies and practices like savings, consumerism, centralised funding etc. Economy can be strengthen if we find a new economic model of 'way of life', with a conducive combination of local and foreign participation. He also noted the need of promoting local products and enhancing an open market situation governed by Government and monitored and controlled morally by public at large. Indian economy is comparatively good today, which should not be mistaken with globalisation only. The economy of India has been a huge contribution from small scale industries, cooperative sectors, and the self-help groups. Government cannot be taken as the sole responsibility for all the welfare activities there is also a need of an active participation of society and every community to shoulder their role in controlling economy.

Dr. Deepak Srivastava:

He spoke on developing an economic model with equity and sustainability. He mentioned the various impacts of economic slowdown. The financial crunch in United States has a negative impact on many of the integrating economies. Occupy Wall Street was started in US, European countries felt the wave of it. Later on it spread till Dalal Street in Mumbai. Communist model of economy failed mainly because it couldn't meet with the basic need of mind i.e freedom. Freedom of individual thought, to choose his own product and to choose his own market. This gave way to Privatisation and Liberalisation. In present economic context, the demand is directly related to consumption, and economy improves only with par to GDP. The poor continues to be poor and rich getting richer.

Moral Values and Ethics,**Dr. Nagesh Thakur:**

Speaking on the moral values amongst today's youth Dr. Nagesh Thakur said the youths has been often misguided and been fallen into the trap of materialistic world. Materials approach has weakened the moral and traditional values in different parts of world. This has invited many problems. Youths get acquainted to intoxication and pleasure seeking activities. Ideology conflict increases day by day. Youth has been recognised as a main power in every society. Uncontrolled youths are a major threat which can lead to destruction. We have conflicts on race, colour, religion etc. The bigger question is how we can create a conducive atmosphere where we can all exist together happily and peacefully. Citing examples of the great saints like Swami Vivekananda and the Lord Rama, the symbol of divinity, he urged the youth gathering in the seminar to inculcate moral and ethics in our life.

Professor Shashi K. Dhiman, the Vice-Chancellor of Himachal Pradesh Technical

University too joined Dr. Nagesh in sublimating the youth to live a more cultured life.

Valedictory,

Jairam Thakur, Hon'ble Rural Development and Panchayati Raj Minister of Himachal Pradesh appreciates the organizers for the issues which we considered and discussed in the seminar.

V.C, H.P

Youths should lay the foundation and take lead in social transformation. Character is needed to shape a healthy society. We need to have a vision and work to accomplish the same. We have responsibility to shoulder. The major role for us is to take responsibility to take the world as a whole as a one. We cannot protect environment or anything until we consider ourselves as one and work together for the same. He call upon youths to take lead in refining the world.