

Report on Youth Parliament 2018



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BACKGROUND

One of the rationales of democracy is that in it everybody gets a chance to be heard. All citizens have the right to express their opinions freely and thereby contribute to the taking of right decisions and passing of good laws that govern the country. To actively and meaningfully participate in the democratic functioning of our civic and political institutions, citizens are required to have certain competencies. It is, therefore, necessary that a suitable programme is devised to train youth for their role as citizens in a democracy. Education should make students competent enough to consider public issues and form their opinion on them judiciously. Youth is a season of hope and aspiration. It is proper to take advantage of this and develop in our young students the necessary civic competence. The Youth Parliament is a programme in which group discussion and role-playing techniques can effectively be used.

Citizenship is not a subject; it is a way of living. Therefore, it's learning demands appropriate practice in the living of it. Our approach must be, not "What does a good citizen know?" but "what does a good citizen do, and what must he know to do it?" Citizenship education cannot be imparted merely by providing students with information. We must think not only in terms of developing competencies in students but also in terms of influencing their attitudes which are essential for running democracy in the country on right lines. This is possible if we pay some attention to designing and organizing purposeful activities for students' participation. The Youth Parliament is one of such activities by which we can impart some real citizenship education.

Holding of mock sessions of parliament in schools and colleges in the country is quite an old practice. The tradition of holding mock sessions must be taken advantage of and at the same time there is a need to eliminate the deficiencies of 'mock parliament' and give it a more educative content. From this point of view a scheme of 'Youth Parliament' has been launched. Parliamentary democracy has taken roots in our country and, therefore, from the point of view of further strengthening democracy the Fourth All India Whips' Conference held in Bombay in 1962, conceived the idea of encouraging the Youth Parliament in educational institutions. The Conference recommended that "Government should encourage holding of mock Parliament in Educational Institutions and through Panchayats in rural areas".

This recommendation was reiterated by all the successive All India Whips' Conferences. When the scheme was started in 1966-67, it is used to be called mock parliament competition Scheme. However, the Eight All India Whips' Conference held at Bhopal in November 1972 recommended that the name of mock parliament should be substituted by Youth Parliament, Consequently, the scheme is now known as the Youth Parliament Competition Scheme. The Ministry of a Parliamentary Affairs is also extending all possible financial and technical assistance to the states and union Territories to conduct these competitions.

Globally, National Youth Parliaments have emerged as a credible mechanism to promote active-citizenship. Despite differences in structure, composition and operating procedures youth parliaments across the globe, essentially provide platforms for young people to articulate, specific youth related issues and concerns but most importantly, to share their perspectives on the matters of national importance. In

India, with increasing emphasis on civic engagement of youth; youth parliament provides a clear strategic push to enhance participation of young people in matters of national interest including in politics and governance.

Youth Parliament intends to create a permanent forum on local and national levels where all young people can discuss and reflect on topics that concern them and to address themes arising from the common lived experiences and share with others. It acts as a platform for them to voice their opinions which will help them analytically examine the society which we inhabit. In India too, there has been a growing focus on civic engagement of youth and a clear strategic push to enhance participation of young people in matters of national interest including in politics and governance. Governance requires an active citizenry and given that the youth in the age group of 15-29 years comprise 27.5% of the population, it is considered essential to create more opportunities and mechanisms for civic engagement of youth. One among the eleven priority areas in the National Youth Policy (NYP) 2014 is that of 'participation in politics and governance', which mostly talks about facilitating participation and civic engagement at all levels of governance. As guided under the NYP 2014, youth are the future of the nation and must be encouraged to participate in politics at local and national levels. They must be provided the necessary training and tools to become effective policy makers and to be able to execute Government schemes and programs.

With the overall aim of strengthening the roots of democracy, inculcate healthy habits of discipline, tolerance of the views of others and to enable the youth to understand the working of the Parliamentary institutions, UNV India in collaboration with Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports conducted Youth Parliament in 2018 at two levels - District and National level covering 24 states of the country under the GoI-UNDP Project "Strengthening NYKS and NSS .

The following were the key objectives of the Youth Parliament:

- Develop broad understanding of procedure and insight into the working of parliament among youth in India.
- Develop leadership qualities among youth to enable them to realize their full potential and in the process, to contribute to the nation building.
- Develop Youths' understanding on public issues and form their opinion
- Orient youth in the technique of group discussion
- Develop youths' ability to build consensus through deliberations
- Inculcate and develop youth to have respect and tolerance for the views of others
- Develop among youth an understanding that respect for rules is essential for conducting any discussion systematically and effectively.
- Create awareness among youth of various problems facing our society and the country.

KEY STEPS TAKEN TO CONDUCT YOUTH PARLIAMENT

Background Research

To realize the aim of materializing and executing a National Youth Parliament, necessary steps had to be taken for collection of required data, preparing the personnel as well as the Young participants to be able to participate effectively. One of the first steps taken for the same was to conduct secondary research in different districts of India to get a preliminary understanding of various socio-economic issues that are affecting the youth of the region. Various governmental reports, census and survey results along with data of different NGOs working in such districts were used to compile information and analyse the situation of the youth in these districts. For further understanding, the District Youth Coordinators of the UNV team, were contacted to get their understanding and experience of working with the youth of the districts and their analysis of the situation. This helped in comprehending better the secondary data that was collected and provided a wholesome picture of the socio-economic status of different youth in various parts of the country. The reports on every district were shared with the respective DYCs as a necessary research document that would serve as a starting point and would help the DYCs discuss these issues with the youth of their districts and get the perspective of the youth and encourage them to think of solutions on how to deal with them.

Training of Trainers

UNV India in collaboration with The Dais organization organized three-day (25th – 27th June 2018) Training of Trainers (ToT) for UNV-DYCs on Conducting Youth Parliament at district level, the overall idea of the training programme was to enhance the understanding and capacity of UNV DYC's on conducting district Youth Parliament. The training programme was initiated by three facilitators from Dais Foundation, the facilitators were introduced to the group of 23 UNV DYC who then helped them understand the context of each district which the UNV's were representing. The training was focused on the specific outcome that by the end of the 3-day training programme, the DYC will be well equipped to conduct district Youth Parliament with a high clarity and understanding of different procedures which will also be reflected in their session plans.

The ToT program adopted a range of activities for ensuring active engagement of the participants, dissemination of content, brainstorming and noting down the opinions of the participants, working group discussions and presentations besides reflections on each day.

The ToT aided the participants in acquiring comprehensive understanding of the critical aspects of Youth Parliament. The ToT was also helpful in providing the necessary perspective of bridging the Indian Parliament's processes and policy issues in local governance with the role of youth in the same. The focus of the YP and ToT was to enable the DYCs to be able to introduce and expose youth to legislative processes and certain tips for association-based learning and content delivery timelines were also discussed with DYC's. For convergence, the UNV Team assured the DYCs for a more regular feedback-based system will be used to set the final structure for the National Youth Parliament.

The training session was concluded by providing each UNV DYC with the final copy of district research, the idea behind this was that it would give the DYC an understanding about the themes to be followed in the District Youth Parliament. The DYCs were also given the freedom and flexibility on finalizing their local structure for simulation as per their knowledge and experience of the district.



Mr. Asit Singh, Joint Secretary, Dept. Youth Affairs, MoYAS inaugurated the three days Training of Trainers at UNDP, India

Simulation Design

Post ToT, a Guidance Note was developed and shared with DYCs which included guidelines to conduct the district youth parliament in terms of aims and objectives of the program, selection criteria for selecting youth for block level, district level and national level Youth Parliament, processes and period of youth parliament, logistical arrangements for it and desired outcomes from the entire program. A template was also shared with the DYCs for them to make a concept note based on it describing how they will conduct the youth parliament in their districts, timeline and budget of the same, number of participants and topics to be focused on during the discussion.

Conducting District Youth Parliaments

The District Youth Parliament simulation was designed by the respective UNV-DYCs according to the socio-economic structure of their district. It was organized among the 24 districts, to provide a platform to the youth to make them understand about the issues affecting them and to have a better understanding about the parliamentary procedures.

The UNV DYCs provided a draft before the DYP to the National UNV Team which included the details for simulation design, the total number of candidates, the venue, the issues selected for the District Youth Parliament. This draft helped the National Team and the District Team to have standardized structure to conduct the District Youth Parliament and evaluate their educative content, and their efficaciousness in encouraging political participation among the youth.



District Youth Parliament conducted in Udaipur district, Tripura

After the completion of DYP, the DYCs shared a report with the national team mentioning the details of 2 days during which the parliament was conducted, Issues discussed and recommendations for the same. By October, District Youth Parliament was successfully conducted in 25 districts by their respective DYCs and UNV national team.



District Youth Parliament conducted in South Kolkata district, West Bengal

The major thematic areas of discussions included the following:

- 1. Unemployment and Skill Development:** A growing trend these days is 'unemployment of educated youth'. This forces a lot of young people to enter the informal sector and indecent living and work conditions. Skill Development is seen as one solution for this but for that the skill training system and policies should be implemented effectively. The government, civil society and private institutions should come along to generate more livelihood options and make the skill development sector stronger.
- 2. Education:** Lack of quality education and high drop- out rate amongst students especially in the age group of 10-15 years is a major concern to be focused on. Government schools and low end private institutions lack the basic infrastructure to provide quality education and mostly students are seen to drop out of schools after 8th or 10th standard. Right to education being a basic right of all citizens of India, this issue must be deliberated upon to understand the deeper causes of it and realize potential and innovative solutions for the same.
- 3. Human Trafficking:** Transporting youth especially girls across states, cities and countries has become a common practice these days despite it being a crime in India. It is usually done for labor purposes and sexual exploitation and youth fall for it due to lack of basic services and infrastructure, lack of information about livelihood options, government policies and schemes and heavy migration and poverty. The government should make stricter laws pertaining to human trafficking and awareness about it should increase amongst the citizens.
- 4. Agriculture:** News about farmer's suicide, crop failure, inflation in prices etc. are often heard. India being an agriculturally dominated country needs to take up this issue on priority and continue to provide required support for the same. The youth who are now moving away from

agriculture industry needs to be attracted to it for it to grow. Cost effective agriculture training, promotion of agri startups, water and food storage techniques and warehouses, subsidies and policies and action research should be encouraged and promoted through Government, civil society and active citizenry.

5. **Health:** Health issues of youth and women are major focus areas to be discussed upon. Malnutrition in women, lack of pre and post-natal care, lack of basic health services, substance abuse by the youth and spread of HIV were few topics on which health component was discussed.
6. **Environment:** Issues like Environment protection bill, Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, sanitation and hygienic values, waste management and ban on plastic were discussed. With growing focus on sustainability, these topics were debated upon in detail and possible recommendations were suggested taking into the local factors into consideration.

For the National Youth Parliament, each DYC was asked to shortlist 3 participants from the DYP based on the criteria shared with them before in the concept note.

NATIONAL YOUTH PARLIAMENT
15th & 16th NOVEMBER 2018
VISHWA YUVAK KENDRA, NEW DELHI

DAY 1

Introductory Session

To acquaint 55 participants from different regions of the country with each other, the day began with a 'Bingo Session'. Each participant introduced themselves and mentioned their district/region, the Member of Parliament they'd be representing etc. This session gave the participants a chance to get acquainted with the social and linguistic diversity of the youth coming from different regions of the country.

The participants of the event were the winners of various District Youth Parliaments that were held in multiple districts with the objective of raising awareness among the Youth regarding the social issues that affect them. During the introductory session, the diversity of the Youth was visible in the room.

Technical Session

The training session was moderated by Dr. James. He is a trainer of civil service aspirants and has a lot of interest in political and social scenario of the country. He started by sharing his insights about the importance of Youth Parliaments. He started with the quote 'I AM WHAT I AM.' Through this, he tried to highlight the fact that even though the young participants would be representing certain Parliamentary members, it does not mean they cannot add their own touch of authenticity to the representation. Emphasis was on **To Think, Analyse and Provide Solutions** by using one's own mental faculties and present their own understanding of the solutions. Youth Parliaments are made vibrant through the authenticity and creativity of its young participants. Dr. James also emphasized on the importance of representing the interests of one's State. As soon as one takes on the role of a Member of Parliament; it is the responsibility of that participant to do justice when it comes to representing and reflecting on the issues affecting the State/region. He reflected on the importance of words of the Preamble which says, 'WE THE PEOPLE' and how democracy rests on responsible representation of the region's issues by their respective representatives.

Dr. James then moved ahead with the session and oriented the participants on the nature of conduct for the Youth Parliament and the various MP profiles are delegated to the participants for their further research and work. While assigning the profiles, participants are made aware that during the Mock Session, it is fundamental to work more on the kind of issues that are reflected and to establish transparent communication with other participants. The nature of language used is simply secondary and emphasis is to be given to the quality of understanding and communication than anything else.

He ended the session by briefing the participants on certain important terms to know and understand before stepping into a Mock Parliament session; terms like Zero Hour, Adjournment Sessions etc. Before

beginning with the Mock session, Participants were given a little break through a fun activity to freshen up and begin preparing for the Mock session.

Allocation of Profiles

Before conducting the Mock session, it was important to assign certain profiles to candidates; like Leader of Opposition, Speaker, Deputy Speaker. To ascertain who'd fit well with these profiles, each participant was given 2 minutes to provide their point of view on how the education sector is shaping up in their respective region/district and reflect on the drawbacks or what can be improved in the same. This provided the jury with a chance to evaluate participants based on their articulation of points, their discipline and observance of parliamentary rules etc. to allocate the profiles for conducting the mock session.

Mock Session

A mock session was held to provide the participants with a firsthand experience of conducting a Parliament session with all its rules and proceedings. The theme for the mock session was Education. The participants presented various issues associated with the Education sector in a Parliamentary manner which provided them with necessary insights required for a full day parliament session next day.

Issues Identified (Education Theme)

- Difference in Rural and Urban education system
- Low women literacy rate
- High dropout rate in higher education
- Lack of employment opportunity leading to unemployment among the educated youth.
- Lack of skilled based education
- Lack of proper infrastructure facilities in the rural areas
- Inadequate ratio of teachers.

Conclusion

The day ended with providing the participants with documents that will be helpful for them in their preparation for the final day of Youth Parliament. Dr. James made it a point to clarify all the doubts participants had regarding the sessions; this was beneficial to the participants as they had a clear picture about the proceedings for the next day. The mock session along with various research documents encouraged the participants to deepen their knowledge for participation in the Youth Parliament the next day.

DAY 2

The second day started with highlighting the importance of engaging the Youth of the country in National Youth Parliament as a step towards encouraging active political participation among them. Youth Parliaments have emerged as credible platform for young to articulate specific youth related issues and share their perspective on matters of National importance. The participants along with the guests were

thanked for their presence and participation on such an important day. Before beginning with the Mock Lok Sabha Session, Mr. Arun Sahdeo (Programme Officer, UNV India), Mr. Veerendra Mishra (Director NSS), Ms. Francine Pickup (Country Director, UNDP), Mr. Asit Singh (Joint Secretary- Youth Affairs; MOYAS) were invited on stage to share the welcome address.

Mr. Arun Sahdeo gave his welcome speech where he talked about National Youth Parliament and its preparation for nine months, he also talked about how the NYP will help the Youth in capacity building and they will be able to take the lead in our country's affairs.

Mr. Veerendra Mishra welcomed the participants by making them understand about the importance of hearing and learning what the person is saying, this will help them in betterment of themselves as a person. Veerendra Mishra also mentioned that for the PM's National Youth Parliament, he would like to take help of the participants from NYP as resource person for different districts.

Ms. Francine mentioned that youth can transform the thinking of a nation, they are an important part of policy making and decision making for the Government. The Youth can also help in achieving the SDGs and bring about a change by articulating and changing the views of the society.

Mr. Asit Singh in his speech talked how the importance of Youth being the agent of change in a country and the participants of NYP as they are inspiration for the youth at their own region/district.

Parliament session started with a condolence speech for Lt. Atal Bihari Vajpayee from the leaders of opposition and ruling party. They went on to tell in length about his contributions to the country's progress and his achievements. This was followed by discussions which revolved around three major topics: Education, Health and Women Empowerment and Inclusion.

Education

The parliament session started with the previous day's discussion on Education. The ruling party and opposition party had intense discussion on the education scenario and policies catering to it in all the states. The discussion revolved around the budget allocation for education, the facilities in government schools and its impact, education statistics and this also further led to the discussion of unemployment. The opposition party critically analyzed the education situation in India and the ruling party did its best at explaining the changes and policies they have brought in this sector.

Mr. Surendra Alriya from Sikar, Rajasthan questioned the Education Minister, "The training process to become a government school teacher requires one to undertake a 4-month internship at government schools but many a times the principal of the school just takes bribe and passes the trainee teacher in the internship process and only on papers the teacher is a trained teacher. So, what are you doing about the quality of teachers?" To this Sk. Ishrath Parveen from Khammam, Telangana replied, "The central and state governments conducts Central Teachers Eligibility Exam where the quality of teachers is judged and selected for further process. Under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan there is an aspect of teacher education which is to strengthen teacher's role in education. Except for this, there is a program of school associations to

expand the intellectual of students and teachers where they are trained to become better at their work. So the government is taking appropriate steps to ensure quality of teachers and teaching process.”

As a supplementary question Himanshu Pareek from Mahendragarh, Haryana raised few questions, “Why is it that there is huge difference between the male and female literacy rate in Haryana? Along with this, the policy of mid- day meal is debated in terms of its nutrition because there is everyday news about adulteration in the food of mid- day meal. So, what is the government doing about this?” To this Himanshu Tripathi from Surguja, Chattisgarh replied, “Talking about why Haryana has such a high male to female literacy gap is due to the patriarchal thinking of people in that area. Talking about mid-day meal, this scheme was implemented by the opposition party when it was in power. It was implemented for the kids of marginalized and poor families to motivate them to send their children to school.”

Raising more serious questions on education, Anurag Rai from Meerut, Uttar Pradesh asked the ruling party, “The government talks about digital India and still in 21st century the school kids in government schools have to study under a tree because there are no tables and chairs. If the government can build statue of unity worth 300 crores in 4 years, then why couldn’t it improve the condition of education system in government schools?” Yamini Shankar from Mahendragarh, Haryana answered to this, “Looking in the perspective of Haryana, female to male literacy rate now is 957:1000 and the sex ratio has also seen improvement. Haryana has made education free for girls till college level and even the travel expenses which come with it. Now, Haryana is amongst the top 5 states in India in terms of Education. So every year, the system of education is just improving.”

Going ahead, Diksha Rawat from Uttarkashi, Uttrakhand raised the question to Finance Minister, “The budget allocation for education is only 3-5% of the GDP, so why is there such a low budget allocation for education which actually shapes our future?” To this Soumya Prakash Joshi from Nuapada, Odisha replied, “The budget allocation has been increased from last year’s allocation by 9% and the focus has been increasingly on strengthening the system of government schools. India being a developing country, the focus of budget allocation goes in other areas also but soon the government will invest 6% of GDP in education.”

A very important point for an all -inclusive education system was brought up in the discussion by Shubham Kumar Sharma from Sikar, where he said, “India being a country of many tribal communities, we should incorporate their interests in our education system and bring them forward in the society. The government should formulate policies around this aspect as well.” To this Nancy Kujur from Gumla, Jharkhand replied, “Through our schemes we have made sure that the tribal communities get their rights and access to public institutions. Through reservation in education and jobs, they are ensured an equal chance to development.”

This discussion further turned into a discussion on employment when Shubham Panwar from Uttarkashi, Uttrakhand pointed out by saying, “Because of lack of quality education, 90% youth have only two options after college which are to be unemployed or underemployed. Taking a student loan has become difficult as its interest is so high that even after a job, the youth is unable to pay the interest of the loan.” To which

Manisha Bezbaruah from Nalbari, Assam responded by saying, “Unemployment is majorly due to lack of skills and keeping that in mind the government has launched Skill India and Make in India program which will ensure to generate employment in the country as well as lead to increase in economy. Because of several schemes launched by the government now India ranks 77 in the ease of doing business in international arena.” Also, a bill on Skill India and Entrepreneurship was also discussed upon on the same lines. Based on the discussion, a resolution was passed on the key activities to be focused on in the Education sector at the end.

Health

Health sector in India was also a major discussion which took place in the Parliament session. It was around the health facilities available to poor, dearth of doctors and technology, expensive treatment, medical tourism. The ruling party told the parliament about the new health policy ‘AYUSHMAN’. It also talked about medical tourism in India and how it is leading to better medical facilities here. The state specific schemes on health were also talked about amongst the opposition and ruling party.

Ujan Natik from South Kolkata, West Bengal started by raising a question, “All 33 insurance providers do not cover diseases like Schizophrenia, Bipolar disorder and depression. These are very important to cover to provide a wholesome health benefit but still these are left out.”

Anurag Rai raised another concern stating, “The Government hospitals have formalities of filling so many forms that few patients die during the process of admission only. So why is there so much focus on filling forms first and then treatment? Talking about cancer patients, rural India has a lot of cases of cancer but no place to get the treatment because Indian hospitals don’t have the latest technology.” Nishita Dhragdhariya from Rajkot, Gujarat replied to this by saying, “Government has launched schemes like AAYUSH which will have ASHA workers and Aanganwadi gram panchayat members to represent the local needs in policy making. Taking an example of Rajkot government hospital, there is no tedious process of filling long forms to get treatment. One must pay only Rs5 to get the treatment. Also, the cancer hospital in Rajkot is one of the best cancer hospitals and possesses the latest technology and this is available to all.”

Sonuhil Jose Sebastian from Ernakulum, Kerala raised a question on health awareness, “Why aren’t we talking about prevention of diseases? Also, with this we should look into waste management and is there anything else other than land filling which the ruling party is undertaking for the same?” To this SK. Ishrath Parveen replied, “We are propagating non- usage of plastic and instead use jute or cotton bags. To prevent the diseases, we are propagating Yoga through a National Yoga Day and it’s a huge success.”

As a supplementary question, Malkar Namrata Rao from Anantapur, Andhra Pradesh pointed out, “Why is there only Yoga day? Why not Ayurvedic Day or Unani Day?” To this Abhishek Rana from Uttarkashi, Uttarakhand replied, “The opposition party didn’t initiate any such day or policy in 60 years. The ruling party has taken initiatives to do it. Keeping women’s health in mind, the government has also introduced

Rs 6000 for pregnant women which the previous government completely ignored. So, the opposition party should cooperate and make it a success.”

Further, Smita Baishya from Nalbari, Assam raised a question on women mortality rate, “Talking about Assam, female mortality rate is the highest i.e. 300 per 1 lakh women. So why is it so? Also, during MBBS, doctors must serve one year in rural areas but where should the patient go after a year? So how are we improving rural health?”

To this Sanjay Rai from South Sikkim, Sikkim replied, “Dying is a natural phenomenon and we cannot deny it. We must accept this fact because one cannot go on to live for 100 years. Mortality rate can be reduced but also we have to understand that people die.”

Talking about AYUSHMAN, Priya Kumari from Meerut, Uttar Pradesh mentioned, “Medical tourism in India has increased due to AYUSH. People from big nations are coming to India to be treated under Ayurveda and this is a big achievement of this scheme.”

R. Deepan from Kanyakumari, Tamil Nadu stated few facts to raise questions like, “For every 20,000 people, there is only 1 bed, for every 90000 people there is only 1 hospital. Also, the doctors are unevenly distributed in states of India. Reports also suggest that 4 out of 5 doctors are fake doctors in rural India. So how are we tackling all this?” Radha S. Bhatt from Rajkot, Gujarat replied by saying, “The government cannot go and tell doctors to keep shifting because there are less doctors in a state. Also, the news about fake doctors are facts stated by various agencies so there is no definite base to believe in these agencies and their facts.”

Dashrath Prasad Rajak from Tikamgarh, Madhya Pradesh raised a concern, “The ruling party has initiated under ANM that people will get doorstep vaccines. Also, the ruling party has started Swatch Bharat Mission and instead of condemning it, why doesn’t the opposition party cooperate for it to be a successful mission.”

Jagruti Panda from Nuapada, Odisha added by saying, “Under Amay clinics, a specialist goes to urban people to resolves their problems and under the new health budget, the government will give Rs5 lakhs per family to cover their health treatment. With this, Orissa government provides 7 lakhs per family for their treatment.”

Participants kept posing questions and appropriate answered followed. Due to limitation of time the Speaker Madam had to end the discussion on health and move onto the topic of Women Empowerment and Inclusion.

Women Empowerment and Inclusion

The previous day’s mock session also identified Women empowerment as one of the critical issues to be discussed. Various issues associated with women safety and how to lay a path for women development

were negotiated upon. The major women issues revolved around equality of women in workforce, Beti Bachao Beti Padhao scheme, access to health facilities and sexual harassment.

Yamini Shankar started by pointing to a very interesting topic by saying “In India, women live in different eras. A woman in rural India leads a very different life from urban India and that’s why our women empowerment policies should focus from the grassroots to the top and vice versa and not have a general approach. They face issues at every level, from entering the workforce to health issues to education.”

To this Sadhana Yadav from Tikamgarh, Madhya Pradesh raised a question, “The government has introduced Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao. But with rape cases every day, sexual harassment cases every day, how can you save girls and what is the government doing for it?” To this Archana Morathwala from Sikar, Rajasthan replied, “In the country where people justify rape with girls wearing short clothes, our prime minister has initiated the program Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao which has enabled girls like us to come out and be independent. There is scope for improvement, but we cannot say that the government is not doing anything.”

Priya Kumari added to this by saying, “In Uttar Pradesh, every school and college has 100 number van patrolling around it and with the launch of many schemes women are already empowered. Also, women don’t need mercy of others for their empowerment and one great example is that in this parliament session, number of females is more than males.”

Talking about women empowerment Yamini Shankar added, “Haryana has started a system of ‘Sarpanchis’ in which out of 6 lakh Sarpanch in Haryana, 2 lakhs will be Sarpanchis and there are special training programs going on for it.”

Yada Lavanya from Khammam, Telangana mentioned by saying, “Telangana government invests 40000 crores on 35 special schemes for women. These days the women can confidently enter the job market, take a stand for themselves and I am very glad for it.”

Intense discussions happened around these issues between the ruling and opposition party. The discussion was put into rest when the speaker madam asked the participants to pass a resolution on Women Empowerment and Inclusion.

Issues Identified (Women Empowerment)

- Increasing incidences of physical/emotional violence against women
- Need for funds/assistance for women in Higher education.
- Need for educating/awareness for mental and menstrual health

After discussing the various issues, it was time for the ruling party and the Opposition team to come together to design resolutions and come up with policies that would help with improving the conditions of women in India.

Resolution Passed

As the day progressed with heated debates and rich discussions, it was time to come to few concluding points and pass a resolution. A resolution is a self-contained independent proposal submitted for the approval of the House and drafted in such a way as to be capable of expressing a decision of the House. Based on the discussions and time limitation, the resolutions were passed on 2 topics which were Education and Women Empowerment. For the resolution to pass, both the sides- ruling and opposition were supposed to come together and negotiate on common points. The resolutions were passed in the form of recommendations and were submitted to the concerned ministry.

Resolution on Education

- It was decided that reservations at higher education/college level should be removed to provide for equal opportunities for everyone. Students with low percentage/marks misuse the reservation quota.
- Digitizing Library across nation: Utilization of certain amounts of computers with digital library and access to educational sites at a nominal rate will keep one updated with innovation and technology and can inspire youth towards education and motivate the youth as well.
- Teachers in various Governmental schools should not be hired on a permanent basis and should have a probation period and for teachers to have an incentive to work hard and earn their post.
- Governments must not do away with replacement of University Grants Commission with the Higher Education Council of India as it will destroy the autonomy of University which is of utmost importance to achieve excellence in the Universities.
- Government should establish partnerships of ITIs with foreign industrially developed countries like USA, UK, France, Japan. Germany etc. through which students can have access to foreign exchange programs and learn industrial training from Industrially developed countries.

Resolution on Women Empowerment

- Increase the amount of Government compensations to victims of acid attack, domestic violence and marital rape. To criminalize marital rape in a separate section under Indian Penal Code.
- Various Gram level Mahila Panchayats and Municipality level Mahila Committees should be organized to discuss local issues that affect the female population.
- Various Menstrual hygiene campaigns and local levels should be made a mandatory part of CWC centres under 'Ayushman Bharat.'
- For Medical college students, starting their 2nd year, it should be made mandatory for them to carry weekly field visits to rural areas and organize health related campaigns for the women.



National Youth Parliament conducted in Vishwa Yuwak Kendra, New Delhi



National Youth Parliament conducted in Vishwa Yuwak Kendra, New Delhi

Conclusion

The day ended with the award ceremony to facilitate the speakers and representatives for their commendable performance. At last, Mr. Arun Sahdeo expressed his gratitude for the National Youth Parliament and thanked the participants and UNV team for the same.

The two days saw energetic discussions and debates on the most pressing issues which India is facing. With time, the participants became well versed with the process and terminologies of a Parliament and enjoyed their experience as a parliamentarian thoroughly. Receiving a positive feedback, UNV team further plans to undertake youth centric activities in the districts for them to become leaders of tomorrow.

ANNEXURE**Under District Youth Parliament a total of 1261 youth participated in 24 districts**

Sr. No.	DISTRICT	STATE	Total no. of participants
1	Anantapuramu	Andhra Pradesh	48
2	Dimapur	Nagaland	43
3	Ernakulam	Kerala	40
4	Gumla	Jharkhand	120
5	Kanyakumari	Tamil Nadu	65
6	Khammam	Telangana	110
7	Lunglei	Mizoram	48
8	Mahendragarh	Haryana	55
9	Meerut	Uttar Pradesh	40
10	Nalbari	Assam	20
11	Nuapada	Odisha	44
12	Rajkot	Gujrat	45
13	Rajouri	Jammu and Kashmir	50
14	Ribhoi	Meghalaya	29
15	Sikar	Rajasthan	37
16	South Goa	Goa	40
17	South Kolkata	Kolkata	90
18	South Sikkim	Sikkim	42
19	Surguja	Chhattisgarh	40
20	Tamenglong	Manipur	40
21	Tawang	Arunachal Pradesh	40
22	Tikamgarh	Madhya Pradesh	40
23	Udaipur	Tripura	95
24	Uttarkashi	Uttarakhand	40

List of participants for National Youth Parliament

Sr. No	Name of Candidate	District	State
1	N. Mehtab Nasreen	Anantapur	Andhra Pradesh
2	Malkar Namratha Rao	Anantapur	Andhra Pradesh
3	Dhruba Jyoti Rajbongshi	Nalbari	Assam
4	Manisha Bezbaruah	Nalbari	Assam
5	Smita Baishya	Nalbari	Assam
6	Hitanshu Tripathi	Surguja	Chhattisgarh
7	Rupali Kushwaha	Surguja	Chhattisgarh
8	Ibtisam Hamza Shaikh	South Goa	Goa
9	Jaikeshi Kadam	South Goa	Goa
10	Shraddhesh Kenkre	South Goa	Goa
11	Radha S. Bhatt	Rajkot	Gujarat
12	Nishita Dhragdhariya	Rajkot	Gujarat
13	Yamini Shankar	Mahendragarh	Haryana
14	Lakhimchand	Mahendragarh	Haryana
15	Himanshu Pareek	Mahendragarh	Haryana
16	Riship Sharma	Rajouri	Jammu & Kashmir
17	Shabina Chowdhary	Rajouri	Jammu & Kashmir
18	Shivangi Bhasin	Rajouri	Jammu & Kashmir
19	Nancy Kujur	Gumla	Jharkhand
20	Gautam Kerketta	Gumla	Jharkhand
21	Sonuhali Jose Sebastian	Ernakulam	Kerala
22	Fiji Johnny	Ernakulam	Kerala
23	Jyothi P. M	Ernakulam	Kerala
24	Sadhana Yadav	Tikamgarh	Madhya Pradesh
25	Dashrath Prasad Rajak	Tikamgarh	Madhya Pradesh
26	Vivek Bhaskar	Tikamgarh	Madhya Pradesh
27	Lalthlamuana Sailo	Lunglei	Mizoram
28	R. Lalbiakzama	Lunglei	Mizoram

29	Zairemchhungi Royte	Lunglei	Mizoram
30	Eden Shikhu	Dimapur	Nagaland
31	Tingang Konyak	Dimapur	Nagaland
32	Zeba Rahman	Dimapur	Nagaland
33	Soumya Prakash Joshi	Nuapada	Odisha
34	Jagruti Panda	Nuapada	Odisha
35	Nafisha Bano	Nuapada	Odisha
36	Shubham Sharma	Sikar	Rajasthan
37	Surendra Alriya	Sikar	Rajasthan
38	Archana Morathwala	Sikar	Rajasthan
39	Ram Kumar Subba	South Sikkim	Sikkim
40	Sanjay Rai	South Sikkim	Sikkim
41	R. Deepan	Kanyakumari	Tamil Nadu
42	Yada Lavanya	Khammam	Telangana
43	Chanumolu Divya	Khammam	Telangana
44	Sk. Ishrath Parveen	Khammam	Telangana
45	Sarajit Debnath	Udaipur	Tripura
46	Samin Ahmed	Udaipur	Tripura
47	Jacob Tripura	Udaipur	Tripura
48	Avishek Rana	Uttarkashi	Uttarakhand
49	Shubham Panwar	Uttarkashi	Uttarakhand
50	Deeksha Rawat	Uttarkashi	Uttarakhand
51	Priya Kumari	Meerut	Uttar Pradesh
52	Anurag Rai	Meerut	Uttar Pradesh
53	Prince Aggarwal	Meerut	Uttar Pradesh
54	Rupali Mandal	South Kolkata	West Bengal
55	Ujan Natik	South Kolkata	West Bengal