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Promoting Social Entrepreneurship & Skills Development Amongst Youth in Northeast Region

REGIONAL CONFERENCE

November 24th, 2017

INDIAN INSTITUTE OF ENTREPRENEURSHIP | GUWAHATI

AGENDA:

SESSION	DETAILS
Welcome and Introduction Address	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mr. Arun Sahdeo, Programme Officer, UNV India.• Shri Thanglemlian, Director, Youth Affairs, Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports• Shri Manoj Kumar Das, Director, Indian Institute of Entrepreneurship• Prof. Bhabesh Chandra Goswami, Vice Chancellor, Cotton University
PANEL DISCUSSIONS	
Topic of Focus	Presenters
Social Entrepreneurship Opportunities and Challenges in Current Scenario	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Presentation on “Entrepreneurship discourse” by Mr. A. S. Dewan, Indian Institute of Entrepreneurship
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• “Innovation in Social Entrepreneurs” by Ms. Aarti Wig, Yunus Social Business, India
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• “Support System for Social Entrepreneurs” by Ms. Archana Sinha, Ashoka India
Role of Skill and its relevance to youth development in context of North East India	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• “Skill Development Scenario in India”- By Mr. Hanif Noorani, ACS, Assam Skill Development Mission
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• “Skill Development and Employment” -By Mr. Subhajit Mukherjee, NSDC & EY India
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• “Building Individual Capacities through Skills Development”- By Mr. Santosh Abraham, NASSCOM Foundation
Inauguration of Exhibition	

The Regional Conference on Promoting Social Entrepreneurship & Development Amongst Youth in Northeast Region was organized in the conference hall of Indian Institute of Entrepreneurship, Guwahati, Assam. The conference was attended by representatives from state and central government, development practitioners, academicians, social entrepreneurs, NSS volunteers and college students from the North-Eastern Region.

The conference was a full day event, with sessions on promoting potential opportunities under skill development and social entrepreneurship followed by the exhibition. The sessions were focused on two key areas- One was on Social Entrepreneurship opportunities and challenges in current times and second on the Role of skills and its relevance to youth in the context of North East.



Youth from various college at the Regional Conference

Social entrepreneurs from different institutions across India were invited as panelist to share their experiences in the areas of skill building and social entrepreneurship. The conference witnessed the presence of the government representatives who highlighted the available schemes. The conference also had an open house discussion which was initiated to respond to the queries from the participants.

The Welcome Address was delivered by **Mr. Arun Sahdeo, Programme Officer, UNV India**. Mr. Sahdeo welcomed all the dignitaries, speakers, NSS officers and volunteers, NKYS volunteers from NE states and media. He gave a brief background about UNDP and UN Volunteers and how they have been working with government and civil society organization since last five decades in India. Focusing on UN Volunteers, he mentioned that the primary objective of the organization is to ‘**promote volunteerism for developmental work**’ and working for the same since last 40 years with GOI. To mainstream volunteering in India, UN Volunteers has been working actively with Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports.

One of the biggest initiatives of UN Volunteers is ‘**Strengthening Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (NYKS) and National Service Scheme (NSS)**’ in collaboration with Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports. Through this initiative, youths from 29 districts across 29 states are being mobilized for developmental work and supporting the government and other partners including civil society and private entities.

Mr. Sahdeo opined his view that through youth volunteerism many Central and State government programmes can be successfully implemented like Swachh Bharat Mission, Beti Padhao Beti Bachao, Digital India and Skill India. Mr. Sahdeo is a firm believer that with India’s Youths contribution, the country can achieve SDGs before time.

Talking about the job sector, he emphasized on the growing issue of underemployment which has become a major problem in India and skilling of youth will increase the prospect for better employment. UNDP is working with Central and State Governments towards increasing the prospect of skilled youth for country’s growth and future development. With an increase in the sense of entrepreneurship especially in social sector can create tremendous scope for **social entrepreneurship** which needs to be represented well in India for overall development. Through social entrepreneurship better solutions can be achieved for economic development of North Eastern states for issues like accessibility, market linkages, and supply chain. With these views, he welcomes all the youth of the North-Eastern states to the conference and hoped that they get exposed to innovative ideas and opportunities.

Shri Thanglemlian, Director, Youth Affairs, Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports greeted and addressed the representatives from all the North-Eastern states present and thanked the organizers for organizing the conference in North East Region as issues like social entrepreneurship is very relevant in present times.

The North-East Region have been facing the development bottlenecks due to the factors like insurgency and ethnic violence, infrastructure deficiency, lack of public-private enterprise, geographical isolation, however, efforts have been underway to overcome all these deterrent factors of development of the region through various policies and programmes.

The government has taken several steps to overcome these infrastructural bottlenecks to induce sustainable development in the region. One of the initiatives which have been promoted on the larger platform is on promoting skill development and entrepreneurship among youth in the northeast. The central government has been designed programme focusing on the development of leadership qualities and entrepreneurial abilities among the youth of the region to ensure socio-economic development and growth of the nation. Revamping village and cottage industries in NER and creating an entrepreneur-friendly environment through facilitating incubation center is one of the proposed examples cited.



Shri Thanglemlian, Representative from MoYAS speaking at Inaugural Session

Now it is crucial that we engage young decision maker of tomorrow for the development of the region. There is greater recognition that young people are the future of the country's development but there is still a long way to go to realize this potential and we should create space for young people to engage in global peace and sustainable development growth.

Shri Manoj Kumar Das, Director, Indian Institute of Entrepreneurship welcomed all the participants and dignitaries to IIE Guwahati Campus and talked about IIE's incubation programs and international programs/conferences organized by the institute.

Emphasizing on the evolution of youth generation with the changes in the technology, he highlighted how today's youth have a different perspective compared to the previous generation of youth. With technology and access to information, there are many pros and cons which youth needs to use for their highest good and advancement and development of society at large.

Mr. Manoj requested the youth to overcome the mindset of working only as a salaried employed and rather opt for alternatives like becoming an entrepreneur which can tackle the issues of under-employment or unemployment and overcome challenges of lack of industrialization within the region.

Prof. Bhabesh Chandra Goswami, Vice Chancellor, Cotton University talked about the education sector since India's independence where there were only 20 universities and 500 colleges during that period. Today there are more than 850 universities and 40,000 colleges all over India. Even though the number of educational institutions is raising the gross enrolment rate is less when compared globally and the youth population has to work harder to get employment. Referring to Mahatma Gandhi's vision of higher education and youth's service to nation's development we need to re-think about our education system to make the youth population productive.

Talking about entrepreneurship he stressed on identifying one's potential, personality and qualities which can be linked to viable social projects that can remove constraints and create meaningful social change. Very few people have the mental set up for talent and aggression to take up entrepreneurship. A socially motive mindset is required to venture into social entrepreneurship because there are challenges to make the enterprise financially self-sustaining since the primary objective is not profit but socially benefiting the society. One

of the most successful examples of social entrepreneurship is from Bangladesh. The Grameen Bank founded by Nobel Laureate Md. Yunus provides micro-credit to poor farmers across the country which has completely revolutionized the micro-credit institution around the world.

Bringing focus to NE, there is a lot of resources available to a diverse population which can be harnessed to bring changes and creates opportunities for development and economic transformation within the region.

PANEL DISCUSSIONS

➤ **Presentation on “Entrepreneurship as career option” by Mr. A. S. Dewan, Indian Institute of Entrepreneurship**

Mr. Dewan presentation was focused on introducing the concept of entrepreneurs and fostering a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship in northeast states of India. His presentation highlighted some of key aspect towards promoting the entrepreneurship model.

- One of the challenges towards proposing the entrepreneurship model is the perception of the youth wherein Mr. Dewan highlighted that in Northeast, youth prefer to opt for conventional government sector jobs and very few youths opt for private sector jobs such as lawyers, journalist, architects, designers, event management, sports, and others. Entrepreneurship is not considered as a career option because many are unaware and the culture of ‘doing something of our own’ is not strong among people of the region. Many don’t consider themselves to have the qualities to become an entrepreneur.
- Mr. Dewan explained that the concept of entrepreneurship is dynamic because it is based on socio-cultural-political and economic factors.
- Entrepreneurship is one career option where one can be one’s own boss which may not be possible in other career fields. Entrepreneurship gives the opportunities to focus on new ideas, innovation to create something new. Working as an entrepreneur one’s overall personality develops, and accountability and responsibility increase.
- Entrepreneurial ventures increase creation of employment opportunities for local youth.
- The biggest benefit of becoming an entrepreneur is there is no time limit to start; anyone can start an entrepreneur venture at any age. Only criteria are to believe in self and have the courage to take a calculative risk.

Mr. Dewan concluded his presentation by encouraging youth to find answers and solutions to social problems faced by the society that way many social entrepreneurs will come up from the region. That way youth will learn to work on independent ideas which can be converted to economic ventures which will, in turn, improve the economic status of NE region.

➤ **“Innovation in Social Entrepreneurs” by Ms. Aarti Wig, Yunus Social Business, India**

With the recent proliferation of social enterprises around the world wherein entrepreneurs—young and old—have come together to initiate social business venture, Ms. Aarti’s discussion was focused on promoting the potential of social business and how it has created successful business models helping millions in India and around the world.

- By 2020, India will be ‘the youngest’ country in the world with an average age of 29 years. Today, there is already a situation where we don’t have enough jobs for youth who are joining workforce. 30% of the youth population is unemployed and untrained. So, the question is “what can be the solution to these problems where existing economic system is creating more problems than solving”. 1 % of the population owns more than 50%-70% of the wealth of the world and 50% women population are anemic and 40% children are stunned because of lack of food.
- There is need to take a different path and destination for creating a different world which is not only about wealth and a world where prosperity is for everyone. To achieve that, there is a need to have a clearly defined destination, the kind of world we want to live in and how it needs to look like and create the engine to get to that world. One of the path is through **“Social Business”**.
- One of the famous examples is of **Mohammad Yunus**, an economist who has created a world where he brought 100 million people out of extreme poverty by creating a microfinance institution.
- **Social Business** is business that is created with very specific intention of solving a social problem. Social business is not about creating money for self. It is to do business to earn revenue to cover its cost and run for the larger welfare of the society but not to do charity.
- Social business is a non-dividend business from where one takes a good salary for oneself which is enough for one’s need and not for greed. The rest of the money is used for the business where it is used for people to solve problems of unemployment, access to energy light, solve malnutrition. The circle goes back to the business to grow and expand.

Few of successful examples of Social Business:

- ❖ **Grameen Bank:** It was started in Bangladesh by economist Muhammad Yunus to address one very basic problem of Banks not lending to poor women. Muhammad Yunus created Grameen bank that will lend only to the poorest and most illiterate women in the poorest regions of the world. Grameen bank was set-up to lend tiny loans to women in Bangladesh who did not even knew how to read and write. Grameen bank was started in 1976 and Today Grameen bank has lent over 16 Billion dollars to 9 million women in Bangladesh, all of whom are entrepreneurs and started a small business. Grameen bank has lent money to these women and now they have accumulated so much of savings that the bank has become net borrower from the women. The deposit has exceeded than lending. The bank is owned and run by women. This bank has a repayment rate of 98%.

Grameen bank has turned the concept that banking is for rich and proved that it is possible to create large social business and lend to those who are not considered creditworthy. Grameen bank after its success is being replicated all over the world. Around the world, it has brought out 100 million people out of poverty.

To tackle the problem of unemployment in Bangladesh there are many micro entrepreneur funds available. One of them is **Nobin Udyogda Prokolpo** which encourages youth between 18-35 years to become micro-entrepreneurs to start small business, become agriculturalist and seller to improve their livelihood.

- ❖ **Rang De Huba:** This organization works with artisans from India. Rang De Huba directly source its products from the artisans and tries to eliminate as many middlemen as possible. By using technology, the customers exactly know who is earning how much along the supply chain. The organization makes sure that the artisans get its due share and artisanal products are available to wide range of customers at affordable price.
- ❖ **Under the Mango Tree:** This organization encourages women farmers to become beekeepers in their farmland. They encourage women to start beekeeping because bees increase agriculture production through pollination. By selling organic honey women are having a source of income and the productivity of farms is also increasing. One of the best outcomes of this practice is that the women organize themselves into collective and take the honey to the market. This is the way in which value chain exist.

- ❖ **Grameen Shakti:** In Bangladesh, Grameen Shakti had installed Solar Home Systems in villages when 70% of households did not have electricity. They created a solar package which included solar cell, battery, and light. Different packages were made available for different price to meet the demands of the market. Today Grameen Shakti has installed more than 2 million solar panels in the whole of Bangladesh.

In her concluding note, Ms. Aarti Wig highlighted the scope of Social business in India and how it has been expanding over the years into various other sectors. She encourage the youth to recognize this model as a valuable enterprise and work towards creating new model of business that will work for collective good.

- **“Support System for Social Entrepreneurs” by Ms. Archana Sinha, Ashoka India:** Ms. Archana’s presentation was focused on how job and entrepreneurship characteristics are changing and how qualities like empathy, teamwork, creative problem solving and new age leadership are bringing changes in the world of entrepreneurship.



Ms. Archana Sinha, Senior Director, Ashoka India talking about Social Entrepreneurship

The nature of employment and entrepreneurship has gone through transformation over the years. Today it is all about innovation. To succeed one needs to constantly innovate to being employed or being an entrepreneur.

In the world of employment, the nature of jobs is also constantly changing and the idea of job security and organizational hierarchy is being done away with. There are many companies over the world which is doing away with managers,

saying that we need a world where everybody can figure out what they need to do and how to do. Companies are looking for constant changes and innovations.

- Ashoka foundation has looked into social entrepreneurship in partner organization to understand skills and competencies that are required to be successful in today's time. From their research, it showed that competencies qualities are empathy, teamwork, creative problem solving, new-age leadership qualities to bring success changes in society.

Few of the examples explaining competency qualities:

- ❖ **Ashoka Youth Venturer Tanay Gandhi:** Tanay Gandhi from Mumbai is working on creating temporary shelters for people living on the footpath. He goes to different events, outdoor agencies and political parties who produces plastic banners. He creates temporary shelters for pavement dwellers out of plastic banners to help them get through monsoons. And uses the same plastic banners and up-cycles to makes bags and accessories that way he has created a source of income for the pavement dwellers in addition to providing them with shelters. Tanay also raises awareness for long-term shelter and design for pavement dwellers.
- ❖ **Deep Jyoti Sonu Brahma, Farm2Food Foundation, Ashoka Fellow:** Due to lack of entrepreneurship development in NE region Deep Jyoti felt the need to start the idea of entrepreneurship from school level. He started Farm2food in schools of Assam. In schools, students form clubs that manages school gardens, manages everything from planning to harvesting and selling. Student market their produce under their own brand. This initiative has taught students skills of working together as a unit. Deep Jyoti connects students to model farmers from the area from whom students get to learn about new crops and farming techniques.
- ❖ **Gyansanvardhini School, Ashoka Nourishing Schools partner:**
The idea behind the program is to provide services to people who are under nourish to improve and build their capacity by improving their nutrition level.
In Satara, Maharashtra, **Gyansanvardhini school** did a survey on nutrition with its students and found out that the 80% of the students were having junk food once a week even though the school is located in

the semi-rural area. So, teacher and students came up with the idea of starting a healthy school canteen serving only healthy snacks and will be also managed by students themselves. In this way the consumption of junk food was brought down by students.

❖ **Ganesh Natarajan, Founder, 5F World and former CEO, Zensar Tech:**

Mr. Natarajan used to host an annual open challenge in his company on themes or social issues and invited every employee to submit ideas and suggestions to find a solution to those issues. That way he used to encourage his employees to work in team and test their solutions and pilot it.

Ms. Archana ended her discussion by asking upcoming entrepreneurs to be accountable to themselves and society at large and encourage youth to create new opportunities for the greater good of the society.

➤ **“Skill Development Scenario in India”- By Mr. Hanif Noorani, ACS, Assam Skill Development Mission:**

Mr. Hanif Noorani’s discussion highlighted the tremendous focus on vocational training by the government in the last five years which have resulted in enormous opportunities for youth wherein he spoke about some of the initiatives taken under Assam Skill Development Mission (ASDM). His presentation was focused on introducing the concept of skilling in India and how it has evolved over the years.

- In the Indian context, skilling is always associated with lesser educated youth coming from the backward region to gain employment; as a result, there is a negative projection. To bring in positive changes where everyone is equally respected and have equal access in the society there is a need to change how education system is viewed.
- Since ages formal education is given all the importance over vocational education because formal educational structure is being followed over generations and well defined and valued by people all over. Whereas, vocational training has found its acceptance in last few years in India.
- Government of India and state government have given more stress in developing vocational training courses and trying to change the scenario in India where skilled people (vocational trained) and formally educated people are given equal value. In this regard, the Assam Skill Mission is

taking innovative steps, making people more aware and increase the overall value of skill education.

- The NSDC website has listed more than 1400 diverse job roles which people are not aware of. To spread mass awareness the ASDC is in the process of making 40 different short films of 5-10 mins. across 40 different sectors which will be widely circulated in social media, educational institutes, in each and every village throughout Assam. This will ensure younger generation will get to know about various opportunities in their interest field.
- The ASDM is in process of developing 9 Centre of Excellence in few districts of Assam. These institutes will add value to the entire skill initiative and increase the social value of the various skills and build more social acceptability within the state.
- The ASDM has collaborated with International Technical Services of Singapore (ITES) to set up an international vocational training institute at Guwahati. The institute will begin with its focus on beauty and wellness; health, retail and hospitality management and train 400 youth at a time. This institute will improve our global perspective where students will be trained as per global standards.

Mr. Hanif ended his presentation hoping that within next 10-15 years youth will be in a much better position and skilled institutions will be at par with formally education center and help in the overall social-economic condition of the state and nation.

➤ **“Skill Development and Employment” -By Mr. Subhajit Mukherjee, NSDC & EY India**

Mr. Subhajit discussion was focused on how one can build their careers to improve their livelihood and standard of living. He discussed briefly about various central and state-sponsored schemes through which youth gets a platform, training, insight, counseling to discover one's area of interest and opportunities to improve their capabilities and increase their future prospect to become a successful entrepreneur or have better employment scope.

➤ **“Building Individual Capacities through Skills Development”- By Santosh Abraham, NASSCOM Foundation:**

Mr. Santosh's interaction was focused on highlighting the social change through introducing Information Technology (IT) and Information Technology Enabled Services (ITES)

- NASSCOM is one of the first trade bodies in India to have a social firm and focus on one single space - **“Technology for Good”** to create **lasting social impact**. Mr. Santosh shared one of the famous examples of their **‘Digital literacy’** program how a woman from Pune expanded her customer base through the simple use of Whatsapp to create a social change. She is a chat seller in Pune who created a WhatsApp group of her customers and later added other hawkers from the locality. The group offered a wide range of menu to its customers and option of home and officer delivering within their locality. This simple use of technology has empowered her and other street hawkers of the areas.
- Talking about IT industry, the industry is going through a revolution where there is jobless growth or ‘Rapid Automation’ which means the jobs that required people are becoming automated. If that's the case then how will the future look like or from where jobs will come? To address this question NASSCOM and NSDC have come up with what is called **“Sector Skill Counsel”** for IT and ITES (IT and BPO included).

NASSCOM and NSDC have created a **National Qualification Pack and National Occupational Standards** which are jobs that will be available and will continue to grow within next 5-6 years and there can be significant head-count that can be inducted into this role. These jobs will be based on core domain skills and life skills which focuses on inter-personnel communication skills.

Under **“Sector Skill Counsel”** there are 55 new age skills from AI, 3D printing, Data Analytics etc.

- The IT industry eco-system has gone through transformation over the years and at present, the industry has more graduates, non-graduates, doctors and engineers and only 35% comprises of engineers. Today most of the Deep Machine Learning or Consumer Insight companies look out

for people from diverse field like psychology or sociology with knowledge about coding which increases their chances of landing a job in an IT/ITES company.

- **NASSCOM Social Innovations Forum:** The motto of the forum is the use of technology for Social Growth. The forum creates fund corpus with help of various organizations. Youth/NGOs with social solutions can get access to funding to create their idea/product. The forum also provides technology mentoring for ideas to initiate product launch.

One of the social products that came out of the forum is from Himachal. A girl from Himachal Pradesh had problems of drying her clothes as her home was on the hill slope. When it rains by the time she reaches the poles all her clothes get wet. So, she found a solution with help of technology. Now, whenever it rains, she presses a button and the entire line of clothes comes inside without any extra effort.

NASSCOM's 10,000 startup is another initiative of the foundation which looks at incubating technology with funding and mentoring. Mr. Santosh invited youth from the NE to bring ideas or product that need funding and mentoring and with help entrepreneurship to make it big.

Mr. Santosh ended his interaction by saying one need not be a coder to have a job in IT industry. One needs to think in a creative way to find the solution. The whole idea of tech is an idea and not the end. So, youth must keep an open temperament, look out for new age skills.

Encouragement to Young Innovator: **Badal Das**

Badal Das is a young boy of 11 years from Tulsi Bari Village, Rangia, Assam and currently studying in Goumukhi Madhamik Vidalaya, Rangia. In 2017, he went to Rangia town for the first time with his elder sister to withdraw money from ATM. He was so fascinated by watching his sister using the ATM to withdraw money that he decided to study and build an ATM using waste product. He used cardboard, wire, motor, and battery to build the ATM within three days.

Being an inquisitive child since beginning he had built light fan, charger light, fan, bike, coin extract machine as his hobby. Badal aspires to be an engineer when he grows up and wants to work hard to make India proud of his inventions.

He was facilitated at the conference for his ATM invention and VC of Cotton University promised him to provide him free education in Cotton College after his class 10 board exams.

INAUGURATION OF EXHIBITION

After the conference, an exhibition organized by UN Volunteers & UNDP in collaboration with IIE which was inaugurated to showcase various initiatives by upcoming entrepreneurs from NE region. The exhibits ranged from outdoor adventure, local handlooms to winemaking and paintings. The firms that participated are:

1. Sarathi Welfare Society, Noonmati, Guwahati
2. Rongmon Tourism Society, Garchuk Guwahati
3. Pyranga Eri Silk Cluster, Pyranga, Boko
4. Sri Sri Ravi Shankar Foundation
5. Sonitpur Social Development Organization, Ketekibari, Sonitpur
6. M/S. Borkotoky Metal Engineering (Bonda Furniture), Bonda, Guwahati
7. Mising Chang Ghar, Khanapara, Guwahati
8. Gaurnagar Manipur Handloom, Hojai
9. Natventure, Guwahati
10. Teron Bayan Kendra, Hengrabari, Ghy-36
11. Ribhoi Strawberry Grower Association, Ribhoi, Meghalaya
12. Uttar Betna Samaj Sangskarak Bahini, UBSSB
13. Professional Development Academy, Ganeshguri, Guwahati
14. AGWR Organic Agro Producer Company Limited, Udalguri, Assam
15. A.N. Spice Industries, Bongaigaon
16. Cookie Swirls, Zoo Road, Guwahati
17. R.K Dream Candles (Handmade & Individuals), Maligaon, Guwahati
18. SFRUTI/COMPELO, Indian Institute of Entrepreneurship

19. Indian Institute of Entrepreneurship, Business Incubation Centre
on Adventure Tourism
20. Jankalyan Society, Tamulpur, Baksa



Inauguration of the Exhibition



Volunteers interacting with Entrepreneurs

Key Takeaways from the conference:

- We need to devise long-term, sustainable solutions for the North-East region. A large part of the emergence arises from economic need, and hence the solution lies in economic (and social) development of the region. However, for economic development to take place, several key players need to step up and take initiative in the region.
- Increasing awareness and scope for entrepreneurship in social sector can help North Eastern states to come up with effective solutions to problems like accessibility, market linkages.
- Increasing the number of incubation centers in North Eastern Region and creating entrepreneur-friendly environment will ensure socio-economic development of the region.
- By promoting volunteerism, Youth can contribute in large number of central and state government programmes like Swachh Bharat Mission, Beti Bachao, Digital India and Skill India Mission. These initiatives will contribute towards India's progress in achieving SDGs.
- Creation of **Social Business** with the specific intention of solving a "social problem" will bring in development of the region. The main objective of social business will be to earn the revenue to cover the cost of the business and run for the larger welfare of the society. The money from the business will be used for people to solve problems of unemployment, access to energy light, solve malnutrition. Business models like - Grameen Shakti from Bangladesh promotes low cost Solar Home System in Bangladesh and has reached to more than 2 million households within a short duration.
- Initiation of micro entrepreneur funds will encourage youth to become micro-entrepreneurs to start small business to improve their livelihood. Grameen Bank and Nobin Udyogda Prokolpo are successful models that have created magnitude social change in Bangladesh and around the world.
- To bring successful changes in society, competency & qualities like empathy, team-work, creative problem solving, new age leadership qualities need to be promoted amongst youth.
- The seed of entrepreneurship needs to be initiated from school. *Farm2Food Foundation* started by Ashoka Fellow in Assam has been doing it and can be replicated to other parts of the country. Ashoka Fellow Deep Jyoti Brahma started Farm2food in schools of Assam. In schools, students form clubs that manages school gardens, planning of

crops, harvesting and selling. This initiative has taught students skills of working together as a unit.

- Build **“Sector Skill Counsel”** for IT and ITES which will focus on developing new age skills to meet job market requirements.
- Creation of various **Social Innovation Forums** with the objective of creating fund corpus, mentoring and initiate product launch for upcoming entrepreneurs will encourage young to venture into social entrepreneurship.

Verbatims:

- **Ms. Rimli of R.K Dream Candles:** *“Attending the conference today gave me a huge confidence to peruse my passion in candle making and make it my as my profession”.*
- **AGWR Organic Agro Producer Company Limited, Udalguri, Assam:** *“This is my first exhibition for showcasing my products. This conference has helped me to network with other entrepreneurs who specialize in organic rice and tea products like myself. I am confident of expanding my business in coming years”.*
- **Ms. Archana, Ashoka:** *“It’s encouraging to see that youth from the region coming up today. And I think there is definitely quite a possibility to start connecting schools and colleges. What we have seen today is great. In the long term if school and college can have laboratory or network from where they can send students”.*
