

Report on the Workshop on Youth and Civic Responsibilities

Date: September 20, 2023

Venue: Incubation Centre Seminar Hall, B S Abdur Rahman Institute of Science and Technology

Overview

On September 20, 2023, the B S Abdur Rahman Institute of Science and Technology (BSACIST) hosted an enlightening one-day workshop titled "Youth and Civic Responsibilities" at the Incubation Centre Seminar Hall. The workshop aimed to address the crucial role of youth in civic life and provide them with the tools and insights needed to engage effectively in their communities. The event featured a series of talks and interactive sessions led by prominent academics and professionals in the fields of political science, social work, psychology, and research.

Inaugural Session

The workshop commenced with a Welcome Address by Dr. Ayub Khan Dawood, Dean of the School of Social Sciences and Humanities at BSACIST. Dr. Dawood opened the event by stressing the significance of nurturing responsible citizenship among youth. He highlighted the workshop's objective to equip students with knowledge and practical skills for active civic participation and community engagement.

Keynote Speeches and Special Addresses

Following the welcome address, the workshop proceeded with the Presidential Address delivered by Dr. T. Murugesan, Vice-Chancellor of BSACIST. Dr. Murugesan provided a comprehensive overview of the challenges and opportunities in fostering civic responsibility among young people. He emphasized the need for educational institutions to play a proactive role in developing students' awareness and commitment to civic duties.

Dr. N. Raja Hussain, Registrar of BSACIST, delivered a Special Address focusing on the role of educational institutions in promoting civic engagement. Dr. Hussain discussed various initiatives and programs undertaken by BSACIST to encourage students to participate in community service and civic activities, highlighting the importance of such engagement in personal and professional development.

Resource Person Presentations

The core of the workshop comprised presentations by the following esteemed resource persons:

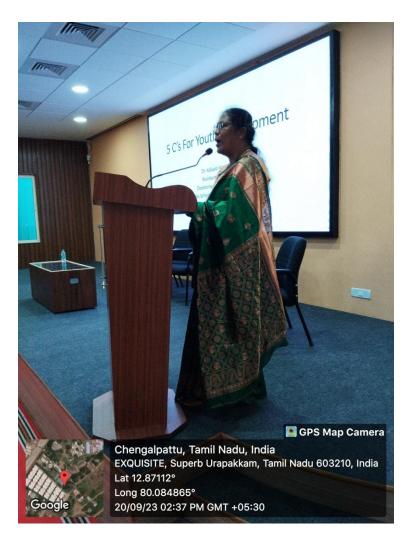
- 1. **Dr. G. Palanithurai**, Professor and Head of the Department of Political Sciences and Development at The Gandhigram Rural Institute, Dindigul. Dr. Palanithurai provided a detailed analysis of the political dimensions of civic responsibilities. His talk covered the importance of informed voting, understanding democratic processes, and active participation in political discussions. He also explored case studies illustrating successful youth engagement in political and social reforms.
- 2. **Dr. R. Nalini**, Professor in the Department of Social Work at Pondicherry University. Dr. Nalini's presentation focused on the social responsibilities of youth, highlighting the role of young people in community development, social justice, and welfare activities. She provided practical examples of community service projects and encouraged students to actively participate in such initiatives.
- 3. **Dr. Kalyani Kenneth**, Assistant Professor in the Department of Psychology at Madras School of Social Work. Dr. Kenneth discussed the psychological aspects of civic engagement, including the impact of volunteering and community involvement on mental health and personal growth. Her talk emphasized how civic responsibility can enhance self-esteem, foster a sense of belonging, and contribute to overall wellbeing.
- 4. **Dr. K.T. Kalaiselvi**, SPARC Research Scholar at Pondicherry University. Dr. Kalaiselvi presented research findings on youth engagement patterns, discussing the effectiveness of various civic education programs and the challenges faced by young people in participating in civic activities. Her presentation provided valuable insights into the factors that influence youth involvement in community and civic life.

Interactive Sessions

The workshop included several interactive sessions designed to facilitate active participation and hands-on learning. These sessions involved group discussions, role-playing activities, and case study analyses. Participants were encouraged to reflect on their own experiences and consider how they could apply the insights gained to their community involvement.

Key interactive activities included:

- **Group Discussions:** Participants were divided into small groups to discuss specific topics related to civic responsibilities, such as the impact of youth-led initiatives on community development and strategies for increasing civic engagement among peers.
- Role-Playing Activities: These activities simulated real-life scenarios involving civic responsibilities, allowing participants to practice problem-solving and decision-making skills in a controlled environment.
- Case Study Analyses: Participants reviewed case studies of successful civic engagement projects and discussed the factors that contributed to their success.



Closing Session

The workshop concluded with a **Vote of Thanks** delivered by Dr. Ramshin Rehman, Assistant Professor in the Department of Public Policy. Dr. Rehman expressed appreciation to the resource persons, participants, and organizers for their contributions and engagement throughout the day. He underscored the importance of continuing the dialogue on youth and civic responsibilities and encouraged participants to apply the knowledge and skills gained Dr



Conclusion

The "Youth and Civic Responsibilities" workshop was a resounding success, providing participants with valuable insights into the various dimensions of civic engagement. The diverse range of presentations and interactive sessions facilitated a comprehensive understanding of how youth can contribute to societal development. The event underscored the critical role of educational institutions in fostering responsible citizenship and provided participants with practical tools to enhance their civic involvement.

Head Coordinators

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