



Youth Parliament 2019

On Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

12th October, 2019

Report



Organized by

**Chitkara University, Baddi, Himachal Pradesh
Swarmani Youth Club, Chandigarh**

Under the aegis of

**Association of Professional Social Workers and
Development Practitioners (APSWDP)**

**(An association in Special Consultative Status with Economic and
Social Council of United Nations)**



Background:

The Oxfam International Youth Parliament - OIYP is an inspiration behind organizing the Youth Parliament 2019 on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at Chitkara University, Baddi, Himachal Pradesh. The constant mentorship of Vivek Trivedi, OIYP-2004 Sydney, Australia and founder of Association of Professional Social Workers and Development Practitioners (APSWDP) to Swarmani Youth Club Chandigarh, which has made to conceive an idea behind organizing Youth Parliament on SDGs at Chitkara University during their participation in World Social Work Day 2019 event at Chandigarh.

The National Service Scheme Unit of Chitkara University has extended their institutional support in organizing Youth Parliament for the first time in their campus for their engineering students for developing their deeper understanding on global developmental issues through Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Objectives of Youth Parliament:

The core objectives of the Youth Parliament are:

- to foster youth development through social dialogue;
- to give young people the opportunity to have their views heard by key decision-makers, stakeholders and the general public;
- to help young people to understand and actively participate in development processes;
- to assist young people, learn how to influence governmental decision-making as active citizens;
- to highlight the importance of helping young people understand how decisions are made and how they can be involved in influencing their world.

Youth Parliament on Sustainable Development Goals – Why?

There is no alternative to sustainable development. But the environmental care cannot be left to no one or two individuals or countries. As our distant forbears collaborated for obtaining food and warding off wild animals, we need to collaborate today both in meeting our needs and in environmental protection. A greater level of collaboration is needed to manage to tackle great environmental changes such as climate change. Countries at their individual levels should integrate conservation activities. Private sector, which controls national economy to a large extent, should also be responsible towards environmental care. Young members of civil societies should give pressure to the government towards building proper co-ordination among population, resources, environment and development. Thus, the concept of Youth Parliament on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is relevant and practical in taking up the global development agenda 2030.

Goal	Title	Description
1	No poverty	End poverty in all its forms everywhere
2	Zero hunger	End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture
3	Good health and well-being	Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages
4	Quality education	Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all
5	Gender equality	Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls
6	Clean water and sanitation	Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all
7	Affordable and clean energy	Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all
8	Decent work and economic growth	Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all
9	Industry, innovation, and infrastructure	Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation
10	Reduce inequality within and among countries	Reduce inequality within and among countries
11	Sustainable cities and communities	Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable
12	Responsible consumption and production	Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns
13	Climate action	Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts
14	Life below water	Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development
15	Life on land	Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse
16	Peace, justice, and strong institutions	Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive
17	Partnership for the goals	Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development

Source: United Nations [6].

Inaugural Session:

The Youth Parliament on Sustainable Development Goals was inaugurated by

the Chief Guest Mr. Vivek Trivedi,

Founder Association of

Professional Social Workers and

Development Practitioners

(APSWDP) in presence of Col.

Kulwant Singh, Dean Student

Affairs, Dr. Ashok Kumar, NSS



Co-ordinator Chitkara University,

H. P. by lighting the auspicious

lamp. Dr. Sumit Arora, Mrs. Rekha

Trivedi, Ms. Ratna Srewal, Ms.

Harshdeep Kaur and Mr. Rohit

Kumar were also present during

lamp lighting ceremony. The

convener of the Youth Parliament Dr. Ashok Kumar nominated Chief Guest as

Speaker of the parliament.



The national anthem and NSS song was sung by the youth parliamentarians and



guest present after the lamp lighting ceremony, which marked a respect to nation.

Formal Welcome:

Col. Kulwant Singh, Dean Student Affairs, Chitkara University, H.P. welcomed formally by presenting bouquet of flowers to Chief Guest Mr. Vivek Trivedi, OIYP 2004 Sydney, Founder, APSWDP. Dr Ashok Kumar, NSS Coordinator welcomed Dr Sumit Arora and Mrs. Rekha Trivedi, APSWDP.

Introduction to the Programme:

Dr. Ashok Kumar briefly described the the idea and conceived plan behind organizing the present form of Youth Parliament 2019 on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for the first time in the state of Hiamchal Pradesh after following the model from N.S.S. Unit, Government College of Men, Chandigarh led by Mr. Rohit Kumar, National Youth Awardee from Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports. He shared that, he was having a vision to take his engineering science student to develop a deeper understanding of social and developmental issues through the jouney of understand UN – SDGs.

Key Note Address by Chief Guest:

Mr. Vivek Trivedi addressed the youth parliamentarians by giving a brief on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). He said that SDGs are also known as the Global Goals, which were adopted by all United Nations

Member States in 2015 as a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity by 2030.



He shared that the 17 SDGs are integrated to each other and the goals recognize any action in one area will affect outcomes in others, and that development must balance social, economic and environmental sustainability.

He has also stressed on taking a pledge to **Leave No One Behind**, countries have committed to fast-track progress for those furthest behind first. That is why the SDGs are designed to bring the world to several life-changing ‘zeros’, including zero poverty, hunger, AIDS and discrimination against women and girls.

He highlighted that the Youth Parliament also provides an opportunity for participants to eloquently express their opinions while operating within a parliamentary setting. It is hoped that the National Youth Parliament will continue to grow in stature and will serve to dispel any doubts that the future of our democracy is in safe hands. The NSS Unit Cell was indeed proud to have hosted the Youth Parliament. He has also recalled and shared his experience of Oxfam International Youth Parliament 2004 held at Sydney, Australia, in which he was selected when he was studying in Panjab University, Chandigarh to be a part of Education group out of eight groups. He clarified that, participation in OIYP 2004 has made him to have global understanding of the social issues, crisis, cross cultural learning and exposure in development sector



After the keynote address, the convener of the Youth Parliament took permission from the Chief Guest to start sharing of the presentations by the

nominated youth parliamentarians by the university. The Chief Guest and Speaker of the Youth Parliament permitted the convener to start the presentations w.r.t. Sustainable Development Goals in their original sequence.

Dr. Ashok informed to the speaker that the orientation and preparation process commenced prior to the parliament to acclimatize the young people selected for presentation to assume the responsibility. He shared that the process included “Dress, Etiquette and Civility”, “Oratory Skills” and “Debating Skills, Aspects of Debate and the Standing Orders”.



A panel comprising of Dr. Sumit Arora, Mrs. Rekha Trivedi, Ms. Ratna Srewal, Ms. Harshdeep Kaur and Mr. Rohit Kumar was nominated by Convener for the sole purpose of selecting the most outstanding Youth parliamentarian.

Seventeen youth parliamentarians from the university expressed their individual views through a detailed power point presentation comprising of overview, relevance with respect to Himachal Pradesh, understanding and awareness of stakeholders, gaps and limitations and local solutions on the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the United Nations. It was evident from the presentations that the young parliamentarians were knowledgeable and prepared of their allocated SDGs theme and answered to the queries raised by the panel experts and Speaker in addition to the youth audience from the university in the public gallery.

Pictorial Highlights of the Presentations by the Young Parliamentarians



Pictorial Highlights of the Presentations by the Young Parliamentarians



INTRODUCTION

- "EXTREME POVERTY ANYWHERE IS A THREAT HUMAN SECURITY EVERYWHERE"
- POVERTY IS HUNGER, LACK OF SHELTER, LACK OF MEDICAL EQUIPMENTS, LACK OF EDUCATION
- POVERTY IS LACK OF RIGHTS, FREEDOM AND REPRESENTATION

Pictorial Highlights of the Presentations by the Young Parliamentarians



Pictorial Highlights of the Presentations by the Young Parliamentarians



Concluding Remarks:

At the end of the presentations followed by a Questions & Answers session, the Chief Guest and the Speaker of the Youth Parliament appreciated the efforts led by Dr. Ashok Kumar and Mr. Rohit Kumar for beautifully design the schedule in a very structured manner. He said, he was inspired by the two students who lost their confidence in between their deliberations and were got nervous but the NSS volunteers motivated them by NSS clapping and made both of them to complete their presentation. He stressed that we do not need only good orators in English; no doubt we need those who have ideas and innovation along with commitment. He emphasized that language is secondary issue, and one can work on it individually and in group for their overall personality.

He added that the sole purpose of this initiative is to develop dialogue between youth beyond language, culture, geography, ethnicity and dialect. Mr. Vivek Trivedi clarified that sustainable development does not have one language but it has a only one language i.e. action, commitment and behavior modification.

While concluding session, he also shared that one should develop art of asking Questions and Saying No in life, which are necessarily required professional skills in development sector.

He blessed all the youth present and aspire them to be one day successful human being with a mind and soul to conserve mother earth directly or indirectly from their acquired position in their career.

Felicitation and Vote of Thanks:

At the end, Dr. Ashok Kumar felicitated young parliamentarians and Chief Guest, invited guests and volunteers with a green sapling, token of memento and a shawl.

He thanked Association of Professional Social Workers and Development Practitioners (APSWDP), Swaramni Youth Club and Chitakara University for coming for organizing Youth Parliament at their campus.

Organizing Team:

Convener	Dr. Ashok Kumar, Chitkara University, Baddi, H.P. Dr. Sumit Arora, APSWDP
Co-Convener	Mr. Rohit Kumar, Swarmani Youth Club Ms. Ms. Ratna Srewal, Chitkara University, Baddi, H.P. Ms. Harshdeep Kaur, Chitkara University, Baddi, H.P.
Volunteers	Mr. Amzad Khan, Vaishnavi



Association of Professional Social Workers and Development Practitioners (APSWDP)
Association in Special Consultative Status with UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) since 2019
Affiliated with Department of Global Communications (DGC) of United Nations
Affiliated with NITI Ayog (Former Planning Commission of India)

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