

A report on 6th Tribal Youth Exchange Programme 2013-14

Tribes are a group of people having distinct language, culture, lifestyle and socio-economic condition and are living in a specific geographical area. Normally, the tribes reside in interior forests, remote and inaccessible areas or in the outskirts of forests and hilly regions. According to Article 180 of the Constitution, the Scheduled Tribes are the tribes or tribal communities or part of groups within these tribes and tribal communities, which have been declared as such by the President through a public notification. As per the 2011 Census, the Schedule Tribes account for 10.42 million representing 8.6 percent of the country's population. The tribes are characterized by primitive distinct culture, shyness of contact with other communities at large and economical backwardness.

Immediately after independence, Governments both at National and State level had given much attention for the development and welfare of the tribes and this has resulted in bringing changes in the living conditions of the tribes across the nation.

The tribes that reside in the remote corners of the nation do not have first hand information about what is happening elsewhere in the country. When they get sufficient information and opportunities to interact with their peer groups in other parts of the country, they develop national and emotional linkages. The tribal youth should be positively engaged and educated and for that youth exchange programmes is a step forward.

Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan organizes Tribal Youth Exchange Programme for the development of tribal youth with the support of Ministry of Home Affairs, Govt. of India. 5 Tribal Youth Exchange Programmes have so far been organized by Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan.

The 6th Tribal Youth Exchange Programme has been organised at 5 different places viz. Nagpur (Maharashtra), Thiruvananthapuram (Kerala), Bangalore (Karnataka), Bhubaneswar (Odisha) and Delhi in the country with the support of MHA, Govt. of India during the year 2013-14.

Objective of the programmes was to provide an opportunity to the tribal youth of 16 selected districts of 04 states to visit different places in order to understand the cultural ethos, language, lifestyles, developmental activities, educational avenues, employment opportunities and to see historical and cultural monuments, to sensitize the tribes about the rich and traditional cultural heritage of the tribal communities and enable them to preserve it for the future generation, to help the tribal youth develop an emotional linkage with their peer groups in other part of the country, to share and appreciate each other's traditional and cultural heritage as well as development in different spheres of life, to provide an opportunity to the participants to interact with the local communities,

Panchayati Raj Institutions and the youth affiliated with the NYKS Youth Clubs so as to develop emotional and cultural ties with the youth placed in similar life situation in different parts of the country. It also provides platform to the participants interact with each other and share their experiences for mutual benefit.



Programme

Under 6th Tribal Youth Exchange Programme the participants got an opportunity to call on the Hon'ble President of India and had interaction with Hon'ble President.

The programme at 5 different places was inaugurated by eminent personalities. Shri Nikhil Kumar, Hon'ble Governor of Kerala inaugurated the programme at Trivendrum, Hon'ble Minister of SC/ST Development, Minority and Backward Classes, Govt. of Odisha, inaugurated the programme at Bhubaneswar in Odisha, Shri Anil R Dave, Hon'ble Chief Justice Supreme Court of India inaugurated the programme in Delhi.



The programmes and activities in Tribal Youth Exchange Programme included organization of traditional and popular games, folk dances, folk songs, exhibitions, cultural rally interaction and meetings with renowned persons in various spheres of life, group discussion and meeting on issues of Naxalism, Globalization, Climate change, National Integration and other burning social issues. The programme also included a new initiative (i.e. Voices of young people) for giving opportunity to each participant to share their ideas on various local and national issues. Know India Quiz Contest, Community Development programme like tree plantation, state cultural panorama, Rashtriya Sadbhawana Udhyan, Educational field visits of historical places, industrial establishment, Techno Park, Tribal Museum, Science Centre, skill development training centres etc. for development emotional linkage and personality by enhancing their understanding of core life skills, skill development needs and career opportunities.

The resource persons were invited from Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Govt. of India, Ministry of Home Affairs, Govt. of India, Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan, Ministry of Tribal Affairs, State Govt. Department of SC/ST Development, Panchayati Raj Institutions and renowned social scientists and educationists. The dignitaries and resource persons spoke on need to have concerted efforts for the overall development of tribal population for their inclusive growth and including them in the mainstream of national development.

A total of 1248 youth participated in the 6th Tribal Youth Exchange Programme which included 880 males and 368 females.

Outcome of the 6th Tribal Youth Exchange Programme

- The 6th Tribal Youth Exchange Programme provided an opportunity to the tribal youth of 16 selected districts of 04 states to visit different places in order to understand the cultural ethos, language, lifestyles, developmental activities, educational avenues, employment opportunities and to see historical and cultural monuments
- The programme helped in disseminating the message of Sadbhavana, Peace, Development and Solidarity among the masses and for displaying the cultural variety, uniqueness and integrity of the country.
- Emphasis was given to inform the participants about National Integration, Communal Harmony, Indian Constitutions, Democracy, Rights and duties of Citizens, Freedom Struggle, Personality Development, Health Awareness Programme, Disaster preparedness & Management, Environment & Climate change, Global warming, Language learning, Know India & Knit India etc.

- To sensitize the tribes about the rich and traditional cultural heritage of the tribal communities and enable them to preserve it for the future generation
- To help the tribal youth develop an emotional linkage with their peer groups in other part of the country
- To share and appreciate each other's traditional and cultural heritage as well as development in different spheres of life
- To provide an opportunity to the participants to interact with the local communities, Panchayati Raj Institutions and the youth affiliated with the NYKS Youth Clubs so as to develop emotional and cultural ties with the youth placed in similar life situation in different parts of the country.
- It also provides platform to the participants interact with each other and share their experiences for mutual benefit.
- It also provided opportunity to see the places of tourist's importance and explore opportunity in the tourism industry.
- The programme provided opportunity to enhance entrepreneurship skills and understand innovative business models for self employment.