



## Seminar on Active Citizenship

Organised by Kaziranga University in collaboration with Bikali College

Date : 7<sup>th</sup> Nov, 2019

Venue: Conference Hall, Bikali College, Dhupdhara, Goalpara

A one-day seminar on Active Citizenship' was organised by Kaziranga University in collaboration with Bikali College, Dhupdhara, Goalpara. It was a unique programme in the sense that the programme was blended with class room discussions, role play, audio-visual resources, field visit and a reflection session at the end of the programme. The programme was inaugurated by Dr Malina Devi Rabha, Principal, in the presence of Vice Principal Dr Ananya Baruah, Prof Braja S. Mishra, Dean, School of Social Sciences, Kaziranga University, and senior faculty members and staff of Bikali College. The Internal Quality Assurance Cell and NSS wing of the College was the coordinating the seminar. The seminar was attended by about 80 students from Higher Secondary, Undergraduate and Postgraduate programme of the college.



**Objective of the Seminar :** Through Active Citizenship programme, we try to bring together the students from different social, religious and indigenous groups and having varied perceptions and perspectives about society, community, institutions and governance, and try to inculcate the epitome of our national values like 'unity in diversity' , 'cultural pluralism' and 'inclusive development'. Through a simulated environment, the students try to learn from and share with each other and realise the artificial barriers and discriminations inculcated through the socialisation process. Participants are trained in the new life skills and knowledge needed to affect social change in their communities to work towards achieving the core values mentioned above. It is expected the programme will not only trigger the very young and energetic minds of the students, but also spread to thousands of people in their community, which ultimately can contribute in making a fairer and more inclusive society within the spirit of Indian Constitution and working toward sustainable development goals.

**Resource Person:** Prof Braja S. Mishra was the main resource person for the seminar, who was assisted by the Carrier counsellor of Kaziranga University Mr Sanjeeb Shah Rangsheel.



The following were discussed in the first half of the day.

- Citizenship : Its social, economic, political and cultural facets ( how we relate to our career ?)
- Cultural pluralism, Unity in Diversity, Inclusive Growth & Development
- Social Justice and Gender Justice

( methods : interaction , group discussion and Audio-Visuals )

- Do we play an active role ? Let us Discuss ( Games & Exercises)
- Governance, Local Governance (PRIs)
- Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

( methods : interaction , group discussion and Audio-Visuals )

In the afternoon, all the student participants , teachers visited the nearby Gaon Panchayat , 73 Kothakuthi Gaon Panchayat to have an interface with the elected PRI members to understand how ward level and Gaon Panchayat level development plan is done and resources are allocated. The President of the Panchayat Mr Utpal Rabha explained the functioning of gaon panchayat and what process they follow in conducting Gaon Sabha and make it more inclusive.



There was a discussion on resource mobilisation and taking up some innovative activities to involve the youth population of the

panchayat and explore the possibilities of creating a supportive ecosystem for promoting skill for employment, self employment and entrepreneurship. Because all our development plan would be futile if the youth population remains without gainful engagement. Some students ask questions on what support they can avail through gaon panchayat to start their venture in agri and allied areas. Quite a good number of ideas and suggestions came up in the course of discussion which even elected representatives were very excited to receive and assured to make an effort for implementing the same.



After the field visit a reflection exercise was conducted to take the feedback of the students about effect of the programme and how could be organised in still better manner in future. It was found, every student was very excited about the discussions and activities undertaken and suggested to make the seminar at least one and half days long to absorb and reflect the ideas better.

At the end of the programme, Mr Bhupati Das, Asst Professor and Coordinator of Internal Quality Assurance Cell proposed a vote of thanks for the college authority, resource persons, and students for making the programme an exciting success.

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