
The ICA and Community Youth Forum

By PHILLIP DOWSETT

THE INSTITUTE OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS

Over the past quarter-century, the Institute of Cultural Affairs has served the worldwide need for self-development in local communities and organizations. The Institute encourages development through planning methods which facilitate community self-sufficiency, self-reliance and self-confidence. Programmes have been held in over 40 nations. The Institute conforms to the legal requirements for private and voluntary organisations in nations where it operates. Funds raised worldwide represent contributions from corporations and from programme fees.

Out of a concern for rural development, the Institute's work in India since 1975 has been on replication in the state of Maharashtra. The first five years focussed on comprehensive single-village development. The methods of human development were extended from the original pilot village to 25 district demonstrations and finally to an additional 207 villages, one in each Taluka. During this time, over 1700 men and women were trained and participated for one or more years in a full-time voluntary service corps. July 1980 marked the shift from single-village development and expansive coverage, to multiple-village concentrations in a number of strategic locations.

THE COMMUNITY YOUTH FORUM

The ICA firmly believes that the student community is the backbone of the country's future and in this belief, carries out Community Youth Forum programmes. One such programme was held at Vashi in association with the Lions Club of New Bombay (Vashi) on 3rd October 1981. The 50 XII standard students of I. C. L. College listened attentively with a sense of expectancy and curiosity to the formalities, introductions

and welcomes given by members of the Lions club. Would the day's proceedings provide them with any new perspectives or insights into life? It was a first introduction to such an event for the participants and was to arouse much enthusiasm, participation and response. The lunch and snacks were graciously supplied by the Lions Club and the lengthy preparation 'behind the scenes' was fully appreciated.

So what did the C. Y. F. actually consist of? The first lecture of the day was given by Anthony Paul from Gorakhpur in U. P., an energetic talk entitled 'The New Youth', in which he discussed the role and future of the NEW YOUTH in this century. This was closely followed by a 'FUTURE VISION' workshop run by Phillip Dowsett (from Australia) provoking much well-articulated, imaginative contribution. The students showed a full awareness of pressing world issues, and were soon at work in groups to discuss the key problems from the accumulated list. Series of events upto the year 2000, problems and possible solutions were evolved. The key words of the day were intuition and rational thinking which aroused much thinking originality and stimulated meaningful discussion. The session was started by a talk by Kevin Boivin (from U. S. A.) who spoke on 'The new vocation'. The emphasis was on four requirements or 'clues' needed to effect change within a community, namely, Concern, Courage, Creativity and Care. Post afternoon session saw the workshop conducted by Ambaji Kamble (recently returned from Kenya, Africa). The discussions were down to a more specific, local level, and hence catalysed a great deal of excitement and response. Focus was placed on individuals' hopes for community, whether cultural, political, or economic. The whole group finally chose to work in more detail upon a current which could realistically be rectified in the near future.

Whilst the 'Local Plan' workshop was in progress,

several other members of the group worked on creating a symbol which could visually encapsulate their concept of youth and another student wrote some very powerful words for a song. In the brief pause that followed that followed before the film, conversation with the students brought to light their tremendous enthusiasm and interest in the rural development, and many students expressed the wish to visit the site of the Chikhale Human Development Project nearby.

of a corporate decision for change and improvement. The day finally closed with a reflective period.

CONCLUSION

The group as a whole discussed their thoughts about the seminar, and any change in the attitudes or ideas which they then felt. One participant mentioned his new conception of the possibility of youth, the power and energy young people could put into development as a group. Indeed, this awareness and sense of the important role of youth in society seemed to be a significant point from the Community Youth Forum. It can be concluded from the conduct of this seminar, that the hopes and dreams of young people for the future are not as elusive as they first appear.

THE WORLD OF HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

The film itself, shown in the plenary session of the day, gave further examples and illustrations of I. C. A. village projects around the world. Thus it echoed once more the universality of development problems through the globe, and re-enforced the importance and necessity

COMMUNITY YOUTH FORUM CHART				
OPENING	LECTURE THE NEW YOUTH	LUNCH	LECTURE THE NEW VOCATION	FILM THE WORLD OF HUMAN DEVELOPMENT
	WORKSHOP FUTURE VISION		WORKSHOP LOCAL PLAN	REFLECTIONS CLOSING

About the author

Mr. Phillip Dowsett, from Australia, has been working for the last eleven years with ICA in its many projects, in Australia, Canada and India. He has been in India for the last four years and is now placed at the Chikhale Cluster, Panvel.

COMMUNITY YOUTH FORUM

CREATION OF A POEM

भेद

देख रहा हूँ दीप देशके फीके होते जाते हैं
गतकालके पुत्ररत्न मेरे नयनोंको दिखते हैं ॥

अब मैं जाता हूँ सोचे ।
कैसे होंगे भविष्यके बच्चे ।

भूतकालका पुत्ररत्न था बड़ा देशाभिमानी
किंतु आज का पुत्र है केवल अभिमानी-अभिमानी ।
कलके बच्चोंने स्वातंत्र्यके लिए छाती तानी
किंतु आज के पुत्र दिखाते अपनी छाती वेगानी ॥ १ ॥

कल का पुत्ररत्न बड़ा था आशा का धारक
पुत्र आजका केवल है बहुत बड़ा मारक
क्या होंगे भविष्यके पुत्र बड़े आशाधारक ?
कोई होगा उनमें अपने राष्ट्रका रक्षक ? ॥ २ ॥

याद रखो कलके पुत्रों
तुम ही हो इस देश के तारक ।
आज एक दो वचन मुझे की
तुम बनोगे देश सुधारक ॥ ३ ॥

कुमार आनंद वामन नायगांवकर
आय. सी. एल. कॉलेज
सेकण्ड इयर, ज्यूनियर कॉलेज
वाशी, नई बम्बई-४००७१३

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VOTE OF THANKS

Talk delivered by Dr. Mrs. Devasthali, Principal, Mon Ami School on the occasion of Community Youth forum held on Saturday the 4th October 1981.

I am standing here to give vote of thanks to all who made today's seminar a grand success. Really speaking my job is very easy because I have not to do anything. Others are working for us & I have just to bid them thanks. But for that one must have sense of gratitude. We do have it & so first of all I give my sincere thanks to president & members of Lions club of Vashi & members of I C. A. I am in association with this Lions club from 15th August 1981 when they visited our Mon-Ami School for flag hoisting. Lions club has given three programmes for our ICL Education Society & taken keen interest in our School & College students. I am sure today they have highly impressed our students by their demonstration & workshop as well as the film. Our students who are away from city life got the first experience to attend such type of seminar. I hope Lions club will not hesitate to guide our students through many more seminars in future.

Secondly, I should not forget the students who made this seminar living & colourful. In this school we are used to students in uniforms. This is the first time when this building is enjoying various colours. Without students we would not have been able to conduct the seminar. We, the professors in ICL Junior College could see here today that our students, if well guided, can think well & give their own impressions & opinions about political, social & cultural affairs.

Lastly, I thank all the staff members of Mon-Ami School who worked a lot for arrangement of this programme. I even should not forget Mr. V. J. Tanekar who painted attractive banners of the programmes.

Thanking all the participants I read my impression about today's function as thus—

विद्यार्थी मित्रा,
तूच का रे तो ?
रोज कॉलेजमध्ये विंगणा घालणारा ?
Except studies सगळं काही करणारा ?

लेक्चरच्या वेळी वाहेर घुमतोस
मन मानेल त्या घोषणा देतोस
क्लर्कपासून प्रिन्सीपलपर्यंत
प्रत्येकाशी वाद घालतोस
मग आम्ही प्राध्यापक
वसकन् ओरडतो, "Get out!"

तुझा अहंकार दुखावला जातो
त्यातूनच साकारते बंडखोरी.
तुमचा अहंकार
आमची प्रतिष्ठा

एकच लागते दोघांची स्पर्धा !
आज काय झालं रे तुला ?
मोहराच सगळा बदलून गेला.
एवढी शिस्त, एवढी एकाग्रता
प्रथमच मी पाहाल्येय बरं का !
आता डोक्यात प्रकाश पडला—

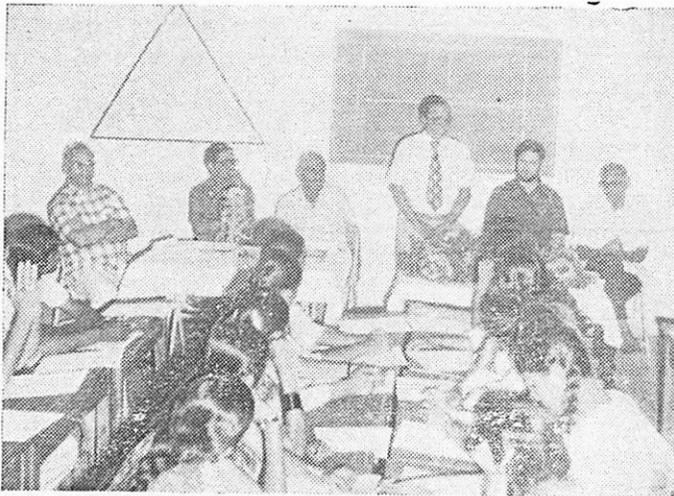
तुला हवंय मार्गदर्शन
तुझं जीवन उजळणारं
तुला केंद्रबिंदू करून
आपलं राष्ट्र उद्वरणारं—

विद्यार्थी मित्रा, सावध हो
असंच काही विधायक कर
भरारी घे अस्मानात
गरुडराजाच्या वेगानं
कर्तृत्वाला मिळू देत वाव
लायन्स क्लबचं घे बरं नाव !

SERVICE WEEK IN PICTURES



PANT NAGAR EYE CAMP AT GHATKOPER
Lion President KAPOOR Addressing the Gathering



COMMUNITY YOUTH FORUM
Chief Guest R. B. DESAI Inaugurating the seminar



VISIT TO JIJAMATA HOSPITAL VASHI
Lion Ladies Comforting an Aged Patient



PAINTING COMPETITION
Children busy at ICL SCHOOL