

Report on INTERNATIONAL YOUTH DAY

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Background Note:

International Youth Day (IYD) was celebrated on 12 August and was first designated International Youth Day by the UN General Assembly in 1999, and serves as an annual celebration of the role of young women and men as essential partners in change, and an opportunity to raise awareness of challenges and problems facing the world's youth. The first IYD was observed on 12 August, 2000. It is meant as an opportunity for governments and others to draw attention to youth issues worldwide.

“The hopes of the world rest on young people. Peace, economic dynamism, social justice, tolerance — all this and more, today and tomorrow, depends on tapping into the power of youth.” — *UN Secretary-General António Guterres*

The UN, for statistical consistency across regions, defines ‘youth’, as those persons between the ages of 15 and 24 years.

Youth are defined as those aged 15 to 29 in the national youth policy (2014). This age-group constitutes 27.5% of India's population. The 2011 Census counted 563 million young people from 10 to 35, according to the 12th Five-Year Plan Vol. II (2013).

International Youth Day focuses on the rights of these young people to have full access to education, adequate healthcare, employment opportunities, financial services and full participation in public life. In a climate of economic uncertainty, it is all the more important for countries to invest in opportunities for their youth to learn, earn and grow so that the common future lies in good hands. In 1985, the World Program of Action for Youth was set up to define a policy framework and guidelines for national action and international support to improve the situation of young people. It is just one of the many extensive efforts of the United Nations to help member states reach out to their youth. Along with ensuring their rights, an equally important goal of IYD is to shape the youth not just as a passive beneficiary of development efforts, but as a force for positive social change. They are a source of innovation, creativity, energy and foresight, and member states must use all means possible to foster and harness the power of the youth. These are the ideals of International Youth Day.

The theme of International Youth Day 2018 is “Safe Spaces for Youth” Youth need safe spaces where they can come together, engage in activities related to their diverse needs and interests, participate in decision making processes and freely express themselves. While there are many

types of spaces, safe spaces ensure the dignity and safety of youth. Safe spaces such as civic spaces enable youth to engage in governance issues; public spaces afford youth the opportunity to participate in sports and other leisure activities in the community; digital spaces help youth interact virtually across borders with everyone; and well planned physical spaces can help accommodate the needs of diverse youth especially those vulnerable to marginalization or violence.

Ensuring that safe spaces are inclusive, youth from diverse backgrounds especially those from outside the local community, need to be assured of respect and self-worth. In humanitarian or conflict prone settings for example, youth may lack the space to fully express themselves without feeling uncomfortable or unwelcome. Similarly, without the existence of safe space, youth from different race/ethnicity, gender, religious affiliation or cultural background may feel intimidated to freely contribute to the community. When youth have safe spaces to engage, they can effectively contribute to development, including peace and social cohesion.

NEDAN Foundation has reached out to larger section of the society in BTC with a greater impact such as **building regional collaboration, strengthening North East Region Network (NENFAT), rescue and repatriation of trafficked survivors, creating alternative livelihood for survivors and potential girls, training and capacity building of uniformed personals, strengthening cross border vigilance committee members, building youth forces as trafficking safety net, promoting higher education as early prevention of girls trafficking, transit shelter for minor survivors and social entrepreneurship for mother of trafficked survivors** and intervene many vulnerable areas where there was increased trafficked and survivors of human trafficking were given a ray hope to move forward in life by erasing all the past pain, tortures and hardships.

NEDAN's random checking with the help of Railway police, uniform personals, labour unions, department of labour and student union bodies in the rail line, bus stands, taxi stands which connects North East India, border areas and displaced locations through the community vigilance committees have prevented number of vulnerable minor and major girls from being lured by the agents to the main cities with the false promise of lucrative job.

About the International Youth Day Program

The International Youth day was celebrated in Kokrajhar with the theme “Youth vision of creating world free of Human Trafficking” to highlight the issue among the young generation. Organized by Nedan Foundation, in the program with much enthusiasm youths from various institutions- school, colleges and university from Kokrajhar district participated in the day long programme held at Kokrajhar Science College auditorium.



The programme started with lighting of the lamp by the invited Guests.

In order to strengthened the power of youth NEDAN Foundation has organized International Youth Day with the theme of “*Youth Vision of Creating World Free of Human Trafficking*”. The main aim of organizing International Youth Day program is to raise

the voice against Human Trafficking to make Zero trafficking in the region.

In the program ADC Praffula Ch. Barman, Superintendent of Police (SP) of Kokrajhar Rajen Singh and Commanding Officer of CISF Hemanta Kr. Braham graced the programme as invited guests.

Speaking on the occasion, Digambar Narzary, chairperson of NEDAN Foundation gave a brief scenario and ratio of trafficking realities in Assam and especially how girl child often become the victims of human trafficking and elaborated on importance of youth participation in combating human trafficking. He also highlighted the present



scenario of trafficking in the district, state as well as of the country. He also told about the entitled rights of the 25 displaced locations that the NEDAN Foundation is deal with. He clarified that Entitlement right is comprises land, housing, electricity, drinking water and so forth. Sorolpara and Ultapani both the locations were known as socially and economically excluded. They are not allowed to access land to cultivate with their own will. Their entitlements are being exploited by the system instead of bringing them as inclusive development

stakeholders. They are living as most deprived community in the world without accessing entitlement rights. He also told about the success story of the Survivor Network Forum. Chairperson of NEDAN Foundation told to the youth present in the program that NEDAN Foundation is providing basic need to the Survivors such as reenrolled in school/colleges and those who don't want to continue studies are provided alternative livelihood support like tailoring course, establishing small enterprises, vegetable vendors, home based weaving and silk worm rearing. Lastly, he spoke about the Prime Minister Rural Housing Scheme, the housing scheme for the people belonging to low income group as it is a primary needs for human beings. Kokrajhar ADC, Praffula Ch Barman, in his speech mentioned about the youth participation in nation building. He said today's youth have become most smart and innovative. So he requested the youth to implement the ideas for building a better nation.

Hemanta Kr Brahma, Commanding Officer of CISF in his speech gave career counseling to the students about the SSC examinations as well as competitive examinations. He also spoke about the present status of women in the State and the Nation, Brahma in his speech said that in every eight minutes, a girl child goes missing in India. He also said that if the youth play their role well he assures that human trafficking can be minimized in coming days.

Later Superintendent of Police (SP) of Kokrajhar, Rajen Singh Chief Guest of the program encouraged the youth present in the programme to work for a better nation. He also shared about the project ASWAS by the Assam Police in collaboration with UNICEF.

Nitamoni Boro the Winner of Dengkwmw Se Nwi Tam 2017 and Mrigoraj Kumar Brahma the finalist of Mr. North East 2015 of Kokrajhar District were facilitated as Youth Icon with the pledge of Preventing Human Trafficking and both the Youth Icon was made as a Brand Ambassador of Anti Human Trafficking for NEDAN Foundation in the presences of Chief Guest and Guest of Honor.





Cultural activities was perform by the youth from different colleges and institution like St. Ann's College, Aronai College, Gossaigaon College, Commerce College, Science College, Janata College, Bodofa U.N. College Dotma, Kokrajhar Music & Fine Arts College and Sifung Harimu Afad, Raumari took part in the program. The Program ended with the motive of ending violence against Youth and making Kokrajhar a free trafficking place.

