

**A Brief Report
On
Workshop on
Promotion of Scientific Temper
Among the Youth**

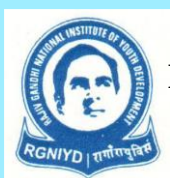
5 February 2021

Organised By



**Department of Biotechnology
Pachhunga University College
(A Constituent College of Mizoram University)
Aizawl, Mizoram**

In Collaboration With



**RAJIV GANDHI NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF YOUTH DEVELOPMENT
Institution of National Importance by the Act of Parliament No.35/12
Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports,
Government of India, Sriperumbudur – 602 105.**





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Background of the Program

Scientific Temper indicates the attitude which emphasizes that nothing in the world should be taken for granted or accepted on the basis of blind faith without it being subjected to a test of reason. It involves commitment to the method of science as means of acquiring knowledge, promoting a spirit of critical enquiry and seeks proofs without any bias or prejudice. It refers to an open, question seeking mind. Inculcating scientific temper among the community is of paramount importance. Today's society needs new generation of not only creative scientists but also youth from other streams with a spirit of enquiry and objectivity. Moreover, development of scientific temper is one of the fundamental duties of a citizen of the country.

There is the need to spread a scientific outlook and rational and logical thinking among our masses to enable them to give up backwardness and superstitions. This workshop would help the participants develop a sense of scientific awareness and thinking. This would help acquire logical reasoning and inculcate in them value for empirical evidence for conclusion and do away with prejudice. This workshop will help raise their raising level of scientific interest and understanding.

Objectives of the Program

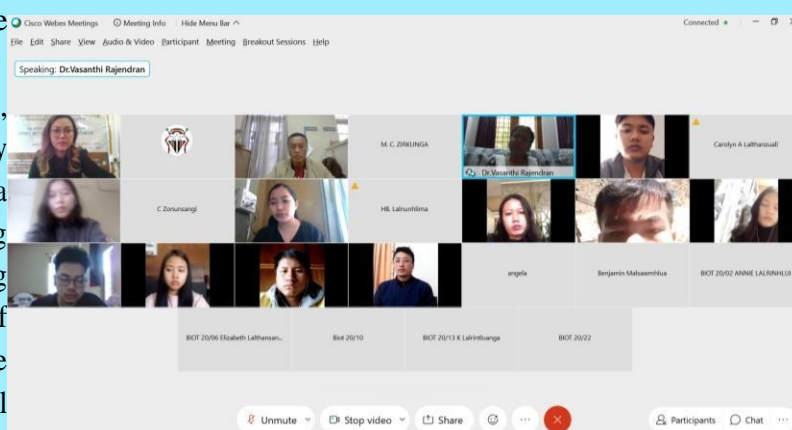
- ❖ To impart scientific temper among the youths through engaging scientific talks and discussions
- ❖ To create an awareness of biodiversity
- ❖ To create scientific outlook and instill an interest in science

Target Group for the Program

The programme was exclusively conducted for ST college students of Mizoram. Around 75 students from different colleges in Mizoram registered for the program. However, 65 students attended the entire program.

Proceedings of the Activity Inaugural Function of the Program

The inaugural session was hosted by Dr Liansangmawii Chhakchhuak, Programme co-ordinator and Head, Department of Biotechnology, Pachhunga University College. The program started at 10am with a welcome speech from Dr Tawnenga, Principal, Pachhunga University College. The Principal gave a motivating and inspiring speech for the participating students and gave a brief introduction about the college. An inaugural speech was given by Prof.



Vasanthi Rajendran, Training Head, Centre for Training, Orientation and Capacity Building, RGNIYD. She talked about the goals and aims of RGNIYD and highlighted different important issues that needed much attention among the youth of the society, she talked of the need for change.

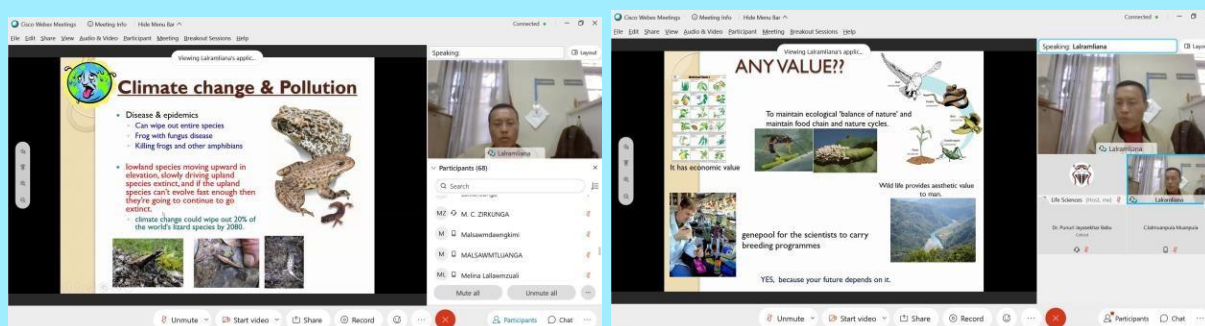
Awareness session on National Youth Policy 2014 and Sustainable Development Goals

The session was followed by an awareness session on National Youth Policy 2014 and Sustainable Development Goals presented by Dr. Laldinsangi. Department of Life Sciences, Pachhunga University College. The awareness session and technical session 1 was hosted by Dr. Punuri Jayashekar Babu, Assistant Professor, Department of Biotechnology, Pachhunga University College.

Topics Covered by the Resource Persons

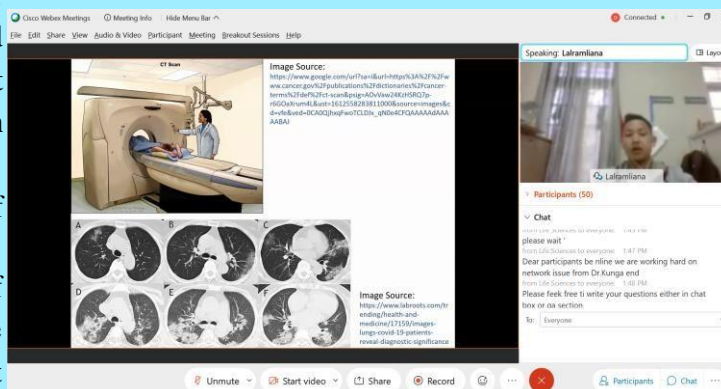
The resource persons were all from Mizoram expertised in their own fields and experienced with the scientific mindset and challenges faced in scientific research and thinking. Their talks were relevant and current, and it is likely it would inculcate an understanding of the relationship between science, technology and society and thus instil in them scientific attitudes of open mindedness, respect for evidence, willingness to change opinion, search for truth and rational thinking.

The first speaker for technical session 1 was Dr. Lalramliana. He gave a talk on 'Biodiversity – Conservation and Threats in Mizoram'. Dr. Lalramliana explained the meaning and concepts of biodiversity. He talked about the biodiversity richness of India and highlighted the status of Mizoram in terms of biodiversity richness, ecology and conservation. His message aimed at making the youth aware of the threats to biodiversity, ways of conservation and awareness towards plastic pollution and climate change issues.



The second speaker was Dr. Lalhchandami Tochhhawng, who gave a talk on 'Challenges in Scientific Temper Post Covid-19'. Dr. Lalhchandami explained the meaning of scientific temper and highlighted the myths and lack of scientific temper in our society, giving examples from the present pandemic. She explained the importance of scientific temper and science especially ways of using scientific evidence and logical reasoning to ward off irrational belief.

The technical session 2 was hosted by Dr. Prashant Kumar Singh. The first speaker for the afternoon session was MC Zirkunga who gave a talk on 'Emerging Diagnostic Tools for Detection of Covid- 19'. Mr MC Zirkunga gave a detailed scientific information about coronavirus. He imparted an understanding of SARS-CoV-2 and recent progress of different detection tool for the detection of COVID-19. He evaluated the diagnostic techniques targeted at the SARS-CoV-2, the applications, advantages, and pitfalls of emerging detection technologies and the future revolving around the detection of the novel coronavirus.



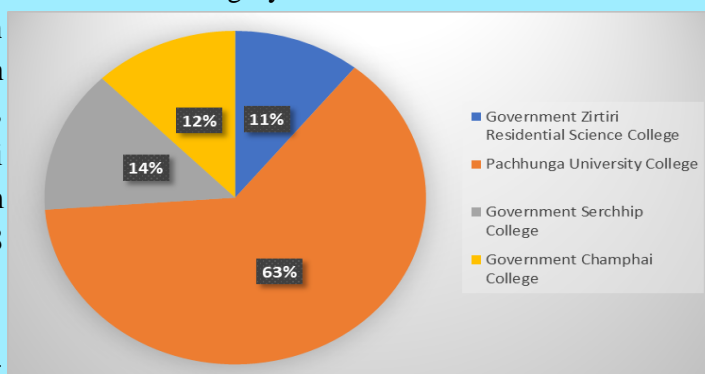
The second speaker was Dr. HT Lalremsanga who gave a talk on 'Quest for Scientific Temper'. He explained how it is the duty of every citizen to develop scientific temper as written under Fundamental duties enshrined in the Constitution of India. He talked on herpetology and the diverse plethora of amphibian and reptile species that have been identified within Mizoram. He highlighted the myths about snakes and snake bites and informed students of the right first aid in case of snake bite highlighting the compositions of snake venom.



The workshop was concluded with interaction with students followed by a vote of thanks speech from Dr. Liansangmawii Chhakchhuak.

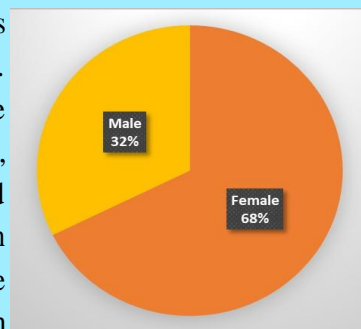
Highlights of the students' participation and Feedback

The participating audience were students from ST category from Mizoram. There were students from the host institution Pachhunga University College (41 in number) and other government colleges viz., 7 from Government Zirtiri Residential Science College, 9 from Government Serchhip College and 8 from Government Champhai College.



A total of 65 students (21 Male and 44 Female) were able to attend the online workshop, although few had connectivity problem in between some sessions. Overall, the feedback of the students was positive and promising. Hopes for more such workshop was expressed. A good number of the students being from

colleges outside the city, they were overwhelmed with the experience and information imparted to them by the resource persons. The resource persons were enthusiastic and gave a positive feedback on the workshop. There was active discussion with the resource persons. In spite of some connectivity network faced by a few students, overall feedback was that the workshop was effective and gave them awareness on biodiversity, conservation, and an understanding on Covid-19. They appreciated the resource persons for their in-depth knowledge and sincerity in passing on the knowledge to them and hope for more such sessions in the future.



Learning outcomes of the Activity

The aim of the workshop being promotion of scientific temper among the youth. The topics for the workshop had been selected in a way that it imparts such message with relevance to the situation faced within the state. Resource persons have been carefully selected who will be best to explain the current trends and present scientific research output within Mizoram. The workshop has given them knowledge on the rich biodiversity in Mizoram, which is the first step in instilling in them conservation awareness. It gave them enthusiasm for scientific learning and a positive drive towards sustainable practices, conservation, and climate change awareness. Messages on Covid19 and the social reaction and concerns faced were also imparted to the students. The need to do away with non-scientific myths and superstitions were expressed and was taken in by the students assertively. Current trends on tools for detection of covid19 was explained to them. The messages that have been imparted gave them an understanding of the biology of corona virus, awareness on the mode of transmission and knowledge about the new developing technologies for its detection.

Profiles of Resource Persons

Dr. HT Lalremsanga

Associate Professor
Department of Zoology
Mizoram University



Dr. HT Lalremsanga completed his Ph.d on thesis Entitled, “Studies on the Ecology, Breeding behaviour and Development of Ranid and Microhylid (Anurans) Prevalent in Mizoram, Northeast India”. He has completed a National

Project: ‘Large-Scale DNA Barcoding Assessment of snakes in Mizoram, Indo-Myanmar hotspot, India’ funded by SERB-DBT, New Delhi.

He received an award for contributions towards discovery of three new species belonging to three different classes i.e., *Leptolalax tamdil* (Amphibia: Anura: Megophryidia), *Monopterus ichthyophoides* (Teleostei: Synbranchiformes: Synbranchidae) and *Blythia hmuifang* (Reptilia: Serpentes: Colubridae) from Mizoram, India. Science and Technology, Govt. of Mizoram. His research interest includes ecology, breeding behaviour and development of amphibians. Herpetology and limnology of Mizoram, Taxonomy and biosystematics.

Dr. Lalramliana

Associate Professor
Department of Zoology
Pachhunga University College



Dr. Lalramliana, Department of Zoology, has received a DBT National Associateship at Assam University, Silchar in 2014. He worked on a project entitled ‘Ichthyological diversity and Conservation of Major Rivers and their tributaries in Northern Mizoram’ funded by UGC. His major project works include ‘Characterization and DNA barcoding of Fishes from Mizoram’ funded by DBT. and ‘Molecular and Morphological characterization of Entomopathogenic Nematodes and screening of their potential as Biological control Agents in Mizoram, NE India’ funded by SERB. He has identified a number of new species of fishes from Mizoram and has publications in highly reputed journals.

Dr. Lalchhandami Tochwawng

Scientific Officer (Biotechnology)
Mizoram Science, Technology & Innovation Council (MISTIC)

Dr. Lalchhandami Tochwawng is a Scientific Officer (Biotechnology) at the Mizoram Science, Technology & Innovation Council (MISTIC). She



has a PhD in Cancer Biology from the Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine, National University of Singapore. After her post-doctoral training from the same university, she joined as a faculty at the Department of Biotechnology, School of Life Sciences, Assam Don Bosco University. Her area of interest includes medicinal plants for cancer chemoprevention, bioresources utilisation etc.

MC Zirkunga

Junior Research Fellow

Department of Zoology

Pachhunga University College

M. C. Zirkunga is currently a Junior Research Fellow at the Department of Zoology, Pachhunga University College, Mizoram.

He is working on a project

entitled "Molecular and Morphological characterization of freshwater fishes of the subtribe Garra (Teleostei: Cypriniformes) of North East India". He possesses broad technical skills in molecular work and has hands-on experience with molecular research and analysis.



**TITLE OF THE WORKSHOP: PROMOTION OF SCIENTIFIC
TEMPER AMONG THE YOUTH**

**DATE: 5TH FEBRUARY 2021
TIME: 10 A.M.**

TENTATIVE PROGRAMME

INAUGURAL SESSION: 10:00-10:45AM

10:00-10:10 AM

**WELCOME ADDRESS:
DR. TAWNENGA
PRINCIPAL,
PACHHUNGA UNIVERSITY COLLEGE**

10:10-10:25 AM

**INAUGURAL SPEECH:
PROF. DR. SIBNATH DEB,
CHIEF GUEST,
DIRECTOR, RGNIYD,
TAMIL NADU, MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS
AND SPORTS,
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**

10:25-10:30 AM SHORT BREAK

SESSION: 10:30AM-10:45 PM

10:30-10:45 AM

**TOPIC: AWARENESS ON THE NATIONAL
YOUTH POLICY 2014 AND SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT GOALS.
RGNIYD,
TAMIL NADU,
MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND
SPORTS, GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**

TECHNICAL SESSION 1: 10:45AM-12:45 PM

**10:45-11:45 AM TOPIC: 'BIODIVERSITY –
CONSERVATION AND THREATS IN MIZORAM'**

**SPEAKER:
DR. LALRAMLIANA
DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY
PACHHUNGA UNIVERSITY COLLEGE**



**Virtual Platform: Webex
Department of Biotechnology**



11:45-12:45 AM

**TOPIC: 'CHALLENGES IN SCIENTIFIC TEMPER
POST COVID 19'**

**SPEAKER:
DR. LALCHHANDAMI TOCHHAWNG
MIZORAM SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & INNOVATION COUNCIL
(MISTIC)**

12:45-01:30 pm LUNCH BREAK

**TECHNICAL SESSION 2:
01:30PM-03:30 PM**

**01:30-02:30 PM
TOPIC: 'QUEST FOR SCIENTIFIC TEMPER.'**

**SPEAKER:
DR. HT LALREMSANGA
DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY
MIZORAM UNIVERSITY**

**02:30-03:30 PM
TOPIC: EMERGING DIAGNOSTIC TOOLS FOR DETECTION OF
COVID-19**

**SPEAKER:
M.C ZIRKUNGA
DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY
PACHHUNGA UNIVERSITY COLLEGE**

**VALEDICTORY PROGRAM: 03:30-04:30 PM
*Interaction with Participants- Rajiv Gandhi National Institute
of Youth Development Under its Youth Led Sustainable
Development. (RGNIYD)***

CONCLUDING REMARKS: HOST

VOTE OF THANKS:

**DR. LIANSANGMAWII CHHAKCHHUAK
(CO-ORDINATOR)
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR AND HEAD,
DEPARTMENT OF BIOTECHNOLOGY,
PACHHUNGA UNIVERSITY COLLEGE**



**Virtual Platform: Webex
Department of Biotechnology**

