

WEBINAR ON ISSUES AND CHALLENGES OF YOUTH

A REPORT



Centre for Tribal & Northeastern Youth Development (CTNEYD)
Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development (RGNIYD)
(Institute of National Importance by the Act of Parliament No. 35/2012)
Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports, Govt. of India
Sriperumbudur 602105, Tamil Nadu.



Centre for Tribal & North-eastern Youth Development (CTNEYD)

In collaboration with

Department of Sociology, RGNIYD
&

National Service Scheme (NSS)
Regional Directorate, Guwahati, Assam

A REPORT

Webinar on Issues and Challenges of Youth

Date: 3 - 4 March 2022

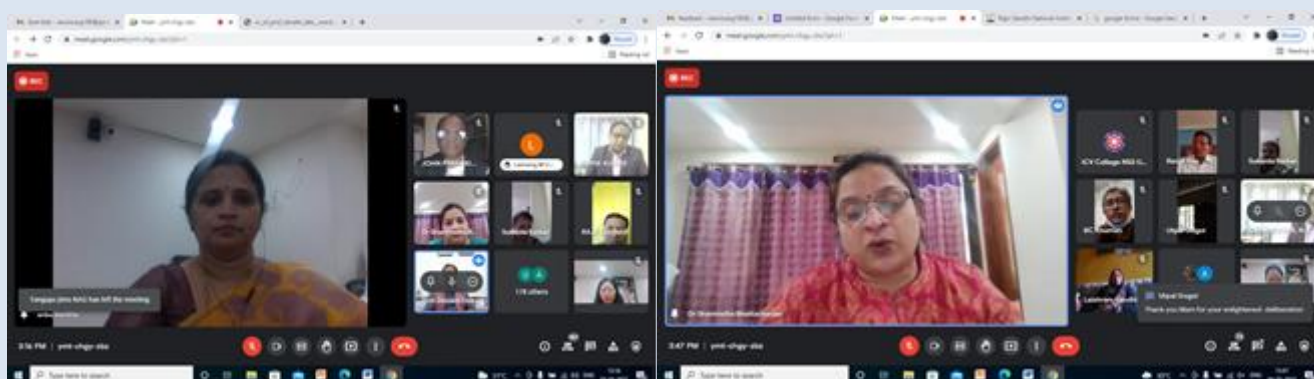
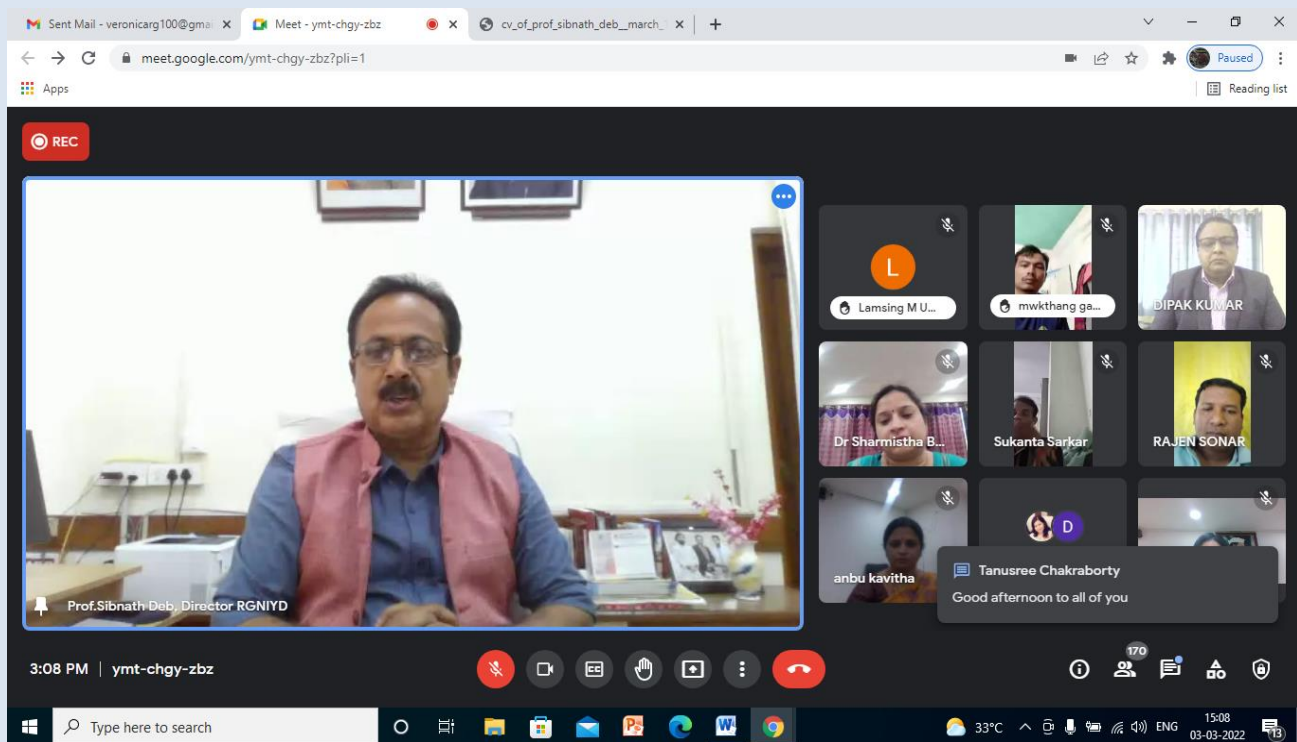
The Centre for Tribal & North-eastern Youth Development (CTNEYD), Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development (RGNIYD), Sriperumbudur in collaboration with the Department of Sociology, RGNIYD and the National Service Scheme (NSS) Regional Directorate, Guwahati, Assam organized a two day webinar on *Issues and Challenges of Youth of the Northeast* during 3 - 4 March 2022. The target participants for the webinar were the youth and youth functionaries, namely the NSS Programme Officers, NSS volunteers, students, teachers, youth representatives, etc.

The objectives of the webinar were:

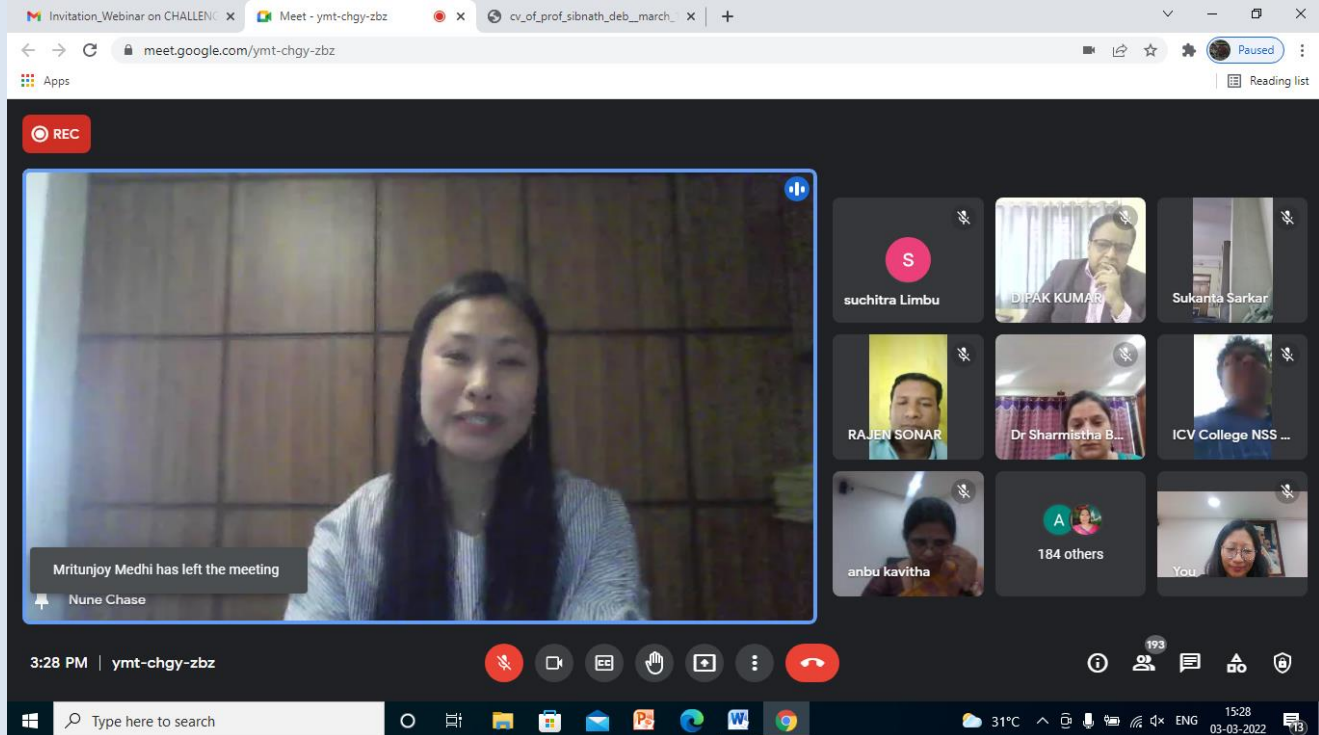
- To deliberate on the problems and challenges faced by youth of the Northeastern region.
- To create awareness among young people and other stakeholders towards positive youth development.
- To familiarize the youth on the importance of meaningful engagement and the opportunities available for their development.

Day One: 3 March 2022

The programme was inaugurated by Prof. (Dr.) Sibnath Deb, Director, RGNIYD. In his inaugural address, Prof. Deb deliberated on the many potentialities as well as the challenges faced by the youth of the North-eastern region (NER), and to recognize the rich diversity within the NER. He also flagged the requirement of mental health professionals to cater to the growing problems faced by youth today and the need to address the gap in the shortage of mental health professionals and counselors in the country to be able to cater to the increasing need of mental health issues of both students and teachers. Prof. Deb further touched upon the problems of drug abuse and HIV/AIDS in the region. He concluded his speech by encouraging the participants to look into the strengths and potentials of the region and underlined the need to have a positive attitude among young people.

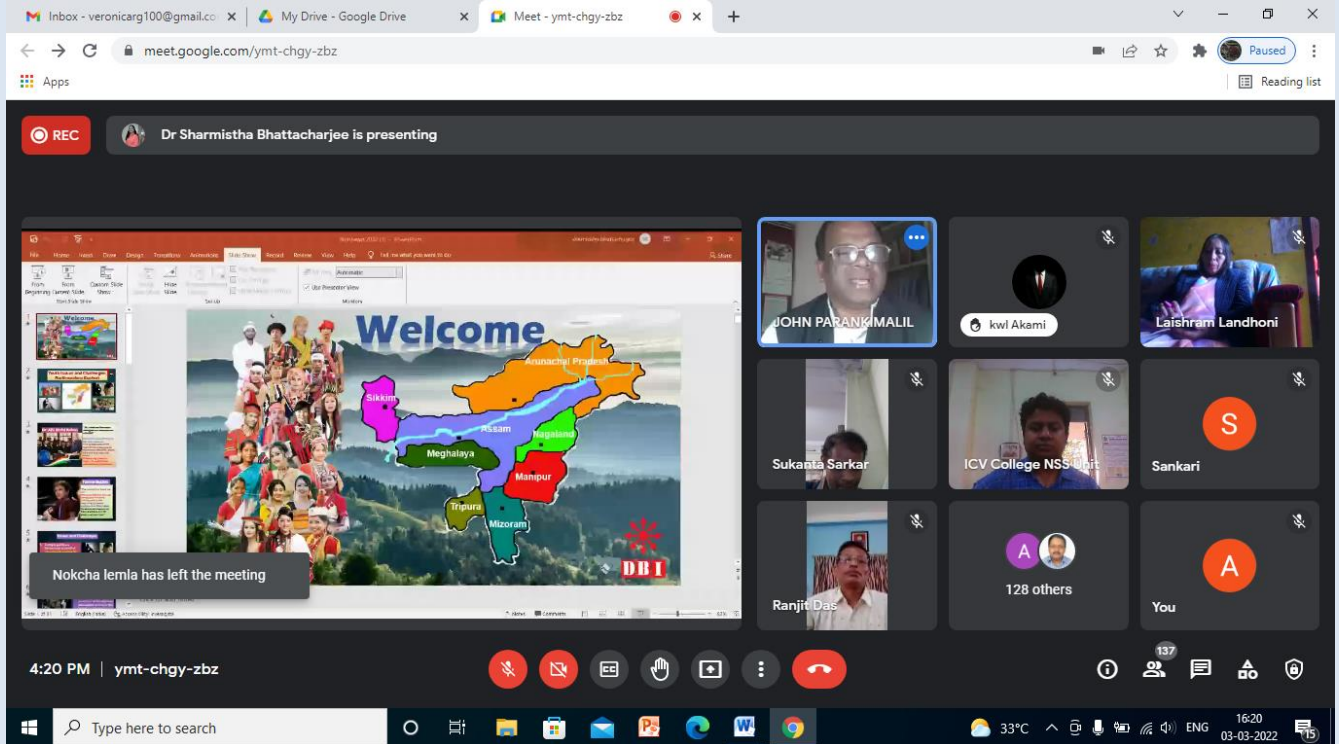


The inaugural session was followed by the first session which was delivered by Ms. Nuneseno Chase, Director, Youth-Net, Kohima, Nagaland who highlighted the various youth oriented programmes and initiatives taken up by Youth Net. She emphasized a three pronged approach towards youth development adopted by Youth Net, viz, employment, skill training and entrepreneurship for youth development which was contextualized taking into consideration the unemployment scenario in Nagaland, and also to promote an entrepreneurial culture rather than a dependent culture of a government job. She elaborated that it was a need based approach after analysing the gap of employability skills among educated youth and graduates, and the programmes were envisaged to address the lack of entrepreneurial attitude among youth. The unique initiative of Youth Net such as the establishment of a Job Centre which is a first in the state of Nagaland, an incubation centre, government and industry partnerships, etc to cater to various challenges faced by the youth were also briefed.



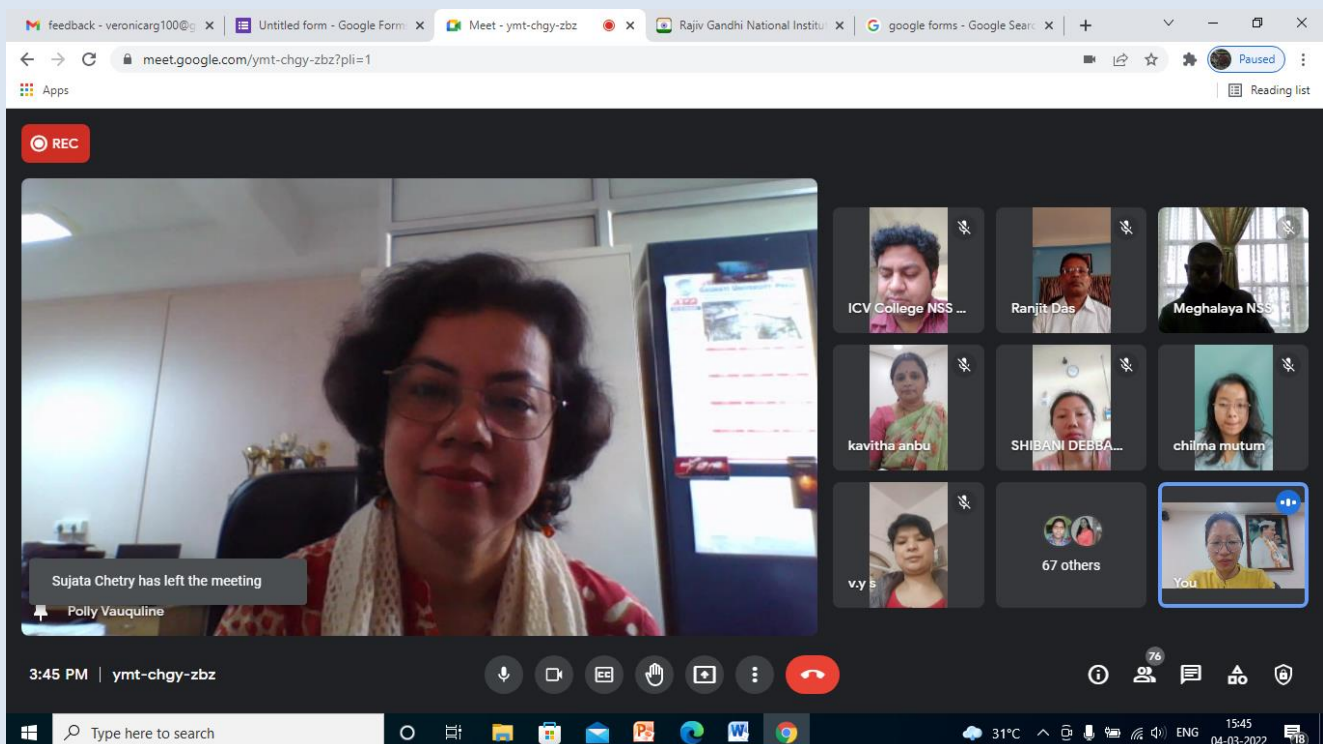
The session was followed by Dr. (Fr.) P. D. Johny's (Rector & Director, DBI, Guwahati) deliberation on the many issues and challenges faced by the youth of the North Eastern Region (NER). He began by giving an overview of the demographic strength of youth in the NER and how it is important to tap their potential. Some of the issues highlighted by Dr. Johny are: problem of unemployment; social dimension -the youth are thrown into a world of uncertainty, insecurity, helplessness, causing disappointment, frustration and heightened emotionality; education -many young people continue their studies without an ambition, goal or vision, educated youth leave the villages to go to towns leaving the villages undeveloped, not interested to pursue farming or employ improved farming techniques; lack of guidance and direction from family and society; sports, games, leisure; social media addiction; substance abuse and other evils; lack of leadership; personality issues; situation of violence; values - young people tend to be drawn towards values of success, glamour, fashion, fame, pleasure, money, etc, and get carried away. He urged the youth to be focused in their approach towards life and not to be misled by things on social media, television, etc.

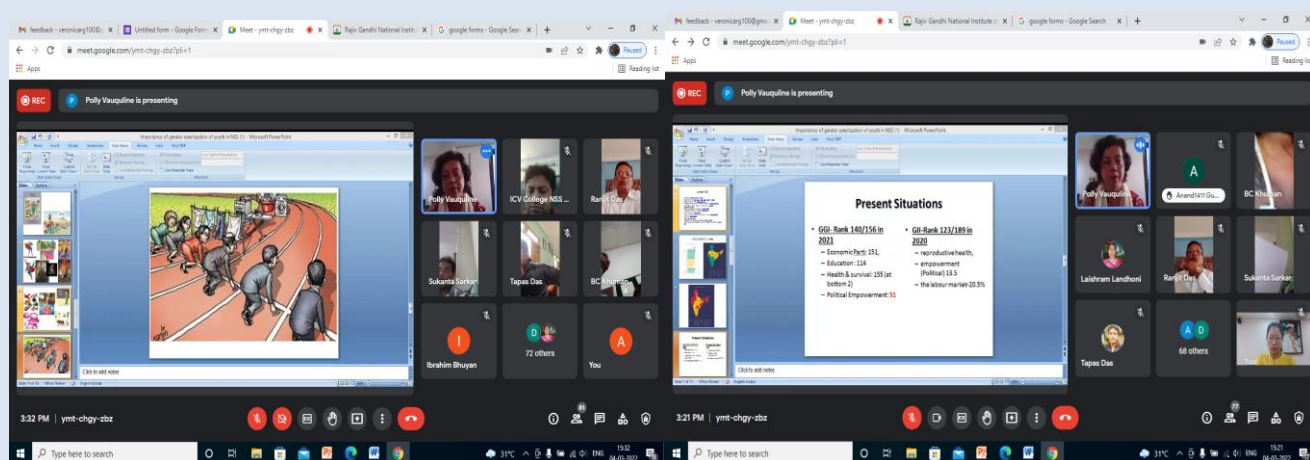
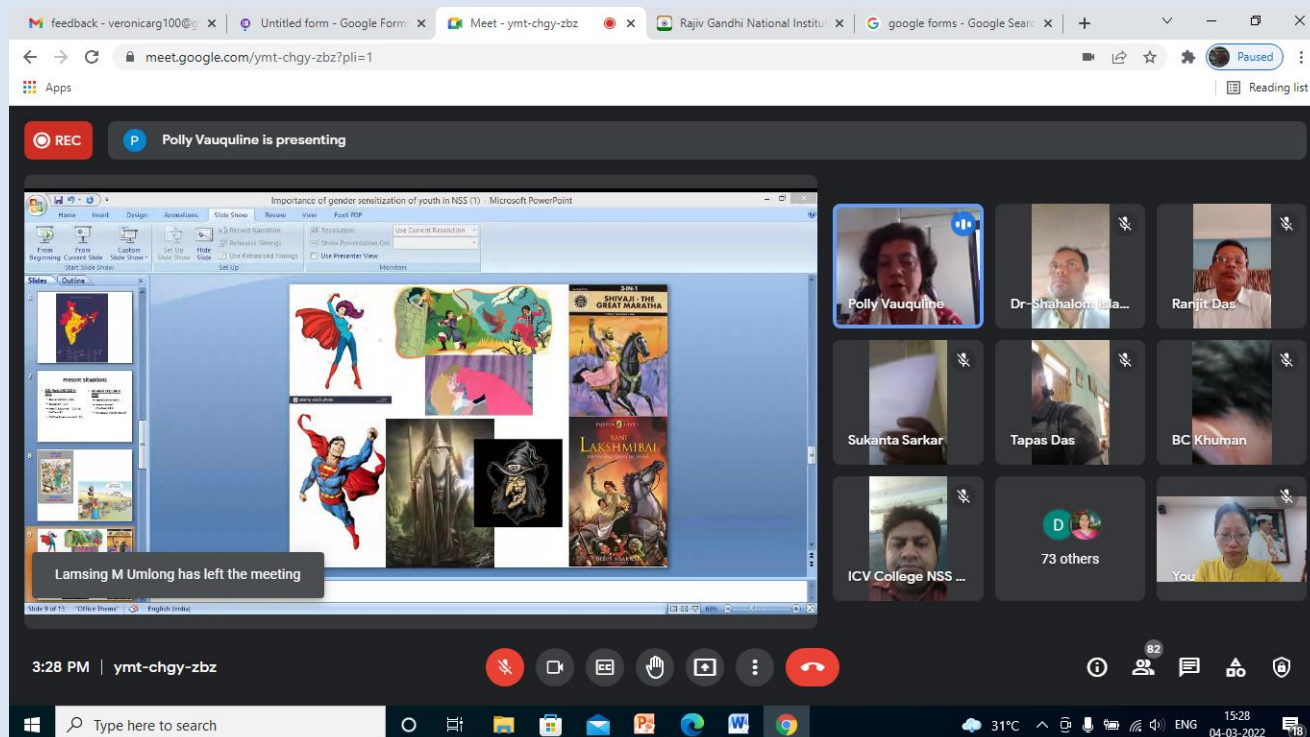




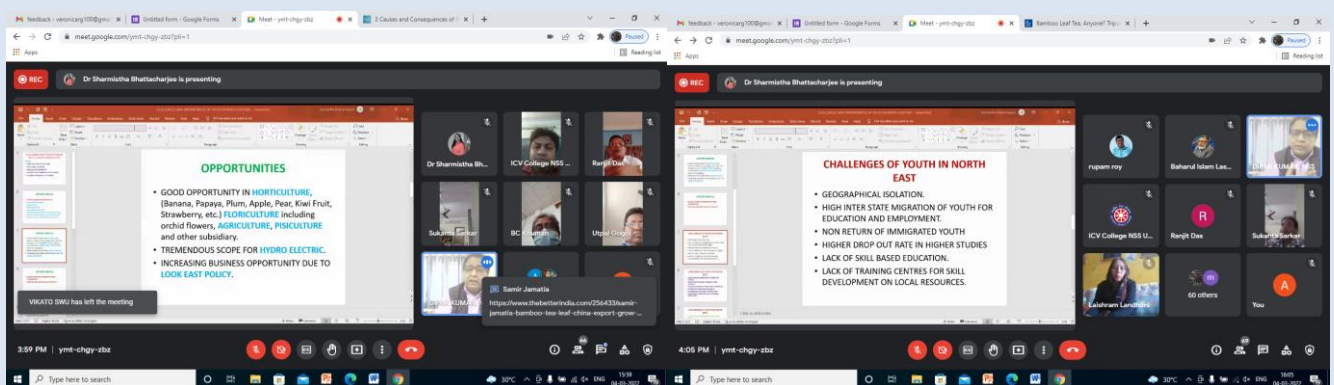
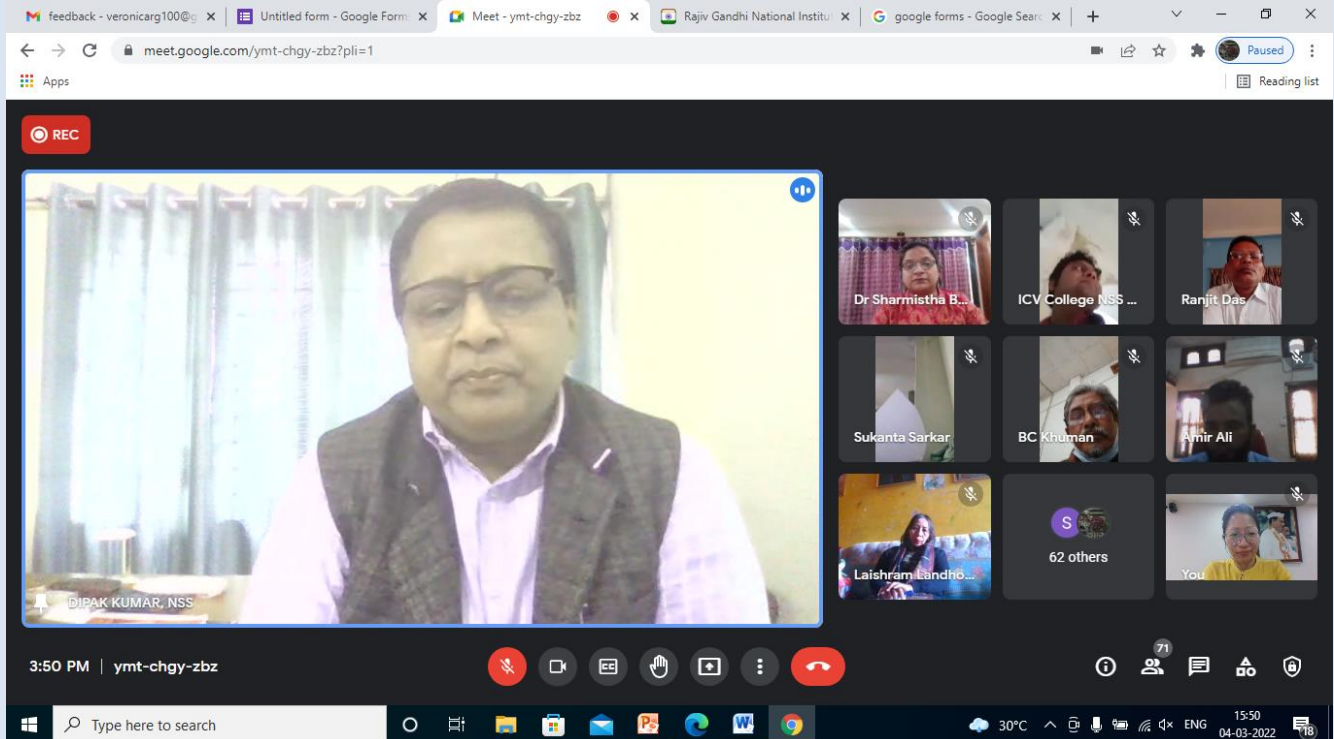
Day Two: 4 March 2022

The second day of the webinar started with a panel discussion on the theme *Issues and Challenges of Youth of the Northeast*. The panellists were Prof. Polly Vauquiline, Head, Dept. of Women's Studies, Guwahati University, Shri. Dipak Kumar, Regional Director, Regional Directorate, NSS, Guwahati and Shri. F. Rumnong, State Nodal Officer (SNO), NSS, Meghalaya. Panellist Prof. Polly Vauquiline flagged a number of issues and concerns related to gender discrimination, and gave an over view of India's rank concerning the Gender Development Index (GDI) and Gender Inequality Index (GII). She underscored the need to educate young minds from an early age to promote gender equality and especially to start from our schools and colleges. She stressed that unless we are conscious of our privileged position, the invisibility and the poor plight of women and girls will continue which should be given a serious thought. She also emphasized the role of NSS functionaries to integrate gender concerns in their programmes.



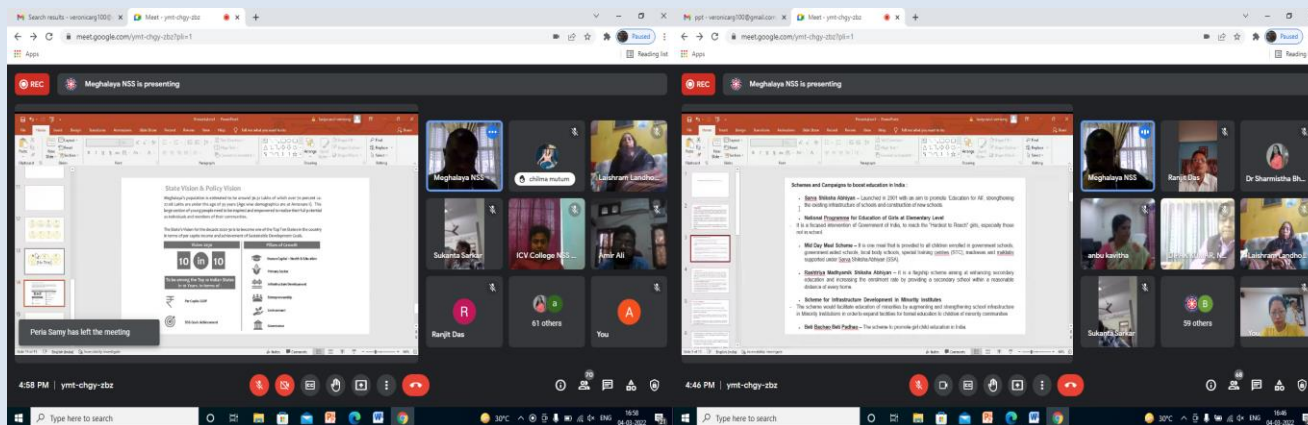


Shri. Dipak Kumar encouraged the youth to have a dream and stressed upon the need for young people to look ahead into the future; the need to self-assess one's potentialities and weaknesses; and be flexible and be ready to change for better. He highlighted the many challenges faced by the youth of the northeastern region such as geographical isolation, high inter-state migration of youth for education and employment, higher dropout rates in higher education, lack of skill based education, lack of skill centres for skill development on local resources. He also informed the various opportunities the youth can look for given the advantage of low population density, high sex ratio, high literacy rate, rich heritage and culture, good physique, recent trend towards sports, and the rich base of natural resources like tea & crude oil, rich forest cover of timber, bamboo, cane, etc. He further added that there are good opportunities in horticulture, floriculture, agriculture, pisciculture and in other subsidiaries besides the tremendous scope for hydroelectric and a growing business opportunity on account of look east policy, etc.



Shri. Rumnong gave a detailed presentation on the various problems faced by youth especially in the context of Meghalaya. He deliberated on the problems from a policy perspective and while he commended the comprehensive youth policy initiatives, he underlined that any policy measure should translate on the ground through effective implementation and monitoring to ensure that it reaches the right target group. Additionally he pointed out that any policy or programme should be contextualized as per the local conditions and problems.





The programme was well received and participants representing NSS Programme Officers, NSS volunteers and students from the eight North-eastern states, viz, Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim and Tripura, and other faculty members and students from various institutions participated in the programme.

WAY FORWARD

- Work towards the empowerment of the marginalized and at-risk youth by building their skills and capacities
- Network with local, regional, national and international organizations for knowledge exchange and learning to promote positive youth development.
- Promote debate and open discussion on topical and current issues to keep the youth informed of various challenges and opportunities

WEBINAR POSTER



राजीव गाँधी राष्ट्रीय युवा विकास संस्थान
RAJIV GANDHI NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF YOUTH DEVELOPMENT
SRIPERUMBUDUR, TAMIL NADU - 602105, INDIA

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&
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National Service Scheme (NSS) Regional Directorate, Guwahati, Assam

WEBINAR ON CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES OF YOUTH OF THE NORTHEASTERN REGION

3-4 March, 2022

Resource Persons

Inaugural Address



Prof. Sibnath Deb
Director
RGNIYD



Ms. Nuneseno Chase
Director, Youth-Net
Kohima, Nagaland



Dr. (Fr.) P. D. Johnny
Rector & Director
DBI, Guwahati, Assam



Prof. Polly Vauqueline
Head, Dept. of Women's Studies
Gauhati University, Assam



Shri. Dipak Kumar
Regional Director
NSS Regional Directorate
Guwahati, Assam



Shri. F. Rumnong
State NSS Officer (SNO)
NSS, Meghalaya

Registration Link:

<https://bit.ly/3HBxn50>

Programme Link:

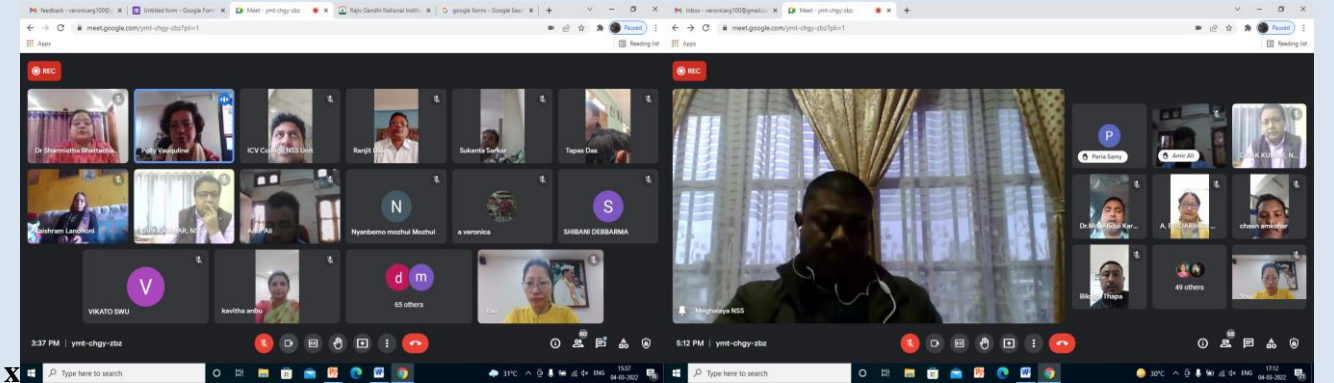
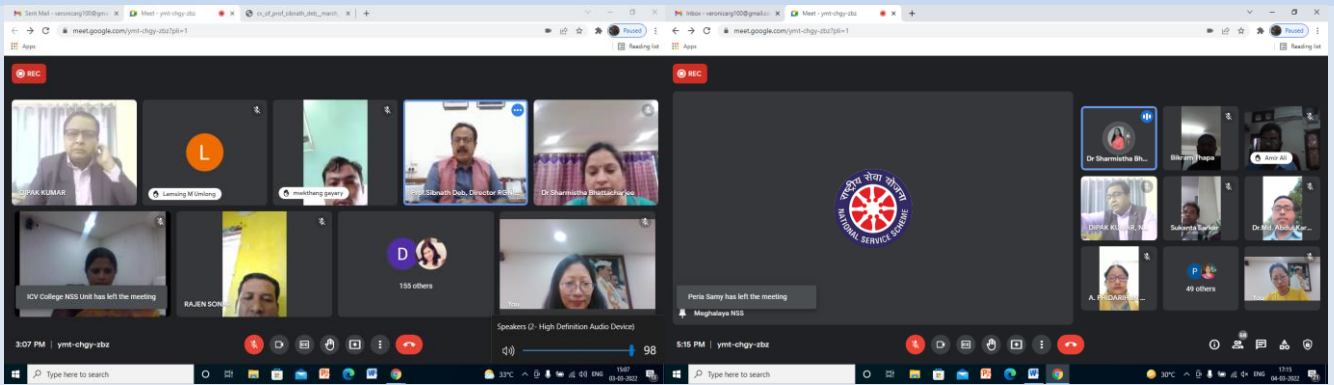
<https://meet.google.com/ymt-chgy-zbz>

For more details:

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www.rgnyd.gov.in

WEBINAR SNAPSHOTS



PROGRAMME SCHEDULE

Date	Time	Programme	Details
03.03.22 Thursday	03-05pm	About the Programme	Ms. Avinu Veronica Richa I/c, CTNEYD, Assistant Professor, Dept. of Sociology, RGNIYD
		Inaugural Address	Prof. (Dr.) Sibnath Deb Director, RGNIYD
		Youth: Issues and Challenges in the Northeast	Ms. Nuneseno Chase Director, Youth-Net Kohima, Nagaland Dr. (Fr.) P. D. Johny Director & Rector DBI, Guwahati
		Vote of Thanks	Dr. Anbu Kavitha Assistant Professor Dept. of Sociology, RGNIYD
04.03.22 Friday	03-05pm	Panel Discussion - <i>Youth: Issues and Challenges Perspectives from states</i>	Prof. (Dr.) Polly Vauquiline Head, Dept. of Women's Studies Guwahati University Shri. Dipak Kumar Regional Director, NSS Regional Directorate, Guwahati, Assam Shri. F. Rumnong State Nodal Officer NSS, Meghalaya
		Vote of Thanks	Dr. Sharmistha Bhattacharjee Associate Professor & Head Dept. of Sociology, RGNIYD