

PRIORITIES OF THE NCCI—YOUTH CONCERNS

- > Encouraging young people to be part of the National Ecumenical Movement.
- > Networking with the Local and International Ecumenical partners for sponsorship and partnership.
- > Connecting member churches and local youth movements with NCCI Youth Concerns ministry through organizing programmes both at regional and national levels.
- > Strengthening direct partnerships with youth fellowships of the member churches and NCCI Youth Concerns ministry and encouraging them to create ecumenical platforms for young people to promote grassroots ecumenism.
- > Identifying young people to engage them in a process of articulating their faith and understanding about God.

Inside Story

- Touching Life through Prayer (Ephesians 3: 14-19) **1**
- Report on International Youth Day: One Day Seminar **2**
- Young Ambassadors of Peace in Asia (YAPA) 2017 (Chiang Mai, Thailand) **2-3**
- One-day workshop on Youth Ecumenical Spirituality3 **3**
- The Sparrow's Nest: Reflection on Medical Mission **3-4**
- English and Computer Class Concludes **5**
- NEWS Update **5**
- Scholarships for Indian Students **5**

Touching Life through Prayer (Ephesians 3: 14-19)

The city of Ephesus, with its natural harbor and strategic location on one of the main roads of the world, made a great commercial city. Its rich and fertile land was another attraction. However, as years went by, the great harbor silted up so badly that trade declined and Ephesus became a dying city. In such a context the Ephesian believers were not free from the worldly influence. Acts 20: 31 tell us that Paul was with the Ephesian believers for three years. He was the one who bought the gospel to them. Thus, he developed a very deep relationship with them. His love for the Ephesians can be seen in his prayer for them in Ephesians 3: 14-19. With this background, let us look at the attitude, content and goal of Paul's prayer for the Ephesians and reflect it upon our life with the given theme "Touching Life through Prayer."

Attitude of Paul's prayer (14-15).

Prayer with confidence and submission: Paul starts his prayer with the same opening as 3: 1 "For this reason" which points back to the preceding verses where Paul speaks about how all believers, both Gentiles and Jews, now have access in one spirit to the Father through Jesus Christ. Verse 15 says it is the Father "from whom every family in heaven and earth takes its name. Paul tells the Ephesians in 1: 5-7, how they are now adopted as children of God through Christ, who has redeemed them through His blood and forgiven their sins. It is because of God's abundant grace Paul is confident that his prayer would be heard. He knew who he is praying to. Paul also mentioned an unusual posture of prayer, "on my knees". It was unusual because the customary posture of prayer in Jewish and early Christian prayer was standing. According to Peter O'Brien's description, 'kneeling' shows great reverence and submission. It marks the humble approach of the worshipper. Paul kneels before the God with a great sense of need for his earnest request to be heard. Let us note here that his earnest request was not for himself, but he was on his knees for the Ephesians.

Content of Paul's prayer (16-19).

Paul prays for inner strength: In Ephesians 1:19-23, Paul speaks about God's great power that raised Jesus from the dead and seated him at God's right hand in the heavenly places. It is the same power that is at work in all believers. In verses 16 and 17, Paul prays that God would grant the Ephesians to be strengthened with power through the indwelling of God's Spirit in the inner life. It means that Christ Himself dwells in their hearts. It is not something temporary but it is rooted and grounded in love. Paul tells us that this indwelling is made possible only through faith and as the believers trust in Christ, he makes their hearts his home.

Paul prays that they may comprehend God's love: In verse 18 he prays that they may have the power to comprehend the width, the length, the height, and the depth of God's love which means to grasp the dimensions of God's love. He is praying that they will be able to understand, in a personal way, just how much Christ loved them and they may be filled with all the fullness God. Paul's prayer for them is very complete. It is a picture of how the love of Christ produced in their hearts enabled them to love others. At the same time, they are assured of Christ's love for them personally.

Conclusion

The ultimate goal of Paul's prayer was for the Ephesians to be filled up with all the fullness of God as stated in verse 19. Paul had prayed that God would grant the Ephesians two things. One, to be strengthened with power and indwelt by Christ so that they would become more Christ-like and two, to be able to know the immeasurable love of Christ because when they are empowered to love others and to know the love of Christ personally, they might be all that God wants them to be, i.e., to grow into full spiritual maturity. This is the fullness of God.

In Paul's prayer we have seen the depth and intensity of his prayer life. Paul's prayer is with reverent submission, humble approach and sincerity. Like Paul, let us seek to pray earnestly for others that they become what God wants them to be, to grow into spiritual maturity and become the living witnesses for God. God can influence the World through our prayers. Yes, we can touch lives of the people within and outside through Prayers. Through our prayer we can accompany any missionary to remote reaches of the earth, we can walk through crowded bazaars and streaming jungles, feed millions of starving men, women, and children, hungry for bread for their bodies and for the bread of life. Through prayer we can contribute to the ministry of any pastor or evangelist in a church anywhere in the world. God is looking for dedicated hearts with burdens for spiritual needs of the people. Today many are too busy to love, too busy to share, too busy to care, and too busy to pray. Much of our prayers are too focused on the material and physical needs. To stay above worldly influences what every believer need is the inner strength and the indwelling of Christ within that is rooted and grounded in love. One day we will realize that when we are praying for someone or something we love and treasure, we are not tired or weary and time become less important. In fact, all other things fade in comparison, no force transmits human love more than prayer and no greater gift could mankind give to the world than our bended knees. May the Spirit of the Lord dwell in us that we may become men and women of prayers for touching many lives. Amen

Ms. Wapangyingla Ao, Intern, NCCI-Youth Concerns

Report on International Youth Day: One Day Seminar



The NCCI-Youth concerns in partnership with India Peace Centre (IPC), and Jamaat-E-Islami Hind (JIH) organize one-day seminar programme as an observance of International Youth Day (IYD) on 12th of August 2017 at IPC, based on the theme "Signs and Slogans of Peace: From Youth Perspective."

The program was organized mainly to awaken the youths to stand up for peace and make the present generation better. Dr. Vikas Jambhulkar, Associate professor of Nagpur University, Department of Political Science was the chief guest and apart from him, Mr. Ajay Chaowdhury, Assistant professor of sociology in Hislop College, Mrs. Ifrana Kulsum, Ex-Editor of Urdu Magazine, and Dr. Yugal Rayalu were also invited to speak based on the theme. Students and youths from different colleges, church, and organizations attended the seminar.

Mr. Jianthaolung Gonmei, Executive Secretary of NCCI-youth Concerns gave the welcome address and Mr. Kasta Dip, Director IPC introduced the Youths. The program was divided into two sessions where Dr. Vikas Jambhulkar and Mr. Ajay Chaodhury in the first session and Mrs. Irfana Kulsum, and Dr. Yugal Rayalu in the second session shared their thoughts on the aspects of youths to work for peace. This was followed by group activities where it was divided into four groups and each group was assign to design a peace sign and a peace slogan.

After the activity, each group were asked to share something on the sign and the slogan they have created. This is what they had to say:

Group 1- "They want the youth to dream a realistic dream not an idealistic dream so that they can come up from a euphoric state"

Group 2- "If peace is poetry, youth is its verse... without verse poetry will be incomplete... every religion is equal, every gender is equal, say no to racism"

Group 3- "Peace is not being silent... peace is so energetic that it can put the whole person in vibrancy. Peace releases positive energy... it creates a vibrant nature in a self... have to unite against corruption and have to make country peaceful"

Group 4- "Peace begins at smiles and smile comes from justice and freedom... Justice and education are building blocks of peace in our society"

The program ended with a concluding remark from Mr. Kasta Dip and vote of thanks from Mr. Umar Khan, the President of JIH.

Through this seminar the youths were exposed not only to hearing the realities of India, but were also exposed to different activities where they got the opportunity to experience and grasp the realities of our chaotic society. Youth participations in the peace making process, thereby encouraging them to be the agent of peacemakers.



Young Ambassadors of Peace in Asia (YAPA) 2017 (Chiang Mai, Thailand)

The 2nd Young Ambassadors of Peace in Asia (YAPA) 2017, a week-long training programme, was organised by the Christian Conference of Asia (CCA) from 28th May to 3rd June at Payap University at Chiang Mai, Thailand. YAPA training programme sought to facilitate the role of young people as ambassadors of change in peacebuilding processes, and to build a network of young peacebuilders in Asia bridging the missing links in promoting peace in society. The training programme consisted of interactive sessions on non-violence and peace with justice through theological foundations of peace from various religious perspectives, skill development to peace implementation programmes at the grassroots level. The programme further buoyed up the young people to be peace makers not among humans alone but within the whole creation commencing from one's own inner self.

25 young participants from various Asian countries – Bangladesh, Indonesia, India, Myanmar, New Zealand, Pakistan, Philippines, South Korea, Sri Lanka, Taiwan and Thailand – with representatives from the Buddhist, Hindu and Muslim communities who are committed to promoting interfaith collaboration in peacebuilding and conflict resolution participated in the programme. During the week-long training, participants developed action plans for peacebuilding through interfaith platforms in their local communities. The participants further came out with a statement.



Communiqué

YAPA 2017: The Youth of Asia calls for Peace with Justice

We, the participants of Young Ambassadors of Peace in Asia (YAPA) 2017, from different countries belonging to different faiths, attended the YAPA 2017 training programme, organised by the Christian Conference of Asia (CCA) at the CCA Headquarters at Payap University in Chiang Mai, Thailand from May 29 to June 2, 2017. During this time, we were trained in intercultural and interfaith learning as a base for addressing conflict transformation and nurturing our role as peacebuilders in our respective societies across Asia.

Affirmations

1. We affirm that peace cannot prevail without justice to attain a dignified existence. Peace is a journey towards a relationship with God, neighbour and the whole creation in transforming and reconciling through inter-religious, interfaith and intra-faith dialogue.
2. We emphasise upon celebrating diversity, we acknowledge our own differences and reaffirm inclusive communities in the household of God.
3. We value inner peace, interpersonal peace, peace within communities and peace with nature as holistic approaches to peacebuilding.
4. We emphasise that justice removes obstacles to peace; peace that sustains the co-relation of the whole creation where equality dwells. Equality resides across gender, class and every sector in society.

Condemnations

1. We condemn all violations of human rights and dignity that deny the celebration of the fullness of life;
2. We condemn all human rights abuses in terms of human trafficking, child labour, extra-judicial killings and sexual violence for the benefit of the few in power;
3. We condemn discrimination and oppression on the basis of race, caste, class, creed, ethnicity and gender;
4. We condemn the misuse of militarisation that denies the rights, security and liberty of the innocent people;
5. We condemn religious intolerance and the enforcement of fundamental religious ideologies and practices against the will and consent of others.

Call For Action

As a new generation of activists committed to work for structural transformation that promotes harmony and peace based on justice in Asian communities, we call upon:

1. Religious leaders and bodies to bridge the gaps in relationships across religious boundaries to foster peace with justice and religious harmony to uphold our cultural roots and ethnic identities;
2. Young people and peace advocates to unlearn concepts that invite exclusions, prejudices and stereotypes, and to relearn notions that inculcate critical thinking to establish an inclusive community;
3. Municipalities and corporate organisations to engage in community-based services that enhance the livelihood of the common people;
4. The governments to review, revise and contextualise laws based on contemporary perspectives that are beneficial to all members of societies;
5. And, every individual who believes in building peace in society to practice reconciliation. This redemptive process is the path towards valuing the good in humanity.

One-day workshop on Youth Ecumenical Spirituality

We must know that faith has disappeared among the youths through their experiences... If it were simple to understand them, it is of no use to organize unity workshop... Brother Patrick Moses, Taizé Community
On 19th of September 2017, National Council of Churches in India-Youth Concerns organized a One-day workshop on Youth Ecumenical Spirituality on the theme, "Rediscovering Youth Spirituality for Just and Inclusive Community."



Brother Patrick Moses and Brother John Noel from Taizé Community, France were the resource persons and youth and church leaders from different churches attended the workshop. The workshop was divided into two sessions. In the first session, Mr. Jianthaolung Gonmei, Executive Secretary of NCCI-Youth Concerns gave the introductory speech and introduced the resource persons and delegates. Later, a presentation on Taizé community and its life within the community was shown through a video clip. The second session was focused on interaction and worship. Queries of Taizé community and its importance; things that Taizé community teach the young people; problems the youth normally questions about their life; how Taizé community communicate to youths to improve their spirituality; and how India can deal with specifically religious intolerance, were asked.



On responding the above queries, both Brother Patrick Moses and Brother John Noel replied that, striving to become one, the Taizé community is an ecumenical monastic order focused on spirituality and working among the youths throughout the world. Youths frequently raised theological related questions faced in their work, and life through their personal experiences. Brother Patrick stated that in order to improve the spirituality of the youths, they become the facilitators of the struggling youths by listening and giving awareness through the scripture. And as a response for religious conflict of the Indians, Brother John Noel asserts that youth need to build up friendship from diverse communities in a social perspective and not on religious differences and that can bring solution to the religious intolerance. The workshop was an excellent opportunity for young people to rebuild their spiritual establishment and revitalize their commitment to be the leaders of the church and society.

The workshop ended with Taizé Community order of prayer and worship and later with a community lunch.

The Sparrow's Nest: Reflection on Medical Mission

By: Vijay Anand Ismavel

With the background of my short testimony in the previous posts let me reflect on some common queries regarding Medical Missions in the minds of Christian medical students and on ways forward:

1. Who is a missionary?

I found this definition from Wikipedia quite comprehensive, "A missionary is a member of a religious group sent into an area to do evangelism or ministries of service, such as education, literacy, social justice, health care and economic development. The word "mission" originates from 1598 when the Jesuits sent members abroad, derived from the Latin *missionem* (nom. *missio*), meaning "act of sending" or *mittere*, meaning "to send". The word was used in light of its biblical usage; in the Latin translation of the Bible, Christ uses the word when sending the disciples to preach in his name. The term is most commonly used for Christian missions, but can be used for any creed or ideology." A Christian medical missionary would therefore be someone sent to provide health care on behalf of a Christian church or group and Christian medical missions would be the work done collectively by a group of such people.

2. What are some of the characteristics of medical missionary work?

I think that medical missionaries (like all other missionaries) need to be sent out to areas where they are relatively out of their comfort zone (vulnerable) and to help people who are poor and marginalized. They must excel in their professional work as well as serve in the Spirit of Christ, so that others may see Christ in and through their work. This would enable other Christian services to be offered through the activities of the mission compound.



Jianthaolung Gonmei
Executive Secretary, Youth Concerns

4. Are there opportunities for pioneering new Medical Mission work in India?

Yes, Arunachal Pradesh is at present the only state in India without a Christian mission hospital. (Tripura too did not have one until we started a hospital there in 2005). There are large tracts of land in forgotten corners of our country where new hospitals are needed and can be started. However, due to local land and entry laws, it is not easy for outsiders. States such as Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram and Nagaland require an Inner Line Permit – similar to a visa – for non-locals to enter and several states have restrictions on non-locals purchasing land). Similarly, great opportunities for transformation exist in other needy parts of the world where few want to go.

5. Can Medical Mission work be done in hostile areas?

When Makunda started the work in Tripura, Dhalai district was the most affected by militancy with murder and abduction being common and all public transportation possible only through armed convoys. However, the work at the hospital was never affected as it was seen as a humanitarian service to the poor. I had the privilege to visit Africa last year – mission hospitals are the only long-term health facilities that work well in conflict areas because of the commitment of staff. Other NGOs (like Red Cross and MSF) offer short-term medical support services. Warring groups usually do not target missionary services, recognising their humanitarian value and universal appeal.

6. Is Medical Mission work a sacrifice?

We are called to be 'living sacrifices' – meaning that we offer ourselves to a life of obedience to God. Medical mission work (especially in remote rural areas) is front-line work and not easy. However, in the light of the words of the Bible, I would say that the trials and difficulties are 'temporary and trivial inconveniences'! We should not dwell on sacrifice as it makes people into ineffective self-styled martyrs! There is no sacrifice too great for a missionary – when we feel that we have been brought to life from death by the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross, we should be ready to die for Him. When we look at missionary history, many missionaries (often unheard and unsung) gave their lives so that the church may be built in remote areas all over the world – truly the present Christian church in these areas has been built on their sweat and blood. In comparison, the problems we face today in India are indeed trivial.

7. Can Medical Mission work be professionally challenging?

I have heard many people say that mission hospitals (especially remote rural ones) treat only diarrhea and ear discharge! When I completed my M.Ch in Pediatric Surgery at CMC Vellore, there were people who even asked why I wasted a M.Ch seat which could have been given to someone who was more likely to use it! I would like to say that I have seen and operated on some of the most professionally challenging conditions at Makunda. Since CT scans, nuclear scans and the services of other experts are often unavailable in these locations, missionary doctors need to innovate to be able to treat patients cost effectively with what is available. I have operated on a teratoma in the right middle lobe of the lung (middle lobectomy with composite resection of two overlying ribs), ectopia cordis (unfortunately, this patient died), 35 kg ovarian tumor, retrograde jejuno gastric intussusception, intra-abdominal cocoon (several cases) and so on. There have also been challenging medical as well as other specialties' cases. All these years, I was the only full-time pediatric surgeon in the states of Mizoram, Tripura, Meghalaya, Manipur and southern Assam – so there are certainly a huge variety of patients who need treatment (and who cannot go elsewhere because they are poor), it is only logical to conclude that professionally, medical missionaries are in for exciting opportunities.

8. Is it not difficult to be in a 'vulnerable' situation?

Humanly speaking, it is. However, I would say that from a spiritual perspective, this is the greatest factor in favor of Medical Missions. Vulnerability is a blessing in disguise – how else will we see God at work? God specialises in helping us as we face circumstances beyond our control. Miracles do not happen when we are in control of situations. When all else fails and we totally depend on God, we see Him at work. It is an exciting experience to see God at work and see Him build up His kingdom and be partners in this great ministry.

9. Is Medical Mission work drudgery with few opportunities to relax?

When I was in school, I was interested in tennis, rifle shooting and rowing. In college, I cultivated an interest in electronics. However, many of these activities were not possible at Makunda. I discovered that nature observation and photography are excellent for relaxation. My observations in and around Makunda have been posted and published in many sites. (4,5) If someone is looking for the nearest mall to relax in, he may be disappointed but there are other (and maybe greater) opportunities to compensate.

10. Can work focused on the poor be self-sustaining?

When we re-started Makunda, we were told that it was impossible to work primarily for the poor on a self-sustaining basis and that all successful mission hospitals subsidise treatment of the poor by treating the rich at higher rates. However, we decided to be a hospital primarily for the poor with no special facilities for the rich as a part of our 'pro-poor' branding strategy. All patients wait in the same queues irrespective of their social class or wealth and the same general wards are used to admit them. Charges are low and charity is liberal – the hospital is flooded with patients and high capacity utilisation leads to high efficiency and lowered costs. God has blessed the work and we have been able to invest in new equipment and buildings, start a new school, the branch in Tripura and nursing school without major grants (the external funding received each year was less than 1 percent of income for many years). When we treat the poor who cannot afford to pay, God pays their bills – often in ways that money cannot buy – by giving us satisfaction, contentment and wealth in heaven.

11. Why is there a high attrition rate in mission hospitals?

Work in mission hospitals is not easy and not for everyone. There is peer-pressure from families and friends. People look for comforts and sometimes are unable to adjust to life in mission hospitals. Many are short-term and do not want to stay on to solve local problems. There is a high attrition rate in Medical Mission work all over the world – maybe <10 per cent of new staff stay on long-term. However, most staff leave after tasting God at work and often say that the best years of their lives were at the mission hospital!

12. Are many mission hospitals today 'beyond redemption'?

Sadly, many mission hospitals are 'sick'. This is due to inability to adapt to rapid changes, poor governance and the absence of committed long-term staff at a leadership level. Being at the cutting edge of mission work, I am sure there would also be an element of spiritual warfare. However, no hospital is beyond redemption. Major changes may need to be done to resolve problems but all of them can be revived. If a completely shut hospital (like Makunda) with severe local problems can be revived to become a thriving community, there is hope for all the other sick ones too! God is able to do great things. He just needs a few volunteers willing to submit to Him.

What should be done to revive and revitalize Medical Missions?

1. I feel that Medical Mission hospitals require a transition to effective and efficient governance mechanisms, without losing the vision of the founding fathers. They may need repositioning due to changing contexts – laws have changed and the world has changed. For this to happen, highly committed people should be willing to stay till they see change. It is a call to persevere – changes may take years to happen. Objective stock-taking exercises, strategic planning and an excellent system of accountability, transparency and integrity based 'checks and balances' is essential.

2. The church should 'own' and support medical mission work. When I was young, I never went to church, thinking it was a waste of time! Parents and people at church disapproved. Later, when I started going to church, everyone was happy. However, when I felt God's call to remote rural missions, many felt I was going too far, becoming extremist! If every church encouraged medical members of its congregation to give a year or two of their lives to missions, there would be more than enough people to run the hospitals.

3. Many young doctors and specialists going to mission hospitals today do not have the training and experience to manage administrative (legal, financial and other) work. They need to have some exposure, as they are often required to take leadership roles. Some years ago, Makunda offered a mission-training programme of 2 years' duration where doctors who are keen to work in long-term missions could work as apprentices and finally learn to manage a small hospital (our branch at Tripura) on their own.

4. There is a lot of Christian work in medical colleges in India – EMFI and UESI as well as other groups. However, such work should lead to changed lives. We need people to experience the life-changing power of the Gospel and then take decisions that will take them to the best plans God has for them. Important attitudes need to be cultivated too. (6)

5. Excellence in studies is important. Obscure facts learnt in medical college serve to be life-saving information (7). Students interested in a career in medical missions should ensure that every day in college is well-spent and no opportunity to study is lost.

6. The choice of who one marries has a very strong effect on which medical missionary stays on in Medical Missions and which one does not. (8)

7. When young Christian medical professionals talk of working abroad, the conversation is almost always about the developed world – the western nations, Australia and even the wealthy ones in the Middle East. Why don't we look at the ones that need help instead – Myanmar, African and South American nations, small island nations – for those with a greater adventurous spirit, these opportunities beckon!

8. There is a 'rut' placed in time at the end of MBBS or other medical professional qualification. If nothing is done at this point, all graduates tend to follow the tracks left by their peers – corporate work, government work or private practice. So, for those considering Medical Missions, important steps need to be taken much prior to graduation – sensitizing parents, and exploring varied options.

I would like to invite every committed Christian medical professional to consider a life-long career in mission hospitals, or at least a few years of their life. We spend a lot of effort in investing our money so that it gains the greatest value over time. I think Medical Mission work gives a Christian medical professional the greatest value over time – an exciting and fulfilling life in this world and a great reward in heaven.



English and Computer Class Concludes

The English and computer class conducted from 2015 by NCCI- Youth Concerns in collaboration with Student Christian Movement in India (SCMI) concluded in June 2017. The opportunity was given to 13 sincere students who wanted to become someone in their life but could not due to very poor economy in their family. By the end of the classes, they showed immense improvement in both writing and speaking, and their computer skills were also shown through given assignment and examination result.



NEWS Update

1. World Council of Churches

On 18-19 July, 35 young leaders from 14 countries across Asia – part of the World Council of Churches' (WCC) Youth in Asia Training in Religious Amity (YATRA) – travelled to the Indonesian city of Bandung to meet with faith leaders and young activists engaged in interreligious dialogue and work. The gathering brought together Christian, Muslim, Confucian and Baha'i alumni from the camp to share with YATRA participants their vision and passion for building interreligious understanding – and more importantly, friendship – through “theology cafes,” film screenings, photography, social media forums, and dialogues with other youth.

3. Youth Assembly at the United Nations

The 20th session of the Youth Assembly at the United Nations (UN) will be held from August 9-12, 2017. The Youth Assembly presents both an enormous opportunity and a challenge to stimulate and ensure youth engagement and participation in achieving an inclusive and sustainable future where no one is left behind.

Guided by the overarching principle of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, “leaving no one behind,” the conference will explore cross-cutting issues and solutions for sustainable development in the social, economic, and environmental dimensions. While youth are among those subjected to exclusion and marginalization, they have the potential to accelerate and achieve sustainable development in their communities and beyond. With their unique sets of skills and perspectives in today's ever-evolving world, they remain at the frontlines of innovation and change.

The conference provides a platform for youth from around the world to learn and share practical knowledge and skills with experienced professionals and fellow attendees through dynamic panels and workshops.

Source: Internet

<https://www.youthop.com/conferences/summer-youth-assembly-2017/>;

<https://www.un.org/development/desa/youth/news/2017/06/>;

<https://www.un.org/development/desa/youth/news/2017/07/>;

<https://www.oikoumene.org/en/press-centre/news/young-leaders-share-passion-and-courage-in-diverse-traditions>



2. International Youth Day

The theme of International Youth Day 2017 (IYD) is “Youth Building Peace”. Since the adoption of Security Council Resolution 2250 in 2015, there is growing recognition that as agents of change, young people are critical actors in conflict prevention and sustaining peace. International Youth Day 2017 is dedicated to celebrating young people's contributions to conflict prevention and transformation as well as inclusion, social justice, and sustainable peace.

The current generation of youth are the largest in history and young people often comprise the majority in countries marked by armed conflict or unrest, therefore considering the needs and aspirations of youth in matters of peace and security is a demographic imperative.

Young people's inclusion in the peace and security agenda and in society more broadly, is key to building and sustaining peace. The process of social inclusion for youth, including participation in decision-making as well as access to quality education, health care and basic services promotes their role as active contributors to society and affords young people with opportunities to reach their potential and achieve their goals. When youth are excluded from political, economic and social spheres and processes, it can be a risk factor for violence and violent forms of conflict. Therefore, identifying and addressing the social exclusion of young people is a precondition for sustaining peace.

Scholarships for Indian Students

The Ministry of Human Resource Development, Department of Higher Education has rightly pointed out that “Scholarship is boon for students belonging to the weaker sections of the society, who are unable to pursue their education for some reason or the other. Scholarship is an incentive as well as encouragement for students, who are talented, but do not have the means to study further.” In India, there are lots of bright students who can accomplish anything in their life if given a chance. Yet most of these students fail to fulfill their dreams as the education is becoming costlier year after year. However, looking on the brighter side, there are some public and private organizations along with the state and central government schemes that provide scholarship to those needy students who wants to pursue higher studies.

There are a variety of scholarships; merit-based, need-based, student-specific, career-specific and college-specific. Below are some of the lists of

National scholarship grants for the students:

1. Central Sector Scheme of Scholarship for College and University Students

2. Special Scholarship Scheme for Jammu & Kashmir

3. Scheme for Scholarship to Students from Non-Hindi Speaking States for Post Matric Studies in Hindi

4. Lalit Kala Akademi Scholarship

5. IITB Monash Research Academy Scholarships 2017

6. Osmania University UGC-JRF Fellowship Program

7. UGC JRF RA Foreign Nationals

8. GIS Junior College Scholarships at Singapore

9. J C Bose National Fellowships

10. JBNSTS Senior Scholarship Test 2017

11. The Max New York Life Igenius Scholarships

12. Ministry of Culture Junior Fellowships

13. Mahabir Prasad Singh Foundation Scholarship (for Science, Engineering & Medical students)

14. Ramanujan Fellowships

15. Narotam Sekhsaria Scholarship Programme

16. IGCAR JRF

17. INSPIRE SHE Scholarships 2017

18. INSPIRE Fellowship Program

19. IndianOil Sports Scholarship, 2017

20. MICA Ahmedabad Fellowship Program

21. Ministry of Culture Scholarships for Young Artistes 2017-2018

22. FedBank Hormis Memorial Foundation Scholarships

23. National Fellowship for OBC Candidate

24. NIIT University Gurgaon Scholar Search Programme

25. NHFDC 2016 - 2017 Scholarships for Differently Abled Students

26. Aligappa University JRF DST PURSE Program

27. Dr DC Pavate Memorial Fellowships

28. The Gandhi Fellowship

29. IOCL (Indian Oil) Scholarship 2017

30. Jawaharlal Nehru Scholarships for Doctoral Studies

31. National Talent Search Examination (NTSE)

32. Kishore Vaigyanik Protsahan Yojana

33. IITM Pune Research Associateships and Research Fellowships in Climate Science

34. VIT University IGNITE Scholarships

35. Maulana Azad National Fellowship for Minority Students

36. Maulana Azad National Scholarship for Girls (Minorities)

37. Merit cum Means Scholarship for Students Belonging to Minority Communities

38. Narottam Sekhsaria Foundation PG scholarship

39. National Means-Cum-Merit Scholarships (NMMS)

40. A STAR and SIA Youth Scholarship to study in Singapore

41. SICI Doctoral Research Fellowships

42. Pre Matric Scholarship for Delhi's Scheduled Caste (SC) students

43. OP Jindal Engineering and Management Scholarships (OPJEMS)

44. Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship for Students with Disabilities

45. Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship for ST Candidates

46. Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship for SC Candidate

47. Sitaram Jindal Research Fellowship Scheme

48. Shell Junior National Science Scholarship 2017

49. SBI Youth for India Scholarship, 2017

50. Fair and Lovely Scholarship for Women

51. Swami Vivekananda Single Girl Child Scholarship for Research in Social Sciences

52. Pragati Scholarship by AICTE for Women pursuing Technical Education

53. Saksham Scholarship by AICTE for Differently Abled Students pursuing Technical Education

54. Young India Fellowship Programme

Source: Internet-

<http://www.indiaeducation.net/scholarships/>; <http://mhrd.gov.in/scholarships-education-loan>



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