

Indian Institute of Technology Bombay

FIRST ANNUAL CONFERENCE SAMMILAN ON
“YOUTH EMPOWERMENT FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT”

Post Event Report

Abhyuday
The social festival of IIT Bombay

**THE 1st ANNUAL CONFERENCE SAMMILAN ON
“YOUTH EMPOWERMENT FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT”**



Indian Institute of Technology Bombay

Compiled by:
Barkha Bansal
Overall Coordinator, Abhyuday 2014-15
Shantanu Hatkar
Events Manager, Abhyuday 2014-15

Under the guidance of:
Prof. Kavi Arya (CSE Dept)
Faculty Co-ordinator, Abhyuday

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1. Introduction

1.1 Abhyuday

Abhyuday is the social body of IIT-Bombay, a student run organization working towards fostering leadership and social impact. With a network of chapters in colleges spanning the length and breadth of the country, it is India's largest movement of youth towards social change. We believe that answers to the pressing social challenges of this nation lies in participation and creative engagement of youth in social problems. We at Abhyuday want to provide a platform for such ideas to flourish and initiatives to take shape building the nation bottom up, one-step at a time. The events and activities at Abhyuday are based on the three step model of addressing a social problem:



Vision of Abhyuday :

Abhyuday, the social body of IIT Bombay, believes in the importance of creating a socially conscious campus and empowering students to work towards India's challenges, fostering a movement of change makers across the nation. With this belief, Abhyuday IIT Bombay would develop a culture of participation in social development oriented activities and taking up initiative among students by providing them a platform to learn, interact and act.

History of Abhyuday :

The idea of Abhyuday as a movement was conceptualised among the socially conscious students and professors in the years of 2011 and 2012 along side the stirrings of anti corruption and women - rights protests across the country. They got together and built interest groups and clubs like Samwad focusing on starting a dialogue and active engagement with the society. These efforts culminated with the launch of social fest in the early months of 2014 laying down the foundation to the movement that it has now become.

1.2. TechGSR

Currently a team of 6 Tech-socio enthusiasts, well established as the socio-technical wing of Abhyuday, and in the phase of recruiting more 30 students under a sustainable structure, TechGSR aims to build a stable system at IIT Bombay which will promote the technical brains of IIT Bombay to work on ground where the country needs them the most, from cities to villages, from safety to prosperity, wherever society needs them the most.

Vision of TechGSR

TechGSR (TechGeek Social responsibility) believes that it is the duty of every Techgeek and every students to be socially responsible citizen. This initiative is a tryst to not just get involved ourselves, but also involve other students, all over nation and abroad to initiate projects for development of society by using their technical knowledge.

Team aims to enrich students with an experience to not just build a product but make it implementable and sustainable for the country's needs.

History of TechGSR

Initiated as a concept of the conference, to encourage the students all over the world to give away to society directly - where the need is felt the most, Sammilan - an international annual conference, was born.

The team soon realized that working on ground is more important than just talking. So, TechGSR was formed - TechGeek Social responsibility, which undertook its first year goal of building a model village Hirewadi, in Raigad district with 40 households. This village will serve as the replicable model for majority of Indian villages. This year team is trying to solve the issues from transportation facilities to water purification in the village.



1.3 Sammilan

The first annual conference **Sammilan** on “**Youth Empowerment for Social Development**” is organized by team **TechGSR**, **Abhyuday** and held under the aegis of the 'Knowledge Innovation' initiative under Technical Education Quality Improvement Programme (**TEQIP**) supported by the Ministry of Human Resources Development (**MHRD**), Government of India.

Vision of **Sammilan** is to tackle social problems with the aid of latest technology and inspire students all over India to get involved in social initiatives and activities.

Theme of the conference was “**Urban Rural Divide- Bridging the Technology gap**”.

This years theme underlies the belief that technology holds the key to bring about the inclusive development in our country. Infrastructure, Information and Communication Technology, Health, Employment are few of those many sectors where technology would bring grassroots change, reducing the urban rural gap, where everyone enjoys the fruits of economic growth.

The aim of the conference was to **empower student** leaders across the nation to contribute to **nation building** by engaging in social problems and forming teams to work on solutions. It was a platform for students from different backgrounds and experience to **interact**, **share** and **ideate**. There were talks, workshops and focused group discussions on one hand and NGO case study and mock competitions on the other. These two days took participants through various activities like lectures, workshops, group discussions and case studies, mock competitions to inspire them to build technological solutions to social problems.

The conference held on 16th & 17th August, 2014 at Lecture Hall Complex, IIT Bombay.

2. Participation at Sammilan:

2.1 Students: College students from all over the country participated in the conference. Nearly 150 students participated in the conference with great enthusiasm out of which around 100 students were from following TEQIP colleges.

1. Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan's Sardar Patel College of Engineering, Andheri West, Mumbai
2. Rajarambapu Institute of Technology Rajaramnagar, Islampur, Dist. Sangli, Maharashtra
3. Shri Guru Govind Singh Institutes of Engineering & Technology, Vishnupuri, Nanded
4. Walchand College of Engineering, Sangli, Maharashtra
5. Veermata Jijabai Technology Institutes, Matunga Road, Mumbai
6. Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Technological University, Raigadh District, Maharashtra
7. Government College of Engineering, Osmanpura, Aurangabad, Maharashtra
8. Shivaji University, Vidyanagar, Kolhapur, Maharashtra
9. Government College of Engineering, Pune, Maharashtra
10. Government College of Engineering, Jalgaon

2.2 NGO Delegate : Representatives from NGOs working in various sectors such as Healthcare, Education, Rural electrification, Environment, Agriculture etc were invited to guide and mentor the students during Case Studies, Group Activity session and various competitions. Around 15 NGO delegates participated as mentors in the conference.

2.3 Faculty : Various faculty members from TEQIP Colleges and IITB participated in the conference.





3. Events Day-1

The **Sammilan** conference consisted of lectures, group and panel discussions, innovator's talk, and various interactive sessions.

A concise summary of the various activities is given below:

3.1 Registration - The morning day-1 session began with registration of the participants in Lecture Hall Complex at 09:30 am. All the Participants were registered and were given with Badges, Notepad, and pen.



3.2 Opening Session and Keynote Speaker (10:00 am - 11:00 am)

Keynote Speaker :- Mr. Madhav Chavan

Mr. Madhav Chavan is a social activist and entrepreneur. He is the co-founder and CEO of the educational non-profit, **Pratham**. He also started the **Read India campaign**, which aims to teach basic reading, writing and arithmetic to underprivileged children across India. Chavan was the 2012 recipient of the **WISE Prize** for Education, which is widely considered the equivalent of the Nobel Prize in the field of education and recipient of **Leading Social Contributor Award** which is the highest degree award in India for exemplary work in the area of operation. He was also the 2011 recipient of the **Skoll Award** for Social Entrepreneurship.

Mr Madhav Chavan Innaugrated the conference by giving opening speech on “**How Technology can be used to improve Educational scenario in rural areas of Country**”

It was a 1 hour lecture in which he shared his experiences about working on ground level to improve educational scenario in country and how technology is being used to improve teaching standard, to spread awareness about Right for Education.



3.3 Lecture by Mr Nand Kishore Choudhary(11:00 am - 12:00 pm)

Mr. Nand Kishore Chaudhary is an Indian social entrepreneur. He currently serves as the Chairman and Managing Director of the social enterprise **Jaipur Rugs**, which he founded in 1978. He initiated his rug business operations with just two looms and 9 artisans. Now, it has converted into a network of more than 40,000 artisans across 6 states in India and known as one of India's largest rug exporters. Mr. N.K. Chaudhary believes that the reason behind his devotion to the cause is seeing underprivileged people empowered. He wants to **identify, develop and enhance** their skills, so that they could continue sustaining and lead a respectful life. To develop them and bring in to the rug production value chain, he established Jaipur Rugs Foundation, which works to enhance their artisanal skills and design sense, helping them further to become entrepreneurs.

He shared his knowledge and experience on “**Use of Technology to Connect Rural Market and Workers Globally**”. His 30 minutes lecture was followed by a long Q&A session of around 40 minutes in which students asked various questions which were answered by Mr. NK Choudhary very appropriately.





3.4 Workshop on “What makes a good Idea for Social Start – Up (1:00 - 2:00 pm)”

Workshop taken by: TEJ DHAMI

Tej Dhami is the Director of Incubation Support at UnLtd India. Tej has spent the last 18 months working with social enterprises in India such as SMV Wheels. She has eight years of finance experience in London as an Equities Fund Manager and Vice President of Equities at JPMorgan. She has an MA in Politics, Philosophy and Economics from Lady Margaret Hall Oxford.

It was a 1 hour Workshop in which Ms Tej discussed about various aspects of ideas that would make a good social start-up. She also discussed about how to get funding for such start-ups.



3.5 Innovator Talk by Mr. Mani Vajipey (2:00-3:00 pm)

Talk by Mr. Mani Vajipey, Founder and CEO of Banyan recycling

Built an organization that transforms the solid waste management landscape in India through technological innovations, better practices and grassroots activism. Mani developed the business model at Steve Blank's Lean Launch Pad Program and Columbia Business School's Greenhouse Incubator. Mani holds Dual MBAs from UC Berkeley (Haas) and Columbia Business Schools, a Masters Degree in Electrical Engineering from the University of Delaware and a Bachelors Degree, also in Electrical Engineering from National Institute of Technology, Warangal.

He talked about his innovative Business of Solid Waste management and his innovation. Mr. Mani Discussed about his journey from being a businessman to becoming an entrepreneur. He discussed about Highs and lows which an Innovator faces and how he can overcome these phases. It was a motivational and a inspirational talk by an emerging innovator Mr. Mani Vajipey.

3.6 Case Study Session:

Participated students were divided into groups of 10-15 students each and each group was allotted an NGO delegate as a Mentor. Each group was given a case study based on a problem faced by people and the solution they came up with to solve the problem. Case studies were from different sectors like Health, Education, Water, etc. Students were asked to do the SWOT analysis of the solution and then teams presented their analysis to all the teams presented their. It was a highly effective session and all the participants worked with great enthusiasm.







4. Events, Day-2

4.1 Launch of 'Action-Plan' Competition

Abhyuday launched **Action-Plan** competition nationwide in the presence of Prof. Mohammad Tariq, an Ashoka Fellow and NFI Fellow, who is Instrumental in the beginning of Koshish, TISS Field Action Project on Homelessness and Destitution. He will be our judge for the competition.

This competition will take participating teams of college students through stages starting from identifying a specific social problem through stakeholder interaction, engaging with stakeholders and organisations to build sustainable and implementable solutions.

The Action Plans in the lines of **Activism/Not for Profit/Social Entrepreneurship** led models will be validated and nurtured through the strong network of Mentors, partner NGOs and social organisations. We are also building a network of student leaders from various colleges to facilitate this process.

4.2 Launch of TechGSR team

TechGSR Solution Team, the **technical wing** of Abhyuday, IIT Bombay, will be working on making a technical solution to make a model of ideal **Hirewadi** village so that it can be implemented in other parts of the country.

TechGSR believes that it is the duty of every **Techgeek** and also every student to be socially responsible citizen. This initiative is a tryst to not just get involved ourselves, but also involve other students, all over nation and abroad to initiate projects for development of society by using their technical knowledge.

4.3 Lecture by Mr. Ajit Babu (10:30 to 11:15am)

Mr. Ajit N Babu founded the Centre for Digital Health (CDH) at the Amrita Institute of Medical Sciences in Cochin. His current interests are in improving public health through resource optimization, aided by the judicious use of cost-effective technology.

Topic of his lecture was “**Use of Technology to Improve Healthcare in India**”. He discussed about how students from technical institutes can contribute in Health Sector. He discussed about how technology can be used to provide healthcare in rural parts of country.



4.4 Talk by Mr. Piyush Tiwari (11.15am – 12:00)

Piyush Tiwari is a social entrepreneur focused on improving road safety and emergency medical care across India. He is the Founder & President of SaveLIFE Foundation, an initiative for which he has been awarded the Ashoka Fellowship, the Echoing Green Fellowship and the prestigious Rolex Award for Enterprise. He is advocating for a strong national road safety law for India and currently expanding SaveLIFE's award-winning model of emergency care, which trains, connects and mobilises community volunteers and police officers to the aid of injured victims well before formal care is available.

He talked about “How Technology can be used to provide emergency medical care to road accident victims”. He discussed about deaths of road accident victims in India and its major reasons. He talked about the solutions which can be used to decrease these accident deaths and use of technology for the same.





4.5 Panel Discussion (12:00 – 1:00pm)

Topic: “Adapting Technology to Meet Rural Demands”

Panel Members

Sabarinath C (Founder CEO at Skillveri) :

Mr. Sabarinath is an engineering and management professional with wide experience in development and marketing of technology solutions.

Ankit Mathur (Co-founder, Greenway Grameen Infra Pvt Ltd.) :

His expertise lies in carrying out rural, technology-led initiatives across the country. This experience includes executing projects in biomass supply-chain development, rural market linkage design, technology pricing and selection and more.

Vasu Padmanabhan (CEO-Piramal Sarvajal) :

He brings with him 28 years of rich experience in sectors like Real Estate, Telecom, FMCG and Durables. He has worked at Motorola, DLF etc in various leadership roles.

Moderator of the panel discussion

Prof. Narendra Shah, (CTARA, IIT Bombay) :

One of the best Professors of CTARA, IITB, he has been awarded with IChE Hindustan Dorr-Oliver Award for excellence in use of Science & Technology





4.6 Group Activity Session (2:00 – 5:00pm)

Started with a motivational talk by Mr. Jeroninio Almeida, founder of iCONGO and writer of the book- Karma Kurry. He is a Teacher, celebrated inspirational Orator & motivational speaker, social entrepreneur and a highly sought Management consultant, Leadership Trainer & Life Coach.

After his talk, students were distributed in groups and each group was allotted a NGO delegate as a mentor. Each group was given a problem statement. Each group was supposed to come up with a feasible technological solution for the problem statement given to them. Each team then prepared the presentation of the solution they came up with. All the NGO delegates then judged each team on basis of their presentations and awarded points to each team.

The participants came up with brilliant technology based simple solution from biogas plants to effective transportation.

This session was a great learning experience for all the participants.







4.7 Poster Presentation

Various students organized social and technological clubs of IITB presented their work in form of posters. The aim of this presentation was to motivate participants to take initiatives

FEEDBACK

After the event, a **questionnaire** was distributed to participants for obtaining their feedback. The survey was designed to get feedback on various aspects of the event such as publicity, organization, program, hospitality, etc., and asked participants to rate their experience on a 3-point scale (Satisfactory, Good and Excellent). There were open-ended questions asking for suggestions to improve future editions.

Responses to the survey were very positive and highly encouraging. The participants appreciated all the aspects of the conference and expressed their wish to be a part of such events in future. The contents of the invited talks were in line with their expectations, and the Sammilan provided them an opportunity to interact with their peers from other institutes. Most participants spoke highly of the organization and publicity of the event and were happy with the Accommodation facilities.

5. Press Releases

Making sure that this noble initiative reaches to every ear in our country, "Sammilan" was covered by an International Journal, The Asian Age. This article reached hundreds and even got attention by the people from Germany.

The social festival of IIT Bombay

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IITians work to bridge tech gap in rural India

Aug 18, 2014 | Age Correspondent | Mumbai



The Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay (IIT-B) played host to the first annual conference, Sammilan, organised by the ministry of human resource development in collaboration with Abhyuday, IIT-B on "Urban Rural Divide-Bridging the Technology gap" on Saturday at its Powai campus. According to the organisers, Sammilan is aimed at increasing student participation in social causes and rural development by using latest technology to develop products catering to health issues in rural India. The initiative is targeted at students from different colleges and institutions across the country in the form of events and competitions.

Speaking about the conference, Gourav Soni, an IITian who is a member of team Abhyuday that works on encouraging IITians and non-IIT students to take up social causes, said that Sammilan was in line with Abhyuday's goals and hence hosting the two-day conference was natural.