

PREPARING THE YOUTH FOR THE 21st CENTURY

May 27, 1998 - June 02, 1998

The nearest one could reach heaven by living on earth is by being at Asia Plateau, Panchgani, that is where the Youth Conference "Preparing the Youth for the 21st Century" was held. We had around 180 participants from all across India.

The conference was inaugurated by Mrs. Neha Mazumdar with a symbolic lighting of lamp.

Each day began with Quite Time, followed by Morning Sessions which ended with the Question-Answer Hour. Later, all the participants with their own team had group discussion on different subjects.

A unique feature of this years youth camp was the Meditation Workshop. Participants experienced a new world of peace, depth, and imagination during meditation.

Participants started realizing the importance of Quite Time and many came forward to share their act of restitution.

A young participant, Tejdeep, from Surat, used all his energy in the wrong direction by indulging himself in socially destructive activities such as destroying public properties, hitting people, etc. When he came for the camp he was carrying ill will in his heart for the organiser. The concept of quiet time made him look into himself and he began to realise that all that he thought was right was infact wrong. Before he left Asia Plateau, he wrote down his wrong deeds on paper and made a strong commitment to put things right in his life. He felt that GOD has sent him with a purpose and he can instead use his energy in a creative way.

Another youth Shivanshu Mishra from Baroda realised that he carried a lot of jealousy in his heart for his younger sister. It was after a lot of courage that he finally rang her up and asked for forgiveness. He also shared that he needs to work on the jealousy factor which has caused him a great deal of disturbance and he realised that he was even loosing friends.

FRIENDS OF MORAL RE-ARMAMENT (INDIA)

ASIA PLATEAU PANCHGANI 412805 MAHARASHTRA.

TELEPHONES : (02168) 40241 & 40242 CABLE NEWORLNEWS. FAX : (02168) 40004

A teenage girl from the city of Mumbai comes from a broken family where her father is an alcoholic. She had not been talking to her father since many years. She had attempted to take her life a couple of times, but GOD has a plan for everybody. At the youth conference, she realised that by taking her own life, she would grieve her dear ones. She felt that she should look at life the Moral Re-armament way and work towards the solution through prayers and quite time.

One morning, the question was asked about the relationship with parents. Many of them wrote to their parents putting right their relationship. 18 year old Deep felt that everything was alright in his family. But when he started writing, he ran short of pages and tears rolled down his cheeks. Later on, he called his father and told him "I love you Dad". His father responded and the burden he carried for many years just disappeared. "When one is willing to change, God is there to help".

All these are just a few glimpses of the commitments and restitutions made by the participants at the youth camp.

For the Morning Sessions, we had invited speakers to express their views on subjects like Globalisation, Liberalisation, Environment, Garbage Problem, and Spirituality.

Rajiv Dixit spoke on Multinational Companies with Zero investment and surprised the participants by showing how cleverly these four thousand multinational companies were draining the wealth of our country, all in the name of globalisation and liberalisation. His facts and figures made the participants realise the importance of the SWADESHI MOVEMENT.

Abhay Mokashe, a renowned journalist and a political editor of MID-DAY touched the hearts of the participants, by relating about the death of workers in the Rann of Kutch due to starvation, where a meager wage of Rs:1.08 paise is paid per day. Such is the condition of our country after fifty years of independence.

Jyothibhai Desai, former principal of the Institute of Gandhian Education at Vedchi, emphasised the importance of the Gandhian values as a way of life. He even quoted that success is not measured by wealth but by inner satisfaction.

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One afternoon, Ketan Mehta's SARDAR 'The Iron Man Of India'. Later was screened. At the end of it, the director himself answered a volley of questions from the eager participants.

Moral values is the foundation of a civilised society. But the foundation can only be solid if the roots of spirituality are deep and strong. Dr. Nagarkatti, a renowned surgeon spoke on the spirituality aspect, where he emphasised the link between spiritual values and modern science.

Environment is a concern all over the world. Nandkumar Moghe, an environmentalist, showed us the ways and means of converting garbage into a product of value.

The camp ended with the presentation of certificates to each participants.

The participants left Asia Plateau ; spiritually re-armed and motivated ; with tears of happiness in their eyes ; a ray of hope in their hearts and a promise to keep up to the standards of Moral ReArmament for a BETTER, STRONGER, UNITED India.

JAI HIND !!!