



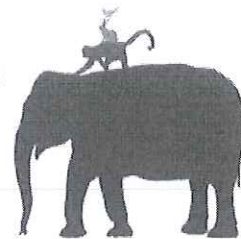
Summer Youth Initiative (6th Cohort)

2-5th July, 2019

Royal Thimphu College, Thimphu



THE YOUTH INITIATIVE FOR
DEBATE, DELIBERATION
& DIALOGUE





འབྲུག་ཡུལ་གྱི་གཞི་རྒྱ་རྒྱུ་ལྷན་ཁང་།
BHUTAN CENTRE
for MEDIA AND DEMOCRACY



CISU CIVIL SOCIETY IN
DEVELOPMENT

TABLE OF CONTENTS

BACKGROUND	3
AIM & OBJECTIVE	3
SKILLS TO BE DEVELOPED	3
PROGRAMME	4
Day 1 2nd July, 2019	4
Day 2 3rd July, 2019	4
Day 3 4th July, 2019	5
Day 4 5th July, 2019	5
EVALUATION	6
Quantitative	6
Qualitative	9
Annex 3: Photo	10
Annex 4: Participant List	13



BACKGROUND

Youth Initiative (YI) adopts the vision to create '*An engaged society rooted in youth inclusion in policy making*', where youths can realize their roles as 'stakeholders of national issues' and be both motivated and competently skilled to become active citizens striving for positive change.

As a follow-up to the winter YI, the summer YI brings the same cohort together to train them in Media and Democracy Literacy (MDL) and Habits of the Heart. In addition to these two major learning areas, they also have an opportunity to finalize their Position Papers in their respective groups and present their findings.

AIM & OBJECTIVE

To contribute to the development of a cohort of highly motivated and engaged youth who are able to explore, critically examine and understand the socio-political landscape of Bhutan. By doing so, youth are empowered to become active, engaged and smart citizens.

SKILLS TO BE DEVELOPED

- Policy Research, Review & Comprehension
- Smart and responsible consumer of news and information
- Facilitation Skills and Critical Thinking
- Socio-political consciousness & Active Citizenship





PROGRAMME

Day 1 | 2nd July, 2019

The first half of the day was invested in re-learning each other's names, followed by an energizer and then a 'quote' exercise where the participants picked a random quote and related that quote to a life experience that they have had. Then, their reflections were shared with the larger group in a plenary setting. The morning concluded with a 'think-pair-share' session on the state of their position papers. Here, prompting questions were asked to help them realize areas of strengths and gaps in their papers so that they can begin to refine further in the subsequent days.

For the latter part of the day, a professor from Jigme Singye Wangchuck School of Law conducted an interactive session aimed at refreshing the memories of the YI participants on policy and research. In order to deepen their understanding of the topic, the professor also spoke about his personal experience and journey drafting the Drug law. On this topic, the complexity and nuances of amending in policies and laws were touched upon to build the resilience of the YI members. The remainder of the day was spent on revisiting their position papers, a short debrief session and a movie with discussion.

Day 2 | 3rd July, 2019

'The Human Network' exercise was conducted at the start of the day where the participants were encouraged to share a moment in their lives when they had to rely on someone for something important to them. Their answers ranged from pets to roommates, friends, parents, grandparents and even strangers. This served as a prelude to the 1st Habit of the Heart, i.e Interdependence where the participants and the facilitator shared their ideas on karmic connections as a central theme as they understood interdependence and its implications on family life, politics, ecology and even the larger global ecosystem.

Next, sessions on media and democracy literacy (MDL) were conducted under which the participants reflected and shared their consumption habits of news and being intentional about who is manufacturing the news that they consume. Here, emerging trends in fake news, opinion pieces, ease of sharing information and 'news' were discussed. The participants also contextualized these learnings within the realities of Bhutan along with the power that technology has to shape the information landscape. Next they identified confusing gaps and sections in their position papers, first in groups; then through feedback from their peers. A session on the 2nd and 3rd Habit of the Heart was conducted where they adopted a stand (for/against) on imported junk food as a practice in valuing the 'other' (2nd Habit) and holding



tensions in creative ways to generate life-giving answers to problems (3rd Habit). The remainder of the evening was spent working on revising and incorporating suggested feedback. Two groups went into the field to gather primary data which would improve their position papers; the three groups remained back to collect their data over online channels.

Day 3 | 4th July, 2019

The day began with differentiating between propaganda, entertainment, advertisement and raw information by prompting the participants to think if any of these fall in the category of 'news'. Afterwards, participants engaged in conversations about what constituted news, along with factors of neutrality, bias, accountability, system of check and balance, means of verification and reliability when consuming news.

Sessions on MDL continued after lunch with an exercise in the story of the 'three little pigs' told from the perspective of the wolf, followed by reflection and discussion on the importance of balancing perspectives in news. The growing phenomenon of fake news was also discussed after a short TED talk video on how a kidnapping case by Boko Haram was deemed a hoax, which allowed people to remain complacent and silent. MDL was wrapped up with a reading on a case study involving facebook as the catalyst to a murder and rape case to prompt reflection on social media behavior. Next an exercise to ask meaningful questions to each other was conducted with the 'two questions mingle' followed by a plenary discussion. The remainder of the day was spent on data tabulation and analysis from the previous day's data collection.

Day 4 | 5th July, 2019

The final day began with the 4th habit of the heart on personal voice and agency. For this, the 'circle of concern' and 'circle of influence' were introduced to differentiate between issues that one has control over versus those they don't. Ultimately there was consensus on the point that an active and engaged citizen should aspire to expand their circle of influence and not become reactive characterized by shrinking their circle of influence. Next, a short documentary from SJI community mapping ('Reviving a Farm Road') was introduced to discuss the 5th habit of the heart, 'capacity to create community'.

Next, the participants prepared their presentation in their respective groups and presented their findings to their peers, the steering committee (consisting of YI Alumni) and member from Bhutan Transparency Initiative. Following were some of the significant findings and recommendations made by the groups:



1. Effectiveness of the Plastic Ban and its Alternatives

2. Internet Usage Pattern Among Youths

- Nearly $\frac{2}{3}$ of participants spend more than 3 hours on the internet and the same amount did not receive any lessons on how to be safe on social media
- The top three areas where participants spend their time are entertainment (27.1%), communication (21.9%), and socialization (19.8%).
- Age and gender did not play a role in the amount of time spent on the internet

3. Attitudes and Level of Acceptance for LGBTQI Community (A Case Study)

- Among the departments at Sherubtse college, the level of awareness are as follows: Social science (65.3%), Environmental and Life science (49.6), Cyber (48.5), Science (45.6%) and Arts and Humanities (44.21%)
- Greater level of awareness does not translate to higher levels of acceptance. Even though Arts and Humanities rank the least in awareness, they rank second highest in the level of acceptance
- 62% of the respondents become aware of LGBTQI through TV and social media and 23% through lecturers, teachers and college
- Recommendation: Since 85% of the respondents become aware and shape their views through TV, social media and lecturers, any advocacy campaign should target these channels and medium for communication.

4. Nutrition at Samtse College of Education

5. Local Perceptions on Paper Recycled Souvenir Products

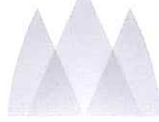
- Contrary to popular belief, 72.2% of the total respondents interviewed preferred recycled products over commercial one
- Moreover, the willingness to pay for recycled products (measured by asking how much they would pay for the product) were much higher than its commercially produced counterparts (earrings and bracelet)

EVALUATION

Quantitative

Planning for longer term monitoring and evaluation, the format was altered to capture shifts not just on a year-long activity level but rather at a multi-year programme level. For this, the evaluation was broken down into three parts:

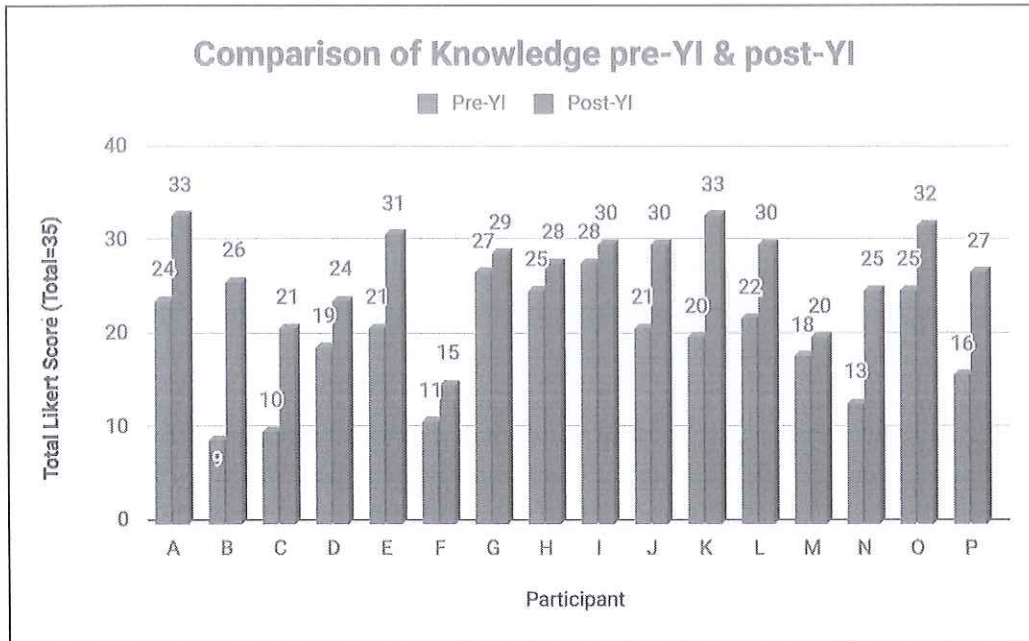
1. Knowledge



2. Attitude
3. Practice

1. Knowledge

Under knowledge, seven questions were asked that delved into their knowledge regarding the relevant stakeholders, policies, news, rights/duties and social issues. After cleaning up for missing data and comparing the individual data side-by-side, the following findings were discovered:

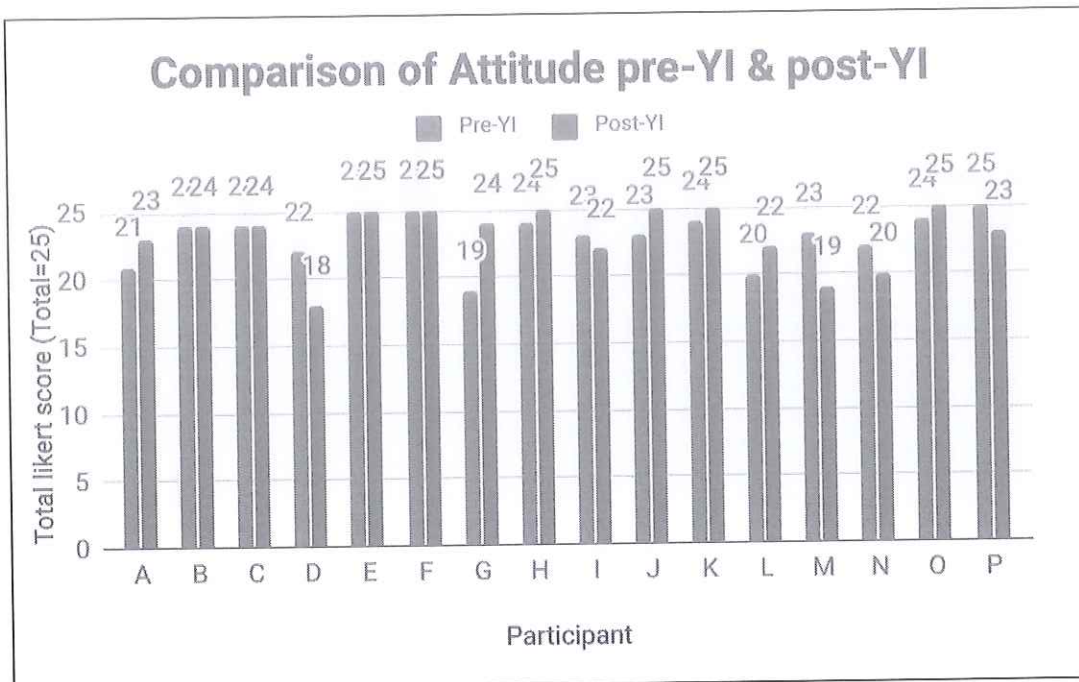


Overall the post-YI data are higher than the pre-YI data. For participant B, C, N and P, the differences are more than double. Participant C (female, 16, Samtse) described her experience as an 'awakening for me' while participant B (female, 18, t/gang) found herself 'getting engaged in... activities for the betterment of what's around us'. For participant N (male, 21, Chukha) he became more interested in staying engaged and informed of various issues affecting the country.

If the data on knowledge is further segregated by the participants' knowledge on their constituency versus on the broader national level, the average score for national (11.6) is higher than their knowledge on constituency (7.7) on a total of 15. In relation to the programme, the data supports the fact that the content of the YI focuses on the broader questions of citizenship. This focus is also in order to keep the content suitable and relevant to cater to the needs of the participants, who come from diverse backgrounds.



2. Attitude



Under attitude, five questions were asked to determine their normative views (beliefs, ought to, should, etc) or confidence in their abilities to effect change. From the graph above, there isn't much difference between pre and post-YI. Since attitude takes longer time to shape or change, perhaps this contributes to the lack of shift over a period of just four days. However the average for attitude in both pre and post-YI come to 23 (total of 25) which is very high. This merits exploring the content of YI which contributes to the strength so that it can be preserved and carried forward to the next cycle of YI.

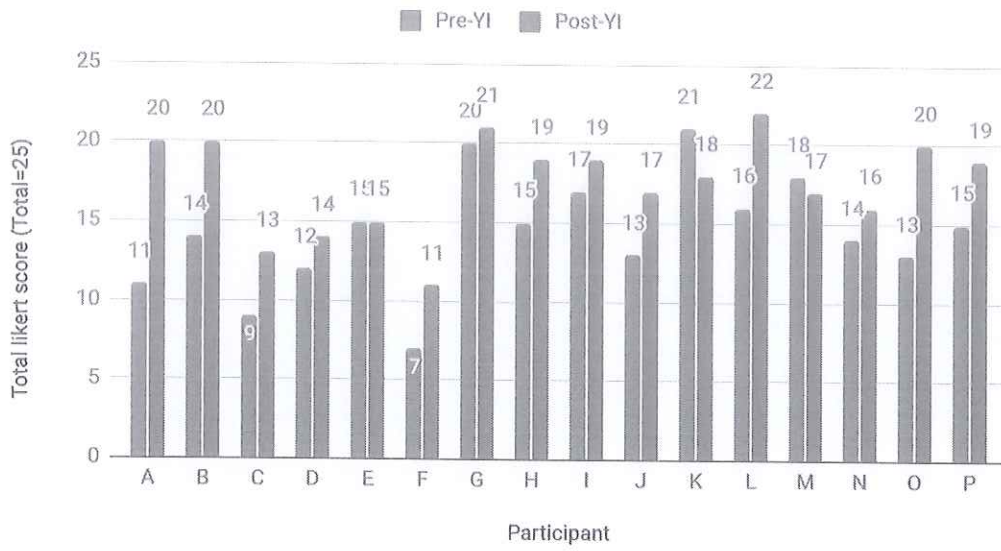
3. Practice

Overall, the average score for post-YI (17.6) is a bit higher than pre-YI (14.4) for a total possible score of 25. For participants A, B and O, the difference is really pronounced. Participant A (female, 21, Thimphu) mentioned how she has stopped being just somebody who complains and become one 'who would change what I want changed' and participant O remarks along the same line of having the confidence to 'influence the society and make a huge difference'. As mentioned under 'knowledge', participant B found herself getting more engaged for the betterment of her community.

Under 'practice', five questions were asked that targeted measuring the two areas: discourse (speech-oriented) and projects (action-oriented). If we compare the average scores of discourse and project, we see no significant difference in scores.



Comparison of Practice pre-YI & post-YI



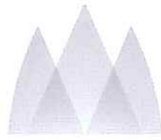


Qualitative

How do you think this programme can be improved further henceforth?

From the evaluation as well as informal conversations with the participants, it was learned that one of the major challenges was balancing their work for YI with their school work; therefore there was a consensus on lengthening the duration of the winter YI so they would have their research questions and tools ready before they depart. This way, they would be able to jump into data collection and analysis which would reduce their workload substantially.

Other suggestions included more practical session so that their learnings could become cemented in their minds. In addition, a lot of positive responses were made regarding the facilities at Royal Thimphu College. A few of the minor suggestions included taking the winter YI to a warmer place (Punakha) which would also decongest the opportunities available in the capital city.



Annex 3: Photo



Photo: Conducting ‘The Human Network’ activity to discuss and reflect on the 1st habit of the heart, i.e. interdependence



Photo: Reviewing their position papers in their respective groups to identify areas of improvement and refinement



Photo: Participants sharing what they appreciated about each other in the 'Appreciation' exercise which is an application of the 2nd habit, i.e. 'Valuing Otherness'.



Photo: Discussions on judging the credibility of a news after reading a case study of the three little pigs told from the perspective of the 'big bad' wolf.

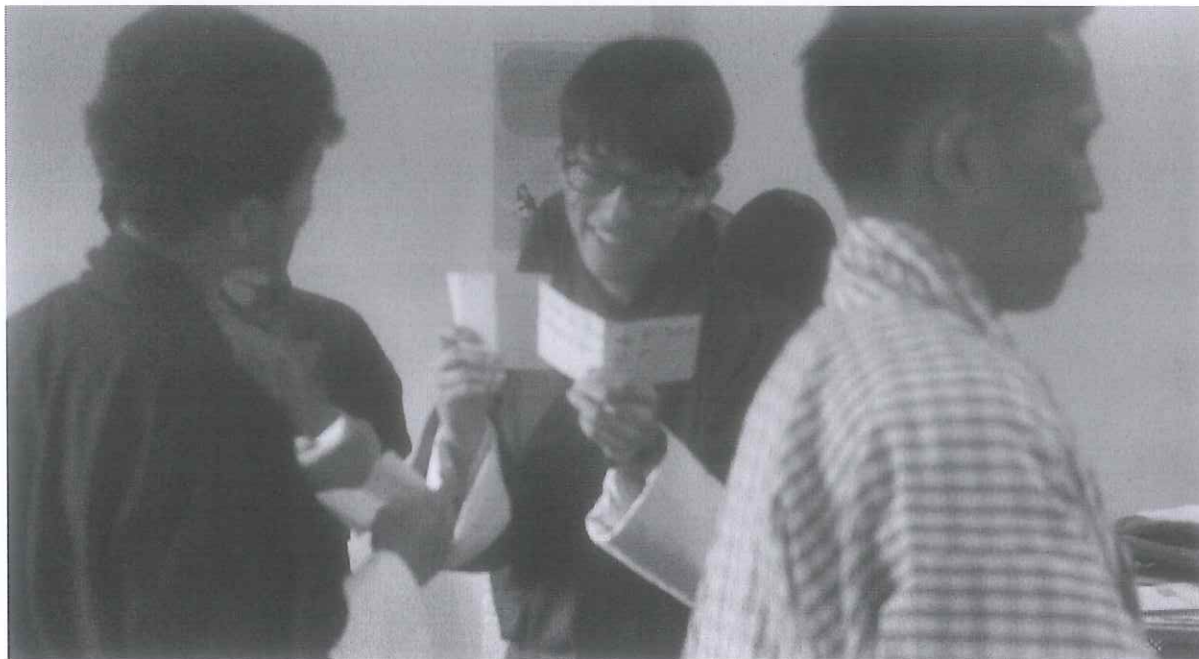


Photo: Engaged in the '2 Questions Mingle' exercise where participants ask meaningful questions about each other and swap their questions before moving on to the next. At the end, everyone ends up with a different question than the one they wrote as well as diverse and meaningful answers

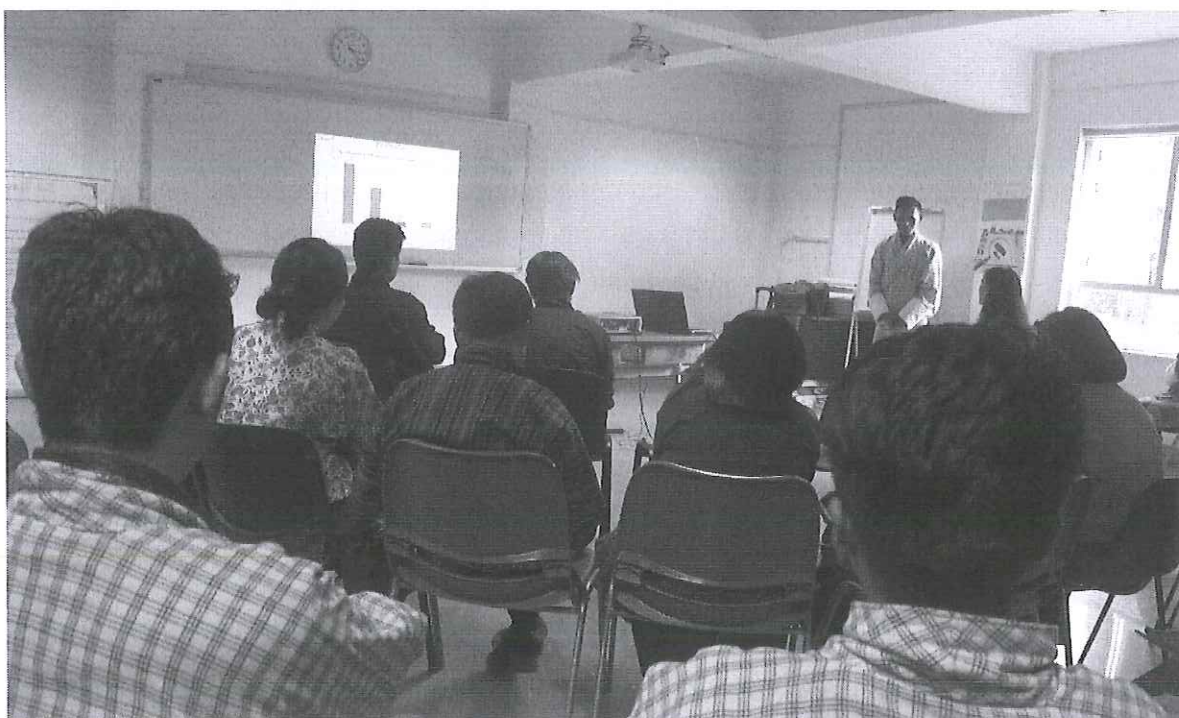


Photo: Ganesh Kumar presents his group's research findings and recommendations on Nutrition at Samtse College of Education to colleagues, steering committee members and member from Bhutan Transparency Initiative