



Third Cohort of the Youth Initiative Summer Training

9-11 July, 2016 at Media Lab, YDF Complex Thimphu



The third cohort of Youth Representatives of the Youth Initiative

unicef 



འབྲུག་ལུང་བརྒྱུད་དང་དམངས་གཙོའི་ལྷན་ཁག་གི་ལྷན་ཁག་
Bhutan Centre
for Media and Democracy



Table of Contents

Background.....	3
Aims and Objectives.....	3
Summary.....	4-6
Lessons Learnt.....	6
Annex I. Steering Committee meeting report	7-8
Annex I. Pictures.....	9
Annex II. Program.....	10-12
Annex III. List of Participants.....	13-14



Background

This year the summer training was led for 3 days from July 9 till 11 at the BCMD media lab. The training followed a similar structure of the YI 2015 summer training whereby the participants were oriented on the importance of going beyond debate and engaging in a dialogue, which is a vital value that the Bhutanese youth could learn in a democracy, and other skills such as active listening and early morning meditation followed by reflective sessions.

However, additional sessions such as Active listening, service-learning, team building and facilitation were introduced to the training this time. The other two integral part of the summer training were the reflective sessions, where the youth discussed what they learned being youth representatives and where do they see YI headed in the future, and the way forward for YI with our YI steering Committee.

Aims and Objectives

The aims and objectives of the forum were:

- Introduce the concept of service learning and integrating it in the Youth Initiative (YI) local action.
- Work on Local actions and pending proposals.
- Explore the way forward for YI with our steering committee.



Summary

Day 1:

The first day of the training started with an overview of Youth Initiative in 2016. The facilitator spoke about the journey of YI in the past six months and shared with the participants' details of the activities undertaken by the YI representatives in the three communities (Paro, Thimphu and Samtse), the participation of the YI to review the Child Care and Protection Act (CCPA) and three panel discussions on BBS.

Tshering Tamang and Dorji Wangchuk, two of the YI members then set up the ground rules for the three days training and they conducted an ice breaking session for the youth representatives to get to know one another.

Next, the youth representatives were asked to sit in pairs and they had to discuss three things they have learned being a youth representative and also two challenges that they have faced.

The youth representatives were then introduced to service learning. The session focused on providing the YI members with a broader and deeper understanding of service learning, foster their sense of civic engagement, and sharpen their insights into themselves and their place in the community. The session made them reflect on the services that they provide to their community and how the community provides an educational experience for them.

The Youth representatives from the three communities then share about the success stories at the YI.

Thimphu Community:

Young writers' society-

- Four open writing competition (2 in Dzongkha & 2 in English) completed.
- Collaborated with other youth agencies and volunteered during the Zhabdrung Kuchoe.

Paro Community:



Waste Management (at the vegetable market in Paro)-

- Advocated on waste management to the vegetable vendors.
- Conducted inspection in collaboration with municipal at the vegetable market.
- Awareness raising by airing documentary on waste management through local channel in Paro.
- Participated during the review of Child Care and Protection Act (CCPA).
- Participated in three panel discussion on BBS

Samtse Community:

Clean Samtse project

- Conducted advocacy program in schools in Samtse.
- Managed to get institution and individual memberships to support their project.
- Managed to raise awareness and encourage people to segregate and sell waste like bottles, papers etc.

Youth representatives were then presented with a session on active listening. YI members were presented with the basic skills of active listening. The youth representatives were engaged in role play and exercises to practice active listening.

The YI members were then asked to do a group work. They were asked to discuss what works best and what needs to change in YI.

Day 2:

The day started with an ice breaking session by one of the youth representative. The youth representatives from the three communities presented on their local actions. Thimphu community presented on young writers' society project, Paro community on the vegetable market waste management project in Paro and Clean Samtse project by the Samtse community.

The youth representatives were randomly asked to sit in groups and they were asked to discuss on ways to improve their local actions.

The next session was on the challenges and opportunities working as a team. The YI members shared their experiences and together they addressed on how to overcome



the challenges. The facilitator then conducted team building exercises/activities for the YI members.

Further, to build their capacity to work in a team, the YI members were divided into groups and they were asked discuss and find partners they can collaborate with and also research online on how to deliver their local actions.

Day 3:

The final day of the training started with an ice breaking session. The YI members were then asked to present on the research done on their local action from the previous day. The YI members then worked in their respective community to brush up their presentation for the steering community.

After lunch the YI members and the steering committee discussed on the local actions presented by the youth representatives and also further discussed on the way forward for the YI.

Lessons Learnt

- Should the focus be more on the Youth Summit (give small grants for the youth to conduct activities/ programs) after discontinuing with Youth Initiatives (YI).
- YI to focus more on research and allow the youth to make their opinion known through their research. To focus on training the YI members on research skills.
- To focus on building partnership with Women, Youth and Children Committee.
- Explore how we can innovatively conduct activities in the same or a different way.

- Explore how we can maintain the sustainability of YI.

- Explore ideas on making YI different from other youth groups/programs



Membership/ Recruitment:

- The need to change the age limit of the YI members from 16-24 or to below 28 years of age.
- YI has encouraged youth in general since there is no membership requirement when it comes to academic performance like the other youth groups/ programs. A YI member says YI caters also to youth who are not necessarily academically at the top, nor the best students nominated by teachers.
- Recruitment for YI members henceforth will be made as public announcement instead of recruiting students from schools. The summit will train about 100 participants over 4-5 days and interested youth will join youth initiative where continued, and shorter term training will be provided. There has to be some clarity on the differences between the Youth Summit and YI.
- Youth Initiative members will be selected from the Youth summit.
- To expand the members of YI and to make YI more fun and reflective

Why should YI Continue?

- YI should continue as long as the programme is making a difference.
- YI provides an opportunity for young people to make their voices known in a way that's acceptable and beneficial to society. Not in disruptive ways with appalling consequences as we see globally on the news with protests and so forth. YI is an important initiative in Bhutan.
- YI provides platform for the youth to identify and discuss issues in their communities.
- YI has helped youth connect and provided the opportunity to young people to get guidance from the older youth.
- YI has given the youth an opportunity to acquire new skills which has helped them be better decision makers in their personal life. YI has helped youth improve their communications skills, their ability to discuss topical issues,



their organizational skills, their understanding of how to become more active young citizens. These skills go beyond the initial focus on debating issues.

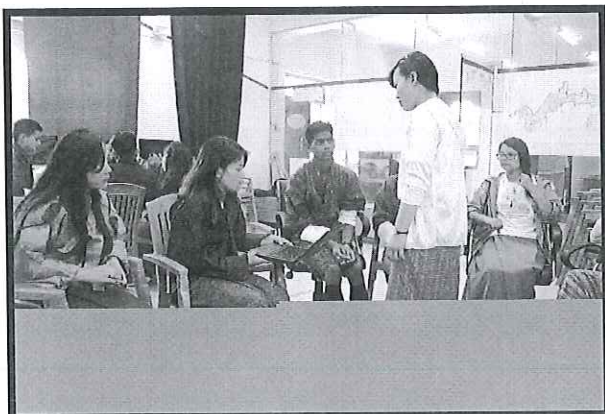
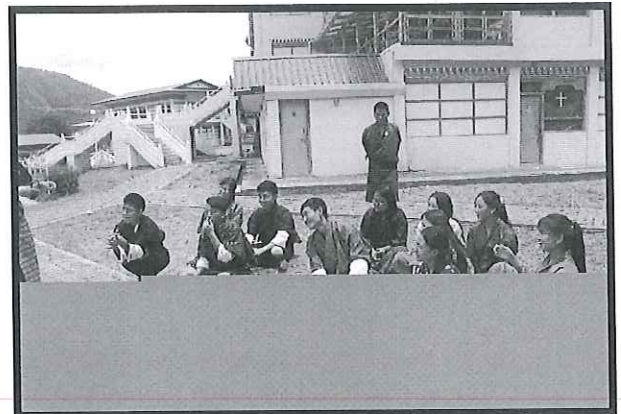
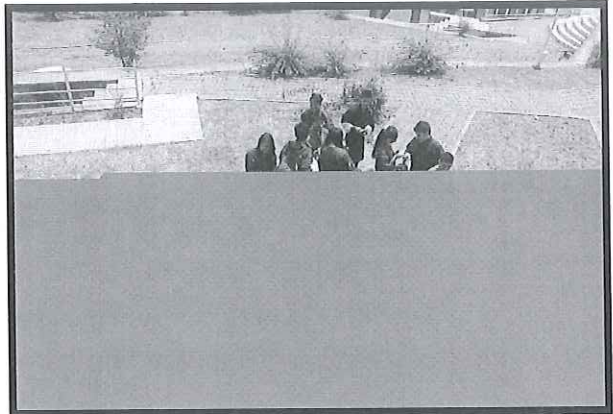
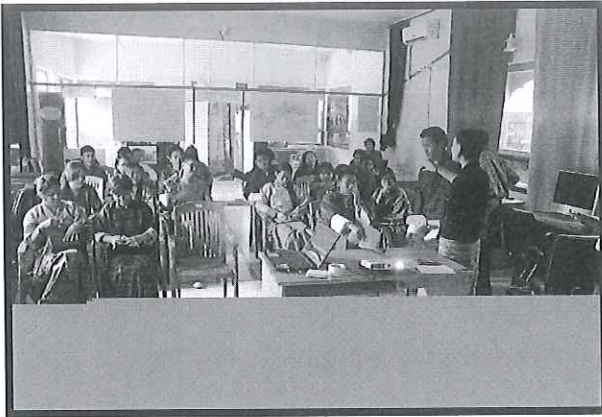
- YI helps youth to learn how to make change “on the ground”.

Actions to be considered:

- Most of the programs only target in school youth and there is a need to give a platform for the out of school youth.
- There is a need to collaborate with other youth group/programs (BCP, YP) and to possibly even have a member of the BCP on the YI steering committee.
- Invite ECB to be on the steering committee.
- Research needs: Get copies of the BCP report and what they plan to do next. Align steering committee with on-going experiences nationwide (BCP, Youth Parliament etc.)
- Possibility of a podcast programme with YI members interviewing MPs.



Annex I. Pictures





Annex. II. Program List

Youth Initiative Summer Training
Media Lab, Thimphu
July 9-11, 2016

Aims and Objectives:

- Introduce the concept of service learning and integrating it in the Youth Initiative (YI) local action.
- Work on Local actions and pending proposals
- Explore the way forward for YI with our Steering Committee

Workshop Programme

DAY 1	Saturday, July 9 'Introduction to Service-Learning'	
8:45am	Arrival + Registration	
9:00-9:05	Welcome	Phuntsho and Waiba
9:05-9:15	Overview of YI 2016	
9:15-9:40	The Art of Making tea- <i>setting up ground rules and Ice breaking sessions</i>	Tshering Tamang and Dorji Wangchuk
9:40-9:55	Pair Share 1: Three things you have learned being a youth representative?	Phuntsho