

GUEST LECTURE BY MR. ANISH SHRESTHA
ROLE OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATION IN POLICY ADVOCACY

Rapporteur: Dr.Meena Bilgi

7 Dec. 2019: Dr. Meena Bilgi, visiting faculty at School of Liberal Studies, Pandit Deendayal Petroleum University hosted guest lecture on 'Role of Non-Governmental Organisation In Policy Advocacy' with the persuaded support of Dr. Sriram Divi and Dr. Reddy, faculty members of Public Administration on 7th December, 2019. The lecture was delivered by Mr. Anish Shrestha, CEO of The Youth for Environment, Education, and Development Foundation (YFEED Foundation), Nepal. The lecture was attended by 25 students including undergraduate and postgraduate students of Public administration.

The lecture commenced with Mr. Shrestha laying down the emphasis on the support provided by young people in the community to fight against present threats to our mother-earth by giving an example of his own organization. YFEED is the organization of young individual's peoples of Nepal which is specifically advancing the rights of youth in the country. It aims to empower, particularly the youth by raising their awareness and educating the young people on various issues confronting them and their communities; facilitating exchange of information and experiences among youth of various groups and sectors; and organizing them in the country by providing platforms, venues and spaces for their participation in local, national, regional and international processes. His organization incredibly focuses on environment conservation and as part of the same passionately working on the fulfilment of some of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) given by United Nations on a primary basis which incorporates zero hunger, quality education, gender equality, affordable and clean energy, climate action and partnership for the goals.

Further, he talked about the activities and capacity building and leadership development programs carried out by the organization, to acquire youth about the existing threats on the climate and spread awareness for the same. It mainly includes the activities of promoting sustainability and bring innovations through youth environmental education and action, promotion of no-use of plastic, capacity development programs to educate and train youth and advocating the policies to the state assembly. Today, in the world numbers of platforms are made available to give voice to young minds in the process of policy formulation.

Later, he shaded lights on the different working approaches adopted by an organization for the accomplishment of SDGs such as educating farmers to adopt climate-friendly practices, promoting gender-responsive balance, providing support to educational institutions for qualitative education that can be reached at the wider social level, developing green energy system and innovating ways for the climate adaptation. To substantiate these approaches in a more efficient manner, he also spoke about one on hand projects of the organization, SDG Asia Project Nepal with Konard Adenauer which inclined towards the promotion of youth lead innovations and production of multi-media essay to give carbon entities back to soil and conduct research emphasizing climate change. He discussed the ways through which YFEED ensures the participation of youth for the fulfilment of SDGs. They co-organize youth forum session on affordable and clean energy along with parallel workshops on youth responsive and environment challenges. These actions resulted in organizational and industrial capacity development, sharing of high-flying solutions for people; accompanied by a huge platform of

networking and exposure.

He concluded the session by giving brief about the upcoming projects on environment conservation on a global level for youth such as winter school for environment development along with social entrepreneurship, youth action forum, etc. to involve more and more young minds in this process. He put forward his viewpoint that the human right approach is a must to have in all the projects. He also made students understand that, these goals are voluntary in nature and that is why till today it lacks the footpath; however, now it's a high time for us to make the change in a world we want to see and urge students to utilize the digital platform in a better way and connect with the non-government and government organization across the globe to create little difference at individual level for our mother-earth and contribute in making this planet cleaner, greener and liveable again.

At the end of the session, he opened up the floor for question-answer and students asked various questions out of their curiosity which includes what is the scope of work of the organization, process of preparing home-made organic fertiliser and the ever raised question that why developing countries pays for the mistakes of the developed countries. In response of this, Mr.Sreshtha respectively elucidated that the scope of organization at present is limited to 30 villages of 14 districts of Nepal, the organic fertiliser made from the wood waste and it just takes time of 15 minutes to be prepared and lastly he expressed his viewpoint that is not about developing or developed country but about people as today Maldives; being developing country facing so many serious threats of climate as well as Mount Everest is also facing issue of traffic jam since people carried huge amount of waste with them wherever they go so the need of the hour is to adopt the people-oriented approach for all the climate change actions.

Dr. Reddy presented a memento to Mr. Anish Shrestha for giving his valuable time to the PDPU students and shared his expertise with all the participants.

