

**Youth Empowerment Programme  
Students' Conference  
On Higher Education in India: Vision and Action  
Organized by  
Waymade Alumni Association**

**Date: 21 / 02 / 2014**

With the median age of the Indian population coming to 27 years, our country is expected to see a dynamic transformation where the population of burden of the past will soon become its demographic dividend. This youngest economy can grow to its full potential only if the immense potential of our youth is tapped and channelled in the most effective manner. Keeping in focus this great opportunity that lies in the hands of the youth, the Waymade College of Education in collaboration with its alumni association (WAA) organized a conference on Youth Empowerment on the 21<sup>st</sup> March, 2014 - a program for the students and by the students. The event brought together students from across the colleges of Anand-Vidyanagar for presenting papers on the topic; 'Higher education in India 2025- Vision and Action'. The event started with the inaugural function which was chaired by Dr. Shamsha Emmanuel, an alumnus of the college for whom it was more of a home-coming experience. As it was a students' conference in the true sense, other dignitaries on the dais were Mr. Rittam Raval, General Secretary, B.Ed. Advanced and Ms. Jeenu John, General Secretary, M.Ed. the program kick started on a highly inspirational note, as the chief guest Dr. Emmanuel infused a spirit of enthusiasm and motivation by her words amongst the young ignited minds gathered. The keynote of her address was, "if you have to do something, it is difficult. But if you want to do something it is easy."



There were 50 participants from 25 colleges of Anand-Vidyanagar. All of them enthusiastically presented their views on their vision and action for higher education in India by 2025. Because of the massive number of the participants, the group was divided into two, so that each group could have presentations simultaneously at two different venues. Each group had a chairperson to guide and regulate the discussion. In the pre-lunch session, the chair persons were Mr. Fedrick Macwan and Ms. Sheetal Ballani, whereas post-lunch sessions were chaired by Ms. Avruti Chhaya and Ms. Rini Chaudhury, all of whom were alumni of WMCE. The judges too were students themselves Mr. Rushiraj Singh Zala and Mr. Rajal Patel from N V Patel College of Pure & Applied Sciences, Mr. Chirag Panchal, Ms. Ami Soni, Ms. Aesha Patel from V P Science College and Mr. Sunny Daliya from SEMCOM.

As the presentations started, many facets to the whole issue surfaced up. As Kiran, Arti and Srushti advocated technology in education and e-learning. Meetu Singh spoke about infrastructure development as inadequacies of the present education system. Sapna Rathi and Jyoti Thomas put light on the deteriorating quality, quantity and equity aspects of present education system and its implications; whereas, Karan and Perna emphasized imparting value education as the need of the hour. Thus, many novel thoughts and ideas were exchanged during the day.



The next program for the day was the Panel Discussion. The panellists were Ms. Rini Chaudhury and Mr. Vijay Makwana, alumni and Major Sapna Rathi, a B.Ed. Advanced scholar of the current batch. The participants raised numerous intriguing and thought-provoking questions to the panel which were answered more than satisfactorily by the learned panel. Finally the day ended with the valedictory function where the prizes were given away to the best three presenters the first prize was bagged by Mr. Karan Vora from Institute of Language Studies & Applied Social Sciences (ILSASS), the second was won by Major Sapna Rathi, a Wymaker and the third prize was again bagged by Ms. Prerna Somani, ILSASS.

Finally the day of intellectual churning came to an end with the entire gathering singing 'we shall overcome' a song made eternal by the legendary Martin Luther King.