

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

KEY POINTS

- Economic Growth and Development
- Human Development
- Economic and Democratic Planning
- Economic Planning in India and Its Characteristics
- Liberalisation, Privatisation and Globalisation
- Current Five Year Plan of Assam

'Countries may have a high HDI and be undemocratic, unequitable and unsustainable- just as they may have a low HDI and be relatively democratic, equitable and sustainable.'

-Human Development Report, 2010

HDI : Human
Development
Index

2.01 Economic growth:

Economic growth is to be distinguished from economic development and human development. Economic growth is basically a quantitative concept. It relates to growth in output and, in particular, growth in per capita income. Per capita income is equal to national income divided by total population of the country. This gives us income per head. Till the mid sixties per capita income was taken as the basis for the distinction between developed and underdeveloped countries. The world Bank observed that countries above per capita income of \$ 750 were developed

countries and countries with per capita income below that figure were underdeveloped countries.

2.02 Economic development:

Economic development is basically a qualitative concept. It includes the quantitative concept i.e., economic growth and also changes in areas or sectors which are economically and socially significant. Economic growth is a narrow concept; economic development is a broader concept. There may be economic growth without economic development. But, there cannot be economic development without economic growth. The concept of economic development has come to the limelight after the mid sixties. Economic development also takes into account the growth of per capita income. But it goes much beyond that. Economic development also looks into how increased income is being distributed so as to avoid concentration of income in the hands of the few. Again, mere rise in output cannot be equaled with economic growth. The composition of output must also be examined. It is quite possible that the output of luxury goods and intoxicants (wine, drugs etc) has gone up and the output of essentials is limited. In that case total output will rise but the level of welfare of the people will not. Moreover, the growth of output and per capita income may be at the cost of the environment. While trying to boost output, the producers may use natural resources in a most haphazard and unplanned manner. Such utilisation of natural resources will raise output at present but the future generation will have to face environmental problems (pollution, emission of green house gases etc). It will not be sustainable development. Economic development is also about other institutional changes. Education, health, banking, land tenure and so on also undergo changes over time. Economic growth is not about such changes. These are covered by economic development.

2.03 Human development:

The first Human Development Report was published in 1990. It is an annual publication of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). There are three indicators of human development (i) Life expectancy, (ii) Literacy and (iii) Standard of living, basically accessibility to pure drinking water and sanitation.

Life expectancy is the number of years that a child is expected to survive at the time of birth. The average of life expectancy is then worked out. In the developed countries, life expectancy is higher as the public

health services are better. In the underdeveloped countries the life expectancy is low as the public health services are rather poor. The level of literacy include adult literacy and the gross enrolment ratio of primary and secondary education and other branches.

In reality, human development means the expansion of collective choice of the people. The three indicators mentioned above influence collective choice. The choices of the people constitute the core of human development; the technical formula or the concepts are but of secondary importance. The concept of economic growth represents only one choice, the level of income. Human development, on the other hand, covers economic, social, cultural and political choices of the people. The focus of human development is on enrichment of the lives of the people; it is not merely the rise in the amount of output produced in the country.

The Human Development Report 2010 has introduced three new concepts of human development. These are (a) the inequality adjusted Human Development Index, (b) gender inequality index and (c) multidimensional poverty index. The first concept seeks to determine how human development has influenced different classes of people in the society. The second concept is about the inequalities between male and female. The third concept highlights the different forms of poverty.

2.04 Economic Planning:

Economic planning is an instrument to attain a set of well defined objectives within a definite time period as determined by a central planning agency. In India, the plan is formulated for a period of five years. In general, the main objectives of planning in India are to raise the rate of growth of the economy, to remove socio-economic inequalities, to remove poverty, to expand employment opportunities, to remove regional inequalities, to ensure sustainable economic development without causing damage to the environment and so on.

Right from the First Five Year Plan down to the Twelfth Five Year Plan, the Planning Commission of India formulated the objectives, prepared the strategy of investment, explored the ways of mobilisation of resources and evaluate and monitor the progress of the various schemes and the projects covered by the plan.

The following table shows the period covered by various Five Year Plans between 1951 and 2017.

Economic Development

HDI : Human Development Index
Presently, the overall development of a country is indicated by the term Human Development Index (HDI). HDI is the combined statistic, derived from three indices—life expectancy, education and per capita income. These indices signify the standard of living based on four pillars of human development, i.e. Economic, Social, Cultural and Political development.

Table 2.1 : Five Year Plans of India (1951-2017)

Plan	Period
First	April, 1951– March 31, 1956
Second	April, 1956 – March 31, 1961
Third	April, 1961 – March 31, 1966
Annual plans (3)	April, 1966 – March 31, 1969
Fourth	April, 1969 – March 31, 1974
Fifth	April, 1974 – March 31, 1978
Annual Plans (2)	April, 1978 – March 31, 1980
Sixth	April, 1980 – March 31, 1985
Seventh	April, 1985 – March 31, 1990
Annual Plans (2)	April, 1990 – March 31, 1992
Eighth	April, 1992 – March 31, 1997
Ninth	April, 1997 – March 31, 2002
Tenth	April, 2002 – March 31, 2007
Eleventh	April, 2007 – March 31, 2012
Twelfth	April, 2012 – March 31, 2017

Structure of NITI Aayog Committee-
Chairman : Prime Minister.
Vice-Chairman : Appointed by Prime Minister.
Full time members : Three experts.
Part-time members : Two numbers.
Ex Officio members : Maximum four Cabinet Ministers.
Chief Executive Officer : One IAS officer.
Executive Council : All Chief Ministers and Lt. Governor of Union Territories.

2.05 NITI Aayog:

NITI Aayog has replaced the Planning Commission of India. NITI stands for the National Institution for Transforming India. NITI Aayog has come into operation from January 1, 2015. The first meet of NITI Aayog was held on February 8, 2015 in Delhi. The Chariman of NITI Aayog is the Prime Minister of India. The other members of NITI Aayog are the Vice-Chairman, Chief Ministers of states, Lieutenant Governors of Union Territories, four Central Ministers, Chief Executive Officer and the experts from different fields.

2.06 Democratic Planning:

Planning in India is democratic planning. In democratic planning the people participate in the different stages of plan making. The decisions are not imposed from the top. Democratic planning ensures decentralisation of power. There are three layers of administration in India central government, state governments and local bodies (Panchayats, Municipalities etc). At each level, the plan schemes are discussed by the representatives of the people. As the representatives of the people formulate and discuss schemes at the lowest level of administration (local bodies), it is known as grassroots planning.

2.07 Economic Planning in India:

Economic planning in India has covered a period of more than sixty years. The period of planning is divided into two parts from 1951-52 to 1990-91 and from 1991-92 to the present day.

In the first period of planning (1951-52 to 1990-91), the public sector was the leading sector in the economy. The role of the private sector was secondary. In Indian economy, the public sector and the private sector coexist. Hence, it is known as Mixed Economy. Between the two sectors, public and private, the public sector's role was more important because the industrial policy accepted the goal of the socialistic pattern of society. Naturally the role of the state in economic development become important.

In the first period or phase at economic planning in India, the major objectives of planning were : (1) to raise the rate of economic growth, (2) to give importance to the application of modern technology, (3) to attain self-reliance and (4) to secure social justice.

However, during this period the rate of growth of the Indian economy was not satisfactory. Some of the factors responsible for such a growth rate were the Chinese aggression (1961-62), the Indo-Pak conflict (1965), poor rainfall and rapid political changes in India. During this period, the average rate of growth of the Indian economy was just 3.5 per cent. The remarkable feature was the growing contribution of the services sector (banking, insurance, transport, business etc) to India's national income. From 28 per cent in 1950-51, this contribution increased to 40.5 per cent in 1990-91. The growth of the services sector implied that the dependence of the Indian economy on agriculture declined. The contribution of agriculture (primary sector) to India's national income declined from 59 per cent to 34.9 per cent. India witnessed the green revolution in the mid sixties. Green revolution implies the increase in agricultural output brought about by the application of modern technology to agriculture. However, the green revolution was limited to a few states in India (Punjab, Haryana in particular) and also to a few crops (paddy and wheat).

The second phase of planning in India covers the period 1991-92 to the present day. In this period, the importance of liberalisation, privatisation and globalisation has increased and the importance of the public sector, to that extent, has declined. There are three important factors which have brought such a significant change in the Indian economy. First, the aggregate public expenditure exceeded the aggregate public revenue which resulted in a huge fiscal deficit. The amount of

public expenditure in the public sector was rising over the years but the vast majority of public sector undertakings incurred heavy losses and hence, the returns to public expenditure were low. In 1990 (March) out of 244 public sector units 58 were sick units. Many others were loss-making units. Secondly, the high rate of inflation had unfavourable impact on the Indian economy. Socially and economically backward people with limited income were badly hit by the price rise. Third, India's balance of payments position was highly disturbing. The inflow of funds into India was on the decline. On the contrary, there was an outflow of capital from India. Consequently, the foreign trade deficit was rising alarmingly. In such a situation the world Bank recommended structural changes in the Indian economy. Against the unfavourable background of the Indian economy the Narasimha Rao government at the centre decided to introduce the economic reform measures in India. These measures have encouraged the process of liberalisation, privatisation and globalisation in India.

It will not be fair to say that the economic reform measures introduced in India have not brought any benefit to the people of India. First, there has been a rise in the rate of growth of the economy. The annual rate of growth in 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08 was 9.5 per cent, 9.7 per cent and 9.2 per cent respectively which was much higher than the growth rate achieved earlier. During the period 2009-10 to 2012-13, the average rate of growth of the Indian economy was 6.7 per cent. The latest Economic Survey has put it at 7.2 per cent for the year 2013-14. Secondly, the wholesale price index has shown a downward trend. However, the retail prices have not registered the same trend. Thirdly, the foreign currency reserves with the Reserve Bank of India have increased considerably. This amount was \$328.7 billion (1 billion = 100 crore or 1000 million) in 2015 (march). This reserve can finance seven months of import into India. In 1990-91, the amount of foreign exchange reserve was so small that it could cover only 15 days of import.

Certain problems are also associated with the economic reform measures introduced in India. First, both the extent and the intensity of competition have increased which is otherwise a welcome development. But unless more purchasing power comes to the hands of the common man, the benefits of economic reform will be limited. Secondly, excessive consumerism may lead to the erosion of social values where money power will be all pervading. Thirdly, the management of globalisation has assumed importance.

Globalisation must not come into clash with the furtherance of the national interest. Fourthly, good governance will be of crucial importance

in delivering the benefits of economic reforms particularly to the weaker sections of people in the society. In the meanwhile, there has been a welcome move to increase bank accounts in the country. Such a move will ensure financial inclusion. Benefits of economic growth and development should go to each and every section of people in the society. The accessibility to banking services is, therefore, highly desirable.

2.08 Liberalisation:

Economic liberalisation means lessening of the degree of state control in the economic system of a country. Prior to 1991 the government used to play a predominant role in the sectors like industry, finances, foreign exchange dealings, trade, investment and the like. The permit and licence policy of the government was the main instrument of the government control in the economy. As a part of the economic reform measures government control has been lifted in a large number of industries except liquor, cigarette, hazardous chemicals, industrial explosives, electrical equipment, drugs and so on. Defence, atomic power generation and rail transport are reserved for the public sector.

The financial sector is composed of commercial banks, investment bank, share market and the foreign exchange market. In the liberalised Indian economy the foreign banks have been allowed to enter into India's banking sector.

2.09 Privatisation:

Privatisation is opening up of the sector units to the private sector. The Industrial Policy, Government of India, 1991 has opened up 9 public sector units to the private sector. One form of privatisation is disinvestment. Disinvestment means the sale of the shares of the public sector units to private parties. Thus, the entire amount of capital that is necessary for the public sector unit is not supplied by the government, a part of that is contributed by the private individuals (shareholders).

2.10 Globalisation:

Globalisation means the integration of the economy of a nation with the economies of the rest of the world. In a sense, globalisation is the result of privatisation and liberalisation of the economy. A country that avoids integration with the world economy is an inward looking country. Its economic isolationism is known as autarky. Globalisation reduces the distance among the countries of the world. The use of information technology and the internet have speeded up the process of globalisation. The countries

of the world are moving towards a borderless world. Globalisation creates a competitive environment in which both the consumers and producers tend to gain.

It is important to ensure that globalisation does not pose any threat to national interest. A globalisation economy must not mean the sacrifice of its economic sovereignty, language, literature and culture. It should be possible to reap the benefits of globalisation without sacrificing the national interest.

2.11 Current Five Year Plan of Assam (2012-2017):

The entire process of plan making in India has undergone a significant change; the planning commission has been replaced by the NITI Aayog. This transformation has taken place right in the middle of the Twelfth Plan. The objectives of Assam's Twelfth Plan are :

1. to raise the rate of growth of the Assam economy to 10 per cent in the next two to three decades in order to remove the gap between Assam economy and the economy of the development states in India;
2. to adopt various schemes for poverty removal;
3. to tackle the problem of flood and erosion with the latest technology and scientific management;
4. to raise the annual rate of growth of agriculture from 6 per cent to 8 per cent;
5. to achieve self-sufficiency in power generation and to apply modern technology in power supply and distribution;
6. to raise the value of Assam's human development index and accordingly increase the amount of investment in health and education;
7. to lay emphasis on skill formation in order to expand opportunities for selfemployment and promote the growth of micro, small and medium industries including the traditional cottage industries;
8. to preserve bio-diversity and to tackle the problem of climate change and
9. to take up measures to ensure good governance in the state and the local bodies (Panchayats, Municipalities and so on).

The plan has accorded priority to rural development which will include the development of agriculture and allied activities, the small and medium industries and the cottage industries. It is hoped that such a strategy will help reduce the gap between the urban and rural areas of Assam.

SUMMARY

- ✎ Economic growth, economic development and human development do not mean one and the same thing; these concepts are different from one another. The first Human Development Report was published in 1990. India has chosen democratic planning to promote economic well being. In the first phase of planning in India covering the period 1951-52 to 1990-91, the public sector was the leading sector. In the second phase of planning from 1991-92 to the present day the importance of liberalisation, privatisation and globalisation has increased. Planning Commission of India has been replaced by NITI Aayog. Assam's Twelfth Five Year Plan is being guided by a set of important objectives.

EXERCISE

Very short answer type questions :

Answer in one sentence –

1. Economic growth
2. Economic development
3. Human development
4. Economic planning
5. Democratic planning
6. Liberalisation
7. Privatisation
8. Globalisation

Short answer type questions :

1. Mention two important points of difference between economic growth and economic development.
2. What are the three indices of human development?
3. What is meant by extension of collective choice?
4. Mention four important objectives of India's Five Year Plans.
5. Who are the members of NITI Aayog?
6. Explain one of the main points of difference between the first phase of planning in India (1951-52 to 1990-91) and the second phase (1991-92 to the present day).
7. Briefly explain the three main causes of the introduction of economic reform measures in India.
8. Mention three benefits of economic reforms in India.
9. Briefly explain two problems of economic reforms in India.
10. Mention five important objectives of Assam's Twelfth Five Year Plan.

Our Rights our Responsibilities

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Children's Day is always a very joyous occasion for school students. On that day they are not confined with studies inside the four walls of the classroom. They enjoy themselves for sometime and then, get to go home. But this time, Sarma Sir broke that tradition. Yesterday, he announced in the school assembly, "If you wish to be successful in life, do not misuse time. Because time shapes a life. You will succeed in life only if you learn to utilise time properly. Tomorrow is 'Children's Day', that is, your day. You should not spend the day only having fun. As children, do you know what are your various rights? likewise, you also have certain responsibilities towards the society and the country." The children did not have any idea about all this and naturally, they became curious.

The next day, after the prayer assembly Sarma Sir sat all the children on the play ground and said, "Now, we will play a game. You make some groups amongst yourselves comprising students from lower to higher classes. A student of class X may be selected by each group as the group leader you have 10 minutes for this. I informed you yesterday that our constitution has provided certain rights for children. Now, each group will discuss amongst themselves and write down one right in a notebook and show it to me". At first the students hesitated, but when they got the chance to form their own groups they were all excited. Discussions amongst themselves made it even more enjoyable. Till now, the adults had always lectured them. Today, they had the opportunity to express their own feelings. Sarma Sir brought out a blackboard and placed it in front of the groups and as every group submitted their paper in his hand, he scrutinised them and said, "It is very good that every group is thinking hard. I will now collectively explain what you have written about your rights. The students of the junior classes may not understand, so, the senior students will help them".

Saying so, Sarma Sir wrote the main points on the board and continued, "The UNO had adopted the 'Children's Rights' in 1959. In 1974 India implemented the 'National Policy for Children' and on 11th December 1992 adopted the 'Children Rights Law'. It is the primary duty of every guardian and citizen to work for the physical, mental and intellectual nourishment as well as development of every child below 18 years of age. The state governments will ensure the protection of the Rights of the Child. As such, Your first Right is Respect and expression. Like all other citizens, children too have the Right to be respected. Children also have the Right to know that the constitution has given them certain Rights. And that is the reason that today, I am informing you about your Rights. Who is a particular child, where does he or she live, what does the parents do, what language does he/she speak, what religion does he/she follow, whether a

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boy or girl, what culture does he/she belong to, how refined is the child, is he/she differently abled, is he/she from a rich or poor family none of these matter. Every child must be treated equally. A child has the right to express its feelings and the adults have the responsibility to listen to their opinion with due respect and importance. Every child has the Right to ask any question in a classroom. Every child has the Right to proper education it is the duty of every citizen to encourage children to go to school. Every child has the Right to good health and must have access to all facilities for the same. And this the responsibility of the adults. Every child must get nutritious food, enough time for games and sports and time for proper rest. These are Rights of a child. Moreover, every child has a Right to live in a pollution free environment and adults have no right to pollute the environment. No child will be sexually-harrassed neither in school by teacher nor at home by family members or relations.

Ensuring that is the responsibility of the adults : Children have the right to love and affection from everyone. Likewise no adult can exploit any child economically, sexually or physically. They cannot force any child to work against its wishes. No girl child can be married before 18 years of age, and the person who tries to get her married as well as the person who marry's her are both criminal.

All the students were overwhelmed. They too, had an important place in the society. That is why, they often hear in various places, - "Today's children, tomorrow's future of the country". Sarma Sir continued, "These are the Rights which our Constitution has given to children that is you. And to ensure that you get to enjoy these Rights is your responsibility as well as that of the adults. We elect our representatives to the Parliament, to form the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha so that the citizen's rights are protected and the development of our state and country is ensured through good governance. Would you like to ensure the protection of your Rights through the formation of a students union in the school on the model of the parliament?"

Sarma Sir looked at the students and the students looked at each other. Some lowered their heads. Sarma Sir smiled and said, "A few minutes earlier I informed you that every child has the Right to express oneself and the adults have the responsibility to consider that opinion with importance. Every child has the Right to ask any question in the class and yet, now you hesitate to voice your opinion. You are yourself forgoing your Rights." Prerona, a student of class X stood up and said, "Sir, just like the elders cast their votes, we want to elect our representatives in our school. We want to learn that process."

"That's really good. We are the citizens of the largest democratic republic in the world, India. We should know about the democratic process right from our childhood. I will inform the Head Master about your opinion and request him to take the necessary steps. Now celebrate Children's Day, show your talents," Sarma Sir said. The students were euphoric by what Sarma Sir said.

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The entire school is agog with excitement today. After many years, due to the initiative of Sarma Sir, the school students Union Body, on the model of the state

legislature, has been formed today. To make the students understand how the election process is conducted in India, the largest democracy in the world, Sarma Sir had made an EVM (Electronic voting Machine). To conduct the election smoothly, a list of rules and regulations was also brought out. According to it, only students of class were eligible to contest the elections and those students desiring to do so had to fill up a form / Nomination paper. Whatever information was given in the Nomination paper had to be corroborated with the attachment of proper documents. E.g, to prove age, the age certificate, to prove the class in which the candidate studies, a certificate from the class teacher, had to be attached with the Nomination paper. The Nomination paper would be scrutinised by an election committee comprising of some teachers, and if any anomaly is found in the Nomination paper, it would be rejected, thus canceling the candidature of that particular student. Those students whose Nomination paper is found valid would be able to contest the elections and for that, each of them will be given a symbol. The EVM will contain the name of each contesting student and his or her symbol. The students will check this out before casting their vote for the preferred candidate by pressing the EVM button. The teacher's would then, after discussion, distribute the various portfolios of the Legislative Assembly, like Chief Minister, Cultural Minister, Law Minister, Forest Minister, Transport Minister, Health Minister, Education Minister etc. among the victorious candidate. Today, the candidates who were victorious in the election will take oath in front of everyone. The students were very happy that they could take part in the election process.

At the scheduled time, all the victorious candidates lined up on the Verandah and as taught by Sarma sir, took oath to perform their duties and responsibilities. Thereafter Sarma Sir addressed everyone- "It is not enough that you only gain bookish knowledge by coming to school. Through education you must develop a scientific outlook to erase superstitions, and uncultured disposition, acquire intellectual values like environment consciousness, democratic consciousness, Universal brotherhood etc. Like the way you voted to form the school students Union, in the same way we cast our votes to elect our representatives to run the country smoothly. In fact the voting process is a democratic system of expressing our opinion. Through this democratic system our elected representatives administer the country according to the Indian constitution. Ok, have you studied the preamble of our constitution?"

The students looked at each other. It was obvious from their faces that they did not know the preamble. Sarma Sir said, "That you did not know is not important, but it is very essential that you have a general idea about the constitution. We unanimously decided to establish our country as the largest Socialist, Secular, Democratic Republic and these are the preamble or introduction of our constitution. For the welfare of our country and its people we will take decisions ourselves. At the same time we will have cordial relations with other countries of the world in matters of trade, education, cultural exchange etc. The objective of

anything we plan to do, should be the benefit of others. Every citizen of our country has the Right to good-health, good food, good education and the Right to all facilities equally, without any division.

In our country all religion, all religious principles and philosophy are shown respect. That is why our country is said to be 'Secular'. Imagine your school as a mini model/edition of the country. You chose your representatives through the democratic process. From this condition you will have to gather a healthy democratic consciousness. Just as our Constitution has given every citizen certain rights, in the same way it has determined certain duties and responsibilities towards the country for us as well. It was on 26th November 1949 that the Parliamentary Assembly of India had accepted the draft of our Constitution which had been composed by the committee formed with Dr. B.R. Ambedkar as the leader. After thorough scrutiny of the draft, all members of Parliament signed their consent, that it would be passed, on 24th January 1950. Accordingly, from 26th January 1950 our country was executed as a Socialist Secular Democratic Republic. Thus, every year we celebrate 26th Jan as Republic Day.

The students faces were brighten with joy. 26 January was celebrated as Republic Day by the government with great pomp and gaiety in the govt field. The N.C.C cadets of the school also took part in the parade. But many did not even know why this day was celebrated. Sarma Sir continued- "In the "Directive Principles" section of the Constitution, the duties of the citizens has been incorporated. Foremost duty and responsibility is to respect our constitution, our National Flag and our National Anthem. Secondly, we must never ever forget the pious principles on which our freedom struggle was fought, and the invaluable, sacrifices of the freedom fighters. We must always be prepared for safeguarding the unity, indivisibility and presting of our nation. Irrespective of different caste creed and religion we must keep alive the brother hood and harmony among each and every Indian and at all times keep away from all activities that disrespect Women. We must work for the preservation of our cultural heritage, natural resources, forests, rivers, flora and fauna. We must develop scientific mentality to create a humane environment. Apart from protecting the properties of the country, we must keep away from all violent activities and stop others from getting involved in violence. For the progress of the country we must create an environment for development of not only our own talents, but for the talents of others also."

Sarma Sir stopped for a while and looked at all the students. Then he went on, "We have distributed the various portfolios of your Legislative Assembly- Chief Minister, Cultural Minister, Law Minister, Forest Minister, Transport Minister, Health Minister, Education Minister. Now, regarding their responsibilities, tomorrow we will tell you"

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The next day during the 7th period Sarma sir gathered all the students at the school play ground, where they saw that the Doctor from the local hospital was also there. Their excitement grew seeing an outsider in the school. Sarma sir said,

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The 7th period has been given for the co-curricular activities but, it is seen that this period is not used properly. Today, we have amongst us Dr. Amlan Barua. He will tell you many things that you should know. But before that, the Chief Minister of our school's legislative Assembly will tell us all about his duties.

The student who had taken the responsibility of the Chief Minister stood up. He addressed everyone – "Just as the state Chief Minister has to take responsibility of everything similarly all responsibility for the all round development and academic environment of our school has been vested in me as the head of the Chief Minister". Sarma Sir applauded and everyone did the same.

"You have spoken very briefly. It is the responsibility of the Chief Minister to take stock of the work done by all the other Ministers and if any problem is there, with the help of the teacher inform the Head Master and solve the problem. How you can work with everyone through cordial association will depend on your personality and leadership quality. Now, we will discuss about the responsibilities of the Health Minister, but before that our guest, Dr. Amlan Barua will tell you some important things.

Dr. Barua stood up. Sarma sir had him felicitated with a *Gamusa* by a girl student. Then, Dr. Barua started speaking – "What I will talk about today, is everyone's responsibility. Yours as well as ours. First, you are now at adolescence, your age is at the juncture of childhood and adulthood. At this age you will feel a lot of curiosity about life and its various experiences. And if some mischievous friend incites you to do something 'bad', you want to do it, just for experience. That is the first step towards destroying your life. At this age, you undergo not just physical, but mental (psychological) changes also. Due to hormonal changes, you undergo physical changes, this is a natural process. With that, you undergo intellectual and emotional development. You think that you are now adults and want to do things like the adults. You get attracted towards the opposite sex, i.e. boys get attracted to girls, and girls get attracted to boys. Your imaginations increase – you imagine yourself as Hero or Heroine of the movies and want to dress and style like them. You look at the mirror many times. Your restlessness increases and so does your curiosity – If I do this, what will happen? If I do that, what will happen – You want to know. It is this curiosity that some times leads you to do things that are harmful to you. Let me give you an example – You constantly hear, read in newspapers, see in the T.V that cigarette smoking and tobacco chewing is injurious to health. – it leads to cancer. Yet, some boys from amongst you smoke cigarettes secretly and also chew tobacco. Some girls take *panmasala* that contains '*Gutkha*'. Why? The reason is curiosity. They want to know what happens in reality and they indulge in these addictive substances. Gradually, it becomes a habit. They cannot shake off these habits and soon along with cigarette and tobacco begin to take alcohol and drugs. This becomes an addiction. Remember, what you practice today will become your behaviour and that behaviour will one day become your character. Let me explain things in detail since I have the opportunity today. Try to understand well

and explain to your other friends also.

You have seen posters and hoardings about these topics and so, you are not totally unaware about such problems. But, the problem is, you people do not know properly about these topics. Why do such problems arise? These things are not discussed with you openly by anyone. Neither in school, nor by your parents at home. With whom do you discuss such things? With your friends, who like you, knows half and does not know half. As a result, some wrong notions are created which harm you more."

Suddenly, Sarma sir stood up and addressing the students said, "If you do not understand or there is some confusion ask Doctor sir immediately. He cannot come everyday." As soon as Sarma sir sat down, Dr Barua started again - "If a person feels uncomfortable without partaking a certain substance then, it is understood that the person has become an addict. Addiction brings destruction to a person's life. It diminishes confidence and will power. In fact, addiction is a type of mental disease. If you notice, a person who drinks alcohol, sometimes misbehaves and a person who smokes, becomes restless if he does not get a cigarette for a long time. These are forms of drugs. Drugs are chemical stuff that can change our physical functioning."

Every student listening, could feel their heart beat faster. They had seen so many people who smoke, chewed tobacco and drink alcohol but they never imagined that these substances could destroy a person's life. Dr. Barua went on "Nowadays children like you are also said to be consuming *Ghutka*, *dendrite* and cigarette. Once they fall into this trap, their lives are not only destroyed but they become a social problem also. Does anyone here know, what are the diseases that can result from cigarette and tobacco consumption?"

A boy stood up and promptly replied, "The shops where cigarettes are sold, display a poster that says smoking leads to cancer."

Everyone started laughing. "Yes, yes, he is speaking the truth," the Dr. stated, "According to WHO (World Health Organisation) death resulting from smoking is the maximum every year. In India 8 to 9 lakh people die every year. Tobacco contains about 400 chemicals. It increases the blood pressure and blocks the flow of blood to the various parts of the body. In India, tobacco is consumed in various forms - "*Gutka*", "*Zarda*", "*Paan Masala*" and "*Khaini*" - about 18 to 20% mouth cancer results from these. Tobacco is a messenger of death. It is not that cigarette harms only the smoker, it harms any person near him, equally. The smoke that is exhaled by cigarette or bidi smoker contains a high amount of dangerous chemicals like lead, nicotine and carbon mono-oxide. When the person near a smoking hales the smoke these poisonous material enters into the lungs and damages the soft tissues of the heart. Small children around a smoker is prone to even more damages. They may develop bronchitis and pneumonia. They may develop ulcers, the heart may stop developing, lead to cough and also breathing problems.

Research has shown that those who swear in their childhood not to touch

these tobacco products, they don't do so when they grow up. Nowadays, very young boys are heard to be taking drugs. This is emerging as a menace for the human society. The mental health of a person, who takes drugs, is completely broken. The ability to learn vanishes and the desire to work is lost. They cannot control their emotions and end up doing a lot of bad things. Such people cannot decide anything and quarrel with others. As a result of taking drugs, the brain tissues die, and the person loses the ability of micro senses leading to loss of appetite. The body's immune system is also fails. Drugs lead to liver and heart problems. It can also result in cancer of mouth, oesophagus (food pipe) and the trachea (breathing pipe). The kidneys can also fail. Drug addiction requires money. As a result, the addict starts selling household items, thus destroying a home and also becomes a compulsive liar. As a result, the person's behaviour and character, both are destroyed."

Dr. Amlan Barua stopped speaking. Every student looked at him. They came to learn so many things they never knew. Sarma sir stood up and said, "Why do we come to schools—to gain knowledge so that we can shape our life. For that, willpower is required. The two things that help to be successful in life are—will power and confidence. If you have these, even bad company will not harm you. Let me tell a story. Listen—You all have heard the name of Napoleon Bonaparte. He belonged to a very poor family. He was so sharp that in spite of very bad financial condition at home, he scored highest marks in Mathematics. As a result, he got the opportunity to study in the Royal Military school, where the boys from the noble families of France studied. Due to his poor background, the rich boys used to make fun of Napoleon. However, because he was a studious pupil, the teachers loved him. One day, the school-mates were forcing Napoleon to try some tobacco, "Come on, you will enjoy this. try some"—but Napoleon was adamant. He refused to do so. The boys forced him saying, "If you want to be with us. You must do what we say." Even then, Napoleon refused to put any tobacco in his mouth. He thought cannot indulge in these bad habits, as they will hamper my studies as well as my health. This will mean bad results in the examinations for which my teachers will be very disappointed. It may result in having to leave school. If such a situation arises, my family will be devastated." Even worse, the dream to establish himself as a unique personality could be lost forever. His schoolmates were displeased on his refusal, but Napoleon controlled himself. It was his strong will power and confidence that saved Napoleon from succumbing to any bad habits. He worked very hard as a student in the Royal Military school and could become the school-topper in the final examinations. And one day, Napoleon became the Emperor of France."

All the students were overwhelmed by Napoleon's story. They imagined Napoleon and imagined themselves as Napoleon. Sarma Sir gave a mischievous smile and said, "Try to be like Napoleon. Even if you cannot become Napoleon, at least you will become a good citizen." The faces of the students brightened up and each promised silently to become a good citizen.

Dr. Amlan Barua started speaking again- "We discussed quite a lot about the bad habits that are usually attractive in adolescent age. I will speak about one more topic and then wind up for today. This is also related to the bad habits. You must have come across AIDS and HIV in books and magazines. Today I will tell you about it. The full form of AIDS is Acquired Immuno Deficiency Syndrome- "Acquire" means to gather from some where, "Immuno Deficiency" means weakness of the body to fight diseases and 'Syndrome' means the signs-Meaning a condition for creation of AIDS virus. HIV (Human Immuno deficiency Virus), when enters a human body that person is said to be HIV positive. As a result of this, the person's body fails to fight against diseases and at one point of time faces death. At this time, various diseases attack the person's body and the person is said to be an AIDS patient.

HI Virus can travel from one person's body to another's through various ways-by unprotected sex; by receiving blood from an HIV positive person and from HIV positive mother to the child in her womb-apart from these ways, there is no other way that HI Virus can spread from one person to the other."

"Sir, just as malaria spreads when mosquito bites, will AIDS also result from mosquito bite?" a student stood up and asked.

"No, this virus does not spread with any insect or mosquito bite."

"What about sleeping together?", another student asked. Dr. Barua started laughing and replied. "This virus does not spread if someone shakes a hand with a HIV positive person, nor while swimming with him/her or even by sleeping together. It is said that being careful always saves one, so, to be safe from AIDS, being careful is the only way. Understood?"

"Yes, Sir", all the students replied in chorus.

Dr. Barua continued, "One more thing is very essential to be discussed at this time. Specially for the girls. This is the monthly menstruation of girls. It is very important to discuss about it because most girls are worried about it. Due to some heresay prevalent in the society and misconceptions, the menstruation is said to be an impure and 'polluted' process. This misconception is very harmful. Menstruation is a natural physical phenomena in girls. The ovaries produce eggs, which are then discharged through the fallopian tube to the uterus. As a result of non-fertilization of the eggs, bleeding happens. Every month, this process takes place at an interval of 28 days. There is nothing to be afraid about this. Only necessity is to maintain cleanliness. 'Sanitary' that is 'germ-free' napkins should be used"

Dr. Barua finished and sat down. This time sarma Sir stood up- "Thus, it is our duty and responsibility to keep an eye on if any student has fallen in bad company and developed bad habits. In this matter the Health Minister is most responsible. Again, it is also his/her responsibility to find out whether each and every student has taken vaccination at proper time. He/she will have to inform the school authorities about the problems of every class. Health camps will have to organised sometimes, with the help of the teachers.

The Law Minister also has very important responsibilities in this regard. He/she must learn about the punishments that law has decided for consumption as well as for selling of drugs and tobacco products, and discuss about it with not only the students but also with the people of the locality. Let me tell you about some provisions made by law—According to the Cigarettes and other Tobacco Products Act, (COTPA), 2003, clause 6, it has been prohibited to sell tobacco products to children and adolescents below 18 years of age.

- This act also prohibits children from selling tobacco products.
- It is prohibited to sell tobacco products in an area of 100 meters around an educational institution.
- At a sale centre, tobacco products cannot be displayed outside.
- Cigarette smoking in public places is prohibited. Public place means auditorium, hospitals, Rest rooms on Railway platform, recreation centre, restaurants, meeting halls, public offices, court rooms, educational institutions, shopping malls, Cinema halls, libraries, open public spaces, Railway stations, Bus stand etc. Clause 5 says no person can directly or indirectly advertise for promotion of tobacco use.

Everyone was listening to Sarma Sir very attentively. There are so many laws and yet, our locality, the State and the country is still not tobacco free; why? Sarma Sir said, "Our Law Minister, with the help of the students will have to make the people of this locality aware about these things and get our school, this locality certified as tobacco-free." Then, Sarma Sir gestured towards Dr. Amlan Baru and continued, "Today, Doctor Sir informed you about many things you did not know. For that we extend our gratitude to him and we hope that in the future also, he will come to our school and favour us." All the students stood up and folded their hands in a 'Namaskar'.

|| 4 ||

Next day, during the 7th period of co-curricular activities, Sarma Sir gathered all the representatives of the students Union i.e. the Ministers and said, "Let us go for a survey of our locality. Thus, we will be able to ponder over the problems of the locality." This was joyfully adhered to by the students and set out on the streets. While walking Sarma Sir continued, "Walking is a very good exercise. This is the Health Minister's responsibility, to bring about an awakening in this locality, with the help of all the students. Yoga keeps both body and mind fit, and cures many ailments. These good habits should be practised from childhood. Every year, 21st June is celebrated as international Yoga Day. It is the most important responsibility of the Health Minister to celebrate this day in school."

"Sir, next year we will definitely celebrate 21st June as international Yoga Day", the student Union representatives almost promised. After walking ahead for some time, they had to cover their noses. It was stinking!

"Something must be dead. It is so dirty and covered with bushes. chee!"—Pranita, a student, said while walking and covering her nose.

"Sometimes it smells like this near our school also"—replied a student covering his nose.

"Issh, How do the people around this place stay here? This will make people sick."—The students were discussing while walking on, when Sarma Sir said, "Along with the Forest and Health Minister, all of you have responsibilities in this matter. We must keep our surroundings clean. A clean environment brings peace to the mind, it encourages us to work. Our worst habit is that we throw our garbage here and there. As a result, what happens? The entire environment becomes a dirty heap from which germs of diseases are spread. It pollutes the environment—because of which we are all covering our noses now. The trees, flora and fauna, Mountains and Hills, rivers, streams, ponds, air surrounding us is the environment. We inhale and exhale air—which contains oxygen, nitrogen, carbon-dioxide, water vapour and various gases. But we only inhale the oxygen in air. We cannot live without oxygen for a moment. Only oxygen from air is essential for our body. Carbondioxide, dust particles and some other gases are very harmful for our body. In the air, all gases are there, both beneficial as well as harmful for our body, in the correct amount. This correctly balanced air is called 'pure air'. In the big cities smoke from the industries and factories, from vehicles and the dust etc increases the amount of harmful gases in the air. This is 'polluted air'. In the villages where open spaces are all around, industries—factories are few, vehicles are less, the air is usually pure. Apart from vehicles and industries, dumped garbage from which foul smell emanates also pollute air, spreads diseases and germs among man and animal. And yet, we keep on doing those things that pollute the environment. Plastic waste pollutes both land and water and we throw these in our drains and garbage dumps. And because of our bad habit, nowadays water cannot flow through the city drainage and this leads to artificial floods. Plastic waste when burnt leads to air pollution. A survey has shown that every year about 13 million tonnes of plastic waste is dumped in the seas and oceans. Of the garbage dumped in the seas and oceans, 50% is plastic waste. This has not only polluted the seas and oceans but also lead to the death of about million sea-birds and about 1 lakh animals from consuming plastic wastes or from the pollution created by plastic waste.

This is a huge challenge in front of you all. Everyone will have to be made aware that plastic bags should be banned. Bags made from cloth or paper can be used. Plastic use for packeting should also be stopped. If used, the plastic bags and packets should not be thrown away, but recycled. Plastic wastes should be given to the recyclists so that the same plastic can be reused instead of producing new plastic. Plastic wastes should never be burnt. We should always use dustbins for waste disposal and that too, two types of dustbins should be used—one, for the 'dry' waste and second for the 'wet' waste, from which manure can be made. Under the 'Swachh Bharat Mission' we must create awareness about these things, and with it, about the necessity of trees as well—Human beings will survive only when trees are there—the fact that random cutting of trees is an invitation for our own destruction is yet to be understood. Celebrating international Environment Day in the school as well as the locality will be the Forest

Minister is responsibility."

Sarma Sir stopped speaking. It is a pleasure to listen to Sir. He has an attractive way to speaking and because of this beautiful presentation, all the students were listening to him with rapt attention. Sir said very seriously, "Today, go home and discuss these things with your parents and neighbours. Only discussions will not do—it is our duty and responsibility to keep our locality clean and pollution free and make it a 'model locality' of the country. We should all strive together to make our own locality the best in India."

These words of Sarma Sir made every student imagine that his/her locality has been recognised as the cleanest and tobacco free locality in India. They were being felicitated by the District Commissioner. Everyone was praising them Oh, what a wonderful day!

Suddenly, Sarma Sir frowned and said, "I have been noticing that while walking, you people are covering the entire road. This is creating problems for other pedestrians and vehicles. This is very wrong. We must follow all rules of road safety. While walking, always walk on the left side of the road. Helmets are a must for two-wheelers, while, seat-belts are compulsory for drivers. Traffic signals should always be obeyed. Roads should be crossed only on 'zebra crossing'. You must follow these basic rules of road-safety, and make all the other children of the school aware about them. This is the responsibility of the Transport Minister. It is only because these rules are not followed that nowadays we see a lot of accidents happening."

The students felt hamed—while coming to school some of them walked, some used bicycles giving little thought about these things. Once or twice, accidents almost happened. That such road rules need to be followed was never given thought by anyone. "Tomorrow in the morning prayer assembly I will inform the student about the road-safety rules," the Transport Minister said to Sarma Sir.

Just then, sounds of some commotion fell on their ears. A small child was screaming loudly and someone was admonishing him. Sarma Sir listened for some moments and then started to walk hurriedly towards the commotion. The students ran after him. A furlong away, in front of a hotel, a man was beating a young child; who was pleading, "please don't beat me!" Sarma Sir rushed forward and hugging the boy, turned to the man angrily—Why are you beating the boy?"

— "If he does not work, what else will he get?" the man replied haughtily. Sarma Sir and the students realised that the man was the hotel owner and the boy was a worker there.

— "Do you know, keeping child-labour is a crime and for that you can be jailed?"

As soon as jail was mentioned, the haughtiness of the man vanished and he looked here and there confused with shame. Sarma Sir spoke boldly, "As per the Child Labour Prohibition and Regulation Act (CLPR) 1986, no child below 14 year of age can be employed in factories, mines or in any other dangerous work. According to this Act, the Labour Ministry Govt. of India, on 10th July

2006 brought out a notification vide which, employing children as labour in households, hotels, restaurants, tea-stalls Dhabas, entertainment areas etc. was recognised as 'dangerous' and prohibited the employment of children. Implemented from 10th Oct 1986, violation of this prohibition can result in a fine of Rs. 20,000/- or one year jail, or both. According to Article 21 (a) of our Constitution every child between 6-14 yrs of age must get all facilities for a free and healthy environment to live in. Their childhood must be respectfully secure. This is to ensure a beautiful future for the children so that they may contribute in the building of a good society. Employing children below 14 yrs of age is a crime, it is insutice.

In the Indian Penal Code, Article 363 (a) provision is there or appropriate punishment of those people who kidnap children to be used for begging, and even break their limbs for the purpose. The Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985 also provides for punishment of those persons who use children for the illegal business of Drugs,"—Sarma Sir spoke so strongly that no one standing nearby dared to say a word. The Hotel owner, with folded hands said, "I committed this crime because I had no idea about these laws. I will call his father today itself and send the boy home."

— "That is not enough. Ensure that he gets the opportunity to go to school regularly. We are robbing the 'childhood' of children by employing them in hotels and brick-kilns. We are even robbing their identity by replacing their names with the word *Puwali* (small one)— Sarma Sir said angrily He then began to mutter—"The activities of these guardians really surprise me. In spite of knowing that that marrying off a girl before 18 yrs of age is harmful both physically and mentally for her, still get her married. Like child-labour, child-marriage is also a big crime!

Looking at the students, he continued, "This is a big challenge for the Law Minister. Common people do not know anything about the provisions of law and that is why they do such things—employ child labour and perform child marriage—awareness meetings will have to be organised to spread the information."

|| 5 ||

Sarma Sir was feeling depressed after the incident of the child labour. Apart from his classes, he was not discussing any other topic with the students. After many days, today, he attended the prayer assembly. After the prayer Sarma sir spoke loudly for all to hear— "In the last few days we discussed about the responsibilities of many members of our Ministry. Only the Education Minister is left for discussion. Today, I will speak on one such a topic which is not the responsibility of the Education Minister alone, but all of us need to think about it. It has both positive and negative side—so, that we can remove the negative, and utilise the positive side to make our life successful, I am bringing up this topic." The students began to wonder what could be such a topic? Sir continued, "The topic is 'use of social Media.' You, of course, don't use mobile phones. I don't know if you use at home, but in school we have not allowed it yet. What do you do with the mobile at home?"

The students shyly bowed their heads and looked down. Sir said with a

smile, "You play games. Yes or no? actually that is also an addiction. Your elder brothers and sisters are busy on facebook and whatsapp all the time. As a result so many antisocial incidents are happening. We see daily on television and newspapers. If social media is used to gather information or to exchange constructive ideas with someone, then it is a very good thing. But, it is seen how false news is spread, instigating matter is spread to excite people and create an indiscipline environment. This is mis-use at social media. This mis-utilisation of internet for criminal purpose is called 'Cyber Crime.'"

"Stealing information from someone's computer (hacking) and using someone else's e-mail address for wicked purpose, stealing someone's bank card number and then emptying the account; Using mobile phone to capture someone's indecent photograph secretly or stealing someone's photograph with indecent intentions of uploading the same in facebook or like websites; using such photographs for blackmailing;—these comprise Cyber Crime. To tackle Cyber Crime and punish such criminals, law has been enacted, according to which both fine and jail provision is there. If someone spreads false news, instigating matter or indecent photographs, the Information Technology Act, 2000, article 69 (a) and 79 states that spread of such things can be stopped by informing the concerned authorities."

"We really hope that at least you will never indulge in such activities and if someone does, it is the duty of the Students Union to inform the school authorities. One more thing, the advertisements that you see in different mediums, don't get carried away by them. It is because of these advertisements that you get attracted towards the eatables like 'chips' packets. These are good to eat but too much is very harmful for health. For nutrition, green vegetables, fruits, milk etc that helps keep balance of the body should be eaten. Now, go to your own classrooms. In the 7th period, students of the senior classes will assemble. Today, the School-Inspector will be visiting our school and he will speak to you regarding some important aspects of education."

In the 7th period, the students assembled on the play ground. All the teachers accompanied the School Inspector to the playground. Sarma Sir welcomed him and introduced him to the children. The Inspector said, "Let us not waste time and go to the topic I have come to discuss with you. The topic we will talk about is not just your, but the responsibility of all in the society—The topic is 'What is our duty, towards the differently-abled students?' With the 89th Amendment of the constitution, every child between 6–14 yrs was given the right to education as a fundamental right. It is our primary responsibility that as far as education is concerned, the differently abled children will be given equal importance like any other child. We should never say anything or behave in any manner that may hurt the emotions of a differently abled student. 2^{ndly}, if you have such differently-abled students in your school, you help them while coming to or going from school. Again if they do not understand something in the class or cannot do something you must help them. Never neglect them. Lets say, such a student has

problem with eye-sight. Always let that student sit on the front benches. If suddenly such a student falls ill, then you should let the teachers know immediately. In this regard responsibility of the members of the students union increases. According to the census of 2011, out of India, 2.21% i.e. 2.68 crore persons are differently abled. We cannot think about the overall development of our country without including them. This right has also been given to them by the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016.

There is another problem that is becoming a menace among our student community. Of courses this is limited to the colleges, particularly in the college hostels. And it is 'Ragging'—by which the senior students are seen to torture the junior students both physically and mentally. The important point here is, that though this problem is seen at the college level, the mental foundation is created right in the childhood. We must acquire such values in our High school days itself, which teaches us to respect everyone. Anxiety and short-temper are natural tendencies among students, at this age. But this anxiety and short-temper does not help in the foundation of life. Such tendencies need to be controlled and it is through *yogasana* and *Pranayama* that this control can be brought about." He looked towards the teachers and continued "I am speaking elaborately about these things so that from this age itself the students should be acquainted with the topic of 'Human Rights' and they can spread awareness in their localities too. This will lead to decrease in the incidents of Human Rights violation and at one time, completely stop the anti-social activities. To make every student aware about the Human Rights issues, drama, quiz or elocution competitions may be organise every month. And for this, the initiative will have to be taken by the cultural Minister of the school. In such programs, the development schemes of the government should also be discussed, for example, under the 'Sarva Siksha Mission' free admission, free textbook as well as free uniforms have been provided. As such, students should know about the 'Sarva Siksha Mission'. In the same manner discussions on other schemes like the 'Swach Bharat Mission', etc. should also be organised by the Students Union in association with the teachers."

The inspector thanked everyone and took his seat. Sarma Sir stood up and addressed the students—“Sir has spoken about some very important aspects about our responsibilities, and we will definitely try to execute them. The objective of all-round development through education will be achieved, future welfare of the country and the people will be achieved only when you, right from your student days are guided by healthy principles and you perform your duties and responsibilities well. In these time of amazing developments in Science and Technology, if we cannot protect social equality through the education of values, the real objective and target of gaining education will be lost—you will be educated yes, but you will not be prosperous with ‘human qualities’. Right from the student days, the bravery to lead one’s people and country must be acquired. Honesty belief in justice and patience—practice must be done to acquire these qualities. Remember that day I told you—what you practice today will become your behaviour tomorrow and that behaviour one day will become your character. Shape your character during your students stage.”

With this the meeting was concluded and the Inspector, along with teachers walked out from the playground towards the school building. All the students watching, felt a deep sense of respect. Today, they had been shown the correct path to shape their lives.

|| 6 ||

The next day, after the prayer, all the members of the Students Union came up to the Verandah. All the teachers as well as the students were surprised at this. The Chief Minister of the Students Union said, “We the students of the school, are a big energy of this locality and we will utilise this energy for the welfare of the society along with our own prosperity.”

The Education Minister said, – "This energetic group of ours will keep an eye on whether or not every child in our locality is coming to school. We will also keep track if any boy or girl leaves school mid way. Usually in the villages and backward places, girls are used for household work by the parents instead of sending them to school. In many places they are married off very young. Child marriage is a social crime. We will create awareness about these things."

The Forest Minister said, "All of us will keep our school as well as our locality clean. We will have all the garbage of our locality dumped in one place and arrange for its disposal. We will also plant all sorts of fruits and other trees."

The Health Minister said, "We will see that all the students of the school take their vaccinations to fight various disease on time. We will keep a sharp eye that no one uses any addictive substance and that every student maintains cleanliness and hygiene. We will also monitor whether they trim hair and nails regularly or if anyone is suffering from any disease etc."

The Law Minister said, "for uprooting child-labour, child-marriage, use of intoxicating substances, drugs etc, we will periodically invite experts on the laws regarding these issues and organise awareness meetings, and get our school and locality recognised as tobacco free model."

The Cultural Minister said, "Every student of our school has some special talent. I will work towards the development and expression of those talents."

The Chief Minister spoke again, "We will be a force and work with the help of everyone. Today we request everyone for the support."

Everyone was overwhelmed by this call of the members of the Students Union. Sarma Sir came forward and started clapping. Everyone started clapping in respectful salutations.

About the Writer :

Jayanta Madhab Borah is an eminent writer and translator. He was born on 26th December 1960 in Dergaon, Golaghat. Now he was permanently resided at Panjabari, Guwahati. He holds Master Degree in Physics and B.Ed. Degree. He is currently working at Assam Secretariate, Dispur.

He began writing from his childhood. His first Novel Amrit, for which he got Giridhar Sarma award from Asom Sahitya Akademi was published in 1987. His first short story collection Judhdhobhumi was published in 1987. His works

includes 14 Novels, 8 short stories collection, 5 Children books, 2 research based book. He has also translated 6 books from English to Assamese. He has also edited several books and written and directed 12 Video Documentaries and 64 TV serials. He is the recipient of the Ambikhabari Roy Choudhury Award for his short story collection "Jakoiya Sowali". He has also received Syed Abdul Malik Award and Sahitya Akademi Award for his novel Morialola. He also received B.R. Ambedkar Literature National Award in 2019.

Directives for the teachers :

1. The teachers will first acquaint the students about the topics of the lesson through reading. Explain every topic in details for example, the Constitution of India may be explained elaborately.
2. First, let the students speak about child-Rights. Thereafter the teachers will explain each point in details citing examples.
3. Make the students prepare project work on Violation of Child Rights (in different parts of the world). Divide the students into different groups and every group will prepare a different project.
4. Though the lesson mentions 'Children's Day' other such 'Days' can also be utilised by the teachers for activities related to that particular Day. E.g. 1st December is World AIDS Day. On that day, a local Doctor can be invited to speak on "AIDS and the menace of Drugs". A quiz can be organised among the students on the same topic or even a drama, written by the teachers or students can be staged.
5. On 21st June, celebrate International Yoga Day in school. You can engage the local youngsters in this programme.
6. On 5th June, on the occasion of World Environment Day, divide the students into groups and let them clean a locality each. Teachers will also participate in this. While this activity is on, the teachers will explain about air, water, sound and soil pollution in details with examples.

7. To explain about Child Labour as mentioned in the lesson, a drama on that incident can be staged or another drama written by the teachers or the students can be staged.
8. A Drawing competition can be organised on the various aspects of Road-Safety.
9. There are books available about "Adolescence." Teachers will explain these in details
10. Along with the school premises, if possible take up plantation drive in the locality also. Importance of planting trees can be explained there itself.
11. After completion of the various activities, the teachers will explain the lesson once again and through various questions evaluate whether the students have understood or not.

Project:

The following projects are to be made by each student –

1. On a political map of India, write the number of Lok Sabha seats of each state, the number of Rajya Sabha seats of each state and the number of Legislative Assembly seats of that particular state.
2. To make a list of the steps that will have to be taken to get one's locality and school recognised as a 'Model locality' and 'Model school.' (This project may be done in groups or individually)
3. Make groups and send the students to make a survey on air pollution, water pollution and if there are any Child labour, in the locality.
4. Make the students prepare a list of the various diseases common in the locality, and the causes of these diseases after meeting the doctors in the local hospital.
5. With the assistance of the teachers, the students will make a survey of 100 metres around the school, if any tobacco products are being sold and if required, inform the administration.

6. Prepare a list of rules for Health preservation (Seperately for boys and girls)
7. To organise an awareness camp in their own village/ward, about Road Safety. In the camp, awareness will be on :
 - (a) to wear Helmet and save one's own life.
 - (b) to wear Seat-Belt while driving.
 - (c) to avoid driving without licence.
 - (d) how to cross the road carefully.
 - (e) to avoid high-speed driving of bikes and cars etc.
8. To prepare a project on Cyber Crime.
9. To organise awareness meeting in one's own village, on the causes of road accidents.

Main causes that to be highlighted are –

- a. Driving after taking intoxicants.
- b. Carelessness when entering the main road from by-lanes.
- c. Driving on the wrong side instead of using the proper U-turn.
- d. Misuse of driving rules.
- e. Driving without license.
- f. Guardians allow under-age children to drive.
- g. Performing stunts while driving on road.

• • •

Cleanliness, Hygiene and Sanitation

For students :

- Wastes such as animal and human excreta, solid wastes, domestic wastewater etc. may cause health problems if pit latrines, dry toilets, urine-diverting dry toilets, septic tanks are not built and maintained properly. For sewage treatment and excreta management septic tanks are necessary at home and in school compound.
- There should not be any garbage or waste material gathering dump near our residences.
- Lack of sanitation usually results in open defecation and open urination which leads to serious public health issues. Even if toilets are available, people still need to be convinced to refrain from open defecation and to use toilets. Therefore, the need for behavioural change is critical in addition to the provision of toilets. The microorganisms contained in human faeces may enter the body through contaminated food, water, eating and cooking utensils and by contact with contaminated objects. Some fly species are attracted to or breed in faeces. Infectious diseases are transmitted through contact with soil contaminated with faeces and may spread rapidly where open defecation occurs. These infections will contribute to several disease and malnutrition, and therefore also render people more susceptible to other diseases.
- Recycle bins must be placed at various places in schools to promote recycling of waste among students, teachers and other employees. Develop the habit of disposing of waste properly in appropriate bins only.
- Use disinfectant and pest control measures on a regular basis. But pesticides should be kept separately with care.
- Cleanliness, Personal hygiene, Good sanitation provide a clean school environment that nurtures good health.



NON-VIOLENCE IS THE BEST PRACTICE
- Mahatma Gandhi



One-horned Rhino is the pride of Assam
Poachers are enemies of Assam

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