

Post Event Report



Conclave & Award Evening 2010

[Promoting action based research excellence in development & governance in North East India]

www.schollresearch.in

February 11, 2011
Hotel Brahmaputra Ashok, Guwahati



[Organisers: North East Development Foundation, National Foundation for India, International Development Research Centre, Digital Empowerment Foundation & Commonwealth Educational Media Centre for Asia]

I. Introduction

The SCHOLL Research Challenge is a platform to recognize, felicitate and encourage action based social science research in the twin areas of development and governance in the North East that has had or have potential for demonstrated impact on policy or society at large, has contributed or contribute to the efforts in scaling up development and governance practices in policy settings, or programme implementation.

The Research Awards are given to the submission that best demonstrates the impact of research on decision-making within – and understanding of the issues relating to – the public policy and/or development arena and research impact on programme implementation. The jury looks for sound case studies which show a strong connection between the research and the outcomes.

Categories

Research Awards will be given in six key thematic areas namely:

1. Macro & Micro Economic growth & Management

Research and case studies that aim at enhancing the macro and micro economic growth of the North East Region (at both regional and individual state level), through appropriate fiscal and economic policy decisions, border trade, foreign trade with neighbouring countries in South Asia and South East Asia and ASEAN countries, through a practical approach in the Look East Strategy policy, through intra regional trade within the region, and trade linkage between mainland India and the region; through proper fiscal and monetary measures. The role, scope and relevance of the North East Industrial and Investment policy framework are also a relevant theme to focus upon.



2. Education & Human Resource Development

Research and case studies that aim at identifying key issues as critical for quality human resource development; policy and programme decisions and implementation with outcome; quality and quantity aspect of the School Education system and education services delivery; universal education and Right to education; education of girl child and women's education; information communication technology & education sustainability; quality of teaching learning processes; monitoring and evaluation of education processes; programme implementation like Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, Mid day meal scheme; challenges and delivery gaps in higher education and technical education.



3. Technology for development & Innovative Solutions (including rural technology & Information Communication Technology)

Research and studies that aim at identifying issues, scope and challenges in deploying technology to fulfill the basic needs of citizens at his/her own living ecosystem; role of rural technology like solar energy or weaving tools, machine that speeds up and relaxes manual work with more output in less time with cost effectiveness; role of Information Communication Technology to address information and services needs of distant living population; technology usage and delivery that addresses digital divide and information poverty.



4. Good Governance practice including e-Governance & public service delivery

Research and studies that aim at bringing out key aspect of governance and public service delivery in North East; that bring out key issues in governance and service delivery;



bridging the gap between the citizens and the government; reducing trust deficits; issues in transparency and accountability in administration and ways and means to address the same; role, scope and hurdles in deploying e-Governance in bridging traditional administrative and public service need gaps; monitoring and evaluation of governance practice and projects; need, scope and challenges in bringing necessary administrative and bureaucratic functioning and structural – functional changes.

5. Sustainable Development & Preserving the Ecosystem

Research and studies that brings out and highlights key aspects of development process that is environmentally sustainable; growth and development interventions and local ecosystem of communities; development and rich biodiversity protection and preservation; policy and programme implementation and positive and negative elements therein; development and fragile nature of ecosystem; issues in dams and anti-dams in development; sustainable focus on rate and nature of industrialisation and modernization processes; urbanization and destruction of ecosystem; role of stakeholders in sustainable development processes.



6. Livelihood & Enterprise promotion

Research and studies that focus on innovative livelihood and enterprise promotion; policy and programme innovativeness in ensuring sustainable livelihood; transformation in livelihood avenues and value additions in traditional occupations; issues and aspects of entrepreneurship development in North East; factor of market in sustaining livelihood and enterprises; micro enterprise and youth occupational changes; resource mobilization, supply and utilization; factor in banking and finance; fiscal measures in livelihood promotion; training and capacity building with linkages in identifiable outcomes.



II. SCHOLL Research Challenge 2010

The SCHOLL Research Challenge 2010 programme concluded on February 11, 2011 in Guwahati. The programme witnessed the nomination process, jury process and final award ceremony. The nomination process was open from October 2010 till December 2010. All total 42 nomination papers / case studies were received. Out of this, only 37 nominations were found valid and relevant. The evaluation of nomination papers / case studies was made by eminent evaluators / jurors in January 2011.

The SCHOLL Research Awards 2010 Jury was a team of experts from academia, civil society, government and other domains who extended their experience and expertise in respective categories while reviewing the nominated papers / case studies. After a double cross examination of papers / case studies, the Jury helped in final selection of winners, Special Jury Mentions and Special Mentions in each of the six categories.

The Jury members adopted a meticulous, transparent and neutral process to review the assigned and allotted slot of papers / case studies. The core values of the Jury revolved around quality, precision, independence and transparency.

The nominated papers / case studies were short listed in 2 stages:

Stage one: Internal Evaluation Round (Prelim Round)

Process:

Internal experts reviewed the submitted nominations and scrutinized the same. After scrutiny of nominations, the list of final nomination submissions were counted as eligible for final review by independent experts / Jurors for final selection.

Stage two: Evaluation Round

Process:

- Every Juror was provided a set of nomination papers of 5-8 papers. These papers / case studies were based on assorted themes
- The jurors rated these research papers on the scale of 1-10. They mentioned the reasons for their scoring.
- After all the papers/case studies have been evaluated, the top 6-10 papers / case studies were finally selected for formal recognition and felicitation during the SCHOLL Research Conclave.

Evaluation Criteria

The Jury assessed the nomination papers / case studies according to the following criteria:

- **Action Research excellence and quality:** in terms of quality and novelty of the topic, outcome, and policy relevance achieved; contribution to addressing key issues in 6 key nomination thematic area;
- **Contemporariness:** in terms of relevance of focus in the 6 key thematic areas and aspects of it highlighted;
- **R&D:** in terms of quality of methods, research tools and techniques deployed to derive desirable and maximum mileage to prove research paper points.

Selection of Awardees

- a. The content of each paper was appraised in terms of technical competence in action based social science research, significance of findings, originality, and clarity of expression.
- b. The degree of compliance with "Instructions for Nominees," regarding format, style, and organization was also judged.
- c. The maximum number of points that were given to a paper is 9. The highest score for each of the evaluation criteria was:
 - Technical competence in research including methods
 - Significance of action based social science findings
 - Originality
 - Clarity of expression
 - Compliance with submission instructions
 - Style and Organization

Role of the Organiser

- Every juror assigned points / grade to each nomination, based on the criteria used to evaluate it, and transmitted the scores for papers / case studies to the organiser after the final review was done.
- The Organiser totalled the points from all jurors, and the winners were the papers with the highest total score in all six thematic areas with 1 winner in each thematic area with highest scores, with an average score of at least 8 points.
- The Jury made one award, but reserved the right to designate special jury recognitions, if the quality of the entries so merited.
- The Organiser communicated the final selection to the jurors and the Organising Committee.
- The Award organisers notified the author of the winning paper and her/his nominator, in advance of the Award consultation & Gala evening.

Honourable Jury Members as Evaluators

Prominent experts from the government, industry, civil society and academia came together as evaluators to review the submitted nomination papers.

List of Jurors / Evaluators

- ❖ Kumar Sanjay Krishna, IAS, Principal Secretary, Government of Assam
- ❖ Dr. Ambika Sharma, International Development Research Centre, Regional Office for South Asia, New Delhi
- ❖ Abhishek Singh, IAS, Department of IT, Govt. of India
- ❖ Dr. Pema Eden Samdup, Commonwealth Educational Media Centre for Asia, New Delhi
- ❖ Dr. Monisha Borthakur, CSC India Pvt. Ltd., DIT, Govt. of India
- ❖ Dr. Jaijit Bhattacharya, Hewlett Packard India
- ❖ Dr. U. K. Mishra, North Eastern Council
- ❖ Osama Manzar, Digital Empowerment Foundation, New Delhi
- ❖ Dr. Monica Banerjee, National Foundation for India, New Delhi
- ❖ Dr Tage Kanno, Executive Director, Future Generations Arunachal, Itanagar
- ❖ Dr. Kalyan Das, Omeo Kumar Das Institute of Social Change, Guwahati
- ❖ Dr. Ashok Ray, National Foundation for India, New Delhi

III. SCHOLL Research Conclave & Award Evening

The SCHOLL Research Conclave and Award evening was the culmination of the 2010 SCHOLL Research Challenge process. The Conclave focused on the larger thematic area of

'Promoting Research Excellence in Development & Governance in North East'. The Conclave session deliberated on areas of scope and challenges in promoting development and governance research in the



region. The Award evening felicitated the winners of 2010 with a cash award of Rs. 25,000 along with a medal and a certificate. The Special jury mentions were felicitated with a cash award of Rs. 10,000 along with a medal and certificate. The Special mentions were also felicitated with a medal and a certificate. The Conclave also felicitated the SCHOLL Research evaluators / jury members present who took pains to evaluate the innovative ideas and papers.

IV. Conclave & Award Evening Proceedings Brief

Conclave Session Proceedings

The SCHOLL RESEARCH Conclave Session began with a welcome and introductory note by Syed S. Kazi, Lead Partner, North East Development Foundation. The introductory note was followed by a panel discussion on *'Promoting Research Excellence in Development & Governance in North East'*. The session deliberated on areas of scope and challenges in promoting development and governance research in the region. ***The session was chaired by Shri P. P. Shrivastav, Honourable Member, North Eastern Council.***

The session focused on key important issues on the capacity development of

researchers. **Dr. Kalyan Das, Omeo Kumar Das Institute of Social Change, Guwahati,**

raised important issues on the capacity development of participators in the research sector, non reliability, in recent times, of researchers to complete their project in a proper manner. The issue of young researchers not getting



exposure after their master's degree needs to be addressed. Many universities outside the region provide master degree holders additional courses which help them gain more knowledge and confidence to cope up with research work challenges. This is lagging in the North East.

Dr. Pema Eden Samdup, Commonwealth Educational Media Centre for Asia, New Delhi, highlighted the point that the current quality of research by North East India

researchers in many cases lacks coherence and focus. There is a lack of innovativeness in their research projects. It is time to investigate and think why the research focus in the region is not proper and innovative and why the region is not producing adequate amount of quality research.

Dr. Ananya Guha, IGNOU Institute of Vocational Education and Training, Shillong, talked on radicalisation of education. He expressed the need of introducing technologies to uplift Education. He mentioned examples of people who are running schools with the help of the SKYPE. Such innovative work is truly the example of proper use of technologies in the education system and the technological competences of education. This will contribute immensely on promoting research works in the region.

Ms. Binota Loitongbam, Centre for Micro Finance & Livelihood, Guwahati, raised the issue of nurturing of local human resources in research. There is an ardent need of an institute or association to develop and train the local researchers by warehousing and implementing their research data.



Dr. Tage Kanno, Future Generations Arunachal, Itanagar, stressed the need for more of action

based research in the region. Current research focus is more of academic in nature. Action based research in key areas like education and health will provide enough inputs in programme focus and implementation in the region, provided the research works finds way to policy stakeholders in right time and right place.

Prof. S. K. Kakoty, RuTAG-NE, IIT Guwahati, highlighted the fact that there are innovations going on in the region. These needs proper research and documentation for further usage and replication. Case studies on such innovations will through meaningful insight of the type and nature of solutions the region needs to address local development and governance challenges.

The session summary was made by the chair, **Shri P.P. Shrivastav, North Eastern Council**. The highlights of the concluding comments are these. One, development of human resource is a major challenge in the region. Developing research skills among young researchers can be one of the viable solutions to this. Secondly, there is tremendous capacity in the young minds in the region to acquire skills for better living. Only required is proper guidance and hand holding. Thirdly, social science research in the region has to delve on areas which impacts more on development and governance issues. Fourthly, efforts must be continuously made by stakeholders to connect research outcomes with development programmes and policy implementation. There is a huge gap in this direction. Fifthly, whatever efforts are being made to promote human resources in the region, the focus has to shift to quality rather on quantifiable targets. This is important keeping in mind the rest of India is moving head. Quality efforts would capacitate youths in the region to move at par with other youths in the country.



SCHOLL Research Challenge Award Evening

Post session, the awardees of the SCHOLL Research Challenge 2010 made individual presentations on respective topics. This was followed by brief experience sharing and comments made by the present honourable jury members. Jury members shared their experiences and thoughts on the papers evaluated and key issues that came up. The invited Guest of Honours made brief points on the SCHOLL Research programme and the need for such platforms to create a positive environment in the region.

On this occasion, the Livelihood Impact Study on '**Scope & Challenges in Paper Crafts as means of Livelihood, Enterprise Development & Employment Generation: A Study of Assam, Arunachal Pradesh & Tripura**' [A joint study by Centre for Micro

Finance & Livelihood & North East Development Foundation, was also released by **Prof. Srinath Barua, Vice Chancellor, Krishna Kanta Handique State Open University, Assam.**



The winners, Sepcial Jury Mentions and Special Mentions

were felicitated by the honourable Guests of Honours during the evening.

List of Panel Members

1. Dr. K. Ahmed, Director IIE
2. Dr. Tage Kanno ,Executive Director, Future Generations Arunachal
3. Dr. S.K.Kakoty, Cordinator, RuTAG-NE,IIT GUWAHATI
4. Dr. Pema Eden Samdup,Programme Officer, CEMCA
5. Dr. Kalyan Das, Associate Professor, OKDISC
6. Binota Loitongbam, Programme Officer, CML
7. Tasaduk Ariful Hussain, Executive Director, NE Social Trust
8. Dr. Ananya Guha, OSD,IIVET

GUESTS OF HONOUR

- P P Srivastav, Member, North Eastern Council
- Prof. Srinath Barua, Vice Chancellor, KKHSOU
- K. Ahmed, Director Indian Institute of Entrepreneurship
- Dr. Tage Kanno, Executive Director, Future Generations Arunachal
- Dr. Ananya Guha, OSD, IGNOU Institute of Vocational Education & Training (IIVET)

V. Organisers

The SCHOLL Research Challenge 2010 involved invaluable role and support of key partners:

Co-Organisers:

National Foundation for India (NFI): The National Foundation for India is an independent, Indian grant-making and fundraising body, helping people improve their own lives. NFI's distinct nature comes from being completely independent of corporate, religious or governmental control and our focus is nationwide. NFI has partnered with a number of Indian and international donor agencies and is a professionally managed and financially accountable foundation. For details pl visit www.nfi.org.in



International Development Research Centre (IDRC):

IDRC is a Canadian Crown corporation that works in close collaboration with researchers from the developing world in their search for the means to build healthier, more equitable, and more prosperous societies. For details pl visit http://www.idrc.ca/en/ev-1-201-1-DO_TOPIC.html



Digital Empowerment Foundation (DEF): Digital Empowerment Foundation, a Delhi based not-for-profit organization was registered on December 2002, under the "Societies Registration Act XXI of 1860" to find solutions to bridge the digital divide. For details pl visit www.defindia.net



Commonwealth Educational Media Centre for Asia (CEMCA): CEMCA operates as a regional media service of Commonwealth of Learning (COL). CEMCA functions through networking and information transfer. CEMCA's services are available to all developmental and educational institutions and agencies in Commonwealth Asia. For details pl visit <http://www.cemca.org/>



Organiser:

North East Development Foundation (NEDF): North East Development Foundation, a not-for-profit entity, is working towards finding sustainable solutions to bridge development and digital divide in North East India. Since 2006 the efforts have been towards developing capacities among youths and women to address immediate and long term sustainable needs. For details pl visit www.nedfindia.org



