

(March 30, 2009) Nagaland University moves on to I.T – empowerment of underprivileged Naga girls.

Barely 20 years ago (to be exact, on 13th March 1989), a young particle physicist, named, Tim Berners-Lee, at CERN Geneva, gave a proposal with the title “Information Management Proposal’ to his research supervisor. The latter described it as “vague but exciting”. Thus was born the **WWW (World Wide Web)** and the present form of **Internet**. The carrier machine (Computer) itself was assembled for the first time in 1936 by Konrad Zuse and attained the present form through the efforts of a galaxy of inventors. Neither Zuse nor Berners-Lee could have foreseen myriad ‘practical’ applications of their esoteric ‘ideas’. It is because of their acts of creation that we have a new IT-based global economy and emergence of a host of computer industrial houses, - both hardware and software –such as IBM, Microsoft, Apple etc, abroad and TCS, Infosys, Wipro etc. in India which have revolutionized all aspects of our life and brought about ‘emancipation’ in social and economic arena of people and nations.

Naturally, the universities, the world over – the Chief repositories of basic and applied knowledge – did not wish to be left behind in this race of creation and propagation of computer – technology. Nagaland University, amid its preoccupation with teaching and research, felt obliged to unravel the mystery of ‘computer’, to the masses and took a concrete step to spread the computer-literacy among the underprivileged girls of the state of Nagaland. This noble mission was conceived by Prof. K. Kannan, the Vice-chancellor of Nagaland University and he delegated the responsibility of its implementation to Nagaland University Women Studies Centre (WSC) Kohima and School of Engineering & Technology and School of Management (SETAM) Dimapur. It was planned that the former select the trainees (26 Nos.) and the faculty members of SETAM become the chief resource persons to train the potential beneficiaries in the basics of computer and internet technology.

Thus “A certification Programme on Training on Computer Literacy for underprivileged girls” was organized by the university for 2 weeks duration (March 18-31,2009) at SETAM, NU Dimapur. The trainee girls (educational qualification varying from class VIII to Class XII) were selected from all parts of Nagaland and were taught and given skill-oriented training on the use of computers in multifarious spheres viz. typing, copying, scanning of documents, printing, emailing, graphics, computer-games, rudiments of programming etc, as well as identification, assembling and repair of computer and allied gadgetry. The teaching was mainly task oriented and the learning outcomes were

ascertained by the resource persons by conducting periodic tests. No fee was charged and the attendees of the programme were provided free food and accommodation.

The 30th March, 2009 was a red-letter day for the trainees. Their earnestness and hard work put in by them were fittingly rewarded in the valedictory function in form of formal certificates' issued by the organizers. This final event was graced by Prof. K. Kannan the Nagaland University Vice-chancellor as a Chief Guest with Mr. Teisovi Angami, the in-charge of the department of Information Technology, chairing the session and Dr.(Ms) I. Anungla Aier, Director, Women Studies Centre, giving short speech. Prof. K. Kannan in his exhortation, called upon the beneficiary girls to become Master-Trainers for similar programmes in future and create a potential target group and take exclusive responsibility for their training and placement. He lauded the efforts of WSC and SETAM leaders and workers for bringing the certification programme to a successful close. The customary vote of thanks was proposed by Mrs. Petekhrienuo S. Khuvung, Project Officer, WSC, NU, Kohima.

(Report prepared by Prof. D.P. Sharma, Editor NU, Newsletter)

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