



Isa Viswa Prajnana Trust

“Building a world where every human being can achieve Total Consciousness”

In Consultative Status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) since 2015

Oral Statement to the 54th Commission for Social development (CSoD54)

Delivered by Main Representative, Dr. C.V. Ananda Bose on 12-Feb-2016

The current generation of 1.8 billion young people is the largest in the history of the world, the highest proportion of which live in poor countries. In India, there are 356 million youth. This provides us with an unprecedented opportunity to support a nascent generation of leaders.

Having said that, there's an apparent dichotomy in old leadership for a young generation. A youth forum has been created by ECOSOC, and greater emphasis has been given to youth, but there needs to be a global commission of youth which should address contemporary issues and suggest solutions with resources directed towards young people, or as some people say, *investing in demographic dividend*. This requires a coherent approach to policymaking and implementation, and governments are encouraged to reorient macroeconomic policies towards young people in all spheres.

This thinking led us to start the Global Energy Students Parliament in 2010, composed of youth Members of Parliament. Over the years, they have assembled to discuss the issues facing them, agree on solutions, lobby for them with the governments, and participate in actions and programs that benefit society.

We also have to ensure that the younger generation moves from the belief that material success is everything, to incorporating the value systems which have contributed to the growth and development of civilizations everywhere. We have made great strides in science and technology which have led us to a more thorough understanding of outer space, but we need to also work to understanding the inner space. This is where objective knowledge (outwardly-focused) and subjective knowledge (inwardly-focused) have to meet.

Great philosophers and sages like Swami Vivekananda of the past and Swami Isa in the present day are encouraging youth to understand the relationship between the subject and the object and to promote systems that integrate the two.

Objective-subjective education and practices will give rise to optimum contribution of service by an individual (service-mindedness), harmony and a peaceful society. We welcomed the UN International Day of Yoga, which will be very instrumental to promote an Education for Total Consciousness, and a culture to empower every individual to live a life for Total Consciousness.

This is the truly sustainable social development, the foundation of peace and harmony upon which the United Nations was established, and the vision towards which we all strive.