



# ENVISION Annual Report 2019-2020



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# Executive Summary

Empowering the Vision Project (ENVISION hereafter) is a non-profit organisation working to empower Tibetan youth between the age group of 15-35. It is our vision to support young Tibetans to be truly self-reliant, dynamic and contributing members of the society.

During this year ENVISION initiated and implemented 14 programmes, reached 832 Tibetan youth under the aegis of our three broad programmes: 533 under Tibetan Career Services(TCS), 105 under Building Bridges, and 194 under Global Tibetan Professionals Network (GTPN) including 150 students under GTPN Role Model school visit. In addition to our major programmes including Fellowship Programme, Global Vision for Young Tibetans Conference, Leadership Workshop, Career Help Desk, Northeast Career Exploration Work, School Exchange Programme, GTPN Role model school visit, we initiated a few new programmes such as Career Exploration Workshop for Tibetan University students in Delhi and Baroda, also collaborated with Dharamshala International Film Festival, and organized a book discussion for with a Tibetan novelist.

In the age of advanced technology and social media, virtual engagements have become a reality. ENVISION was able to provide career related virtual services to 90 Tibetan Youth through social media platforms such as Facebook, Instagram, Tidio and Emails, in addition to conventional methods of assistance, under our Tibetan Career Services(TCS). Our online virtual presence continues to be a strong medium in reaching out to students, schools, unemployed youth, employers and professionals.

ENVISION Fellowship Programme, a major initiative under TCS started in 2014, has been assisting Tibetan Youth eager to build their employability skills through internships or short-term courses. 36 Tibetan youth from various educational backgrounds applied for ENVISION Fellowship Programme since then to learn and hone their skills, and pursue a career of their interest. This year, our fellowship recipients pursued various short term courses, and internships such as Hair & Makeup, Digital Marketing, Graphic Design, Stock market, Yoga and fitness.



In addition to financial assistance, we also helped some of them find training institutes to pursue these courses. In 2019, nine candidates including five females were selected in the fellowship programme. While reviewing our applicants, we found that most of them reached out for careers hitherto considered 'unconventional' in our society, which we believe is a positive and dynamic development.

ENVISION's fifth Global Vision for Young Tibetans Conference (Global Vision 2020 hereafter) was held for the first time in Northeast of India from January 21-25, 2020. The Conference is a biennial but one of the most significant events of ENVISION. Mindful Tibetan with a Global Vision as the guiding motto, the Global Vision 2020 was held at the Namgyal Institute of Tibetology, Gangtok, Sikkim, and had fifty-six participants spanning across India; Dharamsala, Delhi, Mysore, Bangalore, Varanasi, Baroda, Kalimpong, Sonada, Darjeeling, Sikkim and Nepal. Taking into consideration the scattered nature of Tibetan communities in Northeast India and the lack of fewer opportunities for the Tibetan Youth thereof in particular, in these regions, ENVISION consciously decided to reserve 50 per cent of the seats in the conference for participants of Tibetan origin in Northeast India and Nepal. The other half of the participants were college/university students, young Tibetans professionals and ENVISION beneficiaries.

Structured around the themes, Importance of Youth leadership, Tibetan Changemakers, Emerging Tibetan Generation, and Am I the Kind of Tibetan Future Tibet Wants?, the conference was aimed to recognise and celebrate individuals who are committed and engaged in the field of education, writing, identity and gender, and also to provide ample space for

self-introspection and interaction among participants to share and embrace their role in the community and society at large. Global Vision 2020 is also an attempt by ENVISION to inspire and motivate young Tibetans by facilitating a platform to learn, discuss, and share ideas for self and societal development and to become self-reliant and dynamic members of society. Global Vision 2020 Conference was made possible by Mr. Arun Kapur, Chair of ENVISION's Board of Trustees, and FPC (SEK)-Tibet, Switzerland.

ENVISION's fifth yearly Leadership Workshop for class XII students of STS Paonta and TCV Selaqui was held at the Industrial Training Institute (ITI) Selaqui, formerly known as SOS Vocational Training Centre for Tibetans, on 06-07 April 2019. The Workshop focusing on inner leadership skills had 99 participants including 10 students from ITI. 'Building Assertiveness and Critical Thinking' through three broad themes; Creative Writing, Art and Theatre were deliberated during the workshop. Tenzin Tsundue (Writer, Poet, & Activist), Karma Sichoe, (Thangka Painter & Contemporary Artist), and Jaya Iyer (Theatre Artist) were invited as resource persons. Contrary to conventional definition of Leadership, ENVISION aims to instil inner values of leadership by building assertiveness, developing critical thinking skills and understanding self through explorative and interactive approaches. ENVISION Team led the last day of the Workshop on self-exploration, goal setting, college admission guidance and scholarship opportunities.

Mission Admission Workshop, another major programme under TCS, was held for two days on June 14-15, at the Tibetan Community Hall in Majnu ka Tilla. During the two-day Workshop, ENVISION guided young Tibetan school graduates step-by-step with their college admission into Delhi University. In addition to this, we invited Ms. Ratna, a Career Counsellor with iDreamCareer Consultancy, to attend to various career-related queries and concerns of the participating students. Since Tibetan students get admitted into Delhi University under the Foreign Students' Category, ENVISION felt it important to organize an interactive session with Prof. Shyama Rath, the Deputy Dean of DU Foreign Students, who deals with Foreign students' admission and can provide hand-on information about Delhi University admission process.

During the admission time between June-July, an ENVISION Staff visited the Dean Office's daily to practically help Tibetan students with their admission for instance, from filling forms, to attending to their admission concerns to speaking to DU Admission Officers. In addition to 22 Workshop participants, ENVISION helped 53 Tibetan students with their admission process into Delhi University in 2019. ENVISION's Career Help Desk at Tibetan Settlement, Majnu ka Tilla completed a year this March. The Help

Desk operating through the office of Regional Tibetan Women's Association (RTWA) every Wednesday targets unemployed youth in and around the Settlement. Two staff from ENVISION attend the Career Help Desk and provide services such as assisting unemployed Youth and job seekers with career guidance, job preparedness, and connect them to job linkages/training institutes to further their employability skills. 22 people reached out to us in 2019. Many times, parents also approach our Help Desk to seek general advice for their children. Four parents dropped in at our Help Desk during this period. Of the 22, Karma Gyurmey and Tenzin Tsewang, who could not continue school after class IX from Tibetans Homes Rajpur and TCV Gopalpur, visited our Career Help Desk. ENVISION helped Karma Gyurmey get enrolled in the Ritinjali Second Programme, wherein he is continuing his class X and also learning life skills. Tenzin Tsewang was admitted to ITI, Dehradun with ENVISION's support. Second Career Exploration Workshop for Tibetan School Children in Northeast India was held at Sambhota Sonada, Central School for Tibetans (CST) Darjeeling and Kalimpong from 24-26th May 2019. ENVISION has been holding this workshop in the same schools since last year based on the request from the school and the urgent need to reach out to the Tibetan youth in the scattered Northeast community. There are no assigned permanent Career Counsellors in these three schools.

Our three main objectives of conducting the Workshop are:

- to create self-awareness by helping students in exploring their values and interests
- provide information on college options/career choices/scholarship opportunities
- share information on ENVISION's programmes

The workshops covered a total of 122 students, out of which 60 students are from Sambhota Sonada, 34 from CST Darjeeling and 28 from CST Kalimpong.

Career Exploration Workshop for Tibetan University Students in Delhi and Baroda were held respectively in August and October in 2019. This is the first time that ENVISION is Conducting a workshop in Baroda. One of the main objectives of the Career Exploration Workshop for University Students is to assist them build essential skills required to make them employable after their studies. Participants therefore were guided through tutorials and tips on writing effective resumes and cover letters, and basic professional email etiquettes. Students took great interest and engaged actively in all the exercises. A total of 56 including 26 students from Baroda participated in the workshop.

With the objective to expand comfort zones, build mutual understanding and foster friendship between communities, the Building Bridges Programme organizes various exchange programmes for Tibetan students with other communities. School Exchange Programme is one of

our core programmes under Building Bridges. ENVISION facilitates a day-long exchange programme between Tibetan and Indian students in Indian and Tibetan schools largely based in Dehradun, and Himachal Pradesh. It is also an effort toward facilitating exposure and learning for the Tibetan children. The Schools we engage with for our Exchange Programme are TCV Selaqui (with Cambrian Hall), Tibetan Homes School, Rajpur (with Olympus High School) and Sambhota Poanta School, (with Guru Nanak Mission Public School). ENVISION has been organizing this programme for the past four years.

ENVISION collaborated with Dharamshala International Film Festival (DIFF) held at Tibetan Institute of Performing Arts (TIPA), Dharamshala from November 8-10 and organised a Filmmaking Master Class for 20 Tibetan film enthusiasts for the first time in collaboration with DIFF. The masterclasses were taken by Tenzin Tsetan Choklay and Tenzin Kalden, two well-known Tibetan Filmmakers in the Diaspora. As part of the workshop, ENVISION managed free passes for the movie screenings at the festival. Majority of the participants were professionals, many were into filmmaking, or aspire to be a filmmaker. There were also content creators for social media platforms among the participants.

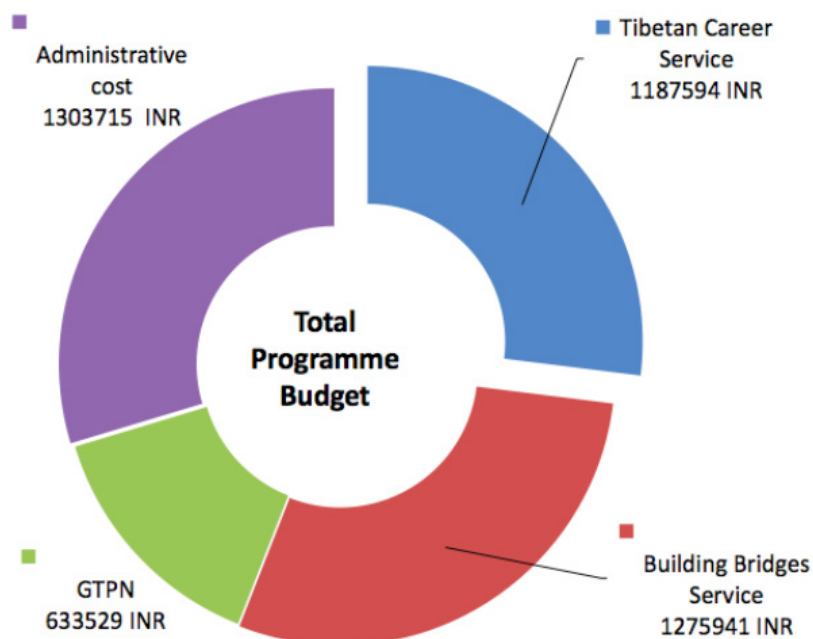
Every year ENVISION supports 10 Tibetan students to participate in Let's Make a Difference Conference (LMAD), an Annual National Youth Conference organised by Initiative of Change and held at Asia Plateau, Panchgani, Maharashtra for young people in the age group of 16-30 years from June 1-8. LMAD is an ongoing programme since 1994 and reaches out to Youth from all walks of life in the Indian subcontinent. ENVISION finances the conference fees and also bears one-way travel fare of all 10 participants. An ENVISION staff member attends the conference to coordinate the Tibetan participants.

Under GTPN Role Model school visit, ENVISION facilitates informal interaction between Tibetan professionals and students. This year, four GTPN members visited the Tibetan schools in Mussoorie, Tibetan Homes Foundation and Central School for Tibetans. The GTPN members from diverse fields shared their experiences with students of Classes XI, XII and attended to their queries. This initiative led by ENVISION is an outreach activity where Global Tibetan Professionals Network (GTPN) members engage with young students in schools and help inspire and motivate them to explore different careers/academics. GTPN members also find a way to contribute and mentor young students academically and professionally. We were able to recruit 11 new GTPN Members in 2019.

ENVISION also organized a book discussion event of Tsering Namgyal Khortsa's first novel 'The Tibetan Suitcase' at the Tibetan Youth Hostel, Rohini East on January 12, 2020.

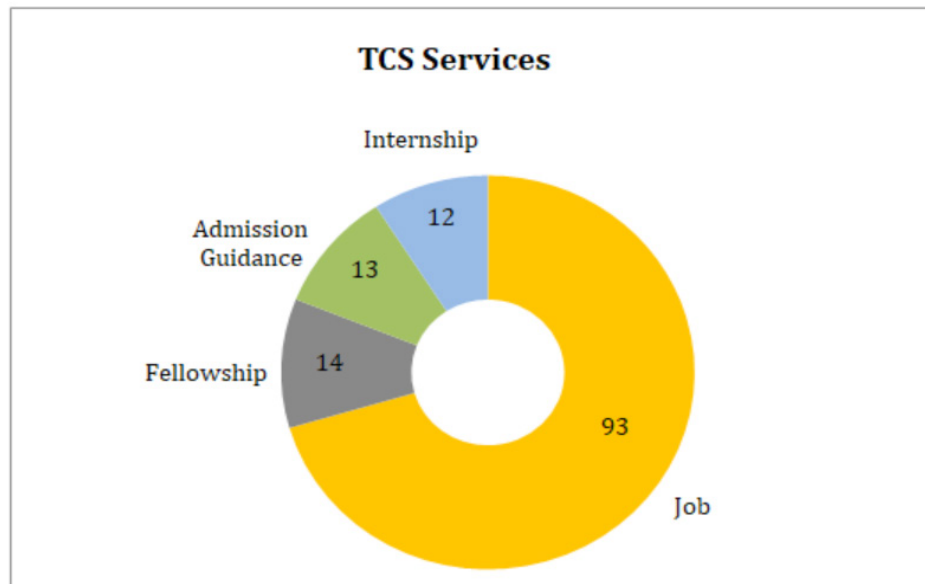
ENVISION sent two of its Staff to participate in the Capacity Building Training on Skill Development and Entrepreneurship organized by Youth Empowerment Desk of Department of Home, Central Tibetan Administration; and a staff to speak at Youth Empowerment Workshop in September organized by Tibetan Career Centre based in Dharamsala.

During this financial year, ENVISION invested INR 4400779 for the implementation of the aforementioned programmes and initiatives including administrative costs.



# Tibetan Career Services

Empowering the Vision Project (ENVISION) offers career related services to all Tibetans in the age group of 15-35. 132 clients approached ENVISION for various career related services in 2019. Of these, nine were given ENVISION fellowships to hone their employability skills, and five other youth were helped with finding fellowship opportunities from other institutes. 93 young Tibetans were given job-related services including building their resumes, helping them with their job application cover letters, 13 were assisted with their college admission processes, 12 young Tibetans requested us to find and place them into internship and training Institutes.



*\*Of the 132 Clients approached for our services, 72 were female.*

## ENVISION Fellowship 2019

“ I joined this short course of Community Initiatives in Inclusion through Empowering the Vision in January and so far, my journey here has been nothing short of adventurous learning. It has been an intensely experiential one. Right from the introductory session to the field visits, every bit of the course is designed in a way that we are constantly involved in learning new things. For me, this is truly an eye-opener in many aspects.

”

- Kunga Wangmo, ADAPT Mumbai

ENVISION Fellowship Programme, a major initiative under TCS started in 2014, has been assisting Tibetan Youth willing to build their employability skills through internships or short-term courses. 36 Tibetan Youth from various educational backgrounds applied for ENVISION Fellowship Programme since then to learn and hone their skills, and pursue a career of their interest. This year, our fellowship recipients pursued various short term courses, and internships such as Hair & Makeup, Digital Marketing, Graphic Design, Stock market, Inclusive Education training, Yoga and fitness. In addition to financial assistance, we also helped some of them find training institutes to pursue

these courses.

In 2019, nine youth including five female candidates were selected in the fellowship programme. While reviewing our applicants, we found that most of them reached out for careers hitherto considered ‘unconventional’ in our society, which we believe is a positive and dynamic development. The candidates were recruited through a two-step screening process including interviews. Of INR 339, 881 allocated for ENVISION Fellowship in 2019, INR 304,881 was spent for short term courses, and INR 35,000 for internship opportunities for two candidates for a duration of five and two months’ each.



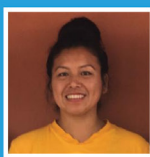
## ENVISION Fellow 2019-2020



Dechen Lhamo



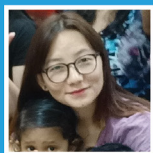
Kelsang Tashi



Tenzin Nyima



Ugen Samten



Kunga Wangmo



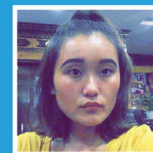
Penpa Tsering



Dolma Tsering



Tenzin Kalden



Tenzin Dasel

- Tenzin Dasel, finished a three-month Hairdressing Course at Jawed Habib Academy in November, 2019. She is employed at Glamour and Style parlour based in Sant Nagar, East of Kailash. [Click here to read Dasel's blog](#)
- Tenzin Kalden, from Manali, Himachal Pradesh pursued a short-term course in Digital Marketing and completed it in January 2020. He is currently planning to study Masters in Marketing.
- Dolma Tsering, born and brought up in Darjeeling, West Bengal completed a one-month intensive course on Spa therapy in November from VLCC Health care Limited based in Delhi. She is self-employed, and runs Lhamo Salon located in Dharamsala, Himachal Pradesh. [Click here to read Dolma's blog](#)
- Ugyen Samten, from Tibet studied up to class XII from TCV Suja, completed a four-month course on Photography from Delhi College of Photography. Ugen took charge of Videography for ENVISION Global Vision Conference held in January, 2020. [Click here to read Ugyen's blog](#)
- Kunga Wangmo, from Dharamsala is currently pursuing a three-month short-term course on Inclusive Education at ADAPT, Mumbai. She will complete her course in April.
- Tenzin Nyima, from Kollegal Tibetan settlement, pursued a one-month intensive course in February 2020, on Yoga from Samyak Yoga Ashram, Karnataka. [Click here to read Nyima's blog](#)
- Penpa Tsering holds a B.A Degree in Psychology and is currently interning at Kunphen Rehabilitation Centre, a Centre which helps people recover from drug or alcohol addiction and is based in Dharamsala. Penpa came from Tibet when he was six years old. Penpa wants to become a De-Addiction Psychologist. [Click here to read Penpa's blog](#)
- Dechen Lhamo is from Bylakuppe Tibetan Settlement, Karnataka. She is presently pursuing (since March 2020), a three month short-term course on Technical Analysis at Hexaurum Consultants based in Bengaluru.
- Kalsang Tashi, interned ENVISION for two months from mid-January to March 06, 2020.

“

*I have found that Yoga offers not only physical strength, flexibility and sense of well-being but also a great upliftment of spirit and stronger mental health. Yoga has helped me approach day to day challenges in my life in a more mindful manner. I felt the need to take a professional course in Yoga in order to be a well-equipped Yoga trainer. It's my vision to empower Tibetan women through the practice of yoga and build a community of Physically & Mentally healthy beings who are able to help themselves and others in difficult times.*

”

- Tenzin Nyima, Yoga Trainee

# Global Vision For Young Tibetans Conference 2020



ENVISION's fifth Global Vision for Young Tibetans Conference (Global Vision 2020 hereafter) was held for the first time in Northeast of India from January 21-25, 2020. The Conference is a biennial but one of the most significant and engrossing events of ENVISION.

Mindful Tibetan with a Global Vision as the guiding motto, the Global Vision 2020 was held at the Namgyal Institute of Tibetology, Gangtok, Sikkim, and had fifty-six participants spanning across India; Dharamsala, Delhi, Mysore, Bangalore, Varanasi, Baroda, Kalimpong, Sonada, Darjeeling, Sikkim and Nepal. Taking into consideration the scattered nature of Tibetan communities in Northeast India and the lack of fewer opportunities for the Tibetan Youth thereof, in these regions, ENVISION consciously decided to reserve 50 per cent of the seats in the conference for participants of Tibetan origin in Northeast India and Nepal. The other half of the participants were college/university students, young Tibetans professionals and ENVISION beneficiaries. Structured around the themes, Importance of Youth leadership, Tibetan Changemakers, Emerging Tibetan Generation, and Am I the kind of Tibetan Future Tibet wants?, the conference was aimed to recognise and celebrate individuals who are genuinely committed and engaged in the field of education, writing, identity and gender, and also to provide ample space for self-introspection and interaction

among participants to share and embrace their role in the community and society at large. Global Vision 2020 is also an attempt by ENVISION to inspire and motivate young Tibetans by facilitating a platform to learn, discuss, and share ideas for self and societal development and to become self-reliant and dynamic members of society.

The conference began with an informal orientation programme on January 21st in the auditorium of Namgyal Institute of Tibetology. Participants were briefed through the agenda of the conference. The following day on the 22nd of January, the inaugural session commenced in the presence of the honourable Minister of Human Resource Development, Law, Legislative & Parliamentary Affairs and Land, Revenue and Disaster Management of Sikkim State Government, Kunga Nyima Lepcha as the Chief Guest and Choekyong Wangchuk, Minister of Health of the Central Tibetan Administration as the special guest amongst other dignitaries and local Tibetan community leaders in Gangtok. A special message by His Holiness the Dalai Lama was read out during the inaugural ceremony.

One of the objectives of the conference was to celebrate and recognize contributions made by committed individuals through their personal and professional engagements in the Tibetan Community. In this regard, ENVISION invited Tenzin Dhargyal, a Teacher by profession with over 24 four years of teaching experience in the Tibetan Children's Village, Bhuchung D Sonam, a well-known Poet and Writer, and Tenzin Pelyoun, Gender Activist and Co-Founder of Drokmo, an organization which advocates Gender-Equality in the Tibetan Community to speak on 'True Purpose of



Education,’ ‘Writing and Identity’ and ‘Gender, Leadership and Social Change’ respectively.

This conference is meant to provide a platform for emerging and visionary Tibetans to share their contributions, ideas and views. Two sessions were on an Emerging Tibetan Generation panel, consisting of six speakers, Jamyang Phuntsok, Tenzin Namdon and Lharong, who spoke in the field of literature, art, law and medicine. The second plenary session of the Emerging Tibetan Generation had Tenzin Palbar, President of the Regional Tibetan Youth Congress (RTYC), Gangtok, Choekyi Lhamo, News Reporter and Tenzin Namkha, Author and Tibetan Teacher at STS Sonada. Jamyang Phuntsok, Lharong, and Choekyi Lhamo are beneficiaries of our past programmes.

While plenary sessions were an integral part of the conference, enough time was also given for the

participants to deliberate, discuss, self-introspect and interact with and among each other. The final day of the conference was purely participants-driven. Twelve participants were selected to speak at the last plenary session on the topic ‘Am I the Kind of Tibetan Future Tibet wants?’ followed by group discussions and presentations on the same topic.

One of the most gratifying experiences of Global Vision 2020 was to see a large contingent of enthusiastic participants from the Northeast region of India. Participants from Kalimpong, Darjeeling, Sonada, and Nepal engaged fully in the conference despite language barriers. [Click to read full report of Global Vision 2020](#)





# Leadership Workshop

ENVISION's fifth Leadership Workshop for class XII students of STS Paonta and TCV Selaqui was held at the Industrial Training Institute (ITI) Selaqui, formerly known as SOS Vocational Training Centre for Tibetans, on 06-07 April 2019. Contrary to conventional definition of Leadership, ENVISION aims to instil inner values of leadership through building assertiveness, developing critical thinking skills and understanding self through explorative and interactive approaches.

The two-day workshop was participated by 99 students including 10 students from ITI. On the basis of 'Building Assertiveness and Critical Thinking' through three broad themes; Creative Writing, Art and Theatre were deliberated during the workshop. Tenzin Tsundue (Writer, Poet, & Activist), Karma Sichoe, (Thangka Painter & Contemporary Artist), and Jaya Iyer (Theatre Artist) were invited as resource persons.

While Tsundue focussed on three stages of creative writing-observation, change of perspectives and articulation. Students were assigned creative writing activities in each session. Karma took the students on a journey of self exploration through artistic expression. Jaya Iyer engaged students through theatre on assertiveness and critical thinking.

The students divided themselves into three groups based on their interest. At the end of the workshop, they came together to present their learnings from the session.

The second day of the Workshop was focused on Self-Exploration, Goal-Setting and understanding of our true selves and values including presentations, exercises on Psychologist John Holland's personality theory. Students were also given hands-on information about college admission procedures and guidelines including scholarship opportunities.



The Workshop concluded with Let's Make a Difference session, which aims to motivate students to commit to a goal to improve themselves and situations around them. The emphasis was on ensuring that the goals are SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic and Time bound). Various daily commitments from reading more books, keeping journals, practicing meditation and yoga to recycling wastes, avoiding junk food and improving language and communication skills, were shared by the students during the session. [Click here to read full report of the Workshop](#)





## Mission Admission Workshop

Mission Admission Workshop, another major programme under TCS was held for two days on June 14-15, at the Tibetan Community Hall in Majnukatilla. During the two-day Workshop, ENVISION guided young Tibetan school graduates step-by-step with their college admission into Delhi University. In addition to this, we hired Ms. Ratna, a professional Career Counsellor at iDreamCareer Consultancy, to attend to various career-related queries and concerns of the participating students. Since Tibetan students get admitted into Delhi University through the Foreign Students' Category, ENVISION felt it important to organize an interactive session with Prof. Shyama Rath, the Deputy Dean of DU Foreign Students, who deals with Foreign students' admission and can provide hands-on information about Delhi University admission process. During the admission time between June-July, a Staff member from ENVISION visited the Dean Office's daily to practically help Tibetan students with their admission for instance, from filling forms, to attending to their admission concerns to speaking to DU Admission Officers. In addition to 22 Workshop participants, ENVISION helped 53 Tibetan students with their admission process into Delhi University in 2019.



## Second Northeast Career Exploration workshop

Empowering the Vision Project (ENVISION) through Tibetan Career Services (TCS) programme have been providing guidance and support to Tibetan School children, University students and Young Graduates in building their Skills, knowledge and personal attributes to become confident, dynamic and self-reliant individuals.

Our Second Northeast Career Exploration Workshop was held at STSS Sambhota Sonada, Central School for Tibetans (CST) Darjeeling and Kalimpong from 24-26th May 2019. ENVISION has been holding this workshop since last year based on our many interactions with students from the Northeast and that we felt the need to reach out to the region to conduct career-related workshops, and also on request from school authorities. There are no assigned permanent Career Counsellors in these three schools.

The workshops covered a total of 122 students, out of which 60 students are of STSS Sonada, 34 and 28 students of CST Darjeeling and Kalimpong, respectively.





*"I still remember the day when I visited ENVISION's Career help desk in Majnu ka Tilla with my mom. I was demotivated and unsatisfied with myself at the time as I was not able to continue my schooling. The ENVISION Team working at the Help Desk recommended Ritinjali Second Chance Programme so that I can continue my formal education and also learn a life skill at the same time. This is my second year at Ritinjali and I feel really lucky to be able to get back on track. I have learnt a lot including things I have missed whilst in school. This is my second year at Ritinjali and I feel really lucky to be able to get back on track."*

*- Karma Gyurmey, Ritinjali Second Chance Programme*



## Career Help Desk

ENVISION's Career Help Desk at Tibetan Settlement, Majnu ka Tilla started last March and completed a year. The Help Desk operating through the office of Regional Tibetan Women's Association (RTWA) every Wednesday targets unemployed youth in and around the Settlement.

ENVISION Counselor and a staff member attend the Career Help Desk and provide services such as assisting unemployed Youth and job seekers with career guidance, job preparedness, and connect them to job linkages/training institutes to further their employability skills.

18 young Tibetans and four parents dropped in to our

Help Desk in 2019. Many times, parents also approach our Help Desk to seek general advice for their children. Two students, Karma Gyurmey and Tenzin Tsewang both of whom are school dropouts, class IX and VII respectively from Tibetans Homes Rajpur and TCV Gopalpur visited our Career Help Desk. ENVISION helped Karma Gyurmey get enrolled in the Ritinjali Second Programme, wherein he is continuing his class X and also learning life skills. Tenzin Tsewang was admitted to ITI, Dehradun with ENVISION's support.





## Career Exploration Workshop (Baroda)

Empowering the Vision (ENVISION) Project's Career Exploration Workshop for Tibetan students in Delhi was held on 17th of August at Tibetan Youth Hostel, Rohini East. 30 Tibetan University students participated. Through our interactions with Tibetan youth, we realised that it is important to inculcate employability skills in our students especially those who are starting their professional career after graduation.

Many students unfortunately lack basic knowledge of/ and or about employability skills such as; the need to have a professional curriculum vitae (CV), a presentable and content-driven statement of purpose (SOP) for job applications and lack understanding of rudimentary email correspondence etiquettes with a potential employer or for formal interactions.

With this workshop, the students partook sessions on self-exploration, employability skills, and career exploration through different exercises and activities. ENVISION

“

*The most helpful for me was how to write a proper cover letter as part of the Workshop's building employability skills. I have a resume but how to write cover letters, and understanding basic email etiquettes is something I learnt anew today.*

”

- Tenzin Dechen, Delhi School of Economics

“

*Through the Career Exploration Workshop today, a lot of doubts and queries related to College, Internship, Scholarship and Job opportunities were resolved. Session on cover letter writing and resumes was great.*

*I asked many questions.*

”

- Tenzin Choephel, OP Jindal University

enlisted just 30 participants so as to make the workshop as interactive and impactful as possible. Self-Exploration through introspective activities on values that one holds close to and that one may exhibit especially at (prospective) workplaces or surrounding environments in particular and in building relations with others in general were deliberated. Participating Students engaged and practiced on resume building, job preparedness and cover letter writing after they were guided through the definitions to samples of resumes to types of cover letters to finally professional ways of virtual interaction in a formal setting.

Students were also introduced to initiatives of ENVISION in education, capacity building, and the opportunities that ENVISION provides to graduating and graduate students – in the form of internships, fellowships, volunteering platforms, exposure/workshop experience, etc. – and how the students can avail them.



# Career Exploration Workshop (Delhi)

“

*Know Your Personality activity is very beneficial and my score is exactly the same as one I did with psychology students. I would like to request your organisation to initiate such activity to the school level.*

- Kunga Wangmo

”

“

*I observed that Tibetan Career Centre and ENVISION are the two genuine Tibetan organizations in exile working to support and provide guidance to Tibetan Youth in need*

- Dorjee

”

Career Exploration Workshop for University Students at Baroda was held on October 12, 2019 at Boy's reading room at Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda, Gujarat. 26 Students participated in the workshop of which more than half of the participants are pursuing their post graduate degrees.

Main objectives of the Workshop are:

- To create self-awareness by helping students in exploring their values and interests
- To create awareness about essential skills required to make them employable like basic employability skills like cover letter writing, resume building, job preparedness
- Share information on ENVISION's programmes

The format of the workshop was participatory with activities/discussions on resume and cover letter writing, introspective activities on values and self-awareness were conducted. Participating students were also given time to contemplate, write and share their values, skills and how well do they know themselves through these explorative engagements.





# Building Bridges Project

Building Bridges Project is designed to bring together young people from the Tibetan and Indian communities to foster better understanding of cultures and develop respect, learning and sharing. In this regard, ENVISION has facilitated various exposure and exchange opportunities to bring students from Tibetan and Indian communities together with the objective:

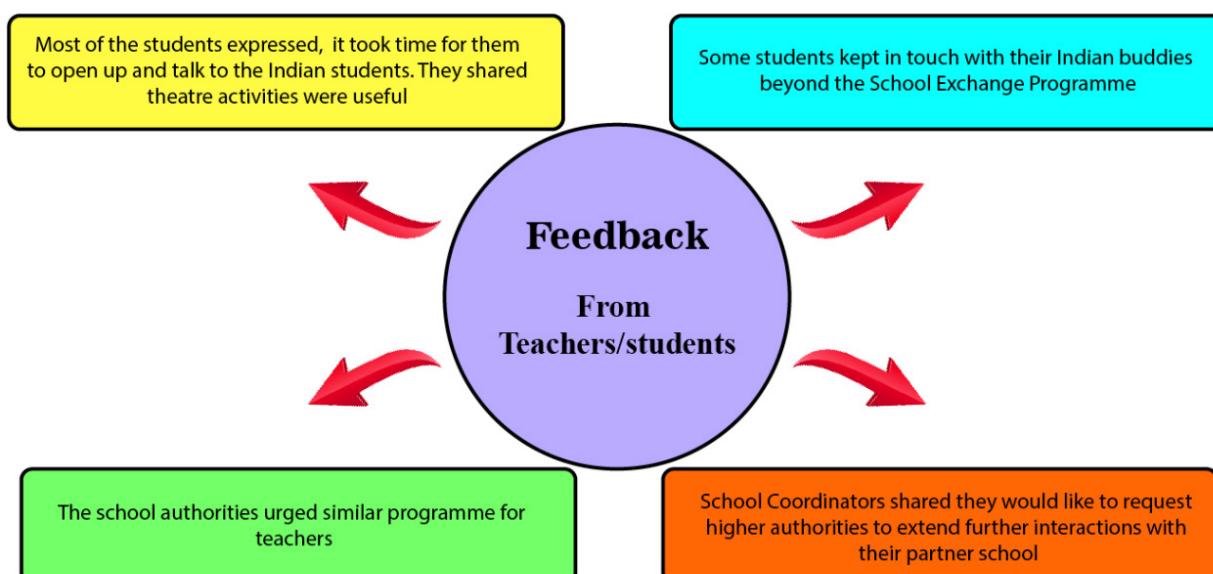
- to foster a better understanding of cultures, learning and sharing.
- to expand comfort zones and broaden horizons of young Tibetans
- to nurture friendships between young Indians and Tibetans.

## School Exchange Programme

School Exchange Programme is one of the premier programmes under Building Bridges. ENVISION facilitates a day-long exchange programme between Tibetan and Indian students in Indian and Tibetan schools largely based in Dehradun, and Himachal Pradesh. It is also an effort toward facilitating exposure and learning for the Tibetan children. The Schools we do Exchange Programme for are, TCV Selaqui (with Cambrian Hall), Tibetan Homes School, Rajpur (with Olympus High School) and Sambhota Poanta School, (with Guru Nanak Mission Public School). School Exchange Programme has been running for the last three years. To make the programme more impactful and interactive, we tailored the programme schedule to include theatre and extempore sessions in addition to the usual activities of buddy introduction, class room tours and friendly matches.



School Exchange Programmes were held between April to November in 2019. Like last year, we conducted a survey with the Tibetan students and concerned school Coordinators to have a better understanding of their experiences and also to seek inputs from them to make the programme more useful and impactful.



# Let's Make a Difference Conference

ENVISION facilitates 10 young Tibetans each year from across India with the purpose of contributing towards broadening their horizon and expanding their comfort zones. In 2019, 12 participants including a Staff and Intern from ENVISION joined the Conference. Other participants including six girls are all undergraduates studying in Delhi, Baroda, Mysore, Chennai and Bangalore.

This conference provides them ample opportunity to deliberate, exchange, share, strategize and present their individual and collective voice. Through different exercises, activities and accomplished speakers from diverse fields, the conference encourages every individual to find his/her own unique contribution to make the world a better place to live in.



## Dharamshala International Film Festival

ENVISION collaborated with Dharamshala International Film Festival (DIFF) organizers for the festival held at Tibetan Institute of Performing Arts (TIPA), Dharamshala from 8th-10th November. ENVISION organised Filmmaking Master Classes for the first time in collaboration with DIFF during the festival. The masterclasses were taken by two young and well-known Tibetan Filmmakers in the Diaspora, Tenzin Tsetan Choklay and Tenzin Kalden. 20 Tibetans participated in the masterclasses. ENVISION felt it important to give exposure to young aspiring and budding Tibetans to different Independent Films being screened at the festival. Therefore, ENVISION procured free passes to the participants for all the movie screenings at the festival. Majority of the participants were professionals, many were already into filmmaking, or aspire to be a filmmaker. There were also content creators for social media platforms among the participants.

Tenzin Tsetan Choklay, is a Tibetan-American Filmmaker based out of New York City and Dharamshala.

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*The three-day workshop on film-making was an eye-opening experience, particularly to hear from Tibetan Filmmakers. I learned to look at films from a director and cinematographer's point of views and have also inspired me to try my hand on this art. I hope we will have many more in-depth workshops like that in future. Thank you ENVISION for this wonderful initiative.*

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- Tenzin Sangmo, Reporter, VOA Tibetan





He graduated from Korean Academy of Film Arts in Seoul with a major in Directing and Screenwriting. He received several international awards for his feature documentary film 'Bringing Tibet Home'. Tsetan took a session 'The Art of Storytelling and Film Appreciation.' He emphasized on different stages of making a film or a documentary and spoke on different film elements which are to be given due importance while watching a particular film or documentary.

Tenzin Kalden is a Tibetan Cinematographer who has graduated from Digital Film Academy in New York. He assisted many DOP's (Director of Photography) on various projects including feature films, BBC documentary, advertisements, short films and music videos. His short documentary 'Light a Candle' was screened at DIFF this year. Kalden gave his insights on the 'The Basics of Camera and Lighting for Films'. He highlighted different types of camera, lenses and lighting that are necessary for perfect shots.

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*The classes were short and very productive. An experienced cinematographer Kaden la and a renowned Tibetan Filmmaker Tenzin Tseten la conducted the classes. Being a film student myself I learned more new techniques about filmmaking.*

*The best part was that the classes happened at the same time and in the same place where DIFF was happening. So we discussed the films that we watched and we could ask questions regarding films and their making. It was a wonderful experience.*

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- Sakina Bhatt, English News Correspondent,

CTA



# Global Tibetan Professionals Network

Global Tibetan Professionals Network (GTPN) is a platform where Tibetan professionals from diverse backgrounds can network with each other and find creative ways of contributing to the community, mentoring young Tibetan aspirants academically and/or professionally. ENVISION engaged with 44 GTPN members including some new members in 2019.

## Role Model School Visit

Under GTPN Role Model school visit, ENVISION facilitates informal interaction between Tibetan professionals and students. This year, four GTPN members visited the two Tibetan schools in Mussoorie, Tibetan Homes Foundation and Central School for Tibetans. The four GTPN members from diverse fields shared their experiences with students of Classes XI, XII and attended to their queries. This initiative led by ENVISION is an outreach activity where Global Tibetan Professionals Network (GTPN) members engage with young students in schools and help inspire and motivate them to explore different careers/academics. GTPN members also find a way to contribute and mentor young students academically and professionally. This programme is also aimed at providing a platform for the young professionals to exchange ideas and network amongst themselves.

Four Tibetan professionals from diverse and vibrant career fields; Dr Lobsang Yangtso, Researcher and Campaign Assistant at International Tibet Network, Tenzin Tsetan, Tibetan-American Filmmaker, Rinzin Dolma, Nurse Educator, New Delhi and Tenzing Tashi, Assistant Food and Beverage Manager at Oberoi Hotel, New Delhi took part in ENVISION's second GTPN Role Model School Visit of the year to Central Tibetan School (CST) Mussoorie and Tibetan Homes Foundation, Mussoorie on the 30th of October, 2019 for Class XII students of Central School for Tibetans (CST) and Tibetan Homes Foundation (THF), School Mussoorie. The first part of the four-hour Programme was introductory, wherein professionals shared their personal and professional journey, challenges and learnings that the current students can learn and correct from. Soon after, students were divided into four groups based on their interests/career choices, while one professional per group attended to all their queries, doubts, and expectations. They encouraged the students to think beyond academics as well and stressed the importance



of understanding what they want and how they should match it with the skills, and avenues they have.

Tenzing Tashi, who has been working in the hospitality sector for more than a decade assured the students that class XII board exam marks are not necessarily the end factor to get enrolled in the sector. Important attributes he stated are hard work, open to learning and willingness to endure long working hours." Rinzin Dolma spoke dearly to students filling the auditorium with laughter for her funny anecdotes from school and what she learnt and expected the students to learn from. She emphasized how important it is to build confidence and learn to believe in oneself first.

Similarly, Lobsang Yangtso and Tenzin Tsetan articulated



their personal and professional journey with the hope of motivating and inspiring students to pursue their interest without fear of being judged and ridiculed. The role model school visit in short was a fulfilling experience and a great success albeit the duration of the session was little short. It was interesting to observe how the personal journey of successful professionals is more welcoming and relatable for the students than their professions itself. ENVISION would like to thank the school authorities of both CST Mussoorie and Homes for their cooperation, the professionals for their time and for motivating our students. We look forward to continuing this initiative next year.

## Book Discussion on “The Tibetan Suitcase”

An informal book discussion on Tsering Namgyal Khortsa's first novel 'The Tibetan Suitcase' was facilitated by ENVISION at the Tibetan Youth Hostel, Rohini East on January 12, 2020. Tibetan Suitcase is a story of the peripatetic life of the main protagonist Dawa, a Tibetan born in India-where life of a Tibetan refugee is 'belonging to no place or belonging everywhere.' Tsering Khortsa has previously authored two books, 'Little Lhasa: Reflections on Exiled Tibet' and a biography on His Holiness the 17th Karmapa.

Myriad of questions from the unique title of the novel to its thematic form and expression, to the importance of writing and reading, was illuminated by the author.





# External Events

## Interaction with Taiwanese Universities Students

With the attempt to expand comfort zones, build mutual understanding and foster friendship between communities, Empowering the Vision Project (ENVISION), under the Building Bridges Programme organizes various exchange programmes for Tibetan students with other communities. On the 12th of February 2020, ENVISION facilitated the third interaction between Tibetan students; and professors/students from Fu Jen Catholic University based in Taiwan. In the morning from 10 am to 1 pm, interaction with thirty class IV and V children of TCV day school at Samyelling Tibetan Settlement, New Delhi was organised followed by an exchange of knowledge on culture, education, politics, and society with Tibetan College/University students at ENVISION Office from 3 pm-5.30 pm.



At TCV Day school, the Taiwanese Students/Professors engaged with the school kids through interesting games such as lantern making, snack passing with the aid of elongated rubber bands and balloon bursting, after an overview of the school was briefed by its Principal, Migmar. The second half of the day was tabled for an informal and interactive session with Tibetan College/University students. Since the Taiwanese students were quite novice with their understanding of Tibet and Tibetans, and about the Tibetan freedom movement in general, a basic presentation on the structural framework of the Central Tibetan Administration (Government-in-Exile) was felt called for and therefore prepared for the group. Academic and non-academic activities by Tibetan student organizations in Delhi were also shared. The session was followed by engaging discussions on past and current affairs of China, Taiwan, and Tibet. The Professor/Student Group proposed the possibility of organizing an academic conference in the future.



# Capacity Building Training on Skill Development & Entrepreneurship

Youth Empowerment Support (YES) section of Department of Home under Central Tibetan Administration organised a one-week capacity building training programme on Skill Development and Entrepreneurship at NI-MSME (National Institute of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise) in Hyderabad from 6th May till 12th May 2019. The training programme aimed at providing exposure and strengthening one's skills and competencies. It also provided a platform to share, learn and exchange each other's ideas, experiences and work together towards better relations and partnership in the future. 11 representatives -Programme Directors and Coordinators of various skill training institutes/ organizations working for Tibetan Youth based in India and Nepal participated in the training programme. Programme Executives, Tenzing Migmar and Kelsang Choedon represented ENVISION and participated in the training.



## Youth Empowerment Workshop



ENVISION's Programme Executive, Kelsang Choedon represented ENVISION and spoke at Tibetan Career Center (TCC), a unit of Youth Empowerment Support of the Department of Home's Youth Empowerment Workshop for School and College students. The Week long workshop was held at House of Peace and Dialogue, Upper TCV School from 7th – 14th September 2019. It was attended by 20 participants from 11 Tibetan Settlements in India.

Kelsang illuminated participants about ENVISION's programmes and career services that they can avail. She also shared some success stories of ENVISION's beneficiaries.

Two ENVISION beneficiaries, Phuntsok Tsering and Karma Choekyi (STS Poanta Student) participated from our recommendation.