



CHARTER NO. 4377
23RD AUGUST 1937
R.I. DISTRICT 3201

OFFICE
ROTARY CLUB OF COCHIN
BALBHAVAN
PANAMPILLY NAGAR, KOCHI- 682 036
PHONE: 0484 7963023
email: rotarycochin2013@gmail.com
website: www.rotarycochin.com

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NEXT MEETING

Wednesday
14th August 2024 at 7.00 PM
at Rotary Cochin Balbhavan

Speaker:
Mr. Krishnakumar
Topic:
Generative AI for Leaders



BULLETIN OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF COCHIN

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THE COCHIN ROTARIAN

ENTREPRENEURSHIP EDUCATION IN SCHOOLS: A TALK BY MS. VINODINI SUKUMAR



In a recent enlightening session, Ms. Vinodini Sukumar shed light on the TiE Young Entrepreneurs (TyE) program, an initiative by TIE aimed at fostering entrepreneurship education in schools across Kerala. Her insights on nurturing young minds through the TyE program highlight its potential to transform the state's educational landscape.

Revisiting Traditional Education: The Hidden Talents of Backbenchers

Ms. Vinodini began by challenging the conventional belief that the brightest ideas come from students seated in the front rows. She emphasized that many groundbreaking ideas often emerge from the backbenchers, who bring unique perspectives and untapped creativity. This observation underscores the importance

of allowing all students the freedom to think independently and innovate.

Beyond Textbooks: Encouraging Independent Thought

The effectiveness of traditional education, which often relies on rote memorization, was questioned by Ms. Vinodini. She illustrated that when students are encouraged to think critically, as demonstrated by the TyE program, they can achieve impressive results in a short span of time. Shifting the focus from memorization to independent thinking is essential for modern education.

Program Launch and Its Impact

Launched on July 24th at Global Public School, the TyE program has seen

enthusiastic participation from 150 to 200 students per session, with positive feedback across the board. Notably, the program has also reached Attapadi, engaging students from two tribal schools, proving that innovation is not confined by geography.

Inspiring Government School Students

A significant aspect of the TyE program targets students from government schools, who often lack resources for opportunities beyond Kerala. By motivating these students to start local ventures, the program aims to transform them into job creators rather than job seekers, fostering local economic growth.

Highlighting Vocational Higher Education Schools

Kerala Government's Vocational Higher Education Schools (VSSE),

which offer specialized training from grades 9 to 12, were praised by Ms. Vinodini. With over 400 such schools boasting excellent facilities, including smart classrooms and computer labs, students are well-prepared for the modern workforce.

Success Stories and Achievements

Ms. Vinodini shared inspiring success stories of government school students who have started their own companies and excelled in national competitions. Notably, a team from Bhavan's Adarsha Vidyalaya, Kochi, emerged as the first Indian winners of the TiE Global Award. The team SITLIGN who represented TiE Kerala, received a cash award of \$4,500 and certificates from TiE Global

Future Plans and Government Interest

The success of the TyE program has garnered interest from the Kerala government and organizations like

AICTE, with plans to expand its reach across India. Future initiatives include creating an alumni network to mentor current students, forming panels of college students to train school students, and establishing entrepreneurship labs in schools.

Conclusion

Ms. Vinodini Sukumar's presentation on the TyE program highlights the crucial need to support and nurture young entrepreneurs in Kerala. By integrating entrepreneurship into school curricula and providing necessary resources and mentorship, Kerala can look forward to a future where more young people choose to innovate locally, contributing to the state's economic growth.

This transformative approach, as championed by TIE through the TyE program, underscores the potential of every student to be a change-maker through entrepreneurship education in schools.

RI PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE FOR THE MONTH OF AUGUST 2024

If we are to truly change the world with The Magic of Rotary, it's up to all of us to foster a sense of belonging in our clubs. But every club should take its own path to get there, and the Action Plan can help you find your way. What does that look like?

Take for instance the Rotary Club of Beveren-Waas in Belgium. It was chartered in 1974 but has evolved with the times, developing both a strategic plan and a membership plan. To find new members, the club analyzes the city's professions to help focus its search, and all new members are quickly assigned tasks and roles.

The club also mixes up meeting times, alternating between evening and afternoon sessions, making them



accessible for all members.

Sometimes, circumstances force clubs to make changes. But as people

of action, we know that behind every obstacle is an opportunity.

The Rotary Club of Holyoke in Massachusetts was forced from its meeting place because of rising costs after the COVID-19 pandemic, but members took this setback and turned it into a strength. The club started meeting in a library community room that was available for no charge and catering lunch from a nearby deli. Lunch costs \$10 per person but it's optional, so no one has to spend money to attend a meeting. What a great way to work toward being "fair to all concerned."

Since making this change, the Holyoke club has gained 13 members. I suspect part of its membership growth is due to the club's sense of

inclusivity — the first step toward belonging.

If you ask members what they expect from the club experience, you might find that your club doesn't meet expectations. Think of this as an opportunity to reshape your club in exciting ways, as alternative club models are making a positive impact.

For example, a Rotary Fellowship called Beers Rotarians Enjoy Worldwide, or BREW, has worked closely with the Water, Sanitation,

and Hygiene Rotary Action Group for the past eight years to assist with clean water projects. In that time, BREW has funneled 25 percent of its dues to those initiatives.

BREW is one of many examples of members pursuing belonging to improve the world.

I can't stress enough the importance of belonging. Clubs become simply irresistible when all members feel that they are exactly where they need to be. To me, belonging is

the spark that ignites The Magic of Rotary .

As you receive feedback from club members and the community you serve, I urge you to pursue that spark. The Action Plan can help you find the path to success, and if you light your way with the spirit of belonging, that path will lead to a bright future for your club, your community, and the world.

Stephanie A. Urchick
President 2024-25

WESTERN GHATS

The sky was not blue
The earth was not soft
Looked up at the flower
All alone on a dry branch

It was warm, very warm
Scorched earth dry as hell
No more water, no comfort
Heat had come as the end

No leaf or breeze or bird
No honeybees no nectar
No colourful butterflies
No grass no dew no mist

I could not move but only gaze
At the lonely withered flower
That was in its stillness craving
For birds and bees, for life

I could not take my eyes off
The colourless pitiable flower
Devoid of patches of sheen
Red yellow and green.

Red Sun Yellow Moon but
No green on the Western Ghats
Only a last flower that
Was about to fall down for ever.
*(With apologies to Gadgil and
Kasturirangan)*

By Rtn PP Joseph Malieckal



INATTENTIVE BLINDNESS WHILE DRIVING: A SILENT HAZARD LEADING TO ACCIDENTS

Understanding Inattentive Blindness

Inattentive blindness, or “inattention blindness,” occurs when a person fails to perceive an unexpected stimulus in plain sight because their attention is focused elsewhere. While driving, this cognitive limitation can have severe consequences. Focusing intently on specific tasks—like adjusting the radio, following navigation instructions, or engaging in conversation—can cause drivers to miss critical elements such as pedestrians, sudden stops, or changing traffic lights.

Common Causes of Inattentive Blindness While Driving

Mobile phones are a primary distraction, as their use for calls, texting, or navigation can lead drivers to miss up to 50% of the visual information in their environment. Modern vehicles equipped with sophisticated infotainment systems also demand visual and cognitive attention, contributing to inattentive blindness. Activities like eating, drinking, or reaching for items divert a driver’s attention from the road. Fatigue reduces alertness and cognitive function, increasing the likelihood of inattentive blindness. Additionally, drivers who become lost in their thoughts disengage from their surroundings, leading to missed cues and delayed reactions.

The Impact of Inattentive Blindness on Road Safety

The consequences of inattentive blindness can be devastating. Failing to notice critical signals and cues can lead to various types of accidents. Rear-end collisions often occur when a driver engrossed in a conversation or adjusting the radio doesn’t notice the car in front braking. Inattentive drivers may also fail to see pedestrians crossing the road, especially at intersections or crosswalks, leading to accidents. Side-impact crashes can happen when drivers fail to observe a vehicle running a red light or a stop sign. Single-vehicle accidents are another risk, as drivers unaware of their surroundings may drift off the road, collide with barriers, or fail to navigate curves properly.

Preventing Inattentive Blindness

To minimize distractions, keep mobile phones out of reach and use hands-free devices sparingly. Setting up navigation systems before starting the trip can help maintain focus. Staying focused involves keeping both hands on the wheel and eyes on the road, avoiding activities like eating, drinking, or any other actions that divert attention. Taking regular breaks on long journeys helps combat fatigue, with even a short rest significantly improving alertness. Practicing mindfulness by consciously keeping attention on the driving task is essential; if daydreaming occurs, bring focus back to the road. Modern vehicles have assistive technologies like lane departure warnings and automatic braking, but drivers should remain vigilant and not rely solely on these systems.

Conclusion

Inattentive blindness is a hidden but significant risk factor in driving, often leading to accidents that are entirely preventable. By understanding the causes and adopting mindful driving habits, we can significantly reduce the likelihood of accidents. Road safety relies not just on the physical condition of vehicles but also on the mental state and attentiveness of those behind the wheel. Addressing inattentive blindness will make our roads safer for everyone. Stay vigilant, stay focused, and let’s work together to reduce accidents caused by this silent hazard.

By Rtn. Prathik Nayar



Rtn. Razin Rahman

11 Aug

Rtn. PP VAdm R.P. Suthan

14 Aug



Rtn. Ross Masood/Rtne. Ramila

09 Aug