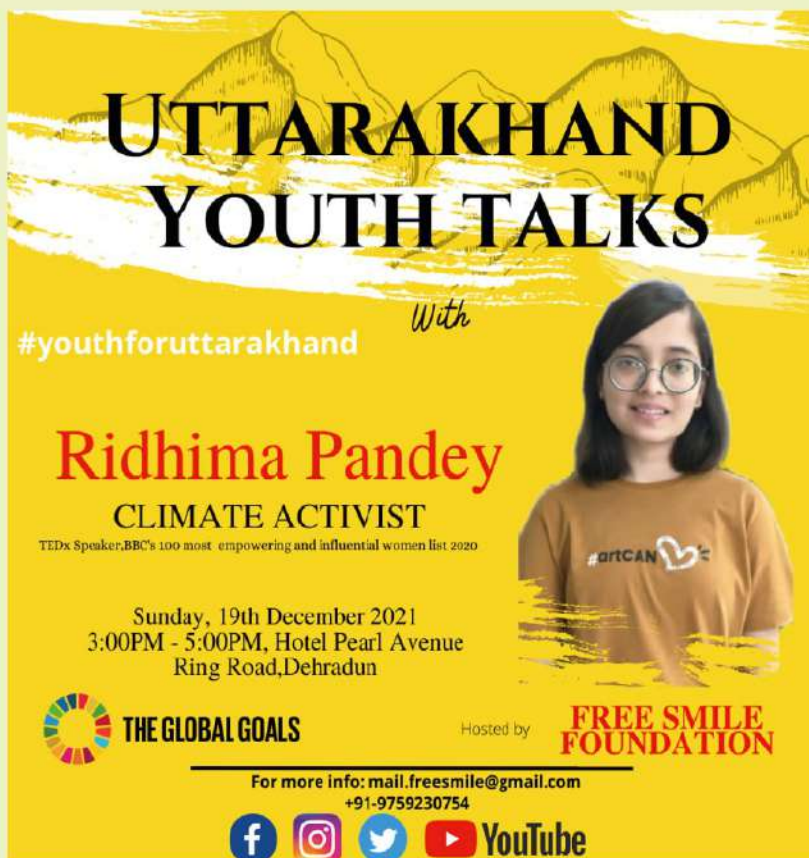


1st Uttarakhand Youth Talks organised on 19th Dec 2021 at Dehradun Uttarakhand on “Climate Crisis and Development”. Global environment activist Riddhima Pandey was speaker. The event was designed to encourage youth to protect and take environment at their consideration. The organization is willing to organize similar events in other districts of Uttarakhand.



**UTTARAKHAND
YOUTH TALKS**

#youthforuttarakhand *With*

Riddhima Pandey
CLIMATE ACTIVIST
TEDx Speaker, BBC's 100 most empowering and influential women list 2020

Sunday, 19th December 2021
3:00PM - 5:00PM, Hotel Pearl Avenue
Ring Road, Dehradun

 **THE GLOBAL GOALS**

Hosted by **FREE SMILE FOUNDATION**

For more info: mail.freemile@gmail.com
+91-9759230754

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UTTARAKHAND YOUTH TALKS

Speaker : Ms. Ridhima Pandey Moderator: Mr Parth Upadhyay

Venue :Hotel Pearl Avenue, Dehradun Uttarakhand.

Date :19.12.2021

The state of Uttarakhand is known as Dev - Bhoomi (Land of Gods). However, the majority of areas under this state are covered by the hill region. An ample amount of flora and fauna are found in Uttarakhand, there are Forest Rivers, sanctuaries. The Himalayan glaciers are retreating at a faster rate than the global average. Advanced blooming, migration of species, and changed timings of hibernation and breeding suggest that the climate in the Himalayan region is changing. The northward movement of species and the reed line is also widely reported. An increased frequency and intensity of extreme weather events are also noted in the Himalayas.

However, Uttarakhand, which had a landscape characterized by scattered, inaccessible, and independent settlements, has been transformed over the past few decades. Rapid urbanization and road building have increased connectivity and a connection with markets but have also increased vulnerability by moving away from the self-sufficiency that characterized the communities of this region. An increase in the frequency of extreme climate events, likely a consequence of climate change, has led to large losses of life and property – most recently evidenced by the Kedarnath flood of June 2013 which resulted in 5,700 deaths.

Therefore, To identify the issues of climate change & make people aware FREE SMILE FOUNDATION organize the first Uttarakhand youth talk which was held on 19 Dec 2021. Where they discussed environmental issues with the young environmental activist from Uttarakhand Ms.Ridhhima Pandey who advocates for action against climate change. She filed a suit against the Indian government for not taking steps to combat climate change & also she was one of the complainants to the United Nations, along with several other young climate activists, against several nations' failure to take action against the climate crisis.

The event started at 4:00 pm with the welcome addresses by **Muskaan kulshrest** and **Ayush Kumar Singh** from (free smile foundation). They introduced the gathering about the free smile foundation & also share their motive to organize Uttarakhand youth talk. **Muskan** began with a very fiery note that “**the environment surrounds the person, creates the personality**”, said that we are slaves to our environments. Today’s environment is tomorrow’s me. Corona the crisis we are going through now, we should be considering random environment a thing of the past. We should consciously build environments that will influence us for the better.



Ayush told the gathering about the organization that strives to bring change and keep faces smiling. It is dedicated to empowerment, youth development, Sanitation, education welfare & regional development. He also talks about the Uttarakhand youth talk as the platform where youth will interact with the scholars, intellectuals and pertaining debates and shape the future of tomorrow. The talks aim to identify the issues, discuss them and work on them, and arrive at effective solutions.

After that, they welcomed the event moderator Mr.PARTH UPADHYAY & SPEAKER MS.RIDHIMA PANDEY.

Mr. Parth started the event and welcome of young environmentalist and activist Redhima. And introduced Riddhima to the audience.

Symposium on climate crisis and Development by Riddhima and parth -

This session begins with interactive Q&A-

A) Mr. Parth asked Riddhima the first question about her journey, how she starts to think about the environment at such a young age?

Riddhima shares her journey. She said- In (2013 Kedarnath today shook me a lot when my mom sees a news channel in which 24/7 the death rate increased drastically day by day, and everyone was in depress mode, Being a kid I questioned my father why this happen, how can I stopped this and that time my father tell me everything how human responsible for this and how nature gives it back, That incident got on my nerves I can feel those people pain & I started nightmares as I'm dying and saying please don't kill me, I want to live. After my father told me the truth I learned about the whole world's dark side. From that time she started her journey & fills a petition against the government.

B) The next question was who is to be blamed for environmental degradation? And how can we overcome this?

Riddhima said- human activity is primarily responsible for environmental degradation; she unveiled the intention of greedy people, government, and indiscriminate development & said they choose buildings, factories, meteors over the environment. People do not come when another house is destroyed, they think their house is ruined, not mine, but they do not know their turn will also come.

She shared some points that can control climate change, and help to stop environmental degradation-

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT -

Climate change is one of the greatest challenges facing humanity today. Developing countries are the most impacted by climate change and the least able to afford its consequences. According to the world health organization, as of the year 2030, climate change is expected to contribute to approximately 250,000 additional deaths per year. Riddhima said that when we talk about development we need sustainable development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

AWARENESS -

She stated- Raising awareness and thereby understanding the effects of climate change on health will facilitate both behavioral change and societal support for the actions needed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. It can also help in getting healthcare professionals to support strategies for mitigation and adaptation that will both improve health and reduce vulnerability. She also emphasized on environmental stewardship your self-awareness skills can help propel you into a sustainable self-sufficient future.

EDUCATION -

She said India currently has no curriculum on climate change. However in certain aspects as studies, which is compulsory in schools and colleges as a burden subject. She says if we are aware of the consequences of unsustainable growth, they are likely to adopt a more climate friendly. She said schools should have started such things informally where Children learn to plant trees & make projects out of recycled products as they discuss changing weather patterns and the social social-economic as their relationship with the environment.

Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle -

She said that the resources are limited and cannot be renewed. There is a sudden rise in the human population. So, the resources are being overused. This can lead to exhaustion. So, we need to reduce the use and emission of greenhouse gases. We can reuse the items and recycle them. We can avoid plastic bags and stick to jute bags. The cans can be recycled. We can avoid buying items that are not important.

B) Mr. Parth Upadhyay asked about covid phase & online study after that he questioned to Riddhima did she support online mode of education or not?

Riddhima answered very firmly that we have no time to wait - but, as covid19 showed, we do have the means to meet this challenge. Coming out of the covid 19 crisis, we have an opportunity to combine a safe recovery with a sustainable recovery. The EU has led the way by proposing a green recovery plan, which will use digitalization to boost the health of our environment first. & said online learning reduces paper waste and saves trees, moreover when online education grows the need for expansion, infrastructure buildings and lands would reduce considerably.



Mr. PARTH UPADHAYA winded up the session and started the interaction session -

INTERACTION SESSION WITH RIDHIMA PANDEY

The interactive session started with a question by **DR.MUKUL SHARMA** that how parenting plays an important role in a child's upbringing, because in India parents always focused on study only?

Riddhima replied parenting styles generally lead the children & said she is so blessed that her parents allowed her to do whatever she wants and support her. She said society needs to change because when we did something everyone wants the outcome no matter how hard you try that's the reason when a person gives his time on this work government should help them and give them some exposure. Everyone will have to take responsibility, only then we will be able to save ourselves and others.

She also said not many people around us know much about ecosystems and their environment. They have no idea about climate change or global warming. Public consciousness must be made about the necessity of conservation and the harmful effects of environmental degradation. I feel it is our responsibility to make awareness among the people about environmental degradation. Talk about it to people around you and spread the word. Run school campaigns and spread awareness. Abide by the rules of the government and help others implement the laws too.

Hiryrdesh Sahi (PROUD PAHADI SOCIETY) ask her to support their protest like the Shastradhara protest in which the government says they will offer swift mobility to tourists visiting Mussoorie from Delhi, which will require the chopping of 2,200 trees.

Riddhima said that she is always with them whenever they need her. she also lights on that how peoples will join the protest according to their convenience & shares that in 1st strike there are more than thousands of people but in 2nd strike, there are fewer than a hundred people.

There was a short discussion between **Riddhima and Vijay Pratap** about the environment and pollution. They suggested that -

- Things can be good if all people of that discussion can 1st change themselves by avoiding cars and vehicles, by not giving their children vehicles for schools rather prefer cycle as a mode of transport. Universities can adopt the same system by implementing grades for those students who use cycle to commute to campus.

Problem is that we have so many fancy celebrities around who just speak but very few acts.

Act More changes will surely be visible on the ground.



Next question from **Rithik Bhandari (journalist) side** , He asked when one side we all are talking about the environment but in other hand, people need development also because in the rural area there is no basic infrastructure at all, how do you see it

She says that Rapid industrialization and urbanization are inevitable to bring in desired levels of economic development. This is also believed to be essential to substantially increase the per capita income. However, these income-generating activities are sure to have negative environmental consequences such as pollution. She says development remains the greatest pursuit, as well as a challenge, faced by humanity, environmental deterioration, and climate change, which have started to show irrevocable damages to the developmental progress made so far.



So, development goals must be pursued without breaching environmental regulations & need a sustainable development

Host also asked to her about the Char Dham project which is a prestigious two-lane expressway scheme being executed in Uttarakhand to wind the roads up to 10 meters to improve the accessibility & asked that did char Dham project is development equal to disaster?

She replied that a significant portion of the project falls under dry deciduous biome along dry slopes of rivers; Ruthless harvesting can be perilous for biodiversity and regional ecology. She also shares that loss of forest will reduce the probability of maintaining effective reproductive units of plants as well animals. She said that we all have to come together if we want to live.

They had a conversation about, a festival of greenery, peace, prosperity, environmental conservation. Riddhima said they should plan the day.



After that there was a short discussion between Nitin Joshi & Riddhima Pandey

- They said we also focused on reviving our culture and our old methods which are very useful to us. Nitin talked about Reetha which is used as detergent & also they said that culture should be regarded as a "set of distinctive spiritual, material, intellectual &

emotion features of society or a social group and that is encompasses in addition to art & literature lifestyle ways of living together, value system, tradition & beliefs.

At the end she pointed out that we have certain responsibilities towards our mother nature. Our environment is deteriorating, and it is of the utmost priority to implement ways to control and prevent environmental degradation. We should give up habits that are harming the environment. Let's come together and save our ailing planet. Change begins at home. **Let's hope for a better future and standstill.**

In the end Ms.Stuti winded up the program and thanked everyone for making the program successful and also she thanked (Moderator-Mr. Parth Upadhayay) and **free smile foundation** for giving people a stage to express their views, and the Speaker Ms Riddhima who made people aware of their responsibility towards the environment.

