



National Young Professionals Development Program (NYPDP)

MANAGE-University Alliance for Advancing Agricultural Extension and Advisory Services

Reflections That Cultivate Tomorrow's Agricultural Extension



"A Journey of Learning and Growth"

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As I reflect on my experience in the National Young Professionals Development Program (NYPDP) at MANAGE, I am reminded of the profound transformation that took place within me, just like a butterfly emerging from its cocoon. I had broken free from the monotony of routine and embraced a new chapter in my life. The five-day NYPDP program was truly unforgettable and left a lasting impact on me. Those were five beautiful days of my life.

Key Learnings

Day 1: Inspiration and Career Opportunities

The first day of the program was truly inspiring. Dr. Saravanan Raj's journey and academic achievements motivated me to pursue excellence in my own career. We explored career opportunities in agricultural extension and the competencies required to succeed in the field. I was impressed by the diverse roles and specializations available, and I began to envision my own path forward. The time management exercise was a valuable takeaway. I realized the need to optimize my time spent on academics, digital devices, and social media. This exercise was a wake-up call to prioritize tasks and focus on productive activities.



Day 2: Research Topics and Policy Engagement

The second day was packed with insightful sessions. Dr. Rasheed Sulaiman's discussion on exploring roles beyond traditional extension opened my eyes to the vast potential of this field across sectors. We learned about new capacities and the importance of policy engagement in agricultural extension, knowledge that will be crucial in my future career. The session on social network analysis was fascinating. We explored theories like the Strength of Weak Ties and the Scale-Free Network Model. A group activity on framing research topics using these theories helped us apply theoretical concepts to practical problems.

Day 3: Field Visit and Emerging Approaches

The field visit to Access Livelihoods, a Hyderabad-based social enterprise, was an eye-opener. Their commitment to empowering marginalized communities through sustainable livelihoods was inspiring. I realized that I too could be part of such impactful NGOs. Dr. P. Sethuraman Sivakumar's session on emerging approaches in measurement and scaling in social research was highly informative. We covered scientific research goals, structured scale development, and the C-OAR-SE framework. I appreciated the focus on reliable scale construction and its role in high-quality research.

Day 4: Career Opportunities and Overcoming Challenges

The fourth day centered on career growth and personal development. Dr. Vikram Koundinya, Ms. Sravani Reddy, and Ms. Laxmi Prasanna Kandi shared global career insights in extension education. Dr. Parmveer Singh Sir's session on self-awareness, resilience, and overcoming procrastination using the Pomodoro Technique was particularly valuable. I also gained insights into extension for entrepreneurship and gender equality. Dr. Mahesh Chander's discussions on Learning Labs, the GATI Project, and the Theory of Change were eye-opening.



Day 5: Research Trends and Publications

The final day focused on research and publication trends. Dr. S. Rahalya introduced us to bibliometric analysis and AI-powered tools that can enhance research productivity. Dr. P.V.K. Sasidhar's session on Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) competencies emphasized its significance in accountability, learning, and impact assessment. We also witnessed a live demonstration of a focus group discussion, which was a valuable hands-on experience.

Initially, I joined the program hoping to take a break from the monotony of my Master's routine. However, the experience turned out to be truly transformative. It opened my eyes to the relevance and global significance of Agricultural Extension. I now realize it's not just a degree but a dynamic field with opportunities far beyond conventional roles.

Training Environment



The MANAGE campus, with its lush greenery and calming atmosphere, created the perfect environment for learning, despite the hot Hyderabad weather. Interacting with professionals in the field of extension was inspiring. I gained an appreciation for the importance of research, publications, seminars, and conferences. Being surrounded by talented individuals pushed me to work harder and invest more in my subject.

Main Takeaway

I've come to understand that if I focus on my subject, it will, in turn, take care of me. This experience has been a game-changer, and I am incredibly grateful for the opportunity to be part of the NYPDP program.



I would like to express my sincere gratitude to:

- Dr. Saravanan Raj for his inspiration and guidance
- Dr. Rasheed Sulaiman for his expertise on diverse roles in extension
- Dr. P. Sethuraman Sivakumar for insights on emerging research approaches
- Dr. Sreeram Vishnu for his session on social network analysis
- Dr. Mahesh Chander for perspectives on entrepreneurship and gender equality
- Dr. S. Rahalya for introducing us to bibliometric tools and AI in research
- Dr. Suchiradipta Bhattacharjee for her engaging session on policy impact



- Dr. Parmveer Singh for his guidance on self-awareness and resilience
- Dr. Vikram Koundinya, Ms. Sravani Reddy, and Ms. Laxmi Prasanna Kandi for sharing global insights into careers in extension education

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