



Report on Student Engagement Programs at The WoodLand Festival

Overview:

The WoodLand Festival, held from 28th February to 1st March 2025 in Sonai Miri Village, Sonitpur, Assam, was a two-day event aimed to celebrate the rich cultural diversity of Assam, focusing on music, food, tradition, and the harmony between people and nature.

It also served as a platform for engaging over 100 students from 8 schools including the Forest Fringe Schools in creative and educational activities. Through these programs, the festival sought to foster a deeper connection between the youth and the diverse cultures of Assam, while encouraging creativity, teamwork, and cultural understanding.

AIAS & THE Woodland Festival Collaboration

The student engagement programs at The WoodLand Festival, organized by the Assam Investment Advisory Society in collaboration with the Weaver's Nest included a variety of activities aimed at immersing students in the festival's cultural environment, encouraging them to explore and represent their observations through art, music, and performance.

Day 1:

Venue Tour and Cultural Interaction:

The first day of the festival began with a guided tour for the students, where they explored the various stalls set up by different local communities. These stalls highlighted the traditions, crafts, and cuisines of the Nepali, Garo, Mising, Rabha, Assamese, and Boro communities. Students had the chance to interact with artisans and learn about their cultural heritage, which served as inspiration for the activities that followed.



Art and Craft Representation:

After the tour, students were tasked with representing their observations through various forms of art. This also included traditional art forms such as stone art, where students worked to capture the essence of what they had seen across the event venue.

The activity saw enthusiastic participation, with students showcasing remarkable creativity in their artistic representations.

Musical Soujourn:

The day also included a musical performance where students showcased their musical talents. They sang a mix of traditional and contemporary songs, adding a vibrant touch to the festival's atmosphere. This segment provided students with the opportunity to express themselves creatively through music.

Prize & Gifts, Certificates and Closing Meal:

The day concluded with a small ceremony where students received certificates, prizes and gifts as a token of appreciation for their participation. A hearty meal was also arranged, allowing the students to interact and reflect on their experiences from the day.

Day 2:

Tales in Motion - Folklore Competition:

The second day featured a unique folklore competition titled "Tales in Motion," which required students to work in teams to prepare and perform traditional Assamese folktales. The stories, taken from "Burhi Aair Xadhu" compiled by Lakshminath Bezbaruah, Akbar & Birbal were enacted with great enthusiasm. The students demonstrated their understanding of folklores by bringing these stories to life through dramatic performances. This activity not only promoted teamwork but also allowed the students to explore and represent traditional narratives in an engaging way.

Outdoor Activities - Kite Flying and Traditional Games:

Following the folklore competition, the students engaged in fun-filled outdoor activities. These included kite flying and traditional games like Kabaddi. The activities promoted physical engagement and teamwork, giving students the chance to enjoy the outdoors while building bonds with their peers.

Closing Celebration:

To conclude the festival, a prize distribution ceremony was held to recognize the efforts and creativity of the students. Prizes and gifts were given for the outstanding folklore performances, and team spirit in games and activities.

All the students were also provided with participation certificates.

The festival ended with a celebratory meal where students and participants shared their experiences and memories from the two days of cultural exploration. The atmosphere was filled with joy, laughter, and a sense of accomplishment as the students had an opportunity to reflect on their involvement in the event.

Conclusion

The student engagement programs at The WoodLand Festival, organized by the Assam Investment Advisory Society in collaboration with Weaver's Nest provided a unique opportunity for students to interact with diverse cultures, explore traditional arts, and express themselves creatively.

Through activities like art representation, musical performances, folklore enactments, and traditional games, the students gained a deeper understanding of Assam's rich cultural heritage while also honing their teamwork, creativity, and performance skills.

The festival left a lasting impact on all the students involved, fostering a sense of pride in their cultural heritage and encouraging a continued exploration of Assam's traditions and creativity.

ANNEXURE:



Venue Tour & Art



Art Display by the students



Songs & Folktales by the students



Kite Flying and Kabbaddi match



Prize & Gifts Distribution



AIAS & The Weaver's Nest Team with the students