



# BHUTAN JAMCHONG THUENDREL FOUNDATION

2019 Annual Report



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# Introduction

Youth unemployment is not only seen solely as an economic issue but is also a social agenda to deter young people from potential related problems such as substance abuse and mental disharmonies within one self. As such, empowering the youth to find decent and gainful employment opportunities also helps to maintain social cohesion and harmony.

The rapid growth of our country in the past years is of immense success and pride but the issue of the youth employment at a staggering rate of 15.7% in 2018 (As per Labour Force Survey Report) remains an alarming issue yet to be solved. Likewise, urban areas have a higher unemployment rate than rural areas, with Paro having the highest unemployment rate (38.5%) followed by Thimphu (29.9%) The main issue of unemployment being the mismatch between the skill requirement in the labour market and the skills of the jobseekers.

Seeing the mismatch of job seekers qualification and jobs in the labour market, it is crucial that Bhutanese students planning to pursue higher/tertiary education or training are well guided and informed to make their decision wisely to ease the transitioning into the labour market and ensure high employability with compatibility. As of now, Bhutan employs 54,113 foreign workers, majority in the craft and trade related work. BJTF aims to reverse this trend and employ our own Bhutanese youth in these sectors which will drastically ease the unemployment scenario in our country, besides contributing to import substitution of labour and also bring down the repatriation of INR from Bhutan.

BJTF plays vital role in promotion and encouragement of taking up vocationally skilled job as a career choice through advocacy and awareness program at various schools and technical training institutes across Bhutan. BJTF also works in partnership with TTIs to facilitate the graduating students from such institutes for meaningful self-employment by supporting them in kick-starting a skilled based business.

Apart from other mandates BJTF also functions as the Bhutan Chapter of South Asia Foundation (SAF), which provides numerous scholarships for Bhutanese students to study at various Madanjeet Singh Institute of Excellence across various universities in South Asia.

## Executive Summary

As the nation embraces rapid economic growth and industrialization it is of paramount importance for the participation of its citizens. Encouraging and equipping the Bhutanese youth with the necessary skill required in the labour market will help reduce the nations skilled workforce shortage and increase productivity which will overall enhance socio-economic development. At current TVET has not garnered the positive image where people see it as a viable or first choice career option. TVET in general can play a vital role in solving the alarming youth unemployment issues and in contributing to the overall socio-economic growth of the country. Hence to complement our vision of fostering responsible youth to contribute meaningfully to society and promoting technical skilled jobs as career option, a yearlong project titled 'Enhancing Youth Employability Through Awareness and Meaningful Engagement'(EYETAME), funded by EU through support from Helvetas was initiated by BJTF.

Into 2020, about 9 months into the implementation of the project we can proudly say that we have achieved 90 percent success in executing and implementation of the project. We have visited a total of 13 schools across 7 dzongkhags reaching out to a total of around 6000 youths as part of the awareness and advocacy program. BJTF has also successfully facilitated a group of TTI youths in starting a skilled service business called Druk Skill Service, providing various electrical and plumbing service and maintenance works.

Today, BJTF stands as a vital Civil Society Organization registered with Civil Society Organization Authority of Bhutan, walking towards the path of fulling the pledges of the Government and Nation as a whole, to provide a platform for youth employment and opportunities in taking up Technical Vocational Educational Training or Skilled Jobs.

The Board of Director, Secretariat Staffs, Project Partners & stake holder in BJTF hope and wish this Annual Report would be of valuable and informative on our stand and way forward.



Nima Gyeltshen  
(Executive Director)

## General Information

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# Bhutan Jamchong Thuendrel Foundation

Bhutan Jamchong Thuendrel Foundation (BJTF) is officially registered as a Civil Society Organization with the Civil Society Organization Authority (CSOA) of Bhutan on 28<sup>th</sup> February 2018.

Bhutan Jamchong Thuendrel Foundation is a CSO established with the aim of supporting Bhutanese youth in finding meaningful employment. BJTF as a local initiative has grown out of the concern for the high and increasing youth unemployment. Its principle aim is to curb and reverse this trend. Apart from other mandate BJTF also serves as the Bhutan Chapter to the South Asia Foundation (SAF) which provides numerous scholarships for Bhutanese students at various universities across South Asia.

## **Vision**

*'To foster responsible youths to contribute meaningfully to society*

## **Mission**

*'To create pathways for Bhutanese youth to become responsible adults with dignity, self-sufficiency and the ability to contribute to society'.*

## Appointment of New Chairperson

As approved by the Madanjeet Singh Foundation, Dasho Ugen Tsechup succeeds Lyonpo Sangay Ngedup as the Chairperson of BJTF and SAF Bhutan. Dasho Ugen Tsechup is the proprietor of Singye Groups of Companies and holds various high level international and national honorary and public posts.

Under the leadership and guidance of the dynamic leader BJTF is confident that it will further strengthen and take the organisation to new heights.



*Figure i: New Chairperson Dasho Ugen Tsechup*

## Appointment of New Executive Director

BJTF have recently appointed Mr. Nima Gyaltsen as the new Executive Director succeeding Aum Nim Dem. Mr. Nima Gyeltshen is a former civil servant starting his career as a teacher to rising to the position of Dzongrab of Wangdue Dzongkhag.

Under the energetic, hardworking and dynamic Executive Director, BJTF is confident of reaching new heights and further reaching our overall goal.



Figure ii: New Executive Director, Nima Gyeltshen

## Appointment of New Board Members

Upon the voluntary resignation of Aum Chime P. Wangdi and Azha Kama, BJTF during the 6th Executive Board Meeting has recruited three new board members: **Fr. Kinley Tshering** (Former Jesuit Provincial Superior), **Mr. Rikesh Gurung** (Founder of Green Roads, President of Bhutan Association of Entrepreneurs, BAEyul), and **Mr. Ugyen Choeda** (Founder of I Am An Entrepreneur).

They possess the required knowledge, experiences and skills to provide enhanced direction and guidance to BJTF. Under your leadership and strategic guidance BJTF is confident of further strengthening our capacity and achieving new organizational goals.



Figure iii. Fr. Kinley Tshering



Figure iv. Mr. Rikesh Gurung



Figure v. Mr. Ugyen Choeda



# **‘Enhancing Youth Employability Through Awareness and Meaningful Engagement’**

## **-Helvetas Project**

Mindful of the Royal Government of Bhutan’s aspirations for employing our youth gainfully and also being aware of skills mismatch between jobseekers and market’s requirement, BJTF along with various expertise from Helvetas Bhutan, UN Representative in Bhutan and many other members garnered to come with this highly vital project “EYETAME” with objectives as listed below:

- Establish small multi skilled service business in partnership with TTIs.
- Highlight the opportunities of technical jobs (Blue collar) as career choice to high school students through dialogue and presentations by technical experts.
- Compile youth aspirations during the advocacy visits through questionnaires (e.g. attitudes towards technical jobs, extends to which changes in pay for technical jobs would change youth attitudes, etc.)
- Create a career counselling platform for mindset change towards technical jobs through advocacy programs.

The EYETAME Project is fully funded by European Union (EU) supported by Helvetas Bhutan, with total amount of Nu.1.679 Million.

‘Enhancing Youth Employability Through Awareness and Meaningful Engagement’ (EYETAME) consists of two main activities:

1. Highlighting the opportunities of technical jobs as career choice to high school students through dialogue and presentation by technical experts.

To highlight the opportunities of technical jobs as career option, BJTF conducts various advocacy and awareness program across the nation at various school for the class IX, X, XI & XII students. The program is intended to educate and disseminate the latest labour market information and to advocate for a positive change regarding technical skilled jobs. For an effective and interactive program BJTF is accompanied by various inspirational entrepreneurs for experience sharing and motivation.

2. Establish small multi skilled service business in partnership with Technical Training Institutes.

In order to promote the technical skilled jobs and to help youth become productive citizens, BJTF in partnership with the TTIs facilitate interested students in starting a skilled based business. BJTF helps the students in developing business plans, obtaining business license and other legal requirement, negotiate favourable loans/grants with financial institutions, marketing of their business, skill enhancement and trainings. BJTF overall provides hand-holistic support for new enterprises.

Youth aspiration questionnaire have been conducted for class X, XI &XII and are in the process of compilation for analysis which will be done at the end of the project duration

## ACTIVITY 1:

As part of the activity 1 of the project, BJTF have successfully conducted awareness and advocacy program at 12 schools and 4 TTIs across Bhutan reaching out to a total of 5664 youths. The advocacy and awareness program were conducted to raise awareness and bring about a positive mindset change regarding skilled jobs. The program was also intended to educate and disseminate the latest labour market information which can be of guidance while choosing their career path. In order to complement the program various TVET Champions or entrepreneurs accompanied the team for motivating and experience sharing.





Figure vi. Some snippets from our advocacy and awareness program at various schools

For TTIs, partnerships programs were held for promotion of entrepreneurship among the trainees and highlighting the importance of skilled jobs in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. BJTF entered into partnership with four TTIs through the signing of MoUs. The main objective of the partnership is to facilitate the interested TTI students in setting up skilled businesses.

**BJTF facilitates interested TTI students in:**





Figure vii. Snippets from the partnership program at TTIs

Questionnaire survey on ‘youth aspiration’ was also conducted for the class X, XI, & XII students of the respective schools, we are currently compiling the report for analysis which will be carried out at the end of the project duration.

The Dzongkhags covered under the project are listed below:

- Thimphu
- Punakha
- Wangdue Phodrang
- Trongsa
- Bumthang
- Mongar
- Tashigang

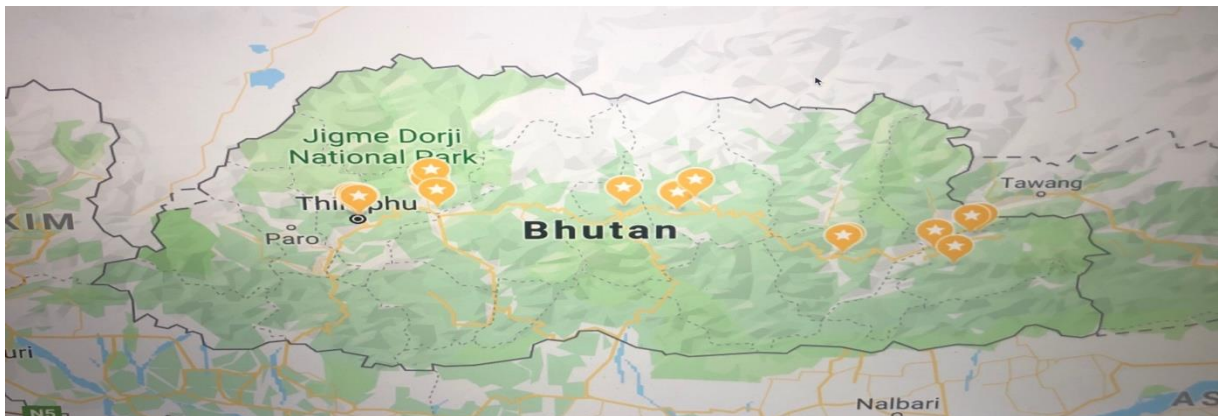
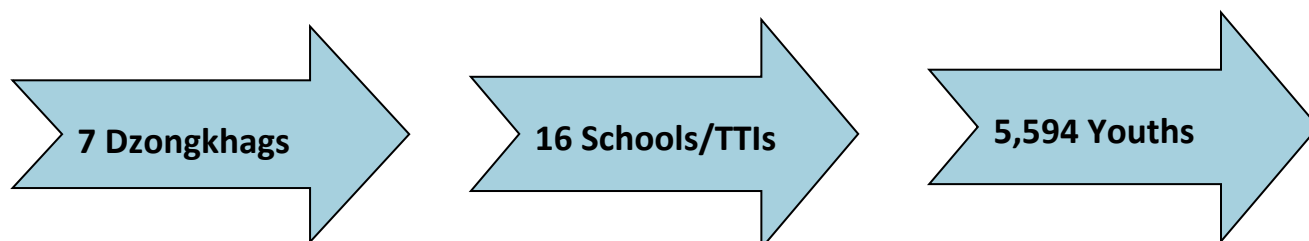


Figure viii. The various schools and TTIs covered as part of EYETAME

Following are the list of schools/TTIs and number of students covered:

School/Institute	Dzongkhag	Attendees
Yangchenphu Higher Secondary School	Thimphu	180 students
Kelki Higher Secondary School	Thimphu	365 students
Motithang Higher Secondary School	Thimphu	371 students
Rinchen Higher Secondary School	Thimphu	318 students
Punakha Central School	Punakha	492 students
Ugyen Academy School	Punakha	331 students
Bajothang Higher Secondary School	Wangdue Phodrang	393 students
Sherubling Central School	Trongsa	420 students
Sonam Khuenphen Higher Secondary School	Bumthang	405 students
Jakar Higher Secondary School	Bumthang	590 students
Mongar Higher Secondary School	Mongar	533 students
Sherubling Central School	Tashigang	594 students
TTIs Thimphu	Thimphu	121 Trainees
TTI Khuruthang	Punakha	111 Trainees
TTI Chumey	Bumthang	220 Trainees
TTI Rangjung	Tashigang	150 Trainees
<b>16 Schools/Institute</b>	<b>7 Dzongkhags</b>	<b>5,594</b>





*Figure ix. Students attending the advocacy and awareness program*

### **Registered entrepreneur volunteers of BJTF:**

The following entrepreneurs are registered volunteers of BJTF who have accompanied the BJTF team as inspirational guest speaker or 'TVET Champion' during its Advocacy and Awareness program:

1. Col Kezang Choden, Proprietor of Chuniding Foods
2. Mrs. Ugen Dema, Proprietor of Drubbchu resort
3. Mr Dhan Kumar Shyangden, CEO of Eco Waste Solution)
4. Mr. Jigme Thinley Yoezer, CEO of DrukRide
5. Mr Tharchen, CEO of iBest Studios
6. Mr. Sonam Rinchen, Founding Partner of iBest Studios
7. Vijay Gurung, CEO of idruk solutions
8. Farmer Sangay
9. Tashi Phuntsho, CEO of iHub.
10. Karma Jurmin, Founder of Arya Zamhla Packaging
11. Sonam Gyeltshen, Proprietor of Gyetshens electronica shop
12. Sonam Phuntsho, Founder of Chezang mushroom farm

## ACTIVITY 2:

As part of the activity 2 of the project BJTF, in concurrence with our organizational goal of fostering youths to become responsible, productive citizens contributing meaningfully to the society through entrepreneurship, BJTF have successfully facilitated its maiden group of three TTI graduates in establishing a skilled services business called Druk Skill Service (DSS), with the support from EU and Helvetas Bhutan.

DSS is handyman service that provides various professional, cost effective, timely, door to door electrical, plumbing repair and maintenance services.



Figure X. Druk Skilled Service – TTI Youths

## South Asian Foundation (SAF)

South Asian Foundation was founded in 2000, as a secular Non-Profit and Non-Political Organization comprising eight autonomous chapters; Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

SAF's core objective is to promote regional cooperation through a number of UNESCO Madanjeet Singh Institutions of Excellence in the eight SAARC countries with various courses and scholarships, few listed below:

1. UNESCO Madanjeet Singh South Asian Institute of Advanced Legal & Human Right Studies, Dhaka, Bangladesh
2. UNESCO Madanjeet Singh Centre for South Asia Forestry Studies, Bumthang, Bhutan
3. UNESCO Madanjeet Singh Centre for South Asian Journalism, Chennai, India
4. UNESCO Madanjeet Singh Institute for South Asia Regional Cooperation, Pondicherry, India
5. UNESCO Madanjeet Singh School of Green Energy Technology, Pondicherry, India
6. UNESCO Madanjeet Singh Centre for South Asia Water Management, Moratuwa, Sri Lanka
7. UNESCO Madanjeet Singh Centre for Development Studies & Regional Cooperation, Kathmandu, Nepal
8. UNESCO Madanjeet Singh Institute for South Asian Arts, Lahore, Pakistan

BJTF serves as the SAF's Chapter in Bhutan, with the Secretariat operation costs and offering other valuable linkage in purview of scholarship announcement and mobilization of the candidates from Bhutan and from other SAARC Nations to Bhutan





## Madanjeet Group Scholarship:

For the year 2019 a total of 9 students from Bhutan have been selected from the 22 applicants for the various SAF scholarship. The highest applicant we received were for M.A in South Asian Studies.

We also received for the first time, admission request for two Bhutanese students for the UNESCO Madanjeet Singh South Asian Institute of Advanced Legal & Human Right Studies, Dhaka, Bangladesh.

The details of 2019 selected students are as follows:

Sl#	Name	Gender	Program	Place of study
1	Rajesh Gurung	M	Masters in Water Resource Engineering & Management	University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka
2	Tashi Pelden	F	LL.M Human right Studies	Asia Pacific University, Bangladesh
3	Namgay Wangchuk	M	LL.M Human Right Studies	Asia Pacific University, Bangladesh
4	Anisha Ghaleey	F	MA South Asian Studies	Pondicherry University, India
5	Pema Wangchuk	M	MA South Asian Studies	Pondicherry University, India
6	Dorji Nidup	M	B.A Visual Communications and Designs	Beacon University, Pakistan
7	Yeshey Choden	F	B.A Visual Communications and Designs	Beacon University, Pakistan
8	Nima	M	Post Graduate Diploma in Journalism	ACJ, Chennai, India
9	Phurpa Lhamo	F	Post Graduate Diploma in Journalism	ACJ, Chennai, India

We did not get any offer from Nepal for the year 2019 as scholarship is offered once every four years. We are pleased to report here that all the candidates are doing well in their place of studies with very few hitches.

## Overall Summary of Madanjeet SAF Scholarship

Since the inception of the SAF Scholarship in 2000, a total of 92 Bhutanese citizens have benefited from it. The scholarship has benefitted the Bhutanese citizens from all sectors of lives, starting from government, private & corporate sector employees to fresh graduates. Following is a detail of the beneficiaries of the SAF scholarship till date:

Sl	Institute	Course	(1) Completed			(2) Undergoing			Total (1+2)		
			M	F	Total	M	F	Total	M	F	Total
1	BNU, Pakistan	Visual Communication and Design	6	5	11	1	1	2	7	6	13
2	ACJ, Chennai, India	PGD in Journalism	12	11	23	-	1	1	13	12	25
3	Pondicherry University	MA in South Asian Studies	13	8	21	2	3	5	15	11	26
4	Pondicherry University	M.Tec in Green Energy Technology	8	-	8	1	1	2	9	1	10
5	University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka	Masters in Water Resources Engineering & Mgt	6	4	10	2	1	3	6	5	11
6	Institute of Kashmir Studies	MA in Kasmir & South Asian Studies	2	1	3	-	-	-	2	1	3
7	National College, Nepal	Bachelors in Development Studies	-	1	1	1	-	1	1	1	2
8	University of Asia Pacific, Bangladesh	LL.M Human Right Studies	-	-	-	1	1	2	1	1	2
<b>Total</b>			<b>47</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>93</b>

## Alumni

Since the inception of SAF in 2000 till date a total of 93 Bhutanese students have benefited from Madanjeet Group Scholarship and most of them are doing well in various organizations.

In the 2019 Royal Civil Service Examination, Karma Chorten Dhendup a recipient of the SAF Madanjeet Singh Group Scholarship, who pursued B.Sc in Forestry Studies from College of Natural Resources, ranked first in the Technical category.

In March 2019, Mr. Yogesh Dahal a recipient of the SAF Scholarship for Master in Green Energy Technology (2018-19) was bestowed the prestigious gold medal for his academic distinction from the University of Pondicherry, India.

In the National Council Election of Bhutan held on 20 April 2018, Mr. Dorji Khandu, a recipient of the SAF-Madanjeet Singh Group Scholarship in Water Resources Engineering and Management from the University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka (2014-2015) has been elected as the Member of National Council of Bhutan and Member of Parliament.



*Figure xi: Mr.Karma Chorten Dhendup, 2019 BCSC Technical Topper*



Figure xii: Mr. Dorji Khandu, Member of Parliament of Bhutan



Figure xiii. Mr. Yogesh Dahal, Gold Medalist

**Report on UNESCO Madanjeet Centre for South Asia Forestry Studies (UMCSAFS) from the UMCSAFS Program Director.**

**Scholarship Recipients:**

Twenty-six students from the SAARC countries have availed the UMCAFS scholarship program. Fifteen students graduated from the CNR upon successful completion of the B.Sc. Forestry level program. One was terminated, one discontinued on personal problem, one withdrew on health ground, one graduated with a Diploma and eight students are currently undergoing B.Sc. and M.Sc. level programmes at the College.

Starting this year UMCSAFS has started admission for M.Sc. Forestry Studies and two students from India and Nepal respectively has been enrolled for the Master’s program. UMCSAFS is yet to get a student from Pakistan to study B.Sc. Forestry.

Details of UMCSAFS students:

sl	Name	Course	Course Date	Country	Gender	Remarks
<b>2012 Intake</b>						
1	Pema Dendup	BSc. Forestry	July, 2012-June, 2014	Bhutan	Male	Graduated
2	Ugyen Tshering	BSc. Forestry	July, 2012-June, 2014	Bhutan	Male	Graduated
3	Kuenzang Dorji	BSc. Forestry	July, 2012-June, 2014	Bhutan	Male	Graduated
4	Tauhidor Rahman	BSc. Forestry	July, 2012-June, 2014	Bangladesh	Male	Graduated

5	Farshad Chowdhury	Allam	BSc. Forestry	July, 2012-June, 2014	Bangladesh	Male	Graduated
6	Sonam Wangchuk		BSc Forestry	July, 2013 - July, 2015	Bhutan	Male	Graduated
<b>2013 intake</b>							
7	Kanchan Kattel		BSc Sustainable Dev.	July, 2013-June, 2017	Nepal	Female	Graduated
8	AKM Arif Rahman		BSc Sustainable Dev.	July, 2013-June, 2017	Bangladesh	Male	Graduated
9	Anirban Sengupta		BSc Sustainable Dev.	July, 2013-June, 2017	India	Male	Graduated
<b>2014 intake</b>							
10	Rasindu Wellala	Kogalla	BSc Sustainable Dev.	July, 2014-June, 2018	Sri Lanka	Male	Terminated
11	Bal Krishna Koirala		BSc. Forestry	July, 2014-June, 2016	Bhutan	Male	Graduated
<b>4th year</b>							
12	Sunil Sapkota		BSc Forestry	July, 2015-June, 2019	Nepal	Male	Graduated
13	Iaikitkupar Lyngdoh		BSc Forestry	July, 2015-June, 2019	India	Male	Graduated
14	Shuabee Hassan		BSc Forestry	July, 2015-June, 2019	Maldives	Male	Graduated
15	Karma Dhendup	Chorten	BSc Forestry	July, 2015-June, 2019	Bhutan	Male	Graduated
<b>2015 intake</b>							
16	Aimal Waziri		BSc Forestry	July, 2015-June, 2018	Afghanistan	Male	Graduated with Diploma
<b>2017</b>							
<b>3rd year</b>							
17	Fathmath Aroofa		BSc Forestry	2017 July	Maldives	Female	discontinued
18	Wangdi		BSc Forestry	July 2017-June 2020	Bhutan	Male	Ongoing
19	Rinchen Dorji		BSC Forestry	July 2017-June 2020	Bhutan	Male	ongoing
<b>2018</b>							
<b>4th year</b>							
20	Tsherab Dorji		BSc Forestry	July 2018- June 2020	Bhutan	Male	ongoing
21	Dorji Lhamo		BSc Forestry	July 2018- June 2020	Bhutan	Female	ongoing

<b>2019 Intake BSc</b>						
22	Kinga Thinley	BSc Forestry	July 2019-June 2021	Bhutan	Male	Withdrawal due to medical problem
23	Miza Sium Masud	BSc Forestry	July 2019-June 2023	Bangladesh	Male	ongoing
24	Manuel Tripura	BSc Forestry	July 2019-June 2023	Bangladesh	Male	ongoing
<b>2019 Intake MSc 1st Batch</b>						
25	Parul Sharma	MSc Natural Resources	July 2019-June 2021	India	Female	Ongoing
26	Sunil Sapkota	MSc Natural Resources	July 2019-June 2021	Nepal	Male	Ongoing

### **Students Activities:**

- UMCSAFS encourages scholarship students to come up with activities to meaningfully engage themselves during their academic breaks and free time. The proposed activities are screened and fully supported through scholarship related expenses which covers travel allowance and daily sustenance allowance and any expense related to the approved activities.
- One of the regular student activities is to meet among scholarship holders and discuss on the issues pertaining to the scholarship or any other problems while at CNR. Those issues are put up to the CNR and UMCSAFS management for effectively dealing or resolving the issues. In 2019, the UMCSAFS management consisting of Asst. Administrative officer and Finance officer of UWICER met with the students during the month of October to discuss on their study progress and scholarship.
- As a part of research training, Mr. Karma Choten Dendup, B.Sc forestry final year students attended the one week training on Myrmecology (ant taxonomy and identification) at Punjab University, Patiala District in India from 29/3/2019 to 9/4/2019

## Meeting with Students:

The UMCSAFS students also meets among themselves twice a year to table any issues and to resolve them in consultation with the UMCSAFS program management at UWICER and CNR. In 2019, the UMCSAFS management consisting of Asst. Administrative officer and Finance officer of UWICER met with the students during the month of October to discuss on their study progress and scholarship.

## CNR Madanjeet Singh mobile video competition

The students also organized the third edition of the Annual CNR Madanjeet Singh Mobile Video competition within the students of CNR. The video competition for 2019 is based on the theme “Youths”.

A total of seven video entries participate in this year’s competition, two from CNR and five from other Royal University of Bhutan Affiliated colleges. The video competition is sponsored from the UMCSAFS program fund.



Figure xiv: Screenshot of the video entries of mobile video competition

## Other Programs

### Training on Elf Camp & Boot camp

UMCSAFS with technical support from the Biological Conservation Society Sarawak, Malaysia organized an “Elf Camp” Training of Trainers for the Boot Camp in Wildlife Study Design and Data Analysis from 18th September to 22<sup>nd</sup> September, 2019 at UWICER campus, Bumthang. In addition, the Boot Camp was conducted for Wildlife Study Design and Data Analysis from 25<sup>th</sup> September to 6<sup>th</sup> October, 2019. In total, 24 participants from Bhutan, India, Nepal, and Bangladesh attended the training which has now become a regular annual feature in UMCSAFS calendar. This is the third series of such training conducted by the UMCSAFS in collaboration with BCSS, Malaysia.



Figure xv: (i) Elf camp participants (ii) Boot camp participants

Thank You



