



Dhahan Lecture: Speaker Brief

Speaker Name: Dr. Achyuta Samanta, Founder KIIT & KISS

Lecture Topic: Development Initiatives for Indigenous Communities in India, the KISS (Kalinga Institute of Social Services) Model

Speaker's Profile:

Prof. Achyuta Samanta is an educationist, humanitarian, and a statesman. He grew up in Kalarabanka, Odisha, a remote village of Northeast India. He founded a polytechnic institution while he was working as a Chemistry Lecturer in 1992 with \$100, iron will and strong passion. The small industry training institution grew into a university in 2004, known by its acronym, KIIT, Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology. In the same year, he also founded Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences (KISS) for providing education to the indigenous boys and girls, free of cost (<https://achyutasamanta.com/about/>)

His contributions in the field of education and educational entrepreneurship have been recognized by over 100 universities in India and abroad, both by governments and NGOs. He has been awarded over 41 Honoris Causa Doctorates and Doctorate of Letters.

The KISS Model:

'Educate, Empower and Enable', has been the "3E" formula devised by Prof. Achyuta Samanta to turn tribal alienation, poverty, and illiteracy upside down through the tool of Inclusive Education. It is considered World's largest intervention wherein 60,000 children from the deprived indigenous communities of Odisha and neighbouring states are provided with holistic education from 'Kindergarten to Post-Graduation', along with boarding facilities, clothing, healthcare, vocational and life skills free of cost. KISS has a strong Alumni of 15,000 empowered people, well placed and driving change for themselves, their families, and communities. 10,000 tribal boys and girls' study in the satellite centers of KISS in 10 districts of Odisha.

What started as a dream and passion with modest means has now emerged into a revolution in the lives of tribal people.



The KISS model has successfully addressed and restricted the spread of the growing tribal insurgency in the tribal hinterland and removing backwardness. Education and literacy are spreading in the tribal areas at a much faster pace than it has ever been. KISS' zero-dropout legacy is catching on the government-run schools in the tribal areas as more and more tribal children are coming out of their homes to enroll in various Government run tribal schools and general schools in the tribal hinterland and continuing their studies. KISS has stood out as a beacon of light for tribal and an icon of tribal renaissance.

Dr. Achyuta Samanta's Work

- **Women Empowerment:** KISS has been able to address many of the social and health issues like child marriage, infant and maternal mortality, etc. KISS campuses are designated safe spaces, where students are provided with security and the stable comfort of room, board, and healthcare, free of cost.

“Kanya Kiran” – an annual flagship initiative to arrest violence against women and girl children in Odisha. He also implemented ‘Education for all and Life Skills Education’, spreading awareness about gender equality - through student and community engagements via peer education in villages. Another initiative “Earn-while-you-learn” program encourages and teaches girls income-generating skills.

(<https://achyutasamanta.com/women-empowerment/>)

- **Tribal Upliftment:**
KISS started with only 125 tribal students in a rented house, is now the world's largest and only institute providing free education from kindergarten to post-graduation with vocational and extracurricular training, free lodging and boarding, state-of-the-art pedagogy, and facilities exclusively tribal children (including 30,000 students in KISS, Bhubaneswar, 20,000 well-placed alumni, and 10,000 students in various satellite centres). At a social level, it has curbed child marriage and Naxalism.
- **Sustainable Development & Peace:** Echoing the SDG (Sustainability Development Goals), KISS is dedicated towards combating inequalities and preserving the environment.

(<https://achyutasamanta.com/sustainable-development-peace/>)