



State Resource Centre Assam

Literacy and Empowerment of Women

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Two-thirds of the world's adult illiterates are women. This situation has not changed in the last 20 years. Women are being denied access to a powerful tool that could enable them the power to transform their lives. Literacy is crucial for promoting women's rights and achieving empowerment.

Literacy strengthens women's participation in decision making. Women who lack literacy skills are deprived from making important decision regarding their own health or other important matter of their families. Instead, they rely more on the husband or others to make such decision.

The mass literacy campaign began in the 1990s both at policy level and from people's movement. This programme has created excitement, awareness and social mobilization. "The core of every campaign is a massive volunteer effort". This was very prominent in Assam, A major feature in all MLC programme is the massive participation of women in number of levels and various capacities. In a male dominated society it was strange. People believed that women can work but cannot lead. Thus it was proved that women once equipped with literacy can do a lot.

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Regional Review Meeting with SLMAs of North Eastern States:

The Regional Review Meeting with the SLMAs of North Eastern states was held at Assam Administrative Staff College, Khanapara, Guwahati on 19th Feb., 2013. The meeting was chaired by Sh. J.S. Raju, D. G, NLMA. Mr. N.M. Hussain, Commissioner / Secretary, Secondary Education, Govt. of



Assam were present on that occasion along with Ms. Gita Sarma, Deputy Secretary from the same Deptt. DG, NLMA was accompanied by Sh. BB. Mukherjee, Sh. Amarjeet Singh, Deputy Secretary & Under Secretary respectively to the Govt. of India. Further, the members of the TSG group of NLMA-SPS Sangwan, Dr. R.P. Pathak assisted him. The other participants were the Nodal Officers from the SLMAs of the North Eastern States and the Directors of SRC Guwahati and SRC Nehu, Shillong. To clarify various issues related to account opening, Chief Manager, SBI, Dispur was present in the meeting.

The objective of this one day Meeting was to discuss the range of issues arising out during the implementation SBM in the states of North East India.

The Officials from the SLMAs of Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Nagaland and Tripura presented the ongoing status of SBM in their concerned states.

The following issues came out which needs immediate intervention from the authorities-

- Non-receipt of honorarium by the Preraks and coordinators at various levels, came out as one of the vital issues for the entire region except Manipur.
- The poor progress in terms of account opening is another problem that was retarding the progress of SBM in this region.
- The poor progress in the village mapping has come out as one of the prime obstacles in Assam in a few districts. The problem is supplemented after the reorganization of the districts.

DG asked the SLMA officials to prepare justified proposal for re-appropriation of fund so that the pending honorarium could be released immediately. He instructed his officials to take necessary steps to eradicate the problems in NE India.

Review Meeting

Quarterly Review Meeting

The quarterly Review meeting on implementation of SBM was held at Conference Hall, Prasanti Lodge, Majuli. The programme was organized by State Resource Centre (SRC) Assam.

Chaired by Mr. S.Brahma, Director, SRC Assam, the 1st technical session of the Review Meeting vis-status of implementation of Saakshar Bharat Mission in adopted areas was conducted by N.C.Deka, Prog. Coordinator, SRC Assam. In his opening remark, Mr Brhma, welcomes all the participants to the heart of Vaishvait Culture-Majuli. Thereafter, the participants introduced themselves.

In a brief presentation on the history & evolution of Literacy Movement in Assam post 90's, Mr Brahma underscored the role played by SRC Assam and its present status in terms of implementing Saakshar Bharat Mission (SBM) in Assam.

This was followed by the district wise presentation on implementation of SBM. To judge the level of performance of various districts, a team of Juries was constituted by SRC Assam which consisted –Mr. Nripen Dutta, Sub-Teacher, Dhekial H.S. School, Dergaon,; Mr. Manik Lal Mahato, Renowned Social Worker, Jorhat and J.R.Das, A.O, SRC Assam.



In tune of the review of SBM in various adopted areas, the assessment of ongoing activities of Model AECs in Assam was conducted on the same occasion. This part of the programme was conducted by A. Hoque, Programme Coordinator, SRC Assam. The seat of the judges were occupied by the same judges.

District Sonitpur retained the 1st position in both the aspects-the implementation of SBM, the progress in Model AEC. The day long meeting was concluded with the remark from S.Brahma, Director, SRC Assam

Review of SBM in Bongaigaon:

Bongaigaon Zilla Lok Siksha Samiti organized a Meeting to assess the progress of SBM in Bongaigaon district on 17-18th Jan, 2013. The venue was the Conference Hall of Bongaigaon Zilla Parishad. The meeting was chaired by Mr. P.K.Paul, CEO, Bongaigaon ZP.

The Supervisors from the blocks of Srijangram, Tapattary, Baitamari, Dangtal Manikpur and Bongaigaon took part in the programme. The other participants were the District and Block Coordinators of SBM.

From SRC Assam N.C.Deka, Prog. Coordinator and G.Saikia, Prog. Associate were present on that occasion. The participants discussed the present status and future activities of SBM in

Bongaigaon. Total no. of participants were 20.

SRC Assam held a Review Meeting at Srijangram Block Office on 12th Feb., 2013. The objective of the meeting was to assess the degree of progress in SBM in Srijangram and Tapattary Blocks. In the programme, SRC Assam was represented by G.Saikia and P.Kakati (Both Prog. Associate).

A.Hussain represented BDO, Srijangram in his absence. The other participants were the Preraks from both the blocks. The Preraks raised the issue of non-receipt of their honorarium and urged for immediate intervention from SRC Assam to resolve it. The Officials from SRC assured them to provide maximum assistance in this respect. The total participants were 48

Block Review Meeting in Sonitpur:

SRC Assam organized series of Review Meetings in the adopted blocks of Sonitpur district. The Reviews were held consecutively during 28th Jan-01st Feb., 2013 at the BDO Offices of Gabharu, Balipara, Sootea and Rangapara with the support from ZLSS Sonitpur. The programmes were basically conducted by the SBM Coordinator of the concerned blocks. N.C.Deka, Programme Coordinator along with H.Saikia, District RP were present all through the days and put valuable views and opinions for the betterment of SBM in those areas.

The participants who were mostly Preraks maintained the view of successfully holding the forthcoming NIOS Exam on 17th march, 2013. They have been given the responsibility to identify the Examination centres plus the necessary support to accomplish the processes of NIOS Exam. Emphasis was paid on early completion of GP profile and maintains ideal learning condition at AEC that found to deteriorate at many venues.

Review Meeting in Darrang:

SRC Assam organized a series of Block level Monthly Review/Monitoring Meetings in the adopted blocks of Darrang during 11–18th February 2013. The Preraks of the AECs were present in these meetings and reviewed the activities done so far. These meetings were collectively conducted by the Programme Coordinators, District RPs and Block RPs of SRC Assam. Discussions focused on the forthcoming NIOS-NLMA Assessment on 17th March 2013. Ms. A. Baruah, Programme

Coordinator and Ms. S. Goswami, Research Officer, SRC Assam were present in the meetings.

Mr. A.M. Amin, Director i/c, JSS Darrang attended each of the meetings and spoke on the Vocational training they have been imparting and to be launched in the coming time especially for the neoliterates. All together 25 Vocational courses got started in Darrang in the month of February 2013.

Review Meeting in Dhubri:

Dhubri ZLSS organized a Meeting on 13th March, 2013 at Conference Hall, Dhubri Zilla Parishad on ongoing SBM at Dhubri district. The meeting was attended by Dr.N.K.Nath, Programme Coordinator and P.Kakati, Programme Associate from SRC Dispur and SRC Guwahati respectively.

During the meeting, the issues which have been discussed were the household survey, survey data entry & their correction process, online data uploading, status of Preraks and coordinators at various levels, Bank AC opening at different levels etc.

Training & Orientation

Workshop on Research Methodology at TISS, Mumbai:

National Literacy Mission Authority (NLMA) organized a week long workshop on Research methodology in social science from 25th Feb-1st March, 2013. The venue of the programme was Tata Institute of Social Science (TISS), Mumbai, one of the stakeholders of NLMA in terms of providing technical support for Research & Evaluation. The participants were the Faculty members of 27 SRCs from all over India. On behalf of SRC Assam, Sh. Sunil Sahariah, Programme Associate, was present in the training.

The faculty members from the Centre of Research Methodology (CRM), TISS Mumbai carried out the workshop as RPs. NLMA organized the workshop in tune of the “Year of Capacity building” for the SRC faculties. It aimed at developing the methodological base of SRC faculties so that SRCs can carry out various researches more effectively. On behalf of NLMA, Ms. Purbi Pattanayak, Consultant (Research & Evaluation), TSG Team was present in training throughout the days.

The workshop started with the inaugural address of Prof. D.P.Singh, Prof., CRM cum Course Coordinator. It was followed by the self introduction of the participants.

During the technical sessions, range of issues related to research vis-survey techniques, the conceptual Framework of



research, SPSS operation, data analysis in social Science, Evaluation research etc. were discussed by the faculties from CRM-Dr. Anil Sutar, Dr. Dr. K Ravindran, Prof. D.P. Singh. The sessions were very interactive and trainees and trainers exhibited great enthusiasm to learn from each other.

Prof. S. Parasuraman, Director and Prof. Nasreen Rustofram, Faculty member, Centre of lifelong learning, TISS, Mumbai were kind enough to step in the workshop and freely interacted with the participants for a short duration of time

At the end of the Programme, the certificates were given away by Dr. Lina Kashyap, Deputy Director, TISS Mumbai. In her brief address to the participants, she wished them all success in their works and advised them to incorporate the learnings of the workshop in the practical field.

National Workshop on Revision of Training Manual:

A four day workshop on Revision of training manual for SBM was organised by National Literacy Mission Authority, New Delhi in collaboration with SRC Kerala at Thiruvanthapuram, Kerala from 15-18th Dec., 2013. During this period, four training manuals for RP, MT, Prerak & VT were revised and given the final shape for printing. Mr. A. Hoque, Programme Coordinator, SRC Assam participated in that programme. On behalf of NLMA, Dr. Kuldeep Kumar, Consultant, NLMA conducted the training programme.



RP Training at Barpeta:

The RP training to accelerate SBM in Barpeta was held at the Conference Hall of Barpeta ZP on 27-28th Feb., 2013. The programme was inaugurated by Mr. A. Askar, CEO, Barpeta ZP. In his welcome address, he highlighted the role of education in national development and urged the support of all the stakeholders to make SBM a success. Mr. A. Chakrabarty, President, GVS Assam and A. Malik, Secretary, Anchalik Gram Unnayan Parishad shared their experience in literacy movement.

The participants were District and Block Coordinators and Supervisors from Adult Education Deptt. Ms. A. Baruah, Mr. P. Kalita and Mr. A. Hoque from SRC Assam and D. Barua, Block RP, Sipajhar were present as the RP. Moreover Dr. N. K. Nath and Ms. Bobby Nath from SRC Dispur also took part in the training as RP. Besides, P. Baruah, PO, DAEO Barpeta was present there. The total no. of participants were 34.



RP Training at Tinsukia:

A two day long RP Training was held at Conference hall of Tinsukia ZP on 21-22nd March, 2013. This was basically with the view to Resource Pool creation for SBM in Tinsukia. The programme was inaugurated by CEO, Tinsukia Zilla Parishad, A. Hoque, P. Kalita from SRC Assam and D. Chetia, Member, Indian Adult Education Association (IAEA) took part in the programme as RP. They were assisted by Dr. N. K. Nath and Ms. Bobby Nath from SRC Dispur. Mr. G. Sonnowal, Project Officer DAE, Tinsukia helped to smoothly conduct the entire programme.

The participants were the District and Block coordinators of Saakshar Bharat Abhiyan of Tinsukia district. The training highlighted most of the physical and financial aspects of SBM and the roles and responsibilities of the Coordinators, Preraks and VTs at different levels. Total participants were 25.



Master Trainers Training:

Barpeta Zilla Lok Siksha Samiti organized a MT Training Camp at Tarunram Phukan Hall, Barpeta on 15-16th March, 2013. The welcome address was delivered by Mr. Ali Askar, CEO,

Barpeta Zilla Parishad. Mr. Priya Nath Barua, Project Officer, District Adult Education Office, Barpeta explained the aims and objectives of the training. Introducing the Primers, Mr. Hiranya

Das, RP Barpeta spoke on the cautions to be taken by the VTs while teaching that primer to the adult learners. Mr. Abdul Matleb explained the role and responsibilities of MT in SBM programme.

Ms. Ranu Deka and Ms. Bobby Nath from SRC Assam & SRC Dispur respectively played the role of RP in that programme. Total no of participant was 60.

VT Training:

A series of VT trainings were held at Dhemaji district during Feb. 9th to Feb. 25th, 2013. The two days trainings were held at GP level. On an avg., 50 VTs were trained in each of them by the District and Block coordinators and Preraks as well. On behalf of SRC Assam, A. Hoque, Prog. Coordinator was present. During the trainings, Primers were distributed to the VTs so that they can readily start the classes at their locality. The sessions were very interesting and the participants took part actively through out.



Capacity Building Training for JSS, Nagaon, Darrang:

JSS Nagaon held a Capacity Building Training for its staff members on 23rd March, 2013. The venue was Conference Hall, JSS Nagaon. The training focussed on the need of Management skills, effective communication skill, Documentation etc. required for the organisations like JSS. The programme was chaired by Mr. S. U. Ahmed, Chairman, JSS, Nagaon. Mr. S. Brahma, Director and A. Hoque, Programme Coordinator from SRC Assam played the role of RP. Moreover, Mr. M. Kakati, Director JSS, Kamrup and Mr. N.C. Dutta, Sub. Teacher, Dhekial H.S. School, Golaghat participated as RP.



Similarly, SRC Assam participated in a capacity building training at JSS Darrang. The programme was chaired by Mr. B. Ali, Chairman, JSS Darrang. The objective of the programme was explained by Mr. S. M Amin, Director, JSS Darrang. Mr. A. Hoque and Ms. A. Baruah (Both prog. Coordinator) & Ms. R. Deka, Programme Associate from SRC Assam participated in the

programme as RP. Moreover, Dr. J. Borah, Principal, Neheru H. S. School, Gahpur took part in the programme as RP.

Meeting/Consultation/Days Observation

Coordination Meeting among the Stakeholders of Saakshar Bharat Mission:

A Coordination Meeting among the stakeholders of Saakshar Bharat Mission in Assam was held on 10th Jan., 2013 at Hotel Monsoon Palace, Panbazar, Guwahati. The programme was organized by State Resource Centre (SRC) Assam. The participants were the Directors of SRCs in Assam, Directors of four JSS's in Assam, OSD, SLMA Assam and the supporting staff of SRC Assam.

The following resolutions were taken unanimously after the discussion –

- The JSS of the SBM districts will extend their support to Zilla Lok Siksha Samiti (ZLSS) of Assam in imparting various vocational courses for the targeted Neo-literates as per the need and adaptability of the learners.



- The SBM districts where JSS is absent, the JSS from the neighbouring districts will extend their additional support to ZLSS in order to carry out range of vocational courses for the targeted Neo-literates provided a formal

intimation from National Literacy Mission Authority (NLMA) in this regard.

- The JSS will bear the responsibility of Certifying the successful candidates(Neo-literate) after their evaluation.
- In order to impart vocational courses in Non-JSS districts, JSS's will develop the RPs in those districts with their own effort.
- SRC will organize a state level RP training in the aforesaid regard in collaboration with JSS's.
- The honorarium for the RPs has been fixed up a @Rs-200/- (rupees two hundred only) per session (2 hours).

- The following trades have been selected for the Vocational Courses at the initial stage for the Neo-literates-
 - a. Hair Cutting & bridal make-up
 - b. Basic Electricity
 - c. Two Wheeler Repairing
 - d. Fabric painting
 - e. Cutting & tailoring (machine embroidery)
- To assess the progress in the vocational courses for the learners', Quarterly Review meeting would be organized by both SRCs of Assam alternatively.
- The matching of the JSS with the SBM districts was made.

Consultation on legislative measures for Lifelong and Adult Literacy:

SRC Guwahati held a consultation on 23rd Feb., 2013 at Hotel Monsoon Palace, Guwahati. The objective of the consultation was to evolve out some provisions and clauses to be incorporated in the proposed Legislation on Non-Formal and Adult education. The programme was organized in accordance with the intimation from Sh. J.S.Raju, DG, NLMA. The participants were Experts, Intellectuals and Stakeholders' etc. The Programme was chaired by Dr. B.K.Sarma, Chairman, SRC Assam.

In the beginning, S.Brahma, Director, SRC Assam presented a brief overview of the literacy movement in India in with special emphasis on the loopholes of the prior programmes.

A team of Experts consisting 6(six) members was already constituted by SRC Assam who were responsible for preparing the concept note on the said topic. The panelists put forward their opinion in the meeting. It was followed by an Open discussion



where the participants drawn from diverse backgrounds, namely- Administration, Education, NGOs took part and shared their views and opinions on the said matter.

Valedictory Ceremony of Kalajatra:

The Valedictory Ceremony of Kalajatra (A mobile Street play Group) was held at UDAS Club, Sipajhar. Started from 4th Dec., 2013, the team passed through 7 SBM districts till they reach Sipajhar on 13Feb.,2013. All together the group exhibited the Play at 32 venues. The basic object was to percolate the message of SBM into the hearts of the people. People in masses participated and enjoyed it all through. The programme was chaired by S.Brahma, Director, SRC Assam along with two Programme Staff-S.Goswami, A,Baruah. The occasion was graced by Mr. S. M. Amin, Director, JSS Darrang. The other participants were District and Block RPs and people from locality.



International Women's Day:

SRC has been engaged in different activities for promoting the status of women literacy or other women related issues. To commemorate the contribution of women folk in social well being, the Women's day is being observed globally on 8th March every

year. The theme for the International Women's Day, 2013 is "The Gender Agenda: Gaining Momentum" The very day was observed at 5 Model AECs at Tezpur, Kharupetia, Dhemaji, Bongaigaon and Kokrajhar under SRC Assam with different



programmes like discussion, sharing experiences & extempore speech etc.

It was rightly highlighted by the conscious citizens who participated in the womens day that the need of the hour is not

only mere observation of the day but to translate the significance of the day in our day to day life. The dream of an Egalitarian society will only come true when both man and woman would march ahead shoulder to shoulder.

Preparatory Meeting of NIOS Exam:

SRC Assam held a preparatory Meeting at the Conference Hall of SRC Assam at Guwahati on 5th March, 2013. The objective of the meeting was to evolve out proper mechanism to ensure smooth functioning of the forthcoming NIOS Exam on 17th March; 2013.

The meeting was chaired by S.Brahma, Director, SRC Assam. S.Goswami, A. Baruah A. Hoque, N. Deka are the other participants from SRC staff.

The Participants were given the key responsibility to ensure successful completion of NIOS exam. with all necessary formalities.



Assessment test for Neo-literates:

The assessment for Neo-literates under SBM was held on 17th March, 2013. It was jointly organized by National Institute of Open

Schooling (NIOS) and National Literacy Mission Authority (NLMA) with logistic and human support from SRC s and ZLSSs.

The status of the assessment test in Assam

SN	District	No. of Centre	Registered	Appeared	Attendance(%)	Male	Female
1	Darrang	101	14125	10062	71.23	1543	8519
2	Kokrajhar	3	129	108	83.72	36	72
3	Dhemaji	162	8820	3154	35.72	492	2642
4	Sonitpur	700	63468	50029	78.82	11307	38722
5	Karbi Anglong	50	900	820	91.11	360	460
6	Bongaigaon	107	4404	3452	78.38	1036	2416
7	Hailakandi	67	10235	7108	69.45	3154	3954
	Total	1190	102081	74713	73.18	17928	56785



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MONDAY, MARCH 25, 2013

Basic Literary Examination conducted in Naduar block

CORRESPONDENT

JAMUGURIHAT, March 24 – Sonitpur Zila Loka Shakharata Samiti (ZLSS) which is spearheading the campaign of Loka Shakharata specially among the women organised the basic literary examination conducted by the National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) in 10 gaon panchayats of Naduar development block on March 17 along with the other blocks of Sonitpur district.

According to inputs submitted by Arunima Goswami, block coordinator of the block, a total of 2012 illiterates out of 3082 illiterates taught by voluntary teachers in 45 learning centres have appeared in the examination. The gaon panchayats covered by the examination are Uttar, Pub, Pachim and Dakshin Murhadol, Uttar, Pub and Pachim Borbhagia and Dakshin, Uttar and Madhya



Chilabandha.

Women with children on their laps, women above the age of 60 also appeared in the examination and in some centres cent per cent attendance (Sologuri, Uttar Chilabandha and 99.9 per cent (Guwal gaon Namghar) Batiyamari LP under Dakshin Chilabandha were recorded. Resource per-

sons like Ranjit Nath, Kalpana Devi, Ajay Das, Minakshi Baruti, Binita Devi, Mriganama Baruah etc and it was their untiring effort for arranging classes for the illiterates. The examination conducted from 10 am to 5 pm were ably supervised by Gopal Kalita and Guna Borah along with Profulla Hazarika.

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নদুৱাৰত বুনীয়াদী সাক্ষৰতা পৰীক্ষা

প্ৰতিদিন সেৱা, জামুগুৰিহাট, ১৭ মাৰ্চ : সাক্ষৰ ভাৰত অভিযানৰ অন্তৰ্গত শোণিতপুৰ জিলা লোক সাক্ষৰতা সমিতিয়ে জিলাখনৰ বিভিন্ন উন্নয়ন খণ্ডত আজি অনুষ্ঠিত কৰে 'বুনীয়াদী' পৰীক্ষা।

ৰাষ্ট্ৰীয় মুক্ত বিদ্যালয় প্ৰতিষ্ঠানে অনুষ্ঠিত কৰা এই পৰীক্ষা জামুগুৰিহাটস্থিত নদুৱাৰ উন্নয়ন খণ্ডৰ কাৰ্যালয়ৰ অধীনস্থ দহখন গাঁও পঞ্চায়ততো সুকলমে অনুষ্ঠিত হৈ যায়। নদুৱাৰৰ খণ্ড সমন্বয়ক অৰুণিমা গোস্বামীয়ে জানিবলৈ দিয়ামতে উন্নয়ন খণ্ডটোৰ দহখন গাঁও পঞ্চায়ত ক্ৰমে পূব, পশ্চিম, উত্তৰ আৰু দক্ষিণ মুঢ়াদল, উত্তৰ, মধ্য আৰু দক্ষিণ চিলাবন্ধা, উত্তৰ, পূব আৰু পশ্চিম বৰভগীয়াত মুঠ ৪৫টা পৰীক্ষা কেন্দ্ৰত দুহেজাৰৰো অধিক ন-শিক্ষাক প্ৰাপ্তবয়স্ক পুৰুষ-মহিলা পৰীক্ষার্থীয়ে পৰীক্ষাত অৱতীৰ্ণ হয়। উল্লেখনীয় যে কোলাত কেঁচুৰা লৈও কেইবাটাও কেন্দ্ৰত বহুকেইগৰাকী মহিলা পৰীক্ষাত অৱতীৰ্ণ হোৱাৰ উপৰি যাঠিৰো উৰ্ধ্বৰ কেইবাগৰাকীও আইতায়ো এই পৰীক্ষাত বহি শিক্ষাৰ প্ৰতি থকা ধাৰ্ভিতিক প্ৰতিপন্ন কৰা দেখা গ'ল। উল্লেখযোগ্য যে পূৰ্বা ১০ বঁজাৰ পৰা অনুষ্ঠিত এই পৰীক্ষাৰ পৰ্যবেক্ষক আছিল জিলা কাৰ্যকৰী সদস্য গোলাপ কলিতা।

PAPER CLIPPINGS OF NIOS EXAM. 17th AUGUST, 2013

তেজপুৰত পৰীক্ষাত বহিল বৃদ্ধা

বিশেষ নিয়মীয়া বাৰ্তা, তেজপুৰ, ১৭ মাৰ্চ : প্ৰবল ইচ্ছা শক্তিৰ লগতে একাগ্ৰতা থাকিলে বয়স অধ্যয়নৰ ক্ষেত্ৰত বাধা হ'ব নোৱাৰে। এই কথা পুনৰ প্ৰমাণ কৰিলে শোণিতপুৰৰ এগৰাকী বৃদ্ধাই। উল্লেখ্য যে নিৰক্ষৰতা দূৰ কৰিবলৈ কেন্দ্ৰীয় চৰকাৰে গ্ৰহণ কৰিছে সাক্ষৰ ভাৰত অভিযান আঁচনি। এই আঁচনিৰ অধীনত শোণিতপুৰ জিলাৰ ১৪টা খণ্ডত ৭০ সহস্ৰাধিক শিক্ষার্থীয়ে চাৰি মাহ ধৰি শিক্ষাগ্ৰহণ কৰে। চাৰি মাহ শিক্ষাগ্ৰহণৰ অন্তত আজি স্বাক্ষৰ ভাৰতৰ পৰীক্ষাত অৱতীৰ্ণ হয় অম্বিকা বৰুৱা নামৰ ৮০ বছৰীয়া মহিলাগৰাকী। তেজপুৰ মাজগাঁও বালিকা প্ৰাথমিক বিদ্যালয়ত অনুষ্ঠিত সাক্ষৰ ভাৰতৰ পৰীক্ষাত ৮০ বছৰীয়া অম্বিকা বৰুৱাৰ লগতে তেওঁৰ সমবয়সৰ লক্ষী বাভা, ধনদা বৰা, কল্যাণী দেৱীও অৱতীৰ্ণ হয়। বৃদ্ধ অৱস্থাতে সাক্ষৰ ভাৰতৰ পৰীক্ষাত অৱতীৰ্ণ হৈ মহিলাকেইগৰাকীয়ে বয়স যে শিক্ষাৰ অন্তৰায় হ'ব নোৱাৰে সেয়া প্ৰতিপন্ন কৰে।

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তেজপুৰত ৮০ বছৰীয়া পৰীক্ষার্থী

স্টাফ ৰিপৰ্টাৰ, তেজপুৰ, ১৭ মাৰ্চ : একাগ্ৰতা আৰু প্ৰবল ইচ্ছাশক্তি থাকিলে শিক্ষা গ্ৰহণৰ যে বয়সৰ কোনো সীমা থাকিব নোৱাৰে, সেই কথা আজি তেজপুৰত প্ৰমাণ কৰিলে এগৰাকী ৮০ বছৰীয়া আইতাই। ভাৰত চৰকাৰৰ অধীনৰ সাক্ষৰ ভাৰত অভিযানৰ বুনীয়াদী পৰীক্ষাত বহিল ৮০টা বসন্ত গৰকা অম্বিকা বৰুৱা নামৰ আইতগৰাকীয়ে। অকল এইগৰাকী আইতাই নহয়; লক্ষী বাভা, ধনদা বৰা, কল্যাণী দেৱীও বহিল এই পৰীক্ষাত। এই ঘটনা তেজপুৰস্থিত মাজগাঁও বালিকা প্ৰাথমিক বিদ্যালয়ৰ। উল্লেখ্য, শোণিতপুৰ জিলাখনৰ ১৪টা খণ্ডত প্ৰায় ৭০ হাজাৰ শিক্ষার্থীয়ে চাৰিমাহ ধৰি শিক্ষা গ্ৰহণৰ অন্তত আজি এই বুনীয়াদী পৰীক্ষাত অৱতীৰ্ণ হয়। ৰাজ্যত ২৪ লাখ নিৰক্ষৰ লোক আছে আৰু এই পৰীক্ষা দিয়া লোকৰ সংখ্যা ৯০ হাজাৰ।

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Gender Gap in Literacy: The case of North East India

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Introduction

Gender disparity has been a major issue in India's pursuit for achieving the goals of universal elementary education. In order to overcome the problems faced by girls, several measures have been initiated across the country. In spite of various programmes, gender gap in literacy as well as primary schooling is a burning issue all over India. While female literacy rate has been increased and enrolment rate has also increased rapidly since the 1990's, there is still a substantial gap in education. Literacy campaigns have indeed raised women's hopes and desire to achieve freedom from ignorance and economic dependence particularly when they are oriented towards socio-economic development. The importance of women's education is perpetually being emphasized in full measures by the government and special provisions are being made to educate them and also to improve their socio-economic status.

Literacy in North East India

North East India, having a population of 39.04 million is basically a region consisting of eight states, namely, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura and Sikkim. With the diverse flora and fauna, NER of India is unique in its topography. The region is although endowed with rich natural resources, but economically backward with intra-regional disparities in the level of development. The states of NER of India have some common characteristics like cultural patterns, tribal concentration, hill areas and chronically flood affected areas. Other characteristics are high rurality, agriculture pre-dominance, industrial backwardness and presence of a high proportion of unorganized labour.

There has been impressive growth of literacy rate in the North Eastern states during the last few decades. Again it is a matter of pride that Mizoram occupies second position in the total literacy rate in the country.

In the North Eastern Region of India, Mizoram has the highest literacy rate (91.6%) followed by Tripura 87.8%. Arunachal Pradesh has the lowest literacy rate (67.0%) in the region as per 2011 census. Of course, out of seven states in the region, six have higher literacy rate than the national average as per 2011 census. Again the new entry to NER, Sikkim has also literacy rate above the national course, which is 69.68% and 82.2% as per the census year 2001 and 2011 respectively. It is also notable that for the first time in 2001 census, the literacy rate of Assam has come down below the national average which is also seen in the 2011 census.

Gender Gap in Literacy

It is also observed that there is great disparity in male and female literacy rate. In all the states of India, male literacy is now over 60 percent while only 18 states having female literacy above 60 percent. In 1991, the Gender Parity Index (GPI) of literacy rate was 0.59 or less in 12 states and UT's namely Rajasthan, Bihar, Uttarpradesh, Chattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Dadra & Nagar Haveli, Orissa, Uttarkhand, Andhra Pradesh, Haryana and one from NER i.e. Arunachal Pradesh. The gender gap in the literacy rates in the North Eastern States is presented in the following table:

Gender Gap in Literacy Rate in NER (1991 -2011)

States	2001			2011		
	Male (%)	Female (%)	Gender gap (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)	Gender gap (%)
Arunachal Pradesh	64.07	44.38	19.83	73.7	59.6	14.1
Assam	71.93	56.03	15.90	78.8	67.3	11.5
Manipur	77.87	59.7	18.17	86.5	73.2	13.3
Meghalaya	66.14	60.41	5.73	77.2	73.8	3.4
Mizoram	90.69	86.13	4.56	93.7	89.4	4.3
Nagaland	71.77	61.92	9.85	83.3	76.7	6.6
Tripura	81.47	65.41	15.06	92.2	83.1	9.1
Sikkim	76.73	61.46	15.27	87.3	76.4	10.9
All India	75.96	54.28	21.68	82.14	65.46	16.68

Source: Census of India Report 2001 & 2011

It is seen from the above table that gender gap in literacy exists in all the states of North East Region, even though the gap is lower than the national level gap of 21.68 in 2001 and 16.68 in 2011. Female literacy is significantly lower than the male literacy in all the states. The gender gap in literacy is highest in Arunachal Pradesh in 2001 and 2011 which is 19.83 and 14.1 respectively, followed by Manipur which is 18.17 and 13.3. Gender gap is found to be lowest in Meghalaya which is 3.4 in 2011 followed by Mizoram which is 4.3.

The National Family Health Survey (NFHS-3) 2005-06 also shows the variation of education level of men and women in the North Eastern states. As per the NFHS, 34.5% female and 28.9% male have no education. In Assam the figure is 29.5% for female and 16.7% for male. Only 5.8% female in Arunachal Pradesh have more than 5 years of schooling and the figure is 10% for male. In Assam the figure is 6.6% for female and 10.6% for male. Although Mizoram has the highest literacy percentage but only 8.5% female and 12.5% male have more than 12 years of schooling. The median number of schooling is 0.5 and 3.3 for female and male in Arunachal Pradesh which is 3.3 and 4.9 in Assam.

Conclusion

Looking into the position of gender gap in literacy of the North Eastern Region of India, there is an urgent need to adopt suitable measures for elimination of gender disparities in education. It should be ensured that girls stay on in schools to complete their studies and do not drop out before completion. Formal, Non-formal and alternative schools, all forms of communication, both traditional and modern need to be used to provide education for girls. This is essential in view of the inadequacy of funds, physical facilities and trained teachers. Cooperation of government, public and NGO is quite essential without which it may not be possible to eliminate gender disparities only by government.

Literacy and Empowerment of Women

Cont. from Page No. 1

In spite of all the promises of the politicians and number of government sponsored projects, literacy rate of Assam is not satisfactory though other North Eastern states like Tripura and Mizoram are doing much better. Various organizations in Assam have periodic enthusiasm which is not steady. Gyan Bigyan Samiti Assam had a success story at the beginning with women in large number participating in literacy programme. There were examples of these women doing well later in the Panchayat election. Unfortunately neither the government

nor the non-government organizations have been able to carry out the programme continuously. For women from the rural background this is very important. Women always enjoy a free time and space. Therefore, in order to support their interest there is a need of a pressure group who sincerely work for the interest of the women who are deprived of their basic human rights. This will ultimately lead to the empowerment of the other half of our citizen. Progress of the country depends on such sincere endeavour.

Vocational Training by JSS Kamrup



Weaving Training at Chandrapur, Kamrup (M) in collaboration with College of Engineering & Leather Technology, West Bengal.



Training on Cutting and Tailoring at Rangiya Tiniali, Kamrup.

Editorial.....

Hope you have enjoyed the Spring festivals and wish all of you all the best for the year ahead.

SRC Assam had held a consultation with intellectuals experts and stakeholders to evolve some provisions and clauses to be incorporated in the proposed legislation on Non-Formal & Adult Education.

The members at the meeting from their own experience, expressed that we must be careful and serious. A lot of research must be done to find out the ground realities before we actually form laws. Laws are easy to make but hard to implement. Another felt that sensitizing the political machinery is vital for any success in any programme. Every nook and corner, no matter how remote, must be covered under law. One member stressed that Adult literacy programme should converge with other Educational Institutions like B. Ed. Collges and universities. There should be continuous and wider consultation with stakeholders while preparing the draft. Some also stressed on adequate budgetary provision to ensure sustainability.

We hope that the legislation and the clauses to be incorporated will be realistic and should be adhered to by all concerned so that hundred percent literacy will become reality.

We definitely want to see a country where every single person is literate. Everyone enjoys two meals a day and does not live in fear in his own house or village. So, I feel literacy should not be only a programme. It should be taken as a serious matter and conducted in all seriousness.

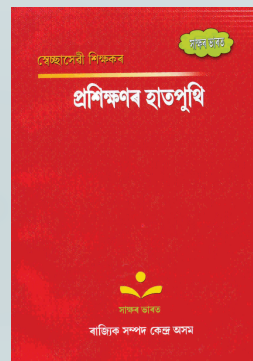
New Publication

1. Prerakar Prashikshan Hatputhi (Manual for training of AEC Preraks) :



Role of Prerak is very important for success of Saakshar Bharat Programme as they are responsible for implementation of a wide range of programmes like literacy, basic education, vocational educational and lifelong education programmes. A well trained Prerak could make all the difference in reaching the benefits of the multifarious development and welfare programmes of various departments to the beneficiaries. This book has been transcreated from a DAE, New Delhi publication, which will definitely help in the trainings of Preraks.

2. Sweshasebir Prashikshan Hatputhi (Source Book for Training of Volunteer Teachers) :



A Volunteer Teacher is a person who offers his or her time, efforts and skills on regular basis for the noble cause of imparting literacy to the non-literates. "Some people dream of success, while others wake up and work hard at it" ----- Yes, it suits the VTs. The VT is an individual who can contribute time, services and resources in the belief that assistance rendered would further enhance the quality of the life of the learners and the community at large. This book will help in the training of Volunteer Teachers.

3. Fol Mul Aru Sak-Pasolir Sangrakhyon (Preservation of Fruit & Vegetables) :



This book has prepared for the beneficiaries of Vocational Training. In this book, Mr. Munin Kakati, Director, JSS Kamrup, described the importance and methods of preservation and nutrition of fruits and vegetables. Range of short & long terms techniques to preserve the fruits and vegetables were explained in a lucid manner in this book. It is found to be very beneficial for women.

Anuradha Baruah ,
Prog. Coordinator, Material

Vocational Training

Workshop on Vocational training for selected VTs:

A two days Residential training-cum-workshop for skill development of the selected Volunteer Teachers (VTs) of SBM, Bongaigaon District was organized on 21-23/3/2013 at the Conference Hall of Zilla Parishad, Bongaigaon. The programme was chaired by Sri P.K.Paul CEO ZP, Bongaigaon. The Supervisors and Block Coordinators of respective 5 Dev Blocks i.e. Boitamari, Dangtol, Manikpur, Srijangram and Tapattary Dist Co-coordinator of SBM and Selected VTs from each 5(five) Blocks Dev Blocks participated in the programme.

Sh. N.C.Deka, Programme Coordinator, SRC, Assam, Sh. T.K Choudhury, Sh. H.K Das, (Both are Extension Officer, DICC, Bongaigaon), Sh. H. Bayan, Sh. S. Kr Deb, Sh. S. Karmakar (Instructors) ITI, Bongaigaon & Sh. A.K. Chakrabarty, Bongaigaon Dist. Dev Fishery Officer took part in the programme



as Resource Persons.

The RPs tried to sensitize the VTs about the various schemes provided by Govt. and their concerned organization for the skill up gradation of the needy people. The need of the hour was the awareness that must be generated among the common people.

The programme concluded with the thanks giving remark from Md. Afsar Ali, Supervisor of DAEO, Goalpara.

Vocational training for the Neo-literates:

With a view to develop the inherent skills of the Neo-Literates ,SRC Assam has been running no. of vocational courses in the adopted areas.The JSS Darrang and JSS Kamrup have been extending their resource support in this respect

Status of Vocational courses in SBM districts

S.N	Trades	No. of Centres	Beneficiaries		
			Male	Female	Total
1	Cutting & tailoring	14	-	526	526
2	Jute Artifacts	1	-	13	13
3	Fabric Design	3	-	120	120
4	Embroidery	2	-	80	80
5	Beauty Culture	4	-	160	160
6	Carpentry	3	120	-	120
7	Basic Electricity	2	80	-	80
		29	200	899	1099

Source: Input from District RP



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