



Strength does not come from physical capacity. It comes from indomitable will- Gandhijee

State Resource Centre Assam

International Literacy Day

The state level celebration of "International Literacy Day" was held on 8th Sept, 2012 at Kanak Lal Baruah Auditorium, Assam State Museum. It was organized by State Resource Centre Assam. The participants were senior Bureaucrats, officials from the Deptt. of Adult Education, renown social activists, functionaries from different NGOs and the Saakshar Bharat activists of different levels.

The proceedings initiated with the lighting of the lamp by Sri Adhir Kr.Chakraborty, President, GVS Assam. It was followed by the welcome address by Dr.B.K.Sarma, Chairman, SRC Assam.

Mr. N.M Hussain, Secretary, Education(s), Govt. of Assam was present as the *Chief Guest* on the occasion. In his short address, he highlighted the activities carried out under the framework of Saakshar Bharat and urged the stakeholders to intensify their effort and coordination to achieve the desired goal within specific time frame.

On the occasion of International Literacy Day Ms. Madhobi Medhi, one of the flag bearers of literacy campaign in Assam was felicitated with a memento, letter of Appreciation and a shawl. Mr. N.M Hussain on behalf of State Resource Centre Assam offered it to her.

After this, the literacy workers of different levels associated with the Saakshar Bharat Mission was felicitated by SRC Assam for their commendable effort and commitment to percolate the programme down to the grass root level. The prizes were given away by Mr.Jayanta Bhagawati, Eminent Actor of Assamese silver screen.



"Literacy is the pre-condition for development". This is the message transmitted by the team mates of Basanta Patgiri in their group song.



Renowned litterateur and Sahitya Academy Awardee author Dr.Rita Choudhury was present on the dias as the *Invited Guest*. Stressing on the need of female literacy, she observed how a major share of the society (women) were put in back seat in the formal Education system which pulls down the overall development of the nation. She handed over the Certificates of NIOS Examination among a few of the successful candidates.

Nandan Pratim Sarma Bordoloi, an upcoming TV Journalist was spoke on "the role of Media in arousing social awreness". He was present on the occasion of ILD as the *Guest of Honour*.

The function concluded with a group song (Asom Sangeet) by all the participants.

Training On Web-Portal:

SRC Assam conducted a one day training Programme on 10th Sept.,2012 at Marigaon district on the process data uploading in the SBM Portal.Mr. N.C.Deka,Programme Coordinator and Mr. Paresh Kakoti,Office Assistant(both from SRC Assam) were present in this occasion as RP and carried out the programme smoothly. The participants were the District and Block Coordinators of SBM of Marigaon District and the Officials from Adult Edu. Deptt. as well. Total no. of Participants were 20.

MT Training at Goalpara:



A two day long orientation cum training Programme for the targeted MTs was organized by SRC Assam at Goalpara in collaboration with Goalpara ZLSS on 12-13th Sept.,2012.N.C.Deka,A.Hoque,A.Baruah(Programme coordinator)and P.Kalita(Associate Programme Coordinator)were present on the programme as RP from SRC Assam.On behalf of Goalpara ZLSS,Mr.KN.Das,Member Secretary cum DAEO Goalpara and other officials from DAEO,Goalpara took part in the programme.

RP training,Sonitpur:

Zilla Lok Siksha Samiti(ZLSS),Sonitpur organised the RP training on 21st Sept.,2012.The training was inaugurated by Ms.Rupa Praja,President cum Chairman ZLSS,Sonitpur.Mr.HK Borah,ACS,CEO cum Member Secretary, initiated the proceedings.A.Hoque,N.C.Deka and P.Kalita(from SRC Assam) were present on the occasion as RP.The other RPs were P.Bania Cultural activist,Dr. Jugal Bora,Principal,Dubia H.S.School,Sonitpur,H.Hazarika,District RP(SRC Assam) etc.The participants who took part in the programme were 4 District Coordinators,all Block Coordinators.



VT Training:



In the wee hours of the same day,a VT training Camp was organised by Model AEC,Tezpur in collaboration with SRC Assam. The venue was the Model AEC Building,Tezpur.These VTs were to be prepared for the forthcoming Model Literacy Centres(An innovation of SRC Assam to reach out to the most disadvantaged group) scheduled to be set up in the tea garden areas of Sonitpur district.S.Brahma,Director,SRC Assam along with N.C.Deka and P.Kalita took part in the VT training.Moreover,Himanshu Saikia,District RP,Sonitpur and Barasha Barua,Prerak,Model AEC assisted the trainers to carry out the programme. smoothly.The total no. off VT trained was 5.

Capacity Building to the Coordinators and RPs of Island of Success and Review on MAEC

A two day capacity building training was held at Hotel Royal Regency, Tezpur on 1-2nd Oct.,2012. The participants were- the Dist. and Block Coordinators of the adopted areas and the SRC RPs under Island of Success of SBM. The Officials of SRC Assam played the role of RPs in the training. Moreover, Mr. Nripen Dutta, Sub-Teacher, Dhekial H.S.School, Dergaon ,Mr Munin Kakati,Director,JSS,Kamrup,Mr. Hemanta Borah, Associate Prof., Deptt. of Education cum the President of EC, Model AEC ,Tezpur took up different sessions during the training in order to facilitate the quality improvement of the stakeholders of SBM.



The inaugural session was chaired by Mr.S.Brahma, Director, SRC Assam. The training Programme was formally inaugurated by Mr. H.K.Borah, CEO cum Member Secretary, ZLSS, Sonitpur. In his opening remark, he underscored the need of dedication of the SBM workers for the wellbeing of the nation in general and their society in particular.

In the concluding session, Ms.Rupa Praja, President, ZP cum Chairman, ZLSS, Sonitpur was present and put her observation. She extended thanks to SRC Assam for holding this event at Tezpur and assured to extend her support in the days to come.

In tune of the Training,SRC Assam organized the monthly Review Meeting of the Model AEC being run by the financial assistance of Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) under their CSR head.Being the donor agency, Mr.Devendra Singha, Sr. Administrative Officer, HRD,REC was present on the occasion to practically verify the range of activities in MAEC.The session was targeted to showcase the progress achieved by MAEC in terms of various activities.

Considering the progress at MAECs , Mr. Devendra Singha observed that SRC Assam had performed well and the activities were up to the mark of their expectation. He wished SRC Assam to keep this temperament for the future assignments.

The two day workshop came to an end with the concluding remarks of Mr.S.Brahma.



Orientaion at Kokrajhar:



An Orientation on SBM was held at Conference Hall,DRDA,Kokrajhar on 24th Sept,2012.This was organised by ZLSS,Kokrajhar in collaboration with SRC Assam.The programme was inaugurated by Mr.D.J.Hazarika,PD,DRDA cum Member Secretary,ZLSS,Kokrajhar.A team led by S.Brahma,Director,SRC Assam was present in the meeting. The members of the team were N.C.Deka,S.Goswami,P.Kalita and G.Saikia.The other participants present were the BDOs and the Ofiicial from DAEO and District and Block Coordinators.

Training on advocacy and Sensitization:

On 25th Sept.,2012 a training on advocacy and sensitization was held at MAEC Bongaigaon by SRC Assam. The training was inaugurated Mr.PK Paul,CEO cum Member Secretary,ZLSS,Bongaigaon. The training was imparted to the District and Block Coordinators of Bongaigaon,Goalpara and Kokrajhar to raise awareness about forthcoming activities of SBM among them. The main objective of the Programme was to focus on the target of the Saakshar Bharat Programme in next financial year and how to overcome the obstacles. The Resource Persons were S.Brahma,Director,SRC Assam,N.C.Deka,Programme coordinator,S.Goswami Research Officer,P.Kalita,Associate programme Coordinator and G.Saikia,Programme Associate.



VT Training:



A team of SRC Assam consisting of Anuradha Baruah, Prog. Coordinator, and Sunil Sahariah, Prog. Associate, stepped into Model AEC Kharupetia with the twin objective to assess the status of Model AEC Kharupetia cum VT training on 25th Sept.,2012.

The VT Training was conducted by the SRC RPs of Darrang district. The total no. of VTs participated in this training were 8. Ms. Anuradha Baruah, Prog. Coordinator, SRC Assam was present as the mentor for the entire training session. The VTs were provided with TLM at the end of the session.

The maintenance of Register, the circulation of Newspaper and Periodicals and the present status of data uploading in the web-portal were reviewed by Sunil Sahariah. A wall magazine titled "ENAJORI" was inaugurated by Mr.Yasin Ali, EC Member, MEAC, Kharupetia.

Resource Person training at Marigaon:

Zilla Lok Siksha Samiti, Marigaon organized a Resource Person training in collaboration with SRC Assam on 27-28th Sept.,2012 at The Conference Hall of Marigaon Z P. The training was inaugurated by S.K Dekaraja, President, Marigaon Zilla Parishad. The total no. of participants were 20. They were District and Block Coordinators and the Supervisors of Adult Education Deptt. and Potential Resource Persons. The Resource Persons were A.Hoque, A.Baruah, P.Kalita, G.Saikia of SRC Assam and K. Bhattacharya, District Coordinator, Karbi Anglong, Mr.M.Rahman and Mr.A.Huda of GVS Assam.



RP Training at Bongaigaon:



Bongaigaon Zilla Parishad organized a Resource Person training in collaboration with SRC Assam on 28-29th Sept., 2012 at The Conference Hall of Bongaigaon Zilla Parishad. The training was inaugurated by Mr. Bijoy Singha, President, Bongaigaon Zilla Parishad. Mr. P.K. Paul, CEO cum Member secretary ZLSS, Bongaigaon was present in the training. The total no. of participants were 28. They were District and Block Coordinators. The Resource Persons were A. Hoque, P. Kalita, G. Saikia of SRC Assam Dr. G. Sahariah, B. Patgiri of GVS Assam and K.N. Das, DAEO, Goalpara and H. Saikia, Project Officer, DAEO, Goalpara.

As a part of the RP training, a model VT training class was conducted. This particular session was run by P. Kalita from SRC Assam and H. Saikia, DAE, Goalpara. The District and Block Coordinators took part in this training session. At the end, the vote of thanks was offered by Gulab Hussain, District Coordinator, ZLSS, Bongaigaon

SRC Assam has launched its own website on 26th Nov., 2012. The information regarding SRC Assam henceforth be available by the link-www.srcguwahati.in



EC Meeting:

The EC Meeting of ZLSS Dhemaji was held on 28th Sept., 2012 at Conference Hall, Dhemaji Zilla Parishad. Mr. S. Brahma, Director ARC Assam along with N.C. Deka, Prog. Coordinator was present at the meeting. Mr. D. Dutta, President ZLSS presided over the meeting that started with the inaugural address of R. Bhattacharya, CEO cum Member Secretary ZLSS, Dhemaji. The progress and development of SBM and its related issues were elaborately discussed during the programme.

Vocational Course :



The Model AEC Kharupetia started the vocational training (Cutting and tailoring) for its beneficiaries on 8th Oct., 2012. The training programme was inaugurated by Mr. S. Ali, D.C, Darrang. A team of SRC Assam led by Mr. S. Brahma, Director was present on this occasion. The other members of the group were A. Baruah, A. Hoque, SRC Assam. On behalf of JSS Darrang Mr. N. Amin, Director i/c was present in the meeting. This is to be mentioned that JSS Darrang is the supporting agency which is going to impart the said training programme. Moreover, Ms. Sheila Sahariah, Chairman ZLSS cum President, Zilla Parishad, Darrang and Mr. Victor Carpenter, CEO cum Member Secretary, ZLSS, Darrang was present in the programme. The need based trades for the training have been identified after the HH survey being done in different wards of Kharupetia town.

RP training cum Orientation:

The RP training for the District and Block Coordinators was organised by ZLSS, Kokrajhar on 10-11th Oct., 2012 at DRDA Conference Hall, Kokrajhar in collaboration with SRC Assam. SRC Assam provided the necessary human resource support. Mr. S. Brahma, A. Baruah, G. Saikia represented SRC Assam in that Programme along with H. Saikia, District RP Sonitpur. Mr. D. J. Hazarika, P. D., DRDA cum Member Secretary, ZLSS, Kokrajhar inaugurated the training. Mr. A. C. Buragohain, DAEO, Kokrajhar and all the BDOs of Kokrajhar district also took part in the training cum orientation programme.



Regional Meeting for SBM in NE Region:



NLMA organized a Review Meeting at Hotel Monsoon Palace, Guwahati, Assam on 17-18th Oct, 2012. The basic objective of this meeting was to evaluate the rate of development achieved and the problems encountered by the states of North East India in terms of implementing Saakshar Bharat Mission. The participants of this two day meet were the officials from DAE, Govt of India, TSG members of NLMA, Officials from SBI (Nodal branch) SLMAs and the SRCs of the states concerned.

The proceeding of the day 1 focused on the functioning of SBM in Assam. Mr. P. Bhatnagar,

Deputy Secretary to the Govt. of India was present to realize the rate of progress of Assam. Dr. B. K. Talukdar, Director, Non-Formal & Adult Education cum SPD, SBM Assam presented the current status of SBM in Assam in terms of various aspects associated with it. He was assisted by a group of officials - S. Rahman, FAO, Govt. of Assam, Ms B. Hazarika, System Admin, SLMA, Assam, Mr. D. Saikia, Editor, Jan Siksha etc. A few ambiguities arose during discussion which was negotiated after mutual dialogue between the stakeholders of the state and the centre.

After the arrival of the TSG team led by SPS Sangwan, CC, TSG, NLMA, the discussion concentrated on key issues of SBM which were well prepared by team. The issues regarding SBM were - areal coverage, engagement of the coordinators at different levels, their training, identification of learners, total project cost, cost incurred till date etc. The other two members of the TSG team were Dr. R. P. Pathak and Ms. R. Chakraborty.

Meanwhile a team led by SPS Sangwan personally met Mr. N. M. Hussain, Member Secretary, SLMA cum Secretary, Education, Govt of Assam to showcase the problems encountered by SLMA Assam and causes poor progress of SBM in the state. Mr. Sangwan suggested some remedial measures to strengthen SLMA in order to reinforce the programme in Assam.

The 2nd day of the regional meet concentrated on the current status of SBM in the other states of NE with reference to the aforesaid aspects. The Nodal Officers of SLMAs from Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Tripura and Meghalaya were present on this occasion to showcase the status of SBM in their respective states. The other two SBM states of the NE Region namely - Manipur and Sikkim remained absent.

The discussion started with Nagaland followed by Meghalaya, Arunachal and Tripura. During the interaction the achievements and targets of different aspects of SBM for the states were fixed after mutual dialogue. This would be baseline on which the states would be forwarding their Progress report from this time onwards.



Meanwhile, senior SBI Officials arrived at the venue to clarify various accounts related queries raised by the states. The SBI team was led by Mr.S.Roy, AGM, Nodal Branch, Dispur, Guwahati. Mr Roy on behalf of SBI, a stakeholder of SBM learnt various problems encountered by SLMAs in terms of account opening and functioning. He assured cooperation and all necessary actions to stabilize all standing bank issues. He suggested Mr.D.K.Dhar to ensure regular consultation with SLMAs so that the authority would be aware about the recent status of accounts.

Training on Data submission & approval:

The ZLSS Sonitpur organized a Training on data submission & approval on 19-20th Nov.,2012 at Cinex Computer Centre,Tezpur. The participants were the District and Block Coordinators.N.C.Deka,Programme Coordinator was the RP for the training.

The ZLSS Tinsukia organized a Training on data submission & approval on 15th Nov.,2012 at Zilla Parishad,Tinsukia. The participants were the District and Block Coordinators.N.C.Deka,Programme Coordinator SRC Assam was the RP for the training.The programme was inaugurated by Mr G.C.Sonowal,DAEO,Tinsukia.

Review Meeting of SBM in Assam:

SLMA organized a meeting to review the progress of SBM in Assam on 6th Nov., 2012.The meeting was held at the Conference Hall of Honourable Education Minister, Govt. of Assam.The meeting was chaired by Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma, Honourable Education Minister, Govt. of Assam.

Participants

1. Secretary, Secondary Education, Govt. of Assam
2. Deputy Secretary, Secondary Education, Govt. of Assam cum Nodal Officer, SLMA, Assam
3. Officials from SLMA
4. Officials from SRC Assam & SRC Dispur led by the their respective Directors
5. The CEO cum Member Secretaries of SBM districts (Sonitpur, Darrang, Bongaigaon, Dhubri, Barpeta & Tinsukia
6. P.D, DRDA cum Member Secretary, ZLSS, Kokrajhar
7. Principal Secretary, Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council
8. DAEO of the SBM districts (Goalpara, Marigaon)
9. Officials from SBI, Dispur (Nodal Branch).
10. District Coordinator (Marigaon, Karbi Anglong)



At the very outset, Mr.N.M.Hussain, Secretary, Secondary Education, Govt. of Assam briefed the present status of SBM in Assam. Then he requested Director, SRC Assam to highlight the contemporary state of SBM in Assam .The Director, SRC Assam underscored the important issues through Power Point Presentation.

After careful observation of different issues, Education Minister cum Member Secretary,Executive Council ,

SLMA, Assam instructed the stakeholders to intensify the activities with special reference to the following points. He maintained that the points arose during the discussion to be addressed with utmost priority to achieve a desired result well before the GB meeting scheduled to be held on 15th Jan., 2013 to be chaired by Chief Minister, Govt. of Assam.

Model Learning Centre:

As an Innovative Programme, SRC Assam started 12th Model Learning Centres in the adopted areas. The centres have been erected in the riverine & Tea Garden areas of Darrang, Dhemaji & Sunitpur which are lagging behind in all development parameters.



Outcome:

1. Additional budget will be earmarked for SLMA against SBM programme during forthcoming budget session to be convened by December, 2012. The additional budget will be kept separately to meet monitoring, contingencies and administrative expenses.
2. The Education Minister instructed the concerned CEO/PD/district administration dealing SBM programme to earmark additional budget under the district plan.
3. The Education Minister instructed all competent implementing authority to concentrate on SBM programme with due priority as MGNREGA, SSA etc.
4. The Minister informed the house that a special review meeting on SBM will be convened before 15th January, 2013 in presence of Chief Minister of Assam. He pointed out that each Member Secretary of SBM should come with satisfactory performance. He hinted that Member Secretaries should come with following data:
 - i) Progress of A/C opening(100% achievement)
 - ii) Uploading of House hold and other relevant data bases(100% achievement)
 - iii) Printing and distribution of primers
 - iv) Status of Coordinators/preraks working in different stages
 - v) Reasons of low expenditure and low performance of activity.
5. Considering the prob. of non-availability of GP Codes on the SBM portal for Karbi Anglong and Kokrajhar ,the Minister suggested SRC Assam and SLMA Assam to find out way a way as soon as possible after consulting with concerned NIC.
6. The Honourable Minister observed that programme of SBM is hanging in the district of Karbi Anglong because not having a Member Secretary in the district. He directed the SLMA Officials and Director SRC Assam to visit Karbi Anglong for immediate solution.
7. The Honourable Minister said, printing of primer may be done centrally at SLMA level. However, printing of Primer may also be done by SRC Assam on the matter of demand quality, reasonable rate and quick delivery mechanism.
8. The Minister directed SRC Assam to extend additional support to the other 4 SBM districts being looked after by SRC Dispur.

Staff review of SRC Assam:

SRC Assam has been regularly holding the review meeting of the staff members. This time, it was held on 11th Dec., 2012 at the Conference Hall of SRC Assam. On this occasion, Prof. B.K. Sarma, Chairman, Dr. Shamim Akhtar, G.B. Member SRC Assam were present. The staff members presented the status of progress of various activities already assigned to them by the Director.

Quarterly review Meeting of Island of Success & Model AECs

The quarterly review of the Island of Success of SBM and the Model AEC was organized by SRC Assam on 10th Nov.2012 at Hotel Monsoon Palace, Panbazar, Guwahati. This is an ongoing practice of holding the regular review meeting by SRC Assam where the rate of progress done by the SBM districts are discussed in detail with reference to the problems encountered by the district concerned.

The participants were the Officials from SRC Assam and SLMA, one District Coordinator from each SBM Districts and the District and Block RPs of SRC Assam.

It was followed by the keynote address by S.Brahma, Director, SRC Assam. In his address, he spoke about the resolutions adopted at the recent meeting (regarding the progress of Saakshar Bharat in Assam) with Dr. Himanta Biswa Sharma, Honourable Education Minister, Govt. of Assam. He was supplemented by Mr. Dipanka Saikia, OSD, SLMA, Assam.

The SBM districts presented their up to date status and various difficulties they encountered in their concerned areas.

Towards the end Mr.S.Brahma assigned various activities to the districts and urged them to accomplish the pending task latest by the end of Dec., 2012 so that a good picture of SBM can be portrayed before the Chief Minister, Assam in the GB Meeting scheduled to be held on 15th Jan., 2013.

EC Meeting of SRC Assam:

The 8th Executive Committee Meeting of SRC Assam was held on 12th Nov.,2012.All the members of the EC -Prof. B.K. Sarma,Chairman, SRC Assam,Prof. Indranee Dutta, Faculty Member, OKD Institute of Social Change & Development and Dr. B.K.Takukdar, Director, Non-Formal & Adult Education, Govt. of Assam were present on the meeting.

The meeting started with the on of the proceedings of the last Executive Committee Meeting , the brief report of activities of SRC Assam since last Executive Committee Meeting till date etc.



GB Meeting of SRC Assam:



The 23rd GB Meeting of SRC Assam was held on 17th Nov.,2012 at Conference Hall of SRC Assam.Dr.B.K Sarma,Chairman ,SRC Assam welcomed the delegates in his inaugural address.It was followed by the pre-set agenda where range of issues relating to functioning of SRC Assam were raised by the S.Brahma,Director,SRC Assam before the members for their approval and consideration.

SRC Assam wishes you all a very happy and prosperous New Year.Hope all of your dreams will come true.....S Brahma,Director,SRC Assam

VT Training:

A VT Training was held on 20th Nov.,2012 at Youth Club,Mangaldai.The training was organised by ZLSS,Darrang.The total no. of participants were 150 from 5 SRC Adopted blocks of Darrang.Mr.S.Brahma,Director,SRC Assam along with the Programme coordinators(A.Baruah,N.C.Deka,S.Goswami,P.Kalita) attended the Training.The role of RPs played by District and Block RPs and District & Block Coordinators.

RP training at Dhemaji:



ZLSS Dhemaji in collaboration with SRC Assam organised a training cum Orientation programme on 20th Nov. at DRDA Conference Hall, Dhemaji. A. Hoque, Programme Coordinator, SRC Assam and D. Das, Executive Secretary, ZLSS, Dhemaji took part as the RP in the training. The other participants were District and Block coordinators, Supervisors of DAE and the District and Block RPs of SRC Assam. The total no. of participants were 25.

MT training at Morigaon:

The ZLSS, Morigaon organised the MT training at the Conference hall of Morigaon Z.P from 16-23rd Nov., 2012. The objective of the training was to prepare the Preraks as MT so that they can further transmit the message of SBM to the VTs. All the Preraks of GPs of a particular Block were oriented for two consecutive days. The District Coordinators and the Officials from Adult Education Deptt. participated as the RP in the Programme. Other participants were the block coordinators. The training Programme was inaugurated by Mr. Nazrul Islam, CEO cum Member Secretary, ZLSS, Morigaon. On the last day of the Programme, DMA Hussain, DAEO, Nagaon and S. Sahariah, Prog. Associate, SRC Assam were present and shared their views with the participants.



Why Exclude?

Samhita Barooah
Assistant Professor
Tata Institute of Social Sciences
Guwahati, Assam
Email: samhitaworld@gmail.com

Who is excluded? In fact, if we scratch deep into ourselves we will find that we exclude even ourselves from the world we live in. Keep aside the people who are living on the edge due to harsh realities of life. We feel extremely elated about our GDP growth rate, high grades we score in our CAT, MAT, SAT, GATE, JET exams, unending bank balance we hoard in our banks and endless choices we have which satiates our consumerist lifestyles. We have raced hard to be counted amongst the top business tycoons, musicians, cricketers, actors, leaders, chefs, scientists and planners in the world. It's a race for survival, identity, endurance, dignity and visibility. But some invisible scars do haunt us from within in this marathon of life which compels us to perform under all circumstances. Being disabled in today's age is not a big deal, if the primary and secondary socialization patterns and social structures are conducive to persons with disability. In a city like Guwahati, infrastructural accessibility for a disabled person is indeed a matter of serious concern.

Disability of any degree, form, kind and volume is a condition of life, not a curse. It is the lack of preparedness on the part of the so called 'abled' world that the disabled person suffers from the pangs of stigma and discrimination. People with disability are most often objects of pity, sympathy and ridicule for both strangers and close knit family domains. Disability can be both permanent and temporary. Today's able bodied can be maimed tomorrow, given the number of accidents taking place in Guwahati every day. When disability rights activist Arman Ali looked for a place to hang out in Guwahati, there was none where he could wheel his chair through without any strain. Just a couple of years back when a senior disability rights activist Prof Anita Ghai visited Guwahati to deliver a talk, I happened to be her city

EDITORIAL-----

*Happy New Year to all of you!
Hope the New Year fulfills all your
dreams and targets.*

*It is heartening to observe that
NLMA, SRC Assam and
SLMA, Assam have held several
meetings where the same issue of
discussion was monitoring of Model
AECs. 6th Nov., 2012 has become
another landmark in the Saakshar
Bharat Movement because the
Education Minister of Assam has
become involved and has become an
important part of the Saakshar
Bharat Movement. We welcome this
movement and treasure it. We want
his suggestion throughout the
programme.*

*From past experience, we have
learnt that more we visit our
learners, the motivation of the
learners increases. Not only the
learners, but the Volunteer
teachers, Preraks who are involved
in the activity got motivated. There
is an atmosphere of positivity and
“feel good” prevails. The net result
will always be for better
coordination at different levels will
also lead to good monitoring
. Hence, if all of us do our bit, our end
will be achieved.*

guide. She wanted to see Guwahati city and visit some of the handicraft shops in Guwahati. We looked around at every place but unfortunately, none of the city's shops had any ramp which could allow Anita to step out of the car and enjoy the pleasures of shopping. We always say that the Government has to take measures to make public spaces more accessible for the disabled people.

But, what does one have to say about private spaces? Private shops, banks, bill payment booths, mobile phone recharge centres, cooking gas shops, super markets, cinema halls, play grounds, parks, people's homes, eateries, bakeries, eating joints, pubs, clubs, restaurants, pavements, religious spaces, cyber cafes, private offices, corporate houses, NGO offices, cultural centres, even marriage halls in Guwahati. None of all these spaces are designed in such a way that disabled people can have a smooth access to them. Wonder why such presumptions dominate the so-called 'abled' psyche. Does this reflect on our progressive society to be regressive in its vision of the fact that disabled people should be excluded from the basic needs of socialization? Are we still living in the lap of history when disabled people were socially boycotted and lynched to isolation and death on the pretext of not being able to understand their plight? We have crossed many decades of scientific enquiry, marvelous technological innovations and socio-cultural transformations, but somehow our mindsets and sensibilities are still stunted and frozen in the historic times. It does not occur to us that even the most athletic constitution can be disabled at some point of time.

Ageing is a very common factor now. With age comes temporary disability as well. Aged people with any physical disability are also excluded from the social spaces in our city. There are so many cases of people losing their jobs due to temporary conditions of disability. Sometimes even working women who get pregnant and cannot access difficult office infrastructures have to leave their jobs midway. Disability is a condition of life which can occur to anyone during their lifespan. Till it affects people directly, either through near ones or through themselves, sensitivity in planning and implementation will be a myth. But it is really high time that each one of us does some introspection and at least does basic auditing of our private and public spaces which are disabled-friendly. May be locality mapping of disabled friendly infrastructure and positive reinforcement and recognition of such initiatives can motivate some sort of sensitivity in our restricted social set-up.

Disability is not an exclusive domain of the persons with disability. It is not like only persons with disability will be able to comprehend the real struggle. Similarly, it is not that the aged persons with disability can only fight for the rights of the aged disabled persons. Every one irrespective of their socio-economic, gender, age and disability background can strive towards making the city of Guwahati a little more accessible to persons with disability. In solidarity to the struggle of many friends and families waiting anxiously to enjoy the pleasures of barrier-free access and break free from the shackles of social exclusion.

Environment Building

Street Play:

To promote awareness about SBM in Assam, SRC Assam organized street plays at different venues of Assam. The group was moving from 4th Dec., 2012 to 11th Dec., 2012 in different SBM districts to exhibit their show.

People in masses participated and enjoyed the programme all through. The team was led by Prabhat Bania, an eminent Cultural and literacy worker of Assam.

AIDS Day:

The AIDS day was observed at all the Model AECs of Assam on Dec. 1, 2012. In connection to that meeting, discussion etc. were organised in order to inculcate awareness about HIV/AIDS among the deprived sections of the society. Each of the venues was attended by the local Doctor who spoke on the precautions needed to be taken by the people to keep away from AIDS.



Electronic Media

A talk on SBM:

S. Brahma, Director SRC Assam appeared in a discussion telecasted through DD Guwahati on 8th Sept, 2012 on the occasion of ILD. Discussion focussed on range of issues of the Adult literacy in Assam with special reference to SBM.

Video spot on satellite Channels:

A 60 seconds Video Spot prepared by SRC Assam had been telecasted through different Satellite channels. The spot was telecasted in DY 365 during 6-7 PM from 20-30th Nov., 2012 and in News Live during 9-10PM from 8-26th Dec., 2012. Both these channels are extremely popular among the viewers of Assam. It received good response from the viewers all through the SBM districts.

Newsletter is the house magazine of the SRC Assam, National Literacy Mission Authority, Ministry of H. R. D., Govt. of India	<i>BOOK POST</i> Postage Stamp
The views expressed in the articles do not necessarily reflect the official views of SRC Assam <p style="text-align: center;">Editor: Ms. Madhobi Medhi Editorial Board Samiran Brahma, Anuradha Baruah, Sunil Sahariah</p>	To
STATE RESOURCE CENTRE ASSAM 1-CD, Mandovi Apartments, GNB Road, Ambari, Guwahati-781001 Website: www.srcguwahati.in, E-mail: srcassam@hotmail.com	
Readers are requested to write or send e-mail to the editor expressing their views about Newsletter	
Printed and published by S. Brahma, Director, State Resource Centre Assam, 1-CD, Mandovi Apartments, GNB Road, Ambari, Guwahati-7810001 printed at saraighat offset press, Guwahati-21	STATE RESOURCE CENTRE ASSAM 1-CD, Mandovi Apartments, GNB Road, Ambari, Guwahati-781001