



State Resource Centre Assam

THE STATE LEVEL CELEBRATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL LITERACY DAY, 2013

The state level International Literacy Day, 2013 was celebrated by State Resource Centre (SRC) Assam in collaboration with Goalpara Zilla Lok Siksha Samiti at Assam Club, Goalpara. The participants were the stakeholders of Saakshar Bharat Missions (SBM) at different levels, officials and field level functionaries of SRC Assam, officials from district administration, literacy activists and local people.



The day began with the hoisting of the SBM flag by Sh. Shyamal Saikia, IPS, SP, Goalpara. Unfurling the flag, he wished all the literacy activists gathered there and urged them to devote for the wellbeing of the nation. It was followed by the group song by the team of Basanta Patgiri, a reknown folk artist. The inaugural session concluded with the vote of thanks by Himangshu Saikia, District RP, Sonitpur.

Children are usually enthusiastic for adventure, voyages etc. Realising their feelings, an interactive session was organised especially for the local students. The persons took part in this



session were Sh. Tarun Saikia and Sh. Manish Kr. Deka who recently scaled the highest Mt. Everest to become the 1st two mountaineer from Assam to achieve this feat. The programme was inaugurated by Sh. Dinesh Boro, PD, DRDA, Kokrajhar. In his inaugural speech, he threw light on the inhospitable physical condition of Mt. Himalaya and congratulated the duo for the indomitable courage and exemplary hardship they exhibited during their climb to the Everest. After this, both the guests were felicitated with memento and traditional gamosa. During the interaction, range of questions were raised by the students who belonged to different educational institutions of Goalpara. What was the feeling after reaching the top, whether they received any assistance from govt. for their journey, how and who captured the video of the journey, from where they took training, its duration, what were the articles taken by them during their journey, who inspired them to go etc. These were a few questions raised by the students. Both the mountaineers nicely replied and tried their best to clarify the queries. The programme was supplemented by an audio visual show displaying the entire journey of the duo to Mt. Everest. The session concluded with the vote of thanks by Ms. Barasha Baruah, SRC RP.

The open meeting started with the lighting of lamp by Mr.



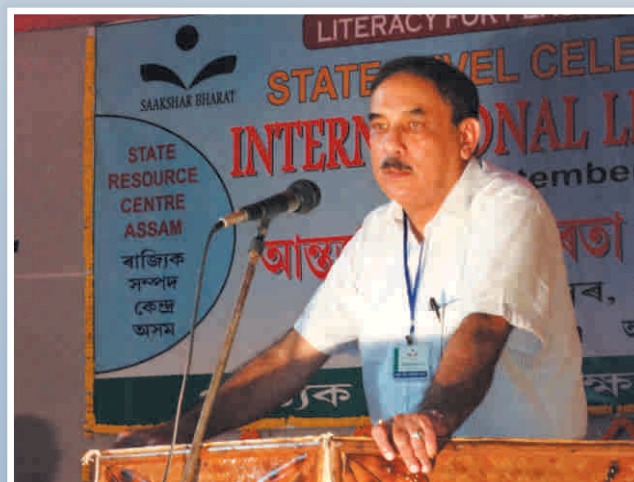
N. M. Hussain, IAS, Commissioner/Secretary, Education (S) Deptt., Govt. of Assam cum Member Secretary, State Literacy Mission Authority (SLMA) Assam. It was followed by a group song exhibited by the activists of Assam Mahila Samata Society (Goalpara Wing). Then a documentary about the progress of SBM in Assam prepared by SRC Assam was displayed in audio visual mode.

The welcome address was delivered by Sh. K. N. Das, District Adult Education Officer, Goalpara. In the welcome address, he offered thanks to SRC Assam for choosing the place like Goalpara for the celebration of ILD which is often ridden by various troubles

and agitations. A summary of the activities undertaken by ZLSS, Goalpara under SBM scheme was highlighted by him. Addressing the literacy activists coming from different corners of the state, he encouraged them to intensify their efforts further for the better implementation of SBM in Assam.

Sh. S. Brahma, Director, SRC Assam spoke on the present scenario of literacy in India with special reference to Assam. With the facts and figure, he claimed that though India has made significant progress in literacy, its present status is far behind than the other developed parts of the world. Right from its inception in 2009, SBM has made significant contribution in upgrading the literacy status of the nation which is expected to do even better with the continuous incorporation of new elements based on the needs of the target groups- he observed.

One of the major programmes of the day was the felicitation of the literacy activists from different parts of the state who left marked impact on society by taking the literacy movement to the furthest and remotest points. The lifetime achievement award was conferred to Dr. Anuradha Dutta, Retired Prof., Gauhati University, prominent literacy activists for her relentless and lifelong struggle for empowering women folk through literacy. Her association with various social organisation- Jan Sikshan Sansthan (JSS) Kamrup, Gyan Vigyan Samiti Assam, Samata, Prochesta, SPADE and Omeo Kumar Das Institute of Social Change and Development (OKDISCD) etc. in different capacities was recalled on



our journey in future. Highlighting the need of female literacy, she quoted a few examples which clearly indicated the degree of deprivation of women folk yet in 21st century owing to illiteracy. Dr. Dutta strongly calls upon all the women to come forward to take the initiative in society. It was high time for the women to transform their inbuilt potential energy to real wealth for social transformation. Spreading education among the woman must play a vital role in this respect- she observed. Another important issue raised by her was to bring new generation to the literacy movement who could lead it further. The innovative perspective of the new generation might take this movement into new heights. She concluded her speech with the call to every citizen to take pledge to literate at least one illiterate in order to build a fully literate society.

Then the functionaries of SBM at various levels were felicitated. The nomination for 4 categories- District Coordinator, Block Coordinator, Prerak and VTs were called from selected SBM districts and the CEOs of the concerned districts recommended the names. The selection committee constituted by SRC Assam finally selected the persons against each of the category vis- Maneswar Gogoi, Best District Coordinator from Dhemaji, Ms. Rumi Dutta, Best Block Coordinator from Dhekiajuli Block, Sonitpur, Sh. Pankaj Hazarika, Best Prerak from Torabori GP, Bhubandha Block, Morigaon and four VTs from Goalpara, Dhemaji, Sonitpur and Bongaigaon. Each of them were awarded with memento, traditional gamosa and books. They received the award from Sh. Preetom Kr. Saikia, IAS, D.C, Goalpara.



this occasion. She received the award from Mr. N.M. Hussain, IAS, Commissioner /Secretary, Edu (S), Govt. of Assam. The award included a citation, a memento, a gamosa and a traditional Assamese Shawl. This session was conducted by Sri Jamini Ranjan Das, Administrative Officer, SRC Assam.

Mr. N.M. Hussain who was present as the Chief Guest in the programme delivered his speech to the guests. In his key note address, he appreciated the organisers for creating such a platform for the people who belong to diverse fields of the society. Lamenting on the issue of non-receipt of the honorarium by the stakeholders of SBM at different levels, he informed that all efforts are being made at all levels in order to resolve this issue at an early date. He congratulated all the literacy activists for their sincere devotion in spite of their consistent problem. Commissioner Secretary observed that effort could be made to encourage the young school going children to become VT so that the scarcity of VT could be overcome and the mission would achieve the desired result.

Dr. Anuradha Dutta, in her address, extended thanks to SRC Assam for the love and appreciation extended by the organisation for her. She felt the need of "introspection"- what had been done and what yet to be done in the field of literacy that would direct



In this connection, Sri S. Brahma, Director SRC Assam, announced that the District and Block Coordinators and Preraks felicitated will be rewarded with an exposé visit to Kolkata. Similarly the selected VTs would visit Guwahati. The entire cost for the purpose will be borne by SRC Assam.

Sri Preetom Saikia, DC, Goalpara in his short but substantive speech, threw light on the recent activities carried out by ZLSS Goalpara under the SBM. Emphasising on the role of literacy in social development, he extended thanks to all the partners of this mission for extending their helping hand for the data uploading, Physical plan submission and other related activities under SBM.

It was followed by a group dance by local Rabha youths that helped the audience to get a different flavour. The group was led by Sri Sukleswar Rabha, a local literacy activist.



extent attributed to the reading habit developed in the southern state of India.

The occasion was marked for the SRC Assam as well while the SRC Assam team received the certificate of excellence from N.M. Hussain. Offering the citation to SRC Assam, the Commissioner/ Secretary appreciated the relentless effort and commitment made by SRC Assam for the success of SBM in Assam and wished them all success in the days to come. The session was conducted by Dr. Dipanka Saikia, OSD, SLMA, Assam. Towards the end of the day, Azizul Hoque, Programme Coordinator, SRC Assam offered vote of thanks to the guests, stakeholders, volunteers, local people and the entire organising team for successfully holding the ILD function at Assam Club, Goalpara.

The day long programme concluded with the Assam Sangeet performed by all those present.



Then the two invited guests of the day—Sri Khagendra Prasad Deka, Ex. Principal, Goalpara College and Sri Atantu Bhattacharya, Renown Poet cum member of the Language Advisory Board, Sahitya Academy were felicitated with Fulam gamosa, memento and books. On the occasion of ILD, three books published by SRC Assam were released. Sri Atantu Bhattacharya released “Seshasewi Siksakar Parsikshantar Hatputhi” and “Prerakar Parsikshantar Hatputhi”. Another book “Fal Mul aru Sak Pachalir Sangrakhyan” was released by Sri Khagendra Prasad Deka. This session was conducted by Smt. Sushnata Goswami, R.O, SRC Assam.

In his speech, Sri Khagendra P. Deka focussed on the relationship between literacy and development. Citing the instance of India, he pointed out how the illiterate people contribute to everrising population keeping the view that growing no. of children were asset for the family. Those parents were keen to send their kids to workplace to supplement their family income abandoning their valuable school days. Thus, he advocated the expansion of literacy among both parents and children for the comprehensive development of the nation.

Sri Atanu Bhattacharya tried to figure out the role of reading habit in developing a conscious society. Comparing the number of persons reading newspaper between Assam and Kerala, he claimed that the development of the latter to a large

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In the field of education, women in Assam are in a better position than the all-India average. The educational attainment of women in Assam can be analysed through female literacy rate and female enrolment rate at different stage of education. As per 2001 census the literacy rate of Assam is 63.3 per cent as against 64.8 per cent for India. While male literacy is 71.3 per cent (India-75.3 per cent), female literacy stands at 54.61 per cent. According to Census 2011, highlighted that an encouraging rise from 54.61 percent in 2001 to 67.27 in 2011, showing a sharp rise of about 31 percent in female literacy rate.

Hence, it may be estimated that empowerment of women is closely linked to the opportunities they have in education, health, employment and for political participation. Over the years, significant advancements have been made in India on many of these accounts including literacy rate. By educating women, a country can reduce poverty, improve productivity, ease population pressure, and offer its children a better future. Educated mothers and fathers have better educated children and maternal education tends to influence a girl's education in particular. As each generation of women is educated, so are the long-term rewards for society to build quickly. So, in order to reap all these benefits, empowerment of women is essential through education.

Celebration of 67th Independence Day in Assam

Date: 15th August, 2013

The 67th Independence Day of India was celebrated at the Model GPs under the Island of Success of Saakshar Bharat Mission (SBM) of Assam with a range of colorful events. The programme was organized by State Resource Centre Assam in collaboration with Zilla Lok Siksha Samitis of the concerned districts. People from all walks of the life including the stakeholders of SBM took active role in successfully holding the programmes during the day.

The day started with the hoisting of the National Flag at 8.30 A.M by Sr. PRI Functionaries followed by unfurling of Saakshar Bharat Mission (SBM) Flag by distinguished academicians and Sr. Officials. The programme of oath taking of SBM was conducted by Sr. Govt. Officials.



From 9.30 a.m onwards different sporting events (Running race, balancing game, breaking matka etc.) were held amongst the school children and the functionaries of SBM. The sense of enthusiasm exhibited by participants and the audiences as well as was worth to mentioning. The teachers from local schools extended all support for smoothly conducting those games.

Considering the need of health awareness among the common people, health camp was organized by SRC Assam at nearby school on the very day. Expressing the gratitude to the team of doctors, the SRC officials urged the need of literacy for the common people to refrain them from various diseases. The teams of doctors were appreciated for the honorary service they rendered on Independence Day. Total 517(M=251, F=266) patients were treated in these camps. They were provided free medicine and advice by the doctors.

The final programme of the day was the open meeting cum the prize distribution ceremony. The programme was presided over by concerned GP Presidents. Other dignitaries who took part in the programme were CEOs, BDO, AP presidents. The significance of Independence Day was highlighted by them. The other Guests of honours emphasized the need of literacy for the development of the state. The ongoing SBM might play a crucial role in socio-economic transformation of this backward region. It was a proude occasion for

the Neo-literates too who received their NIOS-NLMA certificates from the respected guests. Then the winners of different sporting events held on that day were felicitated (certificate, medal, book) by the honorable guests on dais. Similarly eatables-sweets, fruits etc were distributed among the audience. Thus, the day of utmost national importance came to an end.



REVIEW MEETINGS

Monthly Review Meeting on Implementation of SBM

Venue: Conference Hall, DRDA Karbi Anglong

State Resource Centre Guwahati organized its Quarterly Review Meeting at Diphu, Karbi Anglong on 23rd July, 2013 in collaboration with ZLSS, Karbi Anglong.

The programme started with a brief inaugural session chaired by Sh. Tuliram Ranghang, EM (Edu.), Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council (KAAC). In his keynote address, he appreciated the initiative of SRC Assam for upbringing the literacy scenario of Karbi-Anglong and assured all support and assistance from District Administration for successful implementation of Saakshar Bharat Mission (SBM) in the district. The opening remark and Welcome address was delivered by Ms. H. Teronpi, Project Officer (PD), District Rural Development Agency (DRDA), Karbi Anglong. The session was conducted by Sunil Sahariah, Prog. Associate, SRC Assam.

The technical session began with the presentation by S. Brahma. He spoke on the background of SBM with special reference to the contemporary challenges.

Thereafter, the SBM districts – Bongaigaon, Darrang, Dhemaji, Karbi Anglong, Kokrajhar, Morigaon and Sonitpur presented the ongoing status of SBM in Power point presentation (PPP) mode. It was tabled by the District Coordinator of the concerned district. The presentation focused on the parameters set by SRC Assam as per the stipulated format of NLMA. It was followed by activity report card presented by the District RPs under the Island of Success. A number of issues were brought to light by the RPs which needed immediate intervention from SRC Assam.

The post lunch session started with the discussion on Interpersonal media campaign to be launched shortly in Assam. The roles and responsibility to be borne by the stakeholders at different levels to ensure larger coverage of this new approach was emphasized. The session was conducted by Sunil Sahariah, Programme Associate, SRC Assam. Sri N. Deka, Programme Coordinator, SRC Assam highlighted a number of steps to be adopted for strengthening of AECs. He observed that the AEC



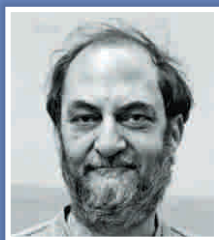
would not become people's hub until it could satisfy the needs and demands of the people of the villages. The AECs must be equipped with range of opportunities and facilities to attract a larger section of the society. He added that a number of initiatives have already been taken by National Literacy Mission Authority (NLMA) to arrive at this goal to make it peoples centre.

SRC Assam was going to observe the Independence day and International literacy day during August and September. Considering the significance of a concrete mechanism to observe both these days successfully, Azizul Hoque, Programme Coordinator, SRC Assam proposed a plan for that. The preparatory activities, agenda for the days, strategy to involve mass people – were some of vital issues highlighted by him. In order to bring most backward parts of the state to certain satisfactory level, SRC Assam proposed to set up number of centres at the riverrine or char areas or in tea garden. Ms. Anuradha Baruah, Programme Coordinator, SRC Assam presented the route map for setting up these centres in different districts.

Environment both physical and social could play a vital role in creating a learners friendly environment. In order to develop such environment, SRC Assam has been organizing street play, Kalajatra, wall writing etc. The plan for the year 2013-14 was presented by Ms. Sushnata Goswami, RO, SRC Assam.

The programme culminated with the concluding remarks by Sri S. Brahma, Director, SRC Assam

Obituary



Educationist Vinod Raina, who died of cancer on 12 Sept. Thursday, was one of the key architects of the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009. He was member of the expert group on 'Monitoring of Child Rights in Education' set up by the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights and a sitting member of the Central Advisory Board for Education (CABE), the highest decision-making body on education.

Co-founder and executive committee member of NGO Bharat Gyan Vigyan Samiti, Professor Raina was a physicist by profession who resigned from Delhi University in 1985 to devote himself to grassroots work in education. He was Visiting Fellow at the Centre for the Study of Developing Societies (CSDS).

One of the pioneers of the People's Science Movement in India that attempts to empower people to plan and implement their own developmental ideas and needs, Prof. Raina had also co-founded Eklavya, an organisation which has been advocating alternative education for more than two decades and is the only institution whose curriculum was adopted in the school educational system. He also set up the All-India People's Science Network (AIPSN).

A Homi Bhabha Fellow (1992-94), Prof. Raina was also a fellow of the Nehru Memorial Museum and Library (1994-1997), and Asia Leadership Fellow (2002), Japan, in addition to honorary Fellow of the Indian Science Writers Association.

Describing Prof. Raina as a committed educationist and activist who contributed enormously to the expansion of education, political scientist Zoya Hassan said he had worked actively for equity and justice, and ensured that the government passed the RTE Act. (Courtesy: The Hindu, Sept. 13, 2013)

Review Meeting on SBM at Kokrajhar

Venue: Kokrajhar Development Block, Titaguri.

In order to discuss the status of ongoing activities of SBM in Kokrajhar district, a review meeting was held at the Training Hall, Kokrajhar Development Block, Titaguri on 24th Sept., 2013. The meeting was presided over by Sri Dhaneswar Goyary, MCLA, Baukhungri Constituency, BTC and Chairman TCLCC. Sri Manoj Daimari, BDO, & Member Secretary, BLSS, SBM, Kokrajhar has explained the purpose and significance of the meeting.

Sri Samiran Brahma, Director, SRC, Assam threw light on the interventions taken up by the Govt. of India as well as Assam to enhance the literacy rate. He expressed his pleasure while declaring 108 learners literate after passing the NIOS Exam.

In connection to the meeting, the certificates were distributed among the successful learners who appeared in the NIOS assessment test of March, 2013. It was given away by the Hon'ble MCLA, 11 No. Baukhungri Constituency, Director, SRC, Assam, Project Director & Member Secretary ZLSS, SBM, Kokrajhar, BDO & Member Secretary, BLSS, SBM, Kokrajhar. Expressing his content on the success of learners and their recognition by NIOS, Sri Dinesh Boro, ACS, Project Director & Member Secretary ZLSS, SBM, Kokrajhar reiterated that a ray of light of education to illiterate persons is a holy job. He appealed to the workers under SBM to work dedicatedly for the greater interest of the society.

Sri N. Mushahary, EO (P) Kokrajhar Dev. Block conveyed the scope and facilities of skilled development training available at UCO-RSETI Kokrajhar. He added that the training programme was organized time to time on various trades like Cycle Repairing, Knitting & Cutting, Poultry, Piggery etc. He appealed to all the qualified learners to apply for those trainings which might play a crucial role on their life skill development. The Project Director, DRDA, Kokrajhar requested the Block Coordinator of Kokrajhar Dev. Block and the Sr. Prerak, MAEC, Kokrajhar to assist the learners in the whole process of their training.



In his presidential remark, Sri Goyary underscored the inculcation of civic sense among the stakeholders to do noble activities for the betterment of the human beings as well as society. He urged SRC Assam to intensify their effort so that the district and Block Coordinator and Preraks could get the honorarium on time.

The vote of thanks was delivered by BDO, Kokrajhar Dev. Block. The meeting was wound up from the chair.



Felicitation of Learner:

It was a moment of pride and celebration for Assam when two learners from the state under the Saakshar Bharat Mission were felicitated at "International Literacy Day" at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi on 8th Sept., 2013. The duo were Smt. Bhagya Choudhury and Smt. Manima Boro from Kalaigaon Block, Darrang successfully completed the course on Basic literacy under SBM. They received the award from Md. Hamid Ansari, Honourable Vice President of India.

The main programme was chaired by Sri Pranab Mukherjee, Honourable President of India. Named as "International Conference on Literacy, Peace and Development in South Asia", the Education Ministers of all the SAARC nations shared the dias and the experiences of literacy movement in concerned nations. Apart from them, the programme was participated by SRCs, JSSs, Academia, NGOs, Schools, literacy activists and civil society.

