

Workshop on Assam Adivasi Vision 2020

Group: - college students'

Venue: - ACRTC, Dhekiajuli, Sapoi, Bhutia- ali

Date: - 12th & 13th June 2010

The two day workshop on Assam Adivasi Vision 2020 was held at ACRTC, Dhekiajuli, Sapoi, Bhutia-Ali, on 12th and 13th June 2010. The participants in workshop were Adivasi students' from different Districts of Assam.

On 11th evening the participants from the Districts Nagaon, Kokrajhar, Baksha, North Lakhimpur, Dibrugarh, Udalguri, and Sonitpur arrived at ACRTC, Dhekiajuli, Sapoi, Bhutia ali. In the evening just after meal they had a short energizer game (changing seats) lead by Miss. Nijula Kachua and after that Paulus Barla shared the schedule for next day program and after that all retired to bed.

12th June 2010

THE PROGRAM STARTED AT 9'O'CLOCK IN THE MORNING WITH A WELCOME SONG BY THE PARTICIPANTS (*BADE DUR SE AALAI GUTIA HAMAR*). MISS. NIJULA KACHUA facilitated the session with a Ice breaking game to open up one selves and the participants formally introduce themselves and then she again started another game (cafe coffee round) where the participants were divided into four groups and a host was selected from each group to share their feelings and expectation after their discussion in the group, In the group the participants were asked to speak out about themselves, some guide lines were given to the groups to help them in their discussion e.g.

1. What is your name?
2. From where have you come?
3. In which college do you read and in which year?
4. Your hobby
5. Share something interesting you know

After that Miss. Nijula Kachua summarized their feelings and expectations and spoke about AAV 2020 and setting of objectives for the workshop on the AAV 2020. The groups then broke for tea.

10:15 a.m. Tea break

10:45 A.M. WHAT IS VISION?

THE SECOND SESSION AFTER TEA WAS FACILATED BY PAULUS BARLA. He described about the vision and explained the meaning of vision by giving the dictionary meaning i.e. 'the ability to see, the ability to think about the future with imagination or wisdom' and differentiated between aim and vision. He also made them understand, the term "vision", by citing the example of Mahatma Gandhi who had a vision of free India from British rule and other great leader like Subash Ch. Bose, Hitler etc...

Meanwhile the participants also shared their opinion of great men and women who had a vision in different field and mentioned the vision they had and the means they took up to realize them.

| Who | What | How |
|-------------------|----------------------------|----------------|
| Mahatma Gandhi | Free India | Non-Violence |
| Subash Ch. Bose | Free India | Military Force |
| Bin Laden | Muslim Empowerment | Violence |
| Hagramma Mohilary | Separate Bodo state | |
| Kristosan Munda | Free India | Struggling |
| Kanaklata | Free India | Non-Violence |
| Bir Birsha Munda | Free India | Struggling |
| Sidhu kanhu | Save the land from British | struggling |
| | | |

Paulus Barla then made a comment that, no dream comes true until you wake up and go for work and concluded his speech by saying that ‘Dream is not a dream which we see while sleeping but dream is that which does not allow us to sleep’.

Moving ahead Mr. Wilfred Topno once again summarized the meaning of vision and asked the participants why it is needed. Following were the answers emerged from the students’.

Why it is needed?

1. To be successful
2. For a society to grow
3. Society as well as collective effort to grow
4. To be systematic and target oriented SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic, Time bound)
5. To develop a new modern Adivasi society.

Moving ahead Mr. Bipul Kongari, followed up the session and asked the participants what are the advantages of setting vision in a group and presented them a few guide lines to find out the advantages.

1. It will be easy
2. No chance to be disturbed
3. Way of life of the Adivasi community
4. To give identity (individual community)
5. help for generation to generation
6. Documentation

Following were the answers emerged from the students’

Advantages of preparing vision in participatory manner

1. Sense of direction and unity
2. To give identity to Adivasi movement
3. Accelerate the Adivasi movement for development
4. Motivates our development movement individually as well as to the society
5. To give identity to politics, social aspect, education etc...
6. To labour under correct knowledge (LUCK)

At 1’0 clock break for lunch

2:00 P.M. 3RD SESSION: DISCUSSION AND PRESENTATION ON ADIVASIS VIS-À-VIS IN THE PRESENT CONTEXT IN ASSAM. SESSION STARTED WITH A SHORT GAME BY MISS. NIJULA KACHUA AND THEN MR. BIPUL KONGADI FACILITATED THE SESSION BY DIVIDING THE PARTICIPANTS INTO FOUR GROUPS AND GAVE THEM SOME INPUTS ON ALL THE TOPICS LIKE, % OF ADIVASISI INVOLVED IN AGRICULTURE, % OF ADIVASIS SPEAKING ADIVASYA ETC... AND ASKED THE STUDENTS TO THINK / WRITE THE PRESENT STATUS OF ADIVASIS. FOLLOWING STATUS OF ADIVASIS IN ASSAM WERE PRESENTED BY THE STUDENTS

1. ECONOMIC

1. 20%- 25% engaged in agriculture and their economic status is not satisfactory.
2. 60% engaged in tea garden work and they are not satisfied with the wages they get.
3. 5% are engaged in daily wage because they have no permanent work to do.
4. 15% of Adivasi people are engaged in domestic works and their economic status is not up to the mark.
5. 2% engaged in petty business.
6. .2% in contract work.
7. 1% in enterprises (poultry, fishery, small tea garden)

Comments from the participants,

1. Adivasis are engaged in agriculture for home consumption only not for business purpose.
2. Only 15 to 20% of Adivasis are land holder with *pattas*.

2. POLITICS

1. 75% vote without the knowledge of voting rights.
2. 25% are away from voting.
3. Only 20 / 25 persons stand for election.
4. People are interested but do not get ticket
5. Because of illiteracy Adivasi people do not go for voting.
6. By forgery votes are taken from Adivasis.

Comments from participants

We can say that there are Adivasi people interested in politics like Mr. Joseph Toppo, Mr. Rameshwar Dhanwar etc...

3. SOCIAL

1. 75% call themselves Adivasi where 25% do not,
Why they call themselves Adivasi
→ By birth
→ Like their own culture & culture
→ To help other Adivasis to grow

Why they do not call themselves Adivasi
 → Some do not know their origin
 → Society neglects if said so
 → Some change their surname to get Govt. benefits like education, economic etc...
 → Some think that Adivasi won't develop any more so why to call themselves.

2. 50% proud of their identity,
 Why they are proud?
 → Birth
 → Like their own culture & culture
 → To help other Adivasis to grow

Why they are not proud?
 → Some do not know their origin
 → Society neglects if said so
 → Some change their surname to get Govt. benefits like education, economic etc...
 → Some think that Adivasi won't develop any more so why to call themselves.

3. Percentage of exploitations and harassment given to Adivasis in tea garden, Govt. and other work places,

In tea garden

- a. No adequate wages
- b. Over time duty
- c. No proper facilities available
- d. Govt. facilities are not available even though granted but inhibited at the delivery level.

In Govt.

- a. No response if known as Adivasi.
4. 40% give recognition as Adivasis.

* Why given recognition

- a. Since working in tea garden
- b. In some area by seeing their performance
5. Even though given recognition as Adivasi they give as *Coolie bangali*, *Bagania*, labour etc...

* Why not given recognition

- a. Some do not accept their origin

4. LANGUAGE & CULTURE

1. 80% speak Adivasiya in villages and 20% in town.
2. 20% speak mother tongue like *Orang*, *Munda*, *Kharia etc...*
3. 1% use dresses (only on occasions)
4. One who knows about Adivasi dresses does not share with others.
5. Adivasis do not give importance to Adivasi dresses.

Comments from participants

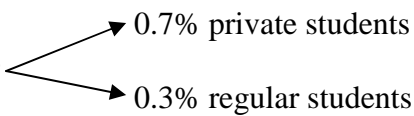
1. We must speak our own languages.
2. Others do not respect when we talk our language, because we have negative pictures like drinking openly on the streets.

5:30 P.M. TEA BREAK

Just after the tea break the discussion continued.

5. STUDENTS

1. Percentage enrolled in colleges and universities

a. In colleges 1% 

b. In universities----- *Lazlaza* (almost nil)

2. 25% of Adivasi students are involved in politics where as girls percentage is few.
3. 30% involved in Adivasi organizations
4. 0.5% engaged in competitive exam (hardly 30 to 40 person)

Comments from participants

1. Less percentage in degree level exams so cannot go for higher studies.
2. Lack of finance.
3. Parents have no knowledge about Universities.
4. No self aspiration of Adivasi students.
5. To change the society intelligence is necessary (From old to modern thoughts).

8:30 P.M. DINNER

9:30 P.M.4TH SESSION DISCUSSION ON ADIVASI HEROES CHAIRED BY MR. WILFRED TOPNO, IN THE DISCUSSION HE SPOKE ABOUT THE ADIVASI HEROES LIKE CHRISTOSAN MUNDA WHO WAS A FREEDOM FIGHTER DURING THE FREEDOM MOVEMENT AGAINST BRITISH AND SPOKE ABOUT THE ORIGIN OF ADIVASIS IN INDIA, ASSAM AT THIS MISS. NIJULA ALSO NARRATED THE SHORT STORY OF MANGRI MEM WHO WAS ALSO ONE OF THE ADIVASI LADIES TO STRUGGLE IN THE ASSAM FREEDOM MOVEMENT AGAINST BRITISH. AFTER THE DISCUSSION ON ADIVASI HEROES THERE WAS A FEED BACK SESSION CHAIRED BY MR.BIPUL KONGADI. IN FEEDBACK SESSION THE PARTICIPANTS SHARED THEIR LIKES AND DISLIKES OF THE DAYS SESSIONS. FOLLOWING EMERGED FROM THE PARTICIPANTS

LIKES

1. Learned about the Adivasi heroes which made them proud.
2. Learned why no S.T. status is given to Adivasis

3. Action songs
4. Fuel to dream to build vision
5. Felt good
6. Good cooperation from participants
7. *Bachpaana yaad agaya* (Wilda)

DISLIKES

1. Long session in the evening
2. Sessions were running beyond time

13TH JUNE 2010

8:30 A.M. 5TH SESSION (*CONTINUATION OF PREVIOUS DAY SESSION*)
ONCE AGAIN IN THE MORNING MR. BIPUL KONGADI WELCOMED THE PARTICIPANTS AND THE SESSION STARTED WITH A SONG (*MOR SANGEY AWAA*) AND AFTER THAT THE SESSION CONTINUED WITH THE PREVIOUS DAY SESSION I.E. THE DISCUSSION AND PRESENTATION ON ADIVASIS VIS-A-VIS THE PRESENT CONTEXT IN ASSAM.

EDUCATION

1. 1% Adivasi schools are being provincial zed
2. No Govt. facilities are provided
3. 30% attendance in primary and lower schools
4. 40% attendance in high school
5. 20% attendance in colleges
6. 65% of our communities think about education, but only 5% Adivasi people really implement their ideas to education.
7. 0.3% students go for higher studies
8. 0.2% of Adivasi are in professional courses

GENDER & WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

1. In family women contribution is more than men. Every thing depends on women e.g. washing, cleaning, cooking etc...
2. No involvement in decision making
3. Working same thing in the tea garden but their wages differentiate by 80:60
4. In Adivasi organization or any Adivasi community women are given very low position
5. Some women do not get sufficient care to their health (*Jetna womaan ke melek lagey*)

COMMENTS FROM PARTICIPANTS

1. They are requested in doing things
2. Women are not coming ahead even though they are given chances
3. More workers are from the women section in Tea gardens
4. Women are asked to do night shift in Tea garden Women do not know how much secure they are
5. More women should attend the meetings
6. They cannot adapt to higher level immediately

HEALTH

1. 20% adivasi are aware of Govt. health provisioning
2. 30% Adivasi women are aware of their health
3. 2% adivasi are aware of health
4. 80% die in occupational diseases in tea garden
5. 30% of Adivasis involve in traditional health practice
6. 20% child die during birth
7. 10% of Adivasis are suffering from maternal mortality

10:00 A.M.

6TH SESSION

FACILITATOR MR. BIPUL KONGADI, MISS. NIJULA KACHUA AND PAULUS BARLA.

THE SESSION STARTED WITH AN ACTION SONG (*TOR JAISAN KEO NAI KHEN*) AND THEN THERE WAS PICTURE VIEW OF ADIVASIS BELTOLA VIOLENCE (24TH NOVEMBER 2007) AND THEN THE PARTICIPANTS WERE ASKED TO SHARE THEIR VIEWS AND FEELINGS AFTER SEEING THE PICTURE OF THE BELTOLA VIOLENCE. FOLLOWING WERE THE OUTCOME FROM THE PARICIPANTS.

1. Intense feeling, can't do anything alone
2. No right to humanity
3. *Hakh mangne jao toh saaja mile ga*
4. Adivasis are treated as dog
5. If same kind of incident happens again, reply is must (Tit for Tat)
6. Unity is must
7. India is free but Adivasis are not free
8. Adivasis are not developing because there is no unity among them.

Moving ahead Mr. Bipul Kongadi divided the participants into four groups and asked everybody to write, think/ frame the vision/future of the Adivasi status till 2020 in different fields like,

1. Political
2. Social status
3. language & culture
4. Economic
5. Health
6. Education
7. Gender & women empowerment
8. Students

After group discussion everybody shared the vision of Adivasi for ten years through discussion and presentation. Following were the results from the sharing

2:30 P.M.7th SESSION PRESENTATION OF FRAMING AAV 2020

1. POLITICS

1. 90% Adivasis should vote with awareness
2. 5 M.P.s (Abga Adivasi)
3. Adivasis own political party
4. 20 M.L.As (Abga Adivasi)
5. Adivasis should know about politics
6. 90% Adivasis should approach their elected minister for their own rights
7. Within ten years 30+ candidates should be elected in *panchayat*
8. S.T. should be recognized to Adivasis
9. Adivasi Autonomous council

2. ECONOMIC

1. 30% Adivasis should engage in agriculture with
 - a. Scientific method of agriculture
 - b. Various type of agricultural production by multi cropping
2. 60% Adivasis engaged in tea garden and should have good economic status
3. Adivasis must have a bank A/c
4. Daily wage earner must be reduced
5. Domestic work must be reduced as far as possible
6. 11% Adivasis in petty business
7. 4% engage in contract work
8. 3% engage in enterprises like poultry, fishery, small tea garden
9. Minimum wage in tea garden Rs. 200
10. Adivasis should have at least two financial institutions
11. At least four Adivasi Industries
12. At least five big tea garden owners

3. LANGUAGE & CULTURE

1. 100% speak Adivasiya in village & tea garden and 50% in town
2. 80% Adivasis speak own tribal languages like *Munda, Orang, Kharia* etc...
3. Govt. should give due recognition to Adivasi artists / singers
4. Adivasi schools must be provincialized
5. 25% use Adivasi dresses
6. 10 Adivasi fashion designer
7. 10 Adivasi models
8. 60% Adivasi custom to be maintained
9. Necessary steps to be taken to promote and preserve language & culture of Adivasis
10. State holidays for *Karam utsav* and Adivasi *diwas*
11. Cultural exposures under Govt. sponsorship
12. Adivasya school should be started

4. SOCIAL STATUS

1. 95% Adivasis must call themselves Adivasis
2. 80% Adivasis should be proud of their identity

3. 50% exploitation and harassment should be decrease specially in tea garden
4. 80% recognition to Adivasis

5. HEALTH

1. 70% is aware of Govt. provisioning
2. 20% aware of their health status
3. 0% maternal mortality rate
4. 100% traditional health practice
5. 50% Adivasi female must be aware of their health status
6. 60% reduce in death rate by various diseases
7. 40% reduce in superstitious belief

5. EDUCATION

1. 10% Adivasi school must be provincialized
2. 80% facilities should be given by Govt. to Adivasi school
3. 100% attendance in primary / M.E. school
4. 100% attendance in high schools
5. 100% Adivasis think towards education and execute this
6. 100 students go for higher studies
7. 100 Adivasi students should go for different professional studies

7. GENDER & WOMEN EMPOERMENT

1. 25% involve in decision making
2. 40% increase in different Adivasi organizations
3. AAWAA to be made strong in all districts and work at least 25% of women issues
4. 60% women is aware of their own health status
5. No. *antar* between *chora* & *churee* (No differentiate between boy & girl)
6. Freedom to be utilized properly
7. Discrimination against women should be secluded

8. STUDENTS

1. 100% enrollment in schools and colleges
2. 0% drop out from schools and colleges
3. 50% Adivasi students involve in politics
4. 70% students involve in Adivasi organizations
5. 60% engage in competitive exams
6. 10 % Govt. employee

8TH SESSION ROLE DISTRIBUTION

7:00 P.M.

EIGHT SESSION CHAIRED BY MR. BIPUL KONGADI. FOLLOWING UP THE WORKSHOP THE CHAIR PERSON ASKED THE PARTICIPANTS HOW TO SPREAD AAV2020 IN DIFFERENT LEVEL AND IN WHAT WAY THEY WILL RENDER THEIR HELP IN SPREADING AAV 2020, FURTHER HE ALSO MADE

FEW SUGGESTIONS REGARDING HOW TO SPREAD AAV 2020, LIKE ORGANISING THE SAME IN THEIR AREA WITH THE STUDENTS GROUP.

To follow up the above suggestion the participants agreed to organize the same in their own area with the students. Following are the schedules taken up by the participants

| Place | Who | when |
|----------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Kokrajhar | Salim Minj | July |
| Kokrajhar | Paulina Ekka | July |
| Baksha | Anil Tigga | 4 th July |
| Missamari | Binita Kerketta | 5 th July |
| Dibrugarh | Rajkumar Toppo | July |
| Nagaon | Wilfred Kerketta & Santa | June |
| Dhekiajuli | Prakash Tigga | July |
| Sapoi | Juliana Surin | June |
| Dherai | Silvius Kujur | June |
| Balipara | Santosh & Ruben | August |
| Lakhimpur & Gogamukh | Elias & Ajay Tono | July |
| Lakhimpur | Mukut Gowala | August 1 st week |
| Mazbat | Irin Kandulna | July |
| | | |

9TH FEED BACK

7:30 P.M.

NINTH SESSION CHAIRED BY MR. BIPUL KONGADI. AT THE END OF THE SESSIONS THE PARICIPANTS SHARED THEIR LIKINGS AND DISLIKES OF THE WORKSHOP. THEY ARE AS FOLLOWS:

| WHAT THEY LIKED / LEARNED | DILLIKE | FACILITATION | FOOD & LODGE |
|---|---------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| Learned the mini G.K. of Adivasis | Long sessions | Good teaching methods | Timely and it was good |
| Learned about the vision | | | |
| Work out vision for ten years | | Mixture of all | |
| Learned about politics and Adivasi Politicians. | | | |
| Learned the results of other Adivasi students | | | |
| Learned about planning and documentation | | | |
| Came to know about PAJHRA | | | |
| Knowledge of Adivasis status | | | |
| Started thinking about future | | | |
| Knowledge about Adivasi issues | | Thanks to | |

| | | | |
|--|--|--------------|--|
| | | facilitators | |
|--|--|--------------|--|

At the end of the workshop Mr. Wilfred Topno thanked all the participants present in the workshop. The workshop got over at 8'o clock in the evening.

List of participants who attended the workshop,

| Sl.no. | Name | Address | Standard | Contact no |
|--------|------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|------------|
| 1 | Paul Santosh Barla | Kachubil, Balipara | H.S. 1 st yr | 9577276051 |
| 2 | Elias Kerketta | Ananda T.E. | H.S. 2 nd yr | 9957380813 |
| 3 | Sanjit Ekka | Kokrajarh | B.A.1 st yr | 8110127087 |
| 4 | Ruben Indwar | Balipara | B.A.2 nd yr | 9613632125 |
| 5 | Philisita Horo | Moringha (Lakhimpur) | B.A. 2 nd yr | 9957318460 |
| 6 | Hanna Barla | Moringha (Lakhimpur) | B.A. 2 nd yr | 9957818897 |
| 7 | Rajkumar Toppo | Dibrugah | B.A. passed | 9678522443 |
| 8 | Mukut Gowala | Seajuli(Lakhimpur) | B.Com. 2 nd yr | 9957511146 |
| 9 | Willsilli Kullu | Lakhimpur | B.A. 2 nd yr | 9706177313 |
| 10 | Shanta Toppo | Salana (Nagaon) | B.A.1 st yr | 9401213435 |
| 11 | Anil Tigga | Baksha | B.A. 1 st yr | 9435755894 |
| 12 | Wilfred Kerketta | Nagaon | H.S. 1 st yr | |
| 13 | Ajay Peter Topno | Gogamukh | B.Sc. 1 st yr | 9954189058 |
| 14 | Pratima urang | Dibrugarh | B.A. 1 st yr | 9957694246 |
| 15 | Rina Toppo | Dibrugarh | B.A. 1 st yr | 9957415423 |
| 16 | Paulina Ekka | Kokrajarh | B.A. 1 st yr | 9864601544 |
| 17 | Sumitra Toppo | Dibrugarh | H.S. 2 nd yr | 9678259862 |
| 18 | Christifer Ekka | Dibru- darrang | H.S. 1 st yr | |
| 19 | Balakciush Ekka | Dibru- darrang | H.S. 1 st yr | |
| 20 | Ajay Lakra | Dibru- darrang | H.S. 1 st yr | 8876037131 |
| 21 | Joy Lakra | Dibru- darrang | H.S. 1 st yr | |
| 22 | Silbius Kujur | Dherai T.E | B.A. 1 st yr | |
| 23 | Benjamin Kandulna | Dibru- darrang | H.S. 1 st yr | 9678998554 |
| 24 | Bijay Prakash Tigga | Dibru- darrang | H.S. 1 st yr | |
| 25 | Salim Minj | Kokrajarh | H.S. 2 nd yr | 9954844595 |
| 26 | Irin Kandulna | Mazbat | B.A. 1 st yr | 9707195182 |
| 27 | Binita Kerketta | Missamari | B.A. 1 st yr | 9577521814 |
| 28 | Juliani Surin | Sapoi T.E | B.A. 2 nd yr | 9707064233 |
| 29 | Milika Lambai | Goalpara basti | B.A. 2 nd yr | 9707438702 |
| 30 | | | | |