

## **National Literacy Mission: Accelerated Literacy Programme for Non-Literate Adult Women in Komna Block of Nuapada District, Orissa**

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### **I. Introduction**

Literacy is a powerful determinant of an individual's life choices and opportunities. It enhances human capacity and capability to exercise choices at social, economic and cultural arenas. On the other, the high level of illiteracy weakens the human capacity and capability to exercise choices in the various dimension of life.

As part of the strategy to enhance human capability and capacity in the district, we implemented the "Accelerated Female Literacy Programme (A.F.L.P.)" for non-literate adult women in the low female literate Komna block of Nuapada district with the financial support from Ministry of H.R.D, Govt of India (Department of Elementary Education & Literacy). This project was initiated in October 2003, covering 47 villages of 7 Gram Panchayats (GPs) in the Komna block of the district, as per the following:

1. Komna
2. Konabira
3. Pendraban
4. Kureswar
5. Bhela
6. Sunabeda
7. Soseng

During the reporting period, the following activities were undertaken, as per the following:

- Master Trainers (MTs) / Voluntary Instructors (VIs) selection
- Survey training for Master Trainers (MTs)
- Survey training for Voluntary Instructors (Vis)
- Survey festival
- Compilation matching/batching of survey schedule
- Training for MTs on teaching learning process
- Environment building
- Teaching learning material distribution
- Monitoring and supervision
- Celebration of International Literacy Day

## **II. Selection of MTs & VIs**

We made contact with the functionaries of G.P. Youth Clubs, Educational Institutions, and Mahila Mandals and through their active support MTs were selected.

The basic criteria for selecting the MTs were as follows:

- Candidate having minimum education matriculation and above, and willingness to work voluntarily.
- Adequate knowledge regarding learner's language, i.e. Oriya, and their environment.
- Preference given to the female candidates who fulfilled all these qualifications.

There were 25 Master Trainers identified and selected to work for promotion of A.F.L.P. The selection procedure was followed through the village meeting and special emphasis was given to the educated female as Volunteer Instructor.

### **III. Survey training for MTs**

Survey training for Master trainers was organized at our project office at Komna on 27<sup>th</sup> October 2003. There were 25 Master Trainers participated in the survey training. Mr J.K Sahu, Resource Person, RDC; Mr B.N Swain, Programme Coordinator, Sahabhagi Vikash Abhijan; Mr. Krushna Chandra Pujari, Block Coordinator (Literacy), Komna participated in the training as resource persons. The topics covered during the training, as follows:

- Discussion as per survey format;
- Process of data entry as per the format;
- Strategy to fill up the survey format;
- Organizing training for VIs on survey format at G.P. level; and
- Survey festival and submission of compiling survey format.

### **IV. Survey Training for VIs**

The survey training was organized at Gram Panchayat level to assess the exact number of illiterate women in the operational G.Ps of Komna block. Master trainers had organized 7 numbers of G.P. level training for the VIs and provided orientation to the VIs on the survey formats provided by State Resource Centre (SRC), Bhubaneswar, Orissa. All the survey trainings were organized on 31<sup>st</sup> October 2003 at the identified 7 G.Ps (Komna, Konabira, Pendraban, Bhela, Kureswar, Sunabeda & Soseng) of Komna, Nuapada. The training programme was held under the supervision and coordination of Programme Associate of Resource Development Centre with active cooperation from Guest Resource Persons (GRPs). During this training programme 145 VIs were given training on the topics, as follow:

- Discussion in details about the objective of survey format
- Door to door survey procedure.

## **V. Survey Festival**

A survey festival was conducted in each village. To prepare the detailed list of illiterate women in 47 villages of 7 G.Ps of Komna block, Nuapada district.

This survey festival was conducted in the first week of December 2003. This survey was prepared by VIs, facilitated by MTs and coordinated by Programme Associate of the project.

## **VI. Compilation & Matching Batching of Survey Format**

After door-to-door survey completion VIs submitted the initial survey report at the RDC, Komna. The programme associate made proper scrutiny of those initial survey reports after matching & batching.

It was found that total numbers of household are 4956 & total numbers of illiterate female between the age group 15-35 years are 6508 in 47 villages. On the date 6.11.2003, all the initial survey reports were submitted at N.Z.S.S, Nuapada for formatting data entry. During the matching & batching of the format the numbers and name of learners were identified for VIs to teach them as per the ratio: 15-20 (one VI, will take responsible to teach 15-20 women learners) for teaching voluntarily.

## **VII. Training for Master Trainer on Teaching Learning Process**

Master Trainer training on teaching learning process was organized at the RDC office at Komna, Nuapada, on 25th December 2003. Twenty-five educated (both female & male) Master Trainers participated in this training, Shri Sribatsha Padhi, Guest Resource Person, NZSS; Shri J.K Sahu, RDC; Shri Lingaraj Ghivela, Block Coordinator (Sinapali); Shri Krishna Chandra Pujhari, Block Coordinator (Komna)

attended the training as Resource Person. The major topics covered during the training, as follow:

- Teaching methods for adult female learners;
- How to create the interest among the learner towards teaching & learning;
- Common Health Education: immunization, to child do child care, health care during pregnancy and during lactating stage;
- Methods adopted to enliven the learning environment using some folk media & visual pictures etc.; and
- Strategy to organize training for VIs on teaching learning process and preparation of future plan in this connection.

Mr. Rajendra Prasad Badhei, Secretary, NZSS, Nuapada, also visited the training camp. Apart from resource persons, lady health workers & primary school teachers also participated in this training and provided significant inputs in the training process and encouraged the trainees.

### **VIII. Training for VIs on Teaching/Learning Process**

Training for VIs on teaching learning process was also organized at G.P. level. The Master Trainer provided training to the VIs on functional literacy as per the guidebook and primers. The GP level training for Vis, conducted from 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2004 to 7<sup>th</sup> January 2004, was completed.

Apart from the Master Trainers and Programme Associate of RDC, other resource persons from educational institutions and NZSS also participated as resources persons during the training for VIs. Mostly training was given to VIs on the subject like teaching/learning method for illiterate women, primary health education, motivational strategy for the learners, joyful learning, preparation of strategic action plan to start the AFLP center.

## **IX. Environment Building**

To create a mass awareness on literacy among the villagers in general and more specifically among the illiterate women in the identified 7 GPs of Komna under the AFLP, an awareness building campaign was organized in the month of January 2004. During environmental building programmes the following activities were undertaken at GP & village level, as per the following:

- Wall writing
- Organized cultural programme in the context to women literacy (on occasion of Republic Day & Saraswati Puja at GP level (26<sup>th</sup> January 2004))
- Village meeting
- Poster display
- Organizing Kalajatha

## **X. Material Distribution**

The following teaching learning materials were provided to AFLP centers for the illiterate adult women learners:

- Slate (For each learner)
- Book (For each learner)
- Slate pencil (For each learner)
- Pencil (For each learner)
- Eraser (For each learner)
- B.B. cloth (For each centre)
- Duster (For each centre)
- Chalk (For each centre)
- Note book (For each learner)
- Guide book (For each VI)

## **XI. Visitors to the Centers**

After the completion of VIs training on teaching learning process, the trained VIs had started centers in all the villages from 2<sup>nd</sup> week of March 2004 onwards. The representatives from NZSS, Nuapada; SRC, Bhubaneswar; & Panchayatiraj institution of the concerned village visited the AFLP center regularly and encouraged the learners and VIs for successful completion of the programme. Collector and District Magistrate, Nuapada; Director, Mass Education, Govt. of Orissa; Director, SRC, Bhubaneswar; and District Project Coordinator, DPEP, Nuapada; also visited the running literacy centers during the teaching/learning period. A high power team from NLM visited some Centres of a village for preparing of documentary film on women literacy programme.

## **XII. Networking**

For promotion of AFLP and its successful implementation, we networked with NZSS, Nuapada; SRC, Bhubaneswar; Panchayatiraj Institutions in Komna; Mahila Mandal & Youth Clubs in the area for support for AFLP implementation in the following areas:

- Teaching learning materials, Supervision support, Training support, Information support, Resource persons support, Survey format from State Resource Centre, Bhubaneswar and NZSS, Nuapada.
- Cooperation and moral support from PRI functionaries, Mahila Mandals and Youth Clubs during the launching of the programme.

## **XIII. Supervision and Monitoring**

The AFLP programme was closely monitored and supervised by the representatives from NZSS, Nuapada; SRC, Bhubaneswar; Mass Education Directorate,

Bhubaneswar; DPEP, Nuapada; District Collector, Nuapada; Mahila Manadal and village panchyatiraj bodies. The monitoring was about enrolment and attendance, functioning of the AFLP centres, the distribution of teaching/learning materials and the learning acquisition and retention by the learners. The supervision also focused on the role and performance level of the MTs and VIs about the delivery of learning contents to the learners. All the three Primers, Primer-I, Primer-II and Primer-III were closely supervised and monitored. Physical verification of various centres was also closely checked by the monitoring agencies. Besides monitoring and supervision the representatives of these agencies also encouraged the learners as well as the MTs/VIs to promote literacy and education through various available mechanisms. All most all the literacy centers were run smoothly due to the strong commitment of organization, Master Trainer & VIs through combined cooperation with each other for promotion of AFLP.

We had submitted few information regarding learners, VIs, MTs, Transable Achievement, Material Distribution List and Monthly Progressive Report up to the month of July 2004 for better understanding about the efforts of the organisation to promote AFLP in 47 villages of 7 G.Ps of Komna block during the reporting period.

#### **XIV. Celebration of International Literacy Day on 8<sup>th</sup> September 2004**

On the eve of International Literacy Day, We had organized a mass rally consisting of school children, local youths, club members and volunteers. We had also organized Debate competition, Essay competition & Quiz programme on the topic of “**Literacy is Development**” in the premises of Jitamitra High School, Komna. The School Inspector (S.I) of Schools was invited as Chief Guest. He distributed the prizes to the participants in the presence of the Head Master, the Block Co-ordinator, NZSS representative & the Programme Associate of RDC.