Teaching Literacy to Potential Tribal Women Leaders
Andhra Pradesh, India

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Breakout Session 5: Literacies
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Location of the Project in India
Characteristics of the Region and Threat to Sustainable Development - 1

- Natural resource base under threat from agribusiness, mining, hydro-power, etc
- Displacement: a major threat;
- Violation of basic human rights of tribals:
  - Access denied to natural resources and sustainable livelihood opportunities;
  - Access denied to basic health and education;
Characteristics of the Region and Threat to Sustainable Development - 2

• Increased exposure to market forces;
• Policies militate against their survival interests;
• ‘Communal’ forces adversely affect the tribal community bond and belief systems;
• Mainstream ideological forces affect the self-image of tribal societies;
• Erosion of their identity: language, culture, etc.
Characteristics of the Region and Threat to Sustainable Development - 3

Key Challenges/Dilemmas for Social Transformation

• The fast-paced changes in external realities
• An evident tension exists between commercialized agriculture and their sustainable subsistence agriculture
• The tribal communities have begun to devalue their traditions and customs and knowledge systems
## Literacy Status in India

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>Literates</th>
<th>Effective Literacy Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2001</td>
<td>2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Population</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>56,06,87,797</td>
<td>76,34,98,517</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rural</td>
<td>36,17,36,601</td>
<td>48,26,53,540</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urban</td>
<td>19,89,51,196</td>
<td>28,08,44,977</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scheduled Tribes</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>3,23,86,821</td>
<td>5,16,35,423</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rural</td>
<td>2,82,94,749</td>
<td>4,46,31,645</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urban</td>
<td>40,92,072</td>
<td>70,03,778</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Primary Census Abstract for Total Population & Scheduled Tribes, 2011
Objectives:

- To equip illiterate but motivated potential tribal women leaders with basic literacy and numeracy skills
- To facilitate their effective functioning as leaders in the local self-government or self-help bodies.
Learning Process:

• The age group of tribal women is between 20 - 40 years.

• Positive environment for learning literacy is created: the learners are engaged in their living and working context so that learning is useful in life situations, hence interesting and absorbing, and also fun.

• By the end of the 10 day period almost all (90%) can read and write words.

• All learners become aware of the leadership roles and responsibilities in the community.
Management:

- 10-day residential programme
- Cost of the programme is INR 70,000 (US $1160) for a batch of 25-30 learners
- Training team: 4 tribal trainers assisted by a lead trainer from Laya
- Neo-literates are followed up through 17 village based Community Learning Centres (CLC).
Community Learning Centers
Achievements - 1:

• Increased confidence among the tribal women in playing leadership roles

• Most are involved in local socio-economic and environmental issues

• Some have been elected to the local self-government elections.

• Others are office bearers in self-help groups. This literacy programme enables the learners to acquire knowledge, capacities, and values required to play a role as responsible citizens. It also opens an opportunity for them to engage in life-long learning.
Achievements -2:

• The learners are enabled to acquire knowledge, capacities, and values required to play a role as responsible citizens.

• It also opens an opportunity for them to engage in life-long learning.
Youth Empowerment

Crash literacy program

Capacity development sessions

Exposure program

Women empowerment
Food security from sustainable agriculture

Live fencing for generating income

From commercial to traditional crops

Sustaining mixed crops on slope lands

Preserving traditional seeds
Renewable and Decentralized Energy Access

- Micro Hydro
- Solar
- Improved fuel efficient wood stove
- Bio sand water filters
Culturally Relevant Herbal-based Health Care

Community Health Centre

Learning to produce medicine

Community Health Practitioner

Traditional Healers Collective

Traditional Healers

Traditional Birth Attendants
Land Rights: 25,000 acres repossessed but a long way to go....

Demanding justice

Educating community on land transfer regulations

Facilitating gram sabha

Sarpanchs meet on PESA
THANK YOU