

RAJIV GANDHI UNIVERSITY: RONO HILLS DOIMUKH

REPORT OF

OUTREACH PROGRAM CONDUCTED AT DISI VILLAGE, WEST SIANG DISTRICT ARUNACHAL PRADESH AN ADOPTED VILLAGE OF RAJIV GANDHI UNIVERSITY (RGU) From 13th to 17th of June 2016

Background:

The Disi Primary School which was established in the year 1966, attained 50 years of its existence in March 2016. During celebration of Golden Jubilee of the school, Prof. Tamo Mibang, the honoube Vice-Chancellor of Rajiv University graced the school and participated the celebration more as local scholar than a Vice-Chancellor of a Central University. The original rural background setup, simplicity of the villagers, well maintained school and the fascinating natural set up of the village where more than 90% is under forest, won the status of adoption of a village. Villagers were so delighted when the Vice-Chancellor, at the end of his speech declared that the RGU is adopting the village for one year.



The village has 39 households with total population of 326 persons (177 males and 149 females) and sex ratio of 842. The literacy rate of the village is 73%. The village is composed of four clans, such as Riba (69%), Dirchi (21%), Kambu (8%) and Tacha (2%). Out of 39 households, 21 households are followers of Donyi-Polo and 18 are Christians. Most of the families practice shifting cultivation as their main occupation. The Kidi River flows very close to the village.



Follow up action:

It was not simply a verbal announcement; the Vice-Chancellor asked teachers of the village school to propose few basic requirements of the school through Prof. Tomo Riba Coordinator, Outreach Program RGU. Accordingly, after consultation with the teachers of the school, a proposal was submitted to the RGU for one set of computer and books for school library. Taking the advantage of it, the Coordinator of Outreach Program proposed to conduct awareness programs while going to the village to handover the computer and the books. Accordingly, few important topics were selected such as; disaster safety measures during earthquake and landslide, health and sanitation, global warming, parenting, organic farming and basic yoga. A sum of Rs.1,59,000.00 was sanction as per the proposal.

Execution of the program:

First Day:

13th June 2016 (Tuesday)

On 13th of June 2016, at 6 am the team consisting of five members from RGU left for Disi Village. The members were:

1. Prof. Tomo Riba, Coordinator
2. Dr. Sajalananda Saikia, Associate Professor, Geography RGU
3. Mr. Kri Potom, Ph.D. Scholar, Geography, RGU
4. Mr. Shivlal Sharma, Ph. D. Scholar, Geography, RGU
5. Miss Mum Mida, Research Scholar, Geography, RGU

After reaching the Disi Village, they conducted introductory meeting with village Head Gaon Bura, few elders and teachers of the school and discussed aim and objectives of the program. As the month of June being peak period of weeding in Jhum field, it was decided to conduct the awareness program in the evening at Community hall, separately for two sectors of the village, Rokpo and Dodo so that the tired farmers can participate the program.



The team of OUTREACH program

Second Day
14th June 2016 (Wednesday)

Plantation:

At 8 am gathered in the Primary School. Resource team arranged the books (397 numbers) and the Computer. After the completion of these two works, the Coordinator of the program talked on organic farming and technique of plant propagation. Fruit plants like jackfruits and *amla* brought from RGU were distributed to village youth and few elders. Few avenue plants were also planted around the school.



Inauguration of
Computer and
Library:

After the plantation by village elders, youths and students, we again gathered in the school building. Two oldest villagers (Shri Tomo Dirchi and Dagjum Riba, who were present were asked to 'ON' the computer and





two other elders, Shri Gorik Riba and shri Barik Riba inaugurated the school library books. The Photos of the Golden Jubilee celebration and pictures of land and people of the village were shown in the computer. They were very much delighted to see themselves in the computer.

Construction of agro-shed:

With few remaining elders, constructed one the agro- shed with materials brought from RGU while rest of the team members were still entering the details of the books in the register. Miss Mum Mida was teaching the school children few games and moral stories.



Agro-shed being constructed

Awareness program:

Being peak period of weeding in shifting cultivation, the villagers were too busy to attend in daytime. So program was kept in the evening, after the dinner at Community hall. The following programs were conducted where more than fifty villagers participated.

- a. Introduction of the **OUTREACH** program and the participants by Prof. Tomo Riba.
- b. Talk on importance of **YOGA** by Miss Mum Mida
- c. Talk on **global warming** by Shri Shivalal Sharma
- d. Talk on **earthquake safety** BY Dr. Sajalananda Saikia
- e. Pure local **language talk competition**, separately for male and female. Females performed better. Winners were given prizes with traditional items like beads for

females and machete (dao) for males. There was not a single person who could speak 100% pure. One positive aspect of the event was, most of them were willing to participate in the competition. They realized that they have lost the habit of speaking own mother tongue without mixing Assamese, Hindi and English words. In case of proper nouns still have good command but in use verbs, they mix up with words of Hindi, Assamese and English. Compared to villages in other states of the North East Region of India where maximum of them cannot converse with people from outside, but most of the villagers of Disi village understand Hindi and Assamese. Young people can speak more than two languages. There are two layers in Galo language; Gomku (old version used in ritual) and Gomli, the communicating language. The Gomku is at the verge of its disappearance.



Third Day

15th June 2016 (Thursday)

YOGA class

At 6 am to 8 am, at Community hall of the first village, around thirty persons participated, consisting of old and young, male and females. Miss Mum Mida, accompanied by Dr. Saikia and Shivlal



conducted the program.

Computer class to teachers:

At 8.30 am Dr. Saikia and Shivilal Sharma taught teachers the basic application of computer.

Transfer of plants to nursery sheds:

With the help of teachers, plants which were kept in the school building were shifted to nursery shed.



Health program:

Dr. Limar Karga, a senior medical officer from health centre Basar gave an elaborative awareness talk on health care and child care. The program was also attended by all the teachers of Govt. Middle School Pagi from beginning to end. Students, teachers, village elders and few young boys attended the program.



Fourth Day

16th June 2016 (Friday)

At 6 am to 8 am at Dodo village YOGA was conducted by Miss Mum Mida. Outreach team members also joined the Yoga class. In the meantime, Mr. Gomar Basar, Assistant Registrar Academic, RGU who also looks after the official matters related to outreach program joined the team. He also



participated in final entering of the list of the books. Teachers were taught for second day the basic application of computer. The Prof. Tomo Riba, for second time, repeated the technique of propagation of plants with application of hormones (rootex/rootbin).



Rest of the day, played with school children.



Fifth Day

17th June 2016 (Saturday)

Finally, the team left for Itanagar and reached very lately.

Conclusion:

The program was successful and it would have been more successful if it would not have been the peak stage of shifting cultivation, the weeding period, the toughest stage of cultivation. The growth of crops depends on proper weeding, so farmer gives maximum attention to crops during weeding. They leave for the field in the dawn and return at dusk. They work from morning five to evening five; returned dead tired. Again, just after return from the field, they feed the animals and children and eat dinner; and sleep early. That is why we shifted day program to evening. Aged people who cannot go to field joined in day program. In those families where there is no grown up child could not join even in the evening program. But they repeated expressed that they missed very important program and requested the team to come again during agricultural off season.

Acknowledgement:

- ❖ To Prof. Tamo Mibang, the Vice-Chancellor of RGU for his vision and providing computer and books and money for awareness program.
- ❖ To Toba Riba and his family for hosting the team for four days and nights with food and cozy accommodation.
- ❖ To Gorik Riba, Jummar Riba and Goken Riba for inviting the team for lunch and dinners.
- ❖ To teachers of the school, Jummar Riba and Toba Riba for cooperation from beginning to last day of the program.
- ❖ To Dr. Limar Basar, Senior Medical Officer from Basar Health centre for giving valuable talks on health and hygiene.
- ❖ To all the villager of the Disi village for your cooperation.
- ❖ To all the teachers of Middle School Pagi for your participation
- ❖ Finally to Sajalanada, Kri, Shivilal and Mum, you were so nice to me. Thanks.



Cover page

RAJIV GANDHI UNIVERSITY

RONOHILLS DOIMUKH (ITANAGAR)
ARUNACHAL PRADESH

OUTREACH PROGRAM

CONDUCTED
AT
DISI VILLAGE
ON 13th to 17th of June 2016



On organic farming, safety measure during earthquake, health care, parenting and basic yoga. RGU provided books for school library and computer.