

MOTHER TONGUE AWARENESS PROGRAMMES

On the 17th of May 2019, the Centre for Endangered Language (CFEL), AITS organized an outreach programme to Maharishi Vidya Mandir School in Rono, Doimukh. The students of standard 6th and 7th were invited for the screening for the CFEL produced documentary film, *Ngok Miri Dekke Yoyo Gaga Goktuanam Kiding (Those Songs and lullabies I used to Sing)* which was followed by an interaction session where the students put up questions regarding different elements observed in the film. The sacrificial rituals were of keen interest to the students and questions regarding their purpose and importance were put up by the students. It was also observed that among the 35 students present, the majority of who belonged to the different tribal communities of the state, only eight were found to speak in their mother tongue with their parents and siblings.

On the 1st of June 2019, another outreach programme for screening of the documentary film *Ngok Miri Dekke Yoyo Gaga Goktuanam Kiding (Those Songs and lullabies I used to Sing)* was organised by the Centre for Endangered Language (CFEL) at Good Shepherd Public School, Naharlagun. The participants were students of standard 6th and 7th and teaching staff of the school. After the screening of the film an interactive session was held, where, Miss Lisa Lomdak, Assistant Coordinator, CFEL, spoke to the students and stressed on the importance that should be given to native language and mother tongues. She encouraged the students to speak in their mother tongue. She also emphasized on the need to learn and understand one's culture and its significance. The students put up questions with regards to the traditional dances that was showcased in the film. A keen curiosity was observed among the children about the sacrificial altar and the importance of sacrificing animals during rituals. The programme ended by the students taking a pledge to preserve their language and culture.

On the 20th of June, the centre has undertaken another outreach programme in order to screen the CFEL produced documentary film. This time the team visited the Girls Residential School, run by the Samagrah Siksha Abhiyan (SSA), Nonpu. The students of standard 6th, 7th and 8th were the participants of the film screening. During the interaction session discussions regarding to the teachings and practices of tribal religion and other religions like Christianity and the conflicts that arose with them were undertaken.

On the 22nd of June, the fourth outreach programme was conducted by the CFEL team. This time the target audience was the students of the Government Secondary School of Rajiv Gandhi University. The programme saw the highest number of student's participation, with approximately 90 students ranging from classes 4th to 10th attending the film screening. The venue of the screening was at the conference hall of Arunachal Institute of Tribal Studies (AITS). In the interaction session, the students put with various observations and question with regards to not only the film but also about their culture and traditional practices. One student enquired on the threat that rampant sacrifices of animals during festival and rituals posed to the

ecological balance of nature. The students were also made aware on the difference between a language and a dialect and the urgent need to preserve their language and culture.

