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**Using Folklore for Community Messaging: Adolescents as Agents for  
Social Change and Empowerment (Phase III)  
May – December 2017**

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**Project Report**



Implemented by Department of Cultural Studies, Tezpur University  
**Supported by UNICEF**

**Using Folklore for Community Messaging:  
Adolescents as Agents for Social Change and Empowerment (Phase III)  
Implemented by Department of Cultural Studies, Tezpur University**

**Nazira Development Block**

Held five days adolescents training program along with 39 students. The Kiran NGO from Sivsagar development block helped us to identify the adolescents (boys -girls) from different school of Simaluguri area. To create awareness and sensitize on different issues pertaining to adolescents, we started our training sessions at Simaluguri Natya Mandir premises.

Table: No. of total Participants, Resource Person and Trainers

Sl No.	Particulars	Number
1.	Participants	39
2.	Resource Person	4
3.	Trainer	3

Total number of Trainers: 3

1. Nabin Kurmi, Sonari.
2. Babul Masua, Demow.
3. Sikhajyoti Gogoi, Amguri.





Mr. Bhaskar Saikia, State SBCC Consultant, UNICEF Assam shared a talk with the participant about the importance of Education. His talk especially emphasized on nutrition. He enquired during his talk about the presence of an equal ratio of boys and girls and thus shared few experiences on health-related issues he has been observing among the people tea garden community. Then he mentioned about various foods from which one can get nutrition and he pointed out another major reason that which is affecting of tea community not to use non-iodine salt.



Later on, president of ATSA Mr. Pankaj Hazam, Visited our workshop. He was thankful to Tezpur University for organizing such workshop with Tea community. He said that “they have been trying to organized workshops on skill development but it couldn’t happen for long and he said those students who were not active participation on any activities earlier, now he is happy to see them working here actively.” By giving them best wishes and advise them to be a passive participant in that workshop he concluded. He also said them earn as much they can. So that going back; they can spread those messages to the society.



The performance included many of improvised songs beautifully incorporated with the traditional folk flavors like:

- a) JHUMOR Geet (Messages of Hygiene and sanitation)
- b) SOHORAI Geet (Early marriages)
- c) TUSU Geet (School dropout)

d) VIMSORIYA Geet (Health and Nutrition)

They played musical instruments, sung and acted on their own. Use of paintings for messaging was a unique idea bought by some participants. The audience highly appreciated the performance also there was a set of curious questions coming from the audience side.



Block level training programmed of adolescents and learning and feedback workshop conclusion with State Anthem.



### SIVASAGAR DEVELOPMENT BLOCK

Held five days adolescents training program along with 81 students from Desangmukh. The SAVED NGO from Sivsagar development block helped us to identify the adolescents (boys -girls) from different schools of Desangmukh area. To create awareness and sensitize on different issues pertaining to adolescents, we started our training sessions at Anil Bhawan, Desangmukh premises.

Table: No. of total Participants, Resource Person and Trainers

Sl No.	Particulars	Number
1.	Participants	81
2.	Resource Person	5
3.	Trainer	3

Total number of Trainers: 3

1. Birina Gam, Desangmukh.
2. Mondeep Neog, Sivasagar.
3. Biren Singh Mili, Desangmukh.

Total number of audience present during the performances:

1. Parents and Local People: 78
2. Adolescents: 15

The day started with the registration process from 10:00 am and followed by distributing training kit bags among the students. Welcome note was given by Dipjyoti Gogoi and she addressed the students. In her address she mentioned about the aims and objectives of the training programme and asked them to write down four major issues, which will be briefed by different resource persons during the workshop.

If we see the outcome of his interactive session one positive sign is the use of mother tongue, which made them to take an active part as participants and able to communicate easily with him about the issues he focused on.

The songs thus discussed was-



- a. Aa:ban
- b. Ka:aban
- c. Oynitom
- d. Tebotekam
- e. Bini:Ninam

Dr. Jayanta Vishnu Das, Principal Investigator and Assistant Professor, Dept. of Cultural Studies, Tezpur University was present with us. After the introduction two groups were made as the number of students were more. Prof Jayanta presided over a group discussing child rights and school dropouts, etc.

On the other hand Dipjyoti Gogoi and Sahnewaz Hussain took over the other group with the issues of child marriage.



The third day saw the presence of our UNICEF team from Guwahati comprising of Mrs. Veena Kumari and Mr Bhaskar Jyoti Saikia (State SBCC Consultant).

After their introduction they took a short interactive session with the students.

Veena Kumari talked about dreams and passion of the students. She basically concentrated on communication development and asked the students to try communicate with people to get feedbacks and suggestions. She also gave ideas on how to interact with peoples. While interacting Veena Kumari also was delighted to listen to a folksong and also witnessed a folkdance although the language was not familiar to her she enjoyed the participatory nature of the students.

There were 4 songs performed and at the beginning and at the end of every song there was a description in Mising as well as Assamese language about the song by participants themselves. They communicated very well and made a bridge with the audiences for the post performance feedback activity. The four songs thus prepared was

- a. Ka:aban
- b. Aa:ban
- c. Oi:nitom
- d. Teboteka:am



Last activity of this phase was the live performance was conducted during workshop period. The idea of folklore incentive is to spread the dialogue among the masses. The help of local folk artist and respected Sivasgar NGO guidance our adolescents' groups again started journey from Demow development block. The trained adolescents from the respective blocks performed in **35** different places. According to the convenient of the places different kind of venues were selected for the performances to reach out to all sorts of audiences. Mostly we targeted school, school playground, community halls, community playground, local market, etc.

As per of project implementation idea is to empower the adolescents and to create a performance for them. Our soldiers started the show with a brief introduction describing the purpose of live performance. Then they started performing the songs and dances which they learnt during the workshops and after each song they interacted with audience detailing the lyrics and repertoire. At the end of the performance, participants voluntarily asked audiences' feedback regarding the performance. performers also tried to find out the impact of the performance and tried to know whether they are able make communication towards society or not? There are many such examples which has been documented thoroughly by Little Hands Production. To proceed towards a formal ending session and to keep promises and spread the dialogue among the masses audience, our soldiers hold each other's hand take oath towards a) stop child marriage b) stop child labour 3) stop substance abuse and 4) Say no to school dropout.

<b>Folklore Live performances 2017 (Phase 3)</b>					
	<b>Amguri</b>	<b>Nazira</b>	<b>Demow</b>	<b>Sivasagar</b>	<b>Total</b>
Folklore Live performance	<b>06</b> Assamese	<b>07</b> Tea community	<b>10</b> Tea community	<b>09</b> Mising: 05 Assamese: 04	<b>32</b>
Adult Reach	320	360	460	560	1700
Adolescent Reach	1800	1950	2000	2550	8300
Total Reach	2120	2310	2460	3110	10000
Total trained	80	50	80	120	330

Sl No.	Name of Vill/T.E./School	Block
1	Athabari Higher Secondary	Demow
2	Deroi Primary School	Demow
3	Rajmau ME School	Demow
4	1 No. Machoi LP School	Demow
5	Kolbari LP School	Demow
6	Bor Deroi T.E.	Demow
7	Khorahaat T.E.	Demow
8	Rajmau T.E.	Demow
9	Hahchara H.S. School	Sivasagar
10	Hahchara High School	Sivasagar
11	Bidya Bhawan High School	Sivasagar
12	Shankardev Sishu Niketan	Sivasagar
13	Majorbari High School	Sivasagar
14	Afala Mising H.S. School	Sivasagar
15	Majorbari M.E. School	Sivasagar
16	Majorbari L.P. School	Sivasagar
17	Disangmukh H.S. School	Sivasagar
18	Sontok H.S. School	Nazira
19	Simaluguri Natya Mandir	Nazira
20	Bihubar Siloni M.E School	Nazira
21	Bahgor High School	Nazira
22	Santok market place	Nazira
23	Bihubar ali	Nazira
24	Amguri Girls H.S. School	Amguri
25	Jorabari M.E. School	Amguri
26	Amguri Natya Mandir	Amguri
27	Dhuniya Goan	Amguri
28	Hatimuriya Goan	Amguri

### **Workshop Details**

- Dated: 02/08/2017 to 07/08/2017: 5-day training held in Demow block of Sivasagara district with 2 groups of Tea community adolescents. Venue: Athabari Community Hall, Demow, Sivasagar.
- Dated: 10/08/2017 to 14/08/2017: 5-day training in Amguri block of Sivasagar district with 2 groups of Assamese speaking community adolescents. Venue: LJH Memorial auditorium, Dhuniyagaon, Sivasagar.
- Dated: 03/11/2017 to 07/11/2017: 5-day training in Desangmukh (Sivasagar) with 2 groups of Mising community adolescents. Venue: Anil Bhawan, Desangmukh, Sivasagar.

- Dated: 09/11/2017 to 13/11/2017: 5-day training in Hahchara (Sivasagar) with 1 group of Assamese speaking community adolescents. Venue: Hahchara Prakalpa, Sivasagar.
- Dated: 22/11/2017 to 26/11/2017: 5-day training in Nazira block of Sivasagar district with 2 groups of Tea Community adolescents. Venue: Simaluguri Natya Mandir
- Dated: 30/03/2018 to 01/04/2018: Three day ToT (training of trainers and folk artists) in Kokrajhar with Bodo and Santhal community groups
- Dated: 15/05/2018 to 19/05/2018: First 5-day training in Kokrajhar district with Bodo community adolescents. Venue: Gwjn Dera complex, Chandrapara, Kokrajhar.
- Dated: 25/06/2018 to 29/06/2018: Second 5-day training conducted in Kokrajhar district with Santhal community adolescents. Venue: Gwjn Dera Complex, Chandrapara, Kokrajhar.
- Dated: 26/07/2018 to 30/07/2018: Third 5-day training conducted in Kokrajhar with Santhal community adolescents. Venue: Gwjn Dera Complex, Chandrapara, Kokrajhar.