

## **Departmental extension work 2017-2020**

### **Facilitation of participatory Video project on the village life of Naapam village with the children of the Bihari Community, 2017**

Participatory video is a form of participatory media in which a group or community creates their own film. The idea behind this is that making a video is easy and accessible, and is a great way of bringing people together to explore issues, voice concerns or simply to be creative and tell stories.

A workshop on Participatory Video Production for MA C4D Programme was held from 27<sup>th</sup> March to 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2017 facilitated by Prof. Vasuki Belavadi, Professor, University of Hyderabad. Where he presented a detailed lecture on conceptual entry points of making a Participatory Video, why to give the community members a platform to express themselves and to voice their opinions, and sustainability. This workshop was followed by a facilitation of a participatory video project with children from the Bihari Community about village life in Naapam village.

There are some key areas to keep in mind while facilitating Participatory Video for the community Volunteers -- Interacting freely with the volunteers and making them comfortable, always appreciating the participants to boost their confidence level for the entire process, focusing more on the practical aspects in comparison to the theoretical one and let the participant explore their own knowledge rather than guiding them at every step. Most importantly, explaining to them the importance of PV in their local context and how it can be an aid in the process of development.

As a result of the project, children from the Bihari community gained confidence in speaking in front of a camera, they were able to produce the socio-economic condition of the community through Participatory Video, their problems were reflected, and most importantly, they did everything themselves, from scripting to recording to post-production.

## **Facilitation of participatory Video project to curb the problem of school dropouts in the Jharoni village of Tezpur, 2017**

Tezpur University's Communication for Development students assisted village youths in Tezpur's Jharoni village on a participatory video project to address the issue of school dropouts. In Jharoni village, the issue of school dropout is a major concern.

The PV facilitation programme was held to address the problem, and as a result, school dropout awareness has increased. It also brings some special talented kids from the villages back to school by showing their story through a PV, which draws the attention of the state's media.

## **Communication campaign on WASH with students of Carmel Convent School; and another to address the issue of school drop out in the nearby village Jharoni, 2017**

WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene) is vital because clean water, toilets, and proper hygiene keep children alive and healthy. This communication campaign was held at Carmel Convent School in Tezpur to help young students understand the importance of cleanliness and hygiene, as well as the link between these factors and school dropout.

Handwashing, basic hygiene and sanitation, and safe drinking water were among the major topics covered in this campaign. To do so, activities such as demonstrating the five steps of handwashing and showing awareness videos were carried out. Participants were also asked to make drawings about cleanliness, handwashing, and other topics. The entire campaign ran in this manner.

## **Communication campaign on Cleanliness with students of FA Ahmed High School, 2018**

The school selected for the communication campaign to help young students realize the importance of cleanliness was Fakhrudin Ali Ahmed High School located in Borghat Village of Tezpur, about 3 kms from Tezpur University. The school was running six classes from Grade five to Grade 10, each having two sections and from participatory interactions and field surveys, it was analyzed that most of the students of this region attached less or no importance to clean and hygienic practices. Hence, there was consensus about dissemination of crucial information to the students about the necessity of a clean lifestyle and how a few basic precautions may safeguard them from fatal diseases. Moreover, they were motivated to keep their surroundings clean as well as encourage their friends, family, teachers and their communities to do the same.

During these sessions, a lot of absenteeism due to poor health conditions were observed that further strengthened the cause of doing a cleanliness drive amongst them. Diseases like dysentery, diarrhea, jaundice, malaria, etc. were reported to be common among the young children which led to a loss of their studies and normal lifestyle.

The activities started from extempore where the students were divided into teams and when one speaker spoke, the others were asked to make notes and re-iterate the speech with additional views if any. This reaped fruitful thoughts, creativity, confidence and active listening among them. The next communication tool which was taught to them was role plays aimed at developing critical thinking, enhancing presentation skills, art of public speaking and problem-solving capacity in the students. Situations were given to students to think through and prepare small skits on efficient methods to deal with a variety of social problems.

Another activity which was facilitated as a part of this workshop was creation of wall magazines to communicate messages to the society by deploying artistic means of conveying simple messages that appeals to mass audience of almost all age groups. They students were encouraged to write poems, articles, stories on cleanliness and display it through the wall magazine and the basic materials to accomplish this process was provided by the facilitators. Many other performances by the students such as poem

recitation, singing, poster making, etc. also formed an important part of this campaign. On 27 November 2018, an awareness event on cleanliness “Swachatar Dikhot Akhuj” (A step towards cleanliness) was also organized by these students under the guidance of their facilitators.

### **Communication campaign on Sport for Development with students of Naapam MV School, 2018**

Napaam MV school, near Tezpur University was selected to carry forward this communication drive that targeted to help the students understand the importance of sports in their life, both for physical fitness as well as mental well-being. In addition to making them aware of sports, the campaign was also designed to bridge the gender gap among fellow students and transform them into advocates of social change that uses the playground as a platform to bring the community together in a fruitful manner.

The campaign began with rapport building activities where the students of the school were asked to speak about their favorite games and sportsperson and were asked to identify players of national and international repute. The most interesting part of the campaign was facilitation and creation of ‘participatory videos’ and ‘puppet shows’; two vastly different forms of communication to be understood and used for circulating information about the same cause. The school children were properly acquainted with the procedure to use both the modes of communication and during the course of five months, they were trained to create the best community messages through the said means.

During the course of the training, many indoor and outdoor games were played such as Ludo, Kho-Kho, Kabaddi and so on. The students flagged the issue of not having a proper playground in their vicinity and the facilitators tried to encourage them to solve this problem by seeking help from their school administration. A sense of critical thinking and voicing for their human rights was evoked due to such deliberations. A sports event was also organized to culminate the campaign followed by an award ceremony for the

winners which was a significant learning exercise for both the school children and the facilitators.

### **Communication campaign on Safe Drinking Water with students of Panchmile Higher Secondary School, 2018**

The school selected for this campaign was Panchmile Higher Secondary School, Tezpur with an objective to promote and ensure the practice of safe drinking water among the school students. The discussions started with activities that made the school children comfortable and they were encouraged to speak about or write articles on their problems. Gradually, the agenda was directed to the hazards of consuming dirty water and how ensuring clean drinking water can safeguard the community against deteriorating health conditions.

The Grade eight students decided to perform drama with their fellow students as the primary audience and acquired skills to plan and execute a successful role play which is one of the most powerful mediums to convey messages. Slogan writing competition also formed a crucial element of this workshop. Concepts of puppetry and poster making were also touched upon during this campaign where the students were exposed to a variety of traditional and folk media to ensure that their messages are assimilated by their desired set of audience.

On 30th November 2018, an awareness event on safe drinking water called “Bikhudho Pani: Xustho Jibon” (Safe Water: Healthy life) was organized by the school students themselves under the guidance of the facilitators which highlighted their dedication & understanding of the communication campaign.

**Formation of a Sports Club in the Napaam MV school which was to be self-managed by the students. The department donated several sports equipment and learning resources to the school and also facilitated the development of the school playground with help from the Tezpur University Horticulture Section. Weekly sports activities and a major**

## **year-end sports event was organized with technical and financial support from the department of MCJ, 2019**

Napaam MV School, located near Tezpur University, was chosen to lead a communication campaign aimed at helping students understand the value of sports in their lives, both in terms of physical fitness and mental well-being. The campaign organizer insisted on the formation of a sports committee in order for the campaign to be sustainable. Members from each class nominated themselves for the sports committee, which included a President and Secretary, Sports equipment handling committee, Playground development committee, Sports study committee, and Sports competition governing body.

A sports event was organized to culminate the campaign followed by an award ceremony for the winners and on the same occasion the sports club is formed through whom the facilitators tried to persuade the students to address the lack of a proper playground in their area by encouraging them to seek help from their school administration. Deliberations like these elicited a sense of critical thinking and a desire to speak up for their human rights.

## **Organized a series of dialogical sessions, like knowledge sharing, individual food habit sharing, discussions as well as quiz sessions with the children of Napaam MV school that helped test their knowledge on nutrition and impart insights into various aspects of good food habit, 2019**

The communication campaign on *Importance of Nutrition and Balanced Diet among Adolescents* was carried out at Napaam MV School, located near Tezpur University, where the primary communication objective was to generate and sustain awareness on the basics of regular water intake, breakfast (balanced diet) and exercising. Also to help in the awareness creation process through planned Health Camp included in the campaign.

In the campaign children's participation in the entire process was encouraged. They made participatory wall magazine. The school administration also fully participated in the whole process. Involvement of the

secondary participants- the parents of the students were there in the process. Importantly there was a liaison with the Pediatrics Department of Tezpur Medical College. A pediatrician from Tezpur Medical College came and facilitated a session with students and parents.

### **Facilitated the visit of a Pediatrician to Napaam MV school school to educate the children and teachers of the school about right nutrition and answer their queries, 2019**

At Napaam MV School, near Tezpur University, a communication campaign on the importance of nutrition and a balanced diet for adolescents was held. The campaign was on the *Importance of Nutrition and Balanced Diet among Adolescents* to boost and maintain awareness about the importance of staying hydrated, eating a balanced breakfast, and exercising regularly.

The Resource Person of the main campaign day was Dr. Utpal Gogoi who is from the Department of Paediatrics, Tezpur Medical College and Hospital. Dr. Gogoi addressed the meeting and shared his knowledge on nutrition and balanced diet.

In addition to imparting awareness and teaching the basics of good food habits, he also opened the floor for questions from the attendees of the meeting. The session was enriching, as a senior teacher was actively asking questions regarding their students' present health status, ailments and involved himself with the resource person in a two-way process for sharing experiences.

Besides that, in the later part, even few of the parents (tertiary participants) also enquired regarding their children's health issues. The resource person also pointed out that he had observed few anemic and malnourished students who are in dire need of lifestyle change. He guided on the value of nutrition and broadly discussed each of the seven macro and micro nutrients. He also reflected on his own experience of skipping breakfast and how that led to severe cases of acidity in his younger days of pursuing his career. Dr.

Gogoi was very thoughtful and even shared his contact and reference for any further future consultation.

### **Imparted Participatory Video training to students of three schools in the vicinity of Tezpur University, 2020**

On 22nd January 2020, the students of Communication for Development performed a workshop on Participatory Audio and Video Production with the help of Mr. Debarun Dutta, the executive director of Drishti. It was a Five-Days workshop from 22<sup>nd</sup> January to 26<sup>th</sup> January 2020. It was a successful workshop for the students of Communication for Development as well as the students who participated in it.

A participatory video is a form of participatory media in which a group or community creates its film. The idea behind this is that making a video is easy and accessible, and is a great way of bringing people together to explore issues, voice concerns or simply to be creative and tell stories. It is therefore primarily about the process, though high quality and accessible films (products) can be created using these methods if that is the desired outcome.

The workshop was very beneficial for the students of Borghat and Panchmile, where they were able to learn about the basics of videography and interviewing techniques. On the other hand, we also learned so many useful things from the workshop. It is a very good step to educate the students about the power of a camera and how they can use it as a tool to solve their problems.

The main goal of the workshop was to create three short films on three different issues in the community/school. Of which, topics were decided by the students themselves, we worked as a facilitator throughout the process of making the movies.