

**Teaching Literacy to Potential Tribal Women
Leaders
Andhra Pradesh, India**

Dominic M. D'Souza, LAYA

Breakout Session 5: Literacies
October 10, 2014

**Kominkan-CLC International Conference on ESD
– Community Based Human Development for
Sustainable Society –
(Okayama City, Japan, 9-12 October 2014)**

Location of the Project in India







Sanitation in tribal Villages of Paderu Division



18 20:54



18 20:20





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

Indicator	Literates		Effective Literacy Rate	
	2001	2011	2001	2011
Total Population				
Total	56,06,87,797	76,34,98,517	64.8	73.0
Rural	36,17,36,601	48,26,53,540	58.7	67.8
Urban	19,89,51,196	28,08,44,977	79.9	84.1
Scheduled Tribes				
Total	3,23,86,821	5,16,35,423	47.1	59.0
Rural	2,82,94,749	4,46,31,645	45.0	56.9
Urban	40,92,072	70,03,778	69.1	76.8
Source: Primary Census Abstract for Total Population & Scheduled Tribes, 2011				

Initiatives and Procedures of the Project -1

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.

Initiatives and Procedures of the Project - 2

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.





Initiatives and Procedures of the Project - 3

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



Initiatives and Procedures of the Project - 4

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.

Initiatives and Procedures of the Project - 5

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



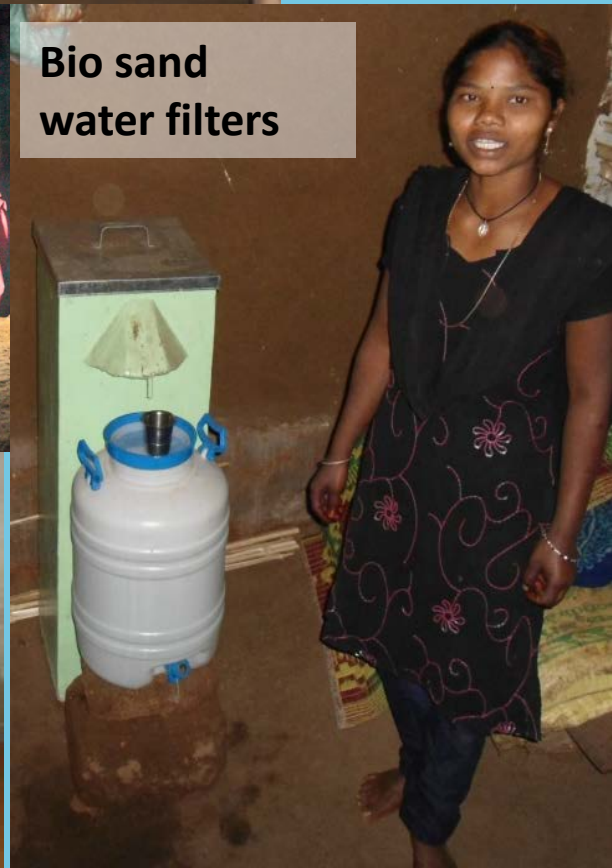
Micro Hydro



Solar



Improved fuel efficient wood stove



Bio sand water filters

Hydram

Culturally Relevant Herbal-based Health Care



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

