

## Minutes of the one day Seminar on BPL census and Right to education

Date: 22/7/11

Venue: DBSS, Tezpur

Number of participants: 36

The seminar organized on BPL census and Right to education by Peoples' Rights Forum (PRF) Sonitpur chapter and the ANT was attended by Sunil kaul the adviser to the Supreme Court commissioner, Assam. He gave the presentation on BPL census and Right to education.

Presentation on BPL census:

He stressed more on the following

- BPL census- Policy decision
- BPL pilot survey
- Results of BPL pilot survey
- Methodology proposed for BPL census 2011
- Proposed Automatic Exclusion Criteria
- Proposed automatic Inclusion Criteria
- Ranking of remaining households using deprivation Indicators
- Proposed Inclusion priority
- Priority to SC/ST in BPL list
- SC/ST coverage: BPL pilot
- Poverty cap
- Proposed inclusion priority: house hold ranking under deprivation indicators
- Proposed inclusion priority
- Conduct of the census

### Opinion from the participants

Most of the participants were confused on Exclusion and inclusion criterion on the BPL census. Sunil tried to clarify the queries to which he had the opinion that there were some loopholes on the BPL census criteria and needed to recommend for changes to the National Advisory Council (NAC).

Sunil explained elaborately on the presentation and requested the participants especially the youths to be alert before and during the census. He felt that there might be incidence of biasness by the leaders, headmen and middlemen in the selection procedure of BPL categories of the community

### On Right to education

Sunil who is one the state representative to the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights, made another presentation on Right of children to free and compulsory education.

The contents of the presentation were as follows:

- Basic definition in the Act
- Right to free and compulsory education
- Duties of Government, local authorities and parents
- Responsibilities of teachers and parents
- Curriculum and completion of EE
- Protection of Rights of children

- And miscellaneous

#### Opinion from the participants

On the presentation on Right to free and compulsory education the participants had many questions. The questions were replied by Sunil. One of the questions from Stephen Ikka was that wouldn't be a problem for the parents of Adivasi community working in tea garden prepare food for the children before leaving for work at 5 morning as the children had to be in hunger waiting for the Mid-day meal till 12 noon. To these sunil replied that the parents have to be active and conscious on the contribution of their part on the education of the children. He suggested that the parents have to be more serious and dedicated for the well being of the child.

The participants had the opinion that there had been irregularities in the distribution of MDM and the infrastructure like kitchen and store rooms in some schools have not yet been constructed. To this Sunil suggested that the representatives of PRI, SMC and Parents had a very important role to play in the proper functioning of the school administration. He requested the participants to attend school meetings and keep an eye on the smooth functioning of the school.