

Knowledge Sharing Workshop
Education of Adivasi Children in India

Ajit Kumar Mohanty

National Multilingual Education Resource Consortium, (NMRC) Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), New Delhi

Founder, Director NMRC, and ICSSR National Fellow, JNU, Delhi. Fulbright Visiting Professor at Columbia University, Fulbright Senior Scholar at the University of Wisconsin, Killam Scholar at the University of Alberta, Fellow, Association of Psychological Science, USA, and Fellow, National Academy of Psychology, India. Developed Multilingual Education Policies for Nepal and Odisha (India).

Alex Paul Menon

IAS

Secretary, *Aadim Jati Avam Anusuchit Jati Vikas Vibhag* (Department of Tribal and Scheduled Caste), Chhattisgarh. Former District Collector in Vijayapura, Dhamtari, Sukma, Raipur and Balrampur-Ramanujganj districts of Chhattisgarh.

Amarendra Das

National Institute of Science Education and Research, Bhubaneswar, Odisha

Researcher on language issues amongst the Adivasi children in schools. Interested in exploring possibilities of adapting relevant practices from Brazil in the context of Odisha.

Ameen Charles

Community Development Centre (CDC), Bhatara, Balaghat, Madhya Pradesh

Co-founder CDC, an NGO working in Balaghat and other neighbouring districts on Livelihood, Education, Health and Conservation.

Amman Madan

Azim Premji University, Bangalore

Faculty, School of Education, Azim Premji University. Current research interests include social stratification, identity politics and civic education. Associated with Eklavya and Digantar, and member of the Education Dialogue Trust.

Anil Pradhan

Sikshasandhan, Odisha

Member-Secretary, Sikshasandhan, which has been innovating education for children of tribal communities, and engaged in research, advocacy, publications and providing support services to other NGOs and government departments. Currently, Convener of Odisha RTE Forum and Executive Council Member of RTE Forum(National).

Anish

Eklavya, Madhya Pradesh

Educator, working to improve science education at different levels and in various contexts. Works with Eklavya to improve the teaching-learning of science in 400 government Ashramshala schools for Adivasi children in Maharashtra.



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Arunopol Seal

Lakshmi Murmu Smriti Shishu Vidyalaya, West Bengal

Founder, *Lakshmi Murmu Smriti Shishu Vidyalaya*, in Chaachanpur, a Santhali village in West Bengal. The school aims to provide access to education to the Santhali children of Chaachanpur and other neighbouring hamlets, without alienating them from their context and culture.

Ashish Kumar Shrivastava

Shiksharth Trust, Sukma, Chhattisgarh

Founder and Director of Shiksharth, that works towards improving the quality of education in rural and tribal areas through action-based research, design, and implementation.

Ashokbhai Kanjibhai Chaudhari

Adivasi Ekta Parishad, Gujarat

Community Activist. Working with Adivasi Ekta Parishad, a nationwide organisation of indigenous people of India, founded in 1994.

Ashok Kumar

Samagra Grameena Ashrama, Karnataka

samagra2015@gmail.com

Member of Samagra Grameena Ashrama, working with the Indigenous communities in the Western Ghats of Karnataka for Forest Rights and development of Ashram Schools.

Bhanumathi Kalluri

Dhaatri Resource Centre, Secunderabad, Telangana

Founder, Dhaatri Resource Centre, pioneered Adivasi community schools, a lab school, and 40 satellite community schools in villages in hilly areas. Also involved in the implementation of the RTE Act in Andhra Pradesh, largely focussing on elementary schools in tribal areas.

Bhupendra Singh Paraste

Department of Public Service Management, Govt. of Madhya Pradesh

Government Administrative Officer in Madhya Pradesh. Worked in various districts of Madhya Pradesh for the strengthening of the education system.

Bhupesh Tiwari

Saathi Samaj Sevi Sanstha(SSSS), Kumharpara, Kondagaon, Chhattisgarh

Founding member of SSSS and Saathi Gurukul - a day school that accommodates around 400 children from artisan families. Works with youth to empower rural artisans and propagation of their culture. Former member of the Joint Machinery of the Planning Commission of India and the governing body of CAPART, New Delhi.



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Binay Pattanayak

UNICEF, Bihar

Founder - research cell, on children's languages, 'Mother Tongue-based Active Language Learning (M-TALL) akhra. M-TALL completed a socio-linguistic survey in 24 districts in Bihar, and developed bilingual pictorial dictionaries in nine tribal languages.

Boro Baski

Ghosaldanga Bishnubati Adibasi Trust, (GBAT), West Bengal

Trustee member of GBAT that is working for overall development of the Santhals in Birbhum, West Bengal. Co-founder of a non-formal Santhal school, the Rolf Schoembs Vidyashram, near Santiniketan. This school for Santhali children is based on Tagore's philosophy of education.

Damodar Jain

Shaala Siddhi, SCERT, Madhya Pradesh

Government school teacher and core team member of the Shaala Siddhi team in Madhya Pradesh. His Ph.D. focuses on the status of teachers in elementary education. Conducted language training workshops organized by NCERT and SCERT, Bhopal. Volume editor of 'Madhya Pradesh Ki Bhashayein', published by Orient Blackswan Press.

Deepika K. Singh

Quest Alliance, Bangalore, Karnataka

Education specialist with Anandshala Programme, Bihar. Core areas of work include training and curriculum development, design and implementation of programmes to address the issue of equity, quality, and access to elementary education.

Ganesh

Department of Public Instruction, (DDPI) Mysore, Karnataka

Community member, Betta Kurubas, Karnataka. Working in the area of tribal education in Heggadadevana Kote Taluk, Karnataka. Former Government school teacher; at present Subject Inspector in DDPI office, Mysore.

Gayathri Subramanian Iyer

CARE India, Noida.

Senior Technical Specialist, Girls' Education Program, CARE India. Has designed an inclusive education program for Adivasi children, with a special focus on girls. Designed curriculum for out-of-school adolescent Adivasi girls, and an early literacy program for tribal children in public schools in Odisha.

Giridhar Rao

Azim Premji University, Bangalore

Faculty, School of Education, Azim Premji University. Is engaged with the worldwide Esperanto movement, and hence on issues of multilingualism in society, and education



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policies for linguistic minorities. Has several publications in English and Esperanto on these themes.

Hitendra Joshi

Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, Gujarat

stpguj@gmail.com

Officer in-charge, Alternative Schooling and Tribal Education, Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan Gujarat. Been involved in training of the teachers in the Tribal dialect and developed a pictorial glossary in the local dialect and Hindi language.

Indira Vijaysimha

Azim Premji University, Bangalore

Faculty, School of Education, Azim Premji University, and Founder, Poorna Learning Centre, Bangalore. Spearheaded a two-year quality improvement program in collaboration with a B. Ed college and was a faculty member at TISS, where she offered a course on Teacher Professional Development. Works with Atragamee, Odisha for their Creative Language Development Efforts program and trains their teachers.

Indu Prasad

Azim Premji University, Bangalore

Director, School of Education and School of Continuing Education and University Resource Centre, Azim Premji University, Bangalore. Since 2005, with Azim Premji Foundation, she works with teachers, teacher educators and teacher education institutions; senior government education functionaries and education policy with Central and State governments. Has worked with children with special educational needs for about fifteen years before this.

Jacinta Kerketta

Jharkhand

Adivasi Hindi poet, writer and social worker in Jharkhand. Works with Oraon, an Adivasi community in 20 villages of Khoonti, Jharkhand to revive the traditional *Dhumkudiya* education system. Also, initiated the Adivasi Ekta Manch Sanghatan to dialogue and discuss on language and culture.

Jaideep Das

Deputy Commissioner, KVS, Gandhi Nagar, Gujarat

Former Teacher, teacher educator, and District Project Coordinator under District Primary Education Programme (DPEP). His doctoral work focuses on attitudes and values of tribal teachers working in tribal areas. Participated in developing Bridge Language Inventory (BLI) to equip the non-tribal teachers with an understanding of dialects and languages prevalent in the community where they teach.

James Pochury (Zutsiitho Nyuthe)

ActionAid India, Delhi



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Former Teacher, and a headmaster in a Jesuit-run rural high school in Nagaland. He has been involved in various rights-based advocacy and campaigns for indigenous people's rights in Nagaland.

Jayashree Bhalerao

Adharshila Learning Centre, Madhya Pradesh

Co-Founder of Adharshila Learning Centre, been involved with the education of Adivasi children for the past 20 years and in the political education of youth and workers of people's organization.

Joba Murmu

Government School, Jharkhand

Sahitya Academy board member for Santhali language and an awardee (2017- *Olon Baha*). A school teacher by profession, she is also a core member of an organization that runs schools for tribal children in Jharkhand, Bihar, West Bengal and Odisha, and facilitates teachers training to promote Santhali.

Joseph Bara

Independent Scholar (formerly with JNU), Jharkhand

Scholar for four decades, interested in educational development among the Adivasis of Central India tribal belt. Published articles in several premier international journals and has contributed chapters in books. His edited book titled, 'Elusive Equality' on the subject is being published by Routledge.

Kashinath Vinayak Barhate

Folklore Research Centre, Maharashtra

Researcher and language expert who has published several works related to languages. He has published a book titled, 'The Descriptive and socio-linguistic analysis of Korku dialect' and is a team member of Folklore Research Project run by Govt. of Maharashtra.

Lalita Bhamare

Maharashtra

Teacher in an Adivasi village since 1989. With the help of students, parents, and teachers, she has compiled a dictionary of five Adivasi languages in her district and has written storybooks in Adivasi languages.

Madhuri Yadwadkar

Tribal Research and Training Institute Pune, Maharashtra

Project Director, Tribal Development Department, in the field of training and education. Created a reference manual about joyful education for marginalised children – 'Ananddayi Shiknyacha Dishene', for Palakniti Parivar, Pune.



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Mahendra Mishra

Language and Learning Foundation, New Delhi

Founder Trustee of Folklore Foundation in Bhubaneswar, Odisha, former State Coordinator for Multilingual Education, 2010 in the Government of Odisha. A Sahitya Academy recipient, he has published several works related to MLE. Associated with ICICI Foundation for Inclusive Growth and the Govt of Chhattisgarh, and is the National Advisor for MLE in Language and Learning Foundation, New Delhi.

Malvika Gupta

University of Oxford

DPhil candidate in the Department of International Development at the University of Oxford. Her research is on understanding Indigenous Education Policy in India and Ecuador and the role of state and private corporations. In the past, she has worked with Eklavya in Bhopal.

Maya Shrivastava

Adivasi Ashram Bari, Dist. Raisen, Madhya Pradesh

Involved with education of Adivasi children since 1967 on different aspects, and is interested in equipping Adivasi children with skills for their well-being.

Muthaiah

Kollegal Soliga Abivridhi Sangam, Karnataka

Tribal leader Secretary in Kollegal Soliga Abivridhi Sangam and a member of Forest Rights committee and Child Welfare committee. Former community teacher in Ashram School in Kollegal.

Nargis Khatoon

Srijan Mahila Vikas Manch (SMVM), Jharkhand

Works with children in need of care and protection by enabling their transition into formal as well as informal schooling through child-centric classroom processes and relevant pedagogy, and strengthening collectives in West Singhbhum, Jharkhand.

Nilesh Nimkar

Quest, Maharashtra

Director, Quest working for over 20 years in the tribal belts of Thane district as an educator and as a teacher educator at State and National level. Has been a training consultant to DPEP (District Primary Education Programme, Government of Maharashtra) and as a consultant to UNICEF and Sir Ratan Tata Trust.

Padma Sarangapani

Tata Institute of Social Sciences(TISS), Mumbai

Faculty and Chairperson of the Centre for Education, Innovation and Action Research, TISS, Mumbai. Member of the steering committee NCF 2005. Has researched and published on themes relating to quality of education, pedagogy and teaching, and



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curriculum studies, teacher resource centres and indigenous tribal knowledge transmission.

Panchanan Munda

Antral, Ranchi

Artist, and a primary school teacher interested in the affairs of tribal society. Passionate about teaching, conserving, and appreciating tribal languages.

Prayaag Joshi

Imlee Mahuaa School, Chhattisgarh

Member of Imlee Mahuaa School that educates children from the village and neighbouring villages. Lives and works in Balenga Para, a little village in Kondagaon district in the Bastar division of Chhattisgarh since 2007

Pralhad Kathole

Government School, Maharashtra

Teacher in a government school in Maharashtra and member of 'Teachers' Study Group', initiated by QUEST and TISS.

Pranith Simha

Bachpan Banao, Chhattisgarh

Member, Bachpan Banao, that works in Dantewada district of Chhattisgarh with a vision of empowering the public education system. Bachpan Banao runs a school called *sapno ki school*, which works with 11 government schools/villages/clusters.

RS Praveen Kumar

IPS

Secretary, Telangana Residential Educational Society, that runs residential schools for Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe and underprivileged children. Mid-Career Master of Public Administration as a Mason Fellow at JF Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University.

Rahul Bose

Suchana, The Uttar Chandipur Community Society, West Bengal

Co-founder Suchana- an education effort for Santali and Kora Adivasi children from pre-school to secondary level.

S Rajaraman

Independent Scholar

Independent researcher exploring politics of schooling-- understanding the interlinkages between Education, Knowledge systems and Democracy. His engagement with Adivasi education began at Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences (KISS), Bhubaneswar.

Rajashri Tikhe

Tribal Research and Training Institute, Pune



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Anchor of Shikshan-Mittra programme for tribal ashram school which aimed at interlinking education with life experiences. Consults for Education Initiatives with Tribal Research and Training Institute (TRTI, Pune) to improve the overall quality of Ashram Schools and is involved in designing bi-lingual approach for ashram schools.

Ram Chandra Singh Chouhan

Adivasi Ashram Bari, Raisen, Madhya Pradesh

Community activist involved with recognition and empowerment of Adivasi children for the last 50 years. His work involves integration of social and cultural values in education through sports and other activities.

Ramdas

Viswa Bharati Vidyodaya Trust (VBVT) Tamil Nadu

Founder trustee of VBVT, Gudalur block of the Nilgiris district of Tamil Nadu. VBVT is a sister organization of ACCORD, that undertakes the educational activities with Adivasi children. It works for enrolment and retention of children in the tribal schools as well as the other schools and gives them the necessary support to continue their schooling. It also runs a Primary school - Vidyodaya Primary school - and a residential Middle school for dropouts, supported by the SSA .

Ramachary

Vivekananda Girijana Kalyana Kendra, Karnataka

Head Teacher, Vivekananda Girijana Kalyana Kendra (VGKK). Has worked more than 35 years in BR Hills School for the Tribal from that area. He has a keen interest in tracing the history and uses of indigenous plants used by the tribal.

Ravi Pratap Singh

Aide et Action International

ravi.pratap@aide-et-action.org

Regional Director, South Asia operations. Aide et Action- an international development organisation focussing on Education. His areas of expertise include strategic planning, program development, and participatory approaches and practices in the area of Education, Livelihoods and Natural Resource Management. He has been associated with civil society organisations and people's movements in India, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Bhutan, Bangladesh and many other countries of Asia and Africa.

Rishikesh

Azim Premji University, Bangalore

Faculty, School of Education, Azim Premji University. His research interests are in the domains of educational policies, assessments and teacher education. He is on various Government Executive Committees working on issues concerning education policy; particularly in Karnataka.

Seetha Kakkoth



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Dept. of Rural and Tribal Sociology, Kannur University, Wayanad, Kerala

Anthropologist; for her Ph.D. and postdoc, studied the tribes of Nilambur forests of Kerala and interacted with Cholanaikkan/Kattunayakan children. Made a documentary on Ashram school dropouts under CRY and her current project includes preparation of a dictionary for Cholanaikkan and Kattunayakan languages.

Sharad Behar

(Retd.)IAS, Azim Premji Foundation

Former Chief Secretary to Govt. of Madhya Pradesh. Published extensively on Education, Public Administration and issues of social concern. Founder, Director of Eklavya, and Founder, Chairman of Nachiket, an institution for education and social service, and the founder, Vice-Chancellor of Guru Ghasidas University, Bilaspur. Served in the jury for Indira Gandhi Social Service Award; and Birsa Munda Award for services in tribal areas.

Shivali Tukdeo

National Institute of Advanced Studies(NIAS), Bangalore

Faculty, NIAS. Her most recent (collaborative) work on Adivasi education includes a comprehensive study of Ashram schools in Maharashtra. Prior to this, she has been part of a report on Adivasi education (2012) that looks at structures, policies, and conditions of schooling in Adivasi regions.

Shivani Taneja

Muskaan, Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh

Founder, Muskaan. Working with tribal communities in an urban context and committed to exploring and building a practical model for meaningful and relevant education for marginalized communities, multilingual education for tribal groups and enhancing expression of these communities.

Sindhunil

Lakshmi Murmu Smriti Shishu Vidyalaya, West Bengal

Action Research Fellow, Centre for Development Practice, Ambedkar University, he works with the Santhali Adivasi school in the West Bengal. The school is built with a philosophy of advocating the regeneration of a holistic form of education in indigenous languages and he is interested to create a curriculum which is contemporary and context-specific.

Sonal Baxi

Bhasha Research and Publication Centre, Gujarat

Member of Bhasha Centre's Higher Education and Primary Education Programmes at the Adivasi Academy. It focuses on promoting mother tongue education among primary learners and developing mother tongue tools for the transition to the state medium of instruction. Her experience includes material development, liaisoning with SSA, Gujarat and organising teacher training workshops.

Soumya Swaroop (Amit Bhatnagar)



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Adharshila Learning Centre, Madhya Pradesh Co-founder, Adharshila learning Centre. Has been involved in the education of Adivasi children for the past 20 years and in political education of youth and workers of people's organization.

Sujit Sinha

Azim Premji University, Bangalore

Faculty, School of Development, Azim Premji University. Prior to joining APU, for 20 years he was working with a rural NGO in West Bengal involved in integrated rural development. His main interest lies in applying Gandhi's spirit in today's education as well as in all other aspects of human life.

M. Sudhish

Samagra Shiksha, Raipur, Chhattisgarh

State Pedagogy Coordinator for the last 18 years and also looking after tribal education in the state. He has been instrumental in implementing Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam Shiksha Gunvatta Abhiyan for quality education at elementary level.

Sumit Gunjan

Antral Organization, Jharkhand

An artist, independent teacher, social worker and activist. Started out with children of construction workers in Greater Noida; lived with rural and urban communities to understand the context, languages and indigenous knowledge and culture.

Sunil Mawaskar

Maharashtra

Member of the Project titled 'Korku': Culture, Folklore, and Folk dance. Participated in 'Aadirang Mahotsav', a National Tribal Festival organized in New Delhi. Published papers in journals and magazines – those related to Korku Tribes.

Sunil Kumar Sah

Azim Premji Foundation (APF), Chhattisgarh

State Head, APF, Chhattisgarh. Prior to joining APF in 2009, he was the Program Coordinator in the Population and Development Education Program.

Stanly V John

District Institute of Education and Training, DIET, Bastar, Chhattisgarh

Member, DIET Bastar. Involved in planning for Adivasi children under SSA to establish residential schools in Bastar. His research is on the effects of home language on school performance.

Udaya Kumar Bekal

Azim Premji Foundation (APF), Karnataka

Coordinator, Teacher training centre, Bidar, Karnataka. Postgraduate in Social Work; and has worked with Adivasis in the areas of Coorg and Mysore for the last 20 years.



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Veerabadhra Naika

Punarchith Collective, Karnataka

Founder member of Punarchith Collective; conducted in-depth studies on ashramshalas in Chamarajanagar district and has engaged in advocacy work related to improving education among Adivasis. His book, 'Nejaru: Education and Development among Adivasis' (in Kannada) has recently been published by Roopa Publications, Mysuru.

Vengatesh Krishna Sundaram

NEG-FIRE, New Delhi

Executive Director, New Education Group - Foundation for Innovation and Research in Education (NEG-FIRE), Delhi. He has interest in multilingual education and has worked on several projects including developing teaching-learning materials and training teachers in Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Odisha, and Andhra Pradesh.

Vibha Puri Das

(Retd.)IAS, Bhasha Trust, Gujarat

Former Secretary, Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India. Current Member, Bhasha Trust.

Vidhya Das

Aragamee, Odisha

vidhyadas@aragamee.org

Founder member, Aragamee. Over 25 years of working for education of tribal children and has developed an effective pedagogy for early grade reading.

Vinit Kumar

Gram Vikas, Odisha

Quality Controller, Residential Schools, Gram Vikas, Odisha where around 1500 students from Adivasi communities in Ganjam, Gajapati and Kalahandi districts are studying in the schools.

Virginus Xaxa

Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Guwahati

Professor and Deputy Director at Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Guwahati. Interested in sociological concerns of plantation labourers, tribal communities, agrarian structure and development, social exclusion and marginalization and has published several books and articles.

Vivek Kumar

Kshamtalaya Foundation, Rajasthan

Member, Kshamtalaya Foundation (KF) that works to support children in the most disadvantaged settings to achieve their true potential. Has designed a Learning Manifesto and learning festivals to make education a community agenda.



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Vandna Tete

Pyara Kerketta Foundation, Ranchi

Member, Karketta Foundation, Ranchi, that works for the protection and promotion of tribal and indigenous languages, literature and culture of Jharkhand. Published several poems, stories and literary works in Hindi and *Kharia* language.

Organising Team

Anant Gangola

Azim Premji University, Bangalore

Associate Director, Student affairs, Azim Premji University. Leading Azim Premji Foundation's initiatives in Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Uttarakhand. Also worked with Madhya Pradesh government to implement Total Literacy Campaign, District Primary Education Programme, and Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan.

Asim Siddiqui

Azim Premji University, Bangalore

Faculty, School of Liberal Studies, Azim Premji University. Areas of interests include Philosophy of Education, Critical Thinking, Aesthetics and Ethics, Political Philosophy, Feminist Philosophy, Contemporary Indian Philosophical thought including Ambedkar, Gandhi and Tagore.

Pallavi Varma Patil

Azim Premji University, Bangalore

Faculty, School of Development, Azim Premji University. Currently involved with setting up open learning centres on the lines of Gandhian Education with Kondh Adivasi communities through Living Farms, Orissa.

Rema Devi

Azim Premji University, Bangalore

Field Practice coordinator, Azim Premji University. Has worked with various civil society organizations across India on various aspects of social development.

V Santhakumar

Azim Premji University, Bangalore

Faculty, Azim Premji University. One of his current areas of research is the inter-linkages between education and development.

Umashanker Periodi

Azim Premji Foundation, Karnataka



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State Head, Karnataka. Has been actively involved in tribal development work in B. R. Hills with Soliga tribes. Designed and executed training for the Total Literacy Campaign of Karnataka. Founder member of Karnataka State Trainers Collective.

Vaishnavi

Azim Premji University, Bangalore

Research Associate, Azim Premji University. Former associate with a Lok Sabha Parliamentarian. Interested in the intersection of environmental sustainability with the developmental goals of local communities.

Vikas Maniar

Azim Premji University, Bangalore

Faculty, School of Education, Azim Premji University. Current research interests include education for marginalised communities, ICT in education, and education leadership and management. Led the school programme of Akshara Foundation, Bangalore. Associated with grass root NGOs working on education of marginalised children.

