

Activity Report

PEOPLES' LINGUISTIC SURVEY OF INDIA (PLSI)

During the year, the Linguistic Survey work was carried out in the following states and Union Territories:

Andaman and Nicobar, Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Chattisgarh, Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Daman and Diu, Goa, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Lakshadweep, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Odisha, Puducherry, Punjab, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand and West Bengal

The language documentation work in the following states and Union Territories is completed:

Andaman and Nicobar, Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Chhatisgarh, Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Diu and Daman, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Lakshadweep, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Orissa, Punjab, Puducherry, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, Uttarakhand , Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal

The manuscripts for the following states were sent to the publishers:

Maharashtra – Padmagandha Prakashan

Assam – Banalata Prakashan

Karnataka – Akshara Prakashan

Andaman and Nicobar Island - Orient Blackswan

Chattisgarh – Orient Blackswan

Jammu and Kashmir – Orient Blackswan

Jharkhand – Orient Blackswan

Kerala – Orient Blackswan

Lakshadweep – Orient Blackswan

Meghalaya – Orient Blackswan

Nagaland – Orient Blackswan

Odisha – Orient Blackswan

West Bengal – Orient Blackswan

Tamil Nadu – Orient Blackswan

Tripura – Orient Blackswan

Uttarakhand – Orient Blackswan

Himachal Pradesh – Orient Blackswan

Rajasthan – Orient Blackswan

Uttarakhand – Orient Blackswan

The manuscripts of the volumes for the following states are under preparation:

Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Haryana, Punjab, Manipur, Mizoram, Puducherry, Sikkim, Uttar Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Delhi, Chandigarh

PLSI Workshops were held for the following regions:

Workshops for regional volumes of the PLSI were held in Rajasthan, Sikkim, Mizoram, Manipur, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Andaman and Nicobar and Delhi.

Translation Workshops were held for the volumes on Gujarat, Rajasthan, Chhatisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Kerala, Karnataka and Maharashtra.

RESEARCH SURVEY

Bhasha Centre has undertaken with the support of Centre of Social Development, Hyderabad and ICSSR, New Delhi, a survey of the educational status of denotified communities in Gujarat covering 114 villages in 13 districts. Nearly 1500 households are covered under the survey which presents the status of education in communities as the Nats, Wadis and Waghris.

ADIVASI ACADEMY

- The Vaacha Museum has undertaken preparation of an online Photo Archive. Towards this, the Museum team has begun to organise the 38000 photographs, lectures, music and other cultural documentation in its collection for uploading on the website.
- Since the collaboration with IGNOU could not be furthered, the earlier courses at the Academy were completed and certificates awarded to the trainees by the Adivasi Academy. The Academy has now shifted focus to research and documentation activities. Bhasha plans to prepare and publish an Ethnography series covering all tribal and nomadic communities in India, about 800 in number. The Academy's Faculty has undertaken preparation of Community Ethnographies covering Gujarat. Of the 50 communities identified in the state, 25 ethnographies are completed; work on remaining 25 community ethnographies is in progress. Workshops were convened at Baroda, Chorwad, Patan, Ahmedabad, Padumdungri and Tejgadh for discussion and preparation of the ethnographies. The National Book Trust has agreed to publish the ethnography series.
- Under the Ministry of Tribal Affairs' scheme of 'Centre of Excellence', the Academy completed preparation of the Consortium of Tribal Music of Gujarat which was brought out in digital form. A music group of tribal artists by the name 'Purvanaad' is formed at Tejgadh. Bhasha has thereafter completed the documentation of tribal music for Assam and Chhatisgarh states. Bhasha further initiated the work on:
 - Documentation of tribal cultures, which includes dance, music, songs, languages, dialects, tribal arts, traditional medicines and sports, customary laws and religions
 - Research on Tribal Minor Forest Produce (MFP) Rights,
 - Women rights in the Fifth Scheduled areas.
 - Creating awareness among the scheduled tribes on various Acts and Rules
 - Research Studies on migration, displacement, resettlement and rehabilitation of minor and major project affected tribal families/tribal areas
 - Dissemination of various enactments/regulations on money lending/debt redemption meant for STs
 - Documentation of Primitive Tribal Groups (PTGs) in respect of their population, customary laws and culture

- Undertaking health awareness in the areas of primary health including pre-natal and post natal health for women and children, drinking water etc.
- While other courses on culture and development have been put on hold, due to successful placement of trainees in the past years, the Academy is continuing to offer the Certificate Course in Rural Healthcare. During 2012-13, 18 trainees completed the course and have subsequently joined a training course at Muni Sewa Ashram at Goraj. The health clinic at the Academy continues to treat and advice patients in the area. In the last year, the clinic received nearly 8500 cases.
- The Reach to Teach organisation based in U.K. has been supporting Bhasha/Academy to run Special Training Centres for out-of-school children and re-enrolling them in the government schools. The 66 centres located in the villages are run by community para-teachers who are provided training at the Academy. During the past year, these centres prepared, 1460 children for admission to pre-school and primary schools of Chhotaduepur, Kanwant and Naswadi talukas of Vadodara district in June 2013. Teacher Training Workshops were held at the Adivasi Academy for para-teachers running the centers.
- The Vasantshala or Residential Special Training Centre at Tejgadh enrolled a new batch of 53 children last academic session. These children belong to migrating families. The centre has become very popular with parents in the vicinity who prefer to have their children continue at Tejgadh rather than having them transferred to government schools. It is decided to henceforth call the centre Vasantshala: Mother Tongue and Multi-Lingual Education Centre.
- The Academy arranged for craft training workshops on pithora painting, woodwork, pottery and canework at the Chhotaduepur Prison which was very warmly welcomed by the prison inmates.
- Students and researchers from Goa University, Himachal Pradesh University, Pune University, Gujarat Vidyapith, DA-IICT, ACCORD and other universities and organizations visited the Adivasi Academy for internships, exposure programmes and research projects.
- Special visitors included Justice Gokhale who visited Tejgadh in December and Ms Vibha Puri Das, Secretary, Ministry of Tribal Affairs who visited Tejgadh as part of the National Consultation of Tribal Research Institutes organised at Baroda-Tejgadh in November 2012. Shri Narayanbhai Desai, Dr Sudarshan Iyengar and other Gandhian thinkers and activists visited the Adivasi Academy for a discussion on tribal situation and issues in March this year.

Among the Academy's colleagues,

- Ms Prachi Dublay, who is actively involved in music documentation under the 'Centre of Excellence Scheme' was awarded the Tata Fellowship for Folklore Research and Documentation.
- Rajesh Rathwa, Faculty at the Adivasi Academy has moved to the S. P. University to pursue his doctoral studies in Tribal Literature. Jeetendra Rathwa too is now registered for his Ph.D. at the same university.
- Parvat Vadi, earlier faculty at the Academy joined the Pune centre of the Central Institute of Indian Languages as Faculty and is pursuing his Ph.D. in Linguistics at Gujarat University.
- A former student of the Academy, Kanti Mahale had gone on to pursue an M.A. in Linguistics at the CIIL Centre at Pune. He thereafter returned to Bhasha and is contributing to the People's Linguistic Survey of India project.
- Vasant Rathwa, Co-ordinator of the Vidya (Non Formal Education) Programme at the Academy was awarded the Pearson Teaching Award 2012 for his outstanding performance in social contribution through teaching.

Bhasha Van

On the campus, the Academy is developing a Bhasha Van or Forest of Languages as an extension of the Vaacha Musuem. Bhasha Van is designed as a walkway of trees to be named after Indian languages. The creation of display huts at Bhasha Van was completed during the year. Gondi and Pithora artists were invited to decorate the huts with their traditional paintings. Audio guides were procured and the text for the audio recordings giving information on India's living languages was prepared. A display wall describing the concept of Bhasha Van is put up at the entrance. The Bhasha Van will be open to visitors during 2013-14.

Development Work

The following organizations had been created in the past:

1. Adivasi Chaitanya Trust (Vadodara region)
2. Samveg Foundation (Micro-Credit Federation for Gujarat)
3. Kaleshwari Sanskrutik Trust (Panchamahals region)
4. Tapi Rachnatmak Trust (Surat, Tapi and Dang areas)

5. Sarvangi Vikas Trust (Narmada region)
6. Purva Prakash Trust (for publications)

Since Purva Prakash has unsold stock of books, it was decided to presently keep it in abeyance till arrangements for the distribution of its stock is made. The remaining organizations are working in their respective areas. Bhasha is providing them with legal and financial guidance as and when it becomes necessary.

BUDHAN THEATRE GROUP

Budhan artistes held 22 performances of the plays, *Accidental Death of an Anarchist*, *Raja Ranjitsing Sansi*, *Mujhe mat Maro Saab* and *Lower Depths* at Mumbai, Kolkata, Ahmedabad, Vadodara, Rajkot, Tejgadh.

Five Theatre Workshops were held at Mahendra College, Pune; United World, Ahmedabad; IIT, Gandhinagar; Mahatma Gandhi International School, Ahmedabad

Budhan Theatre held the Black Comedy Theatre Festival in May 2012 at Ahmedabad

Kalpana Gagdekar, the lead woman actor of Budhan Theatre was given the role of Kasturba in the play by the same title, written by Shri Narayanbhai Desai. Her performance has received rave reviews in theatre circles.

FUNDING SUPPORT

During the year Bhasha Centre received funding support from the following international organisations and the government:

The Ford Foundation, U.S.

Reach to Teach, U.K.

Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India

Council for Social Development, Hyderabad

Jamsetji Tata Trust, Mumbai

Tribal Cultural Heritage in India Foundation , Netherlands