

Consultation on Developing Context Specific Materials For Musahar Community



PJS in collaboration with NEG-FIRE organized a consultation workshop in view of developing context specific learning materials for Musahar community in Bihar. While working in Bihar with the Musahar community it was realised that there is a need to develop context specific materials for the children which they can use in the Supplementary Education Centres and also use some of those materials with the community at large. Some areas of what forms of materials can be developed have been articulated by PJS and NEG-FIRE in the concept note, those of which include a) community stories b) stories of role- model c) stories highlighting transition through continued education d) Mythologies and socio-cultural dimensions.

It was also highlighted that since this is the preliminary meeting, the idea was to create a platform for discussion with experts who have a more in-depth understanding of the community and further guide us in what materials we can develop. It is also envisaged that at a later stage the community would be very much part of the process.

The participants of the consultation consisted of Jose Vadassery (President, PJS), Tommy Nishaant (Principal, St. Xavier's College, Patna), Anto Joseph (Bihar Dalit VikasSamiti, Coordinator-PJSA), Tony Herbert (Prerana, Hazaribagh-Chatra), Joe Velamkunnel (REAP, Sasaram), Sumit Edwin Menesis (SVS, Aurangabad), Juno Sebastian (READ, Bettiah), Anil Minj (Prabhat, Sakri), Jose Kariakatt (JeevanSangham, Bodhgaya), Stephen Raj (REAP, Sasaram), Siji Varghese (PJS Development Office), Sandeep Tirkey (Head- Programme Management and Development- NEG-FIRE), Sonal Jain (Programme Coordinator- Northern Region- NEG-FIRE), Rakesh K. Singh (Research and Advocacy Specialist -NEG-FIRE).

All through the session the following were very clear; a) there is a greater relevance for developing context specific materials b) whatever we prepare need to be empowering and inspiring, giving the community inertia to dream further c) should focus on the strength of the community d) the message should be focused.