

Experience of NVA Fellowship Program

By **Kabita Saikia, NVA Fellow**
CIC Chaiduar, Sonitpur

It was really an excited moment when I found my name in the final selection list which was done by Dr. Tara Gandhi of National Virtual Academy. From that day I prepare myself for the tour. On 31st Dec.05 we started our journey from Guwahati to Howrah by Kamrup Exp. That day there were 17 members including Ranjit Bhagawati Sir, from SFAC as our guide. Total 39 members from Assam were got this fellowship out of them 33 persons attend the workshop. We celebrated New Year eve in the train.

Our tickets from Howrah to Hyderabad were till in the waiting list so it was a head ache for us. Bhagabati Sir gave us assurance that tickets will be confirmed not to be worried about that. On 1st Jan .06 we reached Howarah at 8.30, and got the confirmation about tickets in East Coast. After that we happily started our next journey to Hyderabad.

From railway station by Taxi we reached our destination stoppage 'Hostel H' University of Hyderabad, where our holding was arranged on 2nd Jan.06 in the evening. Holding arrangement for fellows coming all over India was done in the same Hostel.

Our Participatory Knowledge Management Workshop arranged at MANAGE from 3rd Jan.2006 to 4th Jan 2006. Two basses were given to us to go MANAGE. On 3rd January, at MANAGE registration of the fellows had done after breakfast. A kit bag, notebook, program schedule and group number were given after registration. They divided fellows in to groups according to their competency of working field and language.

In the workshop sessions were -

Session I : Indigenous Knowledge and successful experience of participating Fellows.

Session II : Indigenous knowledge and successful experience of other innovators.

Session III : Exogenous knowledge from formal research/ studies regarding changing scenario(water, energy, health, education, climate change/disaster management, world trade, liberalized marketing, bio-diversity, ICT software for grass root.).

Session IV : Analysis of felt needs for functional literacy.

The resource persons were Dr. V.P. Sharma, Dr.N.K. Sanghi, Ms. Geetha Malhotra, Ms. Kasturi , Ms Nancy J Anabel, Dr. S .Dixit, VASAT/ICRISAT, Dr. Balaji, ICRISAT,Dr. R .Sweety Prem Kumar, Dr.Nambi. MSSRF, Dr. Bala Ravi, Dr. Tara Gandhi, Mr. Narendra and Mr. John.

At the end of the workshop Prof. M.S. Swaminathan, MSSRF issued Certificates to Fellows. Dr. Shadrach, OWSA, Dr. Veena Joshi SDC & TATA also gave their speeches.

In the meeting I got the opportunity to welcome Prof. M.S. Swaminathan.This was a great moment for me.

After this meeting Ms Nancy & Ms. Geetha Malhotra gave us some guideline for the introduction session with President on 5th Jan 06.We were given an entry card for the H. E. President program. After the meeting a photo session was arranged with H.E. President of India by MS Swaminathan. It was really unbelievable happiness when we stand before our first citizen and with him we are singing our National anthem. By his speech we got inspirations to do more hard work for the rural prosperity. We also submitted CIC's progress report to H.E. President of India.

For this opportunity we are grateful to Prof. MS Swaminathan. And special thanks to SFAC Ariz Ahmed Sir, DIO Sonitpur Barua Sir and Farida Madam, and Ranjit Bhagabari for guidance and kind help.

This Participatory Knowledge Management Workshop helps NVA fellows to do with a proper plane for rural development. Fellows are the grass root workers in villages who have mastered modern ICT procedures and devoting their time and talent to training rural women, men and children in the use of tools of knowledge and skill empowerment.

Not Only for NVA Fellows This is massage for all who want to change the present scenario of Rural India using ICT Tools.
