



## LOHIT YOUTH LIBRARY NETWORK

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### ANNUAL REPORT - 2018 - 19

July 1, 2019

(Covering reading promotion activities From June 2018 to May 2019)

*Esteemed Patrons, well-wishers, friends and book-lovers,*

The youth library movement which started in a little one-room in Tezu in May 2007 has completed 12 memorable years of reaching out to the youth and adults of eastern Arunachal and upper Assam. Today it has indeed set bench marks in promoting reading habits and has produced several reader-activists who have benefited themselves in life – academically and personally – having spent a part of their energies in the service of the community, spreading the joy of reading. And we are profoundly grateful to our hundreds of patrons, volunteers and well-wishers, who have earnestly and spiritedly been supporting the library Network in scores of ways to achieve this.

The year 2018-19 began with a challenge before us: an acute need for new volunteers. We are glad that quite a few new members –college students too - have emerged. With their involvement, the Network could organise during the year a range of activities that promote our motto ‘spread the joy of reading’ and our maxim, “when readers cannot come to books, books must go to readers”. (pl see “Activities at a glance” on page 3.)

The Network was also a part of two prestigious programmes supported by the state Govt:

i) **The Arunachal Literary & Art Festival (ALAF), Itanagar** Aug 2018. We are profoundly thankful to the ALAF organisers for inviting us to coordinate the Book exhibition section of the Festival, which saw the active participation of Tulika Books, Chennai, Kalpavriksh, Pune, Karadi Tales, Chennai & TERI Books New Delhi.

ii) **The Joy of Reading Festival, Roing**, Dec 2018 organised by the Lower Dibang Valley District Admn. Here too the book exhibition was organised by the Lohit libraries, with Ashok Leyland, Guwahati graciously adding a “Knowledge on Wheels” -- a bus that took the exhibition to Tezu and Dambuk towns. We are deeply grateful to the Ashok Leyland Guwahati for readily joining hands in our reading promotion programmes.

In addition, we could organise exhibitions at 8 other venues and occasions in Lohit and L/ Dibang Valley. We are grateful to TERI, (GOI), New Delhi, Tulika, Chennai, Eklavya, Bhopal, Kalpavriksh, Pune, NBT India, Guwahati, Ektaara, Bhopal, RIWATCH, Roing & Sri Ramakrishna Math, Chennai for extending us generous support.

Another milestone has been the bringing out the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of our popular anthology “Mishmi Land Musings” edited by the renowned author Arup Kumar Dutta. We are deeply grateful to the Director, Public Libraries & Secretary, Tourism of the Govt of Arunachal Pradesh for generously sponsoring our book. The book has been won warm appreciation from hundreds of readers across the country.



We had, in our last year’s report, made a strong appeal for ‘reading-mentors’ - from our own neighbourhood itself - to come forward to provide “Adult Time” as models for our reading-deprived youth.

Interestingly the draft National Education Policy 2019 stresses these very points. To quote, “If every literate member of the community could commit to teaching one student/person how to read, it could change the country’s ( learning) landscape very quickly.” The Policy clarifies ‘why’: “ At the current time, there is a severe learning crisis in India, where children ( in primary schools) are failing to attain even basic skills such as foundational literacy; ..... and in general, the reading, writing and speaking of languages...”

Hence we would appeal once again to the educated citizens of Arunachal to spare a few hours every month to guide the youth in their neighbourhood.



This officer-couple enjoys spending time reading with children!



**Readers would be Leaders!**

Activities like the “**Reading Theatre**” introduced by our patron-friend Ms Poonam Bhide, Hyderabad, need to be widely popularised in the schools, hostels and homes in our state. Arunachal needs Reading Heroes!

Our heartfelt thanks once again to all patrons, organisations, the District Admn/s., the Govt of Arunachal Pradesh, parents, teachers, volunteers & the print & audio-visual media for their wholehearted support to the youth library movement, during the last 12 years. A roundup of the library activities during 2018-19 is attached.

### S. Mundayoor

**Coordinator**

*For Managing Committee,*

**Lohit Youth Library Network.**

### Activities at a glance 2018-19

Activities	Districts covered	venues	Target audience
1. Reading campaign events	3	9 (Tezu, Wakro circle, Roing & Dibrugarh)	Around 800 students
2. Teachers’ Training Programmes by Coordinator	2	3 (Roing, Tezu & Wakro)	200 teachers
3. Training programmes by experts (S/ Sri Ghanshyam Devansh, Bappu Deshmukh & Ms/Nabanita Deshmukh, Poonam Bhide)	2	4 (Roing, Bolung, Tezu & Wakro) (Hindi poetry appreciation workshops, book-reading & ‘Reading Theatre’ training.)	300 students, teachers
4. interactions by experts & guests	2	20 sessions@ Roing, Tezu, Wakro, Medo	Around 300
5. Book Exhibitions	3	8 venues@ Roing, Tezu, Wakro	1500 visitors
6. Arunachal Literary & Art Festival (ALAF), Aug 2018	Itanagar	Itanagar – coordinated the Book Exhibition	1000 visitors
7. Joy of reading festival, Dec 2018	2	6 venues @ Roing, Dambuk & Tezu	800 visitors
8. Literary contests for students	2	3 occasions@ Roing & Tezu	200 participants
9. AIR Tezu broadcasts	2	2 occasions	Around 12 participants
10. book publication	-	Our anthology of creative writings by young readers “Mishmi-land Musings” - 2nd Edn.	All over India.
11. Online information-sharing free services by WhatsApp	Across Arunachal & Assam	Topics: education, social activism, language development, inspiring achievers, new books, environment, agriculture, organic farming, forestry, culture, history etc. Was maintained all through the year.	shared regularly with over 100 readers: students, teachers, activists, officers, administrators, parents.
12. services for class XII students & readers of our libraries & friends elsewhere	Across Arunachal	Free online information sharing services for career counselling & admissions to various courses after class XII	Readers in libraries & readers elsewhere