

Creative Workshops held in Lohit & L. DV

TEZU, Dec 26: “Education should promote creativity in Children. Teachers should play a leading role in making classroom learning innovative and interesting.” exhorted Deputy Commissioner, Lohit Danish Ashraf during the valedictory session of the “Creative Workshops for Enhancing Reading skills” organised by the Lohit District Education Dept, jointly with the Lohit Youth Library Network, ViTAES, Tezu & the Untitled Arts Foundation, Bangaluru. “Learning should result in confidence building and this can be done very well with theatre activities in schools”, he said lauding all the participants of the workshops for their wonderful performances of skits, puppetry, poem recitation & storytelling, put up during the function.

He expressed his profound thanks to Ms Anuradha, Artistic Director, Untitled Arts Foundation, for taking considerable troubles to come all the way from Bangaluru, wholly at their expense, to promote reading habits of Arunachali students and extended his hearty invitation to them for organizing more workshops any time in future. He was also all praise for the Lohit Youth Library activists for their continuous contribution to spread reading habits across remote areas.

Mana Linggi, Deputy Director of School Education, Lohit, thanked Anuradha, a well-known theatre-educator of Karnataka & Commonwealth Scholar in Theatre, for spiritedly sharing with the children of Lohit, her rich experiences of working with youth in UK and India.

Linggi gave details of the 4 workshops held at Wakro & Tezu, targeting students of class VI-VIII at the middle school level and cl. 9-12 at the senior level. The 3 days sessions at both places enabled the participants to better their reading, comprehension and imagination skills, by the use of puppetry, acting and performing techniques. The open-ended approach of the sessions made the entire workshop fun and confidence-building. This was quite visible in the way the young actors performed and brought new imaginative endings to old stories, winning the warm appreciation of the DC and other guests. The team included, Saadrusha, a 11 year-old volunteer, who gave flowing recitations & Supratim Bhattacharya, a gifted young photographer, who documented and guided the students to bring out their best performances.

Expressing her profound happiness in the successful outcomes of the workshops, Anuradha, said that the workshops in Lohit & Lower Dibang Valley were an enriching experience. She pointed out that Art channelizes mental energies to enhance reading skills. Hence a teacher need only facilitate the environment to promote learning by children. “Art and Theatre teaches us team work, to adjust and respond to the challenges in life. We learn to use what we have, instead of lamenting about what we don’t.” Complimenting the amazingly talented Arunachali children, for their wonderful colour combinations, team work and coming up with solutions, in the face of sudden challenges, she said teachers must support and use these talents to improve the students’ learning levels. Anuradha offered to conduct a workshop for teachers that could promote these objectives. Pointing to the Bangaluru Education Dept’s orders to all Govt. schools to permit NGOs to conduct free skill-development activities on Saturdays, Anuradha appealed to the District Education Dept to introduce a system for enabling students to access public libraries weekly, so that their reading and comprehension skills get enhanced.

Applauding the participants, Supratim Bhattacharya, said their creativity should be guided to enhance their confidence levels and to face the world.

At Wakro, the Jt. BDO, S.K. Das, who attended the valedictory sessions, congratulated the participants for their enthusiastic presentations.

DRCHO, Lohit, Dr S. Nayil, lauding the efforts of ASSET, Wakro in supporting reading campaigns of APNE Library & mini-libraries across the circle, appealed to the teachers and parents to encourage their children to benefit from them.

Earlier participants of class VI-VIII presented skits, while cl. 9-12 presented puppetry shows, both innovatively narrating common folktales with modern endings. Senior library activist Keshilu Tayang, class 12, did a spirited story telling demonstration, bringing out the unique enchanting features of the Lohit Youth Library Movement. Solina Khambrai, class 12 at Tezu and Asuni Khamblai, cl X, at Wakro narrated how they benefited from this innovative workshop. Saadrusha presented a carton of library books from Untitled Arts Foundation for the readers of libraries in Lohit & L. Dibang Valley.

A Workshop & demonstration sessions were also conducted in Roing at Abali Youth Library, Dibang Youth Library & Intaya Library, which benefited in all 200 students. The sessions in Roing were supported by RIWATCH, Roing.