

JOY OF READING CHRONICLE

A Quarterly bulletin of news, creative write-ups and miscellany
by the VT-AWIC Youth Library Network, Lohit, Arunachal Pradesh

Vol 1 No. 2, 3 & 4

Jan 1, 2012

Welcome, all friends, patrons, book-lovers and reading enthusiasts! The **Joy** is back again!!

We greet you all this bright New Year day with a pleasant surprise: Your E-paper, though dormant for months, is here with lots of joyous news from across the Youth Libraries! You'd agree it was worth the wait!

We once again record our profound indebtedness to the constant encouragement and unfailing trust of our esteemed patron Sri Manoj Jalan of Dibrugarh, Assam. He was not only understanding, but generous in optimism re: the potentials of this E-paper! The Library Network thanks him in enabling this little creative experiment to blossom.

The 3 quarters was 'action' all around the Lohit Youth Libraries. The summer vacation, normally a period of hard labour for the Arunachali youth in the hilly fields and jungles, was different for APNE Library activists: They dedicatedly created history by running 9 vacation mini-libraries in remote villages of Wakro circle, with a bagful of books and magazines from their favourite library! The 5th birthday of the Library Network saw new reader-activists and novel events like a Digital photography workshop. The wet and 'powerless' monsoon months led the Wakro and Tezu library readers to new authors: They were excited by Roald Dahl and Ruskin Bond! Sept brought Umesh, a spirited theatre Expert from Bangalore, inspired by our dear patron Arun Narayanan. Umesh wove magic around the readers and the audience alike.



Lorax, a novel skit that emerged, had a blend of Hindi, English, Mishmi and Khamti. Libraries presented more skits in these languages. On Independence Day, both Wakro and Tezu library readers put up a thrilling homage to Sri

Aurobindo and the martyrs of the 1905 Swadeshi Movement, with a cast of 40 young actors!



The 3 week long October vacation brought cheers to us with several stories of APNE Library readers- all rural tribal girls- getting published in different magazines. Here was recognition of the last 4 years' struggles with the pen! November brought home a dedicated Editor from Delhi, Vaijayanti Tonpe, who went around Lohit and Anjaw to sharpen the creative writing skills among students.



All along came many other guests, like the very endearing Jaji and Chery, library patrons from Bangalore, the charming Nandita Haksar from Delhi, and the ever-fresh wildlife researcher Rohan Pandit and his inspiring teacher Dr Ramana Athreya, from Pune. They talked, laughed and cheered the library volunteers and readers. 186 Bn CRPF honoured the Library Movement again by gifting a magnificent computer to APNE Library.



O S Chandran, a very dear friend of Tezu Library readers, came all the way from Chennai, with books and a lovely laptop for Wakro readers! It was a dream come true....

And Dec brought us into national headlines! The Hindu Sunday Magazine Nov 27, 2011 carried an article on Lohit Libraries by our activist Sreedevi, (beloved Sree Ma'am of APNEs). This was possible due to the generous encouragement of our patron Mini Krishnan, renowned literary Editor with Oxford University Press, Chennai.

Tail piece: Dec also saw a 90-year young grandma from Kerala saluting the Library Movement: She sat up and read an entire book of Arunachal Folktales brought out by the renowned Matrhubhumi Books of Kerala! Authored by the Coordinator of the Library Network, its illustrator is Indrim Boo, a gifted artist of Lohit: now in Delhi. .

This Chronicle might have been dormant, but all was not quiet on the library front! So, Happy Reading!
- Editor -

Events that Cheered us.....

* **Sri. Kunal Verma**, our patron and ace Defence photographer, has been delighting all library enthusiasts with his magnificent aerial photo of ASSET campus in Wakro. You can identify every person on the ground!



* **Ms. Mini, Krishnan**, well-known Editor, OUP, Chennai, presented 13 sets of "Living in Harmony" a value education series for the Library network. She has become an ardent patron of the Movement. ELT educator **Simon Smith's** delightful book gift from UK too has become a favourite of the Wakro readers.

* The **5th Annual Day** Celebrations of VT-AWIC Youth Library Network was celebrated at Tezu with a 2 days' celebration. The novel event this year was a workshop on 'Joy of Using a Digital Camera' by Fulbright Scholar Sri Vijay Swami from Roing. EAC HN Dubey was the chief guest, representing DC Lohit.

* **Kesilu Tayang** of Apna Vidya Bhavan Wakro and **Arpita Dwivedi**, of Govt. Middle School, Tezu, both class VII students, were declared the Outstanding Youth Library Activists of Lohit, for 2010-11.



Kesilu



Arpita

They won the award for their regular reading habits, inspired participation in Reading Promotion campaigns and training skills, guiding other students in skits and recitation activities.

35 other activists were also honoured by the Library Network with books & magazine gift-subscriptions.

* APNE Library, Wakro also celebrated its Annual Day enthusiastically on July 30, 2011, with patrons

Balijan Krisikro, Chairman, Wakro Anchal Samiti, as the chief guest and Dr. S. Nayil, as guest of honour.

* APNE Library readers have been participating in the **International Forestry Year** celebrations, by propagating useful tree species around Wakro like Laxmi Taru (from Art of Living, Bangalore) and tamarind (Kerala). A new item is the gumless jack-fruit variety from Karnataka- if successful, it can be a great attraction for the Arunachali villagers!

* Bamboosa Library activists added vigour to the **Independence Day** in Lohit, with a fiery skit on **Sri Aurobindo**, on his 139th Birthday and paying homage to the thousands of freedom fighters who raised the flag of Swadeshi in 1905. "You have pioneered interesting ways of promoting learning of history through skits" complimented Sri. RK. Sharma, DC Lohit, as a thrilled audience watched the hair-raising delivery of Abhinav Dwivedi as 'Deshbandhu Chittaranjan Das'.

At Wakro too, the Library readers under Ms. Bomanlu Ngadong and Shapilu Rangmang (KGBV Wakro) paid their tributes with a similar skit on Sri Aurobindo. Odilu Pul shone as Chittaranjan Das.

* For the **5th** year, Bamboosa Library celebrated **International Literacy Day (Sept 8)** involving school students of Tezu. Our patron Sri. G. Lingi, SE (Elec) Tezu was the chief guest at the celebrations organized jointly with the Tezu Govt. Middle School No.3.

* It was yet another dream coming true, when P N Umesh, well-known Theatre Educator at Bangalore spiritedly offered to come to Arunachal at his expense and conduct **Theatre in Education workshops** in Sept 2011. Two workshops for teachers as well as students organized jointly with ASSET, Wakro, CALSOM and the DDSE Lohit at Wakro and Tezu were a novel and thrilling experience for the participants!



The students enacted "Lorax", a novel, skit on deforestation, based on a story-poem by the renowned American children's writer Dr. Seuss. Nyali Ete, IFS., DFO, Anjaw applauded Umesh for the use of the unconventional media of theatre to beautifully portray vital social issues before the masses. EAC HN Dubey, DDSE Lohit, K Rina, and M Boje, LRSO, Lohit also lauded the excellent presentation.



* APNE Library Wakro organized, as in the past years the **Onam- Solung Rangoli contest** in Sept jointly with PHE Lohit, with a view to promote eco-awareness and cleanliness consciousness among the Wakro villagers. The contest this year, with the theme, “Clean Arunachal for a Happy Arunachal” – “Saaf Arunachal, Sukhi Arunachal” drew more than 100 students from 3 nearby schools. The prizes were given away by ardent library enthusiasts Sri P. Rajesh and Mrs Malini Rajesh (dear Jaji and Chery to our readers) from Bangalore, who declared: “We’d love to be back in Wakro soon!”



* **NCERT, New Delhi** has approved the Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya, Wakro’s proposal for an **exptal study on the impact of library activities in the improvement of English language skills** among its adolescent students. APNE Library is assisting the KGBV school in this study from Aug 2011 to Feb ‘12.

* Lohit Youth Libraries scored yet another first by organizing a series of **Creative Writing Workshops for students and teachers** by Mrs. Vaijayanti Tonpe, well-known ex-editor of Children’s World, who came at her own expenses, guided by our esteemed patron Sri K. Ramakrishnan, a renowned former Editor of CBT & Chandamama. The workshops (Nov 11-21, 2011) in Lohit were sponsored by the Surajmal Jalan Charitable Trust, Dibrugarh and organized jointly with ASSET, Wakro and Kendriya Vidyalaya, Tezu. 33 students from 7 schools participated in the Tezu workshop held at KV Tezu. The teachers’ workshops at Khupa and the students’ workshop at Hawaii were organized by DDSE Anjaw.



With her genial nature and encouraging attitude, Mrs Tonpe made a remarkable impact by encouraging a spirit for creative writing among the participants.



* APNE Library, Wakro readers have been blessed with lots of **letter-writing and reading experiences**, with a stream of delightful and inspiring letters flowing from our patrons Nabanita Deshmukh, Pondicherry, Arun Narayanan, Finland, Jaji and Chery, Bangalore, Vijay Swami, Roing, CBT Editor Navin Menon, Dimdima Ed Mira Nair, and Nandita Haksar from Delhi. This is a very special benefit for Arunachali students as letter writing is virtually unknown to them: there’s no such social tradition. And little practical facility in the state!

Guests who inspired us.....

* As in the previous year, APNE Library had the honour of receiving several distinguished guests. In Oct 2011, **Dr. Joram Begi, Director of Hr Edn, Arunachal Pradesh**, along with **Dr Tejum Padu, Jt Director, Hr Edn** visited the library on Oct 4, 2011.



A pleased Dr Begi spent an hour keenly interacting with reader-activists, Jeenamsi Ngadong, Bialu Kambrai and Alikmai Kri, as they read out their published articles in various children’s magazines. Dr. Tejum Padu also complimented the library activists for promoting skits in Arunachali languages. They were accompanied by Sri Sanjay Bengia, Dy Director and Dr. Viswanath Sharma, Liaison Officer.

* **Sri. Devesh Chandra Srivastva, IPS**, DIG of Police, Arunachal Pradesh visiting the library on Oct 1, 2011, complimented the ‘novel concept and innovative approach’ of the Youth Library activities.

* **Ms. Nandita Haksar**, Human rights lawyer & writer from Delhi, literally walked into APNE Library, seeing a little library in a village: but she went away ‘after a heart-warming and inspiring experience’. As she wrote to Rubila Dellang, a class VIII reader-activist of APNE Library, “we’ve reached far, but we often think of the little library in Wakro.”

* **Sri O. S Chandran**, patron and retd. central govt officer, is now at Chennai, but his heart is most of the time with the Lohit library readers! He came all the way from Chennai to spend 10 days with the young readers at Tezu and Wakro.

* Young **Rohan Pandit**, a wildlife research scholar from Pune, though per se not a Youth library enthusiast, became a close friend of Wakro youths, introducing them to several birds and wild creatures and wildlife concepts. His guide, **Dr Ramana Athreya**, however, became an enthusiastic and spirited patron of APNE Library, in the brief time he could visit us. His deep commitment to the tribal life and their environment should be a truly motivating force for Lohit Youth Library volunteers and activists!

* Fulbright Scholar **Sri Vijay Swami**, at RIWATCH, Roing has been another frequent visitor who keeps inspiring our library reader-activists. His educational film-clips and presentations are a great hit with students as well as the teachers!

We do hope many more learned and committed library enthusiasts would be visiting Lohit and inspiring our young volunteers to spread the joy of reading to many more rural pockets of our state.....

CREATIVE EXPRESSIONS

A Library is born in Karhe

- *Animai Chikro,*
CI 7, APNE Library volunteer

My friends and I ran a library in our village Karhe, during the vacation. My team members Shanti Yun, Shanti Kri, Moni Rangmang, Jeevanlu Bellai and Aptusi Minin helped me to keep the library open daily.

First we went from house to house and asked the parents to send their children to the library at 3.30 pm regularly.

It was a very enjoyable time for the children. We enjoyed it by teaching them and telling stories. Some children were very interested in listening to stories. We taught them story-telling, how to pronounce words and playing games. I also taught them many rhymes like “Piggy on the railway”, “Wheels of the bus..” etc. We also read many books. The most I love to read is children’s magazines.

On the last day of our vacation library, many parents too came and congratulated us. They said they were very happy to see their children learning many new things. “Please teach our children again, when you come back in November vacation”, they said.

[Published in Dimdima monthly, Nov 2011]

How a library changed my life....

- *Jeenamsi Ngadong,*
Class VII, APNE Library volunteer

When I was in class 3, I did not know to read. Then one day, Uncle Moosa, coordinator of the APNE Library in our town, said, “Samai, (*daughter* in our language), why don’t you come to the library and read books? There are many interesting books and also funny pictures.”

The next day, I went to look at some pictures and slowly started reading. Then I felt very interested and happy to go to the library to read. From then, I regularly went to the APNE library and read books. Till class 5, I only looked at funny pictures, but now I can read big books too. Now I go with my friends Alikmai, Anjangmai and Bialu. My friends were also like me when they were small. Now they also read big books and we tell each other many interesting stories. Also Uncle Moosa tells us funny stories and we like listening to him. In library, we learn many things like telling stories, doing action rhymes, skits etc. The most interesting thing I like to do is story telling and action rhymes. Many grown-up volunteers like Alice didi, Edward bhayya, (Alice and Edward Shipseys from England), Nabanita Ma’am, and Bappu Sir came to help us. They also gifted interesting story books to our APNE Library.

I like reading books. Reading can be a source of great pleasure and knowledge too. Reading a good book can be an experience in itself. I like to read the books which have been recognized as classics. I find a great deal of pleasure in going through these books.

My life has changed after joining the library.



Jeenamsi (extreme right) with her friends.

[shortly to appear in American Library Association’s ‘I Love Libraries’ Newsletter]

GLIMPSES OF LIBRARY ACTIVITIES



A Mishmi skit on girls literacy by APNE Library readers Remi Ngadong & team



A CBT classic “*martha na karthaa*” being staged by Bamboosa Library Tezu readers.



A view of my village
by Dipesi Pul’



A Mishmi Lady
- Batemlu Mam
(both cl VII, APNE Library Wakro)



Readers of Police Welfare Library, Tezu

MY MOTHER

- *Rubilu Dellang,*

cl. VII, APNE Library volunteer

As soon as I was born, I was looked upon with great pride by my mother. I have just realized that my greatest supporter in life is my mother. I am very thankful to my maternal grandparents for giving me such an adorable mom. Let me tell her story...

My mother belongs to the Khamti society of Chongkham in Arunachal Pradesh, but my father is of Mishmi tribe. At the age of seven or eight, my mother started going to the fields to help her father (my grandpa), even though she was put in a school. When the school warning bell rang, she would rush to the nearby stream, wash her legs and hands and would run home. She would eat her breakfast quickly, dress up and would rush to her school. She failed in her class III exams three times, but she also enjoyed studying with her juniors! Actually my mom was very talented, because, even though she did not go to school daily, she learnt how to read and write well. In those days, studying was not so important for Arunachali girls, as it is today. My grandpa and grandma did not encourage children going to school, as they gave more importance to working in the rice fields. So my mother gave up studies when she was in class eight.

When my mother was fifteen, she fell in love with a handsome youth.* After she left school, her parents moved to an interior part of Chongkham, to a village named Manmao. From that time, my mother found it easier to meet her boyfriend. When she was twenty, she got married to my dad and they moved to a Mishmi village called 'Hooking'. My mother told me that in his youth, father was very rude to people. But, after he was chosen as the 'gaon burah' (village chief), he became quite friendly to all.

When she came after marriage, my mom did not get much importance at her new home, as our aunts and uncles. My paternal grandparents did not like my mother very much, as they liked our aunts and uncle. This was because she was not from Mishmi society. But at home, we and father love her very much. My mom and dad work very hard for us.

[Most girls and boys in the Khamti society find their own partners for marriage. It is a common custom even today. - Ed]

[Published in Children's World, May 2011]

Friends are fun!

- *Ms. Helena Ngadong,*

class VII, APNE Library volunteer

My classmates are very naughty and also good. When we have some problem, we help each other. We always talk when teacher is not there in the class. My classmates are Rijemlu, Dipeshi, Toni, Jeenamsi, Bialu and many more.

Rijemlu is so funny! She always does naughty things and others begin to laugh loudly. Dipeshi is so quiet.

When we talk, she always says, "Don't talk, girls." But we don't listen to her advice! She is good in studies.

Toni always smiles, and acts very funny also. She is very good-natured, but she shouts very loudly when she's angry!

Jeenamsi always laughs when Rijemlu does funny things. We call her 'laughing girl'! She is good in writing stories.

Bialu is also so nice and good. She's good in painting. When the New Year comes, we tell, "Bialu, please draw for me!" Bialu laughs more than Jeenamsi!

These five friends are the most funny in the class. We play with each other and laugh so loudly that we disturb other classes! When they fight each other, again, they begin to talk so fast! But we enjoy in class always. When we do mistakes, we tell, "Please don't tell Ma'am!"

One day as we were talking and making noise, Mita didi came and said, "Why are you so talking? Make line outside."

We went out. And made line like a train! It looked so funny, as we caught each other's ears! We laughed so much!

My classmates are very nice. They are always happy and are also good in studies. We enjoy when we are together. I love my classmates very much.

[Published in Dimdima monthly, Jun 2011]

Honours for the Library Movement!

Ω The Library Movement received a great boost in August when the prestigious **American Library Association (ALA)** carried a write-up on the libraries in the August 2011 issue of their 'I Love Libraries' bulletin. (<http://www.ilovelibraries.org>)

Ω It was a red-letter day for us when the national daily the **HINDU**, in its Sunday Mag dt Nov 27, 2011 carried a full article on the Lohit Youth Library Movement with the title '**Light in the Mountains!**' An inspiring contribution by our activist, Ms P. Sreedevi, a research scholar from Hyderabad, who spends a fortnight every year for the Lohit reading campaigns! (<http://www.thehindu.com/life-and-style/kids/article2662652.ece>.)

Ω. Sri. PN Umesh, made yet another inspiring contribution to the Library Movement with his web - article dt Oct 21. it can be seen (<http://www.thebetterindia.com/4208/uncle-moosa-takes-joy-reading-hills-arunachal-pradesh/>)

Brought out in the cause of Joyful reading by Coordinator, VT-AWIC Youth Library Network, Lohit Ranganatha Retreat, Wakro-792 104 Arunachal Pr. Feedback welcome at lohit.libraries@gmail.com