

## MLE VOICES

### **MLE Experience and Development of Kisan Language Materials**

I had the opportunity to engage myself in bilingual books on Kui and Oriya and Sadri and Oriya while serving at DIET Tikabali and DIET Sundargarh. This very experience encouraged me to appear at the interview at OPEPA during May 2006 to be included in the MLE Resource Group.

The first workshop at DIET Sambalpur during Puja Vacation 2006 helped me a lot to learn about Tribal culture. The basic idea that MLE is not learning or teaching Tribal Languages but learning through Tribal languages helped us to understand the concept of MLE. The programme is based on Environment, Experience and Culture of the learners.

As a part of Village Curriculum Framework for development of text material for MLE, Village calendar was discussed first. Different festivals and practices related to culture and nature are discussed in detail before themes are selected. Thirty themes for thirty weeks were selected.

All the Resource Persons, Community represent-atives and Kisan Teachers were engaged in preparing the materials for Class I during 2006-07. But Class I started during the academic session 2007-2008. The materials so prepared were exposed to the community for modification. Subanpur is a Tribal Village in Kuchinda where workshops were arranged to develop materials. It was very interesting to work with the Kisan Teachers who were members of Resource Group. They were very active and wanted to safeguard their culture. Stories from Kisan Culture were taken and 35 alphabets from Oriya were used for writing the text materials. Timely intervention and guidance by the National and International Resource Persons at OPEPA, Bhubaneswar provided us with enough strength.

When the materials were ready, Training Programme for the MLE Teachers was conducted at DIET, Sambalpur. CRCCS were also involved in the Training process.

Kisan Teachers have been highly motivated and encouraged to serve their community through MLE.

Gridhari Hota

Gridhari Hota, MLE Resource Person, Orissa