Little artists from Banduguri L.P. School participating in the inaugural mural painting for “Art for Peace” campaign
Photo by: Ansuma Hajoary
Two external evaluators carried out a mid-term assessment from 6th February to 11th February on the overall achievement of the Learning Augmentation Ecosystem Project (LEAP) in fulfilling its major objectives, and to document important learnings. On the basis of the assessment, the evaluators provided future directions to the project. The evaluators were Malini Mukherjee, an educator and manager of international quality education initiatives, and Debasish Sarkar, MIE, Chairman of Deeksha Education Trust.

**Mid-Term Evaluation of the LEAP**

On 24th and 25th February, the ant was amongst the five Civil Society Organisations that attended the launch and inception workshop of the project “Transforming Lives and Livelihoods in Bodoland”, an initiative of the MoU signed between the Bodoland Territorial Council and the Bharat Rural Livelihood Foundation. The project aims to work with CSOs and important stakeholders working in the Bodoland Territorial Region to transform the socio-economic conditions of the tribal communities, Adivasi communities and other vulnerable communities by working towards their sustainable development.
Review Meeting for SBI Fellows

Five SBI fellows stationed in various field sites of the ant’s programmes in Chirang presented their individual project plans and progress on 15th February to the review team from SBI Youth for India Fellowship at the Rowmari campus of the ant. Nupur R., Program Manager, SBI Youth for India, and Gyan Prakash, Coordinator & Program Head, SBI Youth for India Fellowship Program reviewed the presentations in the presence of co-founder Dr. Sunil Kaul, Director of Operations Rhondeni Kikon, field facilitator Japet Narzary and domain mentor Rwmmi Rwmwi Basumatary from the ant.

Bookworm Goa workshop on making library an interesting space

Anindita and Jenny from Bookworm Goa were accompanied by Kayia Ashuli to Duabari-Borjhar LP school, Bengtol on 16th February to conduct a workshop with 17 teachers and 5 SMC members from 16 schools in the project area. The objective of the workshop was to familiarise the teachers and SMC members on different ways of making a library interesting to children. The session started with engaging the participants in breaking the conventional understanding of libraries as spaces for reading books in “silence”.

The ants Explore

Members of the ant’s community media unit, communications, and livelihood project of Kuklung visited Samaj Pragati Sahayog in Madhya Pradesh from 1st to 3rd February to understand the working of their media unit and livelihood programme.

The LEAP team had a very enriching and exciting exposure visit to Mangalore and Udupi from 20th to 22nd February. The team visited govt. lower primary and high schools, panchayat office and School Monitoring Committee and Coordination Forum, where they explored child friendly classroom systems, and community and Panchayat involvements in school management.

The MOULD team and one member from the livelihood project of Kuklung visited PRADAN in Jharkhand from 1st February to 3rd February. The visiting ant team got the opportunity to understand the working structure of PRADAN, their work on MNREGA scheme, working of mahila mondol and cooperative societies supported by PRADAN. The team also presented their plan to implement the learnings in their project areas.
A team of researchers, students and photojournalist Jignesh Mistry from the Centre for New Economic Studies (CNES) explored the ant project sites in February to understand the ant's programmes in bringing changes in the socio-economic conditions of the communities living in Bodoland. For over six weeks, Jignesh Mistry shadowed the activities of LEAP, Colouring the Rainbow and Aagor Weaves to produce video and photo essays for their initiative known as Visual Storyboards. The video and photo essays can be accessed in the following link.

https://thewire.in/education/assam-bodoland-learning-challenges

https://thewire.in/sport/assam-colouring-the-rainbow-the-ant

24 Ultimate Disk players played in the NCS 2022-23 Mixed Nationals

24 young Ultimate Disk players took part in the National Championship Series 2022-23 Mixed Nationals organised by Ultimate Players Association of India (UPAI) in Surat, Gujarat from 24th February to 26th February, 2023. The team was accompanied by Michael Brenner, the guest coach of the team, and Raju and Stefanie from the ant staff. The team could play against six teams, and bagged the second position in Spirit Award which is given to the teams played with ethical sportsmanship.
"Art for Peace" Inauguration

The Art for Peace campaign has started on 25th February at the Banduguri L.P. Venture School with a focus on the theme of “Children’s Right to Participation”. Guardians, children and the members of SMC, VCDC, student unions and VDP participated in painting murals on the school walls. Sharing the same excitement as the children, the head teacher of the school said, “In my observation, I have seen that children of lower classes learn more through pictures than letters or numbers”. Mapija Khatun, one of the students expressed, “I would like to draw a picture of a boy and a girl cleaning our school”.

Breaking the Chain with Every Dance Move

On 14th February, a group of youth and the ant staff members travelled around different locations in Chirang and Bongaigaon dancing to the beats of One Billion Rising Movement. The campaign took the message of love and peace against the culture of gender-based violence to school children and the general public.

Children Say No to Violence: Observing the Significance of Red Hand Day

On 11th February children of Salbari, Komabari and Bandoguri at Bengtol, Chirang participated in various activities on the eve of Red Hand Day, observed worldwide on 12th February to campaign against the use of child soldiers. The F.a.B (Friends Across Barriers) team engaged with these children to discuss the significance of this campaign, and to encourage them to think of actions that violates their rights. Through their words and drawings children identified what activities are harmful for them and what action they would take to protect their rights.

Journal Club

The February Journal Club had two interesting topics of discussion on the table. Padmabati from livelihood programme highlighted the importance of women's participation in socio-economic activities in our society. Bikash from the IDeA discussed the importance of administrative work in an organisation through sharing his own experience of working in the IDeA administration.
Charcha Café 2.0

Charcha Café, a knowledge sharing platform for IDeA partners began its second chapter virtually on 11th February, 2023. The first discussion of the second chapter centred around the IDeA team’s learning experience on Child Rights from the exposure visit to Nepal. The IDeA team shared their observations on the country’s children clubs at school community levels. Partners also discussed the actions that can be applied in the local context which included building a network of CSOs working on Child Rights, creating Child Advisory Committees and building a sense of ownership in children. Partners also discussed their own learning experiences from their work on Child Rights. The Charcha Café was conceptualised with the aim to enhance the partners cross-learning and explore emergent issues in the development sector. We plan to continue having sessions of Charcha Café in each quarter of the year, and welcome everyone to the discussions!

What's Happening at IDeA?

Upcoming Activities
Movie Screening, Drawing and Extempore Speech sessions on International Day of Forests

New Family Members
We welcome our new ants Anjali and Bina to our family.