

4. FUTURE OF THE NFAE PROJECT

The future of the NFAE project depends on whether its curriculum package can be used in adult education programmes in coastal villages and in other contexts where it is relevant. Some of the possibilities for its use are:

- * in NFAE programmes in coastal Tamil Nadu conducted by the Directorate of Non-Formal/Adult Education in collaboration with the Directorate of Fisheries;
- * by adapting it for use in other coastal areas;
- * by adapting it for use in other backward areas.

Implementing NFAE programmes in coastal Tamil Nadu: Efforts at creating a climate for implementing NFAE programmes in coastal villages in Tamil Nadu had begun by developing a curriculum package. The Directorate of Fisheries, the Directorate of Non-Formal/Adult Education and voluntary agencies had helped develop the package. Specific efforts at initiating implementation included :

- * A meeting of high-level officials on the feasibility of implementing the curriculum developed by BOBP for Tamil Nadu
- * A dialogue on the relevance and scope of BOBP's NFAE experience in Tamil Nadu.

Meeting of high-level officials on the feasibility of implementing a non-formal education programme in Tamil Nadu (November 7, 1983).

The meeting was attended by the Director and Deputy Director of Fisheries, a technical officer from the Directorate of Non-Formal/Adult Education, a representative of the adult education evaluation cell of the MIDS (Madras Institute of Development Studies), a Professor from NCERT and a Senior Development Adviser and Sociologist from the BOBP. The minutes of the meeting were recorded and circulated.

The decisions made during the meeting were:

- * The Directorates of Fisheries and Non-Formal/Adult Education will work in close collaboration in implementing the NFAE programme. Practical problems arising during the implementation will be met by the Directorates through proper procedures.
- * The NFAE activity and fisheries extension work will be closely linked. In the initial stages, it will be closely linked with the Fisherwomen's Extension Service.
- * The NFAE programme will be implemented in a phased manner to cover all the coastal villages in eight districts in four to five years.
- * Decisions taken at higher levels should percolate to lower levels.
- * The DAEOs (district adult education officers) and the Assistant Director of Fisheries should collaborate at the district level. Supervisors and animators should collaborate with inspectors of fisheries at the block and village levels.
- * The Directorate of NF/AE will provide funds for the NFAE project centres in the villages.
- * The Directorate of Fisheries will support the programme by identifying and recruiting animators; by assigning sub-inspectors of fisheries to perform the role of supervisors at the village level; by developing an audio-visual programme to cover the coastal villages.

**Dialogue on the Relevance and Scope of BOBP's NFAE
Experiences in Tamil Nadu, Madras (March 13-14, 1985)**

This dialogue was organized by BOBP and attended by adult education and fisheries officials from the Government of India and the State Governments of Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Orissa, representatives from non-government organizations, universities, representatives of the funding agency DANIDA and organizers and representatives from BOBP.

Some of the points made:

- * The curriculum package approach is effective in raising awareness and organizing people for development. Training and reflection are important components of the programme.
- * The Director of NF/AE, Tamil Nadu, outlined his organization's contribution to the development of the curriculum package. This included participation in workshops, providing support while the package was field-tested, undertaking to print the curriculum package in Tamil and planning for adult education projects in coastal Tamil Nadu. According to him, the Directorate is capable of providing a well-knit infrastructure of adult education centres all along the Tamil Nadu coast. He suggested that the Department of Fisheries could cooperate in identifying learners, providing expertise and information on development schemes.
- * The Joint Director of Fisheries, Tamil Nadu, expressed interest in methods that would help people participate in his department's development programmes.
- * The Director in the Directorate of Adult Education, Government of India, said the curriculum package could be implemented as it is for Tamil Nadu fisherfolk and adapted for use in other states.
- * Interest in adapting the curriculum package for use in their own States was expressed by fisheries and educational officers from Orissa and Andhra Pradesh.
- * The educational component of programmes of radical activist groups can be strengthened by adapting the BOBP curriculum package to suit their needs. The process of adaptation may give rise to interesting innovations.
- * It was felt that university students engaged in community work could use the curriculum package profitably.
- * The BOBP's curriculum package could help sharpen the methodology of training and evaluation in formal education.

The representative from the funding agency DANIDA expressed interest in project implementation in Tamil Nadu and in providing additional funds to strengthen the training component in present adult education projects. Both possibilities were suggested in BOBP's project proposal, outlined below.

Proposal for implementing the NFAE programme in Tamil Nadu

A draft proposal for implementing NFAE in coastal Tamil Nadu was placed by BOBP before the participants. The idea of a facilitating team to strengthen the training component in existing government-run adult education projects was welcomed. Several suggestions were made to improve the draft proposal. These were incorporated before presenting it to DANIDA for additional funds. A copy of the revised proposal is contained in Appendix 3.

proposal for adapting the NFAE curriculum package for other coastal states

This proposal was prepared because the Norwegian funding agency NORAD had shown interest in the possibility of adapting the package to suit the needs of coastal Orissa. This proposal was placed before the participants; excerpts are found in Appendix 3b.