

Workshop on Ashram Schools and Tribal Education in Karnataka

25-26 June 2010

Fireflies Inter-cultural Centre, Bangalore

This workshop will be part of a series to reform the existing situation concerning tribal education.

In March 2008 we had organised a south-India level three-day consultation to analyse the relevance of the ashram schools in tribal education and to make concerted efforts to bring necessary changes in the ashram school system to ensure quality education to the tribal children.

The poor quality of schooling available to tribal children does not prepare them to finish school or continue with higher education, let alone compete for jobs. Policy reforms in improving institutional accountability, curricular content and pedagogical approaches are urgently needed to foster genuine equity and provide full rights to the tribal communities.

This workshop will focus on the state of Karnataka with the following objectives:

1. consolidate the efforts by various groups in Karnataka towards improving the ashram schools
2. understand the functioning of ashram schools in Kerala
3. identify crucial changes needed in improving the quality of education in the ashram schools in Karnataka and plan strategies for bringing out those changes

We hope that the workshop will get the education department in Karnataka to take the following actions in the next few months:

1. All teachers should be appointed by the education department and the practice of 'outsourcing' appointments should be stopped. (Outsourcing has led to incompetent teachers being appointed and has also fostered corrupt practices).
2. As in Kerala, can the education department take care of all academic matters concerning ashram schools?
3. Training of ashram school teachers should be taken up keeping in mind their particular cultural context. A separate unit in the DIET can help.
4. All ashram schools should be upgraded till 7th standard at least (at present some ashram schools go only up to 5th standard).

If you are interested in giving a presentation or submitting a paper for circulation, please mention the topic of your presentation or send us the paper, which we would be very happy to include in the programme.

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