

**Laya**  
19-20 June 2014



A two-day consultation was hosted by Laya in their field centre 'Vanantharam', Addateegala, East Godavari District, Andhra Pradesh, India. The consultation was attended by representatives of ASPBAE, Indian Network on Ethics and Climate Change (INECC), and neo literate women from Laya's field centre.

Deliberations at the national consultation focused on 'Understanding Education for Sustainable Development in a Climate Changing World'. The proceedings began by a presentation by Laya's Executive Director, Nafisa D'Souza. Nafisa explained the climate change vulnerability in the context of India, the present challenges ahead of us to cope with climate change and achieve a sustainable India. The participants were informed about the global scenario and spaces available for dialogue and advocacy and the required role of civil society in macro and micro arenas.

Another presentation was made by ASPBAE's Executive Council member, Dominic D'Souza, on 'Understanding Education for Sustainable Development'. Dominic spoke about environmental degradation and climate change, linkages between Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) and Education for All (EFA), and the role and challenges of 'education in a climate changing world'. The presentation also highlighted global discourses around Education for All and ESD.

Laya, INECC, and ASPBAE share their experiences in ESD. Ajitha Tiwari of INECC shared the target groups with whom they work, ways to educate them, and the challenges they face. Nafisa shared Laya's innovations and best practices from their work, including a 10-day crash course on literacy, herbal-based health care, sustainable agriculture, learning opportunities

for the youth, and technical expertise at the local level. The ASPBAE presentation, made by Dominic, shared ASPBAE's journey and work from 1995-2005 on Education, Environment and Sustainable Development, ASPBAE's work on Education and Climate Change from 2010-2012, and its agenda from 2013-2016.



The second day of the consultation commemorated ASPBAE's 50 years and highlighted ASPBAE's role and engagement in the post-2015 education agenda. Dominic presented ASPBAE's recommendations for the post-2015 agenda and integrated the work that its members are doing with the proposed agenda. He also shared the post-2015 processes on the education and development agendas, ASPBAE's assertions, advocacy plans, and next steps.

Participants deliberated on ASPBAE's recommendations and proposed suggestions on points to be added or refined. Below are a few highlights of the suggestions made –



1. Participants endorsed ASPBAE's position on education as a stand-alone goal but expressed the need to ensure that it remains a priority in all sectors of development - health, forest and environment, youth and women's empowerment, peace and conflict, and disaster management.
2. Compulsory and free education should be extended up to the 10th grade instead of only up to the primary level.
3. For the marginalised and vulnerable communities, as per the Right to Education Act in India, non-

formal education cannot be a replacement for formal education.

4. Lifelong learning should cover early childhood education, primary and secondary as well as adult education as a basic human right.
5. The government must ensure 100% quality access to education, irrespective of the education delivery institutions: private or public.
6. Adequate budget allocations are imperative to achieving education goals.

7. While it is important to acknowledge that the responsibility to provide education rests with the government, it is necessary to promote partnerships amongst government, corporate, the private sector, and civil society organisations.

A concluding session focused on commemorating ASPBAE's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. A brief presentation was made by ASPBAE's Sumedha Sharma on its journey in the last 50 years and highlights of its work in different decades. Participants then wrote birthday messages for ASPBAE on a piece of cloth. In the end, a big cake was cut by neo literate women to celebrate ASPBAE's birthday.

A Vote of Thanks was given by Dr. K.C Chaudhary of the Indian Adult Education Association (IAEA).

