Workshop-cum-Training programme on ‘Ethno-medicinal Practices’

A workshop-cum-training programme on ‘Ethno-medicinal practices’ has been organized at Kankutia village under Raipur Block of Birbhum district by the Eastern Regional Centre of Anthropological Survey of India, Kolkata in collaboration with the Department of Lifelong Learning and Extension (REC), Viswa Bharati from September, 28 to October 12, 2015. Altogether thirty people from the Santal Community took part in this training programme. The knowledge was disseminated by three expert medicine men (Jan-guru in Santali usage) from the same Santal community.

The medicine men delivered lectures regarding the various kinds of common diseases like headache, gout, acidity, jaundice, gastric ulcer, dysentery, diarrhea, etc. as well as demonstrated respective medicinal plants and its parts and other ingredients for preparing medicines. Other ingredients include cardamom, honey etc. Participants were given hands on training on the preparation of medicines. The Gurus also imparted the trainees the process of preparation of tooth powder out of medicinal plants.

Bhubon Murmu, one of the Jan-guru taught them to prepare medicine for dog bite, goat-bite, cow-bite, and even human bite. In this case a piece of root of a particular plant inserting into a ripe banana is prescribed to eat. It helps reducing the poisonous effect of bites. The participants were also taken to the nearby forests to make them identify the medicinal plants.

In modern age such kind of indigenous knowledge is gradually vanishing and restricted to a handful of people only. Therefore, for the participants it was an opportunity to gather knowledge on this aspect. The participants submitted that they had been benefitted in this workshop. Some of them expressed interest to grow such plants for ready availability.
Mushroom – a medicine for blood purification

A site of medicinal plants