

A Two -Day Workshop on Community Led Development Planning in collaboration with North-East Affected Area Development Society (NEADS) Organized by the School of Social Sciences, KU.

The School of Social Sciences, Assam Kaziranga University organized a two-day workshop on the topic “Community-led development planning” on 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> October, 2021 in collaboration with NEADS, a volunteer centered grassroots development organization based on Dhekiakhowa, Jorhat. They mainly focus on the Humanitarian Response, Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), Education and Children, Gender Justice and Development and so on.

The key speaker of the workshop was Mr. Tirtha Prasad Saikia, the Joint Director of NEADS. The objectives of the workshop were to teach the students the basic concept of Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA), its history and principles and how to apply PRA tools in community-need analysis process, and also to develop the skills required for conducting PRA assessment among the students.

The workshop started at 10AM on 26<sup>th</sup> October followed by a brief introduction about the speaker and mentioning highlighting the objectives of the workshop by Mr Aditya Bhatta, Assistant Professor, KU-SSS; and the felicitation of the speaker by Dr G. B. Patra, Associate Professor, KU-SSS.

The speaker started his deliberation by interacting with each of the students present in the workshop. In his deliberation, he had spoken in detail about the origin, history and principles of PRA. He also focused on the tools/methods of PRA that can be implemented on community-based development. The students were also actively engaged in an activity where they drafted a Social Resource Mapping which is one of the important tools of PRA. On the second day, the speaker discussed about the purposes and importance of each tools of PRA. Later, the students were divided into 6 groups and each group was assigned with different tools to work on, with the community people from the nearby villages. After interacting with the community people, each group presented the information which they acquired from the community people about their villages.

The workshop ended with positive feedbacks and words of appreciation from the speaker, the faculty and the students. A total strength of 65 students attended the workshop where they learned not only the theoretical aspects but also had the practical experience of PRA. Indeed the workshop was a successful learning experience for the students which will definitely help them in their future career.