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BHARAT GYAN VIGYAN JATHA 1990

A Crusade Against Illiteracy

organized by

THE PEOPLE'S SCIENCE MOVEMENTS OF INDIA

supported by

**MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**

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BHARAT GYAN VIGYAN JATHA

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2 OCTOBER – 14 NOVEMBER, 1990

India is a great country. More than four thousand years ago we built cities with stone pavements and covered drains. More than two thousand years ago we installed rain gauges and measured rains. We were leaders in astronomy, mathematics, medical science, and metallurgy. Ours is the land of Aryabhatta, Brahmagupta, Varahamihira, and Bhaskara, of Charaka, Sushruta, and Vagbhata, of Panini, Kanada, Patanjali and the Charvakas, of Ashwaghosha, Kalidasa, and Bhasa. Scholars came in search of knowledge to our country—Fa Hian, Hiuan Tsang—to the famous universities of Takshasila and Nalanda. Those were days when we were equal to and even excelled others in the world in accomplishments.

But now? Now the situation has changed. Although we still have scholars and universities, we go out for knowledge. We still have industries, but we depend on others to have them and run them. We have one of the largest number of graduates in science and technology, but we have comparatively little science and technology. Unfortunately, we have the World's largest number of illiterates, too, and their number is increasing. We have the largest number of poor and sick in the world and their number has been increasing, too.

The independence for which our elders fought and which we enjoy today has become meaningless to the majority. Our country has become a fertile ground for disruptionists, destabilizers, and profiteers.

The world too is in turmoil. If the humanity is not to obliterate itself through destructive nuclear wars or devastating environmental degradation, it has to learn to live in a new way, co-operating with each other and not competing with or combating each other. Only a participative and creative democratic order can lead to such a situation. There cannot be participative and creative democracy in a country whose more than sixty per cent of the population is illiterate and ignorant of the great potential (and threat) before humanity. And this is precisely the situation in our country. This has to change.

One starting point for change can be literacy. Attempts to eradicate illiteracy in the past have suffered from lack of resources and lack of adequate emphasis in development strategies. Even such efforts as have been made have suffered from constraints, especially the poor working conditions of the people, lack of community participation and inadequate mobilization of social forces which would have helped such a campaign. This manifests itself as lack of motivation amongst both learners and teachers. Inadequate pedagogic techniques and inadequate provision of continuing educational facilities have further compounded the problem. No wonder, marginal and sub- marginal literacy efforts made earlier have failed dismally.

The experience of People's Science Movements in the past decade is especially relevant in this respect. The pioneering work done by Kerala Sastra Sahitya Parishad has shown that it is possible to actively involve teachers, students, scientists and all other sections of the community in building a mass movement for creating scientific awareness amongst the people.

Particularly significant is the achievement of complete literacy in the district of Ernakulam, Kerala, through a mass campaign initiated by the Parishad with the support of the National Literacy Mission, involving all sections of the people in the district.

The Bharat Jan Vigyan Jatha comprising five zonal Jathas or mobile groups of scientists, teachers, artistes and activists of PMSs, which had started on October 2, 1987, travelled over 25,000 kilometres, held performances at over 500 locations and converged in Bhopal in a rally of over 4,000 scientists, teachers and activists on November 7, 1987. The entire programme was catalysed and supported by the National Council for Science & Technology Communication.

The Bharat Jan Vigyan Jatha was successful in many ways. It involved thousands of individuals in active science popularization and nucleated many centres of activity. It interlinked and networked various organizations engaged in science communication. In particular, 26 organizations since then constituted themselves into an All India People's Science Network (AIPSN) and conducted a major campaign in science communication aimed at promoting a better understanding of the methods and values of science and the contributions it can make to human progress.

The Bharat Jan Vigyan Jatha was, however, limited to covering almost exclusively towns and cities and did not reach the village level. Expansion of such a programme to reach out to the majority of villages of India needs mobilization of much wider sections of the people and involve many more groups and organizations. Furthermore, any programme to create awareness that extends to all villages in the country needs to take up literacy—an essential pre-condition for the growth of scientific and secular democratic spirit. The Bharat Gyan Vigyan Jatha seeks to link the two concepts of literacy and scientific awareness and make them its central message.

The Bharat Gyan Vigyan Jatha attempts to mobilize several hundred groups of educators, activists and artistes for the campaign. Each of these groups will conduct a 40-day Jatha from October 2 to November 14, 1990, in the course of which they will reach about 120 to 150 centres. Thus a total number of 500 such groups—one for each district—in the country will cover over 60,000 centres. In addition, each such centre will cater to 8 to 10 neighbouring villages, thus reaching the message of science and literacy to about 6 lakh villages in the country. Through this campaign the Jatha hope to capture the emotional backing of the people, of their political parties, of their cultural and other organizations in the cause of literacy, just as the freedom struggle did in the thirties and forties. It will campaign for literacy, generate a demand for literacy and create a people's machinery to deliver it. The powerful media of folk arts and classes to small groups of people will be used to disseminate the message of literacy and science in the Jatha programme.

It must be noted that the BGVJ is planned at a time when the obscurantist and fundamentalist forces, the forces of casteist, communal and regional chauvinism all threaten the very fabric of the nation. This situation lends a sense of urgency to our tasks. Values and knowledge from science bring out the common identity and destiny of the human species and contradict and negate communal hatred, putting one section against the other.

Thus, the Bharat Gyan Vigyan Jatha is a crusade for literacy, a crusade against the conditions that maintain illiteracy, a crusade against disruptionists, destabilisers and communalists, a crusade against dependence. It will campaign for literacy and generate a demand for literacy. It will put universal literacy on the agenda of national priorities.

We also aim at bringing out the role of the people in shaping science and technology development for improving the quality of their lives, and realizing the full potentials of science and technology which cannot realise without a participatory mode of development. Such participation is not possible in an illiterate nation. Literacy is a necessary pre-condition to enjoy the fruits of scientific and technological advance. The Bharat Gyan Vigyan Jatha, therefore, adopts as its central theme, the slogan 'Literacy and Science for National Integration and Self-reliance'.

OBJECTIVES

The main objectives of the Jatha are:

- 1) To interlink, informally, all the literacy efforts in the country, both governmental and non-governmental, big and small and create among them a feeling of being partners in one and the same National Mission.
- 2) To instil into the field activists with enthusiasm and excitement without which adequate motivation cannot be generated among the learners.
- 3) To develop an informal machinery for rapid information transfer and mutual reinforcement among literacy workers at all levels.
- 4) To reach to every corner of India the call to stamp out illiteracy from the nation.
- 5) To communicate to the broadest audience the perspective on literacy and scientific awareness both through the jatha and through activities prior to it and after it.
- 6) To create a demand for literacy centres and adult education centres where they do not exist.
- 7) To nucleate, motivate and inspire new local level groups, voluntary organizations and individuals to take up the tasks of eradication of illiteracy and creation of scientific awareness amongst the people.
- 8) To strengthen and consolidate the work of already existing groups and voluntary organizations which are working for the creation of scientific awareness and literacy and create a favourable climate for such activities to flourish.

PERSPECTIVE ON LITERACY

The perspective on LITERACY to be propagated by the BGVJ will be, first and foremost, "learn to WRITE AND READ". Articulate speech differentiated human beings from animals. Written languages differentiated civilized societies from primitive ones.

It is not sufficient to be able to write one's own name. Writing has to become a natural skill of the hand like ploughing, brick-laying, fishing, etc. The norms prescribed by NLM, in this respect, are supposed to be too high by many adult educators. But, if writing and reading ability is to become functional, they have to achieve this level and even higher—perhaps not in five months, but over a longer period.

The 'neoliterate' should be freed from the bondage of not only illiteracy, but also of the necessity of requiring a teacher. She or he should be able to make use of the immense wealth stored in the world of written words. Their reading and understanding ability should be self sustainable.

The conscientizing aspect will be focussed through the concept of OPTIMISM. An optimism based on the knowledge that WE can change the present, that WE can plan the future and the knowledge of how to do this is the basic element of scientific outlook. This is not an optimism based on fate, it is not resignation. It is active optimism.

The various components of the Jatha will be so designed as to instil, as far as possible, this active, dynamic optimism into the people of India.

ACTION PLAN

The entire work of the BGVJ can be divided into:

- a) Organization
- b) Pre-Jatha activities
- c) Kalajatha
- d) Post-Jatha activities
- e) Finance

These activities take place at state, district, local and village levels. In some states it may be necessary to set up an intermediate level between the district and the local levels. Overall guidance of the work will be given by the National Centre through literacy ambassadors.

I. ORGANIZATION

The Bharat Gyan Vigyan Samithi has been formed with Dr. Malcolm Adiseshiah as Chairman and Dr. M.P. Parameswaran as Secretary. Prof. E.K. Narayanan, as Treasurer of the Samithi, has taken charge of the Central Office in Delhi.

The crux of the problem lies in the building up of a suitable machinery to identify functionaries at the state, district and local levels and setting up of committees at these levels. It includes:

- 200 Literacy Ambassadors
- 32 state-level organizations
- About 500 district-level organizations
- About 60,000 local-level organizations
- Linking up of about 6 lakh villages to these local organizations

Literacy Ambassadors will be known activists of People's Science Movements or voluntary organizations involved in literacy work. They will work full time under the guidance of the Executive Committee of the BGVS.

The specific tasks of the literacy ambassador are:

- Identification of district level (D-level) convenors and activists and organize preliminary workshops for them in order to familiarize them with the BGVJ programme.
- With the help of D-level convenors organize D-level conventions and state level (S-level) conventions designed to mobilize the broadest sections of the society to ensure their support to the BGVJ and literacy work.
- Establish D-level centres and offices.
- Help the D-level convenor to prepare detailed literacy activity maps at village, taluka and district levels.
- With the help of D-level convenors chalk out tentative Jatha routes and identify Jatha centres. For this, secure a detailed road map of the district and mark the places where JSN's exist and select them, as far as possible, as Jatha centres. Weekly market places could be profitably used as venues for the performance.

All in all, see that the Jatha centres are evenly distributed geographically so that every village in the district is connected with one or the other Jatha centre.

The Jatha will present performance at a maximum number of four and a minimum number of two centres a day.

- Receive money from the BGVS executive committee for the BGVJ activities and maintain proper accounts of it.
- Send weekly reports to the central office on the BGVJ activities as also monthly statements of accounts to the Treasurer of BGVS.
- Establish contact with all local voluntary organizations, youth and women's movements, mass organizations, community leaders, presidents of panchayat institutions, government officials and others to secure their fullest co-operation in the BGVJ activities.

The process of identification and appointment of literacy ambassadors is to be completed by the end of March, 1990.

District-level Organization

District is by far the most important functional unit in the implementation of the BGVJ activities. Once the preliminary workshops and identification of D-level convenors are over, the literacy ambassador will, with the help of the D-level convenors, organize D-level conventions to build D-level organizations for the conduct of the BGVJ.

The D-level conventions should be as broad as possible with adequate representation of various sections of the people in the district, such as voluntary organizations, youth, students and women's movements, mass organizations, presidents and other functionaries of panchayat institutions, municipalities and corporations, government officials and members of state assembly and parliament within the district.

At the D-level convention a D-level council with about 100 members and a D-level Executive Committee with 10-15 members should be constituted. The Council should be highly representative in character. President of the Zilla Parishad, Vice-Chancellor of a university, District Collector, or a well-known and universally respected person shall be requested to become the chairperson of the council. The already functioning D-level convenor will be the secretary of the council and of the executive committee. The literacy ambassador concerned will be a member of the executive committee.

The D-level executive committee must meet as often as needed, or at least once in a month.

The formation of the D-level council and executive committee must be completed by the end of March, 1990.

The main tasks of the D-level executive committee are:

- Setting up of an organizational machinery linking up 120-150 Jatha centres and through them 8-10 villages surrounding each of such centres.
- Organizing pre-Jatha and the Kalajatha programmes and enrolment of volunteer literacy instructors.
- Supervising the activities of local level organizing committees to ensure that these committees organize and conduct all the pre-Jatha and Kalajatha activities as envisaged.
- Mobilize resources both in cash and in kind adequate for meeting the various components of the BGVJ programme in the district.
- Monitor the work at the D-level and L-level and solve problems as and when they occur.
- Set up a D-level office at a convenient place, preferably attached to a government office or a voluntary organization office with access to a telephone.
- The D-level convenor will send weekly reports to the literacy ambassador concerned on the progress of the BGVJ activities. He will insist upon such a periodical report from the convenors of L-level organizing committees.

State-level Organization

After the D-level conventions and the formation of D-level committees, a S-level convention may be organized. The literacy ambassador who functions in or around the state capital will function as the S-level coordinator. He will convene the S-level convention in consultation with other literary ambassadors in the state, and under the guidance of the BGVS executive committee. However, all the literary ambassadors will be collectively responsible for organizing and conducting the S-level convention. The S-level convention shall be as broad as possible in representation.

At the S-level convention a S-level council with 150-200 members and a S-level executive committee with 13-15 members are to be constituted. Preferably, the Chief Minister of the state may be requested to be the chairman of the council and the committee. The state coordinator will be the secretary. The BGVS executive committee member from the state will be a member of the S-level executive committee. In addition, the literacy ambassadors from that state will be ex-officio members of the executive committee.

The process of holding the S-level conventions and constituting the council and executive committee has to be completed by the end of April, 1990.

The S-level committee will discharge the following responsibilities:

- Set up a state coordination office in the capital, preferably in the premises of a government office with access to a telephone.
- Organize and conduct S-level (one or more) training camps for district resource persons for pre-Jatha classes.
- Organize and conduct S-level (one or more) production-cum-training camps for the Kalajatha.
- Organize periodic meetings of the literacy ambassadors in the state for coordinating the state level BGVJ activities.
- Convene meetings of D-level convenors as and when necessary to coordinate the BGVJ activities in the state.
- Mobilize financial resources to meet the S-level expenses over and above the money received from the BGVS executive committee from the central fund.
- Publish necessary books, pamphlets, etc., in the regional language of the state.
- Liaise with state government departments, institutions, companies, educational institutions etc., to secure leave with pay for participating employees and mobilize vehicles and other help.
- Ensure proper publicity to the BGVJ activities and maintain relations with the press and other media for the purpose.

Local-level Organization

Grass-roots level BGVJ activities take place at the local level.

The D-level convenors with the help of the literacy ambassador have to locate L-level convenors who will convene local level meetings at each of the 120-150 Jatha centres in every district and form L-level organizing committees.

The L-level organizing committee will consist of a chairperson, a convenor and members.

This part of the organizational work has to be completed by May- June, 1990.

The responsibilities of L-level convenors are the following:

- Identify activists in each of the 8-10 villages around the jatha centre.
- Arrange and conduct the pre-Jatha activities in the Jatha centre as well as in the neighbouring villages.
- Arrange and conduct the BGVJ programme at the Jatha centre.
- Organize padayatras from the neighbouring villages to the Jatha centre.
- Identify and enlist volunteer literacy instructors in the area.
- Arrange publicity to the BGVJ activities at the local level.

In some districts it may be necessary to set up intermediate levels of organization between the D-level and the L-level organizations. In such cases the same set of principles and methods as shown for other levels of organization may be followed.

II. PRE-JATHA ACTIVITIES

The major pre-jatha activities are:

- (a) Classes
- (b) Poster exhibition
- (c) Literacy campaign

A. CLASSES

There will be a series of 4 classes which are to be conducted at each of the 120-150 Jatha centres and also in 8-10 villages surrounding each Jatha centre. The classes are

- a) 'Why Literacy?': This class is intended to emphasize the liberating role of literacy.
- b) 'The World We Live In': This places mankind in a proper perspective; it gives a scientific world outlook.
- c) 'Literacy and Women': This is to emphasize the extremely important role of women's literacy both for their own emancipation and for improving the quality of life in the society.
- d) 'Health': This would be a simple introduction to easily preventable diseases and also to the social dimensions of health.

Preparations and training for these classes are to be made at different levels. A book in English containing a somewhat detailed version on the themes of all the four classes and a booklet of about 16 pages on the same in the regional languages will be prepared at the national centre. The former is meant only for the resource persons and participants of the S-level training camps and the latter is for the use of the resource persons and participants in the D-level training camps. There will be no national level training camp.

Both the book in English and the booklets in the regional languages will have to be ready in April 1990.

1. S-level Training Camps

The S-level committee will organize and conduct a two-day camp to train resource persons for the D-level training camps.

Four persons selected and sent by the D-level committee in each district will be the trainees at the S-level training camps.

Training for classes (a) and (b) can be held on one day and that for classes (c) and (d) can be held on the next day.

The medium of S-level training camps will be the regional language of the state concerned, but some S-level resource persons may take classes in English.

Ordinarily, the strength of the S-level camps must not exceed 40 participants i.e., one camp for 10 districts. In many states more than one S-level camps will have to be conducted. In such cases, the S-level coordinator and the literacy ambassadors will collectively decide which districts are to participate in which camp.

The date and time table of the S-level camps will be drawn up by the S-level coordinator in consultation with the literacy ambassadors of the state.

Once the time table is fixed, efforts should be made to follow it strictly in order to avoid losing time which may affect the effectiveness of the training classes.

Time tables are to be prepared and sent to the D-level convenors by the S-level coordinator well in advance.

The process of organizing and conducting S-level training camps is to be completed by May-June 1990.

2. D-level Training Camps

D-level training camps are conducted to train persons to take classes in the Jatha centres and in each of the 8-10 villages around the Jatha centre.

Four persons each selected at the L-level will constitute the trainees in the D-level camps. At least one of them will be a woman.

The D-level resource persons will be those who have participated in the S-level training camps.

Each district will be divided into zones such that no zonal training camp will exceed 80-100 participants in two groups.

Each camp will be of one day duration.

Total participants can be divided into two groups. Group I can be given classes (a) and (b) and Group II classes (c) and (d). Classes for these two groups can be given in one day in separate rooms. Efforts must be made to hold one day D-level camps in a school in a suitable location within the zone.

The date and timing of the one-day D-level or zonal camps are to be decided and conveyed to the convenors of L-level organizing committees sufficiently in advance.

The 16-page booklet in the regional language is to be distributed among the participants of the D-level/zonal camps in the camp itself.

The D-level/zonal camps in all the states are to be conducted in July-August 1990.

3. Local Level Activities

The actual pre-Jatha lectures take place at the local level in the Jatha centres and in 8-10 villages around each centre. The responsibilities of the L-level organizing committee with regard to the pre-jatha lectures are as follows.

- Identify and send 4 persons, one of whom should be a woman, to the one-day D-level or zonal training camp. These 4 persons are to be divided into two groups of two persons each; one group attending the training classes for two lectures and the other group attending the training classes for the other two lectures.
- Organizing and conducting all the four lectures at the Jatha centre as well as in 8-10 villages around the centre making use of the persons trained at the D-level/zonal camps.
- Lectures are to be conducted in the regional language on the basis of the contents of the booklet designed for this purpose.
- Wide publicity should be given to the lecture classes through notice and wall-posters.
- Special efforts have to be made to ensure attendance of women in all lectures.

- To ensure effective conduct of the lectures each village around the Jatha centre must be assigned to one member of the local organizing committee. This may help a better mobilization of the people for the lecture classes.
- The number of people attending any one lecture may not exceed 50. If necessary, conduct more classes on each of the topics.
- The venue of the lectures must be such that people have free access to the place.
- The programme of lecture classes must be completed before the date of the Kalajatha performance at the centre.

B. POSTER EXHIBITION

A set of posters will be prepared at the national centre of BGVS. They are primarily meant for illiterates, hence without captions.

Each district will be supplied 10 sets of posters.

1. D-Level

The D-level convenor will divide the Jatha centres in the district into 10 groups and prepare a time schedule for the exhibition of the posters in the Jatha centres within each group. Thus, a set of posters will be available for a group of 12-15 Jatha centres.

The D-level convenor will hand over one set of posters to each of the convenors of the local organizing committees that come first in the schedule he has prepared. A copy of the schedule indicating the dates of poster exhibition in each Jatha centre within the district is also to be sent to the convenors of the local organizing committees.

2. L-level

The tasks to be carried out at the L-level are the following.

- The convenor of the L-level organizing committee who receives the posters directly from the D-level convenor will organize and conduct the poster exhibition in his centre and hand-over the posters to the convenor of the local organizing committee which appears next in the schedule prepared by the D-level convenor. The local level organizing committee convenor who receives the posters like-wise will conduct the exhibition and handover the posters to the next in the schedule, and so on.
- Each local organizing committee convenor will strictly follow the schedule prepared by the D-level convenor.
- Poster exhibition should be conducted in as many places as possible within the area covered by the Jatha centres.
- The time and place of the poster exhibition should be selected in such a way that maximum number of people must be able to take advantage of it.
- Wide publicity has to be given to the poster exhibition to ensure the success of it.
- The programme of poster exhibition should be completed before the arrival of the Kalajatha at each Jatha centre.

C. LITERACY CAMPAIGN

This part of the pre-Jatha activities is to collect basic data on literacy at the district, taluka and village levels to facilitate taking up programmes to eradicate illiteracy and also to create at the primary level an awareness of the need to eradicate illiteracy.

1. D-level

- The D-level convenor with the help of the literacy ambassador will arrange the preparation of a literacy table on the basis of 1981 census, as per the following proforma. This work can be done immediately.

Taluk	Village	Population		Literates		Illiterates		Total Illiterates
		M	F	M	F	M	F	
1)								
2)								

- Prepare a taluk map with literacy data entered for each village.
- Prepare a district map with literacy data for each taluk.
- Prepare a taluk map showing JSNs and adult education centres.
- Make a list of JSNs and adult education centres in the district. Ascertain whether they are functioning or not. If they are not, find out the kind of help required to make them functional.
- Prepare a detailed report and send a copy to the central office.
- Enlist the cooperation of District Adult Education Officers and others for this work.
- Observe September 1-8, 1990 as Literacy Week. The year 1990 is the International Literacy Year. Organize and conduct a district level seminar on literacy in this period and hold a D-level literacy rally on September 8, the World Literacy Day, with participation of wide sections of the people, particularly children.
- From the total number of illiterates from each village, the actual number of volunteer literacy instructors needed is to be estimated. This can be done by taking one volunteer instructor for 20 illiterates in the 1981 census. These volunteer instructors are to be enrolled and registered in a prescribed form during the Literacy Week.
- Ensure that all the L-level organizing committees observe the Literacy Week and the World Literacy Day as required.
- Give proper publicity to the seminar, rally and enrolment of volunteer literacy instructors.

2. L-level

- Observe September 1-8 as Literacy Week by enrolling volunteer literacy instructors in the Jatha centre and the villages around.
- Observe September 8 as World Literacy Day holding village level rallies projecting the importance of literacy.

Give wide publicity to mobilize large sections of the people, including women and children for participating in the rallies. Writing on the walls and pasting hand-written wall posters can be good media for publicity.

III. KALAJATHA

The Kalajatha consists of a team of 15-20 artistes disseminating through the powerful media of folk arts the message of 'Literacy and Science for National Integration and Self-reliance'. It will present cultural programmes for 1-1 1/2 hours at 120-150 local Jatha centres in each district from October 2 to November 14, 1990.

There will be about 500 Kalajathas all over the country.

The production of the scripts and transcreation of the scripts in the regional languages have been completed at national level workshops.

The work of identification of the Kalajatha artistes and their training is to be done at different organizational levels.

1. S-level

The tasks of the S-level committee in organizing and conducting the Kalajatha are as follows:

- The S-level coordinator with the help of other literacy ambassadors in the state will identify 15-20 artistes and organize a state level production-cum-training camp.
These artistes can be from one district so that they can form themselves the Kalajatha team of that district.
Larger states can conduct more than one such production-cum-training camp.
The production-cum-training camps are to be conducted in two phases. In the first phase the 15-20 artistes including at least 2 women will participate in the production for 10 days based on the scripts produced at the national level. In the second phase 3 artistes selected from each district will join them and the rehearsal will continue for another 10 days. Among these three, one should be good in direction, another in instruments (rhythm) and the third in music.
- Select the venue of the camp in such a way that it must have the facilities for the stay of the artistes and also for cooking their food.
- Secure all the necessary instruments for the rehearsal.
- Liaise with the government departments for securing vehicles for the use of the team during the period of Jatha for all districts (2 vehicles, one for the team proper and another for their luggage and for those who accompany the team).
- Create the necessary organization to mobilize financial resources to meet the expenses for the camp over and above the money provided from the BGVJ fund.
- The S-level camp is to be conducted in April-June, 1990.

2. D-level

The actual conduct of the Kalajatha is the responsibility of the D-level committee. Its specific tasks are:

- Identify and select 3 artistes, and send them to the S-level production-cum-training camp to be organized in April-June, 1990.
- Identify and select 12-15 artistes, among whom there are to be atleast two women, to be trained at the D-level rehearsal camp.
- Organize and conduct the D-level rehearsal camp from 16th to 30th September, 1990.

- Select the venue of the camp in such a way that it must provide facilities for the stay of the artistes and also for cooking their food.
- The rehearsal is to be conducted on the basis of the items produced in the S-level production-cum-training camp and under the guidance of the three artistes trained in that camp.
- Secure the necessary instruments for the rehearsal and for the Kalajatha team.
- Try to obtain leave for the activists including the artistes in the Kalajatha, who are employed.
- Identify and appoint in consultation with the literacy ambassador a manager for the Kalajatha who should be with the Jatha team right from the rehearsal to the end of the Jatha programme.
- Design and arrange to provide uniforms to the Kalajatha team.
- Review the daily progress of the rehearsal and solve problems as and when they arise.

3. L-level

The actual performance of the Kalajatha takes place at the local level. The L-level organizing committee will discharge the following responsibilities.

- Find a suitable venue for the performance of the Kalajatha.
- Make arrangements for microphone, and for light, if necessary. The performance of the Jatha team will last 1-1 1/2 hours.
- Make arrangements for food for 20 persons.
- Arrange suitable accommodation, food and breakfast for 20 persons if the centre is the last performance centre for the day.
- Organize the entire village or town in which the Jatha centre is located to give reception to Kalajatha. Form a separate Jatha reception committee for this purpose.
- The Kalajatha is to be received by presenting a scroll containing the names of the voluntary literacy instructors enrolled during the Literacy Week and thereafter and a pledge asserting their determination to wipe out illiteracy in the area. Keep a copy of the list of voluntary literacy instructors for future use.
- Organize padayatras from the surrounding villages to the Jatha centre to receive the Jatha and witness the Jatha performance.
- Give wide publicity to the Jatha programme in the centre and the villages around.

IV. POST-JATHA ACTIVITIES

Organizing and launching actual literacy programmes are the logical extension of the pre-Jatha activities. We already have before us the experience of the Ernakulam district of Kerala where, as a result of a mass mobilization, 20,000 volunteers came forward to work as instructors. With their help the district achieved cent percent literacy in less than a year. Based on this experience, the state of Pondicherry has taken up a programme to achieve total literacy, enlisting support of about 15,000 volunteers. Goa, too has taken up a total literacy programme. Prime Minister V.P. Singh has only recently inaugurated the Kerala Total Literacy Project which entails enlisting the support of about four lakh volunteers and an equal number of organizers.

Through the BGVJ activities we expect to get atleast one million volunteers ready to take up literacy work. Tamil Nadu and Karnataka have prepared plans for total literacy in a few districts. Gujarat is slated for a massive campaign to make 30 lakh illiterates literate. Even before the BGVJ comes to a close, it is expected that at least 50-60 more districts. i.e., about

10-20 percent of all districts in each state, will be ready to take up total literacy programmes. The PSMs can play a substantial role in this as they are already doing in Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Pondicherry, West Bengal, etc. The Jatha centres should function as the outpost of the literacy army. The literacy torch which will be lit at these points should develop into an all embracing fire. The one million volunteers who emerge through the BGVJ will certainly multiply several times and the entire nation would be at literacy.

This is a war not only against illiteracy but also against the conditions which sustain and continue to sustain illiteracy. It is aimed at empowering the people to take command. Only if September 1-8 Literacy Week is used consciously to enroll at least one million volunteers, the movement will attain critical dimensions so as to start a chain reaction of learning and teaching. Each and every district level committee should prepare an action programme to make the entire district literate. The programme should include an estimate of the number of illiterates in each village, the number of volunteers, teaching and learning kits, etc. The duration could be one or two years, but never more, because it would be difficult to sustain the tempo. The target is to make at least 200 million people in the age group of 9 or 10 years and above literate in this period. Simultaneously, a plan to prevent relapse into and recurrence of illiteracy too should be prepared. For this purpose the Jana Sikshan Nilayams and other post-literacy activities are to be initiated and maintained in each village. Detailed plans to ensure Universal Elementary Education (UEE) of at least 7 years are to be drawn up district by district, taluk by taluk and village by village. The people's organizations and network created for the Jatha should take upon itself this job of preparing the village by village plan to prevent relapse and recurrence. Each district can be divided into 120-150 action zones and as many sub-plans can be prepared. This exercise can help the people to participate in the panchayati raj institutions in a meaningful manner. Transformation of India into an effectively functioning panchayati raj has implications that extend far beyond its own borders. It will make India self-reliant and strengthen Indian unity by allowing local cultures and capabilities to develop fully. It will free India from the clutches of the multinationals. It will show the world a new way if it is not to perish through catastrophic nuclear wars and devastating environmental degradation.

By the end of the Jatha literacy work should certainly become a positive feedback system, a 'run away' system; the nation would become 'possessed' with learning hysteria. Literacy work would become a people's festival.

Thus, the post-Jatha work, the initial step of which will have to be taken during the pre-Jatha activities and the Jatha proper, can be listed as follows.

- 1) The preparation of village-block-taluk-district literacy maps.
- 2) Preparation of maps of existing/on-going literacy activities.
- 3) Preparation of draft action programmes at villages/panchayat/taluk/district levels.
- 4) Enrolment of maximum number of literacy volunteers.
- 5) Inauguration of Total Literacy Programmes at district level wherever possible—more than 50 percent of the districts in Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Haryana and West Bengal, 10-20 percent of the districts in Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Rajasthan and Orissa, and 20-30 percent of the districts in the rest of the states—on October 2 or November 14, 1990.
- 6) Inauguration of block/panchayat level total literacy programmes in selected blocks/panchayats.
- 7) Preparation of the project proposals for these in cooperation with the District Collector/Commissioner and other authorities sufficiently in advance so that necessary funds of the NLM and states may be available for this purpose.

V. FINANCE

1. S-level

The major S-level expenditure can come under the following heads.

- a) State-level convention.
- b) State-level production-cum-training camps for Kalajatha (one camp for 15 districts).
(15-20 persons for 10 days + 15 x 3 persons for 10 days)
- c) State-level training camps for classes.
(4 persons x districts x 2 days)
- d) Publicity.
- e) Publication of pamphlets.

How to do:

- a) The major functionaries at the state-level are literacy ambassadors. They work full-time. Those who are university and college teachers among literacy ambassadors are very likely to be awarded UGC fellowships and their pay protected during the period they work in the BGVJ project. For those who are government employees and perhaps for those who work in semi-government or private organizations, efforts can be made to get them relieved on leave with pay. In cases where these efforts do not succeed ambassadors will be fully compensated. Unemployed persons working as ambassadors can be compensated to a maximum of Rs.2000/- per month from the BGVJ fund.

Literacy ambassadors will be given Rs.2000/- per month, out of which Rs.1000/- can be used for their travel and the remaining amount for the maintenance of office including an office assistant, if necessary. Separate accounts of travel and office expenses are to be maintained. For the office expenses each item has to be supported by a voucher. For travel only a statement of break up is necessary. Literacy ambassadors will send monthly statement of accounts directly to the Treasurer of BGVJ at the *National Centre, C-18, DDA Flats, Saket, New Delhi 110 017*.

- b) The state level convention can be a one day affair. Efforts must be made to get the venue of the convention free of rent. The hall of a school or other educational institution would be sufficient. No TA or DA is to be paid to the participants. Yet some resources to meet other expenses will have to be found.

- c) For the state-level production-cum-training camp of the Kalajatha the national centre will give a lumpsum assistance calculated at the rate of Rs.600/- per district.

For government employees and perhaps employees of semi-government organizations and firms, etc., participating in the camp, duty leave should be arranged as far as possible.

Efforts must be made to obtain a suitable place for conducting the rehearsal and for their accommodation free of rent. Since a major part of the period of state-level camps falls during the vacation of educational institutions, a school with adequate facilities may be thought of. Suitable vacant houses free of rent may also be looked for.

Food for the participating artistes and others in the camp has to be cooked on the camp premises itself. Under no circumstances food should be brought from hotels.

In order to obtain these facilities and also to raise fund over and above the money received from the central fund, a reception committee may be formed in advance with representations to wide sections of the community. Entrust the responsibility of running the camp with that committee. The committee may mobilize the necessary resources in cash or in kind. Particularly, a major part of the materials for cooking food at the camp can be mobilized from the community. An additional advantage of this method is that it would provide opportunities to the members of the community to get themselves

associated with the BGVJ activities in different ways. Try to make the Jatha rehearsal an event in the area.

- d) The state level training camps for classes too can be organized on similar lines. For conducting them the central office will provide a lumpsum assistance calculated at the rate of Rs. 500/= per district. Since no one is expected to participate in the camps on both the days, it may not be necessary to arrange accommodation for them. Individuals and associations or other institutions may be approached to sponsor lunch, tea, etc., to the participants. Alternatively, it is possible to arrange food packets from neighbouring homes. Sufficient number of volunteers may be enlisted to collect them. Resources will have to be found for local printing and publicity, besides materials given by the national centre. Most of this can be done by sponsorship.

The S-level committee can mobilize financial resources to meet other expenses through direct donations issuing proper receipts for which accounts have to be maintained, audited and sent to the central office.

2. D-level

In the conduct of the whole BGVJ programme the district as a unit plays a crucial role.

The major heads of expenditure involved in conducting the BGVJ activities at the D-level may be as follows.

a) D-level convention	Approx.	Rs. 2,000
b) D-level office functioning		Rs. 20,000
c) Committee meetings		Rs. 2,000
d) Software camp (500 prsns x 1 day)		Rs. 15,000
e) Kalajatha rehearsal camp (15-20 persons 15 days)		Rs. 15,000
f) Kalajatha vans		Rs. 25,000
g) Instruments		Rs. 2,000
h) Uniform for members of Jatha		Rs. 3,000
i) Mike set, etc.		Rs. 5,000

		Rs. 89,000
		=====

The total expenditure for the whole BGVJ activities at D-level comes roughly around Rs. 89,000. Plan for one lakh. If concerted efforts are made by the D-level committee most items listed here can be met through sponsorship.

How to do:

1. D-level office is to be accommodated in a government office/voluntary organization, office at the district headquarters, preferably in an office related to adult/non-formal education. Funds for the D-level office functioning are to be found only for postage, travel, and distribution of material to local organizing committees. Only a contact telephone is to be used. Office functionaries are to be on voluntary basis. The district convenor may have to be on full time for 3 or 4 months.
2. Most items relating to the one day camp for training in pre-Jatha lecture classes can be arranged on sponsorship. The camp venue is to be obtained free of rent. This can be schools if the camp can be arranged on a Sunday or a public holiday. Similarly, lunch for the participants can either be sponsored or collected from homes in the community as food packets. Since these camps are organized at different places in the district, this is not likely to become a major problem. It is also possible to find out individuals and associations to sponsor various items of expenditure.

3. For organizing and conducting the D-level Jatha rehearsal camp, a reception committee is to be organized with representations of wide sections in the community. Entrust the task of running the rehearsal camp with the reception committee. The venue of the camp is to be selected such that it should contain at least the minimum facilities for conducting the rehearsals, accommodation for the participants in the Kalajatha (15-20 persons) and for cooking food for them.

Efforts are to be made by the reception committee to collect materials for preparing food items from the community. From others donations in cash may be collected.

4. Get duty leave sanctioned for the participating artistes and other essential activists in the camp, who are employed. For the participating artistes, the leave must cover the period from the beginning of the camp to the termination date of the Kalajatha (November 14, 1990). This would include a Jatha manager who would remain with the Jatha team right from the rehearsal.
5. Vehicles for the conveyance of the Jatha team (2 vans are needed), musical instruments for the Jatha team, their uniforms, microphone sets, etc. can be obtained through sponsorship by government departments, semi-government departments, financial institutions, voluntary organizations, business houses and individuals. Experience shows that governmental machinery combined with people's enthusiasm can deliver results.
6. Additional income in cash can be collected under receipt for meeting other expenses connected with the BGVJ programmes. This has to be properly accounted and audited. Funds can also be collected through sponsored Kalajatha programmes at educational institutions, voluntary organizations, etc.

3. L-level

The major items of expenses at the level of local organizing committee may be as follows.

- a) Travel expenditure for 4 persons to attend the D-level camp.
- b) Expenditure for travelling to the villages around the Jatha centre.
- c) For food or refreshment to the Kalajatha team.
- d) Loud speaker/light, etc., for the performance by the Kalajatha at the Jatha centre.
- e) Printing bit notices.

Most of these items can be met through either sponsorship or through voluntary efforts.

How to do:

- 1 Food and refreshments can be arranged entirely by sponsorship. Food can be arranged with one or two homes in the neighbourhood of the centre. Accommodation and food for the Jatha team at the night halting centre can also be arranged similarly.
2. Efforts should be made to get the mike set for the performance of the Kalajatha sponsored by individuals or organizations.
3. Posters for publicity can be prepared on newspapers by voluntary efforts.

This leaves hardly about Rs. 300/- to be raised at the local level to meet the expenses mostly for travel, printing of bit notice and perhaps for the mike set. This can be collected by small donations at the local level.

