Highlight
Ramakrishna Mission Vivekananda University executed field work on Folklore studies (Dr. Asutosh Bhattacharya Memorial Field Work, 2011).
- Dr. Sk. Makbul Islam

The M. Phil. students of Department of Bengali, Ramakrishna Mission Vivekananda University (RKMVU), Belur Math, Howrah (West Bengal, India) have executed Field Work in connection with folkloristics during 19th – 24th October 2011 in Kamakshyaguri area, Jalpaiguri district (North Bengal). The subject folklore and folkloristics was introduced in Ramakrishna Mission Vivekananda University in the year 2010 both as general paper and as special paper. Field work and Dissertation are compulsory for them. In conformity to this curriculum, this field work was done under the joint supervision of me (Dr. Sk. Makbul Islam) and Dr. Sujay Kumar Mandal.

This field work is dedicated to Dr. Asutosh Bhattacharya, the legendary figure in India’s folklore study. Incidentally, Dr. Asutosh Bhattacharya was the first scholar to introduce folk literature as special paper in Department of Bengali, University of Calcutta in 1960 and executed the first field work in 1961. On completion of 50 years folklore’s systematic field work in Bengal (1961 – 2011 AD), the field work done by the students of Ramakrishna Mission Vivekananda University is named as “Dr. Asutosh Bhattacharya Memorial Field Work, 2011”.

This is a brief highlight of the field work including some technical information. The major issues included here are:
- List of students participated
- Field work diary
- Financial statements
- Visual documentation

List of Students participated
The students who took part in this field work were -
1. Avishek Mandal (M. Phil. 2nd year)
2. Dipankar Das (M. Phil. 2nd year)
3. Prosenjit Biswas (M. Phil. 2nd year)
4. Souvik Chattopadhyay (M. Phil. 2nd year)
5. Amit Patra (M. Phil. 1st year)
6. Arjun Banik (M. Phil. 1st year)
7. Biswajit Mandal (M. Phil. 1st year)
8. Gulsan Ghosh (M. Phil. 1st year)
9. Mozaffar Rahaman (M. Phil. 1st year)
10. Partha Bhore (M. Phil. 1st year)
11. Sk. Samsul Arefin (M. Phil. 1st year)
Field Work Diary:
19.10.2011:
- Belur Math – Balighat railway station (by bus);
- Balighat railway station – Sealdah station (by train);
- Boarding in Teesta-Torsa Express (train no. 13141; coach no and berth no – S5: 10, 11, 13, 14, 16, 19, 21, 22, 24, 30, 32, 35, 38; PNR no: 610-1425450, 620-1425766, 630-1425318)
- Reporting Swami Shastrajnandaji (Sanjib Maharaj) about our journey over phone

20.10.2011:
- Got down at New Alipurduar railway station – station to bus stand (by hired auto) – bus stand to Kamakshyaguri Dak Banglow (by hired jeep)
- Breakfast
- visiting local police station and reporting regarding our arrival including official intimation
- visiting Panchayet Office (Kumargram), collecting information and address of contact persons
- Lunch
- Formation of 6 teams including their area of investigation as follows:

  Team-1: Tista: Avisek Mandal (Folk healing system, folk medicine)
   Prosenjit Biswas (Folk architecture)

  Team-2: Torsha: Souvik Chattopadhyay (Folk rituals, superstitions)
   Dipankar Das (Traditional festivals, mela)

  Team-3: Jaldhaka: Sk. Samsul Arefin (Folk song)
   Biswajit Mandal (Folk musical instruments)

  Team-4: Sankosh: Amit Patra (Oral heritage, oral literature)
   Gulsan Ghosh (Oral heritage, oral literature)

  Team-5: Rangit: Arjun Banik (Folk games)
   Partha Bhor (Material cultural heritage, textile)

  Team-6: Raidak: Muzaffar Rahaman (tradition of the Muslim community)

- Interview of Sushil Rabha (Madhya Kamakshaguri, Dewanpara)
- Documentation of Musical Instruments
- Documentation of fishing equipments
- Documentation of bamboo craft and instruments
- Collection of riddles
- Tiffin
- Return to Dak Banglow
Folklore and Folkloristics; Vol. 4, No. 2. (December 2011)

Reporting Session of the students (conducted by Dr. Sk. Makbul Islam)
- Special prayer in memory of Swamy Promeyanandaji Maharaj, observing one minute silence, Speech by – Avisek Mandal, Dipankar Chattopadhyay, Amit Patra and Sk. Makbul Islam
- Reporting of field work, collection, difficulty and others
- Dinner

21.10.2011:
- Breakfast
- Visiting Dangapara village (Khoardanga post office; Kumargram police station)
  working on Mech community
- Documentation of Textile
- Documentation of agro-equipments
- Collection of Mech song
- Video documentation of Mech folk games
- Excessive rain at 9.30 pm, rain continued till 1.30 pm, field work interrupted
- Lunch
- Return to Dak Banglow
- Visiting Rasik Bil
- Tiffin

Reporting Session of the students (conducted by Dr. Sujay Kumar Mandal)
- Reporting of field work, collection, difficulty and others
- Dinner

22.10.2011:
- One day excursion
- Visiting Kumargram Tea garden
- Entering into Bhutan (Dagan, Lhamoyzingkha)

23.10.2011:
- Breakfast
- Kamakshyaguri – New Alipur Duar Railway station (by hired jeep)
- Catching Train Teesta-Torsa Express (train no. 13142; coach no and berth no – S4: 18, 19, 21, 22, 24, 58, 59, 61, 62, 63, 64; S3: 43, 46; PNR no: 610-14252294, 610-1425234, 640-1425780)

24.10.2011:
- Reached Sealdah station in morning
- Reporting RKMVU over phone about our safe arrival
Financial Description of Field Work
Ramakrishna Mission Vivekananda University Field Work, Department of Bengali, M. Phil (19 - 24 October 2011)

1. **Total Collection**
   - Dr. Sk. Makbul Islam  1303
   - Dr. Sujay Kumar Mandal  1303
   - Avishek Mandal  1000
   - Dipankar Das  1000
   - Prosenjit Biswas  1000
   - Souvik Chattopadhyay  1000
   - Amit Patra  1000
   - Arjun Banik  1000
   - Biswajit Mandal  1000
   - Gulsan Ghosh  1000
   - Mozaffar Rahaman  1000
   - Partha Bhore  1000
   - Sk. Samsul Arefin  1000

   **Total RS.**  **13606**

2. **Expense (Head wise break up)**

   **2.1. Concession Train Ticket SDAH-NOQ (Sealdah to New Alipur Duar)**
   - PNR 610-1425450  795
   - PNR 620-1425766  318
   - PNR 630-1425318  954  **2067**

   **2.2. Concession Train Ticket NOQ-SDAH (New Alipur Duar to Sealdah)**
   - PNR 640-1425780  338
   - PNR 610-1425294  845
   - PNR 610-1425234  1014  **2197**

   **Total Accommodation, Jalpaiguri Zilla Parisad, Kamakshyaguri Dak Banglow (Reference Bill No: 996 Dated: 22.10.2011)**  **3300**

   **2.4. Total Fooding (figure supplied by the Field work Accountants: Prosenjit Biswas and Arjun Banik)**
   - 19.10.2011  196  **196**
### 2.5. Total Conveyance (figure supplied by the Field work Accountants: Prosenjit Biswas and Arjun Banik)

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### 2.6. Others

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<td>Zoo; Entry Fee</td>
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**Grand Total**

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<td>Balance/Excess expense</td>
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Head wise breakup of expense and percentage

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<td>Fooding</td>
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<td>Others</td>
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Map: Field Work Area (Jalpaiguri district)
Visual Documentation of Field Work

The Field Work Team: Standing: Left to Right: Dr. Sk. Makbul Islam, Arjun Banik (1st Year), Amit Patra (1st Year.), Souvik Chattopadhyay (2nd Year), Dr. Sujay Kumar Mandal, Avisek Mandal (2nd Year), Gulshan Ghosh (1st Year.), Prosenjit Biswas (2nd Year), Mozaffar Rahaman (1st Year); Sitting: Left to Right: Sk. Samsul Arefin (1st Year.), Partha Bhere (1st Year.), Biswajit Mandal (1st Year.), Dipankar Das (2nd Year)

The Mech Children
Dhannu Basumata (left);
Sohoni Narginari (Right)

Photo:
Sk. Makbul Islam
21.10.2011
“Generation”
The Mech Community
Photo: Sk. Makbul Islam (21.10.2011)

Sk. Makbul Islam with the Rabha children

Photo:
Amit Patra
20.10.2011
The Fishing Equipments (left) and the Musical Instruments of the Rabha Community
Photo: Sk. Makbul Islam (20.10.2011)

Traditional design of textile of the Mech Community
Photo: Sk. Makbul Islam (21.10.2011)