Exposure Visit: Titabar to Majuli

12th January 2018



The team from Titabar was scheduled to visit Majuli on 12 January, 2018. The team was led by Ananta Khanikar. The Majuli team joined them and first visited the Kamalabari LP School, where a meeting was arranged with the school staff. School Headmistress- Mrs Putumai Bora, Prasanta Bora- Assistant Teacher, Avijit Saikia, Deepali Bora and school president-Jibon Borua were also part of the meeting. A rain harvesting system was set up in the school. But the school staff were unaware of the functioning of this system and the benefits of this water compared to groundwater. The department had just set up the system and not provided the school staff information about this. When the team inspected the system, they found that the filter was blocked by dust. This filter was cleaned and the management staff was told about the maintenance of this system. The teachers were advised not to consume arsenic-affected tube-well water. A simple and temporary water treatment method was recommended for them using rain water. Caretakers of tube-wells having arsenic-free water were advised to share their water sources with others.



A visit was also paid to another Kamalabari LP School where a meeting was arranged with students, and a brief discussion was held about arsenic. 50 students participated in the meeting and many questions were answered about arsenic contamination and symptoms of arsenicosis. Headmistress Niru Bora, Assistant Teacher Lily Bora, Rita Devi, Pallabi Hazarika, Sangeeta Bora too were involved in the discussion. A similar water harvesting system was set up in this school too. The staff claimed that they use this water for all purposes other than drinking. This was because they were unsure if this water was safe to drink. The filter was cleaned in front of the staff, to give them further assurance of the quality of water. They were also told that the water was a cheap and safe source of drinking water.



In the evening the team also went to the river side, Batiyamari gaon, Khorahola, Sonaribari gaon and visited a few households there and checked the water.

The next day the team went to Vekulimari Gaon. On demand of the villagers of Vekulimari gaon they arranged an awareness meeting with the community. Khagen Saikia, Keshabram Saikia, Satyaranjan Hazarika, Liladhar Tamuli, Bhaben Kalita, Deben Kalita, Bup Kalita, Jitumoni Saikia, Rahul Saikia, Arun Bora and our team were present in the meeting. The villagers talked about the water related problems that they face and the various diseases the water is causing in them. The villagers were advised to use water from the river Tuni that flows nearby. It was suggested that a manual filter is set up near the river, which the community can use. The visit ended with trip to the cultivation field and checking the water sources there.