

Experiences during Padayatra 2003

- Men busy with their work all the year round – nowadays except for monsoons. There is work all the time – various bagans, aalu store
- No village level meetings were held. So me really did not know what it is about
- Teachers were the main communicators, they reach out more to the women, than men
- Teachers training just before the programme
- In some places in all Anchals guardians have helped in collection wherever there was meeting
- Teachers did not understand the issue properly
- Out of the women who joined the Padayatra, about 15% were mothers of our students
- This is also the time for *Karai Bagan*
- But in terms of food arrangements, function arrangements, men were very helpful. This shows that people are willing to come forward to help.
- For next time, we need to reduce the hours of walking. then many more people will join
- During collection RD met a man who (a SUCI party supporter) spoke to her for 45 minutes. His point was that it is useless to address the grassroots level. Things have to change from above
- RD: Collection really helps you to establish door to door contact. You talk about the issue, people come up with their domestic problems, illness. So you cant rush when you are doing collection.
- Pradip: At the Karanjali Mela, inspite of rain, there were thousands of people. This proved to us that people still have good taste.
- Ramgopalpur: all the schools we passed during the Padayatra, did a little flag hoisting ceremony.