

Tribal Exchange Programme under Media Action Plan

Introduction

Children in LWE affected areas do not have sufficient exposure to the world outside the LWE affected region, and the latest developments therein, owing to poor communication networks. These children have very limited or no access basic education, as a result of which they often easily fall prey to LWE cadres. These children are sometimes also forced or kidnapped into joining naxal groups. As a result of such instances, and in order to steer the vulnerable children in LWE affected regions in the right direction, as also to increase their awareness about the available opportunities, the LWE Division in collaboration with Nehru Yuva Vikas Kendra (NYKS) has initiated the Tribal Exchange Programme.

Intervention

In this programme implemented by NYKS, 2000 children aged 12-29 years, from naxal affected *zilas* are invited to metro cities for a period of seven days. These children are then provided exposure to the gamut of opportunities available there and to way of life in the city. The children who attend the programme participate in field visits. They are taken for industrial sector visits and visits to popular heritage sites. They also undergo capacity and skill building trainings and majority of the interactions take place in workshop mode. Post the completion of the visit, the district offices follow-up and prioritize their skill building, job opportunity, leadership training, etc. to ensure the sustainability of the programme.

Impact

This programme helps the participants in distant geographies understand and appreciate their country. They meet new people, indulge in cultural exchange as a result of which some direction is attained in terms of potential career prospects and goals before them. They also realize the importance and significance of their culture through it. It helps bring into focus the human face of the government before them and changes the perception of the community regarding armed forces and, to some extent, bridges the gap between them.

Source: MHA, LWE Division (2020)

Figure 6: Snapshots from activities conducted under Tribal Exchange Programme



Source: LWE Division, MHA