

My Thoughts on the Bengaluru Proposed Survey

- Chitra Sahasrabudhey (13 Jan 2024)

1. The title of the thinking about Survey proposal is 'Study of Lokavidya Samaj – The Rationale'. It seems to me that greater clarity is needed regarding the recognition / identification of the Lokavidya Samaj. Lokavidya Samaj is not the traditional / tradition-bound samaj. Nor is it merely the rural, or a caste-delineated samaj.
2. The conception of the Lokavidya Samaj is one, which can become repository of a transformative potential to liberate those who live by lokavidya from a pecuniary and dishonorable existence and to reconstruct their lives of as plentiful and honorable lives by building the network and organization needed to do that.
3. We have always seen this potential as residing in lokavidya. For the last 20-25 years we have exerted to build this network and the unity of Lokavidya Samaj by constructing lokavidya thought and Lokavidya Jan Andolan programs.
4. The purpose of a survey like the proposed one needs to be to gather together the knowledge and strengths of *samajs* making up the Lokavidya Samaj as well as to expose the paradigms constructed to exploit this knowledge and these strengths to the detriment of the Lokavidya Samaj
5. One can find innumerable examples of efforts to impose alien knowledge and systems of thought causing the deprivation of Lokavidya Samaj. In the industrial era a significant instance of this is the system of 'deliberately imposed labour'. In the same vein, should we not today view 'deliberately imposed (alien) knowledge' as a significant instrument of exploitation of those living by lokavidya?
6. The methods of survey should incorporate 'collective dialogue'.