

World Social Forum-2024 Kathmandu, Nepal, 15-19 February 2024

Lokavidya Jan Andolan (LJA) Workshop

Subject

Lokavidya: Knowledge base of another, new and better world

Location:

Day and Time:

Lokavidya Literature Stall Place:

Vision

Lokvidya Jan Andolan is the knowledge movement of the common people. People who have been declared ignorant by the educated, universities, science and modern state. It is a movement of their knowledge.

Most people believe that there is a sea of knowledge in the society outside the university. This ocean of knowledge is very wide and deep. There are many people who believe in the idea that people know that they are knowledgeable. Despite this, they and their knowledge are not respected in the society. Their knowledge has no economic value, so they are poor. Their knowledge has no respect in the public sphere, therefore they are marginalised. They do not have direct relations with public organizations, hence they are of no importance from the political point of view. Who are these people? These are the ordinary people. The entire farming community, artisans and tribal communities, street vendors, small shopkeepers, all kinds of service and repair workers, women, folk artists, etc., all these are ordinary people, who together create and re-create this ocean of knowledge outside the university.

The knowledge base of today's capitalist system lies in Modern Science. On the basis of this Science, a path has been made to take a few people towards prosperity by pushing the majority of people into poverty and doing so has become the reason for the destruction of the Nature.

To create another new and better world, there is a need for a movement that will rise and spread on the waves of the ocean of knowledge made by ordinary people. The movement for the dignity of the people who have created this ocean of knowledge is the *Lokvidya Jan Andolan (LJA)*. LJA calls for a large unity of the movements of the ordinary people on the basis of their knowledge. These are movements of farmers, artisans and adivasis, women and small retailers. They should come together on one platform. This will be a knowledge platform and the knowledge base for creating a new and better world lies in *lokavidya*. Such a claim will have to be presented from this knowledge platform. The way to create such a world free from war lies in the *lokavidya* approach.

About Lokavidya Jan Andolan (LJA)

The first convention of *Lokavidya Jan Andolan* was held at Vidya Ashram in Sarnath, Varanasi (India) in November 2011 and then regional conventions and conferences were held in Darbhanga, Singrauli, Indore, Multai, Nagpur, Sevagram, Mumbai, Hyderabad, Vijayawada, Bangalore etc. There are many publications of LJA which are available on Vidya Ashram's website www.vidyaashram.org

Since the Asia Social Forum held in India in Hyderabad (2003), discussions **on Lokavidya**, i.e. '**knowledge in society**' have been organized. LJA has been participating in the conferences of World Social Forum held in Mumbai (January 2004), Karachi (March 2006), Nairobi (January 2007) and Tunis (March 2015) and in India Social Forum Delhi (November 2006). In all these conferences one booklet for each (total 5) has been published, all of them are available on the Vidya Ashram website www.vidyaashram.org

Main submissions of Lokavidya Jan Andolan (LJA)

1. *Lokavidya* should have equal status to university knowledge.
2. Those doing *lokavidya* work should have the same income as government employees.
3. Every conflict, dispute and problem should be resolved through dialogue. The path of war and violence should be permanently rejected.

These ideas and programs based on the *lokavidya* point of view are the next steps in the fight against social inequality and the struggle for economic and social justice. Struggles on these issues not only pave the way for freedom from poverty, unemployment and illiteracy but also offer solutions to global economic and environmental crises.

Farmers, artisans, aadivasis, street vendors and small shopkeepers, folk artists, women and all kinds of service and repair workers run their families on the strength of their own knowledge. All these families should have the same income as that of a government employee or an organized sector employee. Governments should take the responsibility to provide this.

Lokavidya Jan Andolan (LJA), India

Main Secretariate: Vidya Ashram, Sarnath, Varanasi.

Website: www.vidyaashram.org

E-mail: vidyaashram@gmail.com

Contact

Harishchandra Kevat (9555744251)
haribhu222@gmail.com

Fazlurrahman Ansari (7905245553)
fazlurrahmana@gmail.com

What is Lokavidya?

Lokavidya is expressed mainly with the help of the following points.

1. The knowledge that people have in the society is called *lokavidya*.
2. *Lokavidya* resides in the society outside the colleges and universities.
3. People who don't go to university are not ignorant. They manage their lives by acquiring knowledge and wisdom from the society. They are masters of *lokavidya* and are often called *lokavidyadhar*.
4. *Lokavidya* is not traditional knowledge or local knowledge, nor is it limited to caste, village, religion or race.
5. *Lokavidya* resides in the society. It cannot be contained in any book, caste, religion, library, university or computer. It remains alive with the people and keeps developing through them.
6. *Lokavidya* is ever new. With their own and society's needs, people keep adding to *lokavidya* on the basis of their experience, experiments and their genius.
7. The sources of the strength of the society lie in *lokavidya*. On the basis of *lokavidya*, people not only earn their living but also build their relationships with nature and society.
8. Ordinary people's way of thinking, their values, methods of reasoning, ideas of organization, their relationships with each other and with the Nature and their world of information, skills, art and philosophy, all together create the world of knowledge, which is called *lokavidya*.
9. Farmers, artisans of all kinds, aadivasis, repair and service workers, small shopkeepers, folk artists, and women all acquire knowledge on their own from diverse sources and participate in the society on the basis of this knowledge. *Lokavidyadhar* together constitute the *lokavidya-samaj*.
10. *Lokavidya* does not separate labor and intelligence. In *lokavidya*, no work is thought of as done only by labour, but is seen as done through a combination of labor and knowledge. In other words, *lokavidya* does not consider a person doing 'manual' work as a mere labourer, but as a knowledgeable person. In *lokavidya* philosophy, every human being is knowledgeable and the dignity of his knowledge paves the way for making a better world.
11. The social and economic inequality prevalent in the society can be removed only when *lokavidya* gets equal respect and value as university knowledge gets.

Lokavidya Jan Andolan is a knowledge movement.

The goal is to win and secure equal status for

Lokavidya and lokavidya-samaj in the larger society.