

5-6 September 2018

During 5th and 6th September 2018, MASUM activists visited new areas of Shamsargunj block. On 5th September, the team visited various erosion affected municipal wards under Dhuliyān



Municipality. The affected populace did not receive any governmental compensation till date. A large section of erosion affected is engaged as bonded labour in bidi making industry. The team visited different villages of Nimtita Gram Panchayet (GP) under Shamsargunj Block. There are 23 Gram Sabhas under Nimtita GP, and out of this 23 Gram Sabhas, 7 are erosion affected. Gram Sabhas like Kamalpur, Durgapur I & II, Shibnagar, Ghusripara, Dhangora, Hiranandapur are still facing erosion. The team interacted with the victims of erosion. In Kamalpur village the

team saw that the river Padma eroding the grazing lands. Team also visited Raghunathgunj –II; another eroded block of Murshidabad District. GPs like Giria, Sekendra, Mithipur, Borshimul, Sommotinagar, Teghori, Sekhalipur are largely affected by erosion of river Padma. Till date the erosion affected not received any compensation, in all these places, village level meetings have been planned.

7th September 2018

A meeting with erosion affected was held at 38 Number Char Bin Para of Hanumanto Nagar GP under Shamsargunj block. Meeting was presided over by Haji Amjad Ali, a respected person of the area and donor of land for Char Binpara Primary School. The school was established in the year 1942 but shifted three consecutive times for erosion. Villagers opined that the torturous acts of Border Security Force (BSF) and restrictions to cultivate their own land are major day to day problems. Meeting taken resolution for a drive to submit mass application over the issues during the coming month

9th September

'AAMRA SIMANTOBASI, JALANGI' arranged meetings at Toltoli and Jamalpur villages respectively at 2 pm and 5 pm. Toltoli meeting was with low attendance but at Jamalpur attendance was encouraging, villagers discussed on different issues like PHE, Primary Health Centre, and Toilet etc. Decision was taken at the meeting that a household wise petition will be made to the authorities; and expense will be borne by the villagers themselves.



11th September

A meeting at Akherigunj, convened by Nazrul Islam at 3 pm has been organised. Members of women self-help group attended the meeting and presence was low. Affects of erosion and mobilization of villagers were the issues for discussion.

Under the banner of 'AMRA SIMANTOBASI' two meetings were organized in two new locations in Murshidabad district. Shamsargunj and Lalgola are two major blocks among ten eroded blocks of the district, where we arranged two meetings in the under-mentioned villages.

Kamalpur, Gram Panchayet -Nimtita, Block-Shamsargunj:

At 4 pm, 29th September, 2018 meeting was held at Durgapur Madhyamik Shikkha Kendra. 46



villagers from four Gram Sabhas (Durgapur, Kamalpur, Shibnagar, Dhanghora) under Nimtita Gram Panchayet attended and took part in the interaction. Meeting was presided over by Ex Teacher, Mr. Anwar Hussain Siddiqui of said school and largely participated by local activists. Md. Sahabuddin Khan newly elected GP member voiced for 'permanent solution' for erosion affects, like concrete structure beside the river coast. While Mr. Siraj Sekh advocates for resettlement of eroded populace, like flat allotment, distribution of

lands etc. Mr. Delwar Hussain, ex member of Panchayet Samiti emphasized on people's participation and mass movement to achieve the righteous demands. Mr. Alope Das, local activist urged for removal of Padma sediments and sustainable river embankment and stressed for corruption free civil works. Meeting ended by formation of a Amra Simantabasi committee.

Taranagar, GP-Bilbora Kopra, Block-Lalgola:

At 8.30 am on 30th September, 2018 a meeting was held beside a Mosque. Meeting was presided over by ex teacher Mr. Khairul Alam. Participants of this meeting are from adjoining two Gram Sabhas of Taranagar. Cauliflower is one of the main crops here, due to restriction (by BSF) to cultivate jute, maize, villagers have no other option. 'Send back BSF to Zero point' was their primary demand. Meeting ended with a resolution to submit a mass petition regarding the demand. A committee was also formed.

To sum up, people's enthusiasm in said two locations was encouraging and our (MASUM) presence in Murshidabad district's erosion affected blocks is improving.