



## **ARSENIC CONTAMINATION AT MURSHIDABAD DISTRICT: MASUM STARTS WORK WITH JADAVPUR UNIVERSITY**

MASUM organized a training session on 3rd July 2017 at MASUM office. The issue of the session was water contamination; especially arsenic contamination at Murshidabad district. (Prof) Dr. Tarit Roychoudhury; Director of School of Environmental Studies; Jadavpur University was the resource person. The Indo-Bangladesh bordering area of Murshidabad district; West Bengal only replicates the all India scenario of marginalization with more pathetic situation.

The populace under constant threat of physical torture, extra judicial killings and custodial violence; further grieved with constant soil erosion by river Padma and resulted homelessness, loss of employment (livelihood), enforced migration in search of two square meals, involvement in illegal activities, malnutrition, starvation like situation and few actual hunger deaths. There are thousands of wretched countrymen in this part who have either being rotted with their poverty or dying in starvation, being devoid of any food, nutrition or medical treatment.

The causes of their marginalization are manifold. Sometimes it happens to be topographical, natural disasters or changes in their earning status. In some places it is liable for eviction in places without rehabilitation and apathy of the vested interests towards them. But in most cases they are being victimized by the Government and administrative inaction, callousness of the government officials and a general apathy to do rightful duties towards the ill-fated people.

In this given situation, primary information shows that the majority of the people are forced to consume contaminated water and sufferings in last extent. Arsenic contamination has been taken a disastrous proportion. MASUM brought the volunteers to impart information about the actual reasons of contamination, water testing methodology and participatory action to pose a demand before the administration for safe water. The volunteers decided to collect water from public utilities (drinking water sources) for arsenic testing and after the findings of collected water further actions will be planned.