

## **Department of Geography, Gogamukh College 04/01/2018:-**

### **Report on “Field trip cum Educational tour to Ledu-Tipong & Tirap colliery coal mine, Margherita”**

#### **Introductions and Study area :-**

On 4th November, 2017, the 5th semester students of Department of Geography arranged a field study tour to Ledu-Tipong & Tirap colliery coal mine, Margherita to fulfill the requirements of their practical paper. Coal mining in Assam was started as early as in 1882 at Ledu (Makum) when Assam Railway & Trading Company was laying a metre gauge railway line in that region. The Ledu (Makum) coalfield is located in Margherita of Tinsukia district, Assam. It covered an area of about 100 sq. km. with total reserve of 280.69 million ton estimated by the North Eastern Coal India Ltd. It is the largest Tertiary coalfield in India and consists of two open cast (Tikak and Tirap) and three underground (Baragolai, Ledo, and Tipong) coal mines.

#### **Objective:-**

- To understand the various economic activities, working methods and employment practices.
- To learn practically through interaction with mining process and industrial activities.
- To familiar with the Socio-economic conditions of the people living in mining area.

#### **Methodology:-**

Relevant information was collected by personnel interview from the office of North Eastern Coal India Ltd and other officials and engineer of coal mine authority. Field visits were made to Ledu- tipong and Tirap colliery to get first hand impression and observation of the coal mines. To fulfill the objectives of the study both primary and secondary data has been collected.

#### **Observation:-**

- It has a disastrous impact on the environment and ecology of the region.
- Air, water and Soil pollution were commonly observed near the coal miners.
- The coal mafias are illegally extracting the coal with the locals from adjacent villages and migrant day laborers.
- Due to unabated illegal mining (rat-hole mining) it has been causing extensive damage to the entire biodiversity of the region.
- Class division of the society was easily observed as poor and backward classes were struggling for their survival and right. Those who were not able to get their basic needs they were practicing crimes and illegal activity.

#### **Outcome:-**

Students were able to familiar with the mining process and industrial activities. They were able to relate their bookish knowledge to ground reality. It gives the students' an exposure to learn mining methods and employment practices in the mining site. They observed how society and environment were adversely affected by the coal mining. By visiting Coal heritage park and museum of Margherita

they get knowledge of history and glory of North Eastern Coalfields and Coal Mining at Ledu (Makum), Margherita, Assam.

**Photo gallery:-**

