

# Tapping into creative skills of students

## Ganjam schools hold writing workshops to promote literature

STAFF REPORTER  
BERHAMPUR

Literary meets are no longer the prerogative of elders in Odisha's Ganjam district. Special literary festivals for schoolchildren are now being held all over the district.

The literary meets for school students are an extension of the innovative library movement, 'Drop Everything and Read (DEAR)', launched in the district more than two years ago. These literary meets have been dubbed 'Sishu Galpa O Kabita Pathotsav (Children's story and poetry festival)'.

Ganjam District Education Officer Sanatan Panda said a decision has been taken to hold literary festivals for students at the school, cluster, block and district level.

As part of the experimental project, student representatives from all high schools in Berhampur



Children participating in 'Sishu Galpa O Kabita Pathotsav' at the V. V. Giri Government Girls High School in Berhampur. ■  
LINGARAJ PANDA

city took part in a literary meet at the V. V. Giri Government Girls' High School on April 12. On April 13, a similar event was held at Chatrapur. Over the next few days another literary meet will be organised at Bhanjanagar.

Young writers chosen from these meets will take part in a creative writing workshop that would be at-

tended by well-known authors of children's literature in Odisha, said Mr. Panda.

Groundwork for the project was prepared through DEAR. Under the project, classrooms were converted into small libraries with books contributed from schools as well as students. Special classes are held where students and teach-

ers leave behind their regular study material and read other books in the library. This has led to the production of handwritten class magazines by students.

Enthusied by the response, authorities in the education department are promoting creative skills of students by organising special story-telling sessions. During the morning assemblies in schools, students are encouraged to tell a small story every day. It enhances the interest of children in literature and increases their self-confidence, said the DEO.

In these festivals, participants can read their own works or reproduce writings of famous authors with their own critical analysis. "This increases confidence, creativity and analytical skills. It has had an impact on the writing skill of students," said teacher Sankar Narayan Beja.