

Report

115

291

A Report on the contact Programme held from 3-9-96
to 5-9-96 in connection with the study of the Jarawa language

This was my first participation in the contact programme as a part of the Pilot project. I had participated once earlier in 1994/95 as a member of the general contact team. Both had certain things in common though our present trip had a certain uniqueness when compared to the earlier trips as we were taking back with us the Jarawa boy, Enmen to join him with his people. This is to report the events and my observations on the same.

In general the events on 4th and 5th occurred in the usual pattern. On the 4th when we were approaching the shore in our boat taking Enmen with us the Jarawas had gathered on the shore ready to swarm on to the boat and grab whatever they can, of the gifts we were carrying with us. When we went nearby they came on. However, some of them noticed Enmen on the boat and perhaps recognized him. Therefore, while many were scrambling for their grabs, some of them collected around Enmen and were physically touching and feeling him without talking anything. Enmen's father and mother had also joined them. This ~~took~~ continued for some time. Then one of them, perhaps Enmen's father took Enmen on his shoulders and slowly carried him to the bank. They were surrounded by many others, perhaps, Enmen's relatives. On the shore Enmen's father was found sitting with Enmen on his lap and the other people were sitting around them and touching and feeling Enmen as if to confirm and be convinced that he was living in flesh and blood. It was a moving scene. Enmen was away from them for almost six months and they did not know what had happened to ~~them~~ him. They might have considered him dead and gone. Or did they, we have to find out.

At up in 8-5

ugh
22/10

PA.