

PANCHU'S STORY

It was another school day; Thursday, September 24, 2009. Panchu left his village Srilijhujadi for a 5 kilometer forest walk to his Sapeli Primary School where he



learns in Class II in his language Kui. Sapeli school is an MLE Plus school. Four other friends join Panchu for the usual walk and they move on as the seven-year-old Panchu slows down a bit. His friends turn back to his sudden scream and, to their horror, find Panchu being dragged by a prowling heyna and struggling hard to survive. His friends do not run away and give chase pelting stones at the heinous animal and shouting for help. Deterred by their persistent chase and Panchu's forceful fight, the heyna yields and flees leaving behind the bleeding prey. Soon some villagers gather and after initial care Panchu is taken by his father Kundul Majhi, mother Raja Majhi and other villagers to the hospital in Tumudibandha, Kandhamal District, Orissa. He undergoes treatment and gradually recovers in a few days. Panchu's is shaken by this dreadful experience, but he musters courage to return to his school. Swara commends and admires Panchu's bravery, his determination and wishes him complete recovery.