

**PEOPLE'S CULTURAL CENTRE
(PECUC)**



**Annual report
2010-11**

**PEOPLE'S CULTURAL CENTRE (PECUC)
HIG A/30, LINGARAJ VIHAR
POKHARIPUT
BHUBANESWAR-751020
ODISHA**

FOREWORD

The overriding theme of PECUC has been inclusive growth. One of the crucial instruments for achieving this was support from partner agencies. In order to achieve optimum outcomes in terms of balanced development with convergence of resources and enforcement of inter-sectoral priorities, PECUC seeks to improve the process of service delivery and the overall objective of inclusive growth and empowerment of communities in selected few districts of Orissa.

The systems functioning in a top-down manner tend to lose out on significant amounts of local expertise and information. PECUC has made efforts to ensure optimum utilization of the local wealth of knowledge and expertise, and at the same time hone the existing skills of community, in order to capacitate them become self reliant.

PECUC works incessantly in the areas of promoting and capacitating Women Self Help Groups and make them the catalysts of change. Realization of the fact that Women and Children are rendered the most vulnerable in any situation of distress, Right based issues of Women and Children takes the utmost significance. Rights issues of Children related to education in particular and Child rights in general have formed the core of PECUC's interventions.

Aged population is yet another vulnerable group Elder Self help Groups is an innovative approach initiated in the project area. Health, Education and livelihood related interventions are a multi tier approach of looking at today and creating opportunities for a better tomorrow.

PECUC has strategized its interventions around the indicators of Eleventh Plan and Millennium Development Goals. Our interventions focus to alleviate poverty and raise health and nutrition levels of children, synchronising with the MDG goal No. 1. Universalising Education and improving the quality of education corresponds to the MDG goal No. 2. Health interventions and synergy with Governments Health Program compliment the efforts of reducing Infant and Maternal Mortality, which are the biggest MDG challenge in the country. Our Efforts to prevent and stop the spread of Malaria feeds into the MDG goals as well. In short, PECUC has made its effort in complementing the efforts of Government through its programmatic interventions and also taken to advocacy measures aiming at improvement in services and proposing changes in policy, thereby doing People and Policy centred advocacy as well.

I take this opportunity to thank our partners in development Save the Children, Unicef, TDH (G) & BMZ, TDH (G) AEI, DIK, The Hunger Project, Help Age India, Government Departments especially Education, Labour., Health, Women and Child Development, Department of Agriculture, Department of Rural Development, Department of SC AND ST Corporation, Department of Revenue and not to forget the beautiful people of Orissa to have accepted us a part of their family and allowing us with a congenial and homely atmosphere to work with and learn from.

The vehicle to transport PECUC's goods to be delivered in communities, our field level works and office staff cannot be left without a special mention. Without their incessant and untiring hard work, PECUC would be just a body of thoughts, and we all understand, good thoughts without proper translation into action will have no value in the context of Orissa.

I must thank the Executive board and the General Body who have been a constant guiding force and source of our inspiration. Without the food for thought, aptly served by them at appropriate times, PECUC would have lost the edge.

Last but the most important, I convey my heartfelt appreciation to the fraternity of voluntary organization operating in Orissa for being mentors and advisors to the growth and development of our state. I am sure, our tireless efforts will one day yield results and Orissa would be a true representation of what inclusive development means.

Ranjan Mohanty
Secretary
People's Cultural Centre

People's Cultural Centre (PECUC)

With an aim to realise the dream of a just society through the rights based approach, People's Cultural Centre attained its legal entity in the year 1990. PECUC has undertaken numerous developmental works in rural as well as urban areas of the state incessantly, with prime focus of interventions revolving around people's rights. Since its inception, PECUC has laid its focus on mainstreaming of underprivileged sections of the society. The strategic plan led to identification of issues of utmost priority with cross cutting themes forming the backdrop and basis of PECUC's work.

Core Issues

- Child Rights promotion and protection
- Livelihood and Household Food Security
- Rights of the Aged
- Deepening Democracy
- Community Health Management
- Emergency Management

In dealing with these issues, Human Rights, Gender Justice remain the cross cutting themes across all levels of programming and interventions.

Vision :-

"Another world in which peace, Justice and equality prevails. Individuals and communities live in dignity and harmony respecting cultural and natural diversity. A world in which people participate and have say in their social and economic well being, prosperity and exercise their rights to a life of dignity".

Mission :-

"Our mission is to empower and enable people especially children, women, the aged and other disadvantaged in society, to participate powerfully in their overall development. Our mission is to create and strengthen people's institutions that sustain, promote and fulfil their development needs and rights to a life of dignity."

The year 2010-11 has been significant for PECUC. Apart from the activities aimed at promotion of Child Rights, Women Empowerment, and Rights of the Aged, Livelihood, and Governance etc. PECUC has made quantum leaps in terms of People and Media centred Advocacy aiming for amendments in existing policies and formulation of new legislations. Thankfully, Orissa has seen no major calamity but that has not deterred organization's initiatives of disaster preparedness.

PECUC has always nurtured innovations that are replicable models. Child Friendly shelter as a part of disaster preparedness, to be used in emergency situations has been receiving good response. Similarly, the concept of Child Centred Hunger Free villages as a concept, aims to realise the vision of a village from child's perspective where all rights of the children are realised whether it is right to education, health, food etc. This project is being piloted in 8 villages and the initial results have been very encouraging. Our incessant support to realise the right to education attains primary focus and PECUC is committed to leave no stones unturned in ensuring rights of the children. Dialogue with Government based on the findings from field to push advocacy efforts has been taken up on a continuous basis.

Mahila Adhikaar Samukhya, an Alliance and a Federation of Women Self Help Groups and Women panchayat Members has been a tremendous effort to bring the women leadership to forefront and push for self realised development needs. Income Generation Program for the aged besides advocacy effort with the government on different forums to ensure old Age Friendly Policies is being taken very positively, both by the community as well as service providers. The project also aims to infuse a sense of ownership among the youth towards aged of the village and ensuring proper care to them.

PECUC's has its operations in the districts of Keonjhar, Khurda, Balasore, Kendrapara and Cuttack. Organization's initiatives in Policy Research and Advocacy are aimed at positive changes at state as well as national level.

KEONJHAR UNIT

Stronger Voice to Excluded Children (SVEC) project, supported by Save the Children Fund has been yielding tremendous support and participation. Revisiting the Exclusion Mapping with help of Sisu Sabha members led in identification of 88 children who were excluded from the benefits of education, including 43 boys and 45 girls. The Child Protection Committee (CPC) members have been working around these children and while many of these children have been mainstreamed into education system, remaining are being worked upon.

The Idea of having suggestion boxes in villages has kept the field workers on their toes. A total of 4132 suggestions dropped in and 256 suggestions were related to rescue and rehabilitation of children employed in various worksites. 159 suggestions indicated caste based discrimination apart from 45 exclusive reports in Caste based discrimination in schools. This indicates the breaking of “culture of silence” by the oppressed. There were numerous other suggestions related to service delivery failures by the Government functionaries, taking help of SHGs in creating inclusive environment etc



Awareness generation activities were taken up during the village meetings, camps, melas and while observing special days. Significant issues pertaining to issues prevalent in the area were discussed like Children's right to free and compulsory education act 2009, Child labour prohibition and regulation act, MNREGA, Old age and widow pension and other schemes and programmes. On the Occasion of World Day against Child Labour (12th June) a week long campaign against child labour was organised. During the week long campaign village level meetings, Village level Art Exhibition, GP level Art Exhibition & Block level Art Exhibition were organized eliciting active participation from the villagers.

Child Protection Committee (CPC) has a pivotal role to play in achieving the program objectives. Regular meetings of the CPC members are held and it serves as a forum to exchange experiences and derive learning from others while complementing each other's effort.

Awareness programs aiming to sensitize villagers of Right to Education were organised in all 30 program villages while Sisu Sabha members staged street plays in villages over the same issue. Global Hand Washing Day and Child Rights week were also observed in the program area where the sisu sabha members organised thematic street plays on Child protection and social exclusion.

As a part of advocacy and training effort two days district level training on child rights was organized at Keonjhar in September 2010 for Govt. Officials, CWC

Sisu Sabha members attended the mandatory Gram Sabha held on 14th November and raised issues pertaining to children. Some of the key issues raised were –

- Problems related to teaching
- Lack of adequate infrastructure in schools
- Delay in supply of free text books
- Unavailability of safe drinking water
- Demand for additional classrooms
- Lack of play ground in school
- Problem of child labour in village
- Most Important – Demand for place of children in school Management Committee

Before the Gram Sabha's started, Sisu Sabha members organised street plays in 5 Gram Panchayat head quarters to create awareness regarding RTE among PRI members

As an outcome of the training, CPC and Child Club members took initiative and got 5 drop out children readmitted in school despite the initial resistance of school authorities and rescued a child labour and also got him admitted in school.

including, Project Staff and VEC members. The participants were informed on UNCRC, Protection Rights of Children, RTE Act and its provisions, Role and responsibilities of CWC, Role of CWC & District Welfare Board to ensure Child Rights, legal steps in rescuing child labour, Networking system of Child Protection Committees, Role of different stake holders to ensure Educational Rights of the Children and Role of Media to high light the exclusion issues and create an inclusive environment for that children.

Similarly a two days district level orientation on social exclusion and children was organized at Keonjhar from 21st December 2001 to 22nd December 2010. A total 70 participants from project area participated. Dr. Bipin Bihari Mohapatra, Academician and Dr Bimbardhar Behera was the resource person in the two days orientation programme around the issues of Orientation on Social Exclusion, Understanding Child Rights and Child Protection issues and mechanisms followed by Group work on understanding Child, Child Rights, Social Exclusion etc.



Formation and strengthening of child groups like Sisu Sabha, Sisu panchayat, Sisu Mahasabha were taken up. The children have come forward for the cause and the Khireitangiree Sishu Panchayat Submitted a Memorandum to Sarapanch of Khireitangiree, BDO & Chairman of Patna Block to make Khireitangiree free from Child Labour.

Identification and capacity building of community members among socially excluded sections was taken up to facilitate awareness and access to various schemes of the Government. Members of the excluded community were imparted trainings on Social Security and poverty alleviation schemes.

PECUC took the initiative of facilitating interaction between Children's organizations and duty bearers at bodies of local self governance at district, state and national level. Realising the important role that media can play in sensitizing the society on these issues, sensitization program for media representatives leading to formation of a network of core group to focus on social exclusion was also taken up. The media representatives supported organization in conducting Child Reporter's training which led to the publication of "Bole Hunti" – children's magazine. The cases identified and reported by these children have been published in various leading news papers.



Poverty Reduction in Orissa project aims at Poverty reduction of 1108 households & an additional 114 families selected from eight villages of the district Keonjhar in the State of Orissa supported by TDH[G]-IP-BMZ. The projects works around the specific objectives of –

- Enhancing of food security of 1108 households through augmentation of the agricultural production capability
- Organizing 793 Landless women through Self help groups and capacitating them to generate additional household income
- Safeguarding the access to clean drinking water.
- Reduction of diseases and wound infections through pathogenic germs
- Offer good quality primary education to 643 children from marginalized families and ensure their success in school

Important linkages in many programmes have been established which would ensure sustainability owing to community participation. Farmers could source 68 MO POKHARI (Farm ponds) in 5 Project villages. 130 persons including 82 males and 48 females from 8 programme villages have demanded and got work under MNREGS. 38 persons from Kalighai have could obtain land patta. In Rohiniduma village, a child who has lost leg while playing in the school campus has received artificial limb. The DM and collector, Keonjhar released the PDS card of 7 families of village Kalighai, earlier seized by the Sarpanch with personal vengeance. Child rights issues were adequately highlighted by PECUC before media, Department of School and Mass Education, in presence of Hon. Education minister, Secretary, Department of Education, Director SCERT and Director, child rights networks were also present. PECUC has played significant advocacy role to influence achievements and significant decisions taken by Government.



231 farmers have been provided or directly linked with better irrigation facilities like gabion structures, surface ponds, bore wells, injection wells. Ongoing trainings to farmers is expected to result increase in agricultural yield from next year onwards. With the provisioning of better irrigation facilities resulting



in a significant increase in the total irrigated land, the villagers, broke the norms of single cropping and are taking multi crops resulting in rise of family income significantly. Vegetable cropping has been adopted by many families and training on compost pits to make good quality manure has boosted their efforts as well as produce and income.

40 seed banks are functional in the project villages and provide necessary support to the needy villagers while 40 Grain Banks also exist to render support when required. 40 committees involving 212 farmers have been formed in 5 project

villages. 40 seed banks, storage bins, weighing machines with appropriate weight measurement units, and display boards are in place. Vegetable and Paddy seeds are provided to needy farmers through seed banks. 145 quintals of paddy seeds were provided to seed banks from PECUC, to begin with and help out the farmers. 56 farmers have benefitted with vegetable seeds like potato, bitter melon, ladyfinger, brinjal, beans, tomato, cucumber, onion, ridge gourd, sunflower and cow peas. 22.5 acres of land has been taken under cultivation of vegetable crops at 4 sites in 3 villages. 2000 posters elaborating the benefits and processes related with compost pits have been published for the benefit and adoption by farmers.

1000 books named *Krushi Suchana* (information on agriculture) have been published for the benefit of farmers. 21 farmers from the village Kumulabahali developed the new adopted concept of SRI (system of Rice Intensification) and 8 farmers have showed their interest to introduce SRI in their fields. 1.5 Acre of land is demonstrated under SRI near the newly constructed surface pond at Dahigoda hamlet of Kumulabahali village serving as demonstrable model. All the farmers have realized the difference between Bio-Fertilizer and Chemical fertilizer..



499 women belonging to 42 SHGs have been directly supported with income augmentation programme of animal husbandry and 32 landless families with carp breeding activities. The groups engaged in goat, sheep and pig rearing are yet to begin selling of livestock but, have second generation livestock with 66 baby goats with monetary value of over 50,000 Rupees, 33 sheep calves and 33 piglets' worth over 20,000 and 18,000 Rupees respectively. 11 SHGs supported with poultry chicks have already started earning from sale of meat and eggs. By the end of 2010, each member had earnings of 3,000/- INR from the sale and had domestic consumption of the value of 5,300 Rupees per family.

With the construction of new tube wells and taking up repairs of the defunct ones, safe drinking water has ensured to over 80% of the families in the targeted 8 villages.

In the project villages', emphasis was laid on strengthening the village health committee and creating awareness in the community health issues. Two aspects taken on priority basis are – implementation of NRHM to ensure total immunization and institutionalization delivery and secondly being to control of malaria. By the end of the second year significant results have been achieved in both the area. Out of 122 pregnant women during the period 112 have got institutional delivery done and 102 completed their ante – natal care check up schedule complete. Secondly, no malaria deaths were reported in the project area due to improved practices. As compared to 9 malaria deaths reported in the previous year, the number has been significantly reduced to zero. . The Gaon Kalyan Samiti's formed to look into health related matters of village were almost defunct but after the project intervention and strengthening, the GKS are fully functional in all the project villages. Better coordination has developed at the village level where Anganwadi Workers, ANM and ASHA are helping organise health camps and intervening at required places.



Enrolment of children in the schools has seen a remarkable improvement. However, analysis of data from school records would be taken up in the present academic year to arrive at a conclusion.



To achieve the results various measures were employed based on the situation and demand like Lobbying through village level meetings, meetings

The School Education committee has been utilizing funds for maintenance of school and supply of essential items besides the major achievement of making the Kalighai School functional. Earlier, the school had only one teacher and the school was almost dysfunctional. The SECs at many schools have decided to include children in the committee who would give suggestions for improvement in school functioning and overall management and monitoring also. **The effort of SEC in enrolling and ensuring regularity of each child of the village, has led to declaring Kalighai as a "Child Labour Free Village"**

The SECs are taking up repair and maintenance of schools through school funds and have been successful in leveraging funds from panchayats also. Sports equipment, library books, learning aids, first aid kit etc are being provisioned through SECs in the schools. The SEC has started to find its role beyond the conventional norms and at several places have filed applications with Block Development Officer for appointment of more teachers to address the appropriate Student Teacher Ratio and ensuring quality education to children.

with government officials, local bodies and community based organizations. To improve the Agricultural production measures enhance the fertility of soil, construction of Gabion Structure, manufacturing and use of organic fertilizers, vermin compost pits and capacity building of farmers on cultivation, information on agriculture and promotion of farmer's cooperative were taken up. Digging of surface ponds, irrigation wells and injection wells and bore wells were also adopted.

In a bid to provide safe drinking water to the villagers as a matter of right and also from the point of reducing water borne diseases, 8 tube wells have been dug in the project area. The criteria for site selection was purely guided by approach of addressing exclusion and these tube wells have been dug in excluded pockets of the village. Earlier, the villagers were using "chuan" for drinking water requirement, which is unsafe and in most probability highly contaminated too. Trainings have been given to villagers for repairing of defunct hand pumps and 28 hand pumps have been repaired and made functional again. Apart from taking up repairs in the project area, these trained villages take up repair works wherever the need arises. The earlier practice of complaining to Government departments and long period of waiting has been done away with and villages have become self reliant in this aspect of life. The new tube wells are being dug and soak pits are also being constructed along with the tube wells. , it is planned to use the waste water of the soak pits in raising kitchen garden, adjacent to the soak pits by which the waste water can be managed and reutilized

Rasmi Naik is a five years old girl. Her father Madhab Naik is a Daily labor who works hard to make the ends meet while her mother Bharti Naik is a home maker. Rasmi is an active child and regularly attends the Anganwadi Center and avails benefit of the Supplementary Nutrition provided at Anganwadi and also takes active interest in Preschool Education imparted there. However, this was not the case few months back.

Few months back, our VFW noticed Rasmi's continued absence from Anganwadi Center and paid a home visit to find that Rasmi was suffering from fever. The VFW advised her parents to take Rasmi to Primary Health Center at Dumaria for better treatment. Rasmi's fever reoccurred and persisted despite the treatment at PHC. Her father could not afford her further treatment and appeared helpless.

The VFW raised Rasmi's issue in the Gaon Kalyan Samiti's meeting and the members there, agreed to help Rasmi out. The VFW along with Anganwadi Worker and ANM visited her house again and took her blood sample for testing. Rasmi was tested negative for Malaria. When our project Doctor, Dr. Sujit Pradhan learnt about Rasmi's case, he advised her to be taken to Patna CHC for further tests. The test results revealed bile in the urine and Bill Rubin in blood. Dr. Sujit Pradhan diagnosed Rasmi for Jaundice. Apart from Medicines, Rasmi was advised to take oil and salt free boiled vegetables and complete rest for 15 days. Rasmi's health started improving with the right medicines and appropriate food intake and Rasmi's condition got cured. The Gaon Kalyan Samiti members paid Rs. 250 for Rasmi's treatment.

It was the vigilant eyes of our FEW to have noticed regular absence of Rasmi and immediate action which brought Rasmi to the focus of Gaon Kalyan Samiti. Timely intervention and however small financial help given by GKS and support of village level service providers helped Rasmi, get back the smile on her face.

Income generation initiatives were also employed for landless families, providing them support for animal farming (goatery, piggery, poultry and sheep). To give a boost to the health and well being of people, health campaign was also taken up. Gaon Kalyan Samities were formed and their capacity building was taken up. Training to traditional midwives (dai's) was provided to prevent the occurrence of maternal deaths. Topics like immunization, balanced diet, adolescent health and hygiene, changes during adolescence, STI / RTI, HIV, Medical termination of Pregnancy, family planning and child marriages were covered. Two health camps in each project village were also organized apart from a mega health camp at Bhimkund on the eve of Makar Sankranti. School health camps and Malaria camps have also been organized in the project area. Repairs of existing tube well apart from construction of new along with soak pits have been taken up to provide clean and safe drinking water.

Development program for children have received special focus in the project area. Meeting of the education committees and their continuous training on

human rights, rights of women, child rights, UNCRC, Right to Education, Orissa RCFCE rule 2010, roles and responsibility of school education committee, school development plan etc is taken up. In order to establish participatory school monitoring, sensitization of school committee members on Child Led Indicators and installation of suggestion box is done. The students regularly drop their suggestions in the suggestion box regarding their dream school and a safe and secure environment within the school and the village. The suggestion box is opened in the



presence of Suggestion Box Committee comprising of members of PTA, School Headmaster, CPC President, School Committee members and one student's representative on a designated day.

In order to reduce the drop-out rates in the school, learning materials support was provided to schools in the project area. Materials distributed were- steel almirah, play materials, iron stand, laboratory materials, books, first aid box and water filters. Aid was also given to improve school infrastructure like repairing of Roof and doors and windows, Installation of tube well on the open well for drinking water purpose, Construction of school gate, Slide and green fence, Ramps, Barbed wire boundary, etc.

Children and the School Education Committee in the project are initiated setting up of Child led Indicators in defining the school as per children's needs. Suggestion boxes were put in the schools and each child was encouraged to put suggestions. This led to developing and institutionalizing of a good practice besides setting up of indicators for the school around which the schools performance and achievement would be measured.

Each school in the project area now has a set of Child Led Indicators. The school Management committee monitors the progress of schools around these indicators

There are 8 Sisu Sabha's (Child Rights Team) in all 8 project villages that meets on a regular basis and discusses pertinent issues. The Children in groups are active protagonists of their rights. They play a significant role of maintaining CEMIS (Community based Education Management and Information System) at their village level with the help of Child Rights protection Committee. The CRPC members are active and aware of child rights situation in their respective villages. Their prime agenda is education of all children in their villages, regularizing school, observing important days related to children, eradication of child labour and also support the Sisu Sabha members in maintaining CEMIS for their respective villages.

Activities like wall magazine, street rallies, puppet shows, regular meeting and interaction with villagers, observing Child Rights Week etc are few more important activities that have helped boosting the results in project area.

Villages in the project area have for long been struggling to overcome the issue of food security round the year. As on today, the food security situation has been strengthened and intensified with a lot of agricultural inputs, promotion of IGP and adoption of off farm activities. With all these inputs the food security situation has improved, but still, there is more ground to be covered and organization is in the lookout for various means to strengthen and ensure round the year food security of villagers.

On 14th July 2010, a one day training on SRI(System of Rice Intensification) was organized in which 21 farmers from the said village participated. The training was facilitated by the resource person from Krishi Vigyan Kendra.

The farmers under went the training programme and developed interest in it. The members of Alok Farmers committee took a decision to introduce the method in the field and 1.5 acres of land was cultivated under SRI, as learnt in the training programme.

Even at the time of sowing paddy plants, farmers were little apprehensive about the results. To each one's surprise, within one month their apprehension turned into joy looking at the way paddy crop was coming up. The farmers saw a ray of hope with SRI.

With the use of SRI technique, per acre yield has gone up from 5 quintals to 13 quintals and this new technique costs less in terms of fertilizers use and labor cost.

This was for the first time that SRI process was adopted and no one imagined such good results. The farmers are enthusiastic about SRI are and are all set to adopt the same in their respective feilds.

The farmers are happy enough and regularity visiting the demonstration field for follow up and the field has become a demonstration site in the true sense.

PECUC has taken initiative for **promotion of education and the health** for children in Patana Block of Keonjhar District supported by DIK, Germany. The project aims to

- To create opportunity for all the children in the 20 villages for education, recreation, access to health and develop creativity, explore full potential of children through Sradha Abhijan
- To advocate for education & other child rights issues
- To capacitate parents through self-help promotion
- To make the governance system responsive towards education, health and child rights issues.
- To build an environment for healthy children.
- To promote & strengthen village level institutions and empower them to take the issues further.



“Sradha Bhawan” is a special initiative of motivational centre for children. It is meant to provide educational and social opportunities to deprived children of Patana block of Keonjhar district. These centres create positive and healthy atmosphere for the non-school going and dropout children and aims to mainstream them. Shradha Bhawans also provide support to the school going children by providing an additional platform for them to develop. This collective initiative with sincere and regular efforts of Multi Purpose Volunteers, students, parents and community members as a whole make it possible to assure a joyful learning process for the Children. Shradha Bhawan provides educational support to the children as well as teaches them life skills.

20 Shradha Bhavans spread in villages has enrolled 606 students, majority of them belonging to deprived and excluded Scheduled Caste and scheduled Tribe communities. What makes Sharadha Bhawans a success story is the community support. Parents of the children realise importance of proper guidance to children and against the popular belief, have altered their spending pattern and make investments in educating their children. The Self Help Groups operational in villages also make generous help to Shradha Bhawans and keep providing necessary items for efficient functioning of the same. As a result of initiative of Shradha Bhawans, a total of 152 children have been enrolled in formal schools operating in the project area. More interesting is the fact that Girls’ admission in formal schools is higher than that of boys.

Multi Purpose Volunteer has been a remarkable strategy to supplement quality education. Besides their assignment in Shradha Bhawans, the voluntarily provide 2 hours service every day to formal schools operational in or neighbouring



project area and assist the children in process of learning. They substitute for a teacher not present on a particular day and joyful learning methods like songs, dance and activities to teach the children. Prime responsibility of these MPVs is to improve retention rates in school and promote joyful learning processes.

It is always preferred to have local leadership collective take charge of the development of their own community. In a bid to do the same, initiatives have been aimed at strengthening of different committees operational in the village. Village education committees receive special attention as they look after the regular and efficient functioning of Multi Purpose Volunteers and also Shradha Bhawans. PTAs

and MTAs also receive a special attention as they work as a vigilant group and also provide required support in functioning of schools.

The Sisu Sabhas functioning in 20 villages focus on increasing attendance in Sharadha Bhawans and formal schools while making efforts and creating awareness on Child Rights and prevention of Child Labour. Uniqueness of Sisu Sabha operational in the project area also lies in the fact that the children also focus on social evils like alcoholism besides incessant work on health care and immunization. The Sisu Sabha not only discuss their own problem and seek solutions but also discuss and make themselves involved in the solving process of village problems, create awareness for the formation of child clubs and women Self Help Groups for economic mainstreaming of mothers and organize cultural

Development initiative of any nature have mostly succeeded due to support from external agency, be it Governments fund or funding provided by donors. The 20 villages under the project have come initiated a **Village Education Fund** called Siksha Bikash Panthi in local language. Village Education Fund is raised out of the donations of the community members with the active participation and contribution of VEC members. Exclusive bank account is maintained for each village and all VEF’s have a collective saving of over 25000 Rupees.

Success of the initiative is not in the amount saved and utilized for education but in the fact that villagers realize importance of education to the extent that they have brought a necessary change in their spending pattern and have started provisioning for education of their children and other children in the village too.

programs. Children are taking active part in village meetings. The children of the entire child clubs participated in the Gram Sabhas organized on the issue of Right to Education Act-2009. They also take initiatives in counselling the parents and bringing the drop out children to the Shradha Bhawan and mainstream primary education

The project is also making efforts to bring about the leadership qualities in the children and create Child Leaders in the villages. Children would play a key role in identifying issues and raising voice to overcome their own problems and those of the community as well, while developing leadership qualities in themselves. The Child Clubs makes them learn the basic ideas of democracy like election and work under a leader and participatory decision making. It works as a breeding place future leadership and democratic values. SISU SABHA is developing child leadership in 20 villages, they organize cultural programmes, sports and game also .They discuss different issues of children like education, immunization, sanitation, personal hygiene.

PTA and MTA's besides meeting regularly and taking stock of progress of children and overall education scenario in the village, also realize that the families must realize importance of educating their children. They have been engaged in intensive counselling of families and encouraging them to walk the path of education and provide opportunity of better life to their children.

Beside the socio-economic empowerment initiatives, the SHGs are successfully caring for education and health of children, monitoring the functioning of SB centres in their respective villages and taking very pro-active role in protection of the forests, stopping of production and consumption of liquor, and ensuring primary education of the village children. They also monitor the public distribution system, Anganwadi, and other public delivery system including health care. 26 SHGs spread in 20 project villages have 336 members with total savings to the tune of Three Lakh Rupees.

20 SHGs have started their own business like rice processing, leaf plate making, goatery, Seasonal business, poultry and agriculture.

22 SHGs have already been accredited with SGSY and Mission Sakti and got the financial subsidies/ benefits and skill up gradation trainings.

10 SHGs are assigned for the protection of the village forest, they are sincerely making people aware on the issue and are engaged in handing over the people destroying forest to the forest department through community

5 SHGs totally destroyed the country liquor shops in around their villages and destroyed the processing machineries. They declared their villages wine-free

They have also launched a tobacco (Gutkha) free campaign

The project has synergized with the Government system and boosted the immunization drive. Total 2526 children were immunized in the year, 1302 of boys & 1224 girls were immunized. The project linked pregnant mothers with public health care provisions and facilitated regular consumption of iron, folic acid and TT shots, besides regular weighing, testing for anaemia, Blood sugar, blood pressure and urine. The project insists for 3 ANC and institutional delivery. Malaria and Health Check up camps have also been organized in the project villages.

The project has also made effort to link up villagers with Government programs. MGNREGA, Indira Awas Yojna, Pension schemes etc have been the focus besides linkages with financial institutions for SHGs

Participatory Action for Eradication of Child Labour project with support from TDH [G]-IP, AEI is being implemented aiming "Complete elimination of child labour from 20 villages of Patna (Swam Patna) Block of Keonjhar District". The project is also important since it is the same block where Arcelor Mittal's mega steel plant is coming up. Key objectives of the project are –

- To ensure education for all children and develop sustainable protection mechanism for children with participation of duty bearers/stakeholders, local self governance, etc. with emphasis on child participation in every sphere of development initiatives.
- To ensure women empowerment in the process with emphasis on mothers of working children

- To support livelihood promotion measures and opportunities from various angles in order to provide food security of child labour and their Family/parents with focus on small & marginal farmers, share croppers, agricultural wage earners, etc.
- To undertake a assessment study of the impact of proposed steel plant by Arcelor Mittal on the livelihoods, social, economy, cultural and environmental factors and dissemination of the findings to all the stakeholders.
- To empower community to advocate with local, State and the Industry on taking mitigating action and positive intervention in the areas of Social & Environmental effects determinate to the interest and Livelihood that are identified in the E & SIA (Environmental & Social Assessment)

As a result of various activities carried out through the project, 100% enrolment has been recorded and 90 % retention has been maintained in 20 villages of the project. No Instance of child labour has been recorded in these villages thus the project area can be called free from exploitation. The project workers have rescued 974 Child labour and rehabilitated them.

20 MPVs are employing joyful method of learning while working with children in Shradha Bhawan centers. Children have been provided with carom boards, ring balls, football and skipping rope and as a result, children are being attracted towards education and joyful learning method is playing a major part. Rescued children are attending the Shradha Bhavans and going to school on a regular basis. Shradha Bhavans have become the most instrumental in making the area free of Child labours. The project was able to cover 535 child labours. Out of 974 child labours, between the age group 6-14 were identified in the area. Out of these total 535 child labours, 372 children in the 1st year 163 children in the 2nd were brought to SB centers. During the reporting period **635** (B: 314 & G: 321) children regularly attended Sradha Bhawans as a result of which learning levels of children has considerably improved. By end of School Enrolment campaign in April 2010, out of **635** children, 84 children were mainstreamed into formal school and 561 children were regularly attending in all the 20 SB centers. 212 children (123 from SB center & 89 from Camp) got enrolled in 19 schools.

43 children participated in 5 Gram Sabhas in 5 Gram panchayats on 14th November 2010 and raised 35 questions. The questions revolved around basic facilities like drinking water, lack of sufficient teachers, timely availability of school books to children, etc. The children also asked the Sarpanchs, presiding over the Gram sabha, to seek measures to eradicate child labour in their respective gram panchayats. The Sarpanch of Badapatana expressed his willingness to visit door to door to mobilize child labour families.



158 Children participated in 5 panchayat level special gram sabha on Right to Education Act 2009 on 26th January 2011 to raise school and education and communication related issues. 385 children were counselled during the last year. Seven training was organised on thread making out of "Tassar" to 25 children from Ghatabalijodi village followed by training for 7 days on leaf-plate making to 25 children from 19 villages at PECUC, Dumuria field office. These trainings were meant for the adolescent boys /girls in between 15 to 18 years age group who could not

access education. The training would empower them to work from home and earn a respectable income. They could be prevented from the clutches of middle man or land lord and particularly those trained children could be prevented from distressed migration.

The CRPCs along with Sisu sabha members are creating awareness among the community to reduce child labour. Parents of 69 children have stopped sending their children to work. These children are now coming to Sradhabhawan and regularly attending their classes in formal school and regularly followed up by CPRC members. Girl children who got uniforms from Govt, are regularly attending Schools, indicates active involvement of CPRC members.

As a positive outcome of the project operation, Parents of the children, especially mothers have been actively involved in the elimination of child labour and are rather interested in education their children. This speaks volumes about the family's commitment in realizing the child rights and has also seen a positive change in the spending pattern of families where they are happily making provision for the education of their children. The women have raised their voice against domestic violence and alcoholism in the villages too. Involvement of PRI representatives in eradication of child labour is

on a all time high level. Chairperson of Panchayt Samiti, Patna participated in a block level workshop on eradication of child labour and later issued an order to Gram Panchayats to rescue child labour and ensure their enrolment in schools. GP members being member of the CRPC have been involved in rescuing children from potential paces where they are engaged as child labour and have been highly instrumental in getting them enrolled in schools.

14 self help groups provided support to start IGP activities, are engaged in different activities such as leaf plate stitching, purchasing and selling, turmeric powder processing and selling, vegetable vending, rice processing & poultry business. They have also earned a profit of Rupees 34450 and are also empowered enough to take up thrift and credit activities besides maintaining their book of accounts independently.

As a part of major State Level Advocacy input, PECUC has prepared State Draft Plan for Child Labour Eradication

A number of individuals and families have been linked with Government schemes like Old Age and Widow Pension, Antyodaya yojana and MGNREGS.

People' in the project area have become aware of their rights issues. Work is being carried out in the area to do advocacy for the rights of people to be displaced by the upcoming venture Arcelor Mittal. The issue of Protection of Rights of the children during displacement has been specially focused. Information gathering was done and views and suggestions of the expert were also sought and the experiences were shared with villagers in meetings. A memorandum was submitted to the grievance cell of Chief Minister, highlighting the concerns related to violation of child rights in view of the displacement. An acknowledgement has been received by the villagers on 3rd May, 2011 informing the receipt of the memorandum and that the concerned ministry would be provided with a reply as soon as possible. A Study is being undertaken to assess the impact and publish report to protect the Rights of People proposed to be displaced by establishment of Mega Steel Plant

International Exchange of Best Practices in Education – Actions in India and Overseas, is being carried out with the support of **Save the Children** and **European Union**. The project is being implemented in four blocks of Keonjhar district comprising 137 villages in 35 panchayats in 4 blocks and in 150 schools..

A detailed need assessment into the specific situations within the project area was taken up to begin with and project area has been expanded and the baseline survey of all 30 schools was accomplished. To take stock of the project status, action plan review ad problem sharing, cluster level monthly meetings are organised. The project staffs are reviewed weekly on the zonal basis and monthly, on a central basis and Quarterly to review previous quarter plans and strategize and plan for the upcoming quarter.

In order to establish District level committees, project objectives have been shared vide an official letter with key district level officials which was followed by District level project sharing workshop. All the key officials concerned with education Block Chairman children and SSA coordinators were present in the sharing. Later, A list of twenty two members of the committee was finalized including DPC, DI of Schools, SI of Schools, BRCC, Educationist, SSA Coordinators, Children, DIET Principal, ADM and President- Zilla Parishad.

Facilitating of committee members, stakeholders forum and meetings at cluster level has been taken up on a regular basis. They are informed about the progress and key achievements besides seeking suggestions on critical areas. The District level Advisory Committee has also met two times. Similarly, Stakeholders forum's meeting were also sensitized and facilitated. To ensure effective service delivery by project staff, training was organised at CYSD on the issues such as RTE act, formation of School Management Committee, making School Development Plan etc. The project coordinator along with Field Supervisors and Field Extension workers underwent three days capacity building program dealt on issues of Child Rights act, policies and schemes, child participation and protection etc. The FEWs have been taking teaching periods in schools of the project area to improve the reading and writing skills of children

Child Rights week was observed in the project area and 28 rallies were taken out. Drawing competition was held and children from 8 schools participated and drew pictures depicting their vision of a dream school. These drawings were displayed to push awareness of RTE among the public. Most of the project staff participated in launch of Safe School Campaign and later helped in taking forward the campaign by accepting the safe school indicators, developed by children.

The BRCC, SI and CRCC were acknowledged project's work and turned more supportive as a result of which they participated in Block Education Development Plan. Similarly, the project staff also gets privilege of participating in different block and district level education related programs.

A number of children of the project area, members of Sisu Sabha have been participating and winning various competitions as a result of increased confidence and skill inputs provided through the project. The members of Netaji Sishu Sabha of Nakajhari developed earthen TLM like counting balls, houses, vegetable, fruits and mobile phone etc which is being highly appreciated by the CRC, teachers and school mates. Children are now aware and are keeping track of students who are irregular or drop outs from schools and also keep track of irregularity of teachers too. The CRPC and Sisu Sabha members have been actively engaged in creating awareness on RTE in their respective villages. A multi lingual teacher has been appointed after frequent intervention and lobbying before the district level officials for the most remote and rarely access-able, Juanga habitated Kuladera Village School.

139 Sishu Sabha have been formed in the project area covering 4216 children out of which 2189 are boys and 2027 were girls. The Sishu Sabhas were formed at school level but now efforts are being made to extend them to the village level. In Jhumpura zone, Juhar Yatra (respecting movement to seniors) was organized in which the leaders of Sishu Sabha of Nayadhanurajapur, Gandabarei, Badaneuli, Kashipur, Ukhunda participated. They visited the Panchayat Office, AWC, and met the PRI Members, teachers, AWWs, ASHAs and village leaders and informed them about presence and urged them to help them in protecting Child Rights. In doing so, the Sishu Sabha members met 55 duty bearers.

In all our project villages 135 Child Rights Protection Committee have been formed comprising 1739 members out of which 813 are male and 926 are female. The members of SMC, PRI, ASHA, AWW and village volunteers of each village have come together in CRPC of their village level to act as a safeguard for their children in protecting their rights.

The Safe School Campaign has been completed in 121 schools. During this campaign the staffs informed the children and school staff regarding 11 point Safe School Indicators. 44 days child labour campaign has been scheduled to be held from 30th April to 12th June, 2011 to identify the child labors and mainstreaming them. To fulfill the objective, 5 village sensitisation meetings and 3 rallies were organised in project areas. In these meetings the CRPC members identified 30 child labour out of which 18 have been mainstreamed into schools.

Initially, In most of the schools the teachers viewed project staff with suspicion and did not show any confidence in project staff. But, when they realised our intentions of only supporting them, they have developed trust in our staff and activities. Many schools even resisted allowing the project staff from entering the school, but now, they seek our suggestions and help in matters related to SMC, RTE and PTA. All the 150 school have given verbal invitation to project staff to participate in Sikhya Chetana Abhiyaan. Our staffs were also invited as guest in 18 schools to facilitate the SCA.

Our project staffs has participated in SMC formation at 87 schools in the project area where we could advocate the need for having children in SMC's, as a result 53 children are members of SMC in 45 schools operational in the project area

KHURDA

Sponsor a Grand Parent (SAGP) project as the name suggests is a project focussed on the Elderly people. The project is being supported by Help Age India and is operational in Khurda District of Orissa. The project revolves around –

- Providing Primary and requisite health care to the needy aged
- Improving resilience through formation and strengthening of community based Organisations
- Improving resilient-micro-finance & micro-credit for improved livelihoods
- Building Responsive Community Based Age Care
- Age Demands Action (Including Rights Literacy Camps/ Campaigns, Workshop, Advocacy and common materials, Older Melas)

Provision for Primary Medical Consultation is made in the project for persons in need. Regular health checks up are performed by Government Doctors at PHC and private doctor is called if Government Doctor is not available. The patients are generally suffered joint pains, weakness, high blood pressure, asthma, fever, and



cough. Medicines are also provided based on the need.



An Eye (cataract) testing Camp was organized where 43 persons undergone the test and 13 persons were selected for medical intervention. 4 persons got their operation through Rotary club. The rest patients will undergo cataract operation in coming winter season as per the advice of the concerned doctor. Apart from this, 65 persons were selected for cataract surgeries. The eye test

was conducted at Rotary Eye Hospital Cuttack. Surgery could not be performed on 55 persons due to their prevailing health conditions like diabetics and high B.P. 10 patients have undergone operation.



Followed by a detailed survey and thorough screening of members over criteria fixed for providing benefits, four Elder Self Help Groups have been formed comprising 74 members. Till the end of March, 2011 Rupees 12,600 has been collected from the 4 ESHGs. A two-days training of Elder Self Help Groups on Management was organized for 19 participants on the topics like Project objective, Self Help Group Concepts and Components, Records keeping of the group, and Financial Management. After the training, groups are confident to handle their records and are keeping their registers Resolution Book, Cash Book, Internal Loan Register, notice book and member fee book updated.

All the 4 ESHGs have been federated under the name of Jagruti Bayaska Swayamsahayak Mahasangha (Jagruti ESHG Federation) and given training on the concept, ideology, need of such federation, membership, duties & responsibilities of the leaders, record keeping and advocacy on realization of govt schemes and programmes. Graduation of four ESHGs has been done and business plan for the groups has been developed and it has been decided to provide loans to people with the available bank deposits.



To provide and answer to the Responsive Community Based Age Care, it has been decided by the elderly to establish four Grain banks. Operational mechanisms have also been decided as to who would keep the keys to Grain Containers, what would be the return time and what would be the fine for late return. The groups resolved to use 50% of the profit for destitute and remaining 50 % to be distributed among the groups

PECUC hosted a congregation at Pahala, to commemorate International Day for Older Persons in collaboration with Help Age India and Rotary club of Bhubhneswar Heritage. Major concerns raised during the meeting were related to problems in receiving the old age pension and rice subsidised by the Government. Health care facilities, recreation facilities, care and protection of older persons have not been given proper attention. They opined that even Rs200 per month is not enough to sustain for a month.

Various meetings, consultations and interface with different stakeholders was also carried out focusing on advocacy for the aged.

Gender in Local Self Governance project with support from The Hunger Project (THP) was implemented in Baliana and Bhubaneshwar block of Khurda District. The project aims to ensure complete participation of elected women members in local self governance (Panchayati Raj) system and develop leadership quality among frontline women leaders to create competitiveness through-

- Capacity building of women PRIs to ensure their effective participation on local self governance and fight for women right
- Leadership quality development among elected PRIs
- Develop strategic alliance to access support from various stakeholders through media linkage, publication and documentation

Continuous regular visits and guidance have been made by the staffs to the women PRIs of the project villages. During the regular visit, the staffs have made personal interaction with all the women PRIs in the project area. The topics of discussion are focussed around government schemes, functioning of Gramya kalyan Samitis, various acts and provisions, social audit, various programs, provisions and redressal mechanism for grievances in government schemes implemented in the village, importance of Gram sabha and palli sabha etc. As a result of these interaction women have become

informed and are able to represent and raise their voice in order to seek benefits for the people residing in their areas. There have been instances where the women representatives have faced odds and adamant attitude of officials but have been able to yield results due to their awareness and persistent attitude.



Similarly, interaction with Block level officials has also started paying off. Government officials now seek support of the organization in organizing key programs like District Legal Literacy Awareness camps. Families of Scheduled Caste Community have been provided with a tube well, ensuring availability of safe drinking water. Government has provided space for setting up Gender Resource Centre in Baliana and Bhubaneswar. This speaks volumes about the advocacy and influencing work besides showing grit and determination for the

cause and sincerity in efforts.

The Elected Women Representatives have been playing their role in monitoring of Palli Sabhas and have kept a strict vigil on the development and development needs. As a result, they have been successful at many instances in getting funds and works sanctioned. Besides these, they have been active in generating peoples support in making programs like Total Sanitation Campaign successful by reaching a consensus on imposing fine on individuals going for open defecation.

The EWRs have taken up monitoring of Gram Panchayat meetings on a regular basis. 37 gram panchayat meeting monitoring was conducted in both the Blocks. They have helped develop a system where a tentative date is fixed for gram panchayat meeting and notice is served a week in advance. All EWRs attend the meeting and they have changed the seating arrangement. Follow up of Panchayat expenditure, cash book is maintained by EWRs. As a result, no works are taken up without taking consent in Panchayat meeting. Special Gram Sabhas have also been organised.

Cluster Level Mahila Adhikar Samukhya meetings have also been organised in both the blocks. Rules and regulations of Mahila adhikar Samukhya were developed along with plan by the members for the smooth functioning of the GKS. The meeting also aimed to increase participation level among the group members in the Palli Sabha or gram sabha. Twenty five members of Mahila Adhikar Samukhya, in an exposure visit organised exclusively, met BDO, CDPO, BPO and had discussion at Pratapsasan Panchayat office. They raised queries and sought solutions to issues such as: rules for the school and the group in providing MDM, clarity regarding un-tied fund, solutions to problems faced by SHG in getting loan from bank, making the PDS efficient and issues of widow / old age pension etc.



A follow up of the ToT on federation building was organized wherein 6 NGO partners were present. Major points of discussion were: Equity and equality, Gender, Definition of federation, Aim and objective of Federation, Work of Federation and preparation of Action plan.

Apart from Panchayat level Elected Women's Representative Federation building meetings, such meetings were also held for a longer duration at Bhubaneswar and Baliana blocks also. Focus was laid on the basic concepts of the federation like work of

the federation, members, benefit of EWRs, sources of financial and conceptual support, rules and regulations, role of EWRs, capacity enhancement of the EWRs, knowledge of programmes at Panchayat level, dealing with Government officials and how the EWRs would help people's in their economic, social and political up-liftment.

The Block level refresher's workshop on the Right to Information act showed immediate results as the SHG's succeeded in getting a loan from one of the banks while an individual beneficiary received a caste certificate. Workshop on preparatory meeting of EWRs for Mahila Adhikar Samukhya led to establishment of linkages with EWRs and other women like ASHA workers, SHGs Members, Ex-EWRs.

The need based workshops were organised on the issues of water and sanitation and Gaon Kalyan samitis. Media Interface workshop and interface with Elected Male representative was also organised removing the fears and bringing two important pillars of the constitution together. Similar efforts were taken in the blocks to build linkage of EWRs with panchayat functionaries working in the area which helped boost the confidence of women representatives.

As a part of the advocacy efforts, printed leaflets on RTI act were distributed to the stakeholders to create awareness and influence public opinion. A signature campaign demanding the Women's Reservation Bill, mandating 33 percent

reservations for women in Lok Sabha and State assemblies, be passed in the Lok Sabha without any delay was also carried out eliciting participation from 70 EWRs.

Capacity Building & Advocacy on child Rights in Orissa supported by **UNICEF**, aims at making strategic engagement with different stakeholders including Government, Political leaders, legislators, Civil Servants, CSOs, media etc. to best protect the rights of the child through an integrated approach.

Odisha Alliance on Convention on Rights of the Child (OACRC) an alliance of 22 networks and over 200 leading child rights organisations (local/ National/ International) presently was formed in 2007 with an aim to create a common platform for promotion and protection of the rights of the child within the broad framework of the UNCRC. OACRC has strengthened its network in all 30 districts in Odisha and strengthen network on child rights and intensify advocacy for promotion and protection of child rights. It was also envisaged that, the alliance would facilitate debate and discussions on the issues related to violation of child rights and provide opportunities to the alliance partners to share experiences/good practices and learning from each other's work exposure. Efforts have been made to involve concerned different stakeholders, including Civil Society Organizations, to track the progress made, ensure accountability and transparency of Government programmes implemented for the protection of child rights in Odisha. As a part of the project various activities were undertaken.

Designing and production of IEC material was taken up on the pertinent issues like Right to Education act. It was decided in a consultation with experts to develop a handbook in English and Oriya. RTE handbook in English was released by Shri Naveen Pattanaik, Hon'ble Chief Minister, Odisha at a State Level Sensitization Meet on Right to Education Act-2009 organized by Deptt of School and Mass Education Similarly, handbook on Juvenile Justice is also completed. Training on Juvenile Justice was also done with a view to create a state level resource pool on Juvenile Justice Systems.

Various trainings were also organised. The training of frontline workers on Right to Education entailed participation of over 44 organizations. Apart from legal framework and major components of RTE and state rules, historical perspectives and conceptual clarity on Rights Entitlement was also provided to the participants. The participants were informed of the legal interventions undertaken by child rights advocates for RTE and also had detailed discussion on role of civil societies.



Thematic training of Frontline workers on Juvenile Justice System was also organised at Puri. The training covered topics like the salient features of JJ systems and persistent gaps in practice in dealing with children in conflict with law. There were sessions on Rights Based Approach and need to changing mindsets. The context of state scenario with respect to Child in conflict with law and roles and responsibilities of Child Welfare Committees were also discussed.

The three days training / workshop on Child Rights advocacy & monitoring was organized on 7th to 9th March 2011 at Red Cross Bhawan Conference Hall, Bhubaneswar with the participation of 61 members. Ms. Laila Mallick and Mr. Deep Purkayastha were the Resource Person. The training covered the following topics:

- Key Components of UNCRC Issues
- International Commitments on Child Rights and Its Relevance in India.
- Child Rights Programming.
- Problem Analysis
- Advocacy and Steps in Strategy Development.
- Monitoring Frame Works.



The Centre for Child and the Law, National Law School of India University (CCL, NLSIU) in partnership with the UNICEF India Country Office and Odisha Alliance for Child Rights Committee (OACRC) organized a two-day workshop on Access to Justice for Children through Independent Human Rights Institutions at Bhubaneswar on 28th and 29th June 2010. About 30 participants from different NGOs attended the training programme. Ms. Arti Ahuja, Commissioner-cum-Secretary, Women and Child Development, Ms. Archana Mehendale, Senior Researcher, CCL, NLSIU, Prof. Mrinal Satish,

the Visiting Professor of Law in NLSIU, Bangalore, Mr. Arka Brata Goswami of CCL, Mr. Laxminarayan Nanda, UNICEF Odisha Office and Mr. Ranjan Mohanty, Convener, OACRC spoke on the occasion.

On 5th September 2010, National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) and Odisha Alliance on Convention on Rights of the Child (OACRC) jointly organized the State Level Consultation on Children's Right to Education, at IDCOL Auditorium, Bhubaneswar, Dr. Santha Sinha, Chairperson, NCPCR, Sri Abani Baral, Secretary General, All Odisha Federation of Teacher's Organisation, Ms. Kiran Bhatta, National RTE Coordinator, NCPCR, Mrs. Kastrui Mohapatra, Commissioner for Person with Disabilities, Sri Sevak Tripathy, Director SCERT, Mr. Job Zachariah, Programme Manager, UNICEF, Mr. Ranjan Mohanty, Convener, OACRC, Sri Binayak Swain, Convener, CACL, Mr. Narendra Mishra, SOVA spoke on the occasion.

UNICEF & OACRC jointly conducted the thematic session on MDG 2: "Achieving Universal Primary Education" on 18th September at Adivasi Exhibition Ground, Bhubaneswar. SUTA (Summit on Millennium Development Goals) called for action against poverty & for achievement of the MDGs. As the year 2010 marks the end of the first decade after the MDGs were agreed, the voices of citizens told loudly and clearly that 'We would no longer stay seated and silent in the face of poverty and the broken promises to end it.'

A State level consultation for building campaign on Safe School Environment was organised. An all inclusive group of children including 34 children and child rights activist participated in the consultation. The children came up with a list of



ten priorities that they perceived as indicators for safe school. The priorities focussed on issues of Access, Infrastructure, provisions, code of conduct by teachers, usage of school space, inclusiveness, and child participation in monitoring. Following this consultation, the campaign was designed and launched. Hon'ble Minister



and the Chairperson NCPCR along with other dignitaries uncovered the Posters portraying the 11 Indicators on Safe School Campaign and released Brochure on Safe School Campaign developed by OACRC.

The district leads agencies of the alliance along with other district partners took the safe school campaign to the district

Indicators developed by and advocated for by Children of SAFE SCHOOL CAMPAIGN

1. My school must be close to my home and easy for me to reach.
2. My school must begin and close on time on regular basis.
3. My school building & classroom must be well made, well maintained & clean. The school should have boundary wall, gate, drinking water and separate toilets for boys and girls.
4. I must not be beaten, ill-treated or subjected to discrimination or violence in my school.
5. A lady teacher must stay with girls and gent teacher with boys in Ashram schools or Residential schools/hostels at night.
6. My teacher must not chew paan, smoke, drink or use mobile phone in the classroom.
7. My school must not be used for any other purpose other than education – not as a shelter for armed forces or during natural disasters.
8. My school must have first aid kit, health treatment facility and have a list of emergency numbers like hospital, ambulance, police station, fire station, etc.
9. My school must provide facilities for all types of children with special needs – ramp at entrance, space for wheel-chair in classroom, special aids and equipment, etc.
10. My school must provide facilities like textbooks, school uniform and bicycle on time and equally to all students.
11. My school must give me the chance to express myself without fear and allow me to participate in making it a better place.

by a simultaneous safe school campaign launch in their respective 29 districts with a huge involvement of over 4000 participants. The campaign was carried out for a week.

OACRC has continuously collected the assembly questions on child rights for three sessions and documented them for analysis. Besides this, a vigilant watch is kept over incidents of atrocities against the children.

Several other programmes like State Level Consultation on Children's Right to Education, discussion on Taking Forward the Right to Education - Role of Civil Society Alliance Meeting of CSOs, State Consultation on Govt- Civil Society Partnership in Implementing RCFCE Act, 2009 and NGO/Civil society report on status of children in Odisha have been undertaken.

International Women's Day is being commemorated worldwide since 1975 on 8th of March every year. It is an annual global awareness campaign to mark the economic, political and social achievements of the women. PECUC, being one of the front runners in the state on the issues related to women, chose the theme **"Equal access to education, training and science & technology: pathway to decent work for women"** The event was organised by PECUC and Rotary Club Bhubaneswar Heritage.



On the day, at Pratapsasan panchayat office, over 150 persons including members of Women Self Help Groups, PRI representatives and media persons came together for Candle Lightening and Mass Gathering. Eminent distinguished guests like Smt. Saudamini Mohanty, President Block Level Padmavati SHG federation, Smt. Nirupama Mohanty, Secretary, Block Level Sakti Swarupa Elected Women Representative Federation, Sarpanch Fo Pratapsasan Panchayat Sri. Bhagyadhara nandi, Mr. Akshaya kumar Raut, Tahsildar, Baliana, Sub Collector Mr. Saroj Kumar Nanada and Major General S.D Mahanti, President, Rotary Club Bhubaneswar heritage graced the occasion with their presence, insightful thought and promise for incessant support for the cause of women empowerment.

On the eve of **Consumers' Awareness Week**, People's Cultural Centre (PECUC) organized a Workshop on Consumers' Awareness Campaign in joint collaboration with **Food, Supplies and Consumer Welfare Department, Government of Orissa, Bhubaneswar Panchayat Samiti and Khurda District Administration** on 30th December 2010 at Bhubaneswar Block Conference Hall. Beside the Guests and resource persons, number of PRI representatives, Anganwadi Workers, District/block level government officials, Civil Society organizations, CBO leaders, Media, actively participated in the workshop.

Miss. Minati Pingua, Chairperson, Bhubaneswar Panchayat Samiti emphasised on sensitization of women on consumer Rights and build up a powerful consumers' movement. Mr. Jay Surjya Ratha, ABDO, Bhubaneswar Panchayat Samiti stressed the consumers to understand the price system and be aware when purchasing a product despite illusions in letter, design of name and expiry date Etc. Mr. Saroj Kumar Samal, Sub Collector, Bhubaneswar said that food security is a fundamental right. Economic condition of a country depends on the citizens' food protection rights. He stressed that consumer protection act is an extension of democracy. It is our right to get right thing at right price, quality and quantity. Mr Mardaraj Biswal, Supply Inspector, Bhubaneswar Block expressed that every consumer has the right to complain, based on RTI Act. Mrs. Bisweswari Mohanty, Advocate and Associate Public Pleader appealed the house that we all we have to change our mindset to demand our rights, only then we can make others aware.

Government official, Anganwadi workers, PRI functionaries and people from media raised the issues like fare of the local town bus, black marketing of LPG and low quality food grain distribution in PDS, mid day meal, school book distribution, bills in different shops etc. Answering these issues, resource persons opined that these issues can be overcome with awareness and knowledge base on the issue of consumers' rights and participation of CBOs in fight for consumer rights. People can complain in writing or by telephone to the supply officers or at consumer court at Bhubaneswar.

To mark the Child Rights Week, PECUC has been organizing **SISUMELA** (Children Festival week) since 1990. The event involves students, non-school going children & child labourers on the occasion of Sisu Divas every year along with active participation of parents, teachers, NGOs, CBOs, youth, activists and policy makers. This year SISUMELA was held at Exhibition Ground, Unit - III, Bhubaneswar from 14th to 20th November' 2010 (7 days).

Broad Objectives of the Sisu Mela are –

- To create an atmosphere for a child friendly society.
- To create a scope for children to share their views, creativeness, potentialities and exchange culture.
- To inculcate the spirit of freedom, participation and integration amongst children.
- Sensitizing the general public to prevent children from abuse and exploitation
- Highlighting the issues relating to child abuse and drawing attention of policy makers and enforcement authorities on child abuse.



The function was inaugurated on 14th of November by Sj. Anup Pattanaik, Director General of Police, Vigilance and presided over by Mr. Pradosh Pattnaik, eminent journalist and president of Sisu Mela. In the week long programme, various activities and competitions were organized. Competitors were divided into 4 groups on the basis of age Fine art competition, Quiz competition, Modern dance competition, Fancy dress competition, Rhyme competition, Song competition, Debate competition, Odissi dance etc were organised. “Baby of the year” competition among children from 6 months to 3 years was centre of attraction for all participants.

Valedictory function was marked by PECUC Annual Awards. Baji Rout Memorial award to given to Mantu Dalei, of Cuttack Dist for showing outstanding courage and saving life of a child from drowning, Pran Nath Patnaik Memorial Award in the field of social work was given to Debasis Jena, Bhograi, Balasore District. Ketaki Patnaik Memorial Award was given to Jyoti Pagoda and Bidyabhusana Kundu for securing highest mark in fifth class scholarship examination in Bhubaneswar. Besides this, Swarup Jena Memorial Award for outstanding achievement contribution in the field of journalism to Dr. Pramod Mohapatra, News Editor The samaj, Sisu Sathi award for outstanding contribution in the field of children was given to Sj Upendra Kumar Jena, writer on children issues. The Akshaya Memorial Award was given to Swaraj Mohanty.



World day for prevention of child abuse organised on 19th November 2010 aiming to

- Sensitize larger public to prevent children from social exclusion, abuse and exploitation
- Fetch attention of policy makers and enforcement authorities on the issues of Social Exclusion & its impact on children and to prevent abuse and exploitation on those children.

19th November is being observed as the World Day for Prevention of Child Abuse all over the world. To mark the day, Human Chain, Signature Campaign and Mass Meetings were organised to highlight the issues of excluded children. Partners of **Save the Children** i.e., PECUC, AAINA, CCWD, RARE and SOVA also joined hand as co-organisers. The programme was organized near Master Canteen Square in Bhubaneswar.

Human chain was formed by children and adults from different district such Khurdha, Sonapur, Kandhamal, Keonjhar and Koraput. The children held placards and wore overcoat emphasising messages related to children's issues. A large number of people inquired about reason for formation human chain and appreciated the noble cause and effort taken by the organizations.

The signature campaign was initiated by Hon'ble Energy Minister Sj. Atanu Sabyasachi on a 30 meter long banner. The banner was mounted at the master canteen square for visibility. Students of NCLP schools and different institutions like IMS, VISWAS and NISWASS, BJB College, Govt officials, general public, NGOs and media persons participated in this

campaign. They wrote messages over the banner which was kept there for the whole day to create mass awareness on the gravity of the issue among public.

On the 19th evening, Children theatre on exclusion issues was organised at Ekamra haat. Thematic presentations were performed on the theme of social exclusion and child abuse by troupes from Boudh District namely, Mahaka Natya Anusthan and children of PECUC'S Sisu Sabha from Keonjhar and Balasore. Similarly, children of RARE, Sonapur and AAINA, Kandhamal also used drama to spread the message of inclusion of girl children and physically challenged into the main stream of formal education. A team of Orphan children of the Kalakara, renowned theatre group of Balasore performed on the existing superstitions in the society and its negative impact on children. The children of DAV School unit presented a drama on girl child abuse. An audience of over 1000 enjoyed and appreciated the performances. TDH [G]-IP, AEI collaborated in this weeklong event along with few others i.e. Canara bank, Priyadarshini, Aneeta saaree house, Avisekh, Maa Tarini store, Khushi creation, Kalyani press, Appolo Imfra projects Ltd.

National Child Labour Project operational in Bhainchua of Baliaanta Block, Mahimanagar Bhubaneswar Block and Kargil Basti Bhubaneswar is being supported by **District child labour society, Department of labour and employment, Govt of Orissa.**



The child labour engaged in different gainful economic activities like dhabas, hotels, shops and establishments; brick kilns, construction sites, rag picking and agriculture etc. As their parents were poor and had developed a negative attitude towards education of the children, more so, as their employment could earn easy money, it was necessary to bring all children to one platform. The NCLP Schools at Kargil Basti, Mahima Nagar and Bhainchua provided the much-needed platform for the child labours of the locality by ensuring their right to education.

Each NCLP school allowed covering 50 child labour and goes through government syllabus. The schools follow the same routine of education besides learning dance, music, vocational training and games to inculcate positive attitude towards education, develop discipline in life and to maintain cleanliness. The school also caters to the food and nutritional need of the children through provision of Flat rice and Mid day meal



Through the project, school received support and due attention from District administration and public, creating an excellent model of convergence between line departments, community, and NGO. The BDO, Baliaanta, Bhubaneswar and CDPO Bhubaneswar provided the Mid Day meal and PECUC provided books for the children. Similarly, one account in the name of each and every student was opened in the CANARA Bank Chandrasekharapur.



In March 2011 yearly examination was held. The standard of children was tested not only through written tests but also through oral examination. Post results, children were divided into different classes. At the beginning of new session in schools, each student was provided with 1 writing register, 1 pen, 1 pencil and 1 black board to the school through PECUC. Schools also received help in deciding uniform time table. The project sought support from DPEP and got the children much needed supply of books. The children also receive vocational training for trades such as making toys of clay, paper pots and photo binding etc. The DLO Khurda visits these schools on monthly basis for assuring quality of the school

activities. Parents of the children at the community level meet once in every quarter to review the functioning of the school and well being of the children. Children in these NCLP schools have participated in District Level Sports organised by CCWD and gave cultural programs in Luhia academy.

Mother's committee have been formed in all three schools where the committee has discussed on issues of cleanliness and ways to convince children on importance of education. Similarly, management committee has also been constituted in all the schools. Other players in the social arena like "Mudra Foundation" and "Hong Kong Mamas with Love" with support from Rotary Club Bhubaneswar Heritage have provided clothes, toys, nutritional drinks and sweets in schools. Regular internal and external monitoring also takes place to keep track of progress and issues in NCLP schools. Project staff and DLO regularly visit the schools while support of Management committee is key to the ownership of program

Women Empowerment through Self help Groups promotion is done by **organization's mobilization and linkage with Mission Shakti, Government of Orissa**. Objective of the program is to capacitate womenfolk on their rights, make them aware about laws related to women, different trades, and orient the SHG group members on the need, relevance and process for effective documentation of the entire process.

A total of 119 groups have been promoted and are being strengthened in 8 Gram Panchayats of Baliana Block and one ward under Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation. These 119 Self help groups comprise 2382 members with a monthly saving of Rupees 48,600. The SHGs have provided an internal loan of over 42 lakhs and have a bank deposit to the tune of 12 lakhs rupees with a total fund of over 50 lakhs

Capacity building efforts of these groups have been to make them aware and to increase their negotiation with the External organization, training in different trades like Dairy farm, Poultry, Goat and Sheep rearing, Garment, Spices, Mixture etc

To strengthen the federated SHGs, village wise cluster level federation, Gram Panchayat level federation and block level federation is constituted. Two members from each SHG are the member of the cluster level federation and the president and secretary of the cluster are the members of GP federation. Similarly, the president and secretary of GP federation are the members of block federation. The federations aim at strengthening the self help capacity of women, developing better understanding, promotion of cooperation and information sharing within the women groups, creating pressure group at grass-roots and developing a self management system. PECUC has initiated the process of federating women groups at block and panchayat level.



BALASORE AND KENDRAPADA

Child Centred Disaster Risk Reduction Project is being run in 30 villages of Balasore and Kendrapada with support from Save the Children, CSO Partners and ICICI Bank. Overall objective of the project is to ensure; By 2011 vulnerable children and communities in flood prone areas of Orissa are better prepared to mitigate risks and cope with natural disasters. The project aims to –

- Ensure enhanced community-based Child Centred Disaster Preparedness and Child Protection mechanism, especially during emergencies.
- Create and promote a model of good practice for child-safe flood-resistant shelter in vulnerable and high risk communities.
- Strengthen the livelihoods resilience of marginal farmers and farm labourers during and after emergencies.



To ensure enhanced community-based Child Centred Disaster Preparedness and Child Protection mechanism, especially during emergencies, groups of children are formed and through regular interaction are being infused with confidence to speak about their issues before the Child Protection Committees. The results have been encouraging and there have been instances to indicate the increasing confidence among children. The Sarpanch of Kusuda Gram Panchayat agreed to take reconstruction of Krishnapur school and electrification of Dobadia village. The number of children has also been increasing in these meetings. Sisu Sabha Members have been instrumental in meeting up and convincing parents of the children who are not regular to

schools and Anganwadis and have successfully convinced them to send their children regularly. Children feel empowered enough to be monitoring the mid day meal preparation and report any irregularity. The children have been involved with creating awareness on equality and caste. Child club members have also submitted a memorandum to the Tahsildar to stop child labour in Balasore District. The children take active interest in explaining their school safety plans to the adults and make use of different colors of sands to make it meaningful.



A total of 4196 children (Boys: 2260 & Girls: 1936) are enrolled in the Sisu Sabha. Out of these 2020 children (Boys: 1068 & Girls: 952) belong to Kendrapara and 2176 children (Boys: 1141 & Girls: 1035) to Balasore. Linkage of Sisu Sabha with community becomes



prominent feature of results of Children's activities. Children actively participate in various competitions such as debate, drawing and song competitions. In many Sisu Sabhas, children are taking initiative for plantation. Children have raised their voice in Gram sabha and the Sarapanch and other PRI members are responding to the issues raised by them. The Sarapanch in Kusuda GP agreed with the demand of the children and promised to undertake reconstruction of Krishnapur School and electrification of Dobadia village, as soon as possible. 9 Sisu Sabha and Task Force members of 6 villages have won prizes at Cluster level School competition in Tunpur High School. The child leaders and Taskforce members successfully counselled parents of two children to send them to school, one each from Bilabalarampur and Sovanpur. In Tunpur, 25 children of Sisu Sabha and Task Force Members have collected Rs. 50/- from among themselves and contributed to CFFS fund.

Child Protection Committees have been formed in the villages of the project and they hold monthly meetings with Children, School Education Committees, Parent Teacher's Association and also interacts with Disaster Risk Reduction Committees. The CPC members have received trainings on Early Warning and Relief Management and Search and Rescue operation. They regularly share their learning with rest of the villagers along with Disaster Risk Reduction plan and processes. The CPC members have also received training on monitoring and responding child protection in emergencies. Various other trainings on issues like Life skills, preventing risks due to trafficking and mitigation at the field level, Child protection in Emergencies have been organised, enhancing the capacities of beneficiary groups. Community based plans for CPIE prepared in 30 villages. In this plan all stake holders' roles & responsibilities are well defined to respond at the time of protection issue.



Disaster Risk Reduction day was observed in the field area and wall paintings of the child led DDR plans been accomplished where communities have provided space for the children to express their needs. Community based plans for child protection in emergencies has been prepared in 30 villages highlighting the role of stakeholders. Basic issues of First Aid and health care have also been dealt along with early warning and preparedness. Trainings on psycho social counselling built capacities of community members in dealing with trauma of mental and physical injuries rendered by the disasters. Trainings have also been imparted on relief management and coordination. To give a firsthand demonstration of skills learnt in these

training programs, mock drills have also been organised by the task force members with active and enthusiastic participation of villagers. Village DRR Plans prepared through PVCA in 30 villages, in which all the vulnerability & capacity were analyzed and planned how to face disaster, in this 745 adult, 1345 children participated actively along with PRI members.

Out of 30 villages, 18 DRR Plans have been submitted to local administrative authority (PRI) in the Gram Sabha meetings where it has been decided to periodically incorporate the findings of vulnerability. The DRR planning process has strengthened relation with the local PRI. It has brought the Gram Panchayat's face to face with the issues of the community and children. All total School Safety Plan has been prepared in 30 villages and shared with School Education Committee and School authority.

For the construction of 3 Child Friendly Flood Shelter (CFFS), the contractors have been oriented in the training program to respond to such needs while the technical consulting agency is regularly monitoring the progress along with members of the village education committee, CPC and teachers. The members of Child Friendly Flood Shelter committee members were able to converge with MGNREGS for construction of approach road to the shelter to enable easy access of community. Collector Balasore and Sub collector Kendrapada gave the order for construction of these centres and its maintenance by Government. Later, shelters constructed in 2 school



premises in Bhograi block of Balasore dist and one constructed on Village land in Kendrapada block.

To strengthen the livelihood resilience of marginal farmers and farm labours during and after emergencies. Study on issues related to sustainable livelihood management during floods has been undertaken. Households have been surveyed and formats have been passed on to AFPRO for further action on analysis part. FGDs with community members were also carried out and a discussion was organised with Agro Service Center, Small Scale Industries, district Horticulture officer and District Fisheries officer. The Draft report of Livelihood study has been submitted to PECUC and the study is at work in progress state.

Marginal farmers have been identified through village level committees and women in particular have been involved through involvement of SHG federation. THE District Agriculture Department has supported the farmer's group for SHRI cultivation and trained 50 farmers already. They have agreed to provide seed and other necessary support in future too. Skill building and asset support to non farm labour families has also been initiated with support from Mother SHG. In both the Districts, Kendrapada and Balasore, families have resolved to initiate nonfarm activities like bee keeping, carpentry and fishing and 300 families were supported under this activity and 2000 farmers at Balasore and 30 farmers groups at Kendrapda were supported under farm activities i.e. Paddy seeds, Thresher machines etc.
