

## President's Message

Dear friends,

Happy New Year 2013 !

PREM had a good number of interventions during the year 2012. One of the significant programs was Early Childhood Education in tribal areas with the support of Bernard van Leer Foundation (BvLF). We always look for innovations in a meaningful way especially in the domains of education, health and livelihood.

PREM had a pilot project which is known as Mother Tongue Based Multi Lingual Education in tribal areas of India for the last five years. This experience was recognised by International organisations like BvLF and also the State government of Odisha and Women and Child Development department, Govt. of India.

This experience will be replicated by the State government in all the 25000 Anganwadi Centers of Odisha.

PREM was also invited by the distinct administration of Ganjam and Gajapati to take up programs in collaboration with the district administration. As usual we tried to support the network organisations of tribals and dalits for their empowerment.

We thank all the people especially children for their sincere participation in the development programs facilitated by PREM.

We also thank our partners, donor organisations who supported the marginalised people like tribals, dalits and fisher peoples of Odisha and other states of India.

I also take this opportunity to thank the district administration of Ganjam, Gajapati and different departments of Odisha for their support for implementing the program by trusting our intentions and capabilities.

We express our special gratitude to all the friends and well wishers and all the civil society organisations who collaborated with us and supported us throughout India and abroad.

Sincerely,

Dr. Jacob Thundyil,  
President, PREM

## Highlight of the Issue

### ***National Consultation on "Early Childhood Care and Education" Policy Framework***

Odisha Adivasi Manch(OAM) with the support of PREM and other Civil Society organizations was able to meet and convince the Chief Secretary, Mr. Bijaya Patnayak , Govt of Odisha regarding the need for Mother Tongue Based Multi Lingual Education in tribal areas of Odisha.

On July 30<sup>th</sup> the Chief Secretary together with the Asian District Departments and Women and Child Development department sent a notification that all the 25000 Angan Wadi Centers in tribal areas of Odisha will have Mother Tongue Based Multi Lingual Education.

The Government has identified 19 languages and initially selected 10 languages to be used to prepare the Arunima—a guidebook for the Anganwadi centers.

This is a great success for the tribal of Odisha and OAM and it brought a landmark in their advocacy process. This experience was presented at New Delhi in the National Consultation **“Early Childhood Care and Education” Policy Framework**. This consultation was organized by The Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD), on 29th October 2012 which was held in PHD Chambers at August Kranti Marg. This consultation was organized to finalise the National Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) policy and framework. Over 120 people from all over the country participated to share their experience and make suggestions for finalizing the national policy on ECCE. Most of them are from government departments of WCD, ICDS, Secretaries and higher officials. There are few from UN organisations including UNESCO, UNICEF and few from NGOs. National Advocacy Council for Indigenous Community(NACDIP) got an opportunity to participate in this consultant to put its opinion in this innovative effort.



The consultation started with the welcome address by the Joint Secretary of MWCD Dr. Sree Ranjan and was followed of inaugural address by Smt. Krishna Tirath, the Minister IC of WCD. A background note was given by the Shri.Prem Narain, Secretary of MWCD.

The Minister expressed the need of ECCE and importance of implementation at the ground level for all children including the poor and vulnerable and fund allocation for the implementation and need of cooperation from ICDS, NGOs, private and so on. Then the revised ECCE policy was presented and there were three group discussions on the subjects of National ECCE Policy, National Curriculum Framework & Quality Standards, Legislation/Regulation and Institutional Mechanism for ECCE. The special focus of the meeting was on Mother-Tongue Based Multi-Lingual Education, support to marginalised groups, convergence of schemes, involving community participation. After that presentation on these aspects with incorporating suggestions and recommendations from all participants were presented at the meeting and it was presided by the Secretary and Joint Secretary. With vote of thanks by the secretary the consultation was concluded.



The Ministry of Women and Child Development assured that, the ECCE policy will be implemented from the next financial year(2013-2014) onwards with the direction of the central government. The MWCD is already giving directions to all the state secretaries to implement the idea and already order has been issued on restructured ICDS approach. The order has been issued to 22 states in this month and they are studying the impacts to implement it in other parts of country.

Dr. Shreeranjana, the Joint Secretary, Ministry of Women and Child Development, Sastri Bhawan, New Delhi was in charge for further proceedings and follow-up on these steps for any needs on ECCE work.

The following points were highlighted by NACDIP at the National Consultation which were noted by NACDIP and noted by MWCD.

- Giving top priority on Mother Tongue In The ECCE Policy and for all the children and provision of mother tongue based and multi lingual education in the ICDS centers.
- Need for separate chapter for Tribal Children or special attention must be given on the needs and rights of Adivasi Children.
- Importance of community participation for child protection and addressing the ECE.
- Supporting tribal mothers and children in all aspects and also to clearly spell out ECE framework for their development.
- Gram-Shabas, PRI members have to be the main stake-holder in the ECCE implementation process.
- The Anganwadi center workers must be trained on local culture and situation of the adivasis and also encouraged to speak in the Adivasi languages in their classroom activities.
- Need of counseling to the tribal mothers and adolescent girls focusing on ECCE to minimize drop out rate at the formal school.
- Issuing of birth certificate through ICDS centers to help the children for continuing their formal education.
- Convergence of schemes and department's service should be incorporated for better implementation of ECCE policy.
- Monitoring along with PRI and NGOs representatives with peoples' participation.
- Focusing on fund allocation and involvement of MWCD, MoTA, MHRD, SSA etc.

This consultation brought together multiple partners from related ministries, practitioners, academicians, researchers, parents, non government organizations and other stakeholders from the country for the sake of children aged 0-6 years.

## Success Story

### ***Praful Pradhan – The change agent in Agriculture***

Praful Pradhan aged 30 years, a college graduate belongs to an Adivasi community. He lives with his family in a remote village Balumaha, in Tikabali Block of Kandhmal district, Odisha where most people are illiterates and depend on agriculture for their livelihood.

In the month of May 2011 Praful got an opportunity to visit Kerala Agriculture University, Trissur for a month long training on **Advanced agriculture training** supported by Project PREMA—an innovative initiative of PREM in association with Axis Bank Foundation of Mumbai—which gave him an idea to organize and educate the farmers towards sustainable agriculture.





In this one month session he gained knowledge on organic manure and pesticide preparation, pest management, vermin compost preparation, "Magic tonic"(a fertilizer consisting of cow urine, garlic, molasses and herbs) and Panchagabya fertilizer preparation, mixed cropping, integrated cropping, fruit cultivation and processing, SRI paddy cultivation and seed treatment and crop storage through organic process. During the training period he visited many organic fields and gained practical knowledge on farming.

After returning from the training he started moving from village to village in Gutingia and Paburia panchayats with an objective to pass on his learning to other farmers who are in need of gaining this knowledge. He organized farmers and trained them on organic methods

*The 'magic tonic' is very much effective for Brinjal and Tomato cultivation. He started preparing the magic tonic with cow urine, garlic, molasses and herbs that are available in their locality.*

*-- Chakradhar Pradhan, a farmer cum vegetable cultivator of Gutingia.*

of cultivation for better production. He conducted meetings and interacted with farmers on the utility of organic cultivation, and he trained the farmers on vermin compost preparation, seed treatment and storage using neem, karanja leaf and SRI paddy cultivation.

Inspired by Praful many farmers started organic vegetable cultivation in their field. Now 35 farmers of the area are applying compost and cow urine solution in their field, 8 farmers have started preparing vermin compost and vermin wash preparation and use the same in their fields.

Influenced by Praful, as many as twenty farmers adopted SRI paddy cultivation in seventeen acres of land where paddy cultivation was previously done using traditional methods. Similarly Praful motivated more than one hundred and fifty families of Gutingia and Paburia Panchayats for mango plantation in three hundred acres of land through MGNREGS. He motivated these farmers for organic vegetable as inter cropping in their orchards. This year forty seven families have cultivated vegetables in their lands. Praful has played a key role in encouraging other cultivators in the village to follow these sustainable farming methods.

Praful is very thankful to PREM for giving this opportunity to him which helped him in his livelihood sustainability also his villages. He is determined to spread the organic process of agriculture to all the farmers of the area in coming days.

## Notes from the Field

### *Pallisabha and Post card campaign*

**2602 Pallisabhas and 27122 Post Card Campaigns** were completed at 737 villages of 10 districts of Odisha by the block and district level activists. The broad objectives of these two activities were *to make advocacy from palli sabha, gram sabha/panchayat to state level for policy changes in ECE, promoting Mother Tongue Based ECE and Multi-Lingual approaches in existing ICDS centers of tribal area of Odisha through proper channel, to spread message on ECE issues like MLE, MT based ECE through post cards.*

In the Pallisabha importance of Mother Tongue Based Multi Lingual Early Childhood Education in the tribal areas for the holistic development of the children, making resolution in their respective villages through pallisabha for proper function of existing ICDS and implementation of MT based MLECE and making of ECE as a main agenda in the pallisabha for



the holistic development of the 3-6 years tribal children were the main discussion points.

Similarly the Postcard campaign was a mass campaign which aimed to spread messages on ECE issues like MLE, MT based ECE, to influence the Governor and Chief Minister for inclusion of mother tongue based ECE in tribal areas of Odisha and awareness rising to change the behavior of stakeholders towards MT based MLECE.

From every village 10 people wrote 30 post cards to send the same to the Chief Minister, Chief Secretary and the Governor of Odisha for advocating in a wider base for strengthening mother tongue based early childhood education for the holistic development of the tribal children between 0-6 years. These two programs had good impact among all the stakeholders.

### **Gram Sabha and Pallisabha**

PREM is selected by the district administration, Ganjam as the third party for concurrent evaluation and process documentation including video documentary of the **Grama Sabha Sasktikaran Karyakrama**—to generate awareness about various schemes and formulate annual actions plans of various schemes of Panchayat Raj Department keeping in view the spirit of local governance as mandated by the Gram Panchayt Act, 1964—from October 2nd to 12<sup>th</sup> (Pallisabha) and on 18<sup>th</sup>(Gram sabha) in 22 blocks of Ganjam district.



This initiative aims at *addressing the challenges of social inclusion, vulnerability and mainstreaming of marginalized communities.*

Accordingly a team of 30 members from PREM and documented the process covering 82 Pallisabhas, 44 Grama sabhas of 22 blocks of Ganjam including district and block level orientation workshops.

## **Ongoing Initiatives**

### **New opportunity for the youths**

**Dr. Jacob Thundyil, President, PREM visited Don Bosco Yuva Kendra, New Delhi to have a discussion with the Executive Director, Don Bosco Yuva Kendra to collaborate with different trainings to support PREMA Project—An innovative professional and vocational training initiative, supported by Axis Bank Foundation of Mumbai—in vocational skills.** The Executive Director expressed his willingness to support PREMA project in almost 32 skills to the youths(both boys and girls)and PREM will be discussing with AXIS Bank Foundation regarding the future possibilities of this project.

## **Advance Agriculture Training**

A batch of 15 candidates—10 male and 4 female—and one translator left for Kerala **Agriculture University to attend a specialized training course**. All the 14 participants previously attended Advanced Agricultural Training conducted by 'Project PREMA' and have been selected for the advanced course by the delegation of faculty members of Kerala Agriculture University who visited the program for evaluation of post-training activities of the alumni. The course was for 21 days duration and mainly focuses on plant vegetative propagation, sustainable agriculture practices etc.

## **Driving**

During October 2012, seven candidates at Berhampur in Ganjam District completed **driving training**. All the candidates belong to Daringbadi block of Kandhamal District. They received their driving license in the month of December 2012.

A batch of 24 candidates at Konark and 2nd batch of 16 candidates at Charichak in Krishnaprasad Block of Puri District have completed their driving training in the month of November 2012.

## **Advocacy to create space for the tribal children.**

PREM and NACDIP was **invited by the Women and Child Development department, Govt. of India** on 18th December 2012 at New Delhi to present PREM's experience of Mother Tongue based Multi Lingual Early Childhood Education before the Director of ICDS, Mr. Rakesh Kumar, IAS. Amita Tandon, PA to The Director of ICDS, also present there in the meeting.

Dr. Jacob Thundyil, President, PREM/ Convener, NACDIP and Mr. K. Krishnan, Convener, NACDIP, South India were able to present and also had an interaction with them regarding the experience in Odisha on this MT based MLECE approach and requested the recommendation of NACDIP to be incorporated in the part of the National ECCE Policy. They have assured that they have already incorporated in the National ECCE Policy, which was a great achievement for NACDIP and PREM.

This meeting was very successful and it created good rapport between the Women and Child Development department, Govt. of India and NACDIP and as well as PREM.

## **Scholarship support**

PREM in collaboration with Plan India is providing **Scholarship support** to 217 children of Gajapati district for 8th, 9th and 10th standard education. The children are studying in central school, Golabandha and other local schools of Gajapati district by staying in different hostels. The children have appeared the half yearly examination and doing hard labour for the annual examination.



Similarly another **Grant Project** has started for scholarship support for the secondary education program. It is a scholarship and allied support for the education of the deprived children which is supported by Plan India. This project intends to *provide meaningful contribution to secondary and higher secondary education by continuing the ongoing scholarship support to 1131 children of Puri and Gajapati districts, who are in the class from 8th to 10th.*



Out of 1131 children 500 children are getting tuition support and rest 631 children are getting scholarship support by staying in different 10 hostels of these two districts.

## PREM Program Activities

### Education

#### *MT based curriculum and TLMs for the Adivasi children*

On 3rd September 2012 the **ECE technical team members of PREM and OAM met Sri. Gopal Krushna Mohapatra, Director, OPEPA(Odisha Primary Education Program Authority)** at Bhubaneswar.

The objective of the meeting was *to share PREM's experience in preparing TLMs in local tribal languages like Kui and Saura* with the support of BvLF. The team presented different TLMs—songs, stories, riddles, picture book, activity books, home and center based care book etc to the Director. He was very happy to see these TLMs and also appreciated PREM for this innovative idea and approach. As per the declaration by the Govt. of Odisha—20000 ICDS centers will have 10 mother tongue based multi lingual early child education



*Presenting Mother Tongue Based Multilingual ECE Materials before the Shri. Gopala Krushna Mohapatra, Director of OPEPA*

in future in the tribal hamlets— on 30th July 2012, the Chief Secretary of Odisha has directed OPEPA to prepare these TLMs for the ICDS centers. In these regard he seek PREM's support to work out the curriculum and other TLMs which will be a joint venture.

In presence of the Sri. Gopal Krushna Mohapatra, Director, the Deputy Director, OPEPA shared that OPEPA is going to organize a curriculum and TLM preparation workshop in the month of October 2012 where PREM is an important participant. In this workshop the role of PREM is very important to contribute their experience and resources.

For PREM this meeting was very successful, which created a new opportunity to contribute the experience and resources for the children in a larger way for their holistic development.

### *National level consultation*

In November 2012 a **National level Consultation** was organised at Hotel Sandy Tower, Bhubaneswar for two days. The main delegates in attendance were representatives of 16 states. The state representatives and convenor, NACDIP presented their existing issues and activities carried out for addressing these above issues.

Dr. Jacob Thundyil, Convenor NACDIP shared the objective of the consultation and encouraged all to work in a team in the process of networking through lobby and advocacy for the development of the children.

Ms. Dharitri Patnaik, Indian Representative, BvLF was present there and put her expectations from NACDIP. She focused on the success of Odisha state and suggested all to continue their state level advocacy to include separate chapters in the National ECCE Policy of Govt. of India.

This consultation was very successful and it created a good platform for the participants to learn from each other. Particularly the achievement of Odisha state was the best example for others to work in a good spirit and strong networking for the future of the children of age 0 to 6 years.

## Block level workshop



24 **Block level workshops on Mother Tongue based Early Childhood Education** were organized at 10 districts of Odisha. The main participants were ICDS workers, ICDS supervisors, ASHA workers, Sarpanchs, Samiti members, BRCC, School SIs, OAM representatives and media persons.

The purpose of this workshop was *to practice mother tongue based ECE in the tribal areas.*

The main discussion points in this workshop were definition of early childhood education, holistic development of a child, different teaching methods, development based specific activities, home based and center based care, importance of mother tongue based education, importance of school preparedness of a child before attending the primary school, need of multi lingual education for a child, availing the existing schemes and provisions of ICDS at the community level, regularizing nutrition and immunization programs, increasing enrollment, retention in the primary school level, community involvement in the preschool and primary school management, and highlighting the preschool and primary issues in the Palli Sabha and Gram Sabha meetings etc.

The other component of discussion was role of Odisha Adivasi Manch in promoting ECE in different tribal areas of Odisha. Realizing the importance of early childhood education and Mother tongue based multilingual early childhood education how Odisha Adivasi Manch( an organization of Odisha tribals) has taken up the different activities to strengthen this component in the tribal areas of Odisha and to provide quality early childhood education to the tribal children also discussed. An action plan was designed to take up Mother Tongue Based Multilingual Early Childhood Education in the anganwadi centers of tribal areas of Odisha. As a result the tribal children can complete their early primary education at the appropriate age and enroll and study better in the primary school.



At the end of the programs all the stakeholders realized the importance of the MT-based preschool education and they expressed their interest towards make the program successful.

## Livelihood

### Entrepreneur Development Training for Tribal Women

In November 'Project PREMA' sponsored a 10 day long **Entrepreneur Development Training for Tribal Women** at Bharat Mata Resource and Training Centre, Paralakhemundi. It was organized by Micro Small and Medium Entrepreneur Development Institute of Cuttack, Odisha State, a unit of Ministry of Small and Medium Entrepreneur Development, Government of India. 23 women belonging to Scheduled Tribe category of Gajapati district participated in the full time residential training program.

The Inaugural Function was attended by Mr. P. K. Mishra, Deputy Director of Micro Small & Medium Entrepreneur Development Institute, Cuttack, Mr. D. Mohan Rao, Manager of District Industrial Centre, Gajapati District, Mr. Prasad, Manager Project PREMA and



representatives of local peoples organizations including Bapuji Gramya Kalyan Samaj (BGKS), Mohan Block; Social Action for Village Enrichment (SAVE), Adava, Mohana Block; Margadarshi, Nuagada Block and Loksamiti, Rayagada Block.

The training included sessions for in-depth discussions on charms and qualities of entrepreneurship, various schemes of enterprise, role of promotional organizations, procedure for registration at District Industrial Centre, procedure for availing loan, communication-leadership negotiation skills of the entrepreneur, market survey and demand assessment etc. The participants conducted a market survey and prepared individual project reports during the training period under supervision of resource persons. Along with Deputy Manager of Micro Small & Medium Entrepreneur Development Institute, Cuttack Mr. Mahapatra, Field Supervisor, District Industrial Centre, Gajapati District; Mr. Ashok Panda, Manager, Andhra Bank (Lead Bank), Paralakhemundi and Mr. Salem Gamango, Executive Director of Adivasi Development Society, Gumma conducted the training sessions as resource persons.

The Valedictory Function was graced by Professor Dr. Mukti Mishra, President of Centurion University, Paralakhemundi along with Mr. Alok Roy, Director of Micro Small and Medium Enterprise Institute, Cuttack, Mr. D. Mohan Rao, General Manager of District Industrial Centre, Gajapati District. Dr. Jacob Thundyil, President, PREM visited the training camp on 19th November.

## Quotes

***"The education of even a small child, therefore, does not aim at preparing him for school, but for life. "***

--Maria Montessori (1870-1952), known for her pioneering work in early childhood education. She was the first woman to receive a degree in medicine from the University of Rome.

### PREM E-NEWS

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