

President's Message

Dear friends,

Greetings from PREM.

This year the summer started very vigourously, so some of the training activities and field programs are not conducted in these months. We had some state level workshops and consultations on Early Childhood Education and Right to Education organised at Bhubaneswar.

Another important exercise was annual evaluation and convocation for PREMA Project. We had organised this in each district level, especially for Ganjam at Gopalpur-on-Sea, for Kandhamal at Daringbadi, for Gajapati at Bharatmata, Parlakhemundi and for Puri at Satapada. The evaluation gave very new insights especially for Grihini program for the mothers. They have taken up new entrepreneurship in the field of agriculture, horticulture, animal husbandry and other new income generation programs like organising mid day meal, PDS and brick making through MGNREGA.

The adolescent girls who completed the course all of them appeared for the 10th examination in the Open School system at Navodaya school for Phulbani. In Hotel management, nursing and engineering the students have done very successfully for the first year. Two of the students for engineering at NTTF Technical Training Centre At J.N.TATA Education Centre, Gopalpur became the toppers in electronics and manufacturing. One of the girl students Prasanti Raita, of NTTF became the Champion in sports competition and also she was able to manage the Gold Medal in Shot Foot in national level. The Axis Bank Foundation, Executive Trustee and CEO Mr. Babu Joseph, visited PREMA Project and he appreciated the performance of the children.

CBCD project of PREM in tribal areas through mother-tongue based Multi- lingual education became a model in state level and also at national level. Exhibition was organised at Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology (KIIT) Campus Bhubaneswar during the 99th Indian Science Congress (ISC) and also during the visit of Honorable Governor of Odisha, Sri Muralidhar Chandrakant Bhandare at Bharatmata, Parlakhemundi.

We are very much hopeful that we will able to continue in coming months program much more meaning full way and also for the interest of the target communities.

Sincerely,

Dr. Jacob Thundyil,
President, PREM

Promotion of Mother Tongue Based Multilingual ECE at Indian Science Congress

From 3rd to 7th January 2012 PREM got an opportunity to be a part of the **99th Indian Science Congress (ISC)** at Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology (KIIT) Campus Bhubaneswar. The ISC was inaugurated by the Honourable Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh. More than 15,000 participants from all over India took part in this event. Apart from this 10 nobel laureate and high level dignitaries like former president of India, Montex Singh Alualia, Purendeswari Devi, Nirupama Rao were present. The event was presided by Prof.

Geeta Bali, General President ISCA 2011-12, Vice Chancellor, Karnataka State Women's University Bijapur. On the sidelines of the event the Childrens' Science Congress and Womens' Science Congress were also held.



The objectives of the event were *to advance and promote the cause of science in India, to hold an annual congress at a suitable place in India, to publish proceedings, journals, transactions and to popularize science.*

It was a great opportunity for PREM to demonstrate a pilot intervention on mother tongue based multi lingual model ECE centre

in association with Bernard van Leer Foundation, Netherlands. The objective behind participating in this event was *to demonstrate the potential success of mother-tongue based Multi-lingual ECE in Adivasi areas (within the existing resources) for the successful transition of tribal children from preschool to primary school and to influence the concerned government departments and policy makers to be exposed to this approach and replicate them in existing ICDS centers and in other similar areas.*

I am very happy to see this innovative approach, which is very easily understandable and accessible to the children. I realize the beauty of childhood in my village.
--Statement from a student



In this program a mother tongue based multi lingual model ECE centre stall was displayed where more than 450 context specific teaching learning materials were displayed which were prepared by the center facilitators, centre children, school children, youths, local artists and parents of the communities by using locally available resources.

More than 15000 participants—students, youths, parents, national and international guests and other

dignitaries—visited the stall and gave their feedback on this new pilot intervention.

This opportunity opened a path for PREM to present and demonstrate its pilot intervention at national and international level to advocate mother tongue based multilingual model of ECE in a larger way.

Success Story

Grihini Trainees Elected to Local Offices

A total number of 17 members of Grihini trainees, Grihini trainers and agriculture activists—who have taken Advanced Agriculture Training—**contested in the Panchyatiraj Election** held in the month of February 2012, for the positions of Zilla Parisad, Samiti Member, Sarapanch and Ward Member in the 3 districts of Ganjam, Gajapati and Kandhamal all 16 of them were elected.

Three Ward Members, one Samiti Member and one Sarapanch won at Goudagotha in Ganjam district. While in Gajapati Distirct 2 Sarapanchas and 2 Ward Members won at Mohana area, one Samiti Member and one Ward Member won at Adava area, one Samiti Member and one Sarapanch won at Rayagada area and 2 Ward Members won at parimal area. Similarly in Kandhamal District one Sarapanch won election at Daringbadi area.



All the winning candidates were very happy for their success and they expressed their commitment towards their responsibilities for the community. They also expressed their gratitude to PREM for continuous inspiration and encouragement. PREM congratulate the successful candidate and wish them all for their future commitment towards development of their community.

Notes from the Field



The 3rd batch for **Advanced Agriculture Training** left for Trissur to attend the course at Kerala Agriculture University(KAU) on 20th January. The batch consists of 16 members from Gajapati District and 3 members from Kandhamal District along with Project PREMA official.

The objectives of the training program were to *acquire the basic knowledge on advanced agricultural process—horticulture, grafting & disease Management, to upscale their inner potentials and skills, to enhance the capacity in disseminating the information and to gain practical knowledge through interaction with model Agricultural Farmers.*

During the scheduled period the gained knowledge on personality development, Participatory Training Techniques, medicinal plants, Organic Farm & major benefits such as Good yield and quality crops, safe and environmental balance, increasing the fertile capacity of land; Organic Recycling Process, organic compost like Vermi-compost, Jeevamrutha compost, Erobi compost; Eco-friendly farming practices, Livestock Farm and Fodder Research & Development – Vaccination, De-worming, Fodder cultivation, Milking etc.

This training program on agriculture and animal science increased awareness on the importance



of organic farming, rearing of crossbred animals and bio-control. This also created confidence to practice organic farming and to convert the traditional practices into scientific methods.

Ongoing Initiatives

Under Project PREMA about 60,000 square feet of **wall painting** was completed at 15 locations in 4 districts—Ganjam, Gajapati, Kondhamal and Puri.



The objectives of this initiative were to provide information to the public on Project PREMA and its vocational courses and to disseminate messages to public through which they can get opportunity for their future livelihood.

Mainly the wall paintings were done at the public places where people (community) can easily access and reach.

“It is inspiring to see how a Private Bank like Axis Bank is supporting the Poor for Education and livelihood” remarked a community member after reading the wall painting.

PREM Program Activities

Education

A two day State level Consultation on **Right to Education and Early Childhood Education in Tribal Areas** was planned on 23rd and 24th January at Pantha Nivas, Bhubaneswar to plan collectively for better implementation of the Right to Education Act, to facilitate the participants to come out with strategic plans for the future course of action across community as well as target groups, to provide multiple opportunities for dialogue and exchange and other key stakeholder and to provide advocacy and lobby from the grass root level to the state level.



The convention had active participation of as many as 130 including members, CBOs, network NGO leaders, social activists, SMC members, media-representatives, academicians and representatives of civil society organization of Ganjam, Gajapati, Puri, Keonjhar, Nuapada and Kandhamala districts of Odisha.

The workshop was formally inaugurated by Sri Sarat Kar, the Honourable Ex-Speaker, State Legislative Assembly, Govt. of Odisha. In his inaugural address he gave importance to the childhood time education. He also stressed the importance of mother tongue in education for better understanding for the children. He also equally laid stress on sensitising the rural people about RTE, as well as ECE for the development of the children.



Dr. Jacob Thundyil, President of PREM articulated the aims and objectives of the consultation and briefed the house about the ongoing legislative attempt on education. He stated in spite of the existence of many laws there appears to be no sign of decline of child labour and migration. He was of the view to include early childhood education in RTE to avail AWC facilities in the remote Adivasi areas.

Ms. Dharitri Pattnaik, Country Director, Bernard van Leer Foundation shared her experience brought to the attention of the house that it is an irony that 1.4 million children of India are not able to access preschool education. She laid greater emphasis to include the children of 3 to 6 years in RTE, the ICDS worker must be a tribal lady and AWW to know the mother tongue of the children. She suggested for lobby and advocacy with the Govt. for the promotion of RTE and ECE.

Mr. Digraj Brahma, Deputy Director, SCERT in his address pointed out the modicum of success achieved in the implementation of RTE is not up to the mark. He laid stress on fearless teaching and free from corporal punishment for the holistic development of the children. Lastly he gave importance to the collaborative action by the Govt. and NGOs for the development of RTE and ECE.

Prof. Amiya Kumar Pattnayak, Vice Chancellor, Utkal University of Culture, presented his view that quality education is vital since development is impossible without education. He cited the importance on use of local language than English. Then he laid importance on involvement of parents in their children's education.

Prof. U.N.Das, Retd. Professor, Psychology, Utkal University in his presentation elaborated on the seven chapters and highlighted the norms and standards for a school, educational development index, infrastructure indicators, teacher indicators, outcome indicators and finally action agenda

The participants presented their presentation district wise through groups on issues concerning RTE—role of civil society organisation and PRI members in the implementation of RTE and their opinion to develop ECE based on mother tongue.

These two days workshop was very successful in view of the fact that there were participants from different districts of Odisha and they took active participation in this workshop. Not only the participants were well educated on different dimensions of the two topics—right to education and early child education—the concern guests were also sensitised. The program provided opportunities for strengthening collaborative efforts with the Govt. Systems.

A two day **Angan Wadi Worker's training program** was organized at Gopalpur-on-Sea in the month of February. A total of 53 participants—AWW, ICDS supervisor, ECCD supervisors ECCD coordinator—participated in this training. The entire two days program was facilitated by the Program coordinator with the support of supervisors. The main objectives of this training program were to enhance the capacity building of Angan Wadi workers



on home- and centre-based education and to improve the skills of trained Angan Wadi workers.

The topics covered during these two days were importance of the early child care and development, care of pregnant women and safe delivery practice, age specific—0 to 2 years—child care and development and importance on child education in formative years.

Over the two days the participants were trained through various methodologies—participation, question & answers, lecture method, demonstration, small group discussion, different creativity small group activities, drawings with different stories, varieties of joyful games, and action songs related to subjects and topics and posters.

In the second day different learning materials—FCCART, STORY CHART, HANGING CHART, PUZZLE, Color drawing book, B.B.Cloth, Doster, Chalk piece, Pencil, Eraser, Sharpner, Crayns, Favicol, drawing sheet, Mask, Nail cutter and Whistle—were distributed to 40 Angan Wadi workers for better class room transaction. ECE Guide book was also distributed to the Angan Wadi workers for smoothly functioning of ECE centre.



This program was very enriching and joyful and provided knowledge to everybody. For two days the participants were trained in the following teaching methodologies: participation, question & answers, lecture method, demonstration,

small group discussion, different creativity small group activities, drawings with different stories, varieties of joyful games, and action songs related to subjects and topics and use of posters.

Health

In January PREM organized a **District level workshop on Mother and Child Care & Different Govt. Schemes** at Parlakhemundi. A total of 107 participants including village youth adolescent boys & girls, SHG leaders, PRI & People's Organization members, health workers, Front line staff of all sectors, PU staff and Govt. health workers were participated.

The main objective of the workshop were to *strengthen the capacity of individuals and communities for availing basic health facilities to the communities, to create alternative systems to address the issue of malnutrition reduce infant & maternal mortality – rate in indigenous communities, to sensitize different stake holders on different health issues and latest information related to different govt. health schemes.*



At the beginning of the workshop a short presentation was made on different health initiatives of PREM.

Guest of Honor Mr. Nilachal Patnaik, Asha Coordinator, NRHM spoke on mother and child health, causes of MMR and IMR, birth registration, institutional delivery and role of Jana Kalyan Samiti for protecting mother and child death.

Chief Guest Mr. Chittaranjan Mohanty, DPO, NRHM, Paralakhemundi was pleased to spare some time in our workshop. He shared various health information such as NRHM schemes, proper pregnancy care, new born care, accessing different schemes at the community level etc. He suggested to distribute the booklet “Pragati Pathe” NRHM, Gajapati to all the participants and told to give the Govt. Immunization programme to PREM.

Mr. Bana Bihari Mishra, MCH Co coordinator, Paralakhemundi clarified the doubts of the participants on the common diseases—Malaria, Diarrhoea, Measles, Tuberculosis, Arthritis, Anemia, Abortion—of this area. Then Mr. Mishra started with the JSY of NRHM scheme, immunization, different health days—VHND day, nutrition day, immunization day— role of Asha Karmee, benefits of Janani Surakshya Yojana,



Another guest Mr. Rama Chandra Sahu, District welfare officer highlighted the role of Asha karmee, Anganawadi worker and member of GKS for the improving the community health status and also proper utilization of the GKS fund for healthy community.

This workshop was very informative and educative for the participants. They were made aware of the issues and problems on maternal and child health. Lastly an action plan was prepared for availing Govt. health schemes for the tribal communities.

In February four **health check up camps** were organized for hostel children at Bal Bikas Kendra, Mandiapalli and Adivasi Sikhya Samaj Vikas and Vidya Niketan, Paralakhemundi.

The objective of this health camps was to provide treatment support to the children for their better health condition. External doctors from M.K.C.G. Medical hospital, Berhampur and Non Govt. doctors of Paralakhemundi examined altogether 178 children. During such health checkup, they have prescribed medicines to 111 suffering children and referred 12 children to MKCG Medical Hospital for further investigation and treatment. Sick children were supplied with medicines as per prescription of doctors.

The children benefited with medicinal treatment and got cured from diseases and sensitized on how to preventive themselves from common diseases.

Child Protection

PREM organized a State level workshop on **Migration in Odisha-issues and challenges** at Pantha Nivas BBSR on 24th to 26th Jan 2012. A total of 227 participants—youths adolescent boys and girls, SHG members, NGO representatives, networks partners from different districts and states, People’s organization, NGOs working for migration control programs, media, PREM staff—participated in this program.

The objectives of the program were *to understand the need to control, to see the negative migration issues, challenges of the migrated families residing outside the state and to know how to initiate advocacy and lobby from the grass root level to state level so that issues related to migration can be given greater administrative vision.*



On the first day the workshop was formally inaugurated by Mr. Subrat Kumar Singdeo, Director, Madhyam Foundation. Dr. Jacob Thundyil, President of PREM expressing the gratitude to the honourable guests by

sharing his experience and also brought to the floor major issues and challenges of migration by narrating some case studies.

Mr. Singdeo in his speech highlighted issues and challenges related to migration which is having multi dimensional factors—push and pull. He also mentioned in Odisha context how poverty and migration are inter linked with each other. Then he briefed the house about the host of activities under taken by Madhyam Foundation for combating migration issues. Lastly he underpinned the plan of action for next three years.

Mr. Umi Daniel, Director, Aide et Action, Bhubaneswar began with segregating terms related to migration and frequently used in colloquial Odia language. He also narrated the trends of migrations and associated features related to Odisha and gave statistical details on migration of KBK district.

Mr. Kailash Das, Director, on the third day made a presentation on the migration status in tribal areas. He focused on the migration scenario from Kalahandi and Bolangir districts. He mentioned the schemes of Forest Right Act and MGNREGS. He told that the potential of these two schemes can be tapped to address the issues of migration to a larger context.

The other major topics covered by the other delegates and participants were: who are migrated, why migration, Situation analysis of the migrants, when and how of migration, ill-effects of migration, process to control negative migration, effective implementation of Govt. schemes and provisions to control negative migration and empowerment of panchayats to control negative migration in their respective areas.



NGOs working for migration control programs contributed their valuable suggestions and sensitised the participants on the thematic issues exists in different districts of Odisha. Participants shared their views with regard to the existence of migration in their

respective areas and collectively prepared a memorandum to be submitted to the Honourable Chief Minister of Odisha. They also got united to fight against the ill-effects of migration in a collective basis through a federation all over Odisha and the adjacent states.

A State level workshop on child protection issues and challenges, was organized at Carey Retreat Center, Gopalpur-on-Sea for two day (2nd and 3rd February) in the month of February. Resource persons from child line and members of the CWC were resource persons. Mostly the adolescent boys and girls and youths are the main participant.

The topics covered such as - analysis on issues and challenges along these spheres, the magnitude of the issues, the factors accountable for the same and the solutions possible. Presentation on JJ Act, JJ board, CWC, Child line, Juvenile home, children's home, child care etc were made and role clarity for different stake holders was analyzed.



The issues and challenges were thrashed out in groups and roles, strategies of action were designed. A memorandum was drafted to be submitted to Honourable Chief Minister Govt. Of Odisha, the Minister of Women and Child Development, Govt. Of Odisha, and Hon'ble Chief Secretary Govt. Of Odisha. It was highly participatory and children managed program.

Livelihood

On 7th and 8th February 2012 a **District level Farmers meet (Krushak Samabesh)** was organised at Chandragiri. The farmers from different tribal pockets of Gajapati district were participated in this program. The district farmers meet was designed *to involve both the district officials and farmers to share their views*, accordingly the district officials such as NABARD, AGM, Deputy Director of Agriculture, Program Coordinator .KVK(Krushi Bigyan Kendra) and lead bank manager were invited to the farmers meet. The farmers meet was organized with good number of progressive farmers at Chandragiri, Resource centre of PREM.

The main objective of the program was *to acquire agro based scientific knowledge and disseminate the same to the neighboring farmers and to access the Govt. schemes and provisions through lobby and advocacy.*



In this program Mr. Gopal Krishna Dangua ,NABARD,AGM, Mr. Chandra shekhar Rao, Deputy Director of agriculture, Mr.Ashok Kumar Panda, LDM ,Mr. Manas Ranjan Pattanaik ,KVK , Dr. Jacob Thundyil ,President, PREM were the guests.

The topics discussed in these 2 days were accessing the government facilities and create better business marketing. Adopting new techniques of agriculture,

getting forest land patta, improved varieties of Maize cultivation and its benefit, supply of seeds and plants to the farmers at the subsidiary rate, establishing good rapport between the team of extension worker of Krushi Vigyan Kendra with farmers, types of loan transaction, bank loan systems on agriculture and other allied activities for the farmers and different technical trainings, different schemes and support to the farmers, SHGS and NGOS, importance on promoting dairy farm in the tribal area and formation of farmers Club in each GP level. He also presented the role and responsible of farmers club, short term paddy varieties to be used in the rain fed area, method of seed collection and treatment and importance of soil testing, how to reduce the soil acidity by the use of wastage of paper mill, use of bio-compost and pesticide and method of preparation, the main features of SRI method of paddy cultivation and sun flower cultivation, agriculture schemes and subsidiary system of the government – seeds and fertilizer, agriculture implements, open well and bore well, lift point for irrigation (Jalanidhi scheme), benefits of RKVY (Rastriya Krushi Vikash Yoyana) and accessing of Kisan credit card.

In the open discussion four major issues—traditional practices for the use of natural resources and sustainable livelihood, Policy analysis and advocacy for pro people forest policy, Price fixation of minor forest produce, the symbiotic of the tribal which has been destroyed were taken up for discussion in the farmers meet and common action for the protection and management of forest and natural resources.



This two day meet was very useful and informative for the farmers for use of new technique and method of agriculture for more production for heir sustainable livelihood.

- *One test of the correctness of educational procedure is the happiness of the child.*
- *Free the child's potential, and you will transform him into the world.*

--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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