

President's Message

Dear friends,

Greetings from PREM.

PREM together with its networking NGOs and People's Organizations conducted district level sensitization workshops on Right to Free and Compulsory Education Act in the tribal context in seven districts of South Odisha and finally at Gopalpur-on-Sea and also in Bhubaneswar. The main objectives of the workshops were to sensitize all the stakeholders about various provisions of the right to education act, to analyze the Act, rules and regulations and suggest suitable measures and to advocate and lobby for amendments in the Act, rules and regulations to ensure its successful implementation in the tribal areas.

In the workshops we had participations from all levels, especially the policy makers and officials from education department, PRI and SMC members, media representatives, NGOs, People's Organisations etc. It is encouraging that the Honorable Minister of School and Mass Education Department, Govt. of Odisha has entrusted to PREM the responsibility for reporting problems relating to primary education in the southern districts, so that the authority can take necessary steps to address the issues. Appreciating for the organization of the district level campaign on RTE, the Honorable minister suggested PREM to take this initiative to Block and the Panchayat level for ensuring people's participation on a large scale in the successful implementation of Right to Education Act.

Also, you can read about our other initiatives and more in this issue. I hope you enjoy this newsletter and that you'll send us your feedback.

Sincerely,

Dr. Jacob Thundyil,
President, PREM

Highlight of the Issue

Right to Education and Learn without Fear

PREM in collaboration with Plan India organized a **State level Workshop on Right to Education in the tribal context** at St. Vincent's Retreat Centre at Gopalpur-on-Sea on 27th and 28th of June 2011.

This workshop was organized in order to consolidate the findings of the seven district level workshops—in Ganjam, Gajapati, Rayagada, Kandhamal, Nabarangpur, Koraput and Malkangiri—of Southern Odisha, organised in the months of April, May and June 2011, and also to suggest to the authority for improvement of the educational scenario in the Adivasi areas. About 150 participants—PRI members, CBOs,



Sri Pratap Jena, Honourable Minister, School and Mass Education delivering his address at State level workshop on RTE

Networking NGOs, social activists, SMC members, students, media representatives, academicians, Govt. officials—from different districts attended the workshop.

In the first session, the findings of all the seven workshops held in seven southern districts were presented and also the objectives of the workshops were explained. About 786



Participants from different districts attended the workshop

participants attended the workshops and nearly 45 percent of them were women. Besides, the PRI members, media representatives, MLAs, ZP presidents, Minister on Dalit and tribal affairs, academicians, students, etc participated and contributed to the workshop. Details of the act and regulations were explained to the participants and the problems in the areas were mapped. After sharing the above problems and understanding the rules and regulations under the Right to

Education Act 2009, the participants gave their feedbacks and they suggested some measures for improvement in the Act and rules. The suggestions that emerged from the district level workshops were submitted to the Honourable Chief Minister through Sri Pratap Jena, Honourable Minister, School and Mass Education, and also submitted to Sri Kapil Sibal, Honourable Minister of Human Resource Development, Govt of India, through Sri Chandra Sekhar Sahu, Former Minister, Govt. of India.

In the second session, Sri Chandrasekhar Sahu, former Union Minister of Rural Development, Govt. of India, inaugurated the workshop. Prof Bijay Bohidar was the Chief Speaker and Mr. A. C. Jose was invited as Guest of Honour. Also Ms. Jyosna Rani Patro, Principal, Horobino School was invited as one of the Speakers for the occasion. Dr. Jacob Thundyil, President of PREM shared the aims and objectives of the workshop.

Prof Bijay Bohidar, Reader, Binayak Acharya College, explained the education status of the country and how the Adivasi are being exploited from the very beginning in the sphere of education. Sri Chandrasekhar Sahu also spoke on education and the need for completion in the field of education. He assured that the demands presented in the form of memorandum would be submitted to the Honourable Minister, Sri Kapil Sibal. Ms. Jyosna Rani Patro also shared about the problems in the private school in the wake of Right to Education Act.

On the second day Sri Pratap Jena, Honourable Minister, School and Mass Education, Sri Siddhanta Mohapatra, MP, Berhampur, Sri Ramesh Chandra Chyaupatnaik, MLA, Berhampur, Sri Pradeep Kumar Panigrahi, MLA, Gopalpur, Sri Kamaraju Sethi, Zilla Parishad President, Sri Kailash Rana, BDA Chairman were the guests present in the valedictory session. Dr. Jacob Thundyil, President of PREM mentioning about the aims and objectives of the workshop enlightened purpose—to empower the community for successful implantation of RTE—of organising the workshop.

‘The Honourable Minister in his speech congratulated PREM and the entire network of NGOs for organising such a workshop on RTE. He also appreciated the initiative of the PREM for empowering the people on RTE at community level. He requested that the participants highlight community level issues and forward them to his department through PREM. He specially requested PREM and the tribal network to take this message RTE at village level. He extended all his support and help to PREM and the network financially to take this campaign at panchayat, village and block level.

Ms. Pratima Routa, an Adivasi girl from Gajapati District, who secured 96 percent in the CBSE Board Exam, 2011, from Public School, Phulbani, Kandhamal district was felicitated

by the Honourable Minister in the function. He congratulated Pratima for her excellent performance and also appreciated the role of PREM in facilitating the educational development of the marginalized children from rural and remote areas. The memorandum on behalf of PREM was submitted to the Honourable Minister Sri Pratap Jena and Sri Siddhanta Mohapatra, MP. The workshop was closed with vote of thanks to all the guests

Similarly, in May PREM in collaboration with Plan India a **State level workshop on Quality Education and Learn without Fear** was organized at Pantha Nivas, Bhubaneswar. This workshop had active participants including, students, teachers, NGO representatives from 25 districts, SHG leaders, VEC members, BRCC, CRCCs and PRI representatives. Issues and quality of education in the rural Odisha, violence on children, learning without fear and positive discipline were among the subjects dealt in greater depth. Sri Pratap Jena, Honourable Minister, School and Mass Education, was the Chief Guest, to grace this event.



Key note address by Dr. Jacob Thundyil, President of PREM at State level workshop on LWF.

Dr. Jacob Thundyil, President of PREM presented the highlights of the consultation in the thematic areas of education (both for the child and adult) of PREM since last over 27 years. Acknowledging the honour extended by Dr. Thundyil, Sri. Pratap Jena, appreciated the initiatives of PREM and its 27 years journey then he shared different laws of education which are not put into action properly. He told the audience that “Organisations like PREM need to be commended as Adivasi people are largely getting education because of consistent effort of civil society organizations”. He also made a request to Dr. Thundyil to place the brief report of the programme before the Government of India in order to ensure appropriate steps are taken in the direction.

These two workshops were very successful in view of the fact that there were participants from different districts of Odisha and that they took active participation in these workshops. Not only that the participants got well educated on the different dimensions of the two different topics but the concern ministers on the departments were made sensitised. The programs have provided opportunities for strengthening collaborative efforts with the Govt. infrastructures.

Success Story

Adivasi Students Succeed in Examinations

Forty PREM-supported Adivasi students from Central School and other English medium



Sri Pratap Jena, Honourable Minister, School and Mass Education felicitating Pratima

schools have successfully completed their 10th standard examination with distinction. These forty children are from remote Adivasi villages of Gajapati district where most people do not access to getting quality education a generation ago. Among them 5 students scored 88%. And the top student is Pratima Devi Rauta, who studies in Public school Phulbani, Kandhamala district. She achieved a cumulative score more than 96%.

At the state-level workshop on RTE organized by PREM on June 28th, Sri

Pratap Jena, Honourable Minister Mass Education and Schools, felicitated Pratima Routa for her achievement and success.

All the Adivasi communities of Gajapati district are proud of this result. Also PREM and Orissa Adivasi Manch congratulate the successful students and congratulate all the children for their success.

Notes from the Field

Self-Rule in Adivasi Areas

In June PREM in collaboration with Concern Worldwide India conducted an **End-Term Evaluation** of the project Promotion of Self-Rule in Adivasi area for five districts—Ganjam, Gajapati, Kandhamal, Rayagada and Sundargarh— of Odisha. This project was led by PREM for four and half years (2007-2011). This evaluation covers operational areas of Orissa Adivasi Manch where PREM and its network partner NGOs and Adivasi people's organizations working in these districts. All the districts are dominated by Adivasi population and most of the districts are notified as scheduled and MADA areas by the Government of India.



Participants presenting their achievements during the evaluation process

This evaluation was carried out by a team—comprised of an external consultant, internal evaluator and project staff—of PREM. The purpose of the evaluation is *to measure the impact and outcomes of the project after four and half years of project implementation.*

This evaluation helped to assess our growth, success and achievement in different aspects.

-- Feedback from community members

particular the focus is given to measure the impacts, outcomes, learning and the sustainability of the project and the programmatic approaches as well as procedural aspects of the project. It also looks at the various challenges, strength and weakness for the sustainability of the project impact and plan for the future.

The process of evaluation includes meetings, field visits, discussions with OAM leaders and social watch monitors of each district. The process was participative in nature, including communities, OAM, PREM, Concern and an external consultant. Final report of this evaluation will be published during the second week of July 2011.

A Documentary on Mother Tongue Based ECE

Since 2007 PREM in collaboration with Bernard van Leer Foundation (BvLF), Netherlands has established 350 CBCD centers for Early Children Education (ECE) for home-based and center-based care. In 2010 Phase II of this project was initiated with the same approach, which will ultimately lead towards successful transition of children from home to preschool and from preschool to formal school at the appropriate age. Phase II focuses on developing Mother Tongue based ECE to strengthen the ECE component of ICDS and CBCD centers and to bring quality in the existing centers for the successful transition of young Adivasi children of 450 communities in 4 districts—Ganjam, Gajapati, Kandhamal and Rayagada—of Odisha and Vizianagaram district of Andhra Pradesh.

CNBC—an international news channel—has selected PREM's CBCD project to be the subject of a **Documentary Film**. In June the documentary shooting was conducted in one of the Saura communities—B. Nuasahi, Sishu Bikash Kendra (CBCD Center)—of Soroda block, Ganjam district, to show the BvLF Foundation's work in action through PREM.

The shooting captured the lifestyle of the Adivasi, their community background. Similarly it also concentrated on the mother tongue based classroom interaction. They interviewed different stakeholders to get their feedbacks on this intervention. In this process the community participated enthusiastically and responded in a very positive way. The children were also very confident as well as the community with this new experience. The CNBC team too appreciated the responses and the cooperation of the community towards fulfilling this challenging task.

This documentary will be telecast in the month of September 2011 on the CNBC channel.

Ongoing Initiatives

World Environment Day celebration

On 5th June, 2011 PREM observed the **World Environment Day** at Program Unit Chilika at the district headquarters of Puri. The objective of this program was *to create awareness on environmental issues and to make efforts towards sound environment*. Young men and women, teachers, PRI representatives and the project staff from the 4 sector areas of the Project counting 150 staged a rally in the Puri town with slogans composed on various messages pertaining to environmental issues. This was followed by a meeting at Hotel Padma. The assistant Engineer, RWSS, Puri was the main guest of the day. The meaning of environment, the ways it gets polluted and means of preservation were thrashed through talks and group discussions. The meeting has certainly clarified many doubts of the participants.

It was realized by me that clean environment makes life permanent, so plant a tree by each and every one-- said participant of World Environment Day Celebration.

Advocacy for Dalit Rights

PREM organized two **District Level Consultations on Dalit Issues** for two districts—Puri and Gajapati—at Carrey Retreat & Study Center, Gopalpur-on-Sea and BGKS, Mohana by PREM in the month of June. 270 Dalit representatives of both the sexes from different age groups—adolescent to adult—participated in these consultations. The burning issues of the Dalits stemming out of the exploitative social structure were discussed and debated. The protective laws and the schemes/ programs meant for their development were dealt with in details. There was in-depth discussion on child, human and fundamental rights as well. Ms. Geeta Devi, a member of the Governing Body, PREM, spoke on women's rights. Advocate M. Nageswar Rao, another Governing Body member of PREM dealt with the fundamental rights and laws for the protection of Dalits.



At Mohana Dr. Jacob Thundyil, President of PREM, and Mr. Jaykrushna Hota, editor, Sambad, were the dignitaries who addressed the audience on the need for Dalits' unity for the concerted battle towards their liberation and development. Dr. Jacob reiterated and ended up with the tri-fold strategy of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar for the Dalits' liberation-'Educate, Agitate and Organize'.

Enrolment drive for ensuring education for the Adivasi children

In May and June PREM organized community level **Enrolment Drives** in 450 Adivasi villages of 4 districts—Ganjam, Kandhamal, Gajapati and Rayagada—of Odisha. The main objective of the drive included *sensitizing the parents, mothers, caregivers, communities, teachers to enroll their children in the primary schools and ICDS/CBCD centers at their appropriate age*. These drives were organized at community level where parents, mothers, caregivers, community members, different education committee members, SHG leaders, ICDS/CBCD facilitators, PRI members and school going children were participated with greater enthusiasm.

This program started with a rally at village level followed by a meeting. The participants were in fine voice and high spirits for the rally in their villages by highlighting different issues related to education with banners, leaflets etc. The rally proceeded through their villages by chanting different slogans to send their children to primary schools and ICDS/CBCD centers. Similarly in the village meetings the participants were aware on importance of Early Childhood Education and formal education which is very important for mainstreaming the Adivasi children in the globalise world. Also a list of the eligible children for enrolment in the primary schools and ICDS/CBCD centres was listed out. The parents of these identified children realized the importance of education and committed to enroll their children and send them regularly to the schools/centres.

This initiative resulted very effective for the parents and community members of the 450 Adivasi villages.

PREM Program Activities

Education

A two-day **workshop on Positive Discipline** was organized by PREM in June 2011 at Surya Beach Inn, Puri. A total 55 teachers from the high schools and primary schools from the project operational area attended the training participants included the BRCC, Brahmagiri block, CRCCs were among the important participants of the training program. The program was facilitated by Sri Saroj Sahu, Program Support Manager of PREM. The objective of the program was *to create awareness on positive discipline among the teachers where the children can learn in a joyful and positive environment and to establish positive environment of discipline for children*.

In these two days the topics covered on positive discipline through various methods and activities. Bad or addictive discipline was discussed to length. It was agreed by one and all that just by making line and keeping silence, discipline is not achieved but when the enthusiasm of the child is completely satiated or they feel that they are in a secure and interesting environment they are more understanding then other grown ups.

The teachers worked out an action plan where they designed their activities in the school campus In these two days the BRCC and his team were very active and participative. They were very clear on the concept of positive discipline and also they committed to adopt this concept in their day to day classroom transaction.



Health

In May PREM hosted two-day **State level Workshop on Role of Civil Society in the Control & Prevention of HIV/ AIDS** at Pantha Nivas, Bhubaneswar, which included 135 active participants—youths, PRI members, teachers, SHGs, representatives from networking



Sri Prasanna Acharya, Honourable Minister of Health & Family Welfare, & Public Grievance & Pension Administration delivering his speech in the State level workshop on HIV/ AIDS at Bhubaneswar

NGOs and civil society organizations, officials from OSACS and Govt. departments. The workshop was formally inaugurated by Sri. Prasanna Acharya, Honourable Minister of Health and Family Welfare, and Public Grievance and Pension Administration. Among the guests in attendance were Sri. Surya Narayan Patra, Honourable Minister, Disaster Management, Dr. Rabindra Nath, Additional Project Director, OSACS Dr. Tripati Mishra, Joint Director IEC, OSACS.

This workshop was planned with an aim to provide a platform for all the stakeholders to sensitize,

to facilitate and to come out with strategic plans for the future course of action across the communities, to provide multiple opportunities for dialogue and exchange of ideas with a broad range of communities and other key stakeholders and to help in conducting targeted advocacy both at the state and national level with different stakeholders.

Sri Prasanna Acharya, Honourable Minister of Health & Family Welfare, & Public Grievance & Pension Administration, educated on different angles and kinds of mortal diseases. He also cited importance on spreading awareness, education & information for eradicating HIV. Sri Acharya mentioned different Govt. schemes to give comfort to the HIV affected & their families. In his speech he looked forward for a collaborative effort of the civil society organisations in this sector to get success.

While Mr. Surya Narayan Patro, Honorable Revenue Minister, Govt. of Odisha, enlightened the audience on the situation of the migrated Odia labourers and the way they fall prey to HIV infection.

The Additional Project Director and Joint Director IEC, OSACS made a detailed presentation on the HIV infected, the provisions made for the infected and the facilities/arrangements made for testing, counseling and treatment. They also highlighted the role of civil society in discarding the stigma and discrimination.

Dr. Jacob Thundyil, President, PREM inspired the audience to love and respect the infected, to fight the social stigmata attached to them and to build



Participants at State level workshop on HIV/AIDS at Bhubaneswar

awareness among people to create an empathetic and helping environment for them. The most interesting part was the sharing of experiences and the self confidence exhibited by two HIV infected persons. They highlighted that it is necessary for everyone to have correct information about HIV/AIDS and it is also a corporate social responsibility to sensitize the people on HIV/AIDS.

In these two days the participants of the workshop hailed from different walks of life and agreed to take up this challenge with lobbying and advocacy.

In May PREM organised six sector level training programs on **Self Monitoring Mechanism (SMM) on water quality monitoring and surveillance and use of multi parameter field water quality test kit** in sectors—Mohana, Adava, Parimala, Nuagada, Rayagada and

Gumma—of Gajapati district. The total 333 participants—WES committee members, youth club members, WES educators, PRI members and frontline staff—attended these training programs. These programs were for WES committee members, youth and frontline staff—as they are the prime responsible persons for mobilising Govt. resources for the benefit of the community through Pallasabha and Gramsabha—of the operational area.



A clipping of Sambad daily newspaper about the water test kit training organized by PREM

The core objectives of the training were to sensitize the participants on the importance of water, environment and sanitation and its proper management and to learn the water testing method and enable the participants to collect sample water from identified source and test the same with water testing kit with 12 parameters. These training programs were imparted by external resource persons from RWS&S department, Berhampur, Ganjam.

The trainers explained different topics—value of water, issues of water scarcity, contaminated water, salty water, chemical water which lead to various diseases for human life and also affect the aquatic life and crops, water born and ware related diseases though unhygienic practices proper sanitation and need of water test, need of preserve and protecting environment and water sources.

An introduction was given on multi parameter field water test kit—a water test methodology—which records data of water quality followed by demonstration sessions. At the end the participants gained knowledge and skill on water testing with active participation and network was build among RWS&S and PRI members and community created future plan of action worked out.

In June the field office, sector and cluster level staffs of Program Unit at PREM-Plan Chilika obtained three-day **Training on Health and HIV/AIDS** at Surya Beach Inn, Puri. Mr. Nagendra Acharya—a Free Lance Consultant—was the resource person for this training. The objective of the training was *to enhance knowledge on health and HIV/AIDS of the staff members.*



PREM staff busy in the health training

In these three days the staff members received information on various aspects of health care, health policies, programs. Schemes, rules and regulations and acts of Government in India and

the National Health DRFAT Bill 2009(which is under the active consideration of the Government of India) shared with the participants.

In the last day a session on Human Behaviour specific to Personality Structure—very much useful for any Health Facilitator—and healthy Life Position was explained to the participants. In this process Transactional Analysis framework was used to explain the above. The training was quite participatory and the staff could clarify most of their doubts on health and HIV/AIDS.

Livelihood

PREM's new initiative Project PREMA—an innovative professional and vocational training initiative—in collaboration with Axis Bank Foundation of Mumbai organized a two-days **Workshop on Content Development for Grihini** in the month of June Training was held at St. Vincent Retreat Center, Gopalpur-on-Sea. All the subject specialists totalling 13 members who were assigned to *develop the content for Grihini curriculum attended the workshop and participated in extended brainstorming sessions for finalization of the course curricula.*



Workshop on content development of Grihini Training manual

The workshop was led by Dr Jacob Thundyil, President of PREM, Dr Chacko Paruvanany, Secretary of PREM and Dr Pradeep Mahapatra, Faculty of Berhampur University. The trainers and facilitators are drawn from the staff of PREM—having long experience in imparting training from adult-education to health, livelihood and governance campaigns over years.

In these two days modalities were finalized to prepare the Grihini Training manual by clearly identifying all the activities to be conducted, information disseminated, games, songs, quizzes and audio-visual presentations to be made for each individual day amounting to 20 days for women and 60 days for adolescent girls. It was decided to produce a number of posters and charts to be used as training-aids and complete sets to be distributed to each of the training groups. Similarly to adopt a participatory method of learning curricula and organize quiz sessions at the end of every day's time table to evaluate the learning of the day.

Child right

In May PREM in collaboration with Plan India organized a **District level workshop on Child Protection** at Chandragiri with 138 participants—children club members, youth club members, PRI members, teachers and community members. The guests included Sri Prabhu Prasad Patra, The Child line Asst. Director of Berhampur, Ganjam, Sri Titi Mallik, Sarpancha, Mohana Panchayat. The objectives of the workshop were to *create awareness on child protection and to interface with the district level Govt. officials, Child line and selected PRIs and selected CP cell members with children.* The main discussion points in this



program were 4 major child rights and child protection, child violation, ensuring their protection at every level, child labour, child trafficking child migration, HIV/AIDS, gender discrimination, birth registration, child marriage and effect of these issues in the process of child development. Different success stories related to issues of child protection, forms of child abuse and its reporting mechanism were shared. The participants gained knowledge on child rights and its importance. In this platform awareness was raised to spread the message on “Say ‘YES!’ to keeping Children Safe” and Learn without fear”.

At the end of the workshop all the PRI members and village leaders promised to help and support the children clubs for their development and capacity building. They too decided to take steps for bring to an end of migrations, school drop outs, child marriages and they also took responsibility to aware the parents and community leaders for 100% school enrollment (both boys and girls).

Similarly in June a state level workshop was held at Carey Retreat & study Center, Gopalpur-on-Sea around the main theme **Child Protection**. Representatives of either sex from the 30 districts of Odisha participated in this workshop. Every district had a representative to share on the child protection issues of children. Mr. Sudhir Kant Sabat, Director, Child line, as the main resource person, spoke on the rights of children with a special stress on child protection. He elucidated on the areas of child abuse, the provisions for children’s care and protection mechanism. Dr. Jacob Thundyil, President PREM stressed on community based mechanism for children’s protection.

PREM Family News

A team of 12 staff members from PREM along with Dr. Jacob Thundyil, President of PREM participated in **Alternative Summit for Microfinance**, which was organized from 21st to 23rd June 2011 at Dr. Marri Chenna Reddy Human Resource Development Institute of



Andhra Pradesh, Hyderabad, India. This program was organized by INAFI (International Network of Alternative Financial Institutions)—a global network of development organizations involved in enabling and supporting micro finance programs of the member organizations in Asia, Africa and Latin America in association with National Rural Livelihoods Mission, Ministry of

Rural Development, Government of India and Society for Elimination of Rural Poverty, Government of Andhra Pradesh.

This was essentially an international event whose participants were 600 INAFI members from seven Asia countries—Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Nepal, Philippines and Thailand—all of whom are Microfinance practitioners, NGOs and MFIs, Governments, Policy Makers/Apex, Institutions, Commercial Banks, Insurance Companies, Regulators, Academia, Donor Agencies, Philanthropies and other development stakeholders.

The summit was all about community owned (client owned), savings led, development focused microfinance programs and focused on the topical issues in microfinance. The main discussion points covered during this program were expanding microfinance eco system with larger social capital



Participants interacting with SHGs during their field visit

to leverage adequately for advancing inclusive development for sustainable access, to innovative financial services and livelihood products followed with field visits—where the participants visited villages, interacted with the community to understand the projects of the Society for Elimination of Rural Poverty (SERP).

Dr. Jacob Thundyil conferred a presentation on **Social Inclusion and Social Capital**—a very burning issue in the society—which is an important mark for beginning of the process towards mainstreaming.

To know more about the program—**Alternative Summit for Microfinance**—please log on to the website <http://www.hrdiap.gov.in>

This was a great opportunity for us to attend this type of international summit. This program enhanced our knowledge on micro finance. Also this was a big platform for us to meet and interact with different representatives from national and international level.

-- Participants attended the Alternative Summit for microfinance

Quote

Education is a human right with immense power to transform. On its foundation rest the cornerstones of freedom, democracy and sustainable human development.”

-- **Kofi Annan**, Ghanaian diplomat, former United Nations Secretary General and recipient of the 2001 Nobel Peace Prize.

PREM E-NEWS

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