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From President's desk

The world is facing a lot of disaster both natural and man made. Japan faced last year the worst Tsunami and most developed country like USA was facing many typhoon last year & this year. Some of the African countries facing continues famine due to drought for many years. Odisha is facing flood for couple of months lakhs of people are suffering and many villages are marooned in coastal districts of Odisha. We cannot stop natural disasters but disaster preparedness is very important in today's World. Red Cross society through out the World helping people in the disaster with the support of Civil Society Organization. This is very important that the Govt. and CSO should work together in disaster preparedness and disaster management .

It is pity India is having largest number of poor people in the World but India is treated like a de-



veloped countries by UN development agencies and Internal development organization. The only solution is that the communities should have mechanism of facing the disaster that means the community based disaster preparedness.



Highlight of the Issue



Students learning different subjects during Asha Jyoti training at Parlakhemundi.



Grihini TOT at Bharat Mata Parlakhemundi

Project PREMA, an innovative initiative of PREM in association with Axis Bank Foundation of Mumbai has been launched in April 2011 in the area of professional and vocational training. Honourable Chief Minister of Odisha Sri Naveen Patnaik formally inaugurated the program. This project aims to build capacity of the youths to affect social change to develop their potential to turn education into meaningful livelihood. Also those who happen to complete higher secondary education still lack extra qualifications necessary to fulfil the market demand for skilled workers.

This project also aims to motivate the youths and to help them to lead a productive life by acquiring the skills and training necessary to seek skilled, well-paying employment. More than 10,025 Adivasi and Dalit youths (the majority of them young women) of Odisha are targeted for training in one of several key sectors—computer hardware, computer software, hotel management and tourism, electronics, driving, security guarding, nursing, advanced agriculture, and women's leadership and livelihood (Grihini)—after which the youths should have the requisite skills and confidence to

enter the job market and obtain gainful employment.

In August the first batch for **Grihini- Asha Jyoti training—lifeskill development training for adolescent girls**—started at Bharatmata Training and Resource Center, Parlakhemundi. This sixty days long skill development training program was inaugurated by Dr. Jacob Thundyil, President of PREM. A total 59 candidates—adolescent girls belonging to Adivasi and Dalit communities—from Gajapati, Kandhamal and Ganjam districts have enrolled in this innovative course. Most of these girls are drop outs at various phases of secondary level schooling.

During this training camp efforts were initiated to organise tutorial classes in subjects like Odia, English, Mathematics, Science and Home science for drop out students to appear the 10th Board examination. Zenith Classes—a professional tutorial institution of Berhampur—conducted classes for one week duration at this training camp. The adolescent girls who have completed schooling up to Standard VII, IX and X are being encouraged to appear 10th Board examination conducted by National Open School of New Delhi—National Open School creates opportunities for appearing 10th Board examination without prescribing

minimum educational qualifications and the examinations are conducted in Modern Indian Languages for convenience of the students.

A majority of adolescent girls attending the Asha Jyoti training have opted for appearing the 10th Board examination and filled-in the application forms. PREM through Project PREMA made arrangements to contact the functionaries of National Open School regional office at Bhubaneswar for formal registration process.

The trainees at Asha Jyoti training are also given instructions on fundamentals of using computers, tailoring and kitchen gardening. The girls went on a picnic to a nearby place called Gandahati where they enjoyed the waterfalls and beauty of nature.

Notes from the Field

WASH: Water Sanitation & Hygiene



A toilet block at one of the school in Chilika Project

PREM in collaboration with Plan India has **constructed 9 Toilet Blocks, 6 Rain Water Harvesting Structures and 6 Bore wells in 6 schools** scattered over the project operational area in Program unit Chilika. The main objective of this construction included to create a healthy environment in schools, to meet children's need for potable water and protect them from water borne diseases that keep them away from school and to attract grown up girl children who face difficulties in the absence of toilet and water facilities in schools.

One each WASH (Water Sani-

tation & Hygiene) Committee has been formed in the schools for the proper use and maintenance of the infra-structures and to build related awareness in the schools, families and communities.

Lastly the WES has been a felt necessary among the stakeholders. The rights of children to a quality education and good health are realized through school and community-led processes that are supported by local authorities and non-state actors who are capable, proactive, and well-informed regarding school health and hygiene issues.



We are very happy to get these facilities. We feel comfort and safe which encourages us to attend school regularly.
--a statement from a girl student of one the school.

Ongoing Initiatives

Project PREMA



Computer Hardware and Software students at RCSM, Puri

Under Project PREMA— out of 44 candidate 12 sponsored for **Computer Hardware training** and 32 sponsored **Computer Software training** at 'Regional College for Systems Management', Puri. It also supports for 24 candidates for Computer Software training at Satapada.

Project PREMA have identified 'Indian Computer Center' managed by 'e-coaching Trust' of Bhubaneswar to impart computer training for sponsored candidates at Mohana, Badapada and Parlakhemundi of

Gajapati district. These candidates are expected to join classes at the newly identified centers from the first week of September 2011.

Similarly efforts are being initiated to identify a computer

training centers at Gopalpur in Ganjam district and Darlingibadi in Kandhamal district.

Hotel Management- A batch of 16 students admitted into degree course on Hotel Management at 'Chanakya



Hotel Management students, PREMA at Chanakya Institute of Hotel Management & CT

Programme Activities



Distribution of school learning material at Mohana.



Training on ECCD at Gopalpur

PREM in collaboration with Plan India **distributed notebooks, school bags, umbrellas, geometry boxes and text books** to school going children of the program communities in four blocks—Mohana, Rayagada, Nuagada and Gumma—of Gajapati district. The objective of the program is to support the children for their academic and other requirements to fulfill their basic needs. The children who are studying in middle schools and high schools were identified and supplied a total of 3500 school bags, 3500 umbrellas, 12000 notebooks, 2000 geometry boxes. The main objective of this initiative is to support the children to bridge up their school irregularity and create interest in their studies.

The impact of this process was addressed up to the mark which also mainstreamed their classroom knowledge.

In July a two days **training program on school readiness** for instructors of Early Child Care centers and Anganwadi Centers was organized by PREM at Carrey Retreat Center, Gopalpur-on-Sea. This training was given to caregivers of pre school centres, instructors, teachers and Anganwadi workers of the operational areas of Chilika Project Unit.

The main objective of the program is to make aware of vari-

ous activities to be conducted for the development of the children of age group 3 to 6 year,

The first day was devoted for understanding the facilitators and their knowledge base. The detail discussions followed by question and answer sessions, group discussions, assignments, story writing & story telling, plays recitation of songs etc.

This training program enhanced knowledge on development of age-specific milestone of the children. The caregivers as well as the pre-school teachers were trained on home based and centre base care. They also acquired more knowledge on weaning practices, exclusive breast feeding, routine immunization, regular growth monitoring, care during pregnancy, local content based teaching and learning etc.

At the end of the program an evaluation was conducted to know the effectiveness of the training and it was found that the participants were satisfied with the content and process of the training program.

Programme Activities

Edu-leadership Program



GP level public hearing on education at Dabarkona, Nuagad GP of Padampur block, Rayagada district

PREM with the support of NEG-FIRE (New Education Group—Foundation for Innovation and Research in Education) New Delhi has been working since last one & half year in 8 Gram Panchayats (GPs) of Paddampur block of Rayagada district. The aim of this project is to ensure enrollment, retention and completion of quality education. The core objective of this program is to make primary education more accessible and effective with quality education, especially for young girls of indigenous communities. .

In July with the facilitation of the GP level Edu-leaders,

seven **Social audit/public hearing on education** were conducted at seven different places—Naira, Akhusing, Balabapur (Tembaguda GP), Laiguda (Guluguda GP), Dabarkona (Nuagad GP), Muski (Liktipadar GP) and Malatipur (Jaliti GP). In each public hearing more than 50-60 people participated in each event actively..

In public hearing pre collected and analyzed information of each school of every GP was shared and discussed. All the public hearings were attended by the Panchayat Sarapanchas, Ward Members, Office bearer of each village committee,

SMC Members, School teachers, School children and Block Education Department Officials. Issues like irregularity in mid day meal, misutilization of TLMs, regular absenteeism of some teachers, lack of sufficient teachers in schools, non functional of some of the SMCs and lack of quality education are the issues raised and discussed in the public hearing. The GP level committee took responsibility to take follow up action after the event.



Mobile Health Service Camps

During July and August 2011 PREM has organised **mobile health camps** in 19 villages of Indian Rare Earth Ltd. (IRE), OSCOM, Project area of Chatrapur block. The objectives of this program is for *controlling common diseases and endemic illness through treatment and awareness at community level, enhancing knowledge on general health care and build capacity of the community in the areas of prevention and treatment of common ailments and diseases and adopting personal protection measures against diseases.*

In these health camps various health checkups like arthritis, low back pain, neurosis, skin infection, scabies and Tinea infection (fungal), URTI, UTI, worm infection, anaemia, hypertension and common diseases for the rural communities has been done. The patients were provided with 3 to 10 days medicinal courses and the patients suffering with chronic diseases hypertension, diabetes were given proper treatment and advise to refer PHC/CHC of local town and MKCG Medical College Hospital, Berhampur

for further treatment. A total 915 patients were examined by medical experts from MKCG Medical college hospital, Berhampur and the patients were provided with appropriate medicines.

Through this program communities have benefited with proper treatment and also they were sensitised on different health schemes and provision of Govt. health department.

Health

Programme Activities



We are very grateful to PREM for establishing grain bank in our village, it will ensure our livelihood within the limit of food security, which will lead for the development of our children.

-- Statement from a community member , Chilika Project Unit of

PREM has been focusing on promoting the Food security of the communities in its operational areas since its inception. It is one of the best practices initiated by PREM in both the Project Units of PREM/Plan Chilika and PREM/Plan Koraput'. For ensuring food security of family and their communities during food shortage & lean period PREM decided to support grain (common paddy) to all grain banks in target communities. These grains will be used not only for the food purpose but also for the productive purposes also. Keeping in this mind in the month of July, PREM in collaboration with Plan India support to revive the grain banks to ensure food security in the community for at least 10 months in a year—it is seen that these families have food security for about 6 months in a year, For the rest period they depends on labour or debt from money lender who charges high interest.

Grain bank is a concept where people can avail grain loan with in the village and repay after his/her harvesting with lower interest. So slowly this grain bank will be sustain and will provide all time food security to communities. This is the way to provide a socio-cultural platform and secure livelihood to the people. This process can check the debt trap of moneylenders, bondage and migration. This will help to build communal harmony and inter-village relationship through exchange of grains among them. The main target is to ensure the maximum benefit reaches to the vulnerable groups like children and women. Families avails loan from the grain bank when they faces food crisis or seed purpose and repay after harvesting with some interest. In this process, grains has been distributed to 333 community grain banks of 333 villages in Gajapati district

which are managed by the village committee and 153 communities in Puri PREM/Paln area where grain banks are managed by the village Women Self Help groups.. The grains were distributed among the target groups in the presence of the Panchayati Raj Institution representatives, BDOs, the education department officials and the representative from the PREM central office to maintain transparency and promoting interest among the target communities. PREM also provided orientation to the leaders of the target groups for the smooth and transparent management of these grain banks. Similarly the grain which is given to the groups would be used for revolving purpose. For the sustainability of this initiative, PREM intends to promote the culture of saving and sharing among the communities



Children actively participating in the training program

In July ten school cabinets from ten model schools supported by PREM, came together at Yatri Nivas, Satapada and Youth hostel, Puri for the two training programs (two days each) on **Role of school cabinets for sustaining education institutions**. Leaders from school cabinets from each of 10 model schools invited to participate. In this two program the children participated with greater enthusiasm. The objective behind the training

was to build the capacity of the children and boosting up creativity, innovation in children for their better performance.

In these two days they discussed various issues on child rights and the role of children in schools and communities for their realisation. Also democratic election process, right to participation, moderation of meetings, problem solving skills, roles and responsibilities of different office

bearers/ministers constituted the agenda of the discussion. At the end the children chalked out action plans for further progress. The status of the school cabinets has been analyzed, children's participation and their role in school management has been discussed at greater length too; so that the cabinets function effectively.

Livelihood

Child Rights

Success Story

A daughter makes here Father proud



Rashmi is busy in the tailoring shop



Rashmi and her master in the interview

Rashmi Prava Sahoo—daughter of Mr. Kanhu Charan Sahoo—aged 25 years, is living in Gopinathpur village, Bentpur Panchayat of Brahmagiri block of Puri district, Odisha. Currently she is working as a dress designer in a tailoring shop based at the Brahmagiri market.

Mr. Kanhu Charan Sahoo is a matriculate by qualification and he worked as a sales assistant at Odisha Consumer Cooperative Federation based at Puri for almost 6 years. The highest payment he received towards his honorarium, by the time he left the job, was Rs. 750 per month—too little to maintain a family of 8 members. The family had no other source of income. Even in such a pathetic situation, Mr. Sahoo was not able regularly to fulfill his duties and he was compelled to forego the job when his wife Mrs. Laxmipriya got bedridden on account of a heart complication.

The suffering of the family compounded as the expenditure towards her treatment mounted. It was all in vain. Laxmipriya breathed her last in 1999, leaving behind her 4 daughters and husband, Kanhu Charan.

Rashmi was at 10th standard when her family was pushed into further debt and penury owing to the traditional rituals

that followed her mother's death. She was particularly the one who fell victim to the ruthless situation. Her study came to a full stop at this point.

In 2005, PREM in collaboration with Plan International organized a residential vocational training camp at Cambridge School, Cuttack. Rashmi was one of the 253 trainees of both sexes in the year there. She opted for and underwent an intensive training course in dress designing of a month's duration. She made the best use of the opportunity given to her.

She proved to be hard working, sincere and innovative in learning, and was intelligent enough to pick up many things within the short training period. Rashmi completed the course successfully in June, 2005. After completion of the course Rashmi got employed in a tailoring shop based at the Brahmagiri market. Initially she was paid Rs.600 per month. Gradually she exhibited her talent and stitched garments for both gents as well as ladies.

"She is a very good tailor and an all-rounder now", appreciates her master, who is

pleased to pay her Rs.2500 per month now. Besides, she receives a bonus in peak seasons. Admittedly, her income has added some value to the family. Now there are three persons, including Rashmi, her father and her elder sister, who are providing the family with sources of income. The members of the family are able to have at least 2 square meals a day. The family has been able to give the eldest daughter in marriage and facilitate the youngest to

"I never imagined that my family would surmount the financial crisis it endured in the past. Thanks to PREM-Plan-Chilika project for its generous support towards my training in dress designing; this was what helped me get

progress up to graduate standard. There are also 2 other girls from the program communities who are learning from Rashmi.

This vocational training course facilitated by PREM helped bring Rashmi out of her home in defiance of the traditional social barriers against women in orthodox communities. She has become empowered not only economically but socio-politically as well.

PREM congratulates Rashmi Prava Sahoo for her success, for being able to contribute to her family's livelihood and for mainstreaming values that empower women in society. We wish her the best for the future.



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Q u o t e . . .

We cannot always build the future for
our youth, but we can build our youth
for the future.

~Franklin Delano Roosevelt

(former president of USA)



Plantation of Q
variety of pine ap-
ple by the Agri.
Activists who have
been trained at
Kerala Agriculture
University, Trissur

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