

E-NEWS June 2023 Volume 33

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Dear friends and well-wishers of PREM,

Greetings from PREM!

We are presenting our 33th edition of the news bulletin of our E-News and also we give an account of our activities and the impacts regularly. But this time I am interested to talk about the role of secular civil society organisations in our country or in our world. We had different objectives in 80's, 90's and latter in 2000 onwards, especially about awareness creation, empowerment of the marginalized communities, gender equalities, children rights etc. we are also having the conflicts in Manipur, Haryana and other places. It is very important to bring peaceful atmosphere and harmony among the communities which are fighting with each other. This peace building process cannot be done by religious organisations, political parties or any other groups. They can only bring together and unite their people not to the whole community or to the fighting groups. It is only the secular civil society organization like us can bring peaceful atmosphere, harmony and co-existence, because where secular civil society organisations only can bring all parties, all religious groups and different sections of the society will come under one umbrella. So, it is our responsibility to unite all the people under one umbrella and create a sustainable atmosphere in peace and co-existence. But we have to also see wherever we work we have to create the peace building process so that there will not be any conflict rather to help each other.

I wish all the best for coming days to create a such atmosphere.

Thanking you

With best regards

Dr. Jacob Thundyil, President, PREM

Highlight of the volume

Visit of Ms. Pilar Orenes, Director General and Ms. Sarah Sobron, Director Marketing and Fund Raising, Head office, Educo, France

In the month of May, PREM got an opportunity to meet Ms. Pilar Orenes, Director General and Ms. Sarah Sobron, Director Marketing and Fund Raising, Head office, Educo, France. They visited the



Ms. Pilar Orenes, Director General and Ms. Sarah Sobron, Director Marketing and Fund Raising during their field visit to Daringbadi

PREM-Educo project 'Reducing Child Marriage' in Kandhamal District, Odisha' with Educo India team members Mr. Guruprasad, Country Director, Mr. Bharat Nayak, Program Manager and Mr. Sukanta Chandra Behera, Program Specialist - Child Protection and along with President, PREM and project



staff. They visited two project operational tribal villages—Padanketa and Juangia—and during their visit they interacted with the adolescent group members, VCPC members, community members, block level federation members, PRI members, religious leaders, Block Development Officer and project staff.

The adolescent group members presented about how they have been engaged through the project activities, what they do in their group and what they have achieved till date. They also presented how they present their issues at different levels and make plan together to address those issues and how they identify out-of-school children and children at risk of abuse and exploitation. The village child

protection committee members also presented how they support the adolescents to address their issues and their roles for ensuring their care and protection of the children in their village. A cultural program was performed by the adolescents which was highly appreciated by the visitors. They have also witnessed tribal dances, their cultural practices and life style during their visit. Similarly, during interaction with PRI





members and religious leaders they shared about their roles and responsibilities towards care and protection of the children. The Block Development Officer also shared about the collaborative works with the project since last two years. It was a remarkable opportunity for the project and PREM to get Educo global team members in the project operational area and get valuable insights and inputs to enhance the impact of our project for the wellbeing

of the adolescents and children of the project operational area.

Exhibition stall on consequences of child marriage, child labour and other related information for care and protection of children at winter festival (Sheeta Mahotsva)



PREM's stall on Say no to child marriage during the Winter festival at Daringbadi

The Block administration, Daringbadi with the support of the District administration Kandhamal, other line departments of the block and NGOs/CBOs of block organised a Winter Festival (Sheeta

Mahotsva) at ITI, playground Daringbadi from 7th to 11th January 2023 for five days. In this program 59 exhibition stalls on different themes were organised in the ground. Among the stalls PREM-Educo



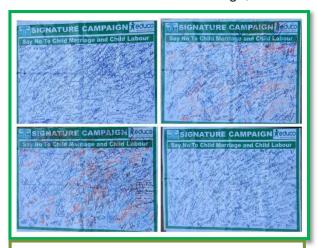
got a stall and displayed/designed the stall with different IEC materials, banners, placards, leaflets on consequences of child marriage, child labour and other related information on child care and protection to sensitise among different stakeholders and visitors form different villages, blocks, district and other areas who visited the program in these five days. There was also a signature campaign board(flex) in the stall where the visitors put their signatures after understanding the contents of the stall. During these five days we could

sensitise more than 25,000 people of the block and other part of the district. Out of them we directly interacted with 4,013 adolescents and 7,628 adults.

The visitors eagerly gave their signatures on the signature campaign board(flex). The dignitaries like District Collector, local MLA, Sub Collector, Tahasildar, Sub Divisional Police Officer (SDPO), Ollywood (Odia movie) celebrity, Prince dance group and other dignified personalities visited the festival and covered our stall also. We got more than 5,00 0 signatures of youths, adults, PRI members, SHGs,



Govt. officials, local leaders, state level celebrities. After visiting our stall and getting various information related to child marriage, child labour and other information on care and protection of the



Signature campaign board signed by the visitor during the Winter festival

children the visitors also gave their testimonies(bytes) which was an encouraging factor for us. It was also found that most of the visitors were taking photographs of our IEC materials and signature flex board. During their visit with their friends and colleagues they were also taking photos and selfies with our stall and also with our staff members. These were the good indicators for us that where we measured how much our stall attracted the

visitors and created awareness on these above topics. It was an excellent opportunity for us where

we got a bigger platform to sensitize people in one place on consequences of child marriage, child labour and other related information for care and protection of children by establishing Exhibition Stall on "Say No to Child marriage and child labour".

PREM Program Activities

Observation of National Girl child day

To promote awareness about the rights of the girl child and the importance of female education, health, and nutrition PREM in collaboration with Educo, has initiated observing the National girl child day on 24th January 2023 and carried out this activity as a campaign for 20 days long in its project operational area of seven gram panchayats. To fulfil the objective project organised community sensitisation meetings at villages and created awareness on the inequalities that girl face in the society. Then a rally was conducted in villages where the adolescent boys and girls, youths, SHG members, VCPC members, parents, anganwadi workers, ASHA worker participated and chanted with different slogans related to protection of girl children. In this month this event was observed in 103



Observation of National Girl child day in different villages of Daringbadi

operational villages where 5515 (2372 males and 3143 females) got sensitised on these above topics and on the importance of the day. This program was quite effective for different stakeholders where they realised the need of care and protection of girls for ensuring their rights.

Adolescent girls attended summer course at Govt. Polytechnic college, Berhampur

The Govt. Polytechnic college, Berhampur organised a weeklong summer course for 10th /+2

appeared/pass out girl students. The main objective of the summer course was to get knowledge on different courses available in the college and it also aimed to orient the adolescents on different career pathways. 31 adolescent girls of our project operational area of Daringbadi block attended this weeklong summer course and acquired knowledge on



different aspects such as computer fundamental, basic electricals/electronics, food technology, hotel management, importance of education, spoken English, consequences of child marriage and child labour etc. at the end of the program the students were distributed with course competition certificate. This program was very helpful for the adolescents which provided knowledge on various courses.







Orientation and counselling program for the drop out girls on importance of education and consequences of child marriage and child labour

During in house survey PREM-Educo project has identified 1814 vulnerable adolescents between the age group 15 to 18 years. These adolescents are prone to child marriage and child labour. As per our



database out of 1814 adolescents 1669 adolescents are now in schools, colleges and some of them are undergoing different trainings. And remaining 145 adolescents are in the villages at their home (dropout) and these adolescents are highly vulnerable because there is high risk that they can go for child marriage and child labour at any time if they stay like this in the villages and home

without doing anything. In this situation project thought to organising a separate training and counselling program for one day for these 145 vulnerable adolescents at the field office Daringbadi in batches. The main objective of this program is to bring consciousness among these highly vulnerable

adolescents on consequences/adverse factors of child marriage and child labour and to find their interest areas and guide them properly for linking with different vocational and skill development trainings and counsel on importance of education for their life. As per the plan we have organised this program for the adolescent girls on 31st March 2023 at field office Dandimah, where 21 adolescent girls attended this program and some parents also accompanied their children. In the meeting the adolescents and as well as the parents were oriented on the importance of education, different vocational course opportunities of the government, consequences of child marriages and child labour. We also had one to one discussion with the adolescents and during discussion they presented their issues and shared the reasons of drop out. After that various skill development and vocational

courses of government were presented before the adolescents with detail clarity. After getting this information the adolescents expressed their area of interest towards these courses and other than that they also shared other areas which they want to pursue. The parents were also very happy to attend this meeting and they also were interested to send their children for further education and



trainings. Accordingly, a list of the adolescents was prepared. This orientation program had a greater impact on their confidence level and according to them this program brought relief on their stress effectively. This is the first initiation of the project to bring the drop out adolescents in a single platform and motivate and counsel them for their future studies to move forward and the project also is



planning to organise such type of activities for the other drop out adolescents in our project operational area.

Adolescent girls linked to the skill development training

To link the adolescents in different skill development programs, PREM in collaboration with the district



administration have identified 37 female candidates from our operational area. They were enrolled in GDA(General Duty Assistance) program and Blood sample collection course. The trainees for the GDA will receive training for 3 months at Skill Development Center at Govt ITI Campus, Phulbani and the trainess for blood sample collection will receive training for 6 months training at Centurian University, Jatni, Khurda. Before going for training the candidates along with their parents and project staff met with the Block Development Officer (BDO) and Child Development Project Officer (CDPO) and shared about this program and expressed their interest to receive the training. Both the officers were very happy to meet these candidates and

encouraged them to undergo this training and wished them a bright future. After the trainings the candidates will be provided with 100% placement in different hospitals in and outside the state. It is a good opportunity for the project to work with the district administration for ensuring the sustainable future of these adolescent girls. The youths and their parents expressed their heartfelt thanks to the block administration, Prem-Educo and ICDS office for this wonderful initiative. Now the adolescents are attending their classes regularly with great enthusiasm.



Sensitisation meeting for the PRI members and religious leaders on their roles and responsibilities to stop child marriage and ensuring care and protection of the children.

PREM organised a sensitization meeting for the PRI members and religious leaders on their roles



and responsibilities to stop child marriage and ensuring care and protection of the children. 14 Sarpanchas, 41 Religious leaders, Naeb sarpanchas and Ward members altogether participated in this program. The program was presided by the Block Development Officer (BDO), Daringbadi as Chief guest and the CDPO was also one of the guests of this

event. This program was managed by the Project Manager along with the project team members. The main discussion points in the meeting were brief overview on PREM, Educo and sharing the objective of the project in Reducing Child Marriage, power of the Sarpanchas to stop child marriage in their panchayats, need of allocating budget for creating awareness on consequences of child marriage, roles and responsibilities of sarpanchas to ensure child care and protection at village level. Making children's issues as a main agenda in the panchayat meeting and also discussing the issues of the children at palli sabha, role of panchayat level task force committee, role of religious leaders to stop

child marriage and creating awareness on the consequences of child marriage, creating awareness through Sunday classes in the villages, role of village level child protection committee and how to make the villages and panchayats child friendly. The BDO in his speech gave importance on the role of PRI



members and religious leaders to stop child marriage and bringing social changes in the villages. He also mentioned education is the only solution which can stop child marriage and child labour. The families should realise the role of education and its benefits for their children. He also highlighted on the socio-economic security of the families which will ensure the development of the children. The different key stakeholders should play their role to ensure care and protection of the children, so that the children can develop. Similarly, the CDPO, Daringbadi highlighted on making the villages child marriage free. She focused on the efforts of different stakeholders and duty bearers making the block child marriage free as soon as possible. She encouraged the PRI members to design action plan and create awareness at village level on consequences of child marriage. During one-to-one discussion the participants also presented their opinion towards ending child marriage and child labour. At the end of the meeting all the members present in the meeting took an oath to stop child marriage and child labour and ensure education for all the children in their area. It was an impactful meeting for all the participants and they all came forward to take initiative for ensuring care and protection of the children in their respective villages.

Village level women's training



PREM in collaboration with Ajim Premji Foundation providing handholding support to the women of the operational area on different types of vegetable cultivation and various organic composts. Project also provided practical trainings to the farmers in 67 nos of tribal villages of Mohana and R.Udayagiri Blocks on nutrigarden and seed sowing methods

in the nutrigarden. Continuous handholding support to the field staff on vegetable cultivation, ethno vet and community mobilization has been extended by the program coordinators from time to time to ensure the accuracy of information. The seeds like runner beans, potato and onion have been provided to the farmers. Continuous follow up visits by the project associates is going on to support the farmers on care and pest management.

Workshop on Formulation of design a frame work of course on ICPD mandate

PREM in association with UNFPA organized a workshop at the conference hall of OCTC, Gopalpur -

on-Sea with an object to formulate a curriculum or rather course content centered on the ICPD Program of Actions for the Odisha Christian Theological College meant for the instruction of the pastors and preachers from 18 Christian denominations, who ultimately would reach out to the adolescent girls and women from tribal communities.

Dr. Jacob Thundyil, President, PREM, Prof. Dr. Sarasu Esther Thomas, National School of Law India University, Bangalore, Rev. Dr. Baby Rani, Associate Professor,



Dr. Jacob Thundyil, President, PREM addressing the participants

Department of women Studies, United Theological College, Bangalore, Emeritus Professor Ratna Sahu, Berhampur University, Program staffs from PREM, pastors and preachers from different parts

of Odisha were present in the program.



Through group discussion the participants discussed the socio-cultural issues in tribal communities and their suggestions for solutions. Casteism, illiteracy and Gender issues figured to be prominent as was shared by the groups. The suggested solutions included education, organisation and counselling.

The Outcomes of this program created awareness on equality for all and understand the ICPD mandate and

draft copies of the course content will be shared by the resource persons.

Model village initiatives

Regular health camps by the government is conducted in community centre at Gudanggorjang





Guard wall is constructed under MNRGS to prevent soil erosion

Construction of a model house house at Gudanggorjang is in progress





Community nutrigarden produces vegetables through out the year in Dimbiripsnkal

Education is the key to success - not child marriage

PREM-Educo project with the support of ICDS department Daringbadi block could stop a child marriage case on 25th January 2023. As per the case information Suraj Pradhan(name changed) aged of 17 years, S/O Sukant Pradhan, of Line pada village of Daringbadi gram panchayat of

Daringbadi block and Sonika Pradhan(name changed) aged of 16 years 8 months. D/O of Late Jyotichand Pradhan of B. Dakebadi village of Daringabadi gram panchayat of Daringbadi block. The boy is a student of class 11th and the girl is a student of 10th class at



Daringbadi. Meanwhile both of them became close and an affair was developed between them. When their family members came to know about their relationship, they planned to give them in marriage as soon as possible. So as per their plan they fixed their engagement on 25th January 2023. After getting this news the Ms. Kuni Sahu, anganwadi worker of B.Dakebadi village informed about this proposed event to our project team and as well as to Ms. Sakuntala Nayak, ICDS supervisor on 24th January 2023. Then immediately on 25th January 2023 the team and our project team rushed to the village and met with both the adolescents and their family members and tried to convince them to stop this marriage but they did not agree. Still, they tried their level to convince them and explained them about the consequences of child marriage and related laws to them. After counselling and orientation, the family members of

Suraj and Sonika agreed to stop the marriage. As per the decision Sonika and Suraj went their home with their family members. It was decided that they will continue their studies and they will marry when they reach the appropriate age for marriage as per law. This team effort proved that appropriate counselling and orientation can help the adolescents to take right decision in their life.

The voice of the children matters

PREM-Educo project has formed seven-gram panchayat level federations in its seven operational gram panchayats. the main objective of forming the federation was to strengthen the adolescents,



so that their leadership quality will enhance and they can come forward at various levels to express their issues. Similarly Dasingbadi gram panchayat is one of the gram panchayats where there are 28 (13 male and 15 female)federation members. In the federation meetings the members

have been oriented towards the need and importance of federation at panchayat level, role of federation members, how they can represent their issues at panchayat and block level etc. through group work the members identified their existing issues and prioritised the issues. After prioritising the issues, they prepared their action plan and chalked out a charter of demand to submit to the local authority. After finalising the charter of demands they met their concerned sarpanchas and submitted their charter of demand. It was a step forward for the adolescents to



present themselves before a bigger platform. In November 2022, after receiving the charter of demand from the federation members the sarpanch of Dasingbadi gram panchayat immediately took action to resolve the issues presented by the federation members. It is a very successful initiative for the federation members to get their issues started to resolved. The issues which have been initiated to resolve are 1. Construction of anganwadi centre in Kandapa village 2. Boundary construction of Upper primary school, Dasingbadi 3. Approval for supply of Basudha water facility to Tekangia village 4. Approval of construction of CC road in Dasingbadi village 5. Approval of establishment of Jio tower and BSNL tower at Daringbadi village. It was an immediate effort taken up by the sarpanch which was very appreciated by the local people. PREM-Educo team also

congratulated the authority for their immediate initiative for the benefit of the people and as well as for the children of the area.

Notes from field

Observation of World day against child labour

On 12th June,2023 on the eve of World Day against child labour was celebrated in 96 villages in the project operational area. It was a 20 days long campaign which was launched on 12th June in



few villages and then after this program continued for 20 days long in all operational villages.

The main objective of the program was to create sensitisation on the consequences of child labor and the actions and efforts needed to eliminate it. In these 20 days long campaign where we have reached all

96 villages of our operational area. The key stakeholders of the villages such as children, adolescents, parents, youths, SHGs, community leaders, VCPC members, teachers, PRI members, ICDS workers were participated.

At the outset of the program all the above stakeholders came together to celebrate this day. A



Observation of World day against child labour in different villages

rally was organized in every village where all the participants joined. During the rally the participants enchanted different slogans on children's issues by holding placards and banner. Followed with the rally an awareness meeting was organized where the participants oriented about adverse effects of child labour, child right and protection, importance of education and skill development programs. Besides these they also sensitised on the roles of different stakeholders

to stop child labour who are working to stop child labour and providing necessary support to the children and as well the families for the wellbeing of the children. At the end of the program, they all together took pledge to act as a change agent in their village to stop child labour and ensure child care and protection in their respective villages. This program was very participatory and it created awareness among the participants on the importance of the day and they understood importance of education for future building of the children. Through this program 5025(2610 male and 2415 females) beneficiaries of 96 villages were reached.

Award received

The women farmers from 25 nos of Gram panchayats of Mohana Block have been supported by PREM in collaboration with CTCRI, Bhubaneswar since last one year to promote Tuber crops in the area. Mrs. Budha Gomango of Punjasaragi village, Birikote GP is one of the progressive farmers among the 3500 nos of farmers of Mohana Block, awarded by District Agriculture officer for the best farmer of the year



from Mohana Block in the MOHANA MOHOSTHAVA held on 12th January 2023.

Specialization Training on POP of SRI and Vegetable cultivation.



PREM-APF projet organized a three days long specialization training camp for the community coordinators Chandragiri field office of PREM in the month of January. The main objective of this training program was to develop the skill and capacity of the coordinators so that they can deliver quality program in the field. This program was inaugurated by Dr. Jacob Thundyil, President PREM and during his interaction with staff

members he reviewed the nutria-garden status. Mr Simanchala Nahak, the SRI specialist conducted the training with theory and practical knowledge, The practical sessions were organized at Naringi village of Chandragiri GP on transplantation of paddy in SRI method. In the last day Mr. Gopinath Sahu, the Block Horticulture Officer took session on package of practices of vegetables. He explained the crop calendar of various vegetable crops and its nutrition values. This training program was very informative and educative for the participants.

The Pradhan Mantri Adi Adrash Gram Vikas Yojana (PMAAGY)

The Pradhan Mantri Adi Adrash Gram Vikas Yojana (PMAAGY) is a central government project

aimed at bridging the critical infrastructural gaps in the identified tribal villages in Odisha. The Govt of Odisha, (Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe Research Institute (SCSTRTI) has selected the NGO, PREM to organise the Integrated Village Development Plan in the identified villages in 5 districts and these districts are Gajapati, Kandhamal, Rayagada, Malkangiri and



Kalahandi. PREM conducted household survey, Micro Planning, Gap Analysis and Preparation of Comprehensive Annual Action Plan under Integrated Village Development Program.

The survey included household data collection and mapping the infrastructure gap in the villages and the action plan was made in consultation with the people. The action plan covered the activities relating to water and sanitation, electricity and road connectivity, mobile and internet facilities, road connectivity, health and nutrition etc

Village level Life skill training to the adolescence

Adolescence is a period when the intellectual, physical, social, emotional and all the capabilities are very high, but, unfortunately, most of the adolescents are unable to utilize their potential to



maximum due to various reasons. They face many emerging issues liked school drop out, child labour, child marriage, poverty, suicide, alcoholism, drug abuse, sexual abuse, smoking, anti-social acts, etc. that have an adverse effect on them which hamper their development and success in future. It has been a felt need that life skills education

bridges the gap between basic functioning and capabilities. Based on this need to promote

physical, mental and emotional well-being and competence to face the realities of life project organised life skill trainings for the



adolescents at village level. Session wise calendar has been developed for conducting life skill sessions and the trainers adopted different methodologies and games to make the session live. In this month 13 training programs have been conducted where we could reach 317 (142 male and 175 female) adolescents and provided training on life skill.

Observation of International labour day

Project observed International labour day in collaboration with Block administration, Daringbadi on 1st may 2023. The program was organised in the conference hall of the block office. The



dignitaries present in this program were The Block Development Officer, Mr. Saluka Pradhan, MLA, G. Udaygiri, Mr. Guru Prasad Rao, Country Director, Educo, Mr. Bharat Nayak, Program Manager, Educo Mr. Sukanta Nayak, Project Specialist- Child Protection, Educo, Mr. Pintu Nayak, Block Program Manager, Principal ITI college. Around 126 participants were present in this program. The other major participants included in this program were

sarpanchas and other PRI members, teachers, SHG leaders, eligible beneficiaries to get labour card, NGO representatives etc. The objective of observation of the day was to honor and appreciate the contribution of the workers, specifically the labour class and to create awareness on their rights and different schemes of the government. At the outset of the program the Block

Development Officer (BDO) narrated the importance of the day and encouraged eligible members to ensure to get labour card and job card. As this is the basic right of the people to get the card. The MLA, G Udayagiri focused on exploring different schemes from the state government so that the migration rate will be reduced. The country Director, Educo



Distribution of Labour card to the beneficiary

appreciated the effort of the block administration for issuing labour card to the eligible beneficiaries and he

assured to extend all kinds of support from the Educo project towards this step. He also focused on the role and contribution of labours towards national building. He then gave importance on importance of education which can change the life of everyone. The block program manager encouraged everyone to avail various schemes of the government and he also shared the success story of strawberry cultivation in Daringbadi. Mr. Sudhir Kumar Digal, Program Manager,

PREM presented various benefits of the labour card in the program. In this event 112 labour cards were distributed to the beneficiaries. It was also a great to note that Daringbadi block is the second highest block in the state for issuing labour cards. For this success, the BDO acknowledged the support and contribution of PREM-Educo team. This program was a very encouraging program for the community people, SHG groups, youth and every one present there.

Vegetable Cultivation

Handholding support has been extended by the project team—PREM-APF—on different types of



vegetable cultivation and various organic composts. Similarly Practical trainings given to the 5000 women farmers in 213 tribal villages of Mohana and R.Udayagiri Blocks on nutri-garden and seed sowing methods in the nutri-garden. Continuous

handholding support to

the CCs on vegetable cultivation, ethno vet and community mobilization has been extended by the program coordinators from time to time to ensure the accuracy of information. The seeds like runner beans, potato and onion have been provided by the PREM-APF project to the farmers. Continuous follow up visits by the



project associates is going on to support the farmers on care and pest management.

Photo Gallery



Project staff attended District level Task Force meeting at Phulbani



Block Level Federation Meeting at Daringbadi





Project staff attended Block Level Task Force Meeting



News clips: Sensitisation to the PRI members and religious leader to stop child marriage



Preparation of Organic inputs vegetable



Adolescent group meeting at village level



Home visit to the vulnerable adolescents by the project staff

Sprayer distribution at Punjasargi village of Birikote GP



Nutrigarden seeds distributed to the farmers of Kanalsahi village



Village meeting at Daringbadi block to ensure child care and protection mechanism at village level



Adolescents attending Adwika program

Specialization Training on POP of Livestock





Women farmer's training at Karadapankal village of Birikote GP

GP level planning meeting attended by the project staff







Adolescents taking oath not get marry at an early age

Quote of the Month

'I am feeling very happy after joining the blood sample collection training at Centurian University, Jatni. After completing my +2 course I was very confused to choose my career, as my family financial condition is very poor. But now I got this opportunity to undergo this training free of cost and I am determined to complete this course sincerely and get a suitable job. I express my gratitude to PREM-Educo for giving me this opportunity which will build my future. "

--Rasmita Nayak, a trainee of Blood sample collection training from Mundanaju village of Kirikuti Gram Panchayat of Daringbadi block.

PREM E-NEWS

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