

ANNUAL REPORT PROJECT SWARAJYA 2006-07

INTRODUCTION

PROJECT SWARAJYA from its inception has been carrying out various activities on a diversity of fronts every year. Apart from the continuance of its previous activities, the organization carried out many other activities for the year 2006-07. The entire gamut of activities undertaken in course of the year is briefly presented under the following 15 broad-heads and 2 Appendices:

1. DRUG ABUSE PREVENTION.

The following kinds of services were provided by the Organization during 2006-07:

- Awareness of the public and sensitization of the media, officials and NGOS.
- Maintenance of two Drug De addiction Centres, one at Cuttack and the other at Silipur-Kendrapara with the facilities for OPD and Indoor Treatment, Counseling and Referral.
- Counseling of the Patients and their family members
- Practice of Yoga and Meditation
- Follow-up of the Patients treated in the Center
- Training of the Staffs
- Networking with concerned agencies

1.a Nishamukti Kendra (Drug De-addiction Centre), Cuttack

The “Nishamukti Kendra” continuing from 1992 and presently located at Ganesh Ghat, Bakharabad, Cuttack-2 entered into the 15th year of its functioning. In the year 2006-07, the total numbers of addicts registered were 454. Of the total, the single drug Brown Sugar claimed as many as 110 nos. followed by 160 Alcoholics, 25 nos. of Cannabis, 09 Opium addicts, 11 Buprenorphene(IDU), Morphine 02, 05 Sedatives and 132 Multiple drug addicts. Out of the total 454 patients, 24 nos. were detoxified under OPD while 185 under Indoor setup. As regards the source of referral of patients to the Center, as many as 199 were motivated by the family, while 104 by the self and 47 by the friends, 21 by social workers, 05 by private hospitals, 21 by Govt. hospitals, 30 from Counseling/Awareness/De-addiction Centers, 04 by law enforcement agencies and 23 ex-clients and their family members. As regards the nos. of drop-outs of the year, the total nos. was 04, who were Indoor patients. As regards the reasons of dropout, 02 were unable to cope with the treatment and 02 deserted the Centre due to lack of family support.

To monitor the recovery status of the patients treated in the previous year, the follow-up programs were undertaken routinely by the personnel of the Center through various means such as home visit, inviting them for meeting and doing correspondence with them. A total of 51 nos. of patients of different drug groups were found to be leading a sober life, while 115 nos. of cases relapsed to their previous drugs of abuse.

1.b Nishamukti Kendra (Drug De-addiction Center) at Silipur, Kendrapara

Also known as “Nishamukti Kendra”, the Drug De-addiction Center presently located at Silipur, Marshaghai, Kendrapara was set up in mid-1998 and entered into the 9th year of its functioning. In 2006-07 the total nos. of patients registered in the Center was 493 out of which 320 were under OPD and 173 Indoor setup. Out of the total, the highest 203 nos. were addicts of Brown Sugar followed by 140 Alcohol, 52 Cannabis, 15 Opium, 27 Buprenorphine and 56 multiple drugs. As regards the source of referral, 186 nos. were self-motivated, while 157 motivated by their respective families, 68 by friends, 34 by social workers, 40 by ex-addicts, 05 by the treatment-cum-rehabilitation centers (NGO-run) and 03 by private doctors.

During the year the follow-up programs were undertaken to monitor the status of the patients treated in the previous year. It was noticed that 39 nos. of patients were leading a clean life. At the same time, a total of 74 nos of cases were found to have relapsed to their previous drugs of abuse. As regards the reasons for the dropout, 04 nos. dropped out due to lack of family support, 01 due to some personal reason and 02 due to poverty.

1.c Observation of International Day Against Drug Abuse Prevention

Seminar on “Mobilization of Community to reduce Alcohol and Drug induced spread of HIV/AIDS” was held at the premises of Project Swarajya on 26th June 06 on the occasion of Anti-Drug day. It was organized by Project Swarajya. Eminent persons from various fields were invited to give their valuable talks on how to deal and combat this social evil. About 40 participants from different fields attended the programme. Prof. Dr. Prasanta Mohapatra Asst Prof, Dept of Psychiatry of SCB Medical College and Hospital, Cuttack graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. Ms. Dolli Dash Secretary of the organisation explained at the start of the Seminar the objectives and significance of holding the event. She stated inter alia how illicit drug trafficking and abuse created havoc in the world and how especially the young masses are trapped into its vicious circle. The Project Director of the organization Ms. Ruksana Khan had read out the annual report of the organization in the matter of combating drug abuse and HIV/AIDS.

1. d Campaign for Prohibition of Alcoholism and Drug Abuse

To register a collective protest against the decision of the State Govt. of Orissa to open two thousand liquor shops in the State, a civil society group of committed prohibitionists was formed under the leadership of an eminent Sarvodaya protagonist and freedom fighter Mrs. Annapurna Moharana to function in the campus of Project Swarajya. It was named as **“ORISSA NISA NIBARANA COMMITTEE”**. The group carried out several activities like seminars, workshops and consultations to press for reframing the excise policy of the State in tune with the interests and aspirations of the people at grassroots level. The Committee raised voice against the liquor tragedy that took place in Ganjam and Gajapati districts during the year by way of fact-finding field visits and advocacy in the media. The Orissa Nisha Nibarana Committee has been meeting from time to time in the premises of Project Swarajya as a self-inspired watchdog on behalf of the civil society at large over the ambivalent excise policies of the Govt that benefit the liquor barons on one hand and vested interests of the excise officials on the other.

2. PROGRAMME ON REDUCING HIGH RISK BEHAVIOUR AMONG THE DRUG USERS AND PREVENTION OF HIV/AIDS

A program called 'Reducing High Risk Behavior among the Drug Users- A Peer-Led Intervention' has been initiated by Project Swarajya in collaboration with RRTC, Zone II, SPYM, New Delhi with the support of DFID for Cuttack district. Under this project there were several workshops and group discussions organized by the Peers of this project, to focuss and popularize how to use injecting drugs to avoid HIV/AIDSs. There were around 50 nos. of IDU users identified by the peers and they were counseled about the consequences and remedy of high risk behavior regularly.

2.a Organising Awareness and Training Camps on 'Drug Abuse, a pathway to HIV/AIDS'

- i) Observation of International day against HIV/AIDS on 1st December 2006 at Mundasahi School, Bidanasi, C.D.A.
- ii) A regular course on Intergating HIV/AIDS in Substance Abuse Prevention Programme through Peer Led Intervention Programme (PLI) was held at the premises of Project Swarajya under the aegis of RRTC, East-II Kolkata Samaritan.
- iii) A three-day Orientation Course based on life skill education was held, sponsored by RRTC East Zone-1 under the Drug abuse Prevention Program.
- iv) A Meeting of Support Group was held on 16th May 06 at the premises of Project Swarajya under the organizational aegis of INP+. The HIV+ve persons participated in this meeting.

2.b. Apart from the above, several events and activities were held relating to prevention of spread of HIV/AIDSs through the organization of the persons belonging to third sex, and also prevention of women and child trafficking during the year. These were conducted by the organization in collaboration with various agencies like CWS and NAWO.

3. WOMEN EMPOWERMENT AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT.

Project Swarajya has set a Short Stay Home for Women and Children in distress in the district headquarters of Kendrapada. Besides several events were organized to provide women with a platform for sharing their feelings and experiences on various issues that interested them and also for building up solidarity among them. The events included seminars, workshops, consultations, get-togethers, campaign, training, cultural program and competitions on various topics etc.

3.a Campaign against Trafficking of Women and Children

In the post-super cyclone period commencing from 2001, Project Swarajya has been conducting a campaign against trafficking of women and children in undivided Cuttack district. The main activities of the campaign were carried out in places under 3 Blocks and two Municipalities under two Districts namely, Kendrapara and Cuttack. Specifically speaking, the campaign was undertaken in Kendrapara Municipality, Mahakalapara and Marshaghai Blocks of Kendrapara district, and in Cuttack Sadar Block and Cuttack Municipality of Cuttack district. The campaign was conducted with the support of a network called Jajnyaseni.

3.b Observation of an Anti-trafficking Week during Baliyatra Festival at Cuttack

Like the previous years, this year also a campaign week was observed by the organization in association with District Level NGO Coordination Committee, Lutheran World Service, Utkal Sevak Samaj, Maitree Samaj and All Orissa Consumer Protection Council during Baliyatra Festival at Cuttack from 05th Nov. to 12th Nov. 06. The following activities were done:

- A stall was opened for 8 days propagating the issue on trafficking of women and children.
- Distribution of posters and leaflets, display of banners and audio-visual presentation on women trafficking were organized.
- Pala (a folk cultural medium of songs) was conducted.
- Ceramic and Paperweight items produced by the domestic workers were also exhibited and marketed by them.

Mr. Soumendra Priyadashi S.P. Cuttack inaugurated the stall and Ms. Jayashree Kundu OIC, Mahila Thana and Mr Shyam Sunder Tripathy CSO made their presence in the event. Besides the stall was visited by about 1 lakh persons who came to the festival.

3.c Organisation of Youth Camp to Prevent Trafficking.

A District-level Youth Camp on Trafficking of Women and Children was organized by Project Swarajya in collaboration with Nehru Yuva Kendra on 24th Nov 2006 in the premises of Project Swarajya at Silipur, Marshaghai in Kendrapara district. The objective of the camp was to sensitize the youth to prevent the evil practice of trafficking of women and children for sexual and commercial exploitation. The participants were from NYK, NSS, Youth Clubs, SHGs and NGOs.

3.d Workshop on the Impact of Hindu Succession Act on Gender Equality

A one day workshop was held on 7th June 06 at the premises of Project Swarajya on Hindu Succession Act, jointly organized by Project Swarajya and Indian Lawyers' Association with the support from INSAF, India.

The main objective of the workshop was to mobilize the conscious and responsible citizens on the need for amending and implementing the provisions of Hindu Succession Act in such a way as to ensure gender equality. Its focus was how to bring about the desired change in the patriarchal mindset of the general public in tune with the demands of gender equality. About 200 people including judges, people's representatives, social activists, legal practitioners, media persons (electronic and print) and dignitaries had participated in the workshop.

3.e Consultation on Protection of Women Against Sexual Harassment at Workplace Bill, 2005

A One-day Consultation on the Draft Bill On Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace was organized jointly by Cuttack District Police Complaint Committee and Project Swarajya at Orissa Police Association Hall, Buxibazar, Cuttack on 19th September 06. It was supported by the National Alliance of Women's Organization Orissa and **Jajnaseni**. Participants were from various sectors like judicial experts, law Enforcement agencies, academicians, corporate bodies, NGO activists, persons from banking sector and representatives from both electronic and print media. They gave their deliberation and suggestion on how to make the Draft Bill conducive to all segments of women including the persons with disabilities.

3.f Setting up a Short Stay Home known as SWARAJYA

Organization has already set up a Short Stay Home at the district headquarters since 1st January 07 in Kendrapara District adjacent to the district Collectorate and Municipality Office with the support of the Central Social Welfare Board. To popularize this short stay home, the organization undertook different activities to disseminate information about it and as well on issues related to trafficking, women's health, HIV/AIDS and violence on women among the general people in the district.

3.g Organising TOT on Women Centered Health

A 5-Day Regional Level Training on Women Centered Health was organised at Women's Resource Center conducted by Basundhara, Gati Rout Patana, Cuttack from 20th to 24th July 06. It was jointly organized by Project Swarajya and NAWO. The participants included ANM, ASHA Workers, Anganbadi Workers/ICDS Workers, and Health Workers from different Voluntary Agencies. They were nominated by the Collectors of 4 districts namely Cuttack, Jajpur, Kendrapada and Jagatsinghpur. The training programme was inaugurated by Dr. Nayan Ranjan Mohanty, Superintendent of SCB Medical College and Hospital and addressed by eminent gynecologist Ms Jogamaya Pattanaik.

Besides Ms. Basanti Behera, Project Coordinator of Women Empowerment Programme attended the various organizations like NYK, CARD and PIPAR as resource persons on the issues related to women's health.

3.h Fact Finding Team on atrocity against women in Jaraka

A team comprising 4 members visited a village namely Jaraka under Dhramasala P.S. in Jajpur district on 23rd October 2006 after hearing the news of atrocity committed on a woman namely Jhunu Barala. She was physically tortured by her family members and afterwards assaulted by the OIC of Dhramasala Thana, when she went to the Police Station to lodge her complaint.

3.i Program on Child Development

Project Swarajya has been running 20 nos of Consumer Clubs in 20 High Schools and Junior Colleges in Cuttack district. To make aware the children about the consumer rights the organization has been conducting various activities like competition on essay, debate and drawing etc. among the students from time to time in collaboration with district administration. In order to sensitise the children of slums areas about consumer rights, the organization has also conducted cultural activities besides publication on posters and leaflets etc.

4. PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS OF DALITS:

To prevent Dalits to enter into the Hindu temples has remained a practice for centuries in rural Orissa. In early 2007 some Dalits were physically prevented by the people of general caste in Keredagarh village under Kendrapada district while they wanted to enter into the local Jagannath temple. The Dalits who felt humiliated brought the issue into the notice of the forum for Dalits Ambedkar Lohia Vichar Mamnch. Then ALVM took up this issue and campaigned for guaranteeing the Dalits' right to temple entry all across the State through media and Satyagrah. Ultimately the High Court of Orissa intervened into the matter and gave judgement in favour of the rights of dalit people to enter any Hindu Temple. Project Swarajya was a part of the entire campaign network.

4.a Conference on Human Rights and Self-Dignity in the context of the issue of Dalits' temple entry at Keredagarh in Kendrapara Dist.

Project Swarajya provided the necessary logistic support to the holding of a "Human Rights and Self-Dignity Meet" in the context of Dalits' temple entry issue in Keradagarh of Kendrapara", organized by ALVM on 28th of December 06 at Shreeram Chandra Bhawan, Cuttack. The objective of the conference was to collect opinion of both Dalits and non-Dalits about the controversial issue of temple entry of Dalits into Hindu temples. Most of the participants supported the cause of temple entry by Dalits. Eminent freedom fighter Smt. Annapurna Moharana was the Chief Guest of the function.

4.a(i) Filing a PIL for Dalits' right to temple entry

In view of strong resistance of general caste people against the entry of temple by Dalits at Keradagarh in Kendrapara district Project Swarajya filed a PIL in the High Court of Orissa praying for a clearcut direction in the matter, and the High Court shortly thereafter issued a direction which unequivocally favoured the Dalits' right to temple entry, bringing thus a legal end to the ongoing dispute over the issue.

4.a(ii) Filing a PIL against Animal Sacrifice

Project Swarajya was a party along with ALVM to a PIL lodged before the Orissa High Court to protest against the commission of animal sacrifice in various Hindu shrines. As is well-known, every year on auspicious and festive occasions animals like buffalo, goat and sheep were being sacrificed in Hindu temples to satisfy the gods and goddesses in various parts of Orissa, and the administration in stead of curbing this superstitious and illegal practice allowed it to take place with impunity. Following the filing of the PIL, Orissa High Court issued strictures to the Government to ensure prevention of such animal sacrifice in Hindu temples.

4.b Protection of Human Rights of Third Sex

It is well known that 'Eunuchs' lack any guarantee of their social security and human rights in our present social set-up. Project Swarajya rendered various services for the cause of the people belonging to 'third sex' and such services included provision of temporary shelter, arrangement of meeting place, sponsoring of their traditional rituals and lobbying for no harassment to them by the general public. The organization also wrote several petitions to the authorities at various levels for recognizing their civil and human rights as available to the common citizens of India. The efforts were constantly made to mobilize the various eunuch groups to coalesce into a single platform to continue and step up the advocacy activities for ensuring of their human rights. In course of such activities the organization also promoted the idea that the derogatory expression 'eunuch' should be replaced by a sober and polite one 'third sex' to describe the special gender to which the so-called 'eunuchs' belong. Besides, the organization in course of its multifarious activities on this front emphasized the need for awareness on HIV/AIDS and drug abuse among the people of third sex. They have been provided legal and moral support by the organization too.

4.b(i) Micro Planning Meeting for Eunuchs

Keeping in view the rights and duties of the people belonging to third sex Project Swarajya has planned to work for them on a long term basis. On the advice of a representative of CWS, a

meeting of persons of third sex was organised in the premises of Project Swarajya on 31.08.06 for drawing up micro-planning for their community. About 5 nos of persons from third sex attended the meeting. In this meeting 17 nos. of basic problems facing this community were identified. Special emphasis was laid on how the people of third sex, who are bio-sexually structured differently from the other two mainstream sexes could be protected from various kinds of humiliation and harassment faced by them in the society. A package of interventions were designed to address to the major problems faced by the third sex.

4.b(ii) Workshop on Human Rights of Third Sex

Project Swarajya has organized a one day workshop on 'The Human Rights of Third Sex' on 13th Dec 2006 with support of CWS Secunderabad at Red Cross Bhavan, Cuttack. The main objective of the workshop was to unite them and to bring them to a single platform where they would feel free to act and interact with each other without being let down by the burden of the social stigma attached to them over centuries and work for attaining their human rights as enjoyed by the mainstream citizenry. In this programme, the intellectuals, political leaders, legal practitioners, social workers, media persons and eminent citizens participated and expressed their views while the persons from the 'Third Sex' attended it in good numbers and presented their story of harassment and discrimination from the mainstream society.

4.c Advocating and Lobbying for Reservation for OBCs in Technical and Non-technical Institutions in Orissa

(i) A preparatory meeting for supporting the reservation policy for OBC students in higher education was held on 30th May 06 on behalf of ALVM, Cuttack District Committee in the premises of Project Swarajya. The main purpose of the meeting was to plan a campaign at State level for demanding reservation for OBC students in both higher and technical institutions.

(ii) A seminar on OBC Reservation Bill was organized by ALVM on 17th June 06 at Sriram Chandra Bhawan, Cuttack with the support from Project Swarajya. The objective of the seminar was to highlight the need for the reservation for OBC students in higher education and private technical institutions. Member of Human Rights Law Network and Advocate of Supreme Court Mr. Colin Gonsal deliberated in the seminar. Lawyers, Legislators, Social activists and media persons also took part in the seminar.

(iii) A Demonstration for demanding 52% seat reservation for OBCs in all the educational institutions in Orissa was held and followed by a Rally on 17th May 06 that covered the thoroughfares from Master Canteen to P.M.G. Square, Bhubaneswar.

5. CONSUMER PROTECTION MOVEMENT AND GOVERNANCE REFORM.

5.a. Running of District Consumer Information Centre for Cuttack District

Project Swarajya has been running District Consumer Information Centre for Cuttack district in its premises since 2003. On behalf of the DCIC several activities were conducted in a collaborative manner involving the Govt and non-Govt agencies. Throughout the year the Centre continued to disseminate various kinds of information as and when required by the people from Govt or non-Govt agencies.

5.b. Running of Consumer Clubs in High School and Junior Colleges in Cuttack

Project Swarajya had set up 20 nos. of Consumer Clubs in 20 High Schools and Junior Colleges in Cuttack district. To make aware the children of these institutions about the consumer rights the organization has been conducting various activities such as essay, debate and drawing competitions among the students from time to time in collaboration with Cuttack district administration. The both national and international day against the protection of consumer rights have been organizing by the organization every year in collaboration with district administration

5.c Organising One Day Consumer Awareness Programme

On 9th December 2006 a meeting on consumer awareness for teachers in regards to set up Consumer Clubs was organized by Project Swarajya in its premises. There were about 50 participants including Asst. teachers and Head masters/Head mistresses of various schools, who had participated in the meeting. IEC (Information, Education Communication) Materials i.e. Poster and booklet on guidelines, Leaflet on Consumer Protection Act 1986 was also circulated among the 20 Schools where Consumer Clubs were already functioning.

5.d Formation of Orissa State Vigilance Council

The Orissa State vigilance Council was formally constituted on 20th May 2006 in the premises of Project Swarajya followed by a meeting held under the joint aegis of District NGO Coordination Committee and Orissa High Court Bar Association. Many persons like ex-M.P. Mr. Trilochana Kanungo, former Justice of Orissa High Court Choudhuri Sri Pratap Keshari Mishra, Ms. Chandrika Mohapatra and Dr. Seva Mohapatra were present in the meeting. The main objective of this meeting was to find out methods as to how to monitor and evaluate various plans and programmes implemented by govt and non-govt agencies.

5.e A seminar on “Price Rise and Consumer Interest”

A Seminar on “Price Rise and Consumer Interest” was held on 22nd July 06 at the Conference Hall of Project Swarajya, which was jointly organized by District Consumer Information Center (DCIC) Cuttack, and People’s Forum. S. Govinda Yadav, President, Youth Janata Dal (U) attended it as the Chief Guest and inaugurated the occasion. The objective of the seminar was to demand before Govt of India to streamline the Public Distribution System (P.D.S) of Orissa and to provide adequate quantity of wheat, sugar and kerosene to the people through its aegis.

5.f Citizens’ Information Centre in Baliyatra Festival, Cuttack

A Citizens’ Information Center for Consumer Awareness was jointly organized by District Consumer Information Center and District Level NGO Co-ordination Committee on the occasion of Baliyatra festival from 5th to 12th Nov. 06 at Baliyatra Ground, Cuttack. A stall operated for 8 days and posters and leaflets on consumer rights were distributed among the people from various segments attending the stall. Banner display and audio-visual show were also arranged in various places at the festival ground to highlight Consumer Rights.

5.g Observance of National Consumer’ Rights Day

DCIC and the Office of Sub-Collector, Cuttack jointly observed the National Consumer Rights Day on 26th Dec. 2006 at the premises of Project Swarajya. The Chief Guest of that event was Mr. Mahendra Kumar Rath, Sub-Collector. The CSO, Cuttack was the chief speaker of the event. On this occasion, essay and debates competitions on the theme of consumer protection were organized among the school students and prizes and certificates distributed among the successful candidates.

5.h Workshop on Reforms to combat Delay in Judicial Process and Role of Special Court

The District Level NGO Coordination Committee in association with Project Swarajya organized a “Workshop on reforms to combat delay in judicial process and role of Special Court” on 17th August 06 at the conference hall of Project Swarajya. Mr. Gopal Chandra Nanda, Director, Vigilance, Orissa was the Chief Guest. Highlighting the issues of rampant corruption at upper level he suggested the need for reforming the judicial process which delivers delayed justice. Eminent persons like Mr. Rajaram Satapathy, Chief of Times of India Orissa Edition and Mr. Kedar Nath Jena, Advocate, Orissa High Court addressed the meeting among others.

6. ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION

Project Swarajya has been taking up various environmental issues since its inception. The organization has taken part in NEAC programme in many years in the past. The organization has also been organizing seminars, workshops, sensitization sessions and educational programmes to highlight the need for maintaining a people-friendly environment. From 2002 onwards the organization has been campaigning to promote an indigenous device called Trawl Guard to protect sea turtles and simultaneously to protect the interests of fisherfolk. The organization also has been campaigning against the pollution caused by chemical and fertilizer industries located in coastal areas.

6.a Experiment of Trawl Guard for conservation of sea turtles:

Since 2002 Project Swarajya has been campaigning for adoption of Trawl Guard as a substitute of TED as a better and indigenous device for protection of trawl nets from various hazards of sea fishing and as well for protection of sea turtles from their accidental entanglement in the trawl nets. The organization has done an experiment with the indigenous device called Trawl Guard for conservation of Olive redley sea turtle in the month of January 06 on the sea near to Gahirmatha sanctuary in collaboration with Dept of Forest and Environment, Dept of Fisheries, Fishermen’s organizations, trawlers’ associations and Green Peace etc. The programme was supported by WWF Nature India. Three trawlers were taken for experiment. One was without any device, one was fitted with TED and other one with Trawl Guard. It was seen that no sea turtle was found in the trawl net fitted with new device and its fish catch was comparatively higher than the trawler attached with TED.

6.b Study on Olive Redley Sea Turtles Along Orissa Coast

A study was conducted by the organization with support from National Institute of Oceanography, Goa, on the status of biology, ecology, migration and mortality of olive ridley sea turtles found along Orissa coast, India.

6.c PIL Against Pollution by Oswal Chemicals and Fertilisers Company at Paradip

In August 2002, a PIL was filed by Project Swarajya Cuttack to prevent environmental pollution caused by Oswal Chemical and Fertilisers Company Ltd Paradip. It was admitted to Orissa High Court (vide WPC 161 Of 2002) and the High Court ordered the issue of notices to the concerned parties including the Government of India and Government of Orissa for their response. But

strangely enough, after a lapse of about more than a year i.e in December 2003 it was found that the notices so ordered by the High Court were not dispatched at all to the concerned parties from the Office of the High Court. Under the circumstances, the Organisation soon thereafter submitted a Memorandum to the President of India with intimation to the Chief Justices of Supreme Court and Orissa High Court asking for a remedy to such unnecessary delay in issuing of notices. Then a fresh petition was filed before Orissa High Court during the year 2004-2005. While the PIL was so pending at the Orissa High Court, the Oswal Chemical and Fertilisers Company Limited took an abrupt decision to sell and hand over the fertiliser plant to IFFCO (Indian Farmers and Fertilisers Cooperative Limited), a Govt of India sponsored undertaking in 2006, and after the departure of the Oswal, no annoying case of pollution has ever come to public notice.

7. ORGANISATION OF CULTURAL PROGRAMME

The organization has been conducting various cultural programmes from time to time under different projects. All the campaign activities including the consumer club programmes were conducted with a strong cultural component in each. Some collaborating organizations extended their cooperation to the organization for carrying out the cultural programmes.

7.a Celebration of Friendship Day

A Friendship day was celebrated by Inner Wheel Club, Cuttack Central on 3rd August 06 in collaboration of Project Swarajya. The objective of the programme was to highlight the need for maintaining strong bondage and friendship among women. Some members of Inner Wheel Club read out two nice Quotations on Friendship day, which ran as follows:

- “A Friend in need is a friend is in Deed”
- “Uschhabe Byasane Chaiba, Durvikshye Rastra Biplabe, Raja Dware Smasane Cha Jah Tistati Sah Bandhabah”.

7.b Observation of Rakhya Bandhan

Rakhya Bandhan Uschhab was observed by the Ladies Walkers Club, Cuttack in collaboration with Drug Deaddiction Centre on 14th August 06 at the premises of Project Swarajya, Cuttack. All the members of Ladies Walkers Club along with several other social activists took part in the celebration. They tied Rakshi to the inmates of the Centre and also to each other.

7.c Jalwa Puja of Third Sex

A ceremony of Jalwa Puja was organized by The Nikhila Utkal Hinjira Mahasangha on 21st January 07 at the premises of Project swarajya. According to their traditional customs Guruma Sobha Kinner accepted three hinjira namely Anita Kinner, Swapna Kinner and Baby Kinner as her disciples. About 400 Hinjiras from 15 districts of Orissa gathered at College Square, Cuttack. Then they marched in a big procession with dancing and singing from that place to the premises of Project Swarajya at Bakharabad. In course of the initiation ceremony held at the premises of Project Swarajya Guruma Najira Kinner a Senior Hinjira declared Manasi Bai as the leader of the Cuttack District Hinjira Committee from that day onwards. 11 hinjiras of Cuttack District accepted their own Guru on this occasion. This ceremony served as a platform for get-together of hinjiras from all over the State and also for building up solidarity between different groups of their community. They observed this cultural festival with much pump and feast and also invited the members of public to join in their celebration.

7. d Running of Yoga Schools in the Campous of Project Swarajya

Project Swarajya has been running a Yoga Schools in its campous since 2005 in collaboration with Kalinga Yoga Association. Around 300 persons including students, children and women have been trained and practicing the Yoga regularly. That apart the organization organizes the Yoga competition in collaboration with said organization every year.

8. PROGRAMME FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

The personnels of Project Swarajya including its Secretary attended as the resource persons for the programmes organized by NYK on various occasions. These programmes included District Level Workshop on “Matrutwa Sahaya Yuba Seba Sangha” and “District level Workshop on “Youth for Combating Child Domestic Work”

8.a Youth for prevention of Trafficking

A District-level Youth Camp on Trafficking of Women & Children was organized by Project Swarajya in collaboration with Nehru Yuva Kendra on 24th Nov 2006 in the premises of Project Swarajya at Silipur, Marshaghai in Kendrapara district. The objective of the camp was to sensitize the youth mass to prevent the social evil i.e. trafficking of women and children for sexual and commercial exploitation. The participants were from NYK, NSS, Youth Clubs, SHGs and NGOs.

9. PARTICIPATION IN POST-LITERACY PROGRAMME.

The organisation has been taking part in the post-literacy programme conducted by District Administration since last year. The organisation has set up PLP centres in 30 slums in Cuttack city. Through the PLP programme, the women of the slum areas were being educated. The organisation conducted vocational training on various trades like ceramic and stitching (tailoring) in different PLP centres. The PLP learners have also become literate. After completion of vocational training especially on ceramic and paper weight, they produced their ceramic and paper weight items and sold them on the occasion of Baliyatra festival at Cuttack held from 5th Nov to 12th Nov 06 in the Baliyatra ground through a stall that remained open for 8 days. As a result, they earned some money and got further encouragement to go ahead in their production activities. Now they are able to produce ceramic items in their own homes.

10. APPROPRIATE TECHNOLOGIES.

The Organisation was declared as an R.T.D.T. (Rural Technology Demonstration and Training) Centre by NRDC (National Research and Development Council), New Delhi since 1992 and as such has been provided with certain low-cost technologies for the purpose of demonstration and training to the people at grass root level.

Moreover, it has been the endeavour of the Organisation to design and develop appropriate technologies for use by the common people in the face of environmental pollution, biodiversity loss and challenge of competition in an era of liberalisation.

Based upon the experience of project implementation in the past, the Organisation is now equipped with the following appropriate technologies for the purpose of dissemination among the common people:

- Trawl Guard, an indigenously designed device to work as a substitute of Turtle Excluder

- Device for the trawl owners who don't want catch loss caused by TED attachment,
- Racks for hygienic and scientific drying of fish,
- Fish Pickle making,
- Scientific method of prawn and fish culture,
- Integrated paddy-cum-fish culture in water-logged salinised areas, and
- Fish Aggregating Devices for Orissa coast

In addition to the above, the training on a new trade, that is, candle making has been organised for the recovered patients of Drug De-addiction Centre of Project Swarajya at Cuttack.

11. DOCUMENTATION AND NETWORKING.

The documentation on various social welfare issues continued this year as before in the form of publications, collection of materials from websites, government and non-government agencies, other development agencies and CD ROMs along with the maintenance of a Library. The interested journalists, NGOs, lawyers and scholars were provided with information on various topics as and when they wanted. The representatives of government were also provided information on various issues including drug abuse and trafficking of women and children. Besides the like-minded NGOs were provided with assistance in the matter of accessing information on different schemes, formulation of project proposals and reports, preparation of background materials and facilitation in holding of meetings and workshops etc.

On behalf of District Consumer Information Centre a library is running in the premises of Project Swarajya for last 3 years. There are copies of various schemes, guidelines and legal documents available in this library.
