

PROJECT SWARAJYA



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INTRODUCTION

PROJECT SWARAJYA from its inception in 1988-89 has been carrying out various activities on a diversity of fronts from year to year. Apart from the continuance of its previous activities, the organization carried out many other activities for the year 2008-09. The entire range of activities undertaken in course of the year 2008-09 is briefly presented under the following 13 broad-heads followed by 2 Appendices.

1. DRUG ABUSE PREVENTION

1 A FOLLOWING SERVICES WERE PROVIDED BY THE ORGANIZATION DURING 2008-09

- Awareness of the general public and sensitization of the media, officials, PRIs, SHGs and NGOS.
- Maintenance of two Drug De addiction Centres under the scheme of Integrated Rehabilitation Centre for Addicts, one at Cuttack and the other at Silipur- of Kendrapara with the facilities for OPD and Indoor Treatment, Counselling and Referral.
- Counselling of the Patients and their family members
- Practice of Yoga and Meditation
- Follow-up of the Patients treated in the Centre
- Training of the Staffs
- Networking with concerned agencies

1 B NISHAMUKTI KENDRA (DRUG DE-ADDICTION CENTRE), CUTTACK

The “Nishamukti Kendra, Cuttack” continuing from 1992 and presently located at Ganesh Ghat, Bakharabad, Cuttack-2 entered into the 17th year of its functioning. In the year 2008-09, the total numbers of addicts for first time registered newly were 430. Of the total, the single drug Brown Sugar claimed as many as 88 nos. followed by 232 Alcoholics, 10 nos. of Cannabis, 05 Opium addicts, 13 Buprenorphene (IDU) users, 08 Sedatives, 72 Multiple drug addicts and others 02. Out of the total 430 patients, 07 nos. were detoxified under OPD while 197 under Indoor setup. As regards the source of referral of patients to the Centre, as many as 237 were motivated by their respective families, while 106 by the self and 31 by the friends, 05 by social workers, 02 by private hospitals, 09 by Govt. hospitals, 26 by Counselling/Awareness/De-addiction Centres, 13 by Ex addict and 01 by law enforcement agencies. As regards the nos. of dropouts of the year, the total nos. was 03 only, who dropped out from the Indoor treatment regime. As regards the reasons of dropout, 02 were unable to cope with the treatment and 01 deserted the Centre due to personal reason.

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 Centre through various means such as home visit, day care facility, inviting them to the occasional meetings and postal and telephonic correspondence with them. A total of 56 nos. of patients of different drug groups were found to be leading a sober life, while 121 nos. of cases relapsed to their previous drugs of abuse, Drop out 3, No news about 9 nos of patients and 2 expired, 9 nos in day care rehabilitation process and 4 nos now continuing psychiatric treatment.

By the rehabilitation programme, 193 nos of patient attended self help group meeting (Narcotic Anonymous), 37 nos were going to drop in centre, 5 nos were taking vocational taking, 9 nos was involved in family assistance programme and 4 nos were engaged in work place.

SPECIAL PROGRAMME

- Family awareness meeting was being held in every 2nd Saturday of every month. 135 nos of family members attended the meeting
- Narcotic Anonymous meeting was being held on every Monday and it was compulsory for Indoor patients to attend the meeting

1 C NISHAMUKTI KENDRA (DRUG DE-ADDICTION CENTRE) AT SILIPUR, KENDRAPARA

Also known as “Nishamukti Kendra”, the Drug De-addiction Center presently located at Silipur, Marshaghai in Kendrapara district was set up in mid-1998 and entered into the 11th year of its functioning. In 2008-09 the total nos. of patients registered in the Center were 551 out of which 40 were under OPD and 175 under Indoor setup. It was seen that out of the total registered patients, the highest 235 nos. were addicts of Brown Sugar followed by 152 Alcohol, 52 Cannabis, 17 Opium, 38 Buprenorphine and 57 multiple drugs. As regards the source of referral, 217 nos. were self-motivated, while 163 motivated by their respective families, 76 by friends, 37 by social workers, 45 by ex-addicts, 09 by the treatment-cum-rehabilitation centers (NGO-run) and 04 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 134 nos. of patients were leading a clean life. At the same time, a total of 19 nos of cases were found to have relapsed to their previous drugs of abuse. As regards the dropout, 11 nos. dropped out due to lack of family support, 07 due to some personal reason. There was additional treatment for 4 persons in side the centre after discharge.

1 D OBSERVATION OF INTERNATIONAL DAY AGAINST DRUG ABUSE PREVENTION

A workshop was organized on “Role of the People’s Representative for Prohibition” in the campus of Project Swarajya in occasion of International Day against Drug Abuse and Alcoholism in 26th June 2008. Prior to organise this programme a survey was conducted among the people’s representative about their role for prohibition at grassroots level. There 4 MPs, 5 MLAs, 48 Corporators have been contacted and requested to fill a survey format on what steps have taken by them to enforce the prohibition at their personal level. Among them only 2 MPs, 4 MLAs and 15 Corporators responded.

The workshop was inaugurated by Ms Arnapurna Maharana a veteran leader of Gandhian and Sarbodaya Movement. She spoke that she believes and wishes the prohibition all along her life. Mr Ranendra Pratap Swain, Honourable MLA of Athagada was the Chief Guest, Ms Pramila Swain; State Convenor of Orissa Madamukti Abhijan Committee was the Chief Speaker. Among other dignitaries Justice Choudhury Mr P.K Mishra, Mr Debasish Panigrahi IG of Orissa Police, Dr Minakshi Panda, Mr Chita Ranjan Mohanty represented as Guest of Honour and gave their opinion in favour of prohibition. Mr S.K Kalimula, Ms Sujata Mohapatra, Ms Kumkum Bose etc also shared their views from the floor.

Ms Dolli Dash, Secretary Project Swarajya presided over the meeting. The activity report was read out by Prasanta Dalbehera, Project Director and the well come speech was given by Pravat Singh. At the end Ms Sarmistha Rout gave vote of thanks.

1 E CAMPAIGN FOR PROHIBITION OF ALCOHOLISM AND DRUG ABUSE

Several workshops were organized jointly by Project Swarajya, NAWO and Excise administration of Cuttack district on prevention of illicit distillation of liquor and its dangers. The details are as follows

1 E (i) Seminar on illicit trafficking of liquor and its danger in Athagarh

A Seminar on Illicit trafficking of liquor and its dangers was held on 23.07.2008 at Athagarh Gopabandhu Bigyan Bhawan in collaboration with Excise administration, Cuttack. The objective of the seminar was to make aware the people to participate in prevention of illicit production, distillation, adulteration and marketing of the liquor. The programme was attended by police officials, Excise officials, SHG members, PRI members, Academicians, local people, liquor brewers and sellers, NGOs and local people. About 250 people participated in the programme.

1 E (ii) Seminar on illicit trafficking of liquor and its dangers in Banki

A Seminar on Illicit trafficking of liquor and its dangers was held on 30.07.008 at Banki, Damapada Block Conference Hall Banki in collaboration with Excise administration, Cuttack. The objective of the seminar was to make aware the people to participate in prevention of illicit production, distillation, adulteration and marketing of the liquor. The programme was attended by police officials, Excise officials, SHG members, PRI members, Academicians, local people, liquor brewers and sellers, NGOs and local people. More than 500 people participated in the programme.

1 E (iii) Seminar on illicit trafficking of liquor and its danger in Khuntuni

A Seminar on Illicit trafficking of liquor and its danger was held on 11.01.2009 at Radhanath High School in Khuntuni in collaboration with Excise administration, Cuttack. The objective of the seminar was to make aware the people to participate in prevention of illicit production, distillation, adulteration and marketing of the liquor. The programme was attended by police officials, Excise officials, SHG members, PRI members, Academicians, local people, liquor brewers and sellers, NGOs and local people. About 600 people participated in the programme

1 E (iv) Seminar on illicit trafficking of liquor and its danger in Salagan

A Seminar on Illicit trafficking of liquor and its danger was held on 12.01.2009 at Sadhu Sundar Bidyapitha in Salagan in collaboration with Excise administration, Cuttack. The objective of the seminar was to make aware the people to participate in prevention of illicit production, distillation, adulteration and marketing of the liquor. The programme was attended by police officials, Excise officials, SHG members, PRI members, Academicians, local people, liquor producers and sellers, NGOs and local people. About 500 people participated in the programme

2. PROGRAMME ON PREVENTION OF HIV/AIDS

Project Swarajya has been conducting awareness programmes, training, meeting, and sensitization among the drug users and their family members along with the inmates of Short Stay Home at Kendrapara to prevent HIV/AIDS.

2 A PEER LED INTERVENTION TO PREVENT HIV/AIDS

A program called 'Reducing High Risk Behaviour among the Drug Users- A Peer-Led Intervention' has been implemented by Project Swarajya for Cuttack district. Under this project there were several workshops and group discussions organized by the Peers of this project to

focus on and popularize how to avoid HIV/AIDS while using the injecting drugs. There were several nos. of IDU persons identified by the peers and they were counselled on a regular basis about the cause, consequence and remedy of high-risk behaviour.

2 B OBSERVATION OF WORLD AIDS DAY 2008

A workshop on International Day against HIV/AIDS was organized in the premises of Project Swarajya on 1st December 2008. Drug users, recovered brothers, civil society organizations, local citizens and professionals attended the programme. Mr S.K. Kalimullha Lecturer Sudarshan Mahavidyalaya presided over the meeting. Dr Prof Kali Prasad Pattnaik Asst Prof joined in as Resource Person and spoke on how the affected persons can take the help of physicians, infrastructures and treatment facilities available in SCB Medical College, Cuttack. Dr Minati Roy, a renowned paediatrician talked about the difference between AIDS and HIV. She explained how it infects a healthy person and spreads over to other persons. She elaborately dealt with the mechanism of infection and transmission of HIV/AIDS from one to another. Dr Minakshi Panda Lecturer presented the facts relating to the position of HIV and AIDS infected persons in Orissa as gathered from various media sources. Ms Sunita Tripathy State Coordinator NIRNAYA Trust joining in the workshop explained as to how the members of civil society should behave with the persons who are in need of care and support. She told that the social workers should work as facilitators between affected persons and service delivery agencies and institutions. Participating in the discussion Mr. Sahasya Badan Pattanaik from among the participants presented a case study on how he was ignored by the Doctors of SCB Medical College and Hospital while accompanying an affected person to them.

3. WOMEN EMPOWERMENT AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

In continuation of the past years, this year also Project Swarajya has been continuing its campaign to empower the women through service delivery activities, advocacy and lobbying at various levels. A Short Stay Home for Women and Children in Distress is being managed in the district headquarters of Kendrapara. Besides the organization has conducted a series of activities in collaboration with such State level networks like NAWO, Jajnyaseni (Anti trafficking Campaign Network) and We Can Campaign. Several fact-finding visits on atrocities against women were conducted during the year. Such fact-finding visits focussed cases of trafficking, domestic violence and violation of human rights of dalit women.

3 A MANAGEMENT OF SWARAJYA SHORT STAY HOME IN KENDRAPARA

The “Swarajya Short Stay Home” has been continuing from 1st January 2007 and is presently located at Barimul, Tilottamadei Pur, Kendrapara. It is functioning with the support of the Central Social Welfare Board, New Delhi and monitored by the State Social Welfare Board, Orissa. In the year 2008-09, the total numbers of inmates were 43, out of whom 30 were adults and 13 children. 13 children and 7 adult inmates were rehabilitated with parents, 3 nos were reconciled to their husbands, 9 nos were employed by self, 1 was given in marriage, and 3 nos. employed in NGOs. 7 nos. of inmates were given legal aid support while major health care support was given to 5 nos.

3 B CONDUCTING ANTI TRAFFICKING CAMPAIGN

Project Swarajya has been carrying out a campaign against trafficking of women and children since 2002 in collaboration with Jajnyaseni Anti Trafficking Network. Through this programme the organization has been able to get to the core problems responsible for women trafficking in coastal areas in eastern part of Orissa. The following activities were undertaken during the year 2008-09

3 B (i) Observation of Campaign Week

Like previous year a series of programmes were undertaken by Project Swarajya through observation of campaign week in various forms. The personnel of Swarajya Short Stay Home run by the organization at Barimul in Kendrapara district contributed a lot to make success the programmes. The report of some such programmes are given below.

3 B (ii) Celebration of Rathayatra Utshava

A stall was opened during RathaYatra in the campus of Baldevjiew Temple at Ichhapur in Kendrapara district during 4-5 July 2008. The personnel of Swarajya Short Stay Home assisted the stall by exhibiting goods produced by them and disseminating information on violence on women. They disseminated awareness on laws on prevention of violence and registration of marriage through display of banners and posters and distribution of leaflets among the visitors. The stall was under managed under the supervision of Ms Bisnupriya Behera and Ms Sasmita Behera of Swarajya Short Stay Home. District Collector Mr Sisir Kanta Panda inaugurated the stall. Ms Binapani Tripathy DSWO and CDMO visited the stall.

3 B (iii) Food Fair Festival

An information dissemination stall on remedies for prevention of women trafficking was opened by Project Swarajya during a Food Fair festival organised by the Food Lovers Forum and K.T.V at Telecom Ground in Kendrapara on 17 December 2008.

During the festival the inmates of Swarajya Short Stay Home distributed leaflets, booklets and posters related to prevention of violence against women with special focus on marriage registration among the visitors. The Sub Collector, Kendrapara visited the stall and gave a certificate of appreciation.

3 B (iv) Campaign Week Observation during Baliyatra Festival

The campaign week was observed by the organization during Baliyatra Festival at Cuttack with a focus on 'Dissemination of Information' from 13th to 22nd Nov 08. It was conducted in association with District Resource Centre supported by NAWO. Various informations on laws concerned with violence against women and human rights protection were disseminated during the campaign week. Specifically the following activities were done:

- A stall was opened for 10 days disseminating information on various laws related to women and children and their human rights.
- Distribution of posters and leaflets, and display of banners and audio-visual presentation on thematic issues were organized. Main focus was on compulsory registration of marriage.
- Teddy Bears, toys and other fancy items produced by the inmates of Swarajya Short Stay Home of Kendrapara were also exhibited and marketed by them.

Choudhury Justice Mr.Pratap Keshari Mishra, former Judge, Orissa High Court inaugurated the stall. Besides Ms. Yogamaya Pattnaik eminent Gynaecologist of the State, Mr Chitta Ranjan Mohanty social activist, Mrs. Saila Behera Secretary Basundhara and Mr. Mohan Jena, Member of Parliament Jajpur made their presence in the stall. The stall was visited by numerous people who came from all over the State to visit the Baliyatra festival.

3 B (v) Organisation of Youth Camp to Prevent Trafficking

A one day Youth Camp on Trafficking against Women and Children was organized by Project Swarajya at Silipur in Marshaghai Block in Kendrapara district on 04.02.09. The objective of the camp was to sensitise the youth about the trafficking of women and children in Kendrapara district so that they can take appropriate action to prevent it. Students of Dolphin ITI, NSS members of Marshaghai College and students of Silipur High School joined the camp and took part in the discussion by way of sharing their experience. They promised to check violence on women in their family, neighbourhood and community.

Mr Padma Charana Parida, Principal of Dolphin ITI College was the Chief Guest and Mr Niranjan Parida, Lecturer of Marsaghai College the Chief Speaker of the Youth Camp. Among others Mr Bijaya Ku. Das, Mr Santos Ku Jena, and Ms Bharati Kanungo attended as the resource persons of the Camp.

More than 100 students along with representatives from NGOs and PRIs took part in the Youth Camp. The camp was conducted by Mr Pravat Singh of Project Swarajya.

3 B (vi) Rescue, Rehabilitation and Legal Aid to victims of violence

Project Swarajya has been serving the women and children in distress by way of rescuing and rehabilitating them through various means. The organisation has also timely taken some basic steps to provide legal aid to the victims of violence along the year.

3 C BUILDING NETWORK TO ADDRESS THE ISSUES ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

The organisation has been working among the people of weaker sections and marginalized groups for several years in the past. Since the past few years the organization sought to expand the activity networks for these people by roping in the new generations. In this connection the National and State level forums namely NAWO and We Can Campaign came forward to join hands with the organization for pursuing such a common objective, i.e. prevention of violence on women in any form. The following activities were done on this front:

3 C (i) Formation of District Resource Centre in collaboration with NAWO

A District Resource Centre for Cuttack district on gender issues has been founded in collaboration with National Alliance of Women's Organization (NAWO) and running in the premises of Project Swarajya since 2007. The objective of the centre is to provide resource support to women for their empowerment. On behalf of DRC the following activities have been taken apart from the activities conducted under '**Campaign for Alcoholism and Drug Abuse**' mentioned above.

3 C (ii) One Day Dharana for Land Rights of the villagers of Naraj

The organization participated in a Dharana organized by the general public of Cuttack held on 29.1.2008 in front of Board of Revenue, Cuttack to voice protest against the notice served by the Government for land acquisition for Tata Thermal Power Plant at Naraj without ensuring the rehabilitation of the families likely to be displaced.

3 C (iii) Training for Capacity Building of PRI Members in Marshaghai Block

The training for capacity building and skill upgradation of the women representatives of PRIs under Marshaghai Block was held on 29 -30, April 2008 at Silipur in Kendrapara district.

The said training programme was conducted by Mr Pravat Ku Singh who received TOT on the same topic organized by NAWO. In that training 9 ward members, 7 Sarapanchs and 8 Panchayat Samiti members took part. Ms.Basanti Behera from Project Swarajya assisted the conduction of the training programme while Mrs.Anasuya Rout, a representative of NAWO joined in as an observer.

The trainees did also take part in distribution of relief stuffs (buckets, utensil, food etc) among the flood affected people in Marshaghai Block during the floods of September 08. The relief activities were supported by Nirmaya Trust. They also served as volunteers for distribution of relief stuffs carried out by Action Aid in other flood affected areas.

3 C (iv) Workshop on Land Rights of Women in Fakirpada, Cuttack

A workshop on Land Rights of women was held at Fakirpada on 24.08.2008 in collaboration with Barunei Pathagar. The aim of the programme was to make aware the various stake holders about the the land rights and property rights of women. Subsequently the women were made aware as to how to demand and achieve their land rights as human rights. Several participants from various sectors attended the programme. They were PRI members, Revenue Inspectors, Govt officials and Social activists along with the villagers. About 110 nos. of people attended the workshop.

3 C (v) Dharana on Elimination of Violence against Dalit Women

A Dharana demanding protection of human rights of Dalit women was organized on 25.11.2008 in front of Collectorate Cuttack. The objective of the said programme was to eliminate the violence against Dalit Women. The Dharana was conducted by Ms Sarmistha Rout, Women Coordinator and Ms Jayanti Nayak, Advocate, Orissa High Court. More than 500 women from various sectors i.e. SHGs, NGOs, Academics and public took part in the Dharana. At the end of the programme a team presented the memorandum on the subject to the ADM, Cuttack

3 C (vi) Rally on rights over forest products by Jungle Surakhya Mahasangh

Forest is the property of the Govt. But in our state a large number of people depend on the forests for their livelihood. Now in several areas community members are giving protection to the forests, since they depend upon these forests for their livelihood. Such community participation contributes to the development of our economy, increase in the forest produce and protection of environment But ironically enough, till yet Govt has not legalised the functioning of community forest management committees and recognition of community rights over the forest products.

In order to press for community rights over the forest produce and corresponding changes in the Forest Act Jungle Surakhya Mahasangha, Baramba-Narasinghapur, Cuttack organised a rally on 21.03.2009 that moved from Project Swarajya office to the Collectorate Cuttack. The members of Mahasanga marched in a procession raising slogans and gave a memorandum to the Collector, Cuttack. DRC of Project Swarajya was a co-organizer to conduct the rally. More than sixty people from different villages of Baramba Block participated in this rally. Personnel from CARR, Project Swarajya and different print media and electronic media were present on the occasion.

3 C (vii) Activity to reduce Domestic Violence in collaboration with 'We Can'

Project Swarajya as the district partner for Cuttack district has also joined with We Can Campaign of Orissa. One of the main objectives of the campaign was to promote change makers and prepare them to work to end all sorts of violence against women. It was decided that this organizations shall work among the college students for the purpose through change maker event.

3 C (viii) Launching and orientation of 1000 Change Maker Event in Cuttack

An event on launching of 1000 event for change makers has been organized in Birenmitra Memorial Women's College on 12 December 2008. The aim of the programme was to sensitise the college student to prepare themselves to resist violence on women at their locality and everywhere they feel. About 250 students took part in the programme. Dr Minakshi Panda, Lecturer and State Committee Member of We Can, Mr Khirod Rout, advocate Orissa High Court, Mr Chitta Ranjan Mohanty, Ms Dolli Dash deliberated the programme as resource person. The programme was Presided over by Mr S. Kalimullaha. Ms Abharani Kanungo, Principal of that College attended as Chief Guest. Ms Sarmistha Rout Coordinator conducted the programme

Besides, as a District Partner Project Swarajya has conducted the following activities in collaboration with various member organizations of the alliance. The topic for all the programmes was 'End all violence against women'. As a result of these programmes:

- ❖ 300 Direct Change Makers were identified by ANIRBAN on 1.2.09 at Gourpada IB Mahanga and 200 Direct Change Makers were identified by ANIRBAN on 12.03.09 at JN College, Kuanpal, and on 13 March 2009 at Mundasahi, Cuttack following the cultural programme on 'to end violence against women'.
- ❖ 200 Change Makers were identified by CAAR on 8th March 09 at Gopapur High School Badamba among the SHGs following a seminar on "Prevention & violence against Women".
- ❖ 300 Change Makers were identified on 8th March 09 at Gundicha Mandir among the Women SHG Members on the occasion of International Women's Day organised in collaboration with Swayamshree, Cuttack.

3 C (ix) Observation of International Women's Day in 8th March 2009

On the eve of International Women's Day Project Swarajya and CAAR Organisation jointly organised a meeting at Baramba in collaboration with WE CAN CAMPAIGN, ORISSA on 8th March 2009. The meeting was presided over by Mr Dasarathi Senapati, Secretary CAAR where as Ms Dolli Sahoo, Chairman of Baramba Block, was the Chief Guest. Among other dignitaries Dr Minakshi Panda, Lecturer and Core Committee Member of WE CAN CAMPAIGN, Mr Khirod Rout, Advocate, Orissa High Court, Mr Chitta Ranjan Behera, Social Activist, Ms Shasi Prava Bindhani, State Director, Human Rights Law Network, Ms Sunanda from CWS joined as the Resource Person. The objective of meeting was to sensitise the SHG members how to end violence on women.

Besides the above activities, the organisation took part in organising an 88 days campaign against violence on women in Orissa organised by NIRNAYA TRUST.

3 D SPECIAL SCHOOL FOR CHILD LABOUR IN KENDRAPARA

Project Swarajya set up 2 nos. of Special Schools for Child Labour in Kendrapara Municipality area on 1st of February 2008. About 50 nos of working children have been admitted into each school. They are being provided with education, food, and monthly financial assistance of Rs 100/- per head. The objective of these schools is to motivate working children towards education and to mainstream them by way of admitting them to the formal school system.

4. PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS OF DALITS:

Project Swarajya has been collaborating with Ambedkar Lohia Vichar Manch, a State level forum fighting for Human Rights of Dalits in Orissa. As a part of this collaboration, the organisation has both organized and participated in different programmes related to Human Rights of dalits and women.

4 A PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS OF THIRD SEX

It is a sad thing in our country that ‘Eunuchs’ lack any guarantee of their social security and Human Rights in our present social set-up. Project Swarajya has rendered a number of services for the cause of the people belonging to ‘third sex’. These include provision of temporary shelter, arrangement of meeting place, sponsoring their traditional rituals and lobbying against 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 same as to the common citizens of India. Efforts have been constantly made to mobilize the various eunuch groups to coalesce them into a single platform, and 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, viz. ‘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 has been emphasising on 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 also.

4 B AN APPEAL TO PROTECT SECULARISM AND DEMOCRATIC NORMS

“Ambedkar – Lohia-Vicharmanch” and “Project Swarajya” jointly convened a meeting on 21st December 08 in the premises of Project Swarajya, Cuttack, to protest against the Orissa Bandh in 25th Dec. 2008 called by a group. The objective of the meeting was to make a request to the administration to protect the common people while they celebrated Christmas on 25th December, as the day was celebrated by people of all religions. It was also a request to the common people to maintain peace while celebrating Christmas.

The meeting was presided by Ms Dolli Dash, Secretary, Project Swarajya. Other participants included Mr Tapan Samal, District Convenor of ALVM, Mr. Khirod Rout, Advocate, Dr Minakshi Panda, Lecturer, Mr Bichitra Nanda Sethy, Sarapancha, Mr Akshaya Das Social Worker, Mr Chitta Ranjan Mohanty, Social Worker, Mr Manoranjan Jena, Advocate, Mr Ramachandra Mallick, Advocate, Mr Biranchi Narayana Nayak, Social Worker, Mr Bijaya Mallick, Advocate, Mr Panchanan Sahoo, Advocate, Mr Chitaranjan Behera, Social Activist, Mr Rajendra Singh, Social Worker and Mr Mohan Jena, MP. They all appealed to govt. to take necessary steps to protect the Human Rights of all citizens.

5. CONSUMER PROTECTION MOVEMENT & GOVERNANCE REFORM

On the front of consumer protection movement and governance reforms, Project Swarajya has undertaken several activities during the year under review.

5 A RUNNING OF DISTRICT CONSUMER INFORMATION CENTRE, CUTTACK

Project Swarajya has been running District Consumer Information Centre for Cuttack district in its premises since 2003. On this year also, on behalf of the DCIC, several activities were

conducted in collaboration with Govt. and non-Govt. agencies. Throughout the year the Centre continued to disseminate various kinds of information as and when demanded by the public, interested persons from Govt or non-Govt agencies, media persons, etc. An interesting development is the increased demand for ways and means to apply RTI to get information.

5 B SETTING UP OF CONSUMER CLUBS IN CUTTACK DISTRICT

Project Swarajya has set up 20 nos. of Consumer Clubs in 20 High Schools and Junior Colleges in Cuttack district. To make the children of these institutions aware about the consumer rights, the organization has been conducting various activities such as essays, debates and drawing competitions among the students from time to time in collaboration with Cuttack District Administration.

5 C OBSERVATION OF WORLD CONSUMER'S RIGHTS DAY

Project Swarajya organised an awareness programme in its premises on 14th March 2009 on the eve of World Consumer Rights Day.

The workshop was presided over by Mr S.K Kallimula, educationist. Mr Manoranjan Hajra, President of District Consumer Redressal Forum, Cuttack was the Chief Guest. Eminent social activist Mr Kesab Rout joined in as Chief speaker. Personnel from Legal Metrology exhibited their measuring instrument and sensitized the participant how to be alert while purchasing the things from sellers., K.P Krishnan vice Chairman - All Orissa Consumer Protection Council, and Mr Kedar Jena, a Senior Advocate, addressed the gathering. The objective of the programme was to sensitise the members of SHG; those who buy vegetables, rice, etc. of daily use from vendors at the door step.

In addition, a street play on 'cheating in weights and measure' was organized in 3 areas, viz. Munda sahi, Collectorate and in front of State Bank of India on 13.03.2009. A leaflet containing information and various tips to detect cheating in weights and measures was distributed among the consumers at Krusak Bazaar and Balu Bazaar vegetable market.

5 D DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION CENTRE IN BALIYATRA FESTIVAL, CUTTACK

An Information Dissemination Centre for Consumer Awareness was organized by District Consumer Information Centre on the occasion of Baliyatra festival from 13th to 22nd Nov. 08 at Baliyatra Ground, Cuttack. A stall was operated for 9 days. Posters and leaflets on Consumer Rights were distributed among the people. Persons from all walks of life visited the stall. Banner display and audio-visual show were also arranged in various places at the festival ground to highlight related rules and regulations relating to Consumer Rights.

6. ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION

Project Swarajya has been taking up various environmental issues since its inception. The organization has taken part in NEAC programmes in several years in the past. 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 fisher folk. The organization participated in National and International seminars, workshops, sensitization sessions and educational programmes highlighting the need for protecting environment. The organisation has consistently been campaigning against the pollution caused by chemical and fertilizer industries located in coastal areas.

6 A CAMPAIGN FOR ADOPTION OF TRAWL GUARD

Project Swarajya participated in the campaign for adoption of Trawl Guard as a substitute of TED as a better and indigenous device for protection of Olive Ridley Turtles from various hazards of sea fishing for their prevention of accidental entanglement in the trawl nets. The organization had previously conducted a scientific experiment with the indigenous device called Trawl Guard for conservation of Olive Ridley sea turtle (January 2006) on the sea near Gahirmatha sanctuary, in collaboration with Dept of Forests and Environment, Dept of Fisheries, Fishermen's organizations, Trawlers' Associations, Green Peace etc. The programme was supported by WWF Nature India. Now the organisation is continuing the campaign for adoption of Trawl Guard in place of TED.

7. ORGANISATION OF CULTURAL PROGRAMMES

The organization has been conducting various cultural programmes to leverage culture in bringing behaviour change and to maximise the impact for bringing awareness on all social issues. All campaign activities, including consumer awareness programme, anti trafficking campaign, campaign for prevention of drug abuse and alcoholism, contain a large cultural component. Collaborating organizations extended their cooperation to the organization for carrying out these cultural programmes.

7 A OBSERVATION OF RAKHYA BANDHAN

Rakhya Bandhan Utsav was observed by the Inner Wheel Club, Cuttack in collaboration with Drug De-addiction Centre on 16th Aug 2008, in the premises of Project Swarajya, Cuttack. Many members of Inner Wheel Club along with several other social activists took part in the celebration. The invited guests interacted with the inmates and discussed their problems. The staffs of the Centre shared success stories of a few cases. The visiting guests tied Rakshi to the inmates of the Centre and the latter also tied Rakshi to them.

7 B SPECIAL VISIT BY CHAIRMAN OF INNER WHEEL CLUB, CUTTACK CENTRAL

This year, Project Swarajya had the greatest pleasure to welcome a distinguished visitor, Ms Sanghamitra Sahoo, Chairman of Inner Wheel Club of 326 districts. She met the staff and inmates of the De-addiction Centre. She was happy to note the multifarious nature of activities being conducted by Project Swarajya, encompassing many social issues, and the manner in which gendering had brought women to the centre stage.

7 C YOGA SCHOOL IN THE CAMPUS OF PROJECT SWARAJYA

Project Swarajya has been running a Yoga School in its campus since 2005 in collaboration with Kalinga Yoga Association. Around 470 persons including students, children and women were trained and benefited by the Yoga lessons during the year. Like in previous years, this year the organisation held competitions in collaboration with the Association.

8. PROGRAMME FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

The Secretary of Project Swarajya, a member of District Advisory Committee, Nehru Yuba Kendra Sangathan since 2006, was called upon as a Resource Person for the programmes organized by them. These included District Level Workshop on "Matrutwa Sahaya Yuba Seba Sangha" and "District level Workshop on "Youth for Combating Child Domestic Work".

9. PARTICIPATION IN POST-LITERACY PROGRAMME

The organisation has been taking part in the Post-Literacy programme conducted by District Administration since last year. In the PLP programme, women of the slum areas were given education through the 30 PLP centres set up by Project Swarajya in the slums of Cuttack city. The organisation conducted vocational training on various trades like ceramic and stitching (tailoring) in different PLP centres. The PLP learners become literate inter alia vocational training. After completion of vocational training, they produced their ceramic and paper weight items and sold them on the occasion of Baliyatra festival at Cuttack held from 13 to 22 Nov 08 in the Baliyatra ground through a stall maintained by Project Swarajya. As a result, they earned some money and got further encouragement to go ahead in their endeavour for production-cum-literacy achievements.

10. RELIEF ACTIVITY WITH NIRNAYA TRUST & IMA

Project Swarajya participated in the relief work during the month of September and October 2008, when a severe flood took place in the Delta area of Kendrapara and Cuttack districts. 2 activities have under taken. The first was Food distribution with assistance of Nirnaya Trust, and the second one was organization of Health Camp in flood affected areas in Kendrapara and Cuttack district. The areas covered for distribution of food item were, Antei, Angulei and Chhagharia GP under Marshaghai Block in Kendrapara district. 250 nos of family were benefited. After flood waters had receded, 3 nos of Health Camp were conducted in collaboration with Indian Medical Association, Orissa State Branch. The nos. of beneficiaries was around 1500.

11. DOCUMENTATION AND NETWORKING

As before, documentation on various social welfare issues continued this year 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. Interested journalists, NGOs, lawyers, and scholars were provided with information, views, updates, and analysis on various topics. These included representatives of government, especially in regard to information on pertinent social issues such as drug abuse and trafficking of women and children. Besides, 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, Project Swarajya has been running a library in its premises for last 7 years. The library is well stocked with copies of various schemes, guidelines, and legal documents for reference to users.