

# REFLECTIONS

*100  
Years  
of*

**d**aina<sup>®</sup>

**1998 - 2008**



## From Secretary's Desk...

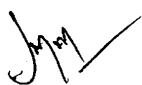
It gives me immense pleasure to bring out the Annual report of **Qaina** for the year 2007-2008. The year is special for the organization, as it has completed 10 year of its journey in the development sector. A small initiation taken by a few socially sensitive people has attained the status of a vast revolution. All these years the organization has been able to grow horizontally as well as vertically. Horizontally it has been able to develop its personnel's to reach at a stage where they are competent enough to handle the responsibilities of the organization on an individual basis. Vertically, it has grown to gain the status of a State level organization whose voice is heard, whose concern is respected and who today has the back up support of lot many other allied organizations working in the field of disability and for women and children. Within all these years the organization has moved gradually from one milestone to other to gain the status of what it is today. With each step taken by it, it has helped to make its target group a bit more confident and has been able to pump in it a lot of self-confidence and respect.

As an organization **Qaina** has always moved ahead of time to realize the need of the downtrodden and neglected mass, the Persons with Disabilities – a group that unfortunately had very less been able to draw the attention of the administrators. It was because of the evident based work of the organization, tiresome work of the project staff, members and genuine efforts **Qaina** declared as nodal agency to coordinate the activities under Mission Kshyamata launched by the State Govt. to empower the persons with disability through SHGs of Persons with disability. The CBR and Inclusion activities of the organization has been raised at different level and duly acknowledged.

Working with women and women with disability in specific got reinforced when **Qaina** got the opportunity to write the chapter on status of women with disability as part of the Status of Women in Orissa commissioned by National Alliance of Women, Orissa chapter. It brought another aspect of the most marginalized sector among women. The coordination of South Asian Campaign named WE CAN at the state level brought a huge experience of networking, alliance building and organizational development in general.

In our endeavor and mission we have achieved the cooperation and help of many, directly or indirectly. I, take this opportunity to thank them all including our donor and supporting agencies, Govt of Orissa, Govt of India, community members with whom we have been working and last but not the least the members and staff of **Qaina** family without whose sincerity, devotion and hard work it would have been impossible to envisage where we stand today. Sky is the limit for us and I hope that with the sincerest cooperation of all, we will go a long way ahead.

I am looking forward to another year of challenge, excitement and hard work.



(Mrs. Sneha Mishra)

Secretary, **Qaina**

Bhubaneswar

## ORGANIZATION BACKGROUND

**Aaina** which literally means 'Mirror', is a voluntary organization, operational in the state of Orissa, India since 1998. The organization was conceived as an effort of few socially sensitive people who came from different backgrounds, charged with the vision of working with the vulnerable sections of the society and address issues giving rise to such vulnerabilities. In this context the persons with disability, children and women became the focal point of various operations of the organization. **Aaina** has been working extensively in the state covering rural and tribal population at one end and the professionals, administrative agencies, Govt. officials and legislator at the other end. Since disability has been the major focus, right from its inception, **Aaina** has concentrated its energies and resources for the upliftment of the persons with disability, of making them self-sufficient and above all raising their morale, of making them realize of their hidden potentialities and standing by their side to show them the path of esteem and dignity. The organization operates intensively in the district of Ganjam with its uniquely designed **Project – Ananya**. **Aaina** as a result of its experience and determination has been able to consolidate its activities in aforesaid areas with each passing day.

With a backdrop of ten successful years behind it, **Aaina** today is recognized as one of the front ranking Organisations of Orissa working in the field of disability. Its sincerity, accomplishment and experience are well marked out by others and this is probably the reason why **Aaina** has been consistently accessed by different agencies for partnership, alliance, orientation and training. Another strength of the organization lies in its adaptability and visualization of cross cutting issues. The members of the organization firmly believe that addressing issues in isolation never produces the desired change. Holistic view, community confidence and inclusion are the basic premise on which all the programs are designed and developed. Judging by this strength of **Aaina**, the state govt. chose it to be the nodal agency for "Mission Kshyamata". "Mission Kshyamata" is the state govt. initiative to empower the persons with disability in Orissa. As a preliminary step the formation of SHGs of persons with disability by various voluntary organizations was coordinated by **Aaina**.

On similar strength in the field of child rights **Aaina** was chosen as the partner to conduct the three day workshop on "Regional consultation of children – for state plan of action for children for Govt of Orissa" with the support from Save the Children at Berhampur covering the southern districts of Orissa.

Today the organization has deep rooted understanding and experience in various fields like Community Based Rehabilitation, with special focus on women and children, micro-credit, Promoting and strengthening peoples organization, child rights etc.

## VISION

**Aaina** strives to see a world of identity, dignity and rightful provisioning for the underprivileged people, specially women, children and persons with disability, adopting creative pursuits and need salient strategies as major means.

## MISSION

To dedicate itself as a facilitator of social development through participatory process of awareness generation, advocacy and need based intervention with due emphasis on the vulnerability of persons with disability, persons in special difficulty due to natural and/or man made calamity, women and children subjected to discrimination and neglect, people deprived of social justice and human rights and those living under abject poverty.

## GOAL

**Aaina** not only dreams of achieving a barrier free community for women, children & people with disability, but it also dreams of a dignified, self-sufficient and respectable life for the disadvantaged, irrespective of their laggings. It dreams of a society which is free from all stigma for women children and persons with disability and people realise the potentiality of each individual and take an inclusive approach towards development. It dreams of a world which is barrier free, compassionate and understanding towards the most vulnerable and neglected mass on earth. It dreams of a future that is safe and inclusive in nature for them. A present, that is full of opportunities and scope for participation in every sphere of their life.

## PHILOSOPHY OF **Aaina**

**Aaina** has always believed in the philosophy of people's participation and INCLUSION. It is not only important for **Aaina** to work with the people at the local level but also to ensure Inclusion at different level. It does not believe in working as an outsider rather it has tried to make itself one among the many so that people tend to identify themselves more easily with it and feel the issues raised are their issue than **Aaina's** issues.

## PRINCIPLES

People's participation in all community works

Gender equality

Citizenship rights and governance of the children

## LEGAL ENTITY

- Registered under Societies Registration Act of 1860
- Registered under Foreign Contribution Regulation Act of 1976
- Registered under section 12A of Income Tax Act having permanent account number.
- Registered under 80G of Income Tax Act
- Registered under National Trust Act
- Recognised by Dept. of W & CD, Govt of Orissa under PWD Act.

## TARGET GROUPS

Women, Children & People with disability with special focus on women and children

## STRATEGY

**Aaina** work with the different stakeholder of the community to get the problems internalised and inclusive. Different stakeholders are : Women, children, children and persons with disability, PRI (Panchayat Raj Institution) members, poverty alleviation schemes, local administration, teachers, parents, ICDS (integrated child development scheme) workers, health workers, civil society organisations and different statutory bodies like JJboard, CWC as per the JJAct (Juvenile Justice Act) etc.

Empowerment of People with disability with special emphasis on the status enhancement of women

Involvement of community in the decision making process

Formation of self-help groups of Persons with disability to help them integrate into the mainframe of society. The intention of it is also to help them become economically independent. Formation of children clubs and child protection committee in the village

Collaborating and coordinating approaches with the district administration, community based organization, like-minded NGOs and other resource agencies for proper implementation of various activities.

Ensuring schemes and benefits and entitlements for the target group.

## AREA OF OPERATION

- 10 blocks of Ganjam district
- 1 block of Cuttack district
- 1 block of Dhenkanal district
- 1 block of Kendrapara district
- Bhubaneswar Municipality
- 30 districts – WE CAN Campaign

## ORGANISATIONAL SETUP

**Aaina** is an organization with 43 full time staff members. Among them are special educators, social workers, psychologists, IT professionals, occupational therapists, village level workers, vocational trainers, Project coordinators, campaign managers, development communication personnel etc.

## ORGANISATION STRENGTH

- Young, energetic, hard working and committed staff
- Exhaustively trained special educators
- Ever ready to learn approach
- Project staff members mostly hail from the local community
- Team spirit, believe in the philosophy of democracy
- Participatory decision-making process
- Cool and cozy environment with ever expanding opportunities
- Transparency & Accountability

## **MAJOR FUNDING AND SUPPORTING PARTNERS**

Save the Children UK  
Action Aid India  
CWS, Hyderabad  
Sight Savers International  
OXFAM GB  
CBR Forum/Carritas  
Bal Raksha Bharat  
Unicef, Orissa  
GAATW, Bangkok  
VSO  
CAPART  
NIRNAYA TRUST  
JRD TATA Trust

## **NETWORKING PARTNERS**

NAWO  
IWHM  
ORISSA CBR ALLIANCE  
WE CAN Campaign

## **Aaina** THROUGH THE YEARS

### **1998**

**Aaina** came into existence in the year 1998 when a group of few socially sensitive people came together with a determination to work for the vulnerable sections of the society. The year saw a lot of brainstorming among the members with regard to the vision and mission of the organization and how the organization can get a specialty and uniqueness. Searching of a suitable name for the organization and getting it registered and obtaining a legal status for the same followed this.

**Aaina** initiated its first services as a crèche for the children of working mothers named as Heaven's garden and was managed by the efficient staff under the direct supervision of the Secretary of **Aaina**.



### **1999**

On 15<sup>th</sup> Jan 1999 the organization finally got its legal status as a registered organization under Society Registration Act.

Soon it got its first opportunity to organize a State level workshop in the month of March. This was a State level workshop on Dance Therapy for the teachers and parents of children with disability, which was supported by UNICEF, Orissa. **Aaina** through this workshop for the first time introduced dance therapy in to the disability field in Orissa. This was attended by professionals, parents and people working with persons with disability participated from across the state. Ms. Tripura Kashyap was the resource person for the workshop.

As a continuation of the process of introducing innovative ideas in to the field of disability following the workshop on Dance therapy, a state level workshop on Creative Arts therapy was organised with the support of UNICEF, Orissa. Parents, professionals and persons working in the field of disability also attended this workshop. Mr. Ashok Shah was the resource person





for the 3-day workshop held at Bhubaneswar.

This was further followed by a State level workshop on Creative Dramatics: Resourced by the famous Kanchan Sontakke this five days workshop exposed the professionals, parents and persons working in the field of disability to the use of creative dramatics in the education of children with disability. These processes were practiced with 5-6 children with disability to see its impact. The same year some of the staffs of the organization participated in the creative art workshop organised at Mumbai. These children who had got an exposure to creative art went to Udaipur to participate in the national arts festival.

On the 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> of October Orissa was hit by super-cyclone. In the aftermath of the natural devastation a consortium of 80 Voluntary organizations mobilized relief operation in Ersama the most affected of all regions. The organization was given responsibility to head the base camp with a stationed 300 volunteer capacity and coordinate the operation in the field. This was carried out for a complete month with the director as camp coordinator directly in the field. **Aaina** looked upon as a consultative agency in the various meetings of OSDMA – the state govt. disaster mitigation authority. The organization was also given the responsibility to coordinate and supervise the crèche run by ODMM in the cyclone ravaged 10 districts of Orissa for a period of 3 months.

In the same year 'Ammo Vidyalaya' came into existence. A special school for the children with disability was opened at Baranga, Cuttack following a survey that showed high incidence of disability but little intervention for them. It is an integrated special school catering to the children with disability. The school also acts as a resource centre for preparation of children with disability to join mainstream school along with giving them vocational training to become self independent in the coming future. The school had tried to cater to the needs to play, academic, prevocational and vocational. The children of this school are taught through creative art



processes. The student strength started from 9 in the beginning.

## 2000

The members and staff of **Qaina** got an opportunity to work in the Super Cyclone ravaged Ersama Block of Jagatsinghpur. Children of the affected area were deeply traumatized because of the devastating Cyclone. The skill of Arts therapy was brought down to use for the Psycho-social rehabilitation of the children of Ersama Block of Jagatsinghpur District. This activity in three phases with three months gap between each phase was supported by Unicef under the name of **Project Unmesh**. This was later recognized by NIMHANS as a skill for psycho social rehabilitation. Around 3000 children were directly intervened and 25000 people were addressed as secondary recipients. All the school teachers in the region were also addressed in the therapy. This was in fact the only program in the region exclusively directed for the children.

Stage II of UNMESH – with the analysis and feedback of stage I available, it was imperative to start off with Stage II of the project. It was confined to the two panchayats of Japa and Amibiki. Here the idea was to conduct the psychosocial therapy for all the earlier participating children, and then to have another intensive session for children who maintain almost the same trauma level found during stage I.

Stage III of Project UNMESH – with the analysis and feed back of stage II available, stage III was thought imperative. One of the major themes was to relate to their surroundings and realize the need for protection and development of their environment

Child rights week was also observed in the Erasama block. An outstanding event named “Asa ame kheliba, agaku agaku badhiba- Let us Play and grow forward” was introduced during the Child rights Day in the area. This was introduced as it was understood that children in certain area are not playing out of trauma after the



Super Cyclone. The unique games helped children in generating interest in games and recreation.

Another highlight of the year was the flood relief operation taken in the 3 blocks of Kendrapara namely Rajkanika, Mahakalpada and Garadpur by the organization with the support of Save the children UK. A pilot study on prevalence of disability in the District of Ganjam got initiated by **Aaina**.

World March of Women: During this year **Aaina** took a significant role during the World March program organized by NAWO, Orissa.



## 2001

During the same year **Aaina** with the support of Save the Children, UK, undertook the project of Inclusive Education and subsequent mainstreaming of children with disability in the district of Ganjam of Orissa. This was the first initiative of SC, UK in the field of Inclusive education and subsequent mainstreaming of children with disability in the field of disability in the South East Asia Region. Prior to the initiation of the project a census survey of all the 22 blocks of Ganjam was done. This was the first major initiative to enumerate the PWDs in a district in the State preceding the census 2001. The whole district was covered with the help of UAA and its network organizations from 22 blocks of Ganjam. After a thorough orientation and periodic follow up for six months an effort was made to produce the first comprehensive collection of information regarding the PWD in the district which was shared with the dist. Administration and State administration subsequently.



**Project Ananya** - It is a singular intensive as well as extensive project of **Aaina** on integration and mainstreaming of persons and children with disability into the society in the district of Ganjam This project is into the 8<sup>th</sup> year of its operation. It is operational in 10 blocks of Ganjam.



The important events of the year included district level consultative meet with the State and district administration on Child rights as part of the Say YES to



children campaign launched worldwide by UNICEF.

Kallola – Children convention was inaugurated and initiated from this year for the children under the project area.

**Aaina** collaborated with the Jan Sikshyan Sansthan to provide skill training in various trades to the underprivileged to be self-employed. About 50 persons from different slums of Bhubaneswar and rural areas like Kendupatna and Raghunathpur were identified for the purpose.

Unlike every year 7 participants from the organization participated in the state abilympics, of them 4 excelled to further participate in the eastern regional competitions. The same year saw an identification camp at Kendupatana organised on 7<sup>th</sup> Oct 2001. 63 children were formally identified with various disabilities who were further linked to the special school “Amo Vidyalaya” at Baranga, VRC, NIRTAR and TCTD for training, rehabilitation and aids and appliances.

**Aaina** provided support to coordinate Anjali, the children’s festival .The program was supported by Unicef, East Zone Cultural centre, Dept W& CD and Dept of Culture.

The organization also actively got into the campaign against trafficking in the State in the year 2001. With the support of CWS, Hyderabad and in collaboration with Jainaseni and CACT **Aaina** had conducted street plays in Kendrapara District. Along with PRI and SHG orientations.

## 2002

The year was a period of internalization, new interactions and exploration and intervention in subject areas that has remained relatively hidden or obscured. Much time has been devoted to refining and honing the professional and operational skills of members and staffs of the organization. Children from the organization have achieved success in various meetings and competitions and also done commendable works.

The research and Analysis wing worked on the collated



census data on disability of the district of Ganjam and gave invaluable information on the distribution and cause factors of disability to the District Administration. In the unit of psychosocial counseling about 30 persons with various types of mental distress and psychological trauma and sociological mal-adjustment were counseled and put back into a desirable psycho-social state.

Amo Vidyalaya the integrated special school achieved its third year of existence with 43 regular children attending the school. Five of these children were integrated to normal school. Ms. Mamilata Samal has attended the national cultural festival at New Delhi and the integration camp of Anjali at Bhubaneswar to win laurels in the song and percussion musical instrument events.

Project Ananya completed two years. Under the advocacy plan of this project the district administration was presented with a concept note on the formation and functioning of the district disability cell. One of the major achievements of project Ananya was the formation of 300 SHGs of persons with disability getting them trained under NABARD and linking them to various lead banks to be fully functional. More than six hundred Aids and Appliances were supplied to the persons with disability with sourcing from the regional center of NIRTAR at Phulbani. During the same period approximately 300 children have been initiated to schooling and quite a few of them have been integrated. Ms. Prajna Prakasini Deo a child leader attended the young people's forum on the campaign against HIV/AIDS at Katmandu conducted by UNICEF ROCA and Save the Children.

As an active member of the CRCP Network with linkages with UNICEF, **Aaina** implemented the plans of GMfC, Child Leaders, Child centric and children driven social initiatives in the district of Ganjam. Under this program Children formed their informal clubs calling it as the good friends club at the local level. In one village these children managed to motivate the village youths and adults to quit gambling and whiling away time and



revert to productive work. Through their timely appeal to district health authority for intervention, the region was spared from an epidemic of cerebral malaria, but losing one child leader to the dreaded disease. There has been numerous consultation and conventions of the children among themselves, with the administrative functionaries, police, health functionaries, judiciary, education functionaries and the PRI members.

Mrs. Sneha Mishra, Secretary **Aaina** was awarded as Best Volunteer for her services rendered in the aftermath of the super cyclone 1999. She also contributed in the publication of the book 'Silent Voices" on the occasion of Orissa Disaster Preparedness and National Day for Disaster Reduction.

**Aaina** co-organized Project Anjali the integration camp for mainstream children and children with disability for the second year running.

Phase II of the child protection workshop at Gopalpur conducted by **Aaina** targeted the CBOs working in the district of Ganjam and dwelt upon the explicit and hidden forces at work in creating and sustaining child rights violation. Lawyers and administrative functionaries were engaged in discussion sessions to reflect upon and take steps against these forces. There were child participants contributing substantially to the workshop proceedings in clarifying their views and stances in this regard.

Resource person from **Aaina** conducted events in the Adolescent Girls convention at Nawarangpur hosted by the district administration.



## 2003

The year 2003 acted as a milestone period wherein it got wide claim for the SHGs of Persons with disability formed in its project area in Ganjam.

- The initiative was highly appreciated and a major support from government was immediately proposed by recommending the groups for NHFDC loans. By this year the organization had been able to facilitate the formation of 107 SHGs



of Persons with disability also called ASSG or Ananya Swayam Sahayak Gosthi. In all around 1500 people were parts of this initiative. These members received regular orientations and trainings in an attempt to upgrade their skills in aspects like book keeping, bank linkages, starting small scale business etc.

- The same year **Aaina** organised a national level conference on 'Women with Difference' to bring to light the plight of women with disability. Government officials, NGO representatives along with representatives from civil society and people with disability to mention a few, attended the conference.

The advocacy programs at various levels for the people with disability continued unabated. Regular orientation programs were organised for both government officials and the various stake holders including PRI representatives, school-teachers, members of community etc. Besides this attempt was also made to ensure that the various facilities given to this special groups reaches them be it Aids and appliances, scholarships for children, IAY, disability certificate, Bus and train pass to mention a few. One of the main tasks of the organization had been to link the persons with disability with these services in an attempt to make their life a little better. Continuing with the same trend 2 assessment camps were held in the districts of Ganjam in order to provide aids and appliances to the persons with disability. Around 657 persons were assessed during the camps out of which 502 were felt to be in need of aids and appliances.

- As part of the networking and linkage strategy the organization mobilized the placement of two student therapists (PT AND OT) from Sydney University.
- Workshop on Right to education opened a space for participation of children in School management process. Children came out strongly against corporal punishment and was



instrumental in bringing out the circular to ban corporal punishment at School. Activities on Children citizenship and Governance got intensified this year result in producing child leaders.

- Involvement of Children in Project management: **Aaina** for the first time learnt to ensure the participation of the children at the project management level. Children became the inherent part of the regular review and planning meetings. Children were also part of the development of Indicators of the project as well.
- As a cross cutting issue HIV & AIDS got addressed under Project Ananya as children came up with the problems of children affected and infected by HIV. In the month of November a workshop on HIV/AIDS was organised by the organization. RDC northern division inaugurated the workshop. Besides this workshops were also organised on Inclusive Education and Right to Education.
- Ms Chhabirani and Ms. Sonia awarded Gold and bronze medals respectively in International Abilympics.
- During the same year the organization took up a project to ascertain the status of women domestic and construction workers in the urban area of Bhubaneswar and to put forward suggestive intervention measures of HRD for improving their life. The initiative was supported by GAATW, Bangkok.
- The organization was also providing support to the Task force on Women and Violence a watchdog forum against violence and discrimination against women in the state.
- It was in this period that the organization started a 'Certificate course on Basic Understanding of Disability and Rehabilitation'. This is a 10 day residential course that is meant to provide with the basic knowledge on disability and the





intervention strategy therein. This has been especially designed for the village level volunteers who are directly working in the field with the persons with disability.

## 2004

It was in the year 2004 Ananya Mela – A fair for SHGs of PWD got organized. It was inaugurated by the Director Social Welfare and member Planning Commission Dr. Debabrata Das and a district level committee of the federation of the SHGs of persons with disabilities was formed. This was on 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2004. There were 20 members, 2 from each block in this district level committee. The group basically worked for advocacy of the rights of Persons with disability. An exclusive CBR approach through a project supported by CBR Forum got initiated in Dharkote Block of Ganjam District.

It was during this year that various consultations and brainstorming sessions were being organized as part of the South Asian campaign to end all violence against women. Ms Sneha Mishra, Secretary **Aaina** was selected to be member of the national level consultative task force for the same as well as the state coordinator for the campaign initiatives in the State of Orissa. The campaign got a name of WE CAN. The formal launching of the campaign in India was done in New Delhi on 25-27<sup>th</sup> Nov 2004.

- One of the biggest and landmark event organized by the organization was the Ananya mela. This was a two day convention of the SHGs of Persons with disability supported by the organization and formed under Project Ananya. Approx 1200 people participated in the event. Director W&CD Ms Aparajita Sadangi IAS was present on the occasion and highly appreciated the initiative taken by the organization.
- The same year secretary, **Aaina** attended the Beijing 10+ program held at Bangkok, Thailand.



She tabled the issue of women with disability within the women's movement.

- The Secretary presented a paper on Inclusive Education in International Seminar on Inclusive Education at New Delhi.
- Mr. PK Rath and Mr. Jayashankar Panda both founder members of the organization attended the International workshop cum exhibition 'Diriya 2004' held at Colombo, Srilanka in Nov-Dec 2004. Mr. PK Rath presented a paper on 'Creative Arts Therapy: Principles and Application'



## 2005

It was in the year 2005 that the organization was chosen as the nodal agency to coordinate the activities of various special schools and NGOs working in the field of SHG formation of persons with disability. **On 28<sup>th</sup> January 2006, the initiation meeting was** held with representatives from 5 districts being formally invited to participate in the function. The most important development of the meeting was the formation of a task force on Mission Kshyamta, which was required to meet on 1<sup>st</sup> of every month at the WCD Conference Hall, Secretariat.



In the same year We Can Orissa organized National Assembly of change makers. The event was organized at the Adivasi Padia in the month of December. Around 500 participants from across the state, and also from 14 States and 3 countries of the South Asian region attended the assembly. The year also saw the shifting of the Amo Vidyalaya, the special school at Baranga to the VTC premises run by Govt of Orissa.



Coming to the projects, the year was special for the organization as for the first time a special program on Women with disability was undertaken by the organization at the Belaguntha block of Ganjam District. The project catered to need of women with disability from 90 villages of the block.

**Aaina** also undertook a survey as part of the bigger

survey to ascertain the status of women in Orissa. **Aaina** undertook the study on the status of women with disability in 8 districts of the State. The study was commissioned by NAWO. The study presentation brought many light to the grey areas.

On 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> March 07 a two day workshop on HIV and Gender was conducted by the organization to understand the implication from gender point of view.

The same year Ms Sneha Mishra, Secretary **Aaina** was elected as the board member of National Trust, working for the welfare of children with autism, cerebral palsy, mental retardation and multiple disability, Under Ministry of Social justice and Empowerment.

## 2006

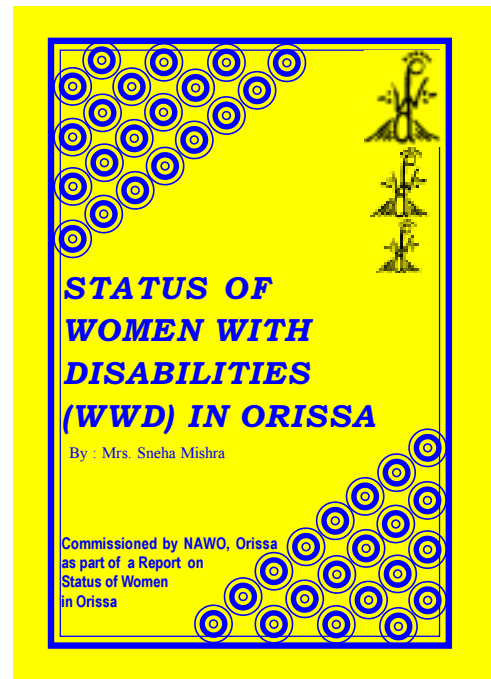
The highlight of the year was the survey taken by the organization on 'Status of women of Samudram network: a study of the fisherwomen of Ganjam who were a member of Samudram network'. The study was conducted for Oxfam, GB. The children's newsletter 'Amo Swara' was published for the first time during this period and now it is being published on a regular basis on a quarterly basis.

A special project on Inclusive education as a part of the CEF was taken up in Soroda Block of Ganjam district. Convention of women with disability at Block level and project level got initiated and after a vulnerability study 35 women with disability was given support through micro financing.

The Project from CAPART towards mainstreaming PWD got sanctioned.

## 2007 – 2008 (March)

**AMO VIDYALAYA:** Amo Vidyalaya a special school that came into existence in the year as a result of a very strong commitment to work for children with disability in an area which had ample number of persons with disability owing to some or the other reason. The school, which unfortunately did not, had any special educator



owing to the absorption of all their teachers in the SSA slowly tried to fill up the gap. This was not easy, but the process, which was a gradual, one came up to stand firmly once again. With a new principal the school under the able guidance of the secretary **Aaina** was able to fill up the gap. And in spite of the reverses it received the school continued to move in the direction of fulfilling its obligation for the children with disability

Now coming to the regular activities undertaken at the school emphasis is regularly laid on inclusion and on helping the children with disability to learn vocational trade to become independent in their near future.

***A new but significant initiative towards Inclusion got introduced i.e. march past during the Republic day at Baranga in collaboration with other Schools. A running shield and Cup was introduced for the winner and runners up of the event by Aaina.***

Shortage of funds has never demotivated the authorities of the school in celebrating important events and dates along with the students of the school. All most all-national and local festivals including Independence day, Republic day, Saraswati puja, annual day and sports day had all been celebrated with equal fervor and enthusiasm in the school premises.

Some of the important activities undertaken by the school during the entire year include:

Participation of children in the Alympics: the students of the school had made the authorities of the school proud again and again at different levels. Number of the students participated in the Alympics this year.

- Installation of stall at Baliyatra, at Exhibition ground on the occasion of World disability day etc: The creative products produced at the vocational training centre of the school is regularly displayed at different occasions as and when the school gets an opportunity to do so
- Annual sports day and Annual function: Integrated sports day was celebrated with great enthusiasm in the premises of VTC at Baranga. Students



from the near by school participated in the events along with the CWDs of the Baranga school. Like every year Annual function was also celebrated in the presence of a great crowd. Presence of media celebrity, executive members and Staff of the organization, local leaders, parents of CWDs along with a huge gathering of the local people came together to celebrate the special function of special children. The CWDs gained the admiration of all with their sizzling performances. There were 7 children got mainstreamed from the Special School with the sincere effort of the staff.



**PROJECT ANANYA:** All the projects operational in the district of Ganjam fall under the umbrella of Project Ananya. During the period 06-07 3 major projects were operational in the district of Ganjam namely Advocating Inclusion, Women with Disability –Towards Inclusion and CEF. The major emphasis on all these projects is the strategy of Inclusion, which is advocated by the organization at all levels of its functioning. Different programs were held through out the year in order to sensitize the members of family, community and stakeholders of the community on the one hand and on the other attempt was made to strengthen the SHGs of the PWDs by credit linking them, training them on different aspects of SHG management and so on. Children who are the most important segment of the society are the most valuable resource **Aaina** has tried to develop and carve out in order to make their message reach all corners of the society. This year also attempt was made to strengthen the Children group, orient and train the members of the group and provide them scope to spell out their views at viable locations. These children have never let us down and have contributed positively on different issues facing their community be it inclusion of CWD in the school or removing of myths associated with HIV/AIDS, etc



**a. PROJECT supported by SAVE THE CHILDREN**

SC project had been operational in the district of Ganjam since 2001. In the year 2007-08 thrust areas of operation in the district had been basically improvement in the status of child scenario. Under this improvement of Children Clubs in 70 villages, strengthening of the functioning of the good friend's club, attitudinal changes with respect to Child rights and child issues among parents, teachers and other stake holders of the community including PRI representatives, ICDS workers etc. Attempt was also made to make the youth a part of the entire venture and special programs were organized to make them sensitized on the issue.

The basic objective of the project was to create a barrier free environment for children and facilitate a more proactive involvement of children in governance. To achieve the same attempt was made to strengthen the skill of the existing service delivery institutions for children, influence the networks and govt officials for better implementation of inclusive education policies. The major activities of the year can be basically divided into

- Children activities
- Capacity building programs
- Networking strategies
- Development of manual on Inclusive education

Within the children activities various activities like children convention at district level, child protection workshop at block level, formation and strengthening of good friends club, strengthening of pre-school activities and other promotional activities, enrollment of children with disability in primary school, arranging scholarships for CWD, formation and monitoring of CPC(Child protection Committee) and interface of children with block level officials were organized. The



CPC formation was emerged in a workshop by the children while discussing the protection issues. An interface of CWC members and CPC members helped in clarifying the roles and also getting the CWC a link at the community level.

□ The remarkable activity of this year is the development of the manual on Inclusive education for teachers, parents and children. Within the capacity building program activities like orientation and training programs for school teachers and VEC members, Other stakeholders namely PRI representatives, youth volunteer, CBOs etc were organized on a regular basis

Within the networking strategy regular meetings were organized with the district level committee (DLC)

□ The remarkable activity was the development of Inclusive education manual for the teachers, parents and children.

#### **b. INTENSIVE CBR PROJECT IN DHARAKOTE:**

The project is supported by CBR or community based rehabilitation basically believes in the rehabilitation of PWDs in 6 areas of growth namely- Physical, Intellectual, Psychosexual, economic, social and spiritual. Different programs are taken in order to achieve the same throughout the year. Some of the important programs include trainings for the stakeholders of the community namely PRI Representatives, Health functionaries, teachers and school functionaries, peer group training, training for the SHG leaders etc. Besides this regular therapy ad different Home based programs are done for the CWD in order to integrate them in the society on the one hand and develop their caliber on the other hand to the maximum possible extent.

The CBR Project operational in the Dharakote block has the following objectives:



- To improve the functional ability of the PWD: According to the specific needs of both the PWD and CWD specific rehabilitation package are designed for them. This includes physiotherapy and occupational therapy, referral services, improvement of communication skill, ADL and social behaviour interventions for children with MR etc.
- Improving the skills of the parents with regard to the rehabilitation process and management of their children: In order to attain the same various programs were held throughout the year. Some of the important programs include home based management workshop for the parents ( ADL,therapy, behaviour modification, Home based training of parents of children receiving intensive interventions by CBRWs., Sharing of rehabilitation skills with parents and siblings by CBRWs through village level group activities., Group review of children (assessment and intervention plan) by CBRWs and professional staff together with parents
- To organize the PWD into groups as a sustainable major and build capacity of group leaders and members: the important programs to attain the objective were the formation of SHGs of PWDs and others, Leadership development training for SHG members, Book keeping and record maintenance training for SHG leaders. Till date 4 integrated SHGs of PWDs have been formed.
- To sensitize the community people towards disability, its causes, prevention and develop positive attitude towards PWDs.: many programs were held throughout the year the attain the objectives like cultural programs to showcase the talents of CWDs, street play, integrated sports etc
- To initiate the process of employment and self-employment. among the PWDs: For the purpose





vocational and skill training for PWDs were organized. Also regular attempt is made to bank link the SHGs of PWDs. Till date 3 WWDs have completed tailoring training at Women's Polytechnique.

- To facilitate availing of various Govt. and Non-Govt. schemes and facilities meant for PWDs: regular liasoning with Block & other Govt. officials for proper implementation of schemes meant for the PWDs like- pension, IAY, SGSY and other schemes are held. Also sensitization programs for the PRI Representatives are organized.
- Networking of PWDs
- To ensure education of all CWDs below 14 years in association with SSA and to create suitable conditions for integration of CWDs in the mainstream educational structure. Preparatory centre for mainstreaming, Inclusion or getting the children admitted in mainstream schools, Sensitization workshop with peer groups, Mobilizing scholarships for cwds in school,
- To improve the status of dropouts and non-initiated children with disability in the community. To attain it attempt is made for functional literacy for dropouts and non-school going children.



### **MAINSTREAMING THE PWD – SUPPORTED BY CAPART:**

Under this project the SHGS of PWD were sustained and a vocational training unit for PWD got initiated at the project office at Bhanjanagar. There were 50 PWD and WWD got trained so far by the training centre in tailoring and incense stick making unit. Women with disability got together during the convention and thrashed out many issues bothering them. Three ramps were built in School to make it accessible for the students with disability.



## ANTI TRAFFICKING:

World wide thousands of women and children are trafficked every day for the purpose of labour and sexual exploitation. Orissa has not remained free from this scourge. Poverty, Ignorance, natural calamity and official apathy have created a perfect ground for the traffickers to operate freely.

**Orissa** had been into the anti-trafficking campaign since 2001. A survey was done in the district of Ganjam and Kendrapara in order to ascertain the real scenario and the probable causes with respect to trafficking. Poverty and cultural bias against women were found to be the most important reasons for trafficking.

The campaign, which is supported by CWS, is operational in the district of Kendra Para and Ganjam. This year there were 5 PRI meetings, 4 at Ganjam and 1 at Kendra Para on the issue of trafficking. On the occasion of Campaign week, a meeting with the members of the SHG was organized at Kendra Para on Nov 27. Two returnee victims of trafficking traced by the organization in its operational area took part in the Return Victims meet held.

In an attempt to educate and make the youth aware of the growing menace of trafficking and the form it is taking in the present situation a youth camp was organized at Chatrapur from 12-13 Jan 07. More than 150 youths participated in the camp and at the end of the 2 day the campaign was able to leave an impression on the minds of the youth about the issue of trafficking. The aim of not only the youth camp but all most all the meetings held aim to create awareness on the issue of trafficking in the society at all possible levels. The aim of these meetings is also to come out with appropriate strategies to rehabilitate the victims of trafficking so that they can lead a dignified life in future. A stall is also proposed to be taken up at Gopalpur beach festival like every year and create awareness in the public through posters, leaflets, audiocassettes and puppet show on the issue of trafficking.



## INITIATIVE IN MICROFINANCE:

Though the SHGs of persons with disability in Ganjam are facilitated through project Ananya their long-term sustainability is our prime concern. These SHGs are regularly given training on money management and record keeping. Through the support of development banks like NABARD the regional branches of SBI, RGB, Aska Cooperative bank are periodically consulted and linkages and load forwarding made to the SHGs. The lending banks are happy and eager to extend loan to more number of these SHGs as the loan repayment status is almost absolute 100%. It is a noteworthy point to state that the women headed SHGs are performing with greater initiative and many of the female member have been able establish their financial independence through small time business setups.

At present many SHGs have taken up loans and are doing some or the other economic activities and trying to move towards self sufficiency. A poultry farm has been established by taking a loan of 1 Lakhs, SHG of Jhadabumi had also taken up a loan of Rs 1 Lakh and is successfully doing mushroom farming. Besides these big activities many SHGs have taken up loan and are engaged in small economic activities. Some such SHGs are SHG of Turumu which had taken up a loan of 20,000, of Mugura - a loan of 30,000, Bidipur – Rs 50,000, Baruda – Rs 30,000, 7 SHGs of Belaguntha block that were given an assistance of Rs 1,50,000 under the Project -WWD – Towards Inclusion etc. In all it can be said that the organization had brought the PWDs virtually to a position where they are now striving to become self sufficient and thereby live a dignified life.

## WE CAN – CAMPAIGN TO END ALL VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN:

**We Can** is a South Asian Campaign to end all violence against women. The Campaign came into existence as a result of the report published by Noble Laureate Mr. Amarty Sen where he came out with an astonishing



fact. According to this report there are around 50 million missing women in the South Asian countries alone. This jolted the civil society and the intelligentsia and Oxfam came forward to support the cause of ending all violence against women. 6 South Asian countries namely India, Pakistan, Afganistan, Bangladesh, Srilanka and Nepal are a part of this campaign. The campaign as it stands today has 6 South Asian Countries, 12 States of India and all the 30 districts of Orissa. The campaign was launched in Orissa in Nov 2004 in 15 districts of the state. Today it has grown into a large network of alliance members encompassing almost



**Aim of the campaign:** Campaign aims to reduce social acceptance of Violence against women. It believes that people can change people and also their attitude and behaviour. It aims to build support to end VAW and finally it aims to reach 5 million change makers in South Asia by 2011. The campaign works through the creation of change makers. These are the people who believe change is possible and pledge to accept change and simultaneously change the attitude of 10 more people to end all kinds of violence against women

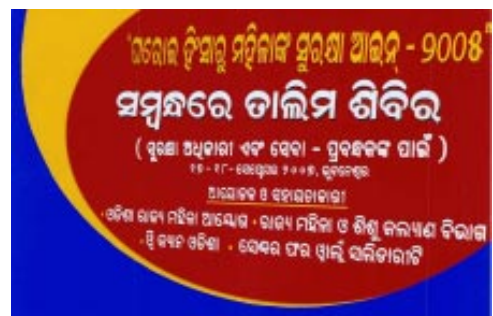


**Nature of events covered under the campaign:** The campaign, which has now reached all the 30 districts of the State through its various alliance members, concentrates basically on creating awareness amongst the people against the violence committed on women. Various events were covered under the campaign important of which were various district level change maker's event, college based events, campaign through cultural activities, events for religious groups, IEC materials development on the theme etc to name a few.



**CELEBRATION OF IMPORTANT DATES:**

- **World disability day:** Unlike every year even this year world disability day was celebrated with great enthusiasm at the headquarters, field office and at Kamakhyanager. Various events like rally,



competitions among school and college level students, film festival, views sharing by eminent personalities were held.

- **International women's day:** International women's day was celebrated both at the head office and also at field office. Events like mini marathon, rally, and various competitions among the women, fun games, and views sharing by eminent personalities marked the day.
- **Children's day:** – children are one amongst the target group of the organization and celebration of the day is at the topmost of its agenda. Various activities like games, competitions and rally is organized to mark the day.



### RESEARCH & DOCUMENTATION UNIT:

This year there were a number of publications made from this unit. Two posters on the theme of Inheritance right of women and Domestic violence faced by women got released on the occasion of World disability day. A handbook on child rights initiative undertaken by the organization and the guidelines adopted for the creation of children's group was released by the organization. A demand for such a book had been in the air since a long time by the sister organizations that were interested in adopting the guidelines for bringing together the children of the society as a force.

Besides this the organization had been publishing the child magazine 'Ama Swara' 3 times a year on a regular basis.



### AT THE HEAD QUARTERS:

This time there were lot of busy schedule in the research and analysis wing as the members of the organization were called to present the perspective of the organization and individual experience sharing through paper presentations on various topics in International and National platforms – conferences, workshops and seminars. Unicef and SCERT invited the organization to facilitate the meetings held during children's day and orient on child participation mechanism.

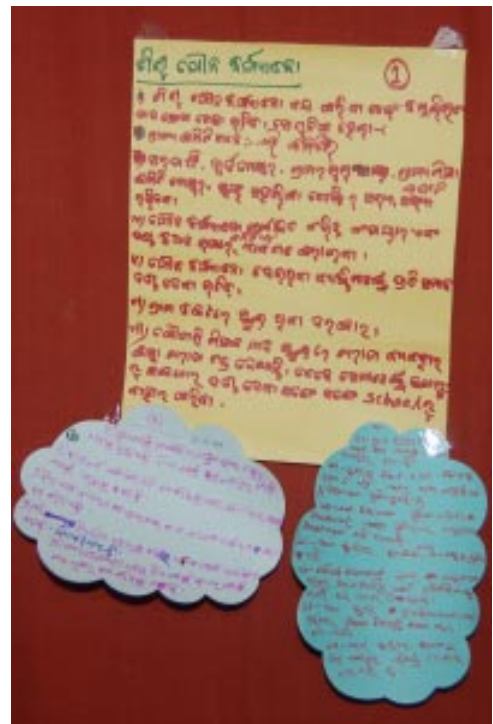


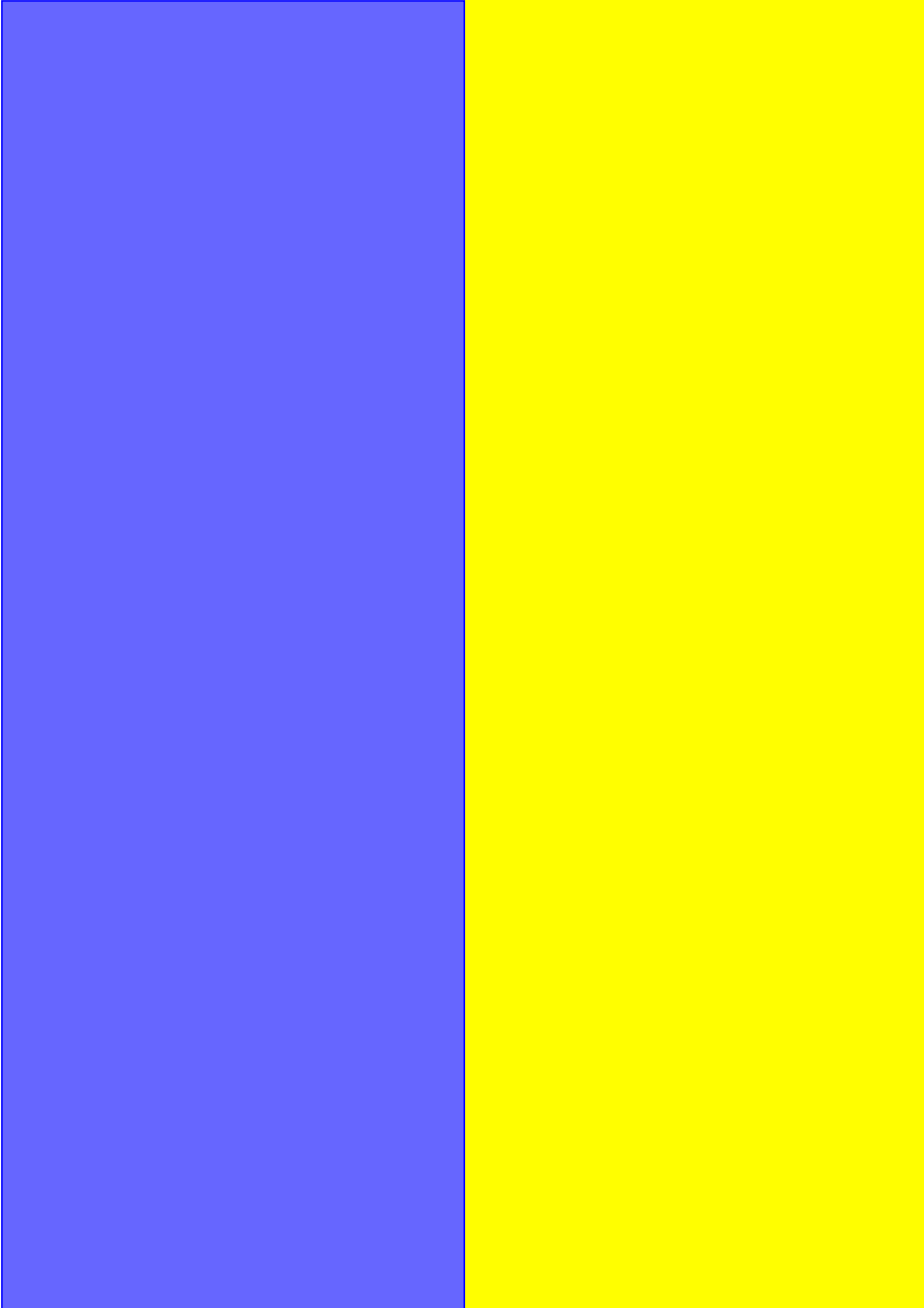
## ISSUE OF BIRTH CERTIFICATE:

The organization along with the support of BMC, Bhubaneswar and UNICEF established the identity of the children in the various urban slums of Bhubaneswar through the registration of births and the consequent issue of birth certificates to the children. 1300 children got their identity through this process.

## Highlights of the year

- Child protection committee had the unique chance of interacting with the district child welfare committee at the Interface workshop organized by the organization. Around 60 participants participated in the interaction meet which was attended by members of District child welfare committee, representatives from Save the children and children from all parts of the district. Various issues pertaining to child protection issues were discussed on the occasion. This gave the children and the representatives of the organization to bring forth the problems faced by children and the solution thereof.
- A one day training program was organized to help the PWDs develop the minimum competency to maintain their aids and appliances. It was seen that most of the PWDs were not able to use their appliances owing to some or the other small technical problems. They were also not in a position to buy new appliances hence it was thought imperative to provide them a training which will help them to take care of the small problems arising in their appliances so that these can be used to the optimum level.
- Kallola – the children festival was observed like every year. Different programs were organized along with the Inclusive Sports on the occasion to help the children to come out with their inner talent. Approx 250 children participated in the two-days event.





*Realization  
being the  
guiding Mantra*

*Creativity & Inclusion  
the Spirit*

**Aaina**

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