



People's Rural Education
Movement

E-NEWS

July 2021

Volume 29

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President's Message

Dear friends,
Greetings from PREM.

We are bringing our E-news, volume 29. During this 2nd wave of COVID 19 period of time we all of us know many of our friends and relatives suffered and also some of them departed from this world. We shall pray for them and also we should take care as per the guideline of Health department. As civil society organization we are finding the major problem is the livelihood of the lower middle class and poor people. Many people lost their job and are unemployed. This is 2nd year of the pandemic. We are lucky in Odisha the number of cases are reduced and in the tribal areas our people are very safe. There are no positive cases or death in many villages. This is because of their disciplined life and also they are far away from the mainstream people.

We are bringing this volume of E-news focusing on our relief and rehabilitation activities. We have opportunity to support the District administration and Health department by providing medical accessories, oxygen cylinders and mobile ambulance. We are very much grateful to Azim Premji Foundation, Reliance Foundation, Raghunath Trust, Texas, USA, and Mr. Kotaro Fukuoka from Sunblaze company and Help Berhampur Breathe organized by Mr. Sidhartha Mohanty, who is from Berhampur, Odisha. He with his friends collected donations from different people and supported medical equipments and mobile ambulance etc.

What we experience, big organizations like Azim Premji Foundation, Reliance Foundation and individuals like Mr. Sidhartha Mohanty and friends from Taiwan supported our relief work.

We are very much grateful to all of them on behalf of people of Odisha. Especially in the tribal areas.

Thanking you
With regards

Dr. Jacob Thundyil,
President, PREM



COVID-19 pandemic mitigation by PREM during 2nd wave

With the second wave hitting the country, declaration of emergency lockdowns, curfews, acute shortage of oxygen, and the limitations of infrastructure to address the magnitude of the problem the livelihood of distressed tribal, dalit and marginalized farmer communities is adversely impacted. The nationwide lockdown since 5th May has pushed them further to the brink.

In these times of uncertainty, we at PREM believe that it is our duty, as a social organization, to support the vulnerable communities, who need it the most. Accordingly, PREM appealed various national and international agencies for collaboration. Sensitive communities across the globe such as AZIM PREMJI Foundation, Bangalore; Reliance Foundation, Mumbai; Railway Children India, New Delhi; Breathe Berhampur; and individuals like Ms. Agnes & Mr. Mathew Thundyil from Taiwan, Mr. Kotaro Fukuoka, Co-Founder, Sunblaze mobile company of Japan responded generously and joined PREM with their helping hand in battling the crisis.

Through the grassroots volunteers, PREM once again stepped up activities to reach the unreached vulnerable communities of Gajapati, Ganjam, Kandhamal, Koraput, Rayagada, Malkangiri and Sambalpur districts of Odisha through the following initiatives:

PREM in association with AZIM PREMJI Foundation

- **Dry ration kit distribution**



Relief activities by PREM in association with AZIM PREMJI Foundation

With the second wave hitting the country, we at PREM with support of AZIM PREMJI Foundation, Bangalore came forward to reach the unreached vulnerable communities of Gajapati district.

In the month of July 2021 PREM distributed dry ration kits of worth Rs.1000 each to as many as 2000 tribal households in the remote Gajapati hills. While 600 kits were provided in 12 villages of Gumma block, 1400 kits were distributed in 43 villages

of Mohana block of Gajapati district. The distribution camps were organized at different centralized locations for speeding up the process & easy access to the people and the volunteers. The camps were graced by the local MP, MLA, Panchayatraj representatives and



district & block level govt. officials under the leadership of Dr. Jacob Thundyil, President, PREM. The women and men were very happy and expressed their gratitude to PREM – AZIM PREMJI Foundation for the timely support.



Relief measure taken up by PREM in different districts of Odisha

PREM has also supplied sanitary kits which include 4 Masks, a 200 ml sanitiser bottle, one pulse oxymeter and a set of gloves to 90 frontline staff members and volunteers who were all engaged in the relief measures.



Addressing the migrants' crisis, and rebuilding lives and livelihoods affected by Covid-19 pandemic, PREM thanks AZIM PREMJI Foundation and its employees who responded with generosity and solidarity to the appeal made in May 2021, which allowed PREM to implement relief activities, to continue and expand operations in

addressing extreme distress of communities.

PREM in association with Reliance Foundation

- **Distribution of dry ration kit**

The following initiatives have been taken by PREM in Ganjam and Gajapati districts of Odisha to mitigate the situation:

PREM in collaboration with Reliance foundation organized relief camp in blocks of Surada block of Ganjam district and also in Berhampur Municipal Corporation. The relief material kit consist of rice, dal, sugar, mustard oil, turmeric powder and hand sanitiser. This kits were distributed in Aurabandha and Gopalpur sasan panchayats of Surada block covering 780 families. Also PREM distributed to 250 needy families of Ambapua and park street of Berhampur, 200 widows of Mandiapalli, Bhabi



Narayanpur and Coloney near OUAT Fisheries College of Rangeilunda block. During the distribution at BeMC and Ambapua the Hon'ble MP, Sri Chandra Sekhar Sahu and the Hon'ble MLA Sri Bikram Panda were present and PREM team organized all the distribution work with the support of local youth volunteers of the respective areas.

- **Distribution of mask**

PREM in collaboration with Reliance foundation distributed 10000 masks to AWWs, ASHA workers, health workers and sanitation workers in 10 blocks Ganjam and Berhampur Municipal Corporation of Ganjam district and 10000 masks in 7 blocks of Gajapati district. After receiving the masks the beneficiaries expressed their thankfulness to PREM.



- **Distribution of medical accessories**



Distribution of medical accessories by PREM

PREM with the support of Breathe Berhampur, a Volunteer organisation distributed medical accessories like PPE Kit Tapping(50 nos), apple N95 mask (100), Fogger machine(one), Nitrile gloves blue(one packet), Sodium hypochlorite(6 bottles) to CHC, Chandragiri. A team of PREM visited to the CHC and handover the above items to the Medical Officer. After receiving the accessories the medical officer expressed his thankfulness to PREM for this support.

- **Mobile phone distribution to the tribal girl students for attending online classes during lockdown**

All schools have been closed since March 2020 due to the Corona pandemic. As a result, all students in India are completely dependent on online classes. But unfortunately, students in tribal areas have been

deprived to access to the online classes due to financial



Mobile distribution to the tribal girl students for attending online classes during lockdown



crisis of their families and also due to not accessing mobile networks.

Keeping in this mind during this situation, on 29.06.2021, People's Rural Education Movement (PREM) organization in collaboration with a Japanese company called Sunblaze—a telephone



company—distributed android mobile phones to 15 disadvantaged girl students of Daringbadi block of Kandhamal district who are studying at Kendriya Vidyalaya in Berhampur. The students were staying in the government-run Special Urban Hostel in Ambapua but due to lockdown now they are in their villages. Due to above reason they are deprived of getting online education. After receiving mobile phones the students

as well as their parents expressed their gratitude to Dr. Jacob Thundyil, President, PREM. In their response they said that now their children will get the opportunity to continue their study through online classes with the support of these phones.

- **Donation of X-Ray on wheel and ambulance to district administration**

PREM with the support of Breathe Berhampur, a Volunteer organisation donated an X-Ray on wheel and an ambulance to City Hospital, Berhampur keeping in view of smooth functioning of Covid 19 measures. The District Collector, Ganjam, P, DRDA, Ganjam and MLA, Berhampur joined as guests. In this program Dr. Jacob Thundyil, President, PREM handed over the ambulance key to the District Collector. After receiving the Collector said that the ambulance will move with the X-Ray in wheel to provide radiography services to the



Donation of ambulance by PREM to District administration

COVID patients who are now at COVID Care Centres (CCC) and in home isolation. This machine will



help for early detection of infection so that we can shift as soon as to the DCHs before the infection gets severe. This initiative was also appreciated by the local MLA and PD, DRDA.

Similarly, PREM and Breathe Berhampur donated 20 numbers Bullnose Wheel Type Valve, VST-210(1030) Regulator with Adapter H. Bottle and Mask and 50 numbers

50 Ball Spirometer to Rotary club, Berhampur and 40 numbers B.P.C Flow Meter With Humidifer

Bottles, 500 numbers Oxygen Mask with NRB, 2 numbers Adlisc BPAP System, 4 numbers Whirlpool 185 litre Refrigerator, 150 numbers Medical Oxygen Regulators, 55 numbers Oxygen Regulators to city hospitals for providing emergency support to the Covid patients who are in home isolation and admitted in city hospital for treatment. After receiving the above items the Rotary club and as well as the City Hospital authority expressed their thankfulness to PREM and Breathe Berhampur .

PREM Program Activities

Observation of World Day Against Child Labor

On the eve of World Day Against Child Labor, on 12th June, 2021, PREM in association with Educo, organised a District level webinar on child labour, its causes, effects and solutions. The webinar was attended by 145 participants from various institutions, who are working on child care and protection. The webinar was panelled by Dr. Jacob Thundyil, President of PREM organisation, Mr. Ashish Nagori, Project Specialist Child Rights and Governance of Educo, Mr. Sukant Behera, Representative from Educo and various officials of Kandhamal district such as Mrs. Subhadarsini Nayak, District Child Labor Officer in-charge, Kandhamal, Mrs. Rashmita Karan, District Child Protection Officer, Mr. Ashok Kumar Behera, Chirperson, Child Welfare Committee Kandhamal, Mr. Rabindra Kumar Panda, District Child line Director, Kandhamal, and Ms. Sushma Pradhan (10th Class Student), Petarabadi Village, Paratamah GP, Kandhamal.

The workshop was chaired by Dr. Jacob Thundyil, President, PREM in his speech he stressed on the importance of education and its role to stop child labour in the society. Mr. Ashish Nagori from Educo in his speech explained the context and background of state-level, national-level children problems on child labour and child marriage with statistics in a very beautiful way. Ms.



Shubhadarshini Nayak, District Labor Officer in charge, Kandhamal in her session briefed on the various processes, steps and legal provisions to stop the problem of child labor at the government level, to protect them and to solve the problem. Similarly, Mrs. Rashmita Karan, DCPO, Kandhamal, in her address, explained how Children are the most vulnerable in the current COVID 19 pandemic. And she advised everyone to engage the children in various creative activities. She also

explained in detail the various government programs, schemes for the rescue and rehabilitation of child labour, and how all stakeholders have a responsibility to do so. Other panellists also delivered their speech highlighting education and life skill education and its role for combating child labour. At the end Mr. Sudhir Kumar Digal, Program Manager PREM, presented how the program—Reducing Child Marriage in Kandhamal District—will go forward working with all the stakeholders, line departments. This webinar was a successful and was very informative. The participants came up with a number of ideas about different laws and schemes to ensure their rights for children, which of course can help the children with their life skills and future careers.



Drawing activity for the adolescent group members

Followed with the webinar on the eve of World Day Against Child Labor, on 12th June, 2021, PREM organised a weeklong campaign on World day against child labour. During this weeklong campaign



PREM and Educo organised a drawing activity for the adolescent boys and girls to encourage them to express child labour issues, its consequences and challenges through drawings and as well as to sensitise them on the adverse impact of the child labour. During this activity 185 adolescent boys and

girls of adolescent groups of 7 gram panchayats of Daringbadi block participated very actively.



The selected best drawings were presented during the National level webinar on “Impact of COVID on Child Labour and working together towards it's prevention and eradication” on 25th June 2021 which was organised by Educo and PREM and along with its other partners. These drawings were highly appreciated and acknowledged by everyone in the webinar.

Baseline study on child marriage in Daringbadi block



PREM in collaboration with Educo conducted a baseline survey in seven gram—Partamah, Kirikuti, Badabanga, Simanbadi, Danekbadi, Sonepur, Dasingbadi—panchayats of Daringbadi block of

Kandhamal district. The objective of the study was to collect information on different aspects relating to child marriage and to analyze the drivers and consequences of child marriage. The baseline study was carried out in 76 revenue villages in 7 GPs in Daringibadi Block of Kandhamal district in Odisha. Out of total 4234 households having children of 10-18 years in 7 GPs, 412 Hhs (10%) were selected using the simple random sampling techniques for the study. The household questionnaire capturing prevalence, causes and consequences of child marriage, people's awareness on legal provisions, their perceptions etc, was developed by the consultant. Before the study we conducted an orientation workshop was organized from 22nd to 23rd of April 2021 at the Training Centre in Daringbadi where all the 16 No of volunteers attended. The participants were taught about the purpose of the survey, how to collect data and the interviewing skills. The draft household questionnaire was pre-tested in the Suganketa village in Saniketa GP before the onset of survey



Household data collection during baseline survey

process. Separate tools for collection of the information on the measures and actions taken by the stake holders such as ICDS, Police, VCPC, Anganwadi/ASHA, School Teachers/SMC member to combat child marriage were developed. Attempt was also made by the consultant during field visit to meet the Sarapanch of Partmaha and Badabanga GP, Anganwadi workers and faith leaders, adolescent girls married before 18, to have an improved understanding on the issue and the mechanism exist to check it. Both quantitative and qualitative methods were used for data collection. The qualitative baseline also provided insight into a variety of issues related to the theory of change. The qualitative component of the study was conducted using FGD. The cluster coordinators took the responsibility of monitoring the process of data collection. The filled in questionnaire were checked, edited and processed for drawing out results, conclusion and inferences.



The study was guided by the objectives of defining the nature and scope of the problem, understanding existing customs and practices, perceptions and experiences of key stakeholders, the interventions of the government to combat child marriage, various social protection schemes

of the Government to support/ motivate families to delay the marriage till the girls turn 18, various child protection mechanisms exist in the targeted communities, the trends of school enrollment, dropout and its reasons.

Observation of World Environment Day

Under Bridge-IT project the World Environment Day was celebrated by the Odisha Module in virtual mode over 2 sessions. The first session was for Gunupur and Padampur Clusters and second



session for Gumma and Mohana Clusters. The theme of this year's World Environment Day was "Reimagine, Recreate and Restore". The theme for our World Environment Day 2021 celebrations was "Restoration of Ecosystems". The aim was to learn about how to reverse the degradation of ecosystems and preserve diversity of life. The resource person and presenter for our World Environment Day celebrations was Mrs Jyotirmayee Mohapatra, who shared about the environment and its inter-

relationship with human beings, other living creatures, plants, and Micro-organisms. She also shared that the environment provides basic services essential for humanity, such as supporting life, supplying materials, energy, and absorbing waste products. She raised awareness on the importance of protecting our environment and asked the participants to think of activities that they could do together to protect the environment. She ended the session by giving 2 activities for the entrepreneurs to do such as

- Youth or Community – Planting of fruit bearing, shade giving trees.
- Children – Reduce usage of plastic and installation of dustbins at schools.

The presentation was participatory in nature and many of the entrepreneurs responded very well.

Lobby and advocacy with Govt. Officials

To work closely with the Govt. departments for reducing child marriage in Daringbadi block of kandhamal district, PREM established good rapport and good linkage with the line departments in this period. The central project team of PREM met with the following responsible stakeholders of the Govt. line departments in this period such as:

- **The District Collector:**

The central team of PREM met Ms. Brunda D, the District Collector, Kandhamal. During the meeting the team shared the major activities of PREM and particularly the main objective of the PREM-Educo project. They also presented the key strategies and planned activities which are planned for one year to reduce child marriage in 7 gram panchayats of Daringbadi block. The team requested her to provide support of district administration in this regard. In response the District Collector expressed

her happiness to know such initiative taken up by PREM. She assured the team that definitely the district team is with PREM to make the program successful.

- **District Child Protection Officer:**

As the district child protection unit is the fundamental unit of the district and it has the main role to contribute effective implementation of child protection schemes. Realizing the importance of the unit the team met with the



Meeting with District Child protection officer

District Child Protection Officer, Kandhamal district on the

25th March 2021. After sharing our project objective and activities, she heartily welcomed this initiative of PREM for combating the child marriage in 7 gram panchayats of Daringbadi block. She ensured the support of district unit to make the program successful. She also proposed to organize a meeting with the team during her visit to Daringabdi. So that during the meeting she can share some orient the team about the district mechanism and provide some information with them. Then she gave a list of the orphan children of the Daringabdi block and requested the team to contact them to know their status. The visit was very successful for PREM team.

- **District Social Welfare Officer:**

The team also met with the District Social Welfare Officer at Phulbani on the same day. During the meet the team interacted and shared the project goal, objective, key strategies and major objectives



which are planned for one year to reduce child marriage in 7 gram panchayats of Daringbadi block. She also explained their approaches which are implanting for combating child marriage. She extended her full support to the team to work together. She also invited the team to attend the district level meeting on

legal awareness program on child care and protection and reducing child marriage which will be organized by Odisha State Commission for women on 30th March 2021. It was also a successful meeting and team accordingly the two cluster coordinators attended the meeting on 30th March, 2021.

- **Child line organisation:**

As the child line works for the protection of rights of the children aged from 0 to 18 years for their care and protection. So their support is very important in our project. The team met with the organization head at Baliguda and explained the project objectives and activities. In response they were very happy to know the initiative of PREM and also expressed their willingness to work together for the

sake of the adolescent of the project area for asserting their rights by stopping child marriage and ensuring their education minimum upto 12th standard. The child line head also explained the procedure of reporting a case and the procedure for addressing the issue.



Meeting with District Child Line Official

As a whole all the meetings were very good for the project team and it's also positive sign for us to get the support from all the key stakeholders of the district, who are working for the care and protection of the children. PREM hopes we can work very closely with Govt. line departments collaboratively for the successful implementation of the project.

Case study

A small change in mindset can help to take right decision

Astini Pradhan, a 15 year girl of Basabadi village of Partamah panchayat of Daringbadi block of Kandhamal district was continuing her study in class 8th in Sujamaju high school in two years back. But due to lack of awareness on importance of education, financial crisis of her family and as well as



disability of her father, she dropped out from her school after class 8th. Her family members also never encouraged her to go back to school again. To support her parents for livelihood she started working as a child labour in her village and also in the nearby area since last 2 years.

Meanwhile, PREM and Educo team initiated its program with the children and in communities in Basabdi village. In this process we collected primary data regarding school drop out, child labour and child marriage as well as project also organized village meetings, adolescent group meetings and adolescent engagement activities in the village. Astini, the drop out child labour was also a part of in all the above activities. Within this time frame we also conducted home visits to Astini's family and counseled her and as well as her parents

regarding importance of education and negative impact of child labour.

Then after all above process, Astini and her parents realized their mistake for discontinuing of education and wasting 2 years by working as a child labour. In this regard her parents asked the support of our project team for enrolling Astini in school again. Then our project team have discussed with the school teacher of Rutungia to enrol her name in the school for further study. Now Astini will continue her study in Rutungia high school after unlock and re opening of schools.

Astini and her family are now expressed their thankfulness to PREM-Educo team for changing their mindset towards education.

Notes from field

Meeting with CDPO to work together for reducing child marriage

The Program Manager along with the block staff met with the CDPO, Daringbadi at Daringbadi block office on 25th June 2021. During the meet the team interacted and shared the project goal, objective, key strategies and major objectives which are planned for one year to reduce child marriage in 7 gram panchayats of Daringbadi block. She was very happy to know the initiative taken by PREM and she explained their key activities and strategies which are being



carried out for combating child marriage. During the discussion she seek support of PREM to work together to complete the panchayat level child protection committee in 25 panchayats of the block as soon as possible. Accordingly a joint plan was prepared to complete the meeting as soon as possible. The CDPO also extended

her support for successful implementation of the project in 7 gram panchayats of Daringbadi block. The visit was very successful for PREM team.

Formation of Adolescent groups

To strengthen the adolescents at village level, the adolescent groups were formed in 76 villages where 710 adolescent boys and girls were registered their names. The main objective of forming the group was to strengthen the adolescents so that they will play vital role to stop child marriage at village level. The community mobilisers visited the respective villages and organised the youths and formed adolescent groups of an age group of 12 to 18 years. After group formation office bearers were selected among them. They will be the group leaders of their group. After formation of this group a small orientation was given to the adolescents. The main talking points in the orientation were who is a child, what are the child rights and child protection, why child needs care and protection, child marriage, reasons of child marriage and its consequences, child labour and its adverse effects, need



of adolescent groups at village level and role of adolescent groups at village level to stop child labour. This activity was an encouraging activity for the adolescents which brought unity among them.

Sports and cultural activity for the Adolescent groups



Sports activities organised for the adolescents

To encourage and engage the youths during pandemic, project has organized different sports and cultural activities for the adolescents of its program villages. Games like puchi, running race, long jump, blind game, song and dance and music chair were organized for both boys and girls.

Small prizes were also distributed among them to encourage them. These program were very enjoyable for them and it strengthened their bonding and unity.

GP level task force meeting

In this month project team supported the anganwadi supervisors for organizing the quarterly panchayat level task force meeting in 25 panchayats of Daringbadi block. The main objective of the meeting was to discuss the status of children, how their rights are ensured, steps that have taken by every officials to stop child marriage, the task force members at panchayat level for stop child marriage. It was a great achievement for PREM to work closely with the ICDS dept of Daringbadi block.



VCPC Formation and meeting

76 Village level Child protection Committee (VCPC) meeting have been organized in all program villages of Daringbadi block of Kandhamal district. The main objective of the program is to activate



the VCPC so that the committee will play very active role to establish child care and protection mechanisms at the village and they can also able stop the prevalence of child marriage and violence against children in the operational villages.

This program was organised at village level and after formation of the committee, the main discussion points

of the meeting were child and child right, Children in Need of Care & Protection (CNCP) child

marriage and the consequences of the existing government Laws & Acts to stop Child Marriage, components of prohibition of child marriage Act 2006, are the roles and responsibilities of the child marriage prohibition officers, is the role of VCPC to Stop Child Marriage in all villages.

Photo Gallery



Hand washing awerness at Kalimala village



Adolescents enjoying music chair game in their village



Phinuel, Cluster Leader of his cluster providing banking services to their customers



Handicraft training for SHGs in Gudang Gorjang village



Orientation to on adolescent health and asirbad scheme at CCI- Nabajiban, Parlakhemundi



Supportive supervision by UNFPA Consultant to Model village, Gudang Gorjang.



Oath taking on say not to Child marriage at Tidasing, Bhubani



Cultural program organised for the adolescent groups



Bapi, one of the Cluster Lead of Gunupur, providing online services to his community.



Panchayat level nodal meeting at Labarsing GP



Puchi—a local energizer game—organised for the adolescents



Bapi Raita, one of the Cluster Lead of Gunupur carrying materials for his shop to develop his business



SHG meeting organised at Jagannathapur-Dhadiamba



Young students from Parsing Gamango's Education coaching centre



Regular nail cutting is practiced among the children in Gudang Gorjang model village



Regular classes for student of class 9th and 10th are in progress, Gudang Gorjang village.

“With COVID-19, we’ve made it to the life raft. Dry land is far away” said Marc Lipsitch, epidemiologist, in March.

PREM E-NEWS

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