



People's Rural  
Education Movement

# E-NEWS

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#### President's Message

Dear friends and well wishers of PREM.

We are presenting the 1st issue of our E-news of this year. I am interested to say my comments regarding the civil society organizations and their situation today. Some of us started the developmental intervention in 80's and 90's. There was space for civil society organizations in the planning of the central and state governments. Civil society contribution in the field of education, health, livelihood, governance and environment were highly appreciated.

The innovations which the civil society organizations introduced and piloted in many places and government latter and scaled up those interventions. Today when we look and analyse the role of civil society organizations which is really pathetic. There is no role visible and there is no space for voluntary sector according to me.

Civil society organisations have become service providers and contractors to assist government and corporate sector. Some people asked me why did you come to this sector? I have my conviction, my ideology and my analysis in those days. I knew very well society is divided by caste, religion, gender, class and political parties. I am very much convinced, secular civil society organizations only can unite all the people in any society. All the people who believe in different religions, caste and men and women all can come under in one umbrella and discuss about issues of their village, panchayat etc. This we will not find in any other platform. All the stakeholders, government and corporate sector should understand there is a need to give space for secular civil society organization in or country.

Thanking you  
With regards

Dr. Jacob Thundyil,  
President, PREM

#### Highlight of the volume

##### ***Strengthening collective voice against child labour and child marriage in Odisha***

PREM, in collaboration with Odisha State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (OSCPCR) and child rights organisations, Educo and organized a ***State level consultation on prevention of child marriage and child labour*** in Bhubaneswar, Odisha on November 24, 2021.



The consultation included participant over 120 participants comprising of Child Protection officials, CSO representatives, relevant experts, agencies, networks, activists, civil society organizations working on child labour and child marriage issues, government representatives and subject specialists. The consultation was graced by Shri Sujeet Kumar, Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha, Government of India as the Chief Guest, Ms. Sandhyabati Pradhan, Chairperson, OSCPCR, Ms. DibyaaSaswati, Member – OSCPCR, Dr. B.B. Acharya, Tech. Consultant, State Coordination Cell for migrant workers, Office of Labour Commissioner, Ms. SashipravaBindhani, Former RTI, Commissioner, Mr. Guruprasad Rao, Country Director, Educo and Mr. Jacob Thundyil, President, PREM.

Dr. Jacob Thundyil, PREM, set the context of the program, emphasizing that OSCPCR, PREM and Educo are committed to working together and addressing the issue of child labour and child marriage



*State level consultation on prevention of child marriage and child labour organised at Bhubaneswar*

by spreading awareness among community members and ensuring education for all children.

Ms. Pradhan welcomed all present and expressed that we all need to come together to ensure our children’s protection and development. She said, “OSCPCR, along with CSOs like Educo and PREM has been taking initiatives to address children’s issues. Their mental health is one of our major concerns. Children face increased psychological problems due to child labour and child marriage. To



address this, we have been initiating campaigns at state and district level and we need all DCPOs and government officials to work together to address these issues.” She shared about a moving vehicle launched on international children’s day, November 20, 2021 which is travelling through different district headquarters and spreading awareness among all.

Shri Sujeet Kumar, MP applauded the efforts by OSCPCR, Educo and PREM for organizing the event that prioritises children's issues and vulnerabilities. He emphasized on building child-friendly constituencies and sensitizing elected representatives so that they raise children's issues in legislative discussions and debates. He highlighted that primary and secondary education need to be improved to keep children in schools and prevent child marriage and child labour. He applauded Odisha government for taking initiatives especially in districts more prone to migration and stressed that it is also important to include PRI leaders in such discussions.



Mr. Guruprasad from Educo shared concerning facts regarding the issue of child marriage, stating that one in every 3 child marriages happening world over include one child marriage is in India. He said, "Every year, around 1.5 million girls are getting married in the country. The need of the hour is drastic attitudinal and behavioural change. To tackle the worsened situation due to the pandemic, we need village level child tracking mechanism, better convergence of different child protection systems for timely response and stronger collective voice." Educo is prioritising promoting children's participation at panchayat level and making child-friendly gram sabhas.

### ***Launching of digital campaign 'Say No to Child Labour'***

Dr. Surjya Narayan Patro, Hon'ble Speaker, Odisha Legislative Assembly also graced the event and launched a digital campaign 'Say No to Child Labour' which aims at bringing together stakeholders



*Signature campaign on Say No to Child Labour*

from all walks of lives to come together and commit to discouraging child labour in the state of Odisha. Honorable Speaker himself took the pledge at [www.saynotochildlabour.org](http://www.saynotochildlabour.org) and called upon all participants to take the pledge and spread the message to create

awareness against this heinous practice of child marriage and child labour. He also appreciated the collaborative initiative of OSCPCR, Educo and PREM. Shri Akash Dasnayak, renowned actor and Chairperson, Mo College Campaign, couldn't be present physically due to pressing commitments, but shared a video message extending his support and commitment towards the campaign and the issue. Mr. Dasnayak is the ambassador for the 'Say No to Child Labour' campaign.

### ***Children's Participation***

Four child leaders from the villages of Kandhamal district participated in the consultation and shared the challenges as well as progress happening at the village level with regard to situation of children and appealed the government to



take measures to improve village and school infrastructure by building good roads and also eradicate poverty so that children are able to access education. This consultation aimed at strengthening the collective understanding about the issues faced by children and explore ways to advocate together for the complete eradication of child labour and child marriage. This consultation has paved way for further engagement with state actors and promotes a healthy dialogue for eradication of all forms of child labour and child marriage. The rich discussions and inputs from the state consultation will go a long way in building a common understanding and consensus on the issue of child marriage and child labour.

## PREM Program Activities

### *Creating awareness through on child right caravan*

The 40 days campaign on child right was launched on 1st November 2021 by OSCPCR, which was supported by Educo and People's Rural Education Movement (PREM). In this regard a Caravan was moved through out the state creating awareness on child right from 20th November 2021. PREM has taken up the responsibility welcoming the caravan in three districts –Ganjam, Gajapati and Kandhamal.



The child right caravan reached Ganjam district on 21st November 2021 at Chhatrapur, Ganjam which was warmly welcomed by the district administration. On the same day the caravan went to Ganjam block of

Ganjam district where the caravan was welcomed by the local officials. In this program the DCPU officials, CDPOs, AWWs, PRI members, SHG members, parents, and children were present. A meeting was organized to create awareness on child right and child protection. Similarly on 22nd November the Caravan moved to 1st gate, ward no 1 of Berhmapur City. The program was inaugurated by Ms.Sandhyabati Pradhan, Chairman, OSCPCR. Along with her Ms.Dibya Saswati, Member, OSCPCR was also present in the

sensitization meeting. Besides them District Child Protection Unit Officers, Childline officials, PRI members and parents, youths and children were also present there. Ms. Sandhyabati Pradhan explained the objective of the 40 days campaign on Child right and protection. Also awareness created on child care and protection, child right, Child protection, Child marriage and child labour. The other participants of the meeting were CDPOs, ICDS supervisors, AWWs, PRI members, SHG workers, parents, children.



*Child right caravan along with Chairman, OSCPCR*



Then the Caravan moved to TATA colony, Chamakhandi where the caravan was welcomed by the DCPU officials, PRI members, AWW, school children. Ms. Sandhyabati Pradhan explained about the objective of the program, child right, child protection, consequences of child marriage and child labour. She gave

importance on child friendly police station where children issues will be addressed immediately. Lastly the caravan was welcomed by the people of Goodshed road at slum colony of Berhampur. There a meeting was organized where DCPU staff, CDPOs, AWW, Asha workers, children, local people's representatives, parents and children were present. In the meeting the objective was shared by Ms. Sandhyabati and she encouraged all the participants to continue the education of the children which will ensure their bright future.



On 23rd November the child right caravan reached Gajapati district which was welcomed by the district administration warmly. A meeting was organized under the chairmanship of the Collector & District Magistrate, Gajapati. Ms. Sandhyabati Pradhan, Chairperson OSCPCR and Ms. Dibya Saswati, Member OSCPCR, ADM, Gajapati, DCPO Gajapati, CWC Chairperson, CJCM member etc were the guests of the



program. The participants like ICDS supervisor, AWW, SHG members, PRI members, college students were present in the program in this program the objective of the 40 days campaign was shared by the Chairperson, OSCPCR. Awareness also created on the child right, child protection, importance of education etc. Similarly the caravan moved to Siali GP, Alada GP of Gajapati district. Participants like ICDS supervisors, SHG members, Asha worker, PRI members, Parents, school and college students were present in these program and sensitized on child right, child protection, Child care and protection, consequences of child marriage and child labour, importance of education.

On December 5th the child right caravan reached Kandhamal district where the district administration, DCPU, Childline, CWC members, One stop centre Civil Society organization cordially welcomed the Caravan. A awareness meeting was organized at Gandhi Smruti Bhawan where the Collector & District Magistrate inaugurated the program. The other guests present in the meeting were Ms. Sandhyabati Pradhan, Chairperson, OSCPCR, Ms. Divya Saswati, Member, OSCPCR, Mr. Veenit Agrawal, SP, Kandhamal. In the meeting the objective of the 40 days campaign were shared



and awareness created on awareness created on child right and child protection among the participants. The other participants present in this program were CDPOs, ICDS supervisors, AWWs, PRI members, SHG workers, parents, children. After district level program the caravan moved to Pakanagaon GP, Balaskumpa GP, Dutimendi GP and Khajuripada market area of Khajuripada block of Kandhamal district.

The awareness program through child right Caravan in Ganjam, Gajapati and Kandhamal districts was very successful. Thousands of people were covered and they were sensitized on child right, child protection, consequences of child marriage and child labour etc. It is a new approach to create awareness on child right and child protection among the stakeholders. It was a new opportunity for PREM and Educo to work with OSCPCR for aerating awareness at different level for ensuring rights of the children.

### ***District specific campaign for ensuring adolescents from abuses***

On 18th December 2021, the District administration, Gajapati in collaboration with District, Child



Protection Unit organized a District specific program to create mass awareness through District specific campaign to ensure Child Rights, Child Protection, prevention of Child Marriage and creating awareness among adolescent Groups.

In this program a campaign called **Pratigyan** has been launched which aims to preventing adolescent girls from every type of abuses and ensuring their rights and protection. It also aims to make the district child abuse free by 2025. To achieve this goal different strategies have been chalked out such as identifying the drop out adolescents and bring them back to school and also linking them in to skill development trainings, strengthening the task force committee at different level to prevent child marriage, establishing a good rapport and linkages with all stakeholders of government, non government and civil society organizations, the youth groups, SHGs, NCC candidates, NSS members, volunteers from Red cross and other right holders will work as front line workers, organising panchayt level meeting for ensuring child protection.



The program was very participatory and successful where the duty bearers of the district expressed the commitment towards ensuring the right and protection of the adolescent

## ***Achhi Aadat campaign***

PREM in collaboration with I.J.Kakehashi Service Private Limited (IJK) has organized launched a campaign, "Achhi Aadat (Good Habit)" to raise awareness among different stakeholders on the importance of hygiene practices for preventing the spread of COVID-19 and other infectious diseases on 2nd October 2021 on the eve of Gandhi Jayanti and on 15th October 2021 on the eve of Global hand washing day. The campaign was organised with the support of JICA, a Japanese



organization and has been steered by national level tribal people's network (NACDIP)—promoted by PREM. This program was organized in 101 different locations in 12 states of India—Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal, Bihar, Rajasthan, Telanga, Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand, Chhatisgarh, Karnataka, Tamilnadu and Kerala states of India where thousands of population especially children, adolescents, youths, village people, SHGs, teachers, PRI members, religious leaders, AWWs, Asha workers, ANMs, VLWs, sanitation workers, police, vendors, media peoples, front line workers and general public participated in this program. The participants received awareness on simple and practical approach to hygiene and sanitation related issues by promoting hand washing, nail cleaning and other hygiene practices such as wearing mask in a correct way, maintaining at least 2 meters social distancing and other key Covid appropriate behavior. This program provided good and valuable messages to keep our surroundings and ourselves clean during the time of the COVID-19 pandemic. People from different states expressed their gratitude to Dr. Jacob Thundyil, President, PREM and Mr. Sanjay Panda, Executive Director of IJK for their valuable initiation in this good cause.



*Nail cutting by the school children*

## ***Pre- Election Voter Awareness Campaign***

In the ongoing Panchayati Raj elections of Odisha, People's Rural Education Movement (PREM), Berhampur and United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), Bhubaneswar have jointly undertaken a Pre-Election Voter Awareness Campaign (PEVAC) in seven blocks of Gajapati district during the



*Pre- Election Voter Awareness Campaign*

month of January - February 2022. The objective of PEVAC is to promote the message of the relevance of women's participation in the election process in terms of campaigning and providing moral support to the woman candidates and in making conscious use of votes during the elections. In order to achieve critical mass as well as visibility, all

149 Gram Panchayats of seven blocks of Gajapati district were covered by the campaign in terms of meetings with the villagers and number of

activities was undertaken. Women were encouraged to contest on unreserved seats. The major materials prepared for the campaign were posters, leaflets, audio/video materials and peoples manifesto etc. A method was followed where leaflets were specially read out so as to reach out even to the illiterate sections of the population. A hand holding support for nomination process prioritizing



women was given to the 709 candidates comprising 399 female and 306 male members. This includes the positions for Sarapanch, Ward members, Nominee and Zila Parishad member. The effort was to reduce the number of rejections of nominations in the areas of intervention. In order to reduce the rejection of ballot papers, the people showed the colour of the ballot papers for different posts and procedure

of stamping and folding the ballot paper. The campaign adopted the strategies like door to door campaign, open discussion (Khola Manch) activity to enable the citizens to improve their understanding of the nature and importance of Panchayati Raj system, election procedures and voter's rights, the qualities of the candidates, importance of

promoting women and SC/ST participation and leadership. The campaign team members have organised Khola Manch where the candidates participate and share their vision for Panchayat development before the villagers. It helped the villagers to understand the plan and program of each candidate and helped



them to choose their leaders. The entire effort of PREM and UNFPA is a trend setting endeavors and expected to bring sea change in public awareness, PRI members' sensitivity to their responsibility, their answerability to people and above all a quality change in the governance.

## Model village initiatives



*Expressing happiness after casting vote*

After receiving the training by PREM-UNFPA, people in most tribal villages of Gajapati district were motivated to participate in the panchayat raj election activity. As a result 100 percentages of all voters of Gundang Gorjang and Dimiripankal model villages exercised their right to franchise.

Date palm raw sugar (jaggery) production is in progress at Dimiripankal model village of Gajapati district as a community activity. The Saura Tribe Development department has assured them to buy all the products at the rate of Rs100/- per





kilogram. What once used as alcohol has now it has become a holistic food for all, especially for the children.

## Case study

### *Resuming my education gives me immense pleasure*

I am Rajendra Baliarsingh, I am 17 years old. I live in Lungarbadi village of Dasingbadi Gram Panchayat of Daringbadi . My father's name is Debaraj Baliarsingh who is a daily labourer and my mother Malati Baliarsingh also supports my father for livelihood of our family. Among three siblings, I am the youngest child of our family. Last year I have completed my 10th class in 2016 from Daringbadi High School and I took admission in +2 in Rushimala College, Brahmin gaon with great enthusiasm. But unfortunately due to COVID 19 pandemic the financial crisis of my family overloaded which me to drop out from college. Then I went to Kerala as a migrant child labour last 2 years and there I worked in a private company as a child labourer.



When I was in Kerala, at that time PREM-Educo started their program in our village. They organized different programs with the children, adolescents and community. When I came to know about the program I discussed with my family and friends. My friends described me each and every activities how they are doing in the adolescent groups very minutely with great enthusiasm.

One day Sumitra didi, Community Mobiliser of PREM called me over telephone and explained me about adverse effects of child labour, related laws and importance of education. After listening her, I changed my mindset and decided to return to my village. In September 2021, I returned back to my village and participated in different activities organised by PREM and Educo. Meanwhile Sumitra didi visited our family and motivated my parents and me to continue my studies again. Then my parents decided to join me in college for further studies. Now I have taken admission in +2 in Rushimala College, Brahmingaon and now I am attending my classes regularly.

*"I heartily express my gratitude to PREM - Educo for making me understand the importance of education and motivating me to pursue my studies. All this could happen for the support of PREM - Educo only" says Rajendra with happiness".*

## Notes from field

### *Cultural program: An entertaining-educating initiative by the adolescents for social change*

The prevalence of child marriage in this Daringbadi block is quite high as compared to other block of the district. The adolescences are prone to child marriage, child labour and school dropout. The main reason of child marriage is poverty of the family, lack of awareness among parents and adolescents



and high school drop outs. Similarly the adolescents are inclined to go for quick money by migrating to other states for labour work which force them to become child labour.



*Cultural program by the adolescents*

Based on the situation, PREM in collaboration with Educo, organised a cultural program in its program villages in seven gram panchayats—Danekbadi, Partamah, Dasingbadi, Badabanga, Kirikuti, Simonbadi, Sonapur—of Daringbadi block. The objective of this program was to create awareness on consequences of child marriage and child labour.

This program focused on to create sensitisation among parents, community peoples, youths, women groups, village leaders, PRI representatives, adolescents on child rights, negatives consequences of child marriage and child labour, child marriage prohibition act, child labour act, child abuses and child care.

This program was lead by the children and adolescents and it was based on local the context. This program also refocused on the realities and issues of their local community which was very motivating and inspiring for everyone. It was an engagement activity for the adolescents during lockdown. The regular rehearsal and practice increased the quality of dialogue delivery in quality way which leaded to quality presentation and articulation. During this process the self confidence of the adolescents and children



increased. As the adolescents realized and internalized their issues and consequences they started to execute the program in a natural way. They also included some vibrant music, songs from their side which thrilled them and as well as the audiences. This program has a positive impact on the adolescents and as well as on the community people. They internalized the existing issues of the adolescents and understood the consequences. The parents and other stakeholders have realized those issues and consequences which was picturised in front of them through the cultural program. During the program some parents got emotional and appreciated the efforts of their children. After the program executed in the village meeting the villagers acknowledged and appreciated the effort of the adolescents which was encouraging for the adolescents. The adolescents also realized their issues and took oath not to leave their studies in between and not to marry at an early age. They also promised to motivate their friends to continue their education for better future.

### ***Christmas celebration among children and adolescents***

To instill the Christmas joy and spirit amongst children and bring them together to celebrate with joy, hope, happiness and



laughter among their friends, PREM-Educo organised a Christmass celebration program for the children and adolescents of its project operational area of Daringbadi block. The children were



brought together in their villages and had a discussion with them about the rationale behind Christmas celebration, how they all celebrate this festival, what is a Christmas tree and its message and who is Santa Claus and what message does it spread. Children and adolescents shared their views and interacted very

nicely among them. Then the children and adolescents made beautiful drawings on the theme of Christmas celebration. They also expressed their Christmas wishes for their families, communities and as well as for everyone of the world. Their main wishes were “ Let santa take the Corona virus from the world so that the children of the world will play, go to school without any fear”. They children were looking very elegant with a Christmas cap, which gave them a blissful feeling. This activity was very interesting for the children and adolescents which encouraged them to maintain harmony and love in their life.

### ***Block level networking workshop***

A block level networking workshop was organised at Dandimah project office in the month of August 2021, with the concerned service providers like- ICDS official, Child Marriage Prohibition Officer, Police department officials, Education department officials, Health department officials to strengthen the responsive mechanisms in the block and for collective actions towards eliminating prevalence of child marriage. The meeting was very interactive and all the duty bearers expressed their willingness to work together for the cause of children of the block.



### ***Training on life skill for the adolescent groups***



1817 adolescents of 76 villages of seven gram panchayats of Daringbadi block received training on life skill to enhance their capacities and to develop their personal skills. Before imparting the training a TOT was formed where the community mobilisers trained. After receiving the training

they trained the adolescents accordingly. The contents of the training included who is an adolescent, body and mind mapping, child rights and child protection, goal setting, importance of higher education, health and hygiene, food and nutrition, life skill and establishing good relationship with everyone, gender, leadership, social responsibility, child marriage and its consequences, Adolescent reproductive sexual health, hand washing, menstrual hygiene and its management etc. On the whole,

the life skill training was found to be an effective psychosocial intervention strategy for promoting positive social and mental health of adolescents which play an important role in all aspects such as strengthening coping strategies and developing self confidence and emotional intelligence.



### ***Documentation training to the CLAs***

Under Bal Vikash project, PREM conducted documentation training for the Cluster Level Associations(CLA) of Kilabadi, Partamah and Sujamaju villages. The was imparted by the central monitoring team. The contents of the training included the concept of SHGs and its objectives, CLAs and its different goals—individual, group—and they sensitized on marketing and improving their business skills through turmeric business and correct means of doing the business.



They also provided handholding support for maintaining proper documents and maintained by the CLAs and guided both the respective CFs and the CLAs on the correct means of doing the business.

### ***Staff Capacity building training***

5 project staffs of Bal Vikash project participated in the capacity building training organized by KNH at Digha, West Bengal, from the 27th November till 3rd of December, 2021. In this program other six partners also participated the same. The Srilankan team participated the program through video conference.

The program included the concept of individual and group goals and the business module. There were modules already developed for the goals, business, leadership, communication and conflict resolution which were practiced time and again till the participants got conversant and ready to deal with the subjects



independently. The training was quite participatory and instructive. The main resource persons were the Asiatic coordinator, Kamalika Bhattacharya and the National coordinator, Mayurakshi Bhatt from KNH.

### ***Entrepreneurship program***

Under entrepreneurship program of Bridge-IT, the entrepreneurs received training on different skills and exposure to a range of revenue streams from different sources. Mr. Santosh Choudhary, CSC Coordinator for Gajapati Dist. provided information on CSC. He described the CSC concept and highlighted the numerous opportunities it provides. Mr. Suresh Chandra Dora, Odisha State Head,

and Mr. Siva Kumar, Area Coordinator, for Airtel Payment Bank, provided training to Gunupur and Padampur Clusters on Airtel Payments Bank services.

Mr. Chandra Sekhar Damad, Area Coordinator of Phone Pay, provided training on Phone Pay as a revenue stream. He also provided Merchant QR Code to all entrepreneurs.



Thomas Paul from DF provided orientation on Design Thinking. Concepts such as empathizing with the community and collecting information, planning and utilizing capital, and rotation of goods and services offered as per needs were emphasised through examples. DF will continue to provide similar training to other entrepreneurs in the coming weeks. This training provided valuable inputs to the entrepreneurs and taught how to reach out to the community to understand customer needs and capitalise on demand. We hope many of the entrepreneurs will pick this up as a business opportunity and expand their business to provide Banking services.

### ***Community level meeting***

PREM in collaboration with KNH organized community level meetings in Sangudumaa, Saleju, Ganjuguda and Kirkibadi villages of Daringbadi block of kandhamal district. The objective behind the community level meetings were to update about the village condition especially that of the SHGs in communities, to verify the developments and impart necessary inputs. A few of the SHGs were found weak, hence the support of other groups and the community leaders were sought towards activating them. It was also advised to help one another in selecting sustainable livelihoods and running them. Community leaders were requested to extend their helping hand in the fulfillment of the community goals set by the SHGs. Community involvement was laid stress upon in the process of the community development.



### ***Gender Training***



Three days Gender training was organized for villagers of either sex from three respective communities –Kilabadi, Petarbadi and Budukeju. More than 50 people from different age groups—adult, adolescent, children—participated in this

program. The girl children described how they are being discriminated in the families and

aged men spoke about the orthodox situation that exists since time immemorial. Women also articulated how they suffer in the families. The program was quite rewarding for we could observe the sense of realization of the ills of gender on every participant's face.

**Photo Gallery**



*Training for the project staff under Bal Vikash project*



*Meeting with religious leaders meeting to stop child marriage*



*Media clips of community level cultural program performed by the adolescents*



*Community level program under Bal Vikah project*



*Training for the PRI members to stop child marriage*



*Adolescent presenting their issues to the VCPC members at village level*



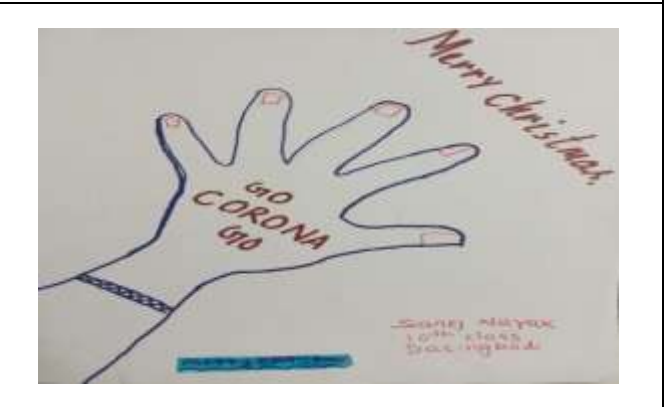
*Vocational camp organised for the youths at Daringbadi*



*Media clip of Global Hand washing day*



*Enterprenuner's training*



*Drawing by the adolescents on Christmas celebration*



*Peer motivating by the adolescents for back to school*



*IEC materials on child marriage and child labour displayed at panchayat level of Daringbadi block*

**Quote of the Month**

*Hygiene is two thirds of health*

*--Lebanese Proverb*

**PREM E-NEWS**

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