



People's Rural
Education Movement

E-NEWS

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President's Message

Dear friends and well-wishers of PREM,

I am extremely glad to welcome all of you to this E-news of PREM. All of us were suffering in different ways during the COVID period and some of our dear and near ones have left us for eternal life, we should pray for them and remember them in our prayers.

All the civil society organizations were facing problems to work in the development field due to financial constraints and support from external agencies from within the country and abroad. This situation has not improved much but I hope coming days will have a better situation to support the underprivileged people. There are some agencies who are coming with CSR funds which may help us to get some resources. Let us also cooperate with District Administration to implement their program in a successful way. The most difficult problem all of us are facing is the education of the children which was affected for last two years. They did not have offline classes, those who got online classes are mostly in the city-based children. But the rural area specially the tribal children who do not have mobile phones and internet facility in their villages and as a result they lost three years of education. It is necessary to work together with the support of education department to conduct tuition classes for those children every day. So that they will be able to cope with the education demand of present education system. It is a great challenge for all of us. Let us all unite together and work together.

Thanking you

With best regards

Dr. Jacob Thundyil,

President, PREM

Highlight of the volume

Launching of rural livelihood program

PREM in collaboration with Ajim Premji Foundation has been initiated a project called Rural livelihood program which aims to empower the women in 110 tribal villages of Mohana and 50 tribal villages of R. Udayagiri Block of Gajapati District. The ultimate objective of the project is to bring positive



*Address by Mr Rajiv Raula , Program
Manager, APF in the launching ceremony*



changes in the lives of the tribal women which will sustain their family livelihood.

To fulfil the project Goal, PREM gives more emphasis to strengthen their livelihood through organic agriculture practices. Natural Farming or holistic agriculture is a method of agriculture that counters the commercial expenditure and ensures that the things required for the growth of plant are present around the

root zone. The project provides support for livelihood promotional activities such as SRI method of Paddy cultivation,

Vegetable cultivation, Developing Nutri-garden, Goat rearing and Backyard Poultry.

On 2nd June 2022, PREM organized a launching ceremony at Mandiapalli PREM office, where Dr. Jacob Thundyil, President, PREM, Mr. Rajiv Raulo, Program Manager, Ajim Premji Foundation, two program specialists, two block coordinators, 30 newly selected community coordinators, and key program staff of PREM participated. After sharing of the project goal by Dr. Jacob Thundyil, President PREM the Project Manager shared the key activities of the project through a power point presentation. It is a big opportunity for PREM to work closely with Ajim Premji Foundation for sustainable livelihood of the women in remote tribal pockets.



President, PREM addressing the participants in launching ceremony

PREM Program Activities

World day against child labour

On June 12th, on the eve of World day against child labour was celebrated in 86 villages in the project operational area. The main objective of the program was to create awareness on the consequences of child labor and the action and efforts needed to eliminate it. This program was started on 12th June 2022 for a week aiming to create awareness among every stakeholder such as adolescent girls and boys, women, parents, youths,



Oath taking by the stakeholders to stop child labour

community leaders, VCPC members, teachers, PRI members,

ICDS workers, Supervisors and teachers. Through this program 4224 (2060 male and 2164 female) beneficiaries of 86 villages were reached.

At the outset of the program the adolescents, parents, women, community leaders, VCPC members, teachers, PRI members, youths, ICDS workers, Supervisors and teachers etc. came



together to celebrate this day. Then rally was organized in every village where all the participants joined. During the rally the participants chanted different slogans on children's issues by holding placards and banner. Followed with the rally an awareness meeting was organized where the participants were oriented on the adverse effects of child labour, child right and protection, the roles of different stakeholders to stop child labour etc. They all together took a pledge to act as a change agent in their village to stop child labour. This program was very participatory and created awareness among the participants on the importance of the day and they understood that children are meant to learn not to earn.

Baseline Survey

Following the social mobilization the project team of Ajim Prem ji Foundation project conducted a baseline survey for 1836 households covering Mohana and R. Udayagiri Blocks after screening in line with the project criteria by the coordinators in Mohana and R.Udayagiri blocks of Gajapati District in the month of June. Handholding supports have been extended to the community coordinators to conduct this activity. The baseline formats



Individual Household Baseline survey by Ratani Mallik in Pindiki GP of Mohana Block.

have been field tested in Kantasaru, Kankadaguda and Bandhaguda villages from 16th June to 18th June 2022 before live data collection from households. All the project associates have been given through training on ODK online data entry platform in the field in two batches from 25th June to 26th June'2022 in Mohana and Mahendragada.

Government resource mobilization

PREM mobilizes different resources from the Govt for the benefit of the community. In this context in Tuber crops cultivation was mobilized and seedlings were distributed in four villages—Sulaguda, Punjasargi, Dumiduda and Adaponka—of Mohana Block. The scientist from CTCRI visited and oriented the farmers on planting method of this crop.



Tuber crops distribution in Punjasargi village of Birikote G.P, Mohana Block

Submission of Charter of demand to BDO



Charter of demand submission by the block level federation members

The block level adolescent federation members of our seven operational gram panchayats, consisting of 11 members gathered at Dandimah, field office on 13th June 2022 and sat together and identified various issues they face at village and school level. After identification they prioritized the issues and prepared a charter of

demand to submit to Block Development officer (BDO). They met the BDO at block office and submitted Charter of demand. After receiving the charter of demand the BDO gave assurance to sort out the issues as soon as possible. Throughout the process our community mobilisers and cluster coordinators provided their hand holding support to the adolescents. It was a bigger platform for the adolescents to present and discuss their issues with the Govt. functionaries.



Sensitisation program for the religious leaders

PREM in collaboration with Educo organised a sensitisation meeting for the religious leaders at field



office Dandimaha on 08.06.2022 in this program 74 religious leaders of all the 7 Gram Panchayats participated and sensitised on their roles and responsibilities to stop child marriage in their area. The main discussion points in the

meeting were different issues of children regarding child marriage, their roles and responsibilities toward ending child marriage. The meeting was very interactive and all the religious leaders took very active part and also gave their suggestions which will help them to create awareness among adolescents, parents, youths to reduce child marriage. At the end of the program the religious leaders took an oath to stop child marriage in their area. This program was very participatory and helpful for everyone present in the meeting.



Oath taken by the religious leaders to stop child marriage

Internship in model village Gudanggorjang



Five girl students of Master in Public Health (MPH) from Utkal University, Bhubaneswer did their one month internship in the model village Gudanggorjang during May-June 2022. In this one-month period they stayed in the village, interacted with the community and the neighboring villages. The environmental sanitation and cooperation of the village community made their stay happy and memorable. They were also thankful to PREM for providing this opportunity to them for learning.

***“I am very pleased and honoured to visit the village.
The love and affection of the villagers make me feel
homely” Said Diptimayee Mishra.***

***“One thing of this village is unique i.e,
“One for all and all for one” which, I
have not seen in any other villages” said Samita Mahapatra***

***“The people of this village are just awesome,
specially their practice of AMPU (practice of togetherness)
is the most unique feature of this village” said Nitushree Kund .***

***“Being a hilly area, every type of facilities are
available here, like pure water, organic vegetables,
electricity and toilets which are very hard to
reach in the remote area. All credit goes to
PREM Organisation for making this village
beautiful and socialized” said Punyastoya Pattanaik.***

“The people of this village are unique, innocent, calm, quiet and live in harmony. They have a friendly behaviour and this village has a joyful learning atmosphere. This village is a role model for other villages” said Anita swain.



Community organic nutri-garden at Dimiripankal model village



Weeder is used in SRI method of rice cultivation in Dimiripankal model village.



Jibamruta is being prepared in Dimiripankal model village for nutri-garden.



Black organic rice cultivation at Dimiripankal model village.



Children's nutri garden in Guadnggorjang model village as a part of anganwadi training

Case study

An initiative to stop child marriage

Lata Pradhan (name changed) a 16-year girl from Katabadi village of Partamah gram panchayat is a intermediate student of B.R. Ambedkar College, Daringbadi. She was staying in a rented house and continuing her study. Similarly Rajib Mallik(name changed), a 19 years old boy of Dadaradi village of Hatimunda gram panchayat after failing in 10th board exam also staying in Daringbadi for proper coaching to reappear the board exam. Six



Official from ICDS department along with Lata and Rajib

months back both of them met each other and decided to get married. Parents of both the adolescents were unaware about their relationship. On 10th June 2022, both Lata and Rajib eloped and after their eloping, parents of Lata were very worried and sought support of anganwadi worker and they along with the anganwadi worker met CDPO and presented the issue. Immediately the CDPO formed task force team to sort out this issue and she also requested PREM team to be a part of this process. Then the team consisting of AWW, supervisor, parents of the girl and PREM staff took support from the IIC, Daringabdi reached Dadaradi village and met with the parents of the boy. But the parents of the Rajib did not agree to handover Lata and they justified themselves saying it is quite normal and she will be their daughter in law. After so many counselling and sharing about the legal provision and punishment for child marriage also they did not agree. Then the team took support from the IIC, Brahmanigaon and again met the boy's parents. Finally, they agreed to handover the girl to the team. In the process a station diary has been recorded and received undertaking from both the parents. In the undertaking they wrote that they will give their children in marriage at appropriate age—boy 21year and girl 18years. Then as per the decision, as Lata is minor so she was produced before the CWC, Phulbani and then she was sent to Subhadra Mahatab Seva Sadan, Udayagiri. Now she is staying there. This was a successful initiative for ICDS department and as well as PREM too.



Notes from field

Media visit

On 29th May 2022 a media visit was conducted to four Gram Panchayats of Daringbadi block. Mr.



Adolescents interacting with the media person

Ashwini Montry, Media representative of Daringbadi along with Mr. Sudhir Kumar Digal, Program Manager, Ms. Himani Dash, Training Coordinator and other field level staff visited to the villages. The main purpose of the visit

was to document the initiatives taken up by the adolescent group to stop child marriage and child labour and to strengthen the child care and protection mechanism at village level.

During the visit the team interacted with the adolescent group members of respective villages. The group members shared the process of group formation and different activities they have conducted. They also presented one by one the consequences of child marriage and child labour. The adolescents explained the importance of education as a strong weapon to go forward in life. All the

moments were captured by the media person and he will cover this initiative of the project as soon as possible. The media visit created a scope for us to disseminate our initiative in different platform and it also encouraged the adolescents to come forward and work together for their group.

GP level federation meeting

PREM-Educo project organised seven gram panchayat level meetings of the federation members where 208 (116male and 92 female) participated in their respective gram panchayats. In the meeting they understood the need of federation at panchayat level, role of federation members, how they can represent at block level federation etc. They were given group work where they identified their existing issues and prioritised the issues. After prioritising the issues,



GP Adolescents members submitting Charter of demand to the Sarpanch

they prepared their action and chalked out a charter of demand to submit to the local authority. After finalising the charter of demand they met the local authority and sarpanchas and submitted their charter of demand. It was a step forward for the adolescents to present themselves before a bigger platform.

Sensitization meeting for the newly elected PRI members

A sensitization meeting for the newly elected PRI members was organized by PREM with the support of Educo, on 28th May 2022 to strengthen the Child Care & Protection Mechanisms in their



Newly elected PRI members of Kandhamal district during the Sensitization meeting

respective Gram Panchayats. 23 newly elected PRI members including 13 Sarpanchas, attended the meeting. The program was led by the Project Manager along with the project team members. The main discussion points in the meeting were brief overview

on PREM, Educo and sharing the project objective of

Reducing Child Marriage, power of the Sarpanchas to implement different development programs in the villages for the development of communities, provisions of Govt. laws, acts and schemes available to ensure care and protection and development of the children, roles and responsibilities of sarpanchas to ensure child care and protection at village



level. Issues of the children at village level were discussed in the meeting where they all presented different issues of children regarding care and protection of the children in their respective areas. It was a very informative meeting for the PRI members to know above topics very clearly. At the end they took an oath to stop child marriage in their respective villages.

Training of Trainers

The training of trainers (TOT) was organized with the support of Ajim Prem Ji Foundation at PREM premises, Mandiapalli from 13th to 15th June, 2022. The TOT team included 30 selected trainers in order to build capacity for the roll out to other stakeholders over time. The objective of the TOT was to equip participants with knowledge and skills about rural livelihood and training respectively to strengthen their capacity as a



Dr, Jacob Thundyil, President, PREM along with the TOT team

good trainer for the rural women and adolescents. After the



training the trainers will impart the training at field level. The topics of the training included natural farming, animal husbandry, SRI method of rice cultivation, community mobilization. PREM's HR and Finance policies hereby referred to be one of the many activities streamlined as part of the implementation of this project.

Question & Answer, One to one discussion, Group discussions, Role play, Brain storming(relay game),Experience sharing, Ice-breakings, Power point presentations, Plenary sessions, Songs & Dance and Mini lectures were the methodologies adopted during the training sessions.



Different sessions and activities during the training

Community Mobilization & Identification of vulnerable families

PREM in collaboration with Ajim Prem Ji Foundation organized a series of Community meetings in 63 villages of Mohana and R.Udayagiri blocks of Gajapati district of Odisha. In this process men, women, youths, adolescents, PRI members, ASHA, ICDS worker, school teachers were involved to make them understand the aims and objectives of the project. They were also involved in assessment

of socio- economic condition of the villages, identification of vulnerable groups / beneficiaries from the women groups and collection of basic village demographic information.

Screening of Beneficiaries

The community coordinators together with the community leaders identified and prepared a list of eligible women for enrolment under the Ajim Premji Foundation project. A set of criteria was fixed for the selection of the women for project beneficiaries such as the beneficiary has to be married, has to be between 18 to 55 years of old, annual income should not exceeding



Social Mobilization meeting in Bhaliasahi village of Abarsing GP, R.Udayagiri Block

Rs 35,000/-, should possess interest to take up one or the other income generation activity for enhancing her family income and must be willing to take part in the transforming process of her village to a model village.

Photo Gallery



Oath taking activity by the SHGs to stop child marriage



Submission of Charter of demand to the sarpancha



Installation of Lemon grass cutter at Mohana block



Panchayat level task force meeting



TOT on life skill training



Training on marketing & Value chain



Distribution Tuber crops to the farmer in Mohana block



Gender training to the SHGs



Activity conducted during panchayat level federation meeting



Observation of Zero discrimination day



Annual Meet of women and children

Demonstration of plating Tuber crops

Quote of the Month

“When I went to school after lockdown, I shared about the cultural program with my friends. My friends appreciated my performance and wanted to know more about it. In our leisure time I discussed about consequences of child marriage and child labour and this gave me immense pleasure.”

--Asish Pradhan, an adolescent, Padanketa village, Danekbadi Panchayat of Daringbadi block

PREM E-NEWS

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