

ANNUAL REPORT 2007-08

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ABOUT SWABHIMAN

The need of an independent organisation capable of providing information relating to any aspect of disability was the subject of discussion among activists in this field for many years. It was in response to this that a Disability Information and Resource Centre, SWABHIMAN, came up.

SWABHIMAN believes that a healthy society must be an inclusive society. The Government's commitment to secure comprehensive and enforceable civil rights for disabled people is a necessary part of creating that inclusive society. To underline the fact that persons with disability are also productive element and equal partners in society SWABHIMAN was born on 1st of December 2001.

SWABHIMAN is all about working towards self determination, equal opportunities and self-respect of the disabled people. Ascertaining accessibility that covers a wide spectrum of needs - physical, mental, architectural, travel, educational, vocational and recreational...



Swabhiman's Vision

People with disabilities are EQUAL PARTNERS IN ALL RESPECTS AND ALL FIELDS.

Swabhiman's Mission

To strengthen the disability movement through research, training, advocacy and public education for full and equal participation of people with disabilities in the country's mainstream.

Swabhiman's Believes

In the right to equality of opportunity.

In the right to living with dignity.

In the right to information.

That disability is a human rights issue.

Swabhiman's Values

Differences in people.

Positive thinking.

Walking together.

ADVOCACY

REVIEW AND ASSESMENT OF Xth PLAN ON SOCIAL WELFARE (DISABILITY DIVISION)

Swabhiman sent its detailed suggestions under the section- Target Group (Empowering Persons with Disabilities). The specific issue/theme that we reflected on was (Training, Employment and Livelihood). Swabhiman focused on three programs with multi sect oral approach with Department of Education, Ministry of Labour and Ministry of Rural Employment. The three program were: 1. EMPLOYMENT OF THE HANDICAPPED, NHFDC and IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PWD ACT 195. (Annexure 1)

LEGAL CELL

Case of Muralidhar Sharma was taken up. He is a physically Challenged school teacher who has been harassed and being victimized by the officials of the school and mass education department of Orissa for no apparent reason. In these preceding years his service has been withdrawn and he has been reinstated in the same post for more than two occasions. For the time being he is out of service almost all the teachers who were retrenched along with him have already been reinstated in their services who are also far more junior to him. After listening to his woes panel suggested him to make a sequence of events that led him into this quagmire so that Swabhiman Legal Cell would be able to help him in a concerted and fruitful manner.



CASE OF J MARIA DAS

He is polio affected human being. He was the driver of the director of Shanti Rani, the sister of the sacred hearts Bhubaneswar. After six years his service was terminated on the ground of health reasons. Then he approached the district labour officer (DLO) Khurda. In the presence of DLO Khurda both parties agreed for a full and final agreement. But he alleges that all the while he was kept in dark and he was pressurized by the DLO to give his seal of approval to the full and final agreement. He also approached labour commissioner of Orissa. After analyzing various aspects of the case panel advised him to meet and discussed the matter with labour commissioner. He was advised to exhaust all options first then come to Swabhiman.

CASE OF MR. NABAKISHORE DAS

He is physically challenged individual. He was an employee of Konark Television Limited Bhubaneswar. In the year 2003 he was deputed to the All India Council for Technical Education. On 28.04.05 he met with an accident in New Delhi and the AICTE issued him a relieve order to join his parent company. As his parent company is now in total bankruptcy he has no where to go. After going through his case panel wanted to know how he came to know about the deputation job and what were the terms and conditions of that job. He replied he came to know about the job through an advertisement then he was told to collect that advertisement so that he would be able to know the exact nature of the case and for medical compensation he should file a case in motor vehicle claims tribunal New Delhi.

To

Dr. Sumruti Mohapatra
Budhabihar (Opp. Sunsing Nursing Home)
Near Old Station Sqr.
Budheswari
Bhubaneswar.

Sub : To re-instate and grant of financial help from All India Council for Technical Education, but honour has been always giving a deaf hearing to all requests to a Physically Handicapped employee who lost rest two hands and only leg while coming to Office.

Madam,

With due respect and humble submission the undersigned beg to lay before you the following few lines for favour of your kind consideration and sympathetic orders at an early end.

That, the undersigned applicant is a Physically handicapped disabled employee of M/s. Konark Television Ltd, Bhubaneswar, a public sector undertaking of Govt. of Orissa under I.T. Department, Secretariate, Bhubaneswar and he was duly employed there as Junior Clerk cum Typist.

That, from the above mentioned place of work he was deputed to The All India Council For Technical Education since September, 2003 as an U.D.C. (Finance) and while he was continuing his job regularly and most sincerely, on 28.04.05 the applicant while coming to the Office (AICTE) met with a serious vehicular accident at I.G. Bus stoppage at 9 A.M. for which the applicant sustained head injury and compound fractures of the left leg and both hands. So, he was admitted in the Loknayak Hospital in senseless and serious condition where the applicant gained his sense after three days and after twenty days the Doctors gave the report that the applicants brain is normal and O.K. but the fracture injuries were very serious in nature and they took more time for treatment.

AWARENESS

SPEAKING THROUGH POSTERS

As a part of its activity Swabhiman has been developing posters carrying and conveying information and issues related with disability. With a combination of art and theme, poster acts as an efficient medium of expression as it leaves an ever-lasting impression in the mind of the viewer. Poster on themes like Right to Vote, Right to Education, Right to Access speak of the basic rights of the disabled people and posters on is Government Acting On the Act convey the callousness of the Government towards disabled people. Another poster on can you Spot Any Difference includes that the disabled persons do have the same emotion as any normal person has. These concepts were developed by Dr. Sruti Mohapatra and were successfully canvassed with colors by Prakash Behera an Anjali Scholar (Speech and hearing impaired). Besides these Swabhiman has also developed some printed posters with the help of VSO.



RED CROSS AWARD NOMINATIONS

Three nomination after proper verifications were sent to Red Cross office for Red Cross Awards 2007. First was of Purna Chandra is an exemplary achiever who has always tried to rise above his disability. Despite several constraints he has successfully completed his masters in Hindustani Classical and now is a teacher and thus carved out a niche for himself in the society. Second was of Ankita Panda. She exemplifies a person with disability who did not fall down on facing challenges but faced and is still facing all the trials, travels and tribulations that the disabled person has had to go through towards achievement. Ankita and her parents epitomize a brave family who never compromise with what is less than the dignity of a human being. A budding writer and painter she has defied disability in all acts of life. Third was of Mithilesh Patnaik. Despite being mentally challenged his potential to go beyond imagination in Odissi dance is praiseworthy.

DISTRIBUTION OF IEC MATERIAL TO EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTE

We distributed books, leaflets, posters, disability bows to various educational institutes and NGOs to conduct seminar and workshops in their respective institutes.

INFORMATION DISSEMINATION

FORD FOUNDATION INTERNATIONAL FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM-2007

100 Colleges in and around Orissa and all members of Orissa State Disability Network were sent application forms for "Ford Foundation International Fellowship Program 2007". The Ford Foundation International Fellowships Program provides opportunities for advanced study to individuals who will use this education to become leaders in their respective fields. To ensure that fellows are drawn from diverse backgrounds, IFP actively seeks candidates from social groups and communities that lack systematic access to higher education and supports them through local partner organizations in 22 countries. Dr. Sruti Mohapatra was on the panel of IFP for selection of candidates.

IGNOU PGDDM

Information was sent to all members of Orissa State Disability Network about IGNOU PGDDM. The Indira Gandhi National Open University launched a new post-graduate diploma course in Disability Management for medicos including MBBS, Ayurveda, Siddha or Unani graduates. The programme has been designed in collaboration with the Rehabilitation Council of India to explain the genesis of disability, terminologies used in the area of disability rehabilitation and to identify and assess children, adults and elderly having physical, sensory or cognitive impairments or those who are at risk.

BARRIER FREE INDIA

Information was sent to all members of Orissa State Disability Network about CCPD INSTRUCTIONS. CCPD issued instructions to the concerned authorities to ensure of barrier free environment, particularly the district collectorates, hospital, schools. He also directed the concerned officials to ensure that no child with disability is denied admission in regular school, the State Govts have been asked to work out the backlog vacancies reserved for persons with disabilities and prepare an action plan to conduct special recruitment drives to fill these up. The office of CCPD has advised the chief secretaries of all the states and UT's regarding adoption of central list of identified jobs in the states. Government of Rajasthan have since adopted this list and issued appropriate notification.

EMPLOYMENT INITIATIVES

BAKERY PROJECT FOR DEAF YOUTH

A meeting was held in Swabhiman office to orient youth with deafness to take up self employment projects. The meeting commenced with a brief introduction of Swabhiman followed by introduction of the guests. Dr. Sruti Mohapatra explained the anxiety and concern of parents of disabled youth regarding their employment and economic independence. She said that if disabled people in USA could run a shop on their own then why the same model could not be replicated here. Then Mr. Sidique from IHM expressed his pleasure for having been invited to the meeting. He said he was excited and happy to see many young faces in the meeting. He advised the participant not to move from pillars to posts for jobs. He told them to become economically independent by starting small scale cottage industries of their own and he said they should prepare breads; cakes and then those could be sold in hospitals on contract basis. He also said that for this school could also be contracted. He said that he was ready to give them training for preparing breads, cakes and pizzas. He also said that he would also be glad to teach them marketing skills. He emphasized that disabled people had to work hard to earn money. He advised them to be technically sound in terms of knowledge, marketing as well as in management. He said that if they would be waiting for jobs then it would be like sleeping in bed all their life.

SOCIAL EQUITY

AUDIT EXERCISE

Huge Tsunami wave triggered by a massive under sea earthquake of magnitude 9.0 near the northern island of Sumatra of Indonesia on the 26th December 2004 after left over 200000 people dead, many more homeless and livelihood destroyed in South East Asia. The killer waves devastated the coastal area of Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Andaman & Nicobar Islands and parts of Pondicherry. South coasts of Tamil Nadu and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands are the worst affected regions in India.

There was unprecedented responses from within and outside India and the State Governments did their best in the immediate relief operations. In spite of a fairly successful immediate relief extended to the affected communities; within days the issue of social exclusion surfaced. There were reports that the dalits or the scheduled castes who are the most excluded social groups of India were excluded even in the immediate relief and rehabilitation programmes. But as days proceeded, there were also reports of women and women headed families were denied access to relief and rehabilitation.

It is in this context DFID initiated an online discussion with INGOs and many development thinkers to explore whether we could combine to develop advisory support on issue of social exclusion and an independent social/equity/audit capacity for post tsunami rehabilitation programmes. Five INGOs who are involved in the tsunami rehabilitation programme Action Aid, Christian Aid, care, Oxfam and Save the Children UK agreed to get involved in the process. This list may expand as we go along. DFID Conflict and Humanitarian Affairs Department has included a requirement for social audit in all recovery proposals it funds. It is hoped that multilaterals will also engage on social auditing and other bilateral donors may wish to make use of the same capacity.

SURVEY

Swabhiman collected data for Kolkata based AWWD for a baseline survey on "Attitudes and policy towards Women. Information was collected from two pockets 9Urban-Bhubaneswar; Rural-Kendrapada). In rural Kendrapada the three blocks were Rajanagar, Pattamundai and Derabis.

WORKSHOP

- Legal Awareness in villages- In Dhenkanal legal awareness camp was held. Villagers were made aware of the PWD Act and National Trust.
- Legal Awareness in School- on 27th October we organized a workshop "Know Your Rights" at school for the parents of special children. In the workshop students knew about PWD Act 1995 and information pertaining to their rights.
- Legal Awareness in NGO-Swabhiman made presentations on PWD Act- 1995 and national trust Act on 10th December in a workshop organized for imparting Legal advice to the Leaders of different Region of Orissa. The workshop was organized by VIKASH- a voluntary organization. The participants also were briefed about Legal Cell, and how it could help the persons with disabilities to get justice. As we have been always trying to involve people possessing sensitivity and positive attitude with our Legal Cell, we had a session with advocates also on the same issue.

Swabhiman Organized a five days training program at Nuapada District in association with DAN (OSDN Partner at Nuapada) on the problems faced by disabled people from across the state from 9th to 13th February 2008. Around 55 participants were participated from 10 different organization, networks, PRI Institutions and individuals from across the district.

These are the issues those were discussed.

1. Certification of disability
2. Supply of Aid and appliance
3. Harassment faced by PWDs
4. Accessibility Issues

Swabhiman organized an art workshop at BBC school for the deaf on the month of July in part of it's round the year activity. In this workshop 40 students participated. The art workshop began at 10 am continued till 1pm. Sitakant Behera coordinated the event with the presence of School Headmistress and all the staff members. At last prize was distributed among winners of the activity.

HAND-IN-HAND (FIRST NETWORK OF WOMEN WITH AND WITHOUT DISABILITY IN EASTERN INDIA)

Hand-In-Hand'- is a first of its kind workshop to form a network of women in eastern India. The ideology is based on an attempt to bring together the physically challenged women and the women of mainstream for a face to face interaction and building up a network based on trust and mutual cooperation.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

We did our second research on 'Abuse and Activity Limitation: A Study on Domestic Violence against Disabled Women and Girl Child in Orissa, India.' This was the first study of its kind in India.

MENTAL HEALTH STUDY

We conducted a study on 'Mental Health Services in Orissa – A Preliminary Study'. The study revealed a declining care and support services for the mentally challenged persons.

URBAN SLUM SURVEY

Was conducted by Swabhiman with a focus on children with disability who had access to education, had aids and appliances and adults who were in jobs.

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE NORWAY

Dr. Sruti Mohapatra, Chief Executive of Swabhiman along with Santosh Sarangi attend from India the 8th International Congress held in Norway .The workshops focused around 2 things, one is Developing Countries: Taking steps towards inclusion and another was Families: Moving towards full citizenship – how families, family organization, and NGOs and work together to promote Inclusion.

DISTRICT VISIT REPORT

On the Invitation of district collector Koraput Dr. Sruti Mohapatra Chief executive Swabhiman orient the district official, DSWO and other official about disability law (PWD Act 1995, National Trust Act, RCI Act and Mental Health Act) its implementation, challenges of Persons with disability how they are facing problems in all respects from to make a disability certificates to bus pass or to access medical facility. At the end of the training program Dr. Mohapatra hold an awareness activity called "EXPERINCE THE CHALLENGES OF DISABILITTY" .

AWARENESS DRIVE REPORT

In the month of February Dr. Sruti Mohapatra visited college of engineering and Technology to create sensitization among the students and college administration about different disability law and its implication in this workshop madam told about the accessibility for the disable students to construct ramp, toilets fit tiles, signage and audio visual class rooms for to accommodate students with disability. Dr. Mohapatra also focused on what should be your approach towards persons with disability she told it shouldn't charity in approach cause they have also the same right what a general people is enjoying she told in her address the young peoples should come forward to build an inclusive society which will accept the diversity and celebrate the differentiate.

DISTRICT VISIT REPORT-JAGATSINGPUR

A group of enthusiastic person's with disability formed a group to address the problem in group and through that their development to strengthen that movements and their initiative noted social activist and chief executive of Swabhiman Dr. Sruti Mohapatra visited Erasama block where a group of 40 person's with disability welcome to Dr. Mohapatra and at 11am the formal training was started. Madam told about the disability law and its implications in different field, how a person with disability can avail his/her right and use it for his betterments. The participants were from different GP of the block they come up with different problems they were facing in their daily life like preparing of a disability certificates, bus concessions even for to get an acceptance in the family they have to fight battle member. Dr. Mohapatra at last told to hold another sensitization program for the district official, Block official PRI members and other those are in service providing agency.

EXPERIENCE OF THE CHALLENGES OF DISABILITY

As an advocacy body for the cause of disability we sensitize students to issues of disability. Every year we conduct a one day sensitization workshop at Indian Institute of Mass Communications, Dhenkanal in the month of August. Dr. Sruti Mohapatra leads the program. First they are briefed on disability and then they experience the challenges of being blind, deaf and immobile.

SANDHAN

To make students informed and responsible citizens the aim of Sandhan. Creating a young think tank and a strong advocacy body is its focus. SANDHAN - BJB and BijuPatnaik College of Social work are active now.

AWARENESS DRIVE REPORT

To reach out to all disabled people Swabhiman will never have the financial resources, to respond to the enormous needs all across the state, so it has set on the road to build something equally valuable: people power. Thus creating a YOUNG THINK TANK and a STRONG ADVOCACY GROUP is the focus of SANDHAN. The network is expected to sensitize the young generation to overcome societal biases that have been responsible in creating division among people.

ROLE OF SANDHAN

- A Think Tank
- An Advocacy Body
- A Research Support Group
- A Volunteer Pool

MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

1. Formation of Disability Commission in Orissa in 2010.
2. Conceptualized WINDOW OF HOPE in 2005.
3. First Political Convention of PWD's in 2004
4. 3% Reservation Notification By Dept. Of Health In Government & Government Aided Medical & Para Medical Institutions
5. 3% Reservation Notification By Dept. Of Panchayati Raj in all Poverty Alleviation Schemes and Indira AwasYojna
6. 3% Reservation and 5 Years Age Relaxation Notification By Dept. Of Culture For All Colleges under them.
7. Vision 2020 Document Orissa - In the consultation for primary education Swabhiman was active participant.
8. Ramp culture in Orissa.
9. First network of disabled people at state level.
10. Initiated a scheme of scholarships for students with disabilities.
11. Only children festival in India.
12. Only placement cell for PWDs in Orissa.

EQUITY

A sister concern of Swabhiman EQUITY is a disability rights and inclusion consultancy firm. It provides a range of specialist management consultancy services in various functions and sectors, drawing on resources from a large domestic and international network. It focuses on placement of persons with disabilities.

EQUITY'S SERVICES

- Development of Policy Documents and Plans
- Design and Development of Information Formats and Kits
- Monitoring and Evaluation of Ongoing Projects
- Research and Survey
- Publication Review
- Conduct of Equity Audits
- Employment Solution

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