

Giant Leaps

Building a world of equal opportunities

Forward...

THE QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF SWABHIMAN

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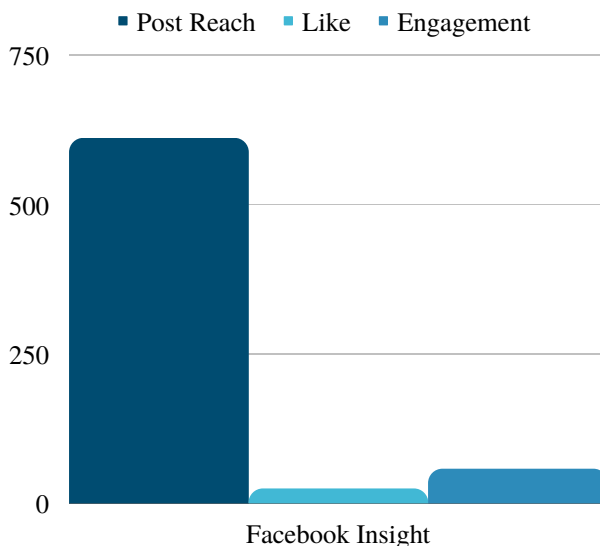
04/01/2023: World Braille Day is celebrated every year on 04 January to mark the birthday of Louis Braille. He is the inventor of Braille! World Braille Day is a reminder of the importance of accessibility and independence for people who are blind or visually impaired. This day spreads awareness about Braille and other accessible forms of communication.

Celebrated world Braille day by spreading awareness on visual impairment; needs, challenges and rights of students with visual impairment in different schools and distributing Braille tool kits to five needy children with visual impairment. The awareness sessions were held at 4 different ICRC based Schools of Bhubaneswar on 4th January 2023. Five team members conducted different activities which included



simulation activities for disability sensitization, presentation on Visual Impairment or blindness and role of teachers in bringing inclusion. The aim behind celebrating Braille Day is to spread awareness about a different script called 'Braille' for children with visual impairment. NEP-2020 talks about inclusive education and to build the capacity of teachers. The role of teachers as well as the parents will be vital in it. To teach and assess the students with special needs the teacher's capacity building in terms of learning the languages becomes the first step. So Swabhiman tried to create awareness among the teachers, parents and school children towards the special script called 'Braille', taught them how to write few alphabets and numbers in Braille using the Braille tool kit.

The outreach of this sensitization program was 362 including non disabled students of mainstream school, teachers, children with disabilities and parents of CwDs. This time the Braille Day was specially designed to sensitize parents and teachers. They got engaged in the whole process without any hesitation. All of them whole heartedly supported the event with their active participation. It helped them understand the situation of visually impaired persons, their struggle in life and necessary steps to be taken for their development and creating inclusion.



Eye checkup Camp

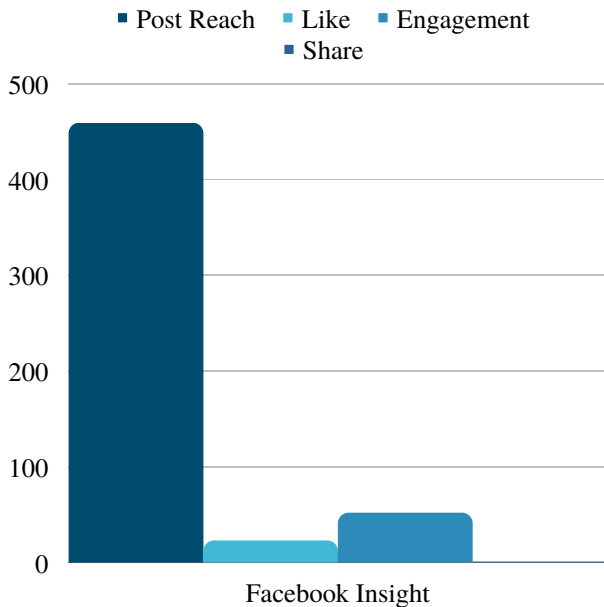
09-20/01/2023: A series of Eye Checkup Camps were organized by Swabhiman in collaboration with Sightsavers and Lepra Society at five ICRC based government schools of Bhubaneswar. Camps were held from 9th January 2023 to 20th January 2023. 362 beneficiaries availed free eye screening for any kind of problem with their vision. It covered children with disabilities, non-disabled children above the age of 14, teachers and family members of children with disabilities. 43 children were referred for further free advanced checkup and treatment and 13 elderly family members of CwDs were diagnosed and referred for free cataract treatment.

Schedule of Camps

- 09-10/01/2023 - Government UGUP School, BJB Nagar
- 11-12/01/2023- Shayad Mumtaj Ali High School, Nayapalli
- 13-17/01/2023- Govt. Boys High School, Unit-9
- 16-17/01/2023 - Government High School, Jharpara
- 19-20/01/2023 - Govt. School VSS Nagar

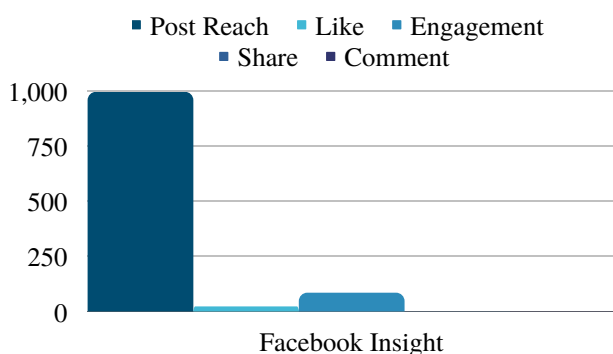
On camp days shoes were distributed to the CwDs at all the ICRCs. 40 CwDs from very poor families received new shoes.





Participation in ALMA FEISTA

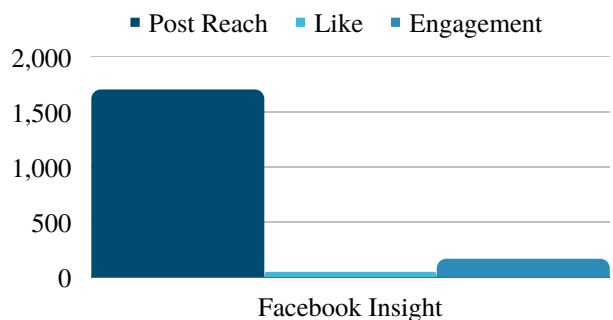
21/01/2023: CwDs visited IIT, Bhubaneswar to participate in ALMA FEISTA. Team constituted 41 members including our 24 CwDs, 7 non disabled children, 9 parents and team member. Children participated in different activities and show cased their talent in art, music and instruments. Sarthak Dwivedi mesmerized the audience with his performance on Casio. Following contests, a magic show was held. The programme wined up with dance performances by all. Prof. Shreepad Karmalkar, Director IIT Bhubaneswar, Prof. Brahm Deo and President Gymkhana Dr. Srinivas Karanki presented Swabhiman a token of love and some gifts were distributed to the student participants.



Celebration of Republic Day and Saraswati Puja

26/01/2023: After two years of the pandemic, the 74th Republic Day was celebrated in Bhubaneswar's mainstream schools. Children with disabilities actively participated in this celebration in their respective schools with much enthusiasm. CwDs in ICRC based schools participated in different programs like speeches, songs, solo dances, group dances etc. In ICRC-3 a group of students performed the National anthem in sign language.

After celebrating Republic Day in the morning Saraswati Puja was also celebrated with great enthusiasm on the very same day at the premises of Swabhiman. Team Swabhiman gathered at the office premises to seek the blessings of the Goddess of knowledge, music, art, and culture. The rituals were conducted by Pandit Ji, who not only performed the Pooja but also enlightened all present on process of worshipping Goddess of knowledge. Puja ended with distribution of Prasad.



State and Zonal level training of Block Resource Teachers

09/03/2023 –31/03/2023: Inclusive education which is one of the goals of Sustainable Development Goal and is an important part of National Education Policy is also an important focus area of Swabhiman's work. 'Project Saksham' is an initiative of Swabhiman to create a model resource centre to cater the holistic educational development of CwDs in urban slums of Bhubaneswar. Now after six years of successful running of this model its learning and best practices

are shared with the Department of School and Mass Education for scaling up in the entire state of Odisha.

It's really a matter of pride for Swabhiman that its initiative to promote Inclusive education through a unique 'Inclusive Child Resource Centre' is adopted by government and replicated in all its 347 blocks in Odisha. In the year 2022 department of School & Mass Education launched block-level resource centres in all the blocks of Odisha and it is one of its kind in India.

Taking insight from the positive outputs in several area of Inclusive education including schools, teachers, and parents the model resource centre under project Saksham and its management, Department of School & Mass Education approached Swabhiman, to extend support in the form of training to Block Resource Teachers to run the block level resource centres effectively.



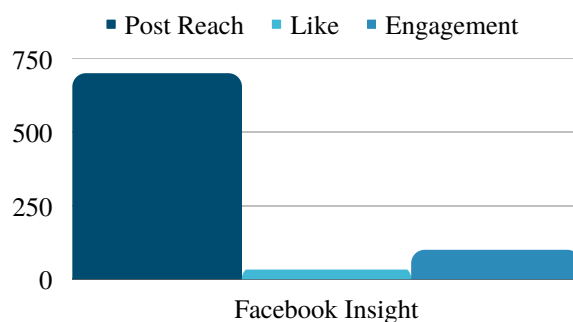
Three days State level Training of BRTs on management of resource centers

09/03/2023 –11/03/2023: The three days State level Training of BRTs on management of resource centers was held on 9th, 10th and 11th March 2023 at Bhubaneswar. It was formally inaugurated by Shri Anupam Saha (IAS), State Project Director, OSEPA and Dr Sruti Mohapatra, Founder and CEO of Swabhiman. Among the other dignitaries present were Gendra Kujur, Joint Director, Inclusive Education and Saroj Kumar Behera, Additional director, OSEPA.

This program was divided into two parts i.e. combined sessions at the conference hall of TE & SCERT, Bhubaneswar and field visit with exposure to resource centre and its management in small groups taking twenty BRTs in each group. The combined sessions on theoretical aspects of disability were taken on Day-1 of the training program. It included important laws, policies, categories of disabilities along with challenges and accommodations required for each category of children, Accessibility and Accessible Schools,



child psychology with special focus on CwDs. Day-2 and first half of Day-3 contained exposure visit to the field and sessions on alternative teaching methodology, evaluation methodology for students with disabilities, early assessment for assistive devices, digital literacy and digital classroom. The detailed training schedule of the three days training and the PPTs were shared by the resource persons to the participants.



Leprosy Awareness Programmes

19-29/03/2023 DPI partnered with Sasakawa Foundation and Swabhiman to organise 10 awareness programs on Leprosy and the Issues and Rights of Persons Affected with Leprosy as per RPwD Act 2016 among students and in the rural community. In 2005, India declared it has eliminated leprosy as a public health problem. This means 15 years ago, it had arrested the prevalence rate of the disease to less than one case per 10,000 populations. According to Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya, in a written message of the National Strategic Plan and Roadmap for Leprosy 2023-2027, the country still accounts for over half (52%) of world's new leprosy patients.

The use of communication by the leprosy program in India offers valuable lessons for other programs, both in terms of its successes as well as the challenges ahead. The information, education and communication component has made a significant contribution in reducing the prevalence rate of leprosy cases. It has raised awareness about the signs and symptoms of leprosy and the importance of seeking early treatment, and reduced the social stigma associated with the disease.



The programs commenced with an inauguration by local dignitaries. During registration the following IEC materials – bookmark, notebook and posters were distributed. Two standees and few posters decorated each venue. An introduction of guests and participants was followed by a quick sharing of facts about the seminar its objective and DPI. Next, a presentation was shown, alongside a resource person talking about the finer details. Each program was about 2-3 hours long. Each program ended with feedback, questions and comments from participants. This program reached to 786 people of five different districts.

Key messages of the awareness seminars

- Leprosy is a bacterial disease, which is completely curable with antibiotics.
- Leprosy is not transmitted through genes or touch. It is, according to the WHO, among the least infectious of diseases and a person becomes non-infectious within 24 hours of starting treatment.
- Moreover, only a very minuscule percentage of the population is susceptible to the disease.
- If treated in time, disabilities can be avoided.

Program details

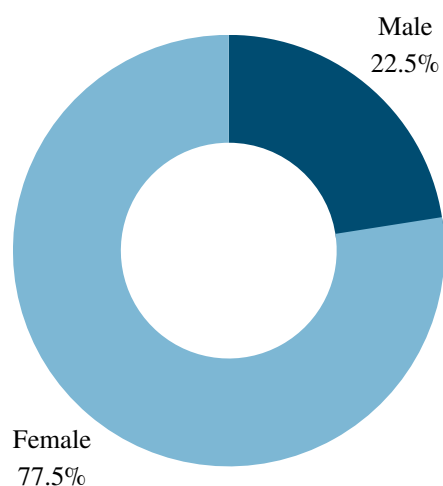
Program Details		
Date	Location	Numbers
19/03/23	Krushna Chandrapur, Mayurbhanj	67
20/03/23	Ras Govindpur, Mayurbhanj	109
23/03/23	Jharpada Government School, Bhubaneswar	30
25/03/23	School for the Deaf, Pallaspalli, Khordha	51
25/03/23	National Institute of Social Work and Social Sciences (NISWASS) Bhubaneswar	50

26/03/23	Maa Mangala Mahavidyalaya, Kakatpur, Puri	82
28/03/23	Biju Patnaik College of Social Work, Bhubaneswar	109
23/03/23	Jharpada Government School, Bhubaneswar	35
28/03/23	Khajuripada, Phulbani	179
29/03/23	Government College, Koraput	106

Programs were inaugurated by heads of the organisation, principals, local eminent people etc. Some names are Lalit Christopher (HOD, Social Work NISWASS), Umesh Chandra Purohit (Secretary, Youth Service Centre, Balangir), Dr Ashok Kumar Tripathy, (Principal, Maa Mangalala College), Rabindra Panda (ASS Secretary, Banabasi, Phulbani), Nandita Kumari (Legal expert), UrvasiDigal (sarpanch), MonoranjanJani,(sarpanch), Sarita Pattnaik(Psychologist), K. Simanchal Reddy (General Secretary EKTA, Koraput).

The leprosy awareness programs were a commendable initiative to raise awareness about the disease and eliminate its associated stigma. The program aimed to inform people about the symptoms, causes, and treatment of leprosy and promote a more inclusive and supportive society for leprosy-cured individuals. Overall, the program successfully achieved its objectives, and it is hoped that such initiatives will continue to raise awareness and eliminate the stigma associated with leprosy.

Swabhiman remains committed to providing all support to students and community members to continue spreading awareness on leprosy issues and its cure. We must renew our focus on accelerating towards a leprosy-free world and that efforts must be continuous, and a leprosy-free world secured for all.



Sensitization of Law Students Law School, XIM University

06/03/2023: On the eve of International Women's Day, the Legal Aid Cell of Law School, XIM University celebrated the pioneer women achievers and raised awareness against gender inequality and discrimination. The meeting was held to recognize and celebrate women's social, economic, cultural, and political achievements and raise awareness towards achieving gender equality. Dr. Mohapatra delivered a speech on the significance of legal rights and put stress on the rights of women and girls with disabilities. Addressing the law students she shared the need for a sensible and sensitive approach of young and budding law professionals for bringing in social justice. The main objective of this program is to raise awareness through gender equality and equal participation in the concept of Women with Disabilities. The highlighted points during the discussion were focused around advocacy for the rights of women and girls with a disability. Legal support, advocacy, policy-level changes and implementation affects the rights of women with disabilities, other disability rights, including employment, education and health care.



Celebration of World Poetry Day & Down Syndrome Day Bharatiya Vidya Bhawan

World Down Syndrome Day and World Poetry Day were celebrated by Swabhiman in partnership with Ketki Foundation on 21/03/2023 at Bharatiya Vidya Bhawan, Bhubaneswar. For the first time ever it's celebrated with a difference by inviting poets, disability activists, teachers and parents of children with Down Syndrome along with students with and without disabilities. This celebration contained poetry recitation on inclusion, disability, differences and diversity disability followed by some cultural activities.

The guests of this Program were Kedar Mishra an eminent freelance writer, editor, translator & art critic, Swapna Mishra, Director/ co-founder at Nivishka Services Pvt. Ltd. & writer, poet and novelist, Biraja Prasad Routray(OAS),additional sub-collector of Kendrapara & writer, poet, editor



and novelist, Biraja Prasad Routray(OAS),additional sub-collector of Kendrapara & writer, poet, editor and essayist. Akanksha, hosted the whole program on behalf of Swabhiman.

The poetry recitation done by the guests Kedar Mishra, Swapna Mishra and Biraja Prasad Routray was very meaningful and has connotations of inclusion and capabilities. The words used were thoughtful and mesmerizing. The poetry titled "silvery Dream "by Dr. Sruti Mohapatra was also recited by Akanksha.

Followed by the guests were the invited poets like Barida Prabha Mohanty (Social Worker),Kabita Kanungo (School teacher), Jyoti Rath (Banker), Bharati Parida, Suprava Satpathy (School Teacher) who are from different professions but their love for poetry brought them together to this platform to present poetries with a difference. All the poetries were very inspiring, analytical about social mindset and eye opener for many who look down upon the capabilities within disabilities. Few mothers of children with disabilities were also presented poetries which they composed taking inspiration from their children who actually made them realize their potential and because of their special children, they are recognised in many public platforms. So taking site from their lived experiences, Manasi Rout, Bijayalaxmi Barik and Soubhagini Sahu presented beautiful poetries with simple words but with a strong message to the society challenging all the negative thoughts and attitude of so called able bodied society.

After a very overwhelming poetic session with amazing presentations, few children with down syndrome like Sreya Sahoo, Sneha Suman Rout, Amit Bikram and Ritwik Rath performed modern dance with the beats of music. It compelled everyone to step in and enjoy. With the presence of 40 audiences this program was celebrated well.

Health checkup Camp Govt. UGUP School, BJB Nagar

26/03/2023: A free Health Check-up Camp for Persons with Disabilities in collaboration with CureBay e-Clinic. In this camp, different blood tests for blood sugar, hemoglobin level, blood pressure, 12Lead ECG of heart, SPO2 to measure oxygen saturation level, and TB (Swaasa) were done. In this camp general health screening of 187 participants was done by the consulting doctor. The health check-up continued from 9:00 am in the morning till 6:00 pm in the evening. The participation consisted of 111 PwDs, 27 parents of PwDs and 49 other participants including elderly people. This camp was jointly coordinated by the 18 team members of Swabhiman and CureBay and 3 volunteers of Swabhiman supported for its smooth conduct.



Sensitization of Youth on Gender Violence vis-a-vis Women with Disabilities Venue- St Joesph Seva Sadan Community College

08/03/2023: A Sensitization program of youth on Gender Violence, Women with Disabilities at St. Joesph Seva Sadan Community College with the presence of 32 young student trainees who were pursuing skill development training on different skills. The main aim of this session was to reduce the incidents of violence against women with disabilities by sharing knowledge about the acts and laws, institutions, authorities for the protection of women from violence.

The discussion was focused on various forms of gender based violence and especially violence faced by women with disabilities. Acts and Laws available for protection of women with disabilities from violence and the mandates under various Acts were discussed focusing on the provisions made under RPwD Act 2016 and PwD Act 2005. Besides this provisions of compensation under specific cases of violence and provisions of stringent punishments in case of sexual violence were discussed. At the end of the session, Institutional support system available for protection of women with disabilities if they face any kind of violence and the ways to avail the same was shared with the participants.



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Sensitization workshop program at IIMC IIMC, Dhenkanal

20/02/2023: A Sensitization workshop on “Disability Issues-Responsible Reporting” was organized at the Indian Institute of Mass Communication (IIMC), Dhenkanal, by Swabhiman at the invitation of Prof. Mrinal Chatterjee (Professor and Head, IIMC). Dr Mohapatra started with her life's journey after the accident, and then spoke on the history of disability and essential issues. Finally, she spoke on “Disability Issues-Responsible Reporting.” She started with media portrayal of disability by showing various short videos, talked about the myths and facts, disability etiquette and giving a few examples with storylines. Children also came with multiple queries related to media disability and interacted with Dr Sruti Mohapatra.



Eastern Regional Dialogue “Working with Youth: Challenges and opportunities”

27-28/03/2023: CYSD and IGSSS, in collaboration with Swabhiman, PANTISS, SATTVIC SOUL Foundation, and PATANG organized the Eastern Regional Dialogue on “Working with Youth: Challenges and Opportunities” on 27/03/2023-28/03/2023 at CYSD. Swabhiman was one of the knowledge partners of this workshop. Swabhiman shared the perspectives of youth with disabilities which will add valuable context to the youth policy. CYSD collaborated with Swabhiman to obtain the perspectives of young people with disabilities. Swabhiman shared their views to provide valuable



context to the youth policy. CYSD collaborated with Swabhiman to obtain the perspectives of young people with disabilities. Swabhiman shared their views to provide valuable context on the matter. During the event, there was a strong emphasis on engaging and empowering the youth by equipping them with life skills and information to support their personal and societal development. Different models of engagement with youths were shared by the young leaders from all the participating organizations.

The topics of discussion contained development of youth in all spheres of society (social justice, education, youth leadership and development, employment and entrepreneurship, health and fitness), youth development in India and youth in social, economic and self-development.

Group presentation on different aspects for the youth with development like social participation, economic participation, education etc. was done by the participants. These presentations reflect that India's youth development is crucial for social and economic progress, they play a significant role in driving social development through community engagement and activism and their involvement in economic development through entrepreneurship and innovation is vital for India's growth. So self-development through education and skill-building is essential to unlocking their potential and contributing to a brighter future.

During these two day long workshop, inputs for the draft youth policy were discussed and collated by the participants.

Consultation on Women's Participation and Leadership in Disaster Risk Reduction

Sruti Mohapatra, CEO Swabhiman and Convener OSdN, spoke on issues of women with disability and women in general in the National stakeholder consultation on "Women's Participation and Leadership in Disaster Risk Reduction" organised by NPDRR UN India National Institute of Disaster ManagementNdma India.





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