

3. BLUE FILE

BLUE FILE is a quarterly journal, collecting all current information on disABILITY for government, NGO's, researchers, media journalists and other interested people. In the BLUE FILE the clippings are keyboarded and arranged according to major areas of interest.

The first issue - Blue file (January 2002 to March 2002)

The second issue - Blue file (April 2002 to June 2002)

The third issue - Blue file (July 2002 to September 2002)

D . NETWORKING

1. NETWORKING PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

A Workshop on People's Perspectives: United Voices for Disability Equity was organized by Swabhiman (A Disability Information and Resource Centre) and Pratibandhi Kalyan Kendra on 18th September 2002, at Hotel Meghdoot, Bhubaneswar. The event was supported by Action Aid India, Regional Office, Bhubaneswar. The Chief Guest of the occasion was Mr. D. P. Bagchi - then Chief Secretary to Govt. of Orissa. Mr. Santosh Satpathy - Additional Secretary to CM, Mr. Manoranjan Saran - Director, Census, were the other guests in the programme. A total of 110 participants attended the workshop. Out of them 63 were from different districts of Orissa and nearly 40 were from Khurda District.

i) FOCUS OF SWABHIMAN

- Establish sub regional nodal centres for reaching out at the regional level and sub-regional level.
- Conduct various training programmes on disability.
- Make a theme letter on immediate demands of the PWD's local needs and address it to District Collectors, Chief Minister's Office and WCD department.
- After a specific period if government would not take the required steps for DAPs then Swabhiman would form pressure groups and would go to district collector's office in large numbers.

ii) FINDINGS OF THE GROUP DISCUSSION

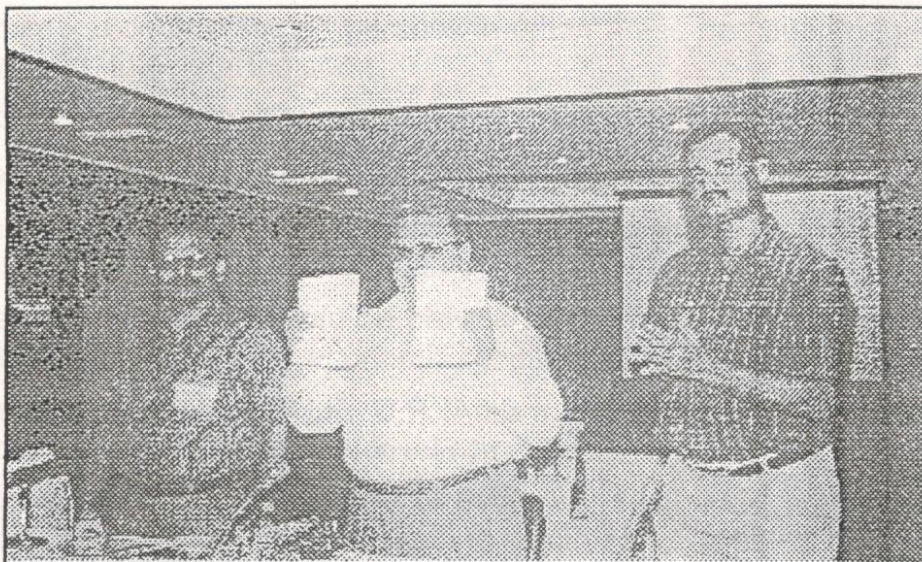
All the participants were divided into five groups on the basis of regions viz: Eastern, Western, Northern, Southern and Coastal districts of Orissa. The group members discussed the following issues and finally gave a message for campaign.

1. Advocacy Agenda in the region.
2. Different problems related to disability identified in the region.
3. Role of NGOs to intervene in those issues.
4. Expectations from Swabhiman to address the issues.

NETWORKING PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES



State Level Advocacy Workshop On People's Perspectives: United Voices For Disability Equity



Mr. D. P. Bagchi, Ex. Chief Secretary to Govt. of Orissa releasing the Simplified Version of PWD Act, 1995 documented and published by Swabhiman in the State Level Advocacy Workshop.



Participants in the group discussion in the State Level Advocacy Workshop

iii) COMMON ADVOCACY AGENDA SUGGESTED BY ALL GROUPS

- Functioning of District Disability Cell.
- Awareness Campaign.
- Setting up of District Coordination Advocacy Unit.
- Arrangement of trainings and linkages with other organizations.
- Compilation of district level Data / District Resource cell.
- Initiate dialogue with all stakeholders.
- Identification and medical certification of PWDs
- Sensitization of mass media
- PWD's to be an integral part of interventions.
- Orientation and training to NGOs/volunteers.
- Letter campaign for establishment of State Coordination Committee and
- State Executive Committee and appointment of Independent Disability Commissioner.

iv) SPECIFIC SUGGESTIONS

- Enumeration of disabled persons in urban areas has been neglected and required to be started soon.
- Training of field level functionaries to identify PWDs.
- Sensitization of developmental workers about disability.
- The procedure for issue of disability certificate should be simplified and the system should be more transparent and uniform for all purposes.
- Identified disabled should be provided with proper aids and appliances by taking into account the economic condition of the PWDs.
- Parents of disabled (M.R, C.P, Autism and multiple disabled) should be included/invited in the local level committee.
- As provided under chapter V of PWD Act, 1995, local authority needs to provide adequate opportunities to disabled children under integration system. Due to lack of awareness and coercive forces, they are often flouting the provisions of PWD Act.
- They should be properly instructed
- Education of the disabled children (all types) should no more be a subject under W. C.
- Department. But should be transferred to Education Department.
- Resource persons with adequate training expertise should be employed in every educational institution.
- Degree of disability for specific faculties of studies should be modified as per present requirement.

E . ADVOCACY

1. OPENING OF BANK ACCOUNTS FOR LEPROSY CASES IN JAGATSINGHPUR:

A bank of Jagatsinghpur not allowed a leprosy person to open the bank account. Swabhiman is doing the advocacy for that disabled person to open an account in that bank.

2. 3% RESERVATION IN EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS:

The Supreme Court has issued a verdict that all Government educational institutions and other educational institutions receiving aid from the Government shall reserve not less than 3% seats for persons with disability as per section 39 of PWD ACT, 1995. Based on the newspaper report of the New Indian Express dated 12 September 2002 Swabhiman initiated the letter campaign on 3% reservation of the Govt. for the disabled.

3. MEDICAL CERTIFICATION :

An investigation we made of the medical certification for PWD's at Capital Hospital, Bhubaneswar. During our investigation we made the following findings:

- That the persons with disability are facing many problems. The basic problem, as we found, was that there was none to guide them regarding the details like whom to approach, place of medical examination and the procedure of applying for the certificate. We found many had run from pillar to post, two or three times in the past only to know the official procedures and the time and venue of medical certification. However, all their queries are yet to be clarified.
- It was a matter of great astonishment to find that there was no sitting arrangement, although the entire series of activities were meant for the persons with disability. They had to wait for hours at stretch for their turn to come, in order to get the medical certificate. One DAP complained, "Doctors are biased. They give more importance to some DAPs while behave harshly with others". They also complained that the doctors neither come in time nor examined the DAPs properly.
- We also found that, although there was facility of drinking water, there was no proper toilet facility for the orthopadically challenged. There is a single toilet for all (which includes the general patients as well as the PWDs), which is in a very unhygienic condition and hence very prone to infection.
- The number of DAPs who come for medical certification varies from 60-100. It is only meant for people of Bhubaneswar but people from all over Khurda

and Nayagad districts come here, as there are no specialists in Nayagarh. Red Cross supports the printing of forms, literature and provision of staff at Akhyam Sahayaka Kendra.

- The board sits on every first and third Wednesday at 12 noon in the CMO's chamber at Capital Hospital said the Deputy CMO. But the in charge of the Akhyam Sahayaka Kendra informed us that the board normally sits at 11am. However during our visit, we did not find anybody in the CMO's chamber at that time. Subsequent query revealed that practically all the members of the Board don't assemble at a place but the concerned specialist examines the patient and gives a report on the percentage of disability.

F. SPECIAL PROGRAMME

PROJECT ANJALI

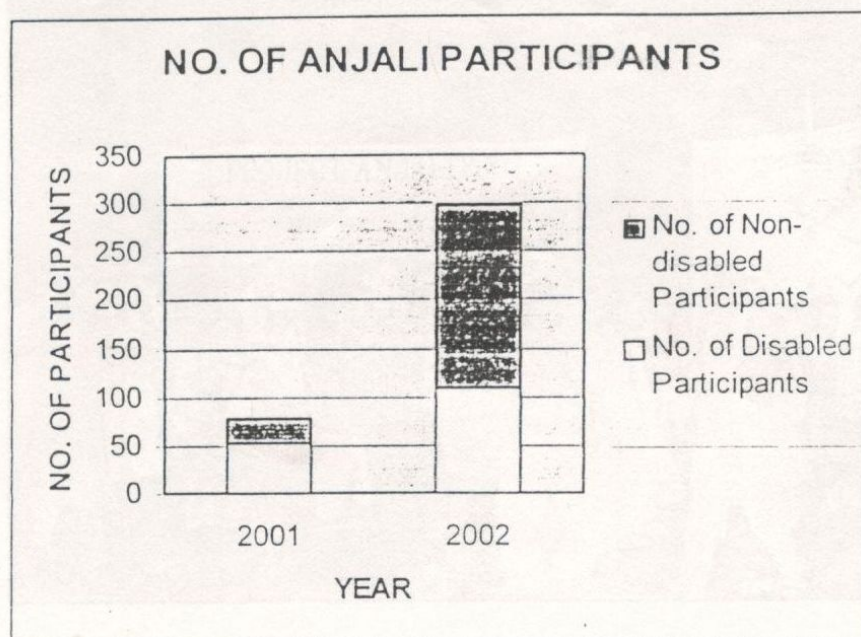
Project Anjali is a dream that is turning into a five-year reality. Anjali is a cross disability endeavor with an aim to include and integrate children with disability into the mainstream and provide them with opportunity to grow into their full potential. It is a doorway for children with disability towards alternative careers. Anjali is a small effort that bridges the gap between mainstream and challenged children. It gives the message to the world that individuals with disability are equal partners and can easily walk hand in hand, with a little bit of understanding, acceptance, care and love.

Project Anjali aims at the holistic development of artistic skills, be it in the field of music, dance, drama or art. The mission is

- To enable physically, mentally and sensory challenged children to carry on their artistic, creative and cultural pursuits.
- To provide opportunities for personal expression that highlights their abilities.
- To make an effort towards empowering children who have been stigmatized and oppressed because of their disability so that they can participate fully in society.

To focus on integration so that disabled and non-disabled children, discover each other in an atmosphere of creativity, which will not only enrich them, but will also serve to illuminate inclusion and the universality of the human spirit.

This time a total of 123 children participated in the four-day from 13th to 16th November 2002. PROJECT ANJALI II Camp held at Rabindra Mandap. 108 children were physically, mentally, visually and sensory challenged from almost all districts of Orissa (Figure-5, Table-5). Disabled children from Madhya Pradesh participated in the camp. The rest were non-disabled children from mainstream schools in Bhubaneswar. Roshni, Gwalior with six participants were the only out state contingent. Four workshops were organized; Art and Craft (Puppetry), Dance, Music and Theatre. Each workshop had one coordinator and 2-3 resource persons.

FIGURE - 5**TABLE - 5****ANAJALI PARTICIPANTS**

YEAR	No. of Disabled Participants	No. of Non-disabled Participants
2001	53	26
2002	108	191

1. NEW DIMENSION

A new dimension was introduced this year. Students of regular schools experienced the challenges of disability by sitting on wheel-chairs, being blindfolded, their mouth being covered by plaster and ear clogged with cotton. Thereafter they expressed their feelings either through painting or words. Ruchika High School, Mother's School of Integral Education, DAV Public School Unit VIII, St. Xavier's High School participated wholeheartedly. About 30-50 children from each of these schools visited the camp and spent hours learning about the challenges of disability that many children of their age face. Also slum children's from Khela Ghar, Satyanagar with the help of Bhubaneswar Ladies club visited the camp.

2. ANJALI SCHOLARS - 2001-2002

Last year, five children with disability were selected from various fields for the Anjali Scholarship-2002. The various categories under which these scholarships are given include Fine Art and Painting, Classical Music and Odissi Dance.

Kumari Sonia, (Hearing impaired), Ms. Sakti Swarupa Bir (Hearing impaired) Ms. Phalguni Sengupta(Hearing impaired), Mithilesh Patnaik (Mentally challenged) & Susant Kumar Nayak (Visually challenged) have got the scholarship for pursuing their career with this scholarship.

3. THE WORKSHOPS

i) Dance Workshop

Anjali dance workshop, in which regular school students performed alongside dancers who are disabled, has proven two things: that it is dance and not therapy and that the work belongs on the concert stage, and that it can be of professional quality. Like London's inspiring CandoCo Dance Company, Oakland-based Axis, ANJALI DANCE BALLET has gone a step closer to EXCELLENCE BEYOND DISABILITIES. Sri Chittaranjan Acharya, the resource persons is a proud man with an eye full of tears and heartfelt of love.

Art and Craft Workshop in progress

ii) Music Workshop

It is clear that Sri Laxmikant Palit has invested not just time but love and feelings exploring just what children can do, beyond the frontiers of disability and mindsets. Music set to brisk rhythm is music at its zenith, right from 'DILSE'.

iii) Art And Craft Workshop

It is amazing what children can do. This was amply demonstrated in the Anjali workshop under that Sri Arun D. Phatak and Sri Tukaram Rajput's guidance (from Maharashtra). Creativity suggests that deafness, mental challenges or physical immobility fall far short when the mind and will power take command.

iv) Puppetry Workshop

A puppetry workshop also conducted through out the four days as a part of art and craft workshop. Mrs. Jayanti Rout and Ms. Rita Sahoo from Sneha Abhijan, Erasama were the resource persons of the workshop. Both disabled and non-disabled participants learnt how to make puppets and also enjoyed the puppet shows in every evening.

v) Theatre Workshop

Sri Nabin Parida, lecturer Utkal Sangeet Mahavidyalaya, was awestruck by the potential of children with disabilities. His drama output based on Jataka Tales was therefore a deeply geometric and elegant piece. The artists defied all the barriers of physical and mental limitations. It is propulsive, at times sending artists dancers leaping and skipping, allowing the dancers with disabilities to reach out further than normal and create a simple long, clean line.

G . CAMPAIGN

Swabhiman joined OXFAM (INDIA) Trust in their campaign for 'Make South Asia Safe For Women and Girl Child'.

1. INTER SCHOOL WORKSHOP:

The first inter school workshop on Domestic Violence And Rights Violation of Disabled and Non-Disabled Girl Child was held in B.B.C.School for the Deaf, Unit-3 on 26th November, 2002. It was organized by Swabhiman and supported by OXFAM (India) Trust. Students from both special school and mainstream school attended the workshop. The total participants were 61. 31 children were hearing and speech impaired students (18-girls and 13-boys) from BBC School for the deaf, 25 were from Government Girls' High School, Unit-4 and 5 students from Capital High School, Unit-3.

After a brief introduction to disability and violence the participants were divided into three groups. Each group discussed about the various types of violence committed against girl child and shared their experience in this regard. At the end each group submitted their report suggesting the measures to be taken by the society and the Government to prevent violence.

Then each group was assigned the job of presenting their report through various mediums such as group reporting, painting and acting. Broadly children were asked to focus on the following four issues as a form of violence:-

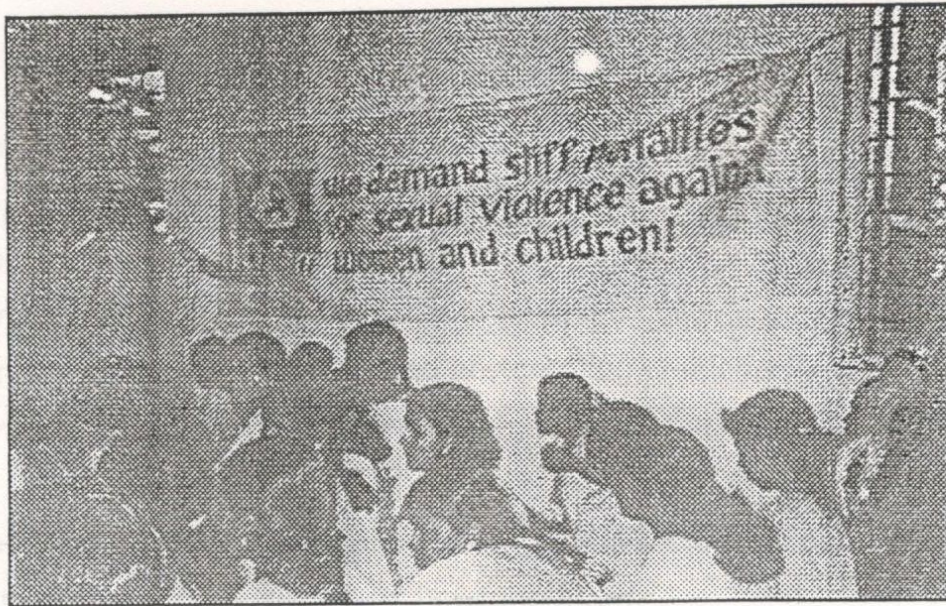
- Denial of right to food.
- Denial of right to education.
- Physical abuse
- Sexual abuse

FINDINGS OF THE GROUP DISCUSSION

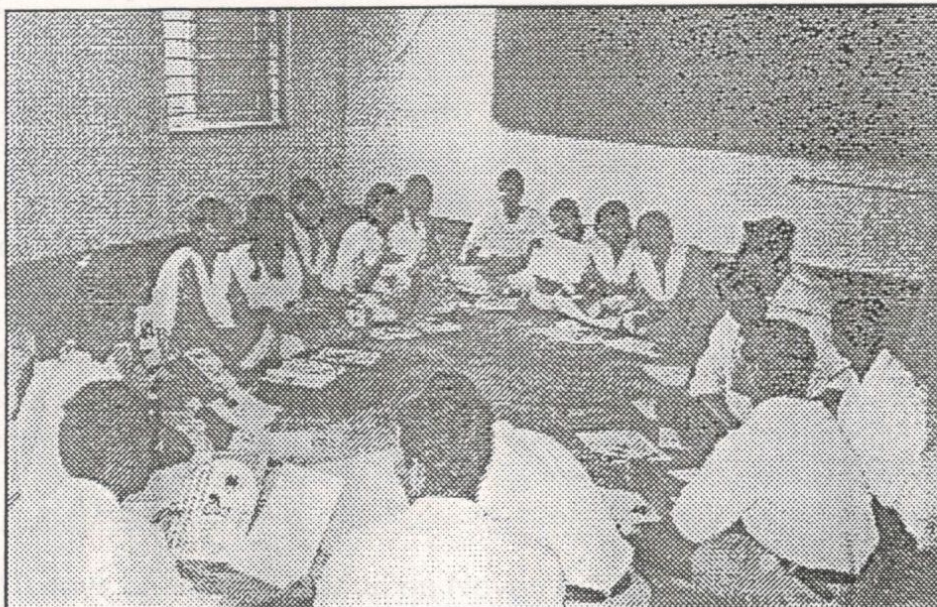
i) The personal experience of participants

- A participant shared that once in Nandankanan he saw a person beat a deaf child for a silly mistake and the boy could not tell anything as he was unable to understand.
- Another participant had witnessed a family giving less food to the daughter but giving more food to the son.
- One of them had seen a TV programme "Aajira Nari" in which a husband used to beat his wife always.
- A girl child had seen in her family that always women eat after the male taken their food.
- In a crowded bus some persons tried to pull the chunni of lady passengers.

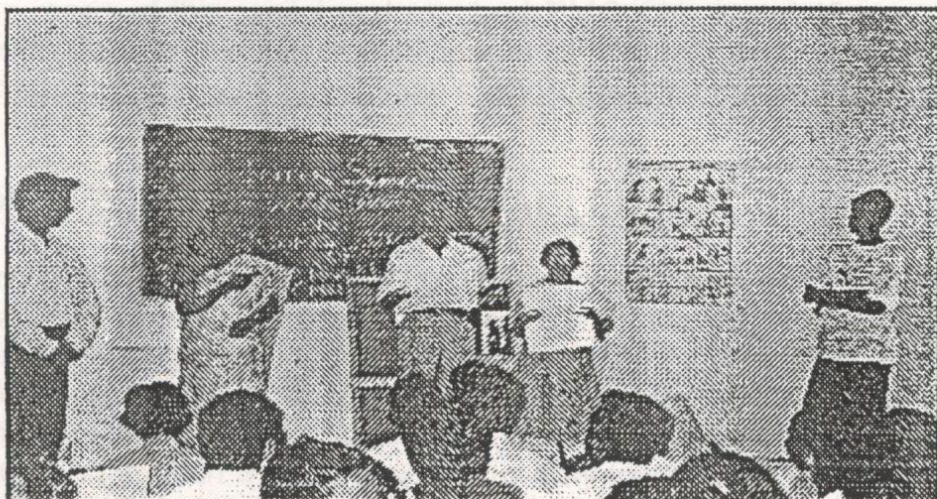
**CAMPAIGN FOR SENSITISATION TO MAKE SOUTH ASIA FREE OF VIOLENCE
FOR DISABLED WOMEN & GIRL CHILD**



The first inter school workshop



Students discussing on the topic "Domestic Violence And Rights Violation of Disabled and Non-Disabled Girl Child"



Students presenting their papers in the Inter school workshop

ii) Solutions

- The solution must start from us.
- We should try to solve violence first in our own family.
- Should try to find out the hidden talents of disabled children.
- Should try to educate the persons who are creating problems for others.
- Should inform the police , and parents if we hear any bad comment on the road.
- Should prepare ground for interaction among the disabled and non-disabled children to create good relationships between them.
- Workshops should be conducted to find out the solutions for this types of problems.

iii) Steps to be taken by the Government

- Government should strengthen its rules and regulations.
- There should be special rules in school education to protect the female students.
- Government should give more emphasis to the primary and elementary education.
- Government should ban all types of drugs and liquor.
- Government should be strong enough to protect the rights of a girl child.

2. CANDLE RALLY:

The process of 10 days of activism started on November 25, 2002. A candle march was organized which started from Ram Mandir Chhak and culminated at PMG Chhak. The participants wore white T-shirts with bold black lettering against domestic violence. This mass rally which started at 4.15 p.m. wound its way through the main roads of the capital and reached PMG Chhak at 6.15 p.m. The Intelligence Bureau put the number of participants of this rally at an astonishing 944! It was the first time that with Swabhiman's effort disabled people participated in an issue based rally.

3. PLAY ON VIOLENCE AGAINST DISABLED GIRL CHILD:

A disabled girl child is not only unwanted but is tortured and shunned when she requests to live a life of dignity. The play was a portrayal of the hurt and humiliation experienced by a disabled girl child in her own family. It sent a clear message that the uncanny attitude of people towards differentiating between girl and boy gives rise to many problems like female foeticide, child selling etc. which inflict inhuman torture on the girl child. In such a circumstance our duty towards the disabled child holds more water than what the society will think! Instead of wasting time on

useless pity, which they despise, if we direct our effort in giving them right condition and encouragement to develop their special abilities, they would emerge as responsible and mature human beings with sensitivity towards people and circumstances alike.

H . OTHER ACTIVITIES

1. ATTENDED THE DISABLED PEOPLES' INTERNATIONAL 6TH WORLD ASSEMBLY AT SAPPORO, JAPAN:

In the month of October Dr. Sruti Mohapatra went to Sapporo, Japan to attend the Disabled Peoples' International 6th World Assembly from October 15 to 18, 2002. 3000 delegates from all over the world attended the programme to work out strategies for barrier free world and UN convention on rights of disabled.

2. VISIT TO NEW DELHI TO ATTEND THE WORLD DISABILITY DAY CELEBRATIONS:

To focus on empowerment and mainstreaming of the disabled community in the society a two days national event was held in New Delhi on the 2nd and 3rd of December 2002 by National Center for Promotion of Employment for Disabled Peoples (NCPEDP). 50 to 100 participants attended the event from each State and Union Territory.

17 participants from Orissa attended the event, which was organized from Bhubaneswar by Swabhiman. Out of 17 participants 13 were DAPs, 2 Escorts and 2 were representatives from Swabhiman. From Orissa Ms. Lipika Mohapatra and Mr. Debabyasa Mohanty (Hearing Impaired) met the president and presented him the Blue File and a letter on behalf of Disabled Community of Orissa. At this moment Mr. Debabyasa Mohanty took the opportunity and spoke in sign language to the president that "it is going to seven years since PWD Act was passed by the parliament but we do not have either a Disability Commission or Disability Commissioner in our state". Which was interpreted by Ms. Lipika Mohapatra.

On World Disability Day a "Walk to Freedom 2002" was organised to Amar Jyoti, India Gate, New Delhi.. The Chief Guest was Mrs. Sheela Dixit, Chief Minister, Delhi. On the occasion Mr. Javed Abidi, Executive Director (NCPEDP) first congratulated all delegates for coming together to celebrate the World Disability Day from all over India. He said it was for the first time many types of disabled people come together at one place. Mrs. Sheela Dixit spoke on her speech that she felt very happy to see such a big gathering of both disabled and non disabled persons together from all over India. Then she distributed the cassette "Kinara" to one representative from each state. There she declared to appoint a full time Disability Commissioner for Delhi within two months.