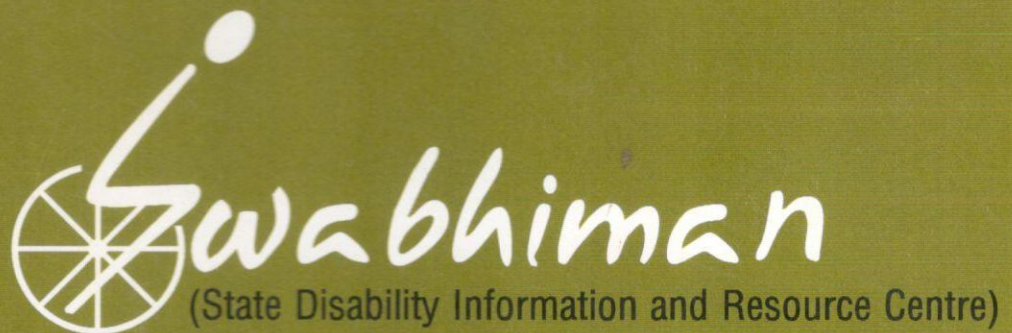


ANNUAL REPORT 2009



ABOUT SWABHIMAN

The need for 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 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 Values

Differences in people.
Positive thinking
Walking together

CONTENTS

Advocacy

Awareness

Employment Initiative

Information Dissemination

Special Project – Anjali National Children Festival

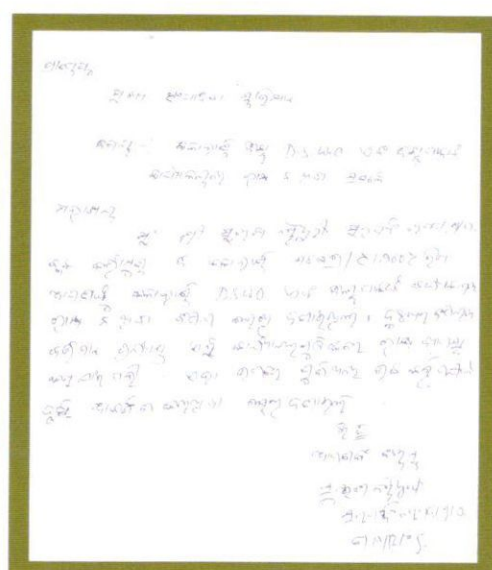
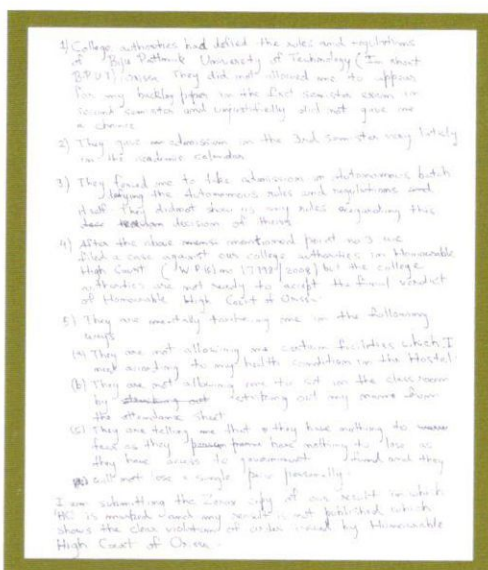
Special Project – Sandhan

Vision 2020 Document of National Trust New Delhi

Workshop

ADVOCACY

Case of Mr. Suresh Choudhry, the sarpanch of Regada GP under Karlamunda block in Kalahandi was taken up. A letter was drafted to WCD Secretary who also acts as the commissioner disability, to take up the issue with concerned authorities. Shri Suresh Choudhry is a disabled person who has to commute to the Collectorate on regular basis. The collectorate runs in the first floor of the building and thus is not accessible and it is a struggle for PWDs to reach there. Many PWDs have informed me that collectors do come down to meet them. But the issue here is accessibility as mandated by the PWD Act 1995. Although the office of DSWO is in the ground floor it has many steps leading unto it. Besides, the new GP building under construction has provisions for sarpanch office in the first floor. In this scenario, Secretary was requested to immediately intervene to enable PWDs to live a life of lesser struggles.



Case of Sashanka Sekhar Misra, student of Burla Engineering College was taken up. A letter was drafted to WCD Secretary who also acts as the commissioner disability, to take up the issue with concerned authorities that. UCE Burla had indulged in contempt of court by defying to follow the instructions of the Hon'ble High Court. With 60% disability, he took admission in University Collage of Engg, Burla (U.C.E, Burla) in B.Tech in Information Technology under Biju Pattnaik University of Technology (B.P.U.T),Orissa. Now the college, having become autonomous, has its own rules and regulations and imposes that on students who took admission under BPUT. On getting year back he was forced to remain in third year where as per BPUT rules he should be allowed to join final year. Sashanka approached the Hon'ble High Court along with other students and the judgment was in their favor, that they are to be governed by BPUT norms (the same norm had been followed when UCE Burla was transferred from Sambalpur University to BPUT). Since then he is being continuously harassed by faculty and staff and being forced to vacate the hostel too.



AWARENESS

International Day for Persons with Disabilities (WDD)

On 3rd December 2009, Swabhiman in collaboration with Students of Bhubaneswar, celebrated INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES at Master Canteen Square, near Congress Bhawan, Bhubaneswar. About 200 students from BJB, Ramadevi, IMS, IIMC, CSSR, BPCHMSW, Maharashi, and VISWASSS joined the celebration. In busy PMG square stall was set up to distribute awareness material on disability.



EMPLOYMENT INITIATIVE



SOFT SKILL TRAINING & PLACEMENT OF YWD (Youth With Disabilities)

After database verification and scrutiny, from the list obtained from VRC, 40 candidates were selected for polishing of soft skills and preparing them to face interviews. They were trained to become accomplished data entry operators and call centre operators. The 10-days training program was held at Learnnext Global, Infocity, Bhubaneswar and VRC. Accommodation was arranged at VRC, Bhubaneswar.



INFORMATION

TITAN EXPERIENCE

Titan Industries Limited is a joint venture of the Tata Group and the Tamil Nadu Industrial Development Corporation (TIDCO). Its business activities cover watches, clocks and jewellery. With an enviable reputation for its corporate practices, products and services, Titan industries in India's leading manufacturer of watches and jewelry which it markets under the Titan, Sonata and Tanishq brand names. Titan employs 169 disabled persons in the blue collar workforce in Hosur, an individual township located in Dharmapuri district of Tamil Nadu. Employment of the disabled in large number gains significance in view of the nature of this industry. It is a high- precision electronic industry wherein the manufacture of the watch components and its final assembly involve components that are minute, delicate and of high value.

UNESCO SAYS DISABLED FACE WORST: INCLUSION OF DISABLED STUDENTS ESSENTIAL TO ACHIEVE EDUCATION FOR ALL

The recently released Education for All Global Monitoring Report 2008, EDUCATION FOR ALL BY 2015: WILL WE MAKE IT? published by UNESCO was hailed by Inclusion International for its recognition of the persistent exclusion of students with a disability from education. While the report paints a sobering picture of the exclusion of children with disabilities from education, this is the first time that UNESCO has recognized the importance of inclusion students with a disability in order to achieve the goals of Education For All. In some countries, the likelihood of going to school is two to three times greater if the student does not have a disability. Unfortunately, some of the data only considered the presence of a physical disability, and members of Inclusion International report that the likelihood for children with an intellectual disability to attend school is even less. Together with children from poor, indigenous and those living in slums, persons with disabilities were identified in the report as being "at a systematic disadvantage".

Action Plan for Inclusive Education of Children and Youth with Disabilities

Recognizing Education for All children as a fundamental right, to ensure the inclusion of children and youth with disabilities in all available mainstream educational settings, by providing them with a learning environment that is available, accessible, affordable and appropriate to help develop their learning and abilities, a comprehensive 'Action Plan for the Inclusive Education of Children and Youth with Disabilities' was formulated by HRD Ministry in 2005.

SPECIAL PROJECT - INCLUSIVE EDUCATION - ANJALI 2009



The main objective of PROJECT ANJALI is 'TO RESTORE FUNFILLED CHILDHOOD AND TO CREATE BRIDGES FOR AN INCLUSIVE SOCIETY.' Anjali emphasizes:

- Bag - less schooling in pre and primary school
- Outdoor Classes
- Interactive rather than black-board teaching
- New mediums of learning

ANJALI aims at the holistic development of artistic skills and using this as a medium of learning in elementary schools. ANJALI has successfully taught history through theatre, local culture through dances, literature through puppetry, importance of inclusion through music and science through outdoor trips. Another thrust area is to 'bridge gaps'- especially between the rural and urban children, disabled and the non-disabled children, poor and rich children, etc and thus create an inclusive world. Sharing stories of challenges faced and successes achieved by special children as also other children in challenging situations helps blossom relationships where differences become pillars for inclusion.

ANJALI addresses 'Joyful Learning', 'Children' and is the ONLY national children festival in India. In the seven years of its journey it has reached 5700 children and helped many disabled students to successfully complete courses, obtain jobs and thus get opportunities. Children from 14 states have participated in it.

(Camp Bulletins of 2009 attached)



SPECIAL PROJECT - SANDHAN

Students of today are tomorrow's India. They are tomorrow's doctors, engineers, teachers, lawyers, policy makers and implementators. So at Swabhiman we decided to create a student's wing to be 'Ambassadors of Disability.' Like NSS, NCC, etc. SANDHAN will work from colleges. Meetings will be held every month to sensitize students on various issues affecting the lives of disabled persons. The format will vary from film shows, quiz, exposure visits to lectures. Sandhan BJB Chapter and Biju Patnaik College of social work has been formed.



VISION 2020 DOCUMENT OF NATIONAL TRUST

The National Trust's Vision 2020 document sets the directions for better services in India for Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities for the next twelve years. Built firmly on the foundation of the Constitution of India which is the basic law of the country; the Persons with Disabilities Act 2005; the RCI Act, the National Trust Act; and UNCRPD - the vision document is based on the ideals of justice - social, economic and political; liberty of thought, expression, belief, faith and worship; equality of status and of opportunity and; assuring the dignity of the individual and the unity and integrity of the nation. It has been prepared by Sruti Mohapatra. This document was developed by consultations with key stakeholder groups involving individuals with disabilities, all the agencies - both statutory and voluntary, professionals, activists and parents. The completed questionnaire that respondents sent set the groundwork and was fundamental in the development of this document.



WORKSHOP

A workshop on Understanding Disability was organized by Swabhiman in Ravenshaw University. This workshop provided participants with the necessary understanding of persons with disability, their challenges, strengths and capability to become equal citizens. The focus of the workshop was on strengthening the capacity of Orissa's future generation, present decision makers and technical professional in the understanding, promotion and creation of a 'level playing ground' - a society which is free of both physical and attitudinal barriers. At the end of the workshop participants will know about the various disabilities, understand issues of universal access, education and employment and be clear in their understanding of inclusive society and acceptance of diversity. Ms. Poonam Natrajan, Chairperson of National Trust, New Delhi was the chief guest and key note speaker. 100 students and faculty from various colleges in Cuttack participated.



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