

Giant Leaps

Forward...

Building a
world of
equal
opportunities

THE QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF SWABHIMAN

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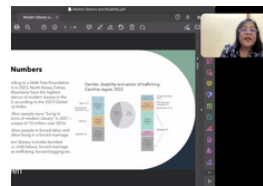


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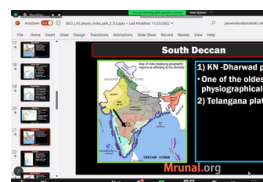
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Awareness Through Street Play

19-23/04/2023: Conducted a street play 'Let's break the chains of differences' to create awareness on disabilities such as Hemophilia, Autism, Book and Copyright day for Persons with VI and Down Syndrome. Both the venues were chosen with a strategic purpose of attracting the young mass. This play was about the challenges that Persons with disabilities face and the support system available for them. Information about different Acts like RPwD Act 2016 and other facilities like Disability Pension, Scholarships, travel passes etc. were also shared through this play. Team tried to use a traditional medium of awareness, in order to keep things exciting, engaging and simultaneously impactful. Through this street play made people aware about the symptoms of such disabilities. The aim was to create inclusion, put forward a hand of equality and equity and also show how inclusivity is vital for all round development of a person and the society as well. The target audience was mostly youth, because they are the future and can contribute towards change. The street play team was a group of 18 participants including one CwD, 14 volunteers and three team members.



State Level C-20

21/04/2023: Swabhiman participated in the State level 'Policy Consultation Meeting on Economic Empowerment and Sustainable Livelihoods for People with Disabilities: Considerations for G20 Summit' organised by Sight Savers at Bhubaneswar. The participants for this event were the DPOs, disability experts, leaders with disabilities, young entrepreneurs with disabilities, students and researchers with disabilities. The main objective behind this event was policy consultation on 'Economic Empowerment and Sustainable Livelihoods for People with Disabilities: Considerations for G20 Summit'.

It was one of the initiatives to take the voices of PwDs, DPOs, disability experts, young entrepreneurs with disabilities to the global leaders. Recommendations on different themes taking insight from the best practices and challenges at local level while working for the mainstreaming of



PwDs were shared by the participants and the key advocacy points were taken from those sharings and were presented in the state level C-20 event by the representatives of Sight Savers.

Civil-20, Gender Equality & Disability Working Group Summit

22/04/2023: Dr. Sruti Mohapatra had participated in the Civil 20 Gender Equality and Disability Working Group Summit, at Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology (KIIT) in Bhubaneswar. The session focused on policy discussions and consolidation of policy recommendations for each of the 7 sub-themes covered under the Gender Equality & Disability Working Group, namely:

1. Economic Empowerment & Sustainable Livelihoods
2. Education & Skill Development
3. Environment & Disasters
4. Physical & Mental Health
5. Safety & Security
6. Society & Values + Engaging Men & Boys for Gender Equality
7. Disability

Being one of the leading disability activists her inputs were valued to be taken for global policy to advance the needs of people with disabilities.



Composite Regional Centre for Skill Development, Rehabilitation & Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities Namkum, Ranchi.

Disability Sensitization of OAS Probationers 2023

Dr. Sruti Mohapatra was invited as an inclusion expert to take a session on the topic "Special Needs of the Person with Disability and Administration" for Induction Training Programme of Odisha Administrative services OAS probationers (DR) at Gopabandhu Academy of Administration, Chandrasekharpur, Bhubaneswar. She spoke on the characteristics of the population with disabilities, how they can become participants in the process of development and how administration can understand the nuances of disability and persons with disabilities.



Engagement with Summer Interns

12/05/2023-12/06/2023: In the summer internship program Swabhiman team members conducted an orientation session on 'Understanding Disability', 'Disability Etiquette' and 'Inclusive Education.' Two more training sessions on Basic Sign Language on 14/05/2023 and 'Entitlements for PwDs' on 15/05/2023 were also conducted. This orientation was for 17 urban youth who were students of different degree colleges of Bhubaneswar city namely BJB Autonomous College, RD Women's University, and Biju Patnaik College of Social Work, Bhubaneswar. These sessions helped the students in gelling with the students with disabilities coming to the ICRCs functioning in Government schools of Bhubaneswar. It also helped them in understanding the issue of disability, the challenges faced by persons with disabilities as well as various laws, Acts and schemes ensuring their rights. This learning journey of the interns yielded some impactful outputs in the form of audio visual IEC materials, innovative TLM as well as audio books.



Voices of Interns

It was an Amazing experience that I will treasure forever. I learnt the importance of team work & power of empathy.

Gurudeep Behera

Khusboo Das

It was an extremely good experience working with Swabhiman and also Special Students. I learnt TLM Making, behavioural skills, empathy, patience etc.

It was a delightful experience that I would cherish forever. I learnt a lot of new things like TLM Making, documentation, report making, event management etc

Divyanee Pattnaik

Prachismita Samal

It is a very good experience for me. I learnt lots of experiences and real field exposure

I had a great experience with Swabhiman during my one-month internship and also learnt so many skills like; time management, event management, self-development, group efforts etc

Arpita Pattnaik

Purnima Pattnaik

It has been an amazing experience working with the Swabhiman team & Privilege to work with Special Students and get to know a lot about Disability.

it was a great experience working with Swabhiman. The skill & Knowledge like, documentation, event planning, sense of responsibility and guardianship etc. What I have gained is immeasurable

Jiban ku. Sethy

It was a great experience working with Children with Disabilities and the Swabhiman team. I learnt patience

Debasmita Mohanty

Snehal Pattnaik

This internship has taught me to learn and adapt to the World in simple and creative ways. I've also learned about disability

This one month internship program was amazing and I learned so many things

Adyasha Mishra

Prachismita Samal

It is a very good experience for me. I learnt lots of experiences and real field exposure

I spent a great time with special students and I felt that I bonded with them. It has been the best experience working with team Swabhiman

Pratyush Kamal

Arnab Mohapatra

This Internship was one of the best experiences of my life

The internship has given me a taste of working life, providing me with appropriate tools & transferable skills. On a more productive side, working with CwDs was one of the highlights of my internship

Ayushi Avipsa



Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Day

30/05/2023: Organised a photo exhibition on the occasion of Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Day at Jaydev Bhawan. There were 59 people who visited the exhibition including employees and interns. In this exhibition, details related to the causes, symptoms, and treatment of Multiple Sclerosis and Parkinson's Disease were presented in a different form. A quiz was conducted for the visitors to know more about the disability. Students from different colleges of Bhubaneswar, CwDs and youth, and their parents attended the exhibition.



Webinar on Disability and Modern Slavery

06/06/2023: Dr. Sruti Mohapatra spoke on 'Modern Trafficking and Disability' in the webinar organised by The Commonwealth 8.7 Network on 'Disability and Modern Slavery'. She at length explained about the push and pull factors of trafficking and engagement of PwDs in different industries and vulnerable work environment. She elaborately gave suggestions to discourage the emerging trends in modern trafficking and disability. This webinar had 79 participants from different countries (India, UK, Ghana). Shivaun Scanlan from UK (Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative) moderated, Dr. Emma Veitch from UK (Clinical Psychologist Helen Bamber Foundation) and Afasi Komla from Ghana (Director, Special Projects, Engage Now Africa) were the other speakers of this session.



This exploratory session looked at length into a rarely discussed topic and had intense cerebral discussions on the intersection between disability and modern slavery. Focus was on trafficking during disasters, forced beggary, forced marriage and forced labour. Psychological and health aspects, cruelty by employers and violence were discussed along with missing data on disability.

Swabhiman's Involvement in Supporting the Train Accident Survivors

03/06/2023: Swabhiman in partnership with OSdN and Disability Cell formed by civil society organisations extended its support to the survivors as well family members of the deceased from 3rd June till 1st week of July

The tragic train accident at Bahanaga on 02/06/2023 which involved the Chennai bound Coromandel Express, the Howrah bound Shalimar Express and a goods train was devastating. It took the lives of many and left many more with severe to minor injuries and the number varies from one source to other. But it had a profound impact across the country.

Alongwith prompt actions taken by the government, the sensitive public and many civil society organisations, youth groups, philanthropic institutions supported the victims and their family members in whatever way possible on their part.

From the early morning of 03/04/2023, Odisha State disAbility Network put its effort to provide support to the survivors of this tragic incident. Jayant Kumar Pradhan and his team Sasmita, Rashmita, Sarat and Sujata of Manav Utthan Seva of Soro, Balasore, an active member of OSdN, reached Ground Zero and provided all sorts of support. Starting from blood donation, help desk setup, counselling to the family members of aggrieved passengers, supply of drinking water, food and arrangement of free home stay, arrangement of transportation to helping in identification of injured and deceased. The united effort of public was praise worthy.

On 03/04/2023 the Odisha State disAbility Network and organisations working on disability came together on a single platform to provide support as per their capacity under Disability Cell.

On 04/06/2023 Team Swabhiman (Swatishree Maharana, Satyajit Behera and Pratyush) reached Ground Zero along with other team members of Disability Cell and distributed relief. They also visited district hospitals of Sore and Balasore along with the local OSdN partner. Another team of Swabhiman (Rushali Devi and Saswati Panda) went to the SCB Medical college and Hospital to take a stock of the survivors. Simultaneously Dr Sruti Mohapatra contacted senior railway officials and administrators to collect list of passengers who travelled with railway concession in both trains and the passenger details in disability coaches.

On 06/06/2023, a team of 4 from Swabhiman (Tanmayee, Satyajit, Swatishree and Saswati) went to meet the severely injured survivors at SCB Medical, College and Hospital, Cuttack with an intention to provide support in their rehabilitation in case of any disability and link them for any further support needed.

On 06/06/2023 the survivors of the train accident admitted in SCB Medical College and Hospital, were shifted to different wards. Team Swabhiman visited the general surgery ward, neurosurgery ward, orthopaedic, SCI Unit, eye building and met around 80-90 survivors. Out of them the team came across seven survivors with severe injuries which might end with some kind of disabilities. The survivors were contacted several times over telephone and were provided with counselling support and information about assistive devices and entitlements.



Meeting with District Legal Services Authority, Khordha and Member Secretary, Odisha State Legal Services Authority, Cuttack

10/05/2023: A meeting with District Judge cum Chairman, District Legal Services Authority, Khordha, Soudamini Singh, OJS and Sudipta

Acharya, Member Secretary, Odisha State Legal Services Authority, Cuttack was held for a discussion regarding implementation of different schemes of government as well as NALSA Schemes for PwDs. It was conducted in hybrid mode at the office of DLSA, Khordha and the participants were representatives of Swabhiman, CFAR, Aaina and Humanity along with Secretary DLSA Khordha and Member Secretary, Odisha State Legal Services Authority, Cuttack joined virtually. The aim of the meeting was to identify the issues and challenges faced by PwDs in accessing different social security schemes and suggestions to bring about changes.



Tanmayee Sahoo, Program Manager shared the issues and challenges faced by PwDs related to accessibility, disability certification, food security, accessible educational institutions, lack of awareness about the RPWD Act-2016 by public servants and service providers, challenges and accommodation required by all the 21 categories of PwDs. Looking at the intensity of the issue, Acharya suggested conducting a physical meeting with the participants to plan out a skeleton of Campaign to sensitise different stakeholders of the society.

Consultative Meet for Feedback on Draft National Guidelines and Implementation Framework on Equitable and Inclusive Education

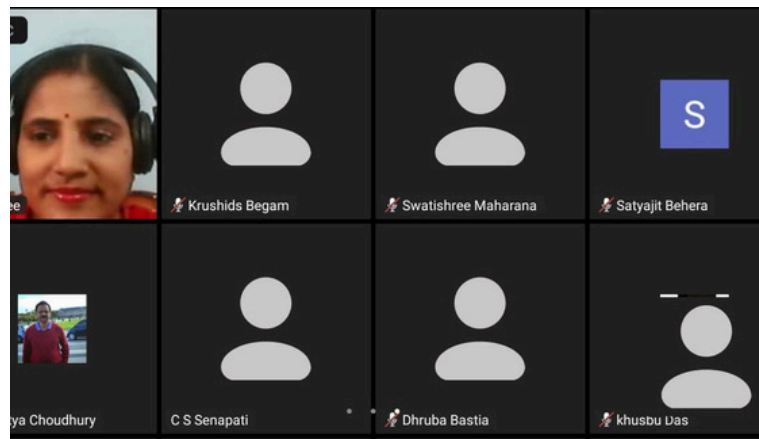
20/05/2023: Swabhiman participated in Consultative meet for inviting comments on draft National Guidelines and implementation Framework on



Equitable and Inclusive Education. This meeting was organised by OSEPA for the Ministry of Education to invite feedback from the States. There were 16 attendees from the government and Non-Government sectors who shared their feedback on the draft guideline on Universal Curriculum Framework. Along with government officials, selected Block Resource Teachers, participants from other civil society organisations working on inclusive education like Aaina, Sightsavers, Swabhiman, OLS, Chetna, etc. and shared their feedback for necessary adaptations. Through this meeting Ministry of Education invited feedback from the States.

Webinar on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPwD) Act, 2016

24/05/2023: Swabhiman (DLU-East) conducted a webinar on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPwD) Act, 2016 with all the partner organisations of Odisha State disAbility Network. There were 41 participants from 30 different organisations working on the issue of disability. The participants were the young professionals of these organisations along with DPO leaders, parents of CwDs etc. During the question-answer session participants raised their concerns regarding the implementation of RPwD Act in their localities, provisions made under the act and some queries related to procedure to avail social security schemes and inclusive education.



State Consultation on Gender Equality and Disability

20/05/2023: Participated in the 'State Consultation on Gender Equality and Disability' organised by Bal Kalyan Sangh in collaboration with PECUC and supported by The Asia Foundation under C20 G20 India Programme on Gender & Disability. Sharing the best practices of Swabhiman, Tanmayee Sahu, briefed its activities influencing policy implementation to promoting inclusion, from shaping the 'National Curriculum Framework' to setting up of 'Model Inclusive Child Resource Centers' replicated by GOO in all the 314 blocks of Odisha; Access audit of more than 700 public

buildings across 15 cities in India to access audit of public transport in Odisha; reaching out 47000 children and youth with disabilities directly and lakhs indirectly through scholarship, livelihood and advocacy to Sashakt Campaign for disability rights covering all the 30 districts of Odisha and lot more. The organisers will take insight from the best practices of all the participating organisations to prepare one advocacy agenda for C20.



Eastern India Consultation on Status of Persons with Disabilities

09/05/2023: Supported by NCPEDP New Delhi, organised the Eastern India consultation on Status of Persons with Disabilities. The aim of this Consultation was to understand the status of people with disabilities in the Eastern Region across the key thematic areas of education, employment, health and accessibility, specifically in the context of gender and SDGs realisation. There were a total 86 participants with 44 persons with disability from 5 states of Chhattisgarh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Odisha and West Bengal.



In her speech, Sruti Mohapatra, emphasised on the need for government-civil society and academia partnership to strengthen the development process. Highlighting the mandates of RPwD Act, Arman Ali said awareness and sensitization in a mission mode and Census, Data, Elections needs to continuously deliberated.

Presentation of five states on status of persons with disabilities and RPwD Act implementation was held in session Chaired by Jagadananda, Founder Member of CYSD, Ex information commissioner, Bratati Harichandan, and Dr. Asha Hansns, Executive Vice President SMRC listened to state presentations. From Odisha- TanmayeeSahu(Coordinator DLU-East), from Bihar- Rakesh Kumar (State secretary, Viklang Adhikar Manch), from Jharkhand - Ajit Kumar (Divyang Adhikar Manch), from Chhattisgarh- Ishwar Prasad Chhata (Director, Chhattisgarh Viklang Manch)gave a presentation on status of disability in respective states. The common thing that resonated in all the presentations reflected very poor implementation of the law and the rules framed there under. It was seen that the formation, functioning and contribution of the state advisory board is very weak. Though the notification for setting up the special court is seen but the functionality of such courts is not seen. It is seen that the district level committees are formed in many places but have not been functional.

Webinar on the Occasion Of Global Accessibility Awareness Day

18/05/2023: Dr. Sruti Mohapatra was invited as the Chief Speaker in a Webinar on the occasion of Global Accessibility Awareness Day which was organised by Composite Regional Centre for Skill Development, Rehabilitation & Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan) Namkum, Ranchi. This webinar was conducted for orientation on Accessibility for PwDs Dr. Sruti Mohapatra, threw light on the concept of Accessibility, its need for a PwD and ensuring accessibility and Inclusion.

ORGANISE WEBINAR ON OCCASION OF GLOBAL ACCESSIBILITY AWARENESS DAY

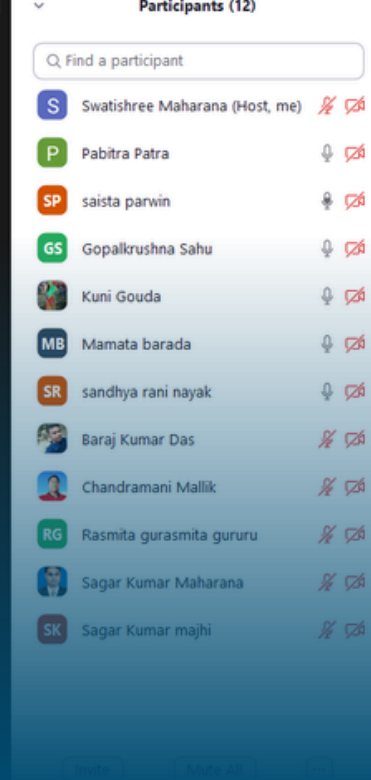
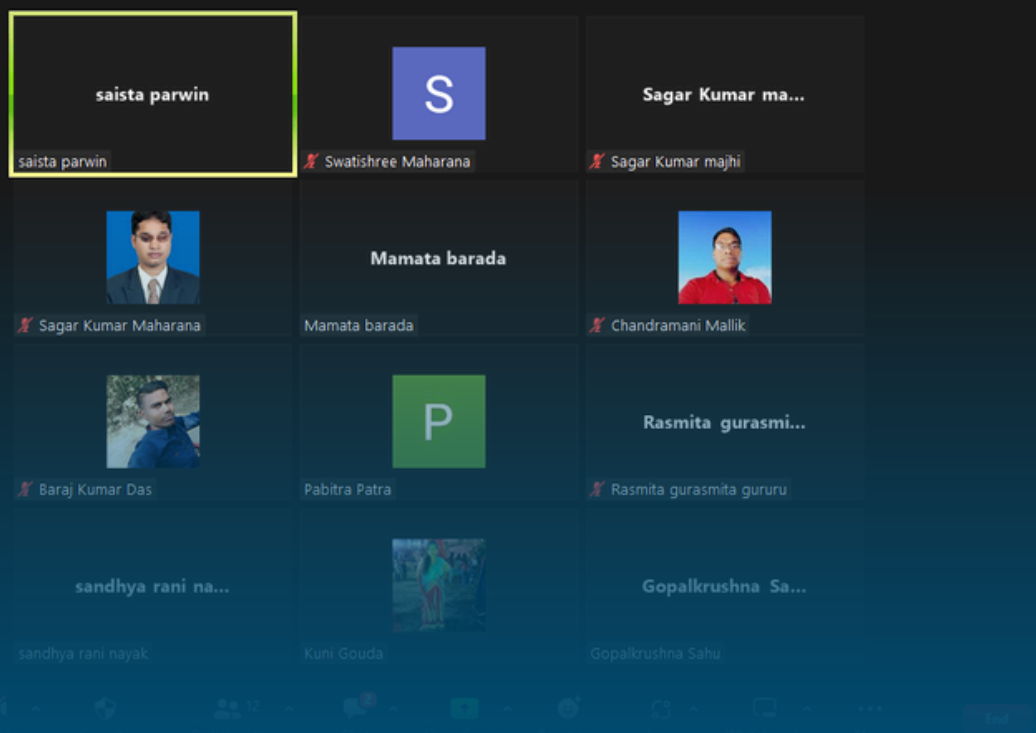
Topic: Accessibility for PwDs

 18 May 2023	 https://svnirtar1.webex.com/svnirtar1/j.php?MTID=meedc3b7b57529a5e5a78e768662f6a79	 3.00 PM TO 4.30 PM
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Patron  Dr. PP Mohanty Director SVNIRTAR,CUTTACK	Chief Speaker  Dr. Sruti Mohapatra Eminent Disability Right & Social Activist Recipient of prestigious Nari Shakti Award by Hon'ble President of India.	Convener  Sh. Jitendra Yadav Director CRC Ranchi
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Scholar Enrichment Program

18/05/2023 and 29/05/2023: Two Scholar enrichment classes were conducted by Swabhiman for students with disabilities on virtual platform. The resource person for these informative sessions was Shaista Perwin and the topics were on International Organisations like G-7, G20, SCO, WB, IMF, WTO etc.



EDITORIAL TEAM

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