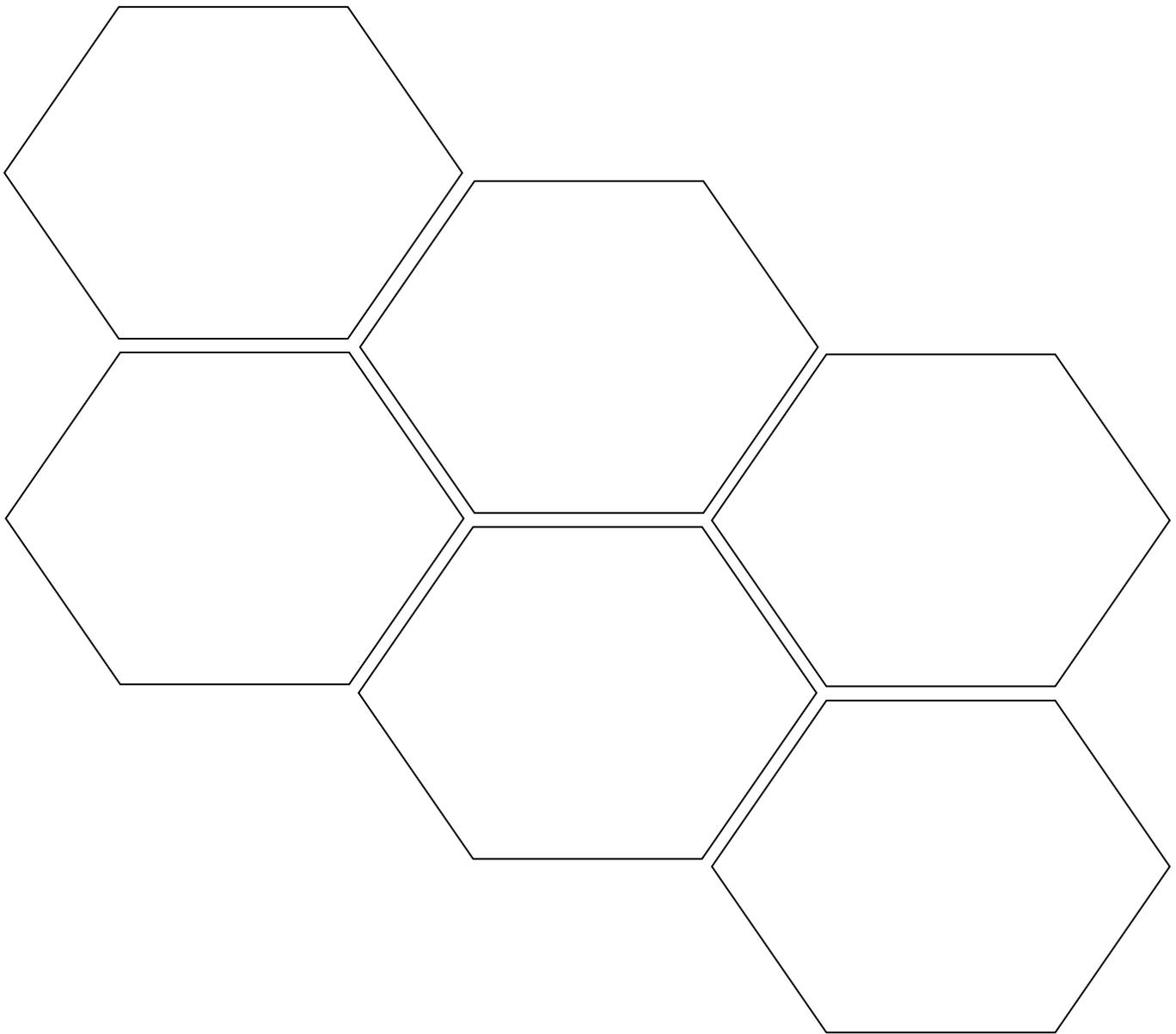


# ANNUAL REPORT

## 2017-18



[www.viewsindia.org.in](http://www.viewsindia.org.in)

**Voluntary Integration for Education and Welfare of Society**

**EMPOWERING PEOPLE . . .**

# ANNUAL RE

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## Secretary's Message



*Dear Friends,  
Greetings from VIEWS-India!*

Voluntary Integration for Education and Welfare of Society (VIEWS) is a growing grass-root organization working on livelihoods, organic farming, girl child education and menstrual hygiene in Odisha - home to some of the poorest communities in the world as per Human Development Index.

We are pleased to share our Annual Report for the year 2017-2018 that sum totals the activities and achievements of our organization during this year. Like previous years, this year too, our organization had the chance to work with different national and international agencies as well as the Government on various high impact projects in rural areas of Ganjam and urban slums of Bhubaneswar.

Our dedicated team focused on improving the quality of life and ensuring food security through education and livelihood programmes among marginal communities by adopting multi-stakeholder's approach. The outcomes were significantly reflected in terms of enhanced income, awareness on organic farming, improved menstrual hygiene among adolescents, and better retention in high schools.

We heartily acknowledge our donors and partners especially the National Foundation for India, The Hans Foundation, Australian High Commission, 1% fund for Development, Green Grants Fund, Nourish International, District Agriculture Department, NABARD, and other Community Based Organisations for their support to bring about the visible changes in lives of the poor.

Our future initiatives will continue to create an enabling environment of well-being for the poor with a focus on self -sustaining community led initiatives through knowledge, innovation and transformative action.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "S. Bheema Rao".

Mr. S. Bheema Rao

Secretary-VIEWS



**Introduction:**

Voluntary Integration for Education and Welfare of Society (VIEWS) is a growing grass-root organization working to improve food and livelihoods security among marginal and landless farmers in Odisha. Our attempt is to help reduce the food and nutrition issues faced by tribal, Dalits and the socially deprived by helping them revive organic and multi-cropping practices.

**Genesis:**

VIEWS was founded in 2002 by a group of youth in Odisha who initially assisted the Lutheran World Service (India) in relief and rehabilitation work after the super cyclone that hit Odisha in 1999. The experience and exposure made them realize the need for a committed local organization to continue working for the critical social issues plaguing the community.

**Our Focus Areas:**





### **Identity:**

- Registered under Societies Registration Act XXI of 1860 vide number GJM No: 7781 of 2008-2009 on 4th April 2008.
- Registered under Foreign Contribution Regulation Act FCRA 1976 vide Registration Number, 104910201, dated: 22/03/2012
- Registered u/s 12AA of the Income Tax Act 1961 vide no: 38/2012-2013, dated: 10.08.2012.
- Registered u/s 80G (2) & (5) of the Income Tax Act, 1961, vide no: 206/11-12/2012-2013, dated: 10.08.2012.
- Permanent Account Number (PAN) AABTV0563A.
- Tax Deduction Account Number (TAN) BBNV00240C

### **Key Achievements so far**

- 3000 farmers introduced to modified paddy cultivation method called the “SRI (systematic rice intensification)”,
- 2500 +organic farms created to replenish micro nutrients and restore soil health of their agricultural landscapes
- 3000+ marginal families provided with alternative livelihood in fishery, livestock, agribusiness and microenterprise development for ultra-poor.
- 3000 nutrition gardens created to help women ensuring access to healthy diet with adequate macro and micronutrients at their backyards.
- 1500+ Youth empowered through training to enhance their employability and job opportunities
- 1000+ adolescent girls trained in menstrual hygiene solutions, reproductive and sexual health.
- 2500+ Women empowered and enabled via Self Help Groups as a new breed of community actors

# Sustainable Agriculture

Agriculture in Odisha is the mainstay of majority of the populace and thus, holds the key to socio-economic



development of the State. Despite bearing the brunt of frequent natural calamities like cyclones, drought and flash floods, this sector still provides employment to more than 60% of the population directly or indirectly, making it the largest employment sector of the state. Hence, development in agriculture sector is vital to set the pace of development in the state.

Our ongoing project "Improving Smallholder's Livelihood through Agriculture and Allied Interventions" aims to improve the quality of life of poor families from excluded section of society in Ganjam district of Odisha through promotion of agriculture and allied activities.

## ***The key objectives framed to attain the project goals are:***

- Promote and strengthen Community Based Organizations (Women SHGs, Producer Groups) to ensure sustainability
- Increase the annual income of tribal, schedule caste and other marginalized households through strengthening of agriculture and allied livelihoods
- Build collaboration between producers, industry, governments and other stakeholders in agricultural sector for overall social and economic empowerment

As per the project design, a community based participatory approach was adopted where the multi stakeholders including CBOs, Government and Civil society played significant role as facilitators from household planning, project executing, community monitoring and evaluating the program.

## Strengthening of Community Based Institutions

Women Self Help Group plays a vital role in project planning and implementation of the livelihoods project. VIEWS promoted 60 Self Help Groups and organized various capacity building initiatives on group dynamics, SHG Management,



Leadership Development, Book keeping, fund management, Financial Inclusion, Enterprise Development, Business Planning, Networking and linkage with stakeholders. Our women Self Help Groups have been playing a vital role in implementation of this livelihoods project since its inception. Our SHGs linked with bank and Odisha Livelihoods Mission for financial inclusion and to access livelihood entitlement.

**“Our SHG members not only saving money but also pays key role in development of our own village”** said by Gita Behera of Sri Krishna Jyoti SHG, Hinjiligam village.

**Unity is the Strength:** Bainsigam village had a pond that was mostly used for irrigation purpose. However it was not sufficient. The member of Maa Ambika SHG shared their problem of water crisis for agriculture and proposed renovation and deepening of the pond so that it could be used for irrigation, bathing and inland fishing too. VIEWS conducted a village meeting and planned to renovate and deepening of the pond. The team discussed with the villagers and decided the community contribution and contribution of the VIEWS. The community cleaned up the pond and SHG members offered labour to dig the pond. With the help of the SHG member, the renovation is completed. The SHG members are doing inland fishing and also using it for vegetable cultivation. The community asset has motivated women SHG to start enterprise activity for holistic development of the village in participatory approach.



## Creation of Community Cadre:

IEWS has been promoting social capital in terms of “Community Resource Person” who play an important role in providing agricultural and livelihood inclusions services to the marginal farmers at field level. We have been conducting numerous training cum exposure to build the skills sets of community resource person on agri-tech sustainable livelihoods practices in collaboration with Agriculture University and extension centre. They have demonstrated sustainable agriculture practices and reached more that 1500 HHs ensuring package of practices in organic farming during this year.



***“I feel proud, when our farmers get almost double the production in paddy by adopting sustainable agriculture practices in their field”*** said Murali, a community Resource Person.

## Training on Organic Farming

In our operational area of Ganjam district, the current farming practices are dominant with inorganic practices. The farmers mostly use chemical fertilizer to extract more and more production by applying chemical fertilizers and pesticide, despite of knowing the fact that this degrades the soil quality and its fertility. In order to bring back to traditional farming practices and focused on organic methods of farming. We organize several training on organic farming with technical support from District Agriculture Department and Livelihood Exports.



*“Mr. Rupak Mahallik, Assistant Agriculture Officer from Patrapur block deeply interacted with the marginalized farmers on issues of farming and facilitating to access the agriculture schemes”.*

**Promoting Organic Bio-Fertilizer:** The farmers have been preparing various organic manure and pesticides by their own and implemented the best practices in the vegetable cultivation, millets and nutritional gardens. The farmers prepared organic manure like, Handikhata, Vermi compost, Fish Tonic, Bijamrita, Jeevamrita. Now farmers are preparing organic manure in their home and use it in their field which is helping them to reduce the cost of production and providing healthy food. This initiative helped farmers to produce organic food and secure food security at household level in 25 village of Chikiti and Patrapur.

*“We prepare Handikhata (Pot Manure) by our own and applied in our vegetable cultivation. This fertilizer helped to enhance our production, and decrease cost and finally we got a good price from the market” said by Amar Malik.*

**System of Rice Intensification:** In a country like India and more so in an agrarian state like Odisha, Rice production has a direct bearing on the income of farmers and on poverty alleviation. Rice being staple food of Odisha. Rice in Odisha is predominantly a crop of the Khariff season. Therefore, newer initiatives have been taken to replicable technologies suited to the respective agro-ecological situations. System of Rice Intensification (SRI) has now come and recognized as a method of rice production to enhance productivity that involves specific management practices for the crop plant, soil, water and nutrients. Even though the SRI method of paddy cultivation was practiced and developed by Father Henri de Laulanie in Madagascar in the mid 80's, in the state of Odisha, it was experimented for the first time in 2005-2006.

The yield stagnation of majority of crops, more so in rice due to decline in input use efficiency. Water is the main input in Agriculture. It is estimated that one kilogram of rice is produced by consuming 5000 liters of water. 80% of fresh water is used in Agriculture, out of which more than 50% is consumed by the rice crop alone. Due to miss use of water by agriculture production system, there is huge loss of water,

contributing to decline in water use efficiency. Due to over use of water and population production, the per capital availability of water is declining at a faster rate.

The drastic reduction has far reaching consequences on rice production and productivity. At this critical situation, we developed an innovative technology to produce more rice from every drop. Among the existing water saving methods, SRI now acclaimed as the most efficient.

IEWS has conducted series of trainings cum demonstration on improved agriculture practices of paddy cultivation at village level. IEWS also conducted Crop planning for Khariff season at village level with the support of community resource persons in project operational area with the aim to spread of seasonal planning, new technologies on different crops and to preserve their local indigenous seeds with the

aim of enhancing the production as well as productivity of agriculture.

**The constraints in SRI adoption:**

- Increased of small holdings of lands surrounded by normal flooded rice fields, it becomes difficult to control water at saturation level
- Sufficient quantity of organic manure is not available
- All the land is not perfectly levelled to practice SRI
- Preparation of the bed before transplanting needs precision
- It is risky to adopt this method in rain fed areas
- All types of soils may not be suitable to achieve higher productivity through SRI method

**Technology practiced:**

Given below are some basic technical details on SRI

- SRI should be practiced preferable in a well levelled land.
- The land should have proper irrigation and drainage facility
- The soil must be fertile

The information on sustainable agriculture practices disseminated through wall paintings, community meetings, trainings and field level handhold support to the farmers. Currently the new farmers were motivated to cultivate paddy in improved agriculture practices by seeing the benefits earned by the farmers in paddy cultivation and the old farmers are interested to cultivate their total land in improved agriculture practices as they have experienced that this method is helping them to reduce the cost of production as well as it increases the yield.

**Success story: Lush green with line transplanting**

*Nakamudia is a small village in Ramachandrapur Gram Panchayat of Chikiti Block. There are 16 households in this village- all of them belonging to the Scheduled Tribe category. They largely depend on agriculture and forest produce for their livelihood. These families used grow paddy, vegetable, millets, sweet potato and pulses in their land and depended on rain for agriculture.*



*After intervention of VIEWS, the villagers formed a Self-Help Group and learnt to prepare organic manure. They were also informed of the different improved practices in agriculture. Following the intervention, this year, 14 out of the 16 households tried line transplanting in approximately 36 acres land. All the households followed some of the package of practices like seed priming, seed treatment; weed management etc. The farmers are joyous on seeing their lush green fields that now have 45 tillers for every two saplings. They are also spraying organic pot manures (Handi Khata) in their field. The villagers admitted that while earlier, the transplantation process took them about a month to complete, this time it was completed in five days. This has also reduced the labor cost. The village now appreciates the contribution of VIEWS for teaching them new techniques that reduce the cost of production. They are now hoping for an increased yield.*

From our on-going experiments on SRI, it appeared an excellent opportunity for raising rice production and productivity and reducing food security

**Vegetable Cultivation:** Vegetable are very common in human diet without a

**Bitter gourd crop that added sweetness to Pradhans life**

Forty two-year-old Rajendra Pradhan of Balipadar village under Badapur post office and Patrapur block is a farmer by occupation and heads a family of five. He has been into agriculture for the past 20 years and owns agriculture land measuring about an acre. Until now, Pradhan had been cultivating paddy and ragi crops for sale and self-consumption. However the profits were extremely low and failed to provide him yearlong food security. Things changed for him after he attended the "Nutritional agriculture training" organized by VIEWS with support of THF/NFI. Rajendra was motivated to start vegetable farming. To start with, he cultivated bitter gourd. Besides providing him with proper information about the crop, VIEWS trained Pradhan to prepare organic manure. The improved line plantation method along with the use of organic manures such as Handi Khata, Bacterial fertilization etc. brought him an yield of 2 to 3 quintal yield. This initiative made him earn a profit of Rs 5000 and he has now extended the bitter gourd cultivation to the entire one acre of land. Pradhan believes that it is a profitable alternative for him and motivates other farmers to try the same. He also spreads the message of organic manure and line plantation method to his fellow farmers.

vegetable a good diet is incomplete, so it very inevitable to cultivate vegetable to meet demand of market. The vegetable cultivation of Odisha is comparing beside state is very low. Some community had conventional practiced in the area of VIEWS. But



it is not so profitable because of high cost of investment in the form of huge seeds, labor and fertilizer and so on. So, VIEWS introduced some improved method and organic farming concept what can affordable for a marginal farmer to do vegetable cultivation. In this process the farmers are following germination test, seed treatment

of their local variety seeds, raise bed nursery, transplanting single plant in proper space stacking the creepers, weeding the field frequently and applying organic manure in vegetable field. The farmers in 30 villages are cultivating vegetables like eggplant, long bean, ridge guard, Okra in their land.

**Promotion of Millets and Pulses:** Millets are highly nutritious and have several health benefits. People are taking up millet farming along with paddy. Ragi is a relatively less focused crop due to the promotion of paddy, incentives in SRI cultivation and focus on cash crop cultivation by the government. VIEWS conducted series of village level meetings, field trainings and shared packages of practices on millets through leaflets and wall paintings. We also lively demonstrated various packages of practices on millets in the field for seed selection, seed treatment and germination test, nursery preparation, land preparation, transplanting in line method and mechanical weed management in villages for practical understanding among the marginal farmers. The farmers in 8 villages are prepared nursery for finger millets. We have introduced two



new variety of finger millets i.e Arjun and Subhra, which we have collected from centre for Pulses Research, Berhampur. The scientist has been introduced white finger millets (Subhra variety) which can attract the farmers and the customers to use finger millets. We have also introduced one variety of Arhar (BRG2 variety), it's a high yield variety. After conducting the exposure visit of farmers to CPR, Berhampur, farmers showed their interest to cultivate the above variety, so we collect the variety and distribute 5 KGs of BRG2 variety. From there we can multiply the variety and share among the farmers. This initiative helped to increase the production as well as food security of the marginal farmers in the operational areas.

**Promotion of Kitchen Garden:** Kitchen Garden adds extra nutritional value to minimize malnutrition and decrease the daily cost incurred on vegetables. This quarter we have supported seeds and seed treatment of vegetable seed and promote kitchen garden for adding nutritional value of their family. We have supported seeds in 13 villages to promote kitchen garden under our operational area.

**Mushrooming hope for elderly farmers:**

Krishna Pradhan aged about 62 from Kishorchandrapur is a progressive farmer. With the seed support from VIEWS, he started cultivating mushroom in 16 cent area of land. As many as 144 beds were arranged in the land each with the capacity of providing 500 gm to 600 gm mushroom in roughly two weeks' time. Pradhan now gets 10-12 kgs of mushroom per day from the beds. The yield increases during July to August as the production increases to 750 gms to 1 kg per bed. While Pradhan invested 50,000 for the business, he now claims to be earning 15000 to 20000 per yield. This is the best alternative for elderly farmers who are not strong enough for physical labor, he now believes.



**Micro Enterprise Development:** VIEWS has supported 25 HHs in 4 villages to take up backyard poultry as alternative livelihood.

## LIVESTOCK PROMOTION

As many as 35 households were supported to take up goat rearing as alternative livelihood during this quarter. This apart, 18 beneficiaries were also supported to undertake goat rearing activities.

**Case Study:** VIEWS has been supporting landless women in its operational areas by introducing them to goat rearing. Nuabandha is a remote village under K. Nuagan panchayata of Chikiti block. As many as 13 households in this village belong to ST Category. Their income source depends only on agriculture. VIEWS found



the scope of goat rearing as an alternative livelihood for the people in this area. Kundei Malik, a widow with very little farm land was selected by the villagers to be the beneficiary of goat rearing. Following training on animal husbandry, VIEWS supported her with 6000 INR to purchase two goats. She also constructed a goat shed to check the chance of mortality.

***After 6 months, the goat had two kids, which currently cost 3000 INR. She sold a goat at the price of 6500 INR. She wants to increase the no of goat to grow her business. She thanks VIEWS for having supported her with an alternative livelihood.***

### **Multi-Stakeholders Engagement:**

To reduce the gap between welfare schemes and the community, four block- level consultation meets on government schemes were organized between the community and various line departments from agriculture, animal husbandry, horticulture and another block office. More than 270 farmers participated in the meets. Intracultural

Agriculture Officer, Assistant Agriculture Officer, Block Program Manager from OLM and FEO, and VS attended the meets and discussed the govt. schemes meant for farmers.

### **Donor visit**

Representatives of The Hans Foundation visited our project operational area and interacted with women self-help groups, village development committee members and marginal farmers. They discussed with the farmers about the project intervention on agriculture, micro enterprise development and



community institutional building. The donor representatives also visited the agriculture fields and took stock of the micro enterprise development activities. The community discussed their village development plans and various maps prepared to analyze the village resource.

**Exposure Visit:** Our staff Saroja Kumar Satapathy and Sunil Kumar Ghadei attended



an exposure visit to Ranchi and Jamsedpur Tata. The three-day visit was organized by National Foundation for India at JSLPS and TSRD, Jharkhand.

# Promoting Organic Farming

The increasing dependence on chemical fertilizers and synthetic pesticides in the agriculture fields and kitchen gardens of rural Ganjam has not only led to the degradation of soil quality but also resulted in many health hazards affecting the community. Agri experts have been suggesting that supplementing soil with organic manures is the only solution to improve the soil health and promote environment sustainability. Although the agriculture officers from the state government have tried to counsel the farmers on the harsh effects of the chemicals on the soil and ecology, many are far from being convinced and prefer to stick to their old ways. A few farmers who are keen to try out the concept of organic manure are preoccupied with their daily routines to prepare their own organic manures. The process is usually time consuming and involves collecting the natural raw materials, mixing them in the right proportion and waiting for several days until the organic manure is ready for use. Alternatively, the easy availability of neatly packed chemical pesticides prompts the farmers to use these toxic substances in the fields. They do not realize that although these products produce instant results, they leave behind a trail of harmful after effects on the soil, the community and the climate. Often, the hybrid seeds and chemical fertilizers increase the cost of production of the marginal farmers who are forced to take loan from the local money lenders at higher rate of interest which they are unable to repay later. This triggers suicides among the farming community and forcing many of them to migrate to the cities in search of jobs for their survival & livelihoods.

To address the above issues, VIEWS mobilized women self-help group members and engage them in producing packaged "ready to use organic manures" and allied products at larger scale as an entrepreneurship activity. The women members will be trained by agri experts to prepare Organic Seed Treatment Solutions, Organic Nutrients and Organic pest control solutions. The ready mix will then be packaged and made market ready to be sold through different selling points. The farmers will no longer have to wait to prepare the organic manures which are otherwise very time



taking. On the other hand, the organic manure making unit will double up as a social enterprise for the village women adding to their income leading to their financial independence.

### **Key activities undertaken**

- 73 women in 14 SHGs promoted as women organic entrepreneurs
- “Packages of Practices on Organic Manure” containing information on organic farming and benefits of organic manure developed in regional language –Odia to reach out to more than 1500 farmers.
- Marginal women trained in organic farming and sustainable agricultural practices
- Skill training in organic farming and techniques provided to 120 farmers
- Exposure visit conducted for 52 farmers at OUAT agriculture extension and progressive farmers demo field.
- Established organic manure outlets in 12 villages
- 1100 farmers cultivated paddy, ragi and vegetables in organic way
- Promoted and supported cultivation of paddy and vegetables using organic manures in 2100 acres of land besides supply of seeds and agriculture implements to 1100 farmers.
- Created 10 seed banks to preserve indigenous seeds
- Supported vermi compost pits in 10 villages to generate organic manures for farm use
- Social marketing of organic manures done in local areas

### **Socio-Economic impact Analysis**

The project significantly contributed to popularizing organic farming among the community during the last one year. The organic manures prepared by the women surfaced as a much-needed alternative for the farmers.

who are now already convinced about the benefits of the same. The “packages of practices on organic manure” played an important role in spreading the information and knowledge on organic farming among the marginal farmers in remote areas besides helping in renewing the interest in farming among the youth. Promotion of vermin composite pits and seeds banks have helped to preserve the local indigenous

seeds. The project encouraged women entrepreneurship to securing sustainable livelihood by creating employability and increasing their income. The trainings helped 73 poor women from 14 SHGs by boosting their self-confidence and enhancing the skill sets of 120 farmers. The women - as cadres are taking lead in promotion of organic farming and benefits of bio-fertilizers in villages.



More than 1100 farmers understand the importance of organic farming and are convinced about the same. They now have access to readymade organic products and quality seeds at their doorsteps. The low-cost manures have helped farmers to reduce their cost of production. This year more than 1100 marginal farmers adopted the new system of rice intensification, vegetable cultivation and millets promotion using organic manures sure to improve soil fertility and enhance nutritional value of the crops. The organic manures improved production in millets and paddy as well as farmers income by INR18,500 this year. The project created self-employment for 50 women from 10 SHGs with enterprising skills. More than 2100 acres of land have started using organic and semi organic farming methods in paddy, vegetable and ragi cultivation in operational areas. The impact was reflected in increase in production in various crops like paddy, millets vegetables and kitchen garden.

The project brought positive changes in the livelihood practices of local communities through promotion of collectives of agri entrepreneurs. The skill building initiatives improved the leadership and effective management of this enterprise. The project

significantly affected the lives of farmers in their income generation activities, livelihood security and self-employability.

**Sustainable:** VIEWS plans to continue the project from resources generated from government and the external support received from other agencies. VIEWS



started registration process to establish as a revenue generated woman led agriculture business enterprise. After six months, they are able to manage their day to day operational expenditure from their own revenue generated from this enterprise. VIEWS will continue to play an active role to facilitate the organic social enterprise to strengthen strong links with government schemes and projects so as to generate the required assistance.

### **Key lessons learned**

- There is a need for continuous hand holding support for women in business development
- Long term project support is required for the organization to ensure self-sustainability at field level
- Brand promotion and professional marketing techniques are required to reach out to more farmers.
- Social Marketing of the product needs a lot of effort and it is difficult to find volunteers to do the job for free.
- Appointment of a Marketing Manager for the products would have brought better results.
- Capacity building of farmers, exposure visit and establishment of field farmers schools will required to change the mind-set of the people
- GP level women centric agriculture resources centers to be established to provide information on agri practices and tools

We experienced that farmers who are already habituated with immediate results shown by chemical fertilizers, run out of patience after applying the organic manures as the results are slow and time taking.

## ADOLESCENT

## GIRLS



## EMPOWERMENT

Bhubaneswar-the state capital of Odisha is a home to an ever-increasing migrant workforce from the interior pockets of the state looking for employment opportunities. Majority of these men and women land up in the slums and join the unorganized sector ending up as construction workers, municipality sweepers, housemaids etc. The children are often left behind to fend for themselves. Although enrolled to nearby government schools, a majority of these children remain disinterested in studies. Many of them –especially the girl's dropout and stay back at home to raise their younger siblings and cook for their parents. These young women subsequently end up joining their parents in the unorganized sector and the vicious cycle is repeated. Several houses in the slums are replete with stories of early marriages, death due to early child birth, sexual violence and young mothers deserted

by their husbands. There is an immediate need of intervention to help these girls reach their full potential by providing them the right support, education and resources. These young women must be motivated to spend more time in school and complete their education. They must be sensitized that discontinuing their school to carry out domestic duties, such as caring for younger siblings, cooking and whiling away their time, undermines their opportunities for education and employment.

The project aims to establish an adolescent resource center with all information and IT equipment to familiarize the girls with technology, use of mails, search engine, internet and basic computer skills that will come handy for employment. The resource centre will.

- Provide career counseling, communication, personality development including informative and educative audio video e-contents to attract the adolescent girls and renew their interest in education while sensitizing them on good health and hygiene practices.
- Facilitate exposure visits to academic institutions and social enterprises to boost their interest towards a good career, besides interaction with social entrepreneurs and role models for encouragement and motivation.
- The health vertical in the facility will provide information on menstrual health and sex education.
- Handhold the girls to be self-reliant and start a social enterprise. •Inspiring girls to be a change agent to work for their community development through micro project work

***The key achievements of the project were***

- Established adolescent resource centre in Shikharhandi slum with computers, LCD projector, teaching and learning resource materials.
- Conducted remedial classes for 78 school dropouts and academically weak students on various subjects in different batches on a daily basis.
- 105 adolescents trained on computer literacy, career counselling, communication and personality development
- 27 young women imparted beautician skill training.
- 42 girls imparted tailoring training
- 120 adolescents imparted training in life skills and sexual reproductive health

- 5 Interface meets organized with successful social entrepreneurs from Urban Micro Business Centre, the Batti Ghar Foundation and Action Aid to generate interest on social entrepreneurship among the youth
- 4 Exposure visits to Centurion University Gram Tarang, ICICI Skills, Urban Micro Business Centre
- 30 change agents created, trained to implement youth led community development projects related to menstrual and personal hygiene, literacy, sanitation and awareness on prevention of child marriage.

### Project Activity description

**Community Mobilization and Base line study:** The project team mobilized more than 135 girls from the project inception by using participatory learning approach tools with the support of Shikarachandi Youth Club, Urban local bodies, teachers. The project also conducted a base line study for 200 adolescent girls in Shikarachandi Nagar to analyse the existing status of girls in the project area with the help of local teachers. Mrs. Minati Singa from Times of India, Bhubaneswar was actively participated in door visits to mobilize the girls from the urban slums' areas.

**Establishment of adolescent resource centre:** VIEWS established adolescent Girls Resource Centre in Shikarachandi Nagar with the support of Australian High Commission, New Delhi with all information and IT equipment's to familiarize the girls with technology, use of mails, search engine, internet and basic Microsoft that was come handy for employment.



The resource centre physical structure equipped by Computers, LCD Projector, Printer and other digital materials were installed. The centre was also provided career counselling, communication, personality development including informative and educative audio video e-contents to attract the adolescent girls and renew their

interest in higher education. The centre also provided story books and games that demonstrated the use of entrepreneurial skills such as networking, business planning, financial literacy and creativity.

**Remedial classes:** Around 50 high school drop outs motivated to return to schools and complete their education. Through motivational videos and talks by role models (from their own community who have



become successful in their careers) the girls were encouraged to regain their lost interest in studies. The resource centre conducted remedial classes on English, Math and Science to help these students to prepare in advance before they enroll the next academic year. We also organized exposure visits to Centurion University to show them how higher education and exposure changed their lives.

#### **Trainings on Basic Computer and Digital Skills:**

VIEWES provided trainings to 110 girls on basic computer education and digital environment to enhance their information

technically skills. The course covered basic Microsoft operating system includes MS word, MS Excel, PowerPoint



preparation, Internet, Google search and social networking skills.

#### **Life Skills Education:**

VIEWES designed a life skills education training models and provide 5 series of trainings for 100 girls with technical support from experts. The training sessions includes self-awareness, decision making. The health vertical in the facility provided



information on menstrual health and sex education while sensitizing them on good health and hygiene practices. The life skill training given girls the experience of being change-makers, leaders, problem-solvers and entrepreneurs.

### **Trainings on Communication Skills and Personality Development:**

A large number of young adults especially girls are not able to secure employment due to lack of soft skills, primarily the ability to speak and understand English, the conversational English classes helped to help them overcome this problem and gain employment. VIEWS conducted a series of trainings on communication and personality development for girls to enhance the soft skills by using inspiring stories and group exercises. We supported to improve their grammatical, writing and presentation skills. This helped to learning more engaging and empower adolescent girls



with skills to enhance their employability. The interventions served as a pull factor to enhance access and retention of girls in schools. This was increased attendance rates, decrease dropout rates, improve learning levels and change community attitudes towards education.

**Training on Sexual Reproductive Health and Personnel Hygiene:** The 5 series of trainings organized for girls to improve knowledge on sexual reproductive health, menstrual and personal hygiene to minimize early pregnancy and sexual transmitted diseases. More than 120 adolescent girls participated in various topics related

- Adolescent health
- Sexual Reproductive health
- HIV/AIDS
- Menstrual hygiene



We have also distributed low cost sanitary napkins to the girls to enhance their menstrual hygiene in urban slums of Bhubaneswar .

**Workshops on Career Counselling:** 3 Career Counselling workshops generated awareness on career options available for bright future planning in the market. The resource persons from ICICI Skills and job centric skills trainings and higher education were interacted directly with girls and encourage taking corrective decisions for their better future.

**Exposure Visit:** VIEWS facilitated exposure visits to Gram Tarang, Bhubanwsvar Urban Micro Business Centre. Academic institutions and social enterprises to boost their interest towards a good career, besides interaction with social entrepreneurs and role models for encouragement and motivation. It was a day to cherish for the 50



young girls from the Shikharchandi slum in Bhubaneswar, who went on an exposure visit to Centurion University at Jatani on the outskirts of the city on Saturday. The girls, most of whom are high school dropouts and now working as housemaids and construction workers visited various skill training units of the university. The main

objective of the trip organized by Project Cheysta –an initiative for adolescent girls supported by the Australian High Commission, was to build motivation and interest among these girls in continuing their education while giving them an idea of various skills and vocational trainings available for them. The girls went around the university campus taking a tour of different skill centers, observing students in classrooms, visiting a sports centers, and library, exposing them to life after class ten. They interacted with students in skill training units like tailoring, coffee-making, home nursing, dairy, beauty treatment, hospitality and carpentry. “It was inspiring to meet these students here who gave us a new ray of hope. We understand how important education is and I will do everything possible to complete my matriculation,” said Manga –a class 7 drop out from the slum.

The project handholds adolescent girls –both high schoolers and dropouts in the age group of 13 to 25 to complete their education by providing them the requisite support in terms of remedial classes, coaching , skill trainings , life skill lessons, career coaching and more at a Resource Centre set up inside the slum premises . “Our resource centre has been conveniently accessed by the girls as and when they find time. We have been working closely with 100 girls, 10 of whom will be appearing the matriculation this year through Project Cheysta,” said Sarmishtha Dash, the project coordinator.

**Skills for Employment:** VIEWS conducted market aligned skills trainings like Tailoring, Beautician and Retailing etc for 40 adolescent girls with technical support from the certified training centers to generate employability and enterprise development. VIEWS motivated girls to establish youth led micro enterprises. This was held to earn monthly visible income, become self-reliant and improve their quality of life with dignity.



**Interface Meet with Social Entrepreneurs:** VIEWS provided training on social enterprise for the adolescent girls to generate interest on social enterprise and 5 Interface meets organized with successful social entrepreneurs to generate interest on social entrepreneurship among the youth. The project supported handhold the girls to be self-reliant and start a social enterprise.



**Youth Led Micro Projects:** During the project period, VIEWS created 30 change agents within the community. These “super girls” identified problems within the community and put their own micro ideas into action for social change. The youth led micro projects included girl child sex ratio, girl’s enrolment, HIV/AIDS awareness campaigns, environmental sanitation drive and personal hygiene etc and implemented through active mentoring support from the VIEWS. This experiential journey helped to discovering their inner qualities of the young women and strengthening themselves as a leader



**Social Impact Analysis:** The resource centre with library, and different audio video aids is being accessed by the girls as per their convenience at any time of the day. The centre created a platform for girls to meet and talk their problems and discuss solution on subjects like early marriage, and gender discrimination in education. More than 120 under privileged adolescent girls have been empowered through education and skill training. The constant motivation by teachers has ensured not only regular attendance but also better retention of these girls in schools. Girls in the beautician training learnt the basics of threading, manicure, pedicure, facial, haircutting and waxing. 42 young women and girls trained under tailoring started practicing the same for alternate livelihood. The interface meetings with entrepreneurs have helped young women to explore news business ideas. Regular sessions on literacy, personal and menstrual hygiene changed the behavioral practices in the slum community.

The interventions have brought in marked changes in learning levels of the underprivileged adolescent girls. They have gained the confidence to take decisions and speak out their opinions. An increased attendance in local schools has been reported while a good number of students have been scoring better in math and science as compared to last time. A majority of students can now frame common English sentences. They have a better understanding of sexual reproductive health, menstrual hygiene, cons of early marriage etc. and confidently participate in discussions and voice their opinions on such topics. The beautician and tailoring trainings have encouraged girls to plan their own units for income generation. Many high school drop outs have enrolled in open schools, and become role models for other girls in the slum. Learning computers and the use of internet has enabled them to browse through contents that interest them.

Even after the completion of the project, VIEWS will continue to hand hold the students and reach out whenever possible with assistance in admissions and any other support they would require to pursue higher education or for gaining improved skills. We are also getting in touch with the local government and other agencies to help us with resources and funds in order to continue with the interventions. Although the project got over in February, we have seen many students from the slum reaching the resource centre asking for suggestions and guidance in admission and pursuing college education. Some students have queried about the loan facilities and financial assistance to start their own units. The change has already set in and showing its impact. Moreover, the project has impacted the behavioral and attitude changes in the community especially the parents. Many elderly women are convinced about investing in girl's education. Although we were able to motivate many girls there were stray cases where the students who were coming regularly to the classes and showing good improvement suddenly stopped coming. On follow up, we were informed that these girls were sent off to cities to get engaged in jobs. These girls had to unfortunately discontinue their studies midway. Similarly, despite efforts there were cases where parents forced their daughters for wedding and our efforts to convince them failed. The use of mobile phones was found to a major distraction of many girls. The easy availability of data has made them use mobile applications like whats app and Facebook and we came to know of many stories of how poor gullible girls fell prey to fraudsters.

# MENSTRUAL HYGIENE MANAGEMENT



The coastal fishing community residing in the seaside villages of Ganjam, in Odisha, India continue to consider menstrual blood as impure and a shameful thing to talk or discuss about. Women in the community have carried down several myths and superstitions associated with menstruation. Since it looked down upon, women tend to neglect the importance of proper menstrual management. Dirtiest of cloth are used to manage the bleeding during periods. Often

these are quickly washed before being spotted by anyone else and tucked away in thatched roof tops. The cloth-still moist are again used the next day. The practice often leads to a number of infection among the women folk such as urinary tract diseases, cervical cancers and other genital diseases in women who usually do not seek medical help out of shame and embarrassment. Severe complications sometimes lead to loss of life.

The project “Establishment of Village level Low-Cost Sanitary Napkin Production Unit for Enterprise Development” was aimed to dispel the blind beliefs surrounding menstruation that is considered impure and unclean among the fishing community in Odisha. Our aim was to sensitize the households in the coastal fishing villages in Ganjam about the importance of menstrual hygiene and burst the superstitions surrounding the biological process that is being carried down generations after generations. At the same time we wished to provide them with an alternative in form of sanitary pads that were not only affordable but could be easily accessed without any reluctance. This



could be done by setting up of a sanitary pad manufacturing unit at the village level itself run as a social venture by young women entrepreneurs for regular income generation and employment opportunities. It may be noted that women in the fishing community consider menstruation a shame and try to hide anything associated with menstruation. For example, they hide the cloth piece in the roof of their thatched houses in unhygienic conditions. They do not wash it properly in the open for the fear of being seen by anybody. Similarly the cloth is often dried inside the house in some dark corner where it is hidden from the view of other family members. Many girls in the villages dry the piece of cloth on an iron trunk which is then pushed

under the bed. The damp cloth is reused again and again leading to different infections and diseases.

Under this project, VIEWS worked closely with about 315 adolescent girls and women belonging to the marginalized households in the community. The project completed 10 month. VIEWS initiated the project in February 2017 after receiving the grant support from the 1% for Development Fund, Geneva. It continued for 10 months up to November 2017. The project implementing process included study of the existing practices on menstrual and usage of sanitary napkin products, community awareness generation on menstrual hygiene, and training of adolescent girls and women on menstruation hygiene. This was followed by setting up of a napkin making unit through women Self Help Groups, business plan development, skills trainings on marketing, inventory management and social



marketing of sanitary napkin products through SHGs network and retail vendor network.

The project played a significant role in empowering adolescent girls and young women on menstrual hygiene through enterprise development for their economical well being. The implementation of this project was an exclusive combination of education and awareness building to ensure greater behaviour change among adolescent girls and women in order to motivate them to use clean, safe sanitary napkins at affordable cost. As a grassroots organisation, the project provided VIEWS with a first-hand experience of establishing and managing a social enterprise. The staff learnt a lot throughout the process especially on breaking the ice and discussing sensitive topics such as menstrual hygiene management with adolescent girls and young women in our operational areas.

Awareness on Menstruation Hygiene among adolescent girls and SHG Women: Twenty awareness trainings were organized in 25 villages of two gram panchayats in Rangeilunda, Chatrapur and Chikit Blocks of VIEWS operational area. Five Kishori Mandal (adolescent girls groups) in five villages were mobilized and discussions were held on issues relate to menstruation. 25 awareness meetings conducted. In their monthly meeting the SHG members clearly discussed about the menstrual hygiene and symptoms of infection and disease related to menstrual infection etc. A majority of SHG women were unaware about the sanitary napkin, so the community mobiliser explained them about the importance and the benefits of the sanitary napkin. Impact: While the young girls were easily convinced about the benefits, it was difficult to motivate the older women who thought it was a waste of money.





## Child Rights

### Convergence Meeting to combat Child Marriage: Issues, Challenges and opportunities

A convergence meeting to combat child marriage was held on 17<sup>th</sup> December 2017 at Hotel VITS, Laxmi Sagar, Bhubaneswar. This workshop was organised by Action Aid in collaboration with Views India organisation and UNICEF. Mr. Umi Daniel, Aide et Action and Ghasiram Panda, Action Aid has inaugurated the workshop. Mrs. Lopamudra, UNICEF, Ms. Linkan Subudhi, Social Activist, Mr. Anil Pradhan, Sikhsasandhan, Mr. Priya Ranjan Sahu, Sr. Journalist, Hindustan Times, Mr. Manish, UNFPA, Mrs. Minati Singh, Times of India has also shared their experience. Delegates from different NGOs, CBOs, Academia, Media persons, PRI and UL B Members were participated in the workshop. The objective of the programme is to create a platform to discuss and find out ways to reduce the incidents of child marriage by engaging these multi stakeholders. Child marriage is a social norm that requires effort of multiple stakeholders to address the issue and that the main purpose of the workshop was capacity building of key stakeholder to preventing child marriage in the state. Another aim of this seminar was gaining clarity on the legal framework for preventing child marriage in Odisha context. And the last but not least purpose was the prepare action plan for preventing child marriage.

In the initial session, **Mr. Umi Daniel**, from Aide et Action, who chaired the event asserted that the eradication of the practice is a collective social responsibility. He said that it may differ by community but there are so many rituals exist in our society which is at the root of the problem. Stressing on the need for proper data on child marriage he said, that a mechanism should be developed to facilitate intervention before the marriages takes place.

### ROUND TABLE CONVERGENCE MEETING

A round table convergence meeting to combat child marriage was held on 29<sup>th</sup> December 2017 at Hotel VITS, Laxmi Sagar, Bhubaneswar with support of VIEWS in collaboration with Action Aid and UNICEF. **Mrs. Sharmistha Dash**, Project Coordinator, VIEWS gave the welcome speech and introduced the Guests.



In his inaugural address outlined the various dimensions of the issue. He stated that child marriage seriously impedes the development of the children, and in particular it impacts the girl child with a stronger incidence and intensity. It hampers her physical, mental, emotional and psychological development. It limits the child's freedom in decision making, access to education, life skills and therefore better opportunities in life, growth and empowerment. The girl children become especially vulnerable to domestic violence, early widowhood, trafficking and other forms of abuse. Early marriage with early motherhood also leads to continuation of inter-generational cycle of malnutrition and poverty. He further stated that instead of looking into the statistics we should act practically so that we can get better result. In conclusion the Prof. Das mentioned that there is a need for the change in the mindset of the society which largely perceives the girl child to be a burden on the families.

### **Training on Young Urban Women collective formation and Strengthening**

A training on Young Urban Women collective formation and strengthening was organised by CCWD, VIEWS, SAKAR & Anasangathita Sramik Manch in collaboration with Action Aid Association on 27<sup>th</sup> March 2018 at Red Cross Bhavan, Bhubaneswar.

#### **The objectives of the training were**

- Generate awareness on importance of urban women collective among young women in urban slums of Bhubaneswar
- Enhance leadership qualities among urban young women and form a young women collectives in urban Bhubaneswar
- Identify urban issues of young women and prepare an action plan to address the issues in a collective approach. The training was organised as per the designed schedule.

#### **SUMMARY OF THE MEETING**

- Need for the change in the mindset of the society which largely perceives the girl child to be a burden on the families.
- Collective approach from all the civil society organisations and Govt. Departments is needed for the eradication of child marriage.
- Money should be spent on health department so that better maternal and child health could be achieved.

- Need for developing a Model Village which would be free from child marriage and child labour
- Compulsory marriage registration is required.
- Continuation of fund flow from INGOs.
- Convergence approach should be done in upper level where all the decision makers should come together and prepare an action plan.
- Awareness among the people regarding child marriage is should be created.
- Capacity building programmes should be conducted among the school teachers at the block level.
- Various CSR facilities are available for the eradication of child marriage from which CBOs and NGOs can advantages.
- Firm Government Action is required
- Enforcement machinery in the States needs to be in place to ensure implementation of the act and prosecution. Silence should be broken.
- There is need for a change in the pattern of education.
- Community level meeting should be organised among the parents and peer groups.
- Life skill education is a must for girls.
- Establish or reform of legal minimum age of marriage.
- Advocate to raise support, awareness among community & government leaders.

## OUR BOARD OF GOVERNANCE

**D. Rama Rao, President:** Mr. Rama Rao has over 18 year's development sector experience in INGOs viz. Lutheran World Service India, Handicap International, Save the Children Fund and Child fund India. His education qualification includes Masters of Rural Development. Currently working as a leading disaster risk reduction and management unit with CCF at New Delhi.

**Mr. Michel Govindaraj, Vice President:** Mr. Michel has over 17 years' experience in Plan India, ICCO Cooperation, Caritas India, World Vision, Emmanuel Health Association, Christian Mission and Navajeevan Seva Mandal. Currently he is working as Finance Manager with Plan India, New Delhi

**Mr. S. Bheema Rao, Secretary:** Mr. Rao has over 18 years of experience in academic and international development agencies including World Vision India, Lutheran World Service India, International Justice Mission, Caritas India Hindustan Latex Family Planning Promotion Trust Department for International Development (DFID) Programme, GFTAM, JICA and Human Development Foundation School of Management His educational qualification includes Post Graduate Diploma in Management, M.Com, Post Graduate Diploma in NGO Management, Post Graduate Diploma in Rural Development, Diploma in Industrial Relation and Personnel Management and currently perusing Ph.D in Transformation of NGOs in NBFC in Odisha; Issues and Challenges from Revansaw University, Odisha.

**Mr. Sunil Kumar Ghadei, Joint Secretary:** Mr. Sunil has over 8 years of experience in sustainable livelihoods promotion, social entrepreneurship, Microfinance and capacity building of community-based institutions. He has worked with various national development and financial intuitions agencies including APMAS, People's Forum, Pragati and national youth projects. His educational qualification includes Post Graduate

Certificate in Management, and Bachelors of Social Work and currently perusing Masters of Business Administration.

**Mr. G.Krishna Rao, Treasurer:** Mr. Krishna is a committed social worker having 13 years' experience in development sector. He worked with various organizations including Nehru Yuva Kendra (Ministry of Youth affairs and sports), Lutheran World Service India Franciscans Missionary of Mary Social Service Society and Society for Welfare Animation and Development (SWAD). He completed B.A and B.Ed. Currently working as Teacher in De Paul Public School, Gopalpur on-sea.

**Ms. Preeti Abraham, Executive Member:** Ms. Preeti is an Assistant Professor-Communication. She is M.A in English literature from Revanshaw University. She has 7 years' work experience as a Assistant Professor in Business Communication with Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Engineering and Technology, Nova Institute of Engineering and Technology, Konark Institute of Management and Technology, Bhubaneswar.

**Mr. Pradeep Kumar Nanda, Executive Member:** Mr. Nanada is a development professional having more than 15 years experience in INGO. He worked with Compassion India project, World Vision India, Water Aid and Plan India. He completed M.Com and PGDM from IGNOU. He is currently working as Finance Manager with International Justice Mission, Bangalore

**Ms. B.Gopamma, Executive Member:** She is a president of SHGs Federation (Divya Jyoti Mahila Vikash) having 18 years field experience in SHGs mobilization and received national level recognition "Fellowship from Ratan Tata Virtually Academy and Change Agent of Odisha award from Yes we Can, Bhubaneswar for contributing toward women empowerment and promoting menstrual hygiene solutions.

#### **OUR VALUEDPARTNERS**

- National Foundation for India, New Delhi
- The Hans Foundation, New Delhi
- Australian High Commission, New Delhi
- 1% Fund for Development, Switzerland
- Global Green Grants Fund
- Nourish International, USA
- ICCO Cooperation, Netherlands
- University of Texas, Austin, USA
- Virginia Tech University, Virginia
- Wisconsin University, Madison
- Centurion University, Bhubaneswar
- Ministry of Environment and Forest, Govt. of India
- Nehru Yuva Kendra (Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Govt. of India)

# 'ବାଲ୍ୟବିବାହ ରୋକାଯିବା ଜରୁରୀ'

ଭୁବନେଶ୍ୱର, (ଆପ୍) : ସମ୍ପ୍ରତି ବାଲ୍ୟ ବିବାହ ପ୍ରଥା ସମାଜ ପାଇଁ ଏକ ଅଭିଶପ୍ତ ପାଲଟିଛି । ଆଜି ବି ଆମ ରାଜ୍ୟରେ ବିଶେଷକରି ଉପାତ ଅଞ୍ଚଳରେ ବାଲ୍ୟବିବାହ ପ୍ରଥା ପ୍ରଚଳିତ ଅଛି । ଏଥିପାଇଁ ଶିଶୁ ଅଧିକାରକୁ ଅଧିକ ସାବଧାନ କରିବା ସହିତ ପିଲାଙ୍କ ଶିକ୍ଷା ଉପରେ ଅଧିକ ପ୍ରାଧାନ୍ୟତା ଦେବା ଆବଶ୍ୟକ । ଶିକ୍ଷା ହାରକୁ ଅନୁଧ୍ୟାନ କଲେ ଜଣାପଡ଼େ ପାଖା ପାଖି ୪୯ ଲକ୍ଷ ପିଲା ପ୍ରାଥମିକ ବିଦ୍ୟାଳୟରେ ନାମ ଲେଖାଉଥିବାବେଳେ ୧୦ ଶ୍ରେଣୀ ହାଇସ୍କୁଲ ପଢ଼ାଉଛନ୍ତି ମାତ୍ର

୫.୩ ଲକ୍ଷ । ଅବଶିଷ୍ଟ ୪୩ ଲକ୍ଷ ଛାତ୍ର ଛାତ୍ରୀ ପାଠ ଅଧାରୁ ଛାଡ଼ିଦେଉଛନ୍ତି । ତେବେ ସେମାନଙ୍କ ଅର୍ଦ୍ଧଶିକ୍ଷା ବା ଅଣଶିକ୍ଷା ଏହି ସାମାଜିକ ସମସ୍ୟାର ମୁଖ୍ୟ କାରଣ । ସେହିପରି ବ୍ୟବସ୍ଥାଗତ

ବୋଲି ସାମାଜିକ କର୍ମ ତଥା ଶିକ୍ଷାବିତମାନେ ପଡ଼ ରଖିଛନ୍ତି । ଆକକ୍ଷ-ଏଡ଼୍ ଓ ଯୁନିସେପ୍‌ର ସହଯୋଗରେ ଭୁଞ୍ଜ ଦ୍ୱାରା ବାଲ୍ୟ ବିବାହ ପ୍ରତିରୋଧ ସଂପର୍କିତ ଏକ

ଆଲୋଚନାଚକ୍ରରେ ରାଜ୍ୟ ମହିଳା ଆୟୋଗ ସଦସ୍ୟା ସ୍ୱେହାଞ୍ଜଳି ମହାନ୍ତି, ଆକକ୍ଷ-ଏଡ଼୍‌ର ରାଜ୍ୟ ସଂଯୋଜକ ଘାସିରାମ ପଣ୍ଡା, ଜାତୀୟ ମାନବାଧିକାର ଆୟୋଗ ସଦସ୍ୟ ମନୋଜ ଜେନା, ପ୍ରାକ୍ଟିକାଲ ଆକ୍ଟନର ବିରୁପାକ୍ଷ ଦିକ୍ଷୀତ, ବି.କେ. ମିଶ୍ର, ନିରଦ ଖୁଣ୍ଟିଆ ପ୍ରମୁଖ ଯୋଗ ଦେଇଥିଲେ । ଭୁଞ୍ଜର ସଂଯୋଜିକା ଶର୍ମିଷ୍ଠା ଦାଶ ସ୍ୱାଗତ ଭାଷଣ ଦେଇଥିବା ବେଳେ ସେଲ୍‌ଭିନ୍ ଭାମାରାଓ ଧନ୍ୟବାଦ ଅର୍ପଣ କରିଥିଲେ ।

## ଆଲୋଚନାଚକ୍ରରେ ବିଶିଷ୍ଟ ବ୍ୟକ୍ତିଙ୍କ ମତ

ବିବାହ ସହିତ ବିବାହ ପଞ୍ଜିକରଣକୁ ବାଧ୍ୟତାମୂଳକ କରିବା ଆବଶ୍ୟକ । ପଞ୍ଜିକରଣ ଦ୍ୱାରା ପୁଅ ବା ଝିଅର ବୟସ ଜାଣିହେବ । ଯାହାଦ୍ୱାରା ବାଲ୍ୟବିବାହକୁ ମଧ୍ୟ ରୋକି ହେବ

ଆଲୋଚନା ଚକ୍ରରେ ଶୁକ୍ରବାର ଆୟୋଜିତ ହୋଇଯାଇଛି । ଫକୀରମୋହନ ବିଶ୍ୱବିଦ୍ୟାଳୟର ପ୍ରାକ୍ତନ କୁଳପତି ଡକ୍ଟର କୁମାରବର ଦାସଙ୍କ ଅଧିକ୍ଷତାରେ ଆୟୋଜିତ ଏହି

# ବାଲ୍ୟବିବାହ ରୋକିବ ବିବାହ ପଞ୍ଜୀକରଣ

ଭୁବନେଶ୍ୱର, (ବ୍ୟରୋ) : ସମ୍ପ୍ରତି ବାଲ୍ୟବିବାହ ପ୍ରଥା ସମାଜ ପାଇଁ ଅଭିଶପ୍ତ ପାଲଟିଛି । ଆଜି ବି ଆମ ରାଜ୍ୟରେ ବିଶେଷକରି ଉପାତ ଅଞ୍ଚଳରେ ବାଲ୍ୟବିବାହ ପ୍ରଥା ପ୍ରଚଳିତ ଅଛି । ଏଥିପାଇଁ ଶିଶୁ ଅଧିକାରକୁ ଅଧିକ ସାବଧାନ କରିବା ସହିତ ପିଲାଙ୍କ ଶିକ୍ଷା ଉପରେ ଅଧିକ ପ୍ରାଧାନ୍ୟତା ଦେବା ଆବଶ୍ୟକ । ଶିକ୍ଷା ହାରକୁ ଅନୁଧ୍ୟାନ କଲେ ଜଣାପଡ଼େ ପାଖାପାଖି ୪୯ ଲକ୍ଷ ପିଲା ପ୍ରାଥମିକ ବିଦ୍ୟାଳୟରେ ନାମ ଲେଖାଉଥିବାବେଳେ ୧୦ ଶ୍ରେଣୀ ହାଇସ୍କୁଲ ପଢ଼ାଉଛନ୍ତି ମାତ୍ର ୫.୩ ଲକ୍ଷ । ଅବଶିଷ୍ଟ ୪୩ ଲକ୍ଷ ଛାତ୍ରଛାତ୍ରୀ ପାଠ ଅଧାରୁ ଛାଡ଼ିଦେଉଛନ୍ତି । ତେବେ ସେମାନଙ୍କ ଅର୍ଦ୍ଧଶିକ୍ଷା ବା ଅଣଶିକ୍ଷା ଏହି ସାମାଜିକ ସମସ୍ୟାର ମୁଖ୍ୟ କାରଣ । ସେହିପରି ବ୍ୟବସ୍ଥାଗତ ବିବାହ ସହିତ ବିବାହ ପଞ୍ଜିକରଣକୁ ବାଧ୍ୟତାମୂଳକ କରିବା ଆବଶ୍ୟକ । ପଞ୍ଜିକରଣ ଦ୍ୱାରା ପୁଅ ବା ଝିଅର ବୟସ ଜାଣିହେବ । ଯାହା ଦ୍ୱାରା

ବାଲ୍ୟବିବାହକୁ ମଧ୍ୟ ରୋକିହେବ ବୋଲି ସାମାଜିକ କର୍ମୀ ତଥା ଶିକ୍ଷାବିତ ମତ ରଖିଛନ୍ତି । ଆକକ୍ଷ-ଏଡ଼୍ ଓ ଯୁନିସେପ୍‌ର ସହଯୋଗରେ ଭୁଞ୍ଜ ଦ୍ୱାରା ବାଲ୍ୟବିବାହ ପ୍ରତିରୋଧ ସଂପର୍କିତ ଏକ ଆଲୋଚନାଚକ୍ର ଅନୁଷ୍ଠିତ ହୋଇଯାଇଛି । ଫକୀରମୋହନ ବିଶ୍ୱବିଦ୍ୟାଳୟର ପ୍ରାକ୍ତନ କୁଳପତି ଡ. କୁମାରବର ଦାସଙ୍କ ଅଧିକ୍ଷତାରେ ଆୟୋଜିତ ଏହି ଆଲୋଚନାଚକ୍ରରେ ରାଜ୍ୟ ମହିଳା ଆୟୋଗ ସଦସ୍ୟା ସ୍ୱେହାଞ୍ଜଳି ମହାନ୍ତି, ଆକକ୍ଷ-ଏଡ଼୍‌ର ରାଜ୍ୟ ସଂଯୋଜକ ଘାସିରାମ ପଣ୍ଡା, ଜାତୀୟ ମାନବାଧିକାର ଆୟୋଗ ସଦସ୍ୟ ମନୋଜ ଜେନା, ପ୍ରାକ୍ଟିକାଲ ଆକ୍ଟନର ବିରୁପାକ୍ଷ ଦିକ୍ଷୀତ, ବିକେ ମିଶ୍ର, ନିରଦ ଖୁଣ୍ଟିଆ ପ୍ରମୁଖ ଯୋଗ ଦେଇଥିଲେ । ଭୁଞ୍ଜର ସଂଯୋଜିକା ଶର୍ମିଷ୍ଠା ଦାଶ ସ୍ୱାଗତ ଭାଷଣ ଦେଇଥିବା ବେଳେ ସେଲ୍‌ଭିନ୍ ଭାମାରାଓ ଧନ୍ୟବାଦ ଅର୍ପଣ କରିଥିଲେ ।

ବାଲ୍ୟବିବାହକୁ ମଧ୍ୟ ରୋକିହେବ ବୋଲି ସାମାଜିକ କର୍ମୀ ତଥା ଶିକ୍ଷାବିତ ମତ ରଖିଛନ୍ତି । ଆକକ୍ଷ-ଏଡ଼୍ ଓ ଯୁନିସେପ୍‌ର ସହଯୋଗରେ ଭୁଞ୍ଜ ଦ୍ୱାରା ବାଲ୍ୟବିବାହ ପ୍ରତିରୋଧ ସଂପର୍କିତ ଏକ ଆଲୋଚନାଚକ୍ର ଅନୁଷ୍ଠିତ ହୋଇଯାଇଛି । ଫକୀରମୋହନ ବିଶ୍ୱବିଦ୍ୟାଳୟର ପ୍ରାକ୍ତନ କୁଳପତି ଡ. କୁମାରବର ଦାସଙ୍କ ଅଧିକ୍ଷତାରେ ଆୟୋଜିତ ଏହି ଆଲୋଚନାଚକ୍ରରେ ରାଜ୍ୟ ମହିଳା ଆୟୋଗ ସଦସ୍ୟା ସ୍ୱେହାଞ୍ଜଳି ମହାନ୍ତି, ଆକକ୍ଷ-ଏଡ଼୍‌ର ରାଜ୍ୟ ସଂଯୋଜକ ଘାସିରାମ ପଣ୍ଡା, ଜାତୀୟ ମାନବାଧିକାର ଆୟୋଗ ସଦସ୍ୟ ମନୋଜ ଜେନା, ପ୍ରାକ୍ଟିକାଲ ଆକ୍ଟନର ବିରୁପାକ୍ଷ ଦିକ୍ଷୀତ, ବିକେ ମିଶ୍ର, ନିରଦ ଖୁଣ୍ଟିଆ ପ୍ରମୁଖ ଯୋଗ ଦେଇଥିଲେ । ଭୁଞ୍ଜର ସଂଯୋଜିକା ଶର୍ମିଷ୍ଠା ଦାଶ ସ୍ୱାଗତ ଭାଷଣ ଦେଇଥିବା ବେଳେ ସେଲ୍‌ଭିନ୍ ଭାମାରାଓ ଧନ୍ୟବାଦ ଅର୍ପଣ କରିଥିଲେ ।

ବାଲ୍ୟବିବାହକୁ ମଧ୍ୟ ରୋକିହେବ ବୋଲି ସାମାଜିକ କର୍ମୀ ତଥା ଶିକ୍ଷାବିତ ମତ ରଖିଛନ୍ତି । ଆକକ୍ଷ-ଏଡ଼୍ ଓ ଯୁନିସେପ୍‌ର ସହଯୋଗରେ ଭୁଞ୍ଜ ଦ୍ୱାରା ବାଲ୍ୟବିବାହ ପ୍ରତିରୋଧ ସଂପର୍କିତ ଏକ ଆଲୋଚନାଚକ୍ର ଅନୁଷ୍ଠିତ ହୋଇଯାଇଛି । ଫକୀରମୋହନ ବିଶ୍ୱବିଦ୍ୟାଳୟର ପ୍ରାକ୍ତନ କୁଳପତି ଡ. କୁମାରବର ଦାସଙ୍କ ଅଧିକ୍ଷତାରେ ଆୟୋଜିତ ଏହି ଆଲୋଚନାଚକ୍ରରେ ରାଜ୍ୟ ମହିଳା ଆୟୋଗ ସଦସ୍ୟା ସ୍ୱେହାଞ୍ଜଳି ମହାନ୍ତି, ଆକକ୍ଷ-ଏଡ଼୍‌ର ରାଜ୍ୟ ସଂଯୋଜକ ଘାସିରାମ ପଣ୍ଡା, ଜାତୀୟ ମାନବାଧିକାର ଆୟୋଗ ସଦସ୍ୟ ମନୋଜ ଜେନା, ପ୍ରାକ୍ଟିକାଲ ଆକ୍ଟନର ବିରୁପାକ୍ଷ ଦିକ୍ଷୀତ, ବିକେ ମିଶ୍ର, ନିରଦ ଖୁଣ୍ଟିଆ ପ୍ରମୁଖ ଯୋଗ ଦେଇଥିଲେ । ଭୁଞ୍ଜର ସଂଯୋଜିକା ଶର୍ମିଷ୍ଠା ଦାଶ ସ୍ୱାଗତ ଭାଷଣ ଦେଇଥିବା ବେଳେ ସେଲ୍‌ଭିନ୍ ଭାମାରାଓ ଧନ୍ୟବାଦ ଅର୍ପଣ କରିଥିଲେ ।

# ବସ୍ତ୍ର ବାଳିକାଙ୍କ ଅନାବରଣ ଯାତ୍ରା

ଭୁବନେଶ୍ୱର (ବ୍ୟବସାୟ): ରାଜ୍ୟର କୌଣସି ଆଦିବାସୀ ଅଧିକାଂଶ ଅବା ପଛୁଆ ଅଞ୍ଚଳ ନୁହଁ, ବରଂ ରାଜଧାନୀରେ ଏଭଳି ଅନେକ ସ୍ଥାନ ରହିଛି ଯେଉଁଠି କିଶୋରୀ ବା ବାଳିକାମାନେ ବାହାର ଦୁନିଆ ଦେଖିପାରିନାହାନ୍ତି । ନିଜ ଘର ଏବଂ ପାଖ ପଡ଼ୋଶୀଙ୍କୁ ବାଦ୍ ଦେଲେ ବାହାର ବଜାର, ମଲ୍, ମାର୍କେଟ୍ ଦେଖିବା, ବୁଲିବା ଯେମିତି ତାଙ୍କ ପାଇଁ ସ୍ୱପ୍ନ । ଅତି ବେଶିରେ ଉଚ୍ଚବିଦ୍ୟାଳୟ ଯାଇ ପାଦ ଫେରାଇ ଆଣି ଘରେ ରହୁଥିବା ଏଭଳି କିଛି କିଶୋରୀମାନଙ୍କ ମୁହଁରେ ଫୁଟୁଥିବା ହସକୁ ଦେଖି ଏକଥା ସ୍ୱାଭାବିକ ବାରିହୋଇ ପଡ଼ୁଥିଲା । ସକାଳୁ ନୂଆ ପୋଷାକ ପିନ୍ଧି ବସରେ ବସିଲା ବେଳକୁ ସେମାନଙ୍କ ଖୁସି ଆଉ କହିଲେ ନସରେ । ମହିଳା ହିଁସା ବିରୋଧ ପକ୍ଷ ପାଳନ ଅବସରରେ ଭୃତ୍ୟ ସଂସ୍ଥା ତରଫରୁ ଶିଖରଚଣ୍ଡୀ ବସ୍ତ୍ର ଅଧାରୁ ସୁଲ୍ ଛାଡ଼ିଥିବା ପ୍ରାୟ ୫୦ଜଣ କିଶୋରୀଙ୍କୁ ନେଇ ଏକ ଅନାବରଣ ଯାତ୍ରା କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକ୍ରମ କରାଯାଇଥିଲା । ଶିଖରଚଣ୍ଡୀ ଠାରୁ ବସରେ ବାଳିକାମାନେ



ସେଷ୍ଟୁରିଆନ୍ ବିଶ୍ୱବିଦ୍ୟାଳୟ ପରିଦର୍ଶନ କରିଥିଲେ । ବିଶ୍ୱବିଦ୍ୟାଳୟରେ ଥିବା ଶ୍ରେଣୀଗୃହ, ପାଠାଗାର, ପ୍ରୟୋଗଶାଳା ଓ ତାଲିମ କେନ୍ଦ୍ର ଆଦି ପରିଦର୍ଶନ କରିଥିଲେ । ସେଠାରେ ପଢୁଥିବା ସମସ୍ୟର ବିଦ୍ୟାର୍ଥୀଙ୍କୁ ଦେଖି ପିଲାମାନେ ଆତ୍ମବିଭୋର ହେବା ସହିତ ସେମାନଙ୍କୁ ଉତ୍ସାହ ଓ ପ୍ରେରଣା ଯୋଗାଇଥିଲା । ଏହି ପରିଦର୍ଶନ ଯାତ୍ରାରେ ବିଶ୍ୱବିଦ୍ୟାଳୟରୁ କୁଶଳୀ ଶିକ୍ଷା ତଥା ଆତ୍ମନିର୍ଭରଶୀଳତା ତାଲିମ ଗ୍ରହଣ କରିଥିଲେ । ଅଷ୍ଟେଲିଆନ୍ ହାଇକମିଶନର ସହାୟତାରେ ଏବଂ ଭୃତ୍ୟ ସଂସ୍ଥାର ଉଦ୍ୟମରେ ପଠିଆ ସ୍ଥିତ

ଶିଖରଚଣ୍ଡୀ ବସ୍ତ୍ରର ଶତାଧିକ ହାଇସ୍କୁଲ ବର୍ଜିତ ବାଳିକାଙ୍କୁ 'ପ୍ରେଜେକ୍ଟ ଚେଷ୍ଟା'ରେ ସଂଲଗ୍ନ କରାଯାଇଛି । ଯାହାଦ୍ୱାରା ସେମାନଙ୍କ ଆତ୍ମନିର୍ଭରଶୀଳତା ପାଇଁ ସିଲେଇ, ସୁସ୍ଥ ଓ ନିରାମୟ ଜୀବନ ପାଇଁ ଯୋଗ, ଚିତ୍ରାଙ୍କନ, ନୃତ୍ୟ ଶିକ୍ଷା ଦେବା ସହିତ ବିଭିନ୍ନ କ୍ଷେତ୍ରରେ ପାରଦର୍ଶିତା ଅର୍ଜନ କରିଥିବା ବିଶେଷଜ୍ଞଙ୍କ ଦ୍ୱାରା ପରାମର୍ଶ ପ୍ରଦାନ କରାଯାଇଛି । ଏହି ପରିପ୍ରେକ୍ଷାରେ ଆଗକୁ ପାଠ ପଢିବା ଓ ନିଜର ଭବିଷ୍ୟତ ଗଢିବା ପାଇଁ ସେମାନଙ୍କୁ ପ୍ରେରଣା ଦେବା ଲାଗି ଭଲ ଭାବରେ ପ୍ରକଟ ସଂଯୋଜନା ଶୀର୍ଷା ଦାଣ୍ଡ କହିଛନ୍ତି ।

# ବାଳିକାଙ୍କୁ ଆତ୍ମନିର୍ଭରଶୀଳତା ତାଲିମ



ଭୁବନେଶ୍ୱର (ବ୍ୟବସାୟ): ମହିଳା ହିଁସା ବିରୋଧ ପକ୍ଷ ପାଳନ ଅବସରରେ ଭୃତ୍ୟ ସଂସ୍ଥା ତରଫରୁ ଶିଖରଚଣ୍ଡୀନଗରର ବାଳିକାଙ୍କୁ ନେଇ ଏକ ଅନାବରଣ ଯାତ୍ରା ଆୟୋଜନ କରାଯାଇଥିଲା । ଅଧାରୁ ହାଇସ୍କୁଲ ଛାଡ଼ିଥିବା ପ୍ରାୟ ୫୦ଜଣ ବାଳିକା ଏହି ଅନାବରଣ ଯାତ୍ରା କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକ୍ରମରେ ସେଷ୍ଟୁରିଆନ୍ ବିଶ୍ୱବିଦ୍ୟାଳୟକୁ ଯାଇଥିଲେ । ବିଶ୍ୱବିଦ୍ୟାଳୟରେ ଥିବା ଶ୍ରେଣୀଗୃହ, ପାଠାଗାର, ପ୍ରୟୋଗଶାଳା ଓ ତାଲିମ କେନ୍ଦ୍ର ଆଦି ପରିଦର୍ଶନ କରିଥିଲେ । ସେଠାରେ ପଢୁଥିବା ନିଜ ସମସ୍ୟର ବିଦ୍ୟାର୍ଥୀଙ୍କୁ ଦେଖି ଜୀବନରେ କିଛି କରିଦେଖାଇବାର ଆତ୍ମବିଶ୍ୱାସ ଓ ପ୍ରେରଣା ଯୋଗାଇଥିଲା ।

ବିଶ୍ୱବିଦ୍ୟାଳୟ ପରିଦର୍ଶନରେ ସେଠାରେ ଦିଆଯାଇଥିବା କୁଶଳୀ ଶିକ୍ଷା ତଥା ଆତ୍ମନିର୍ଭରଶୀଳତା ତାଲିମ, ବାଳିକାମାନଙ୍କ ଶିଖିବା ଓ ଜୀବିବାର ଆଶା ଆଉ ଆକାଂକ୍ଷାର ପରିପ୍ରକାଶ ହେଉଥିଲା । ଅଷ୍ଟେଲିଆନ୍ ହାଇକମିଶନର ସହାୟତାରେ ତଥା ଭୃତ୍ୟ ସଂସ୍ଥାର ଉଦ୍ୟମରେ ପଠିଆ ସ୍ଥିତ ଶିଖରଚଣ୍ଡୀ ନଗରର ଶତାଧିକ ବାଳିକା 'ପ୍ରେଜେକ୍ଟ ଚେଷ୍ଟା' ପ୍ରକଳ୍ପରେ ସାମିଲ ହୋଇଛନ୍ତି । ଯାହାଦ୍ୱାରା ସେମାନଙ୍କ ଆତ୍ମନିର୍ଭରଶୀଳତା ପାଇଁ ସିଲେଇ, ସୁସ୍ଥ ଓ ନିରାମୟ ଜୀବନ ପାଇଁ ଯୋଗ, ଚିତ୍ରାଙ୍କନ, ନୃତ୍ୟ ଶିକ୍ଷା ଦେବା ସହିତ ବିଭିନ୍ନ କ୍ଷେତ୍ରରେ ପାରଦର୍ଶିତା ଅର୍ଜନ କରିଥିବା ବିଶେଷଜ୍ଞଙ୍କ ଦ୍ୱାରା ପରାମର୍ଶ ପ୍ରଦାନ କରାଯାଇଛି ।

# ଶିଖରଚଣ୍ଡାନଗର ବାଳିକାଙ୍କ ଅନାବରଣ ଯାତ୍ରା



ଭୁବନେଶ୍ୱର (ନି.ପ୍ର.), ୨୬/୧୧: ମହିଳା ହିଂସା ବିରୋଧ ପକ୍ଷ ପାଳନ ଅବସରରେ ଭୂୟଙ୍କ ସଂସ୍ଥା ତରଫରୁ ଶିଖରଚଣ୍ଡାନଗରର ବାଳିକାଙ୍କୁ ନେଇ ଏକ ଅନାବରଣ ଯାତ୍ରା ଆୟୋଜନ କରାଯାଇଥିଲା । ଅଧାରୁ ହାଇସ୍କୁଲ ଛାଡ଼ିଥିବା ପ୍ରାୟ ୫୦ଜଣ ବାଳିକା ଏହି ଅନାବରଣ ଯାତ୍ରା କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକ୍ରମରେ ସେଞ୍ଚୁରିଆନ୍ ବିଶ୍ୱବିଦ୍ୟାଳୟକୁ ଯାଇଥିଲେ । ବିଶ୍ୱବିଦ୍ୟାଳୟରେ ଥିବା ଶ୍ରେଣୀଗୃହ, ପାଠାଗାର, ପ୍ରୟୋଗଶାଳା ଓ ତାଲିମ କେନ୍ଦ୍ର ଆଦି ପରିଦର୍ଶନ କରିଥିଲେ । ସେଠାରେ ପଢୁଥିବା ନିଜ ସମବୟସର ବିଦ୍ୟାର୍ଥୀଙ୍କୁ ଦେଖି ଜୀବନରେ କିଛି କରିଦେଖାଇବାର ଆତ୍ମବିଶ୍ୱାସ ଓ ପ୍ରେରଣା ଯୋଗାଇଥିଲା । ବିଶ୍ୱବିଦ୍ୟାଳୟ ପରିଦର୍ଶନରେ ସେଠାରେ ଦିଆଯାଉଥିବା କୁଶଳୀ ଶିକ୍ଷା ତଥା ଆତ୍ମନିର୍ଭରଶୀଳତା ତାଲିମ, ବାଳିକାମାନଙ୍କ ଶିଖିବା

ଓ ଜାଣିବାର ଆଶା ଆଉ ଆକାଂକ୍ଷାର ପରିପ୍ରକାଶ ହେଉଥିଲା ।

ଅଷ୍ଟ୍ରେଲିଆନ୍ ହାଇକମିଶନର ସହାୟତାରେ ତଥା ଭୂୟଙ୍କ ସଂସ୍ଥାର ଉଦ୍ୟମରେ ପଠିଆ ସ୍ଥିତ ଶିଖରଚଣ୍ଡାନଗରର ଶତାଧିକ ବାଳିକା “ପ୍ରୋଜେକ୍ଟ ଚେଷ୍ଟା” ପ୍ରକଳ୍ପରେ ସାମିଲ ହୋଇଛନ୍ତି । ଯାହାଦ୍ୱାରା ସେମାନଙ୍କ ଆତ୍ମନିର୍ଭରଶୀଳତା ପାଇଁ ସିଲେଇ, ସୁସ୍ଥ ଓ ନିରାମୟ ଜୀବନ ପାଇଁ ଯୋଗ, ଚିତ୍ରାଙ୍କନ, ନୃତ୍ୟ ଶିକ୍ଷା ଦେବା ସହିତ ବିଭିନ୍ନ କ୍ଷେତ୍ରରେ ପାରଦର୍ଶିତା ଅର୍ଜନ କରିଥିବା ବିଶେଷଜ୍ଞଙ୍କ ଦ୍ୱାରା ପରାମର୍ଶ ପ୍ରଦାନ କରାଯାଉଛି । ଏହି ପରିପ୍ରେକ୍ଷିରେ ଆଗକୁ ପାଢ ପଢିବା ଓ ନିଜର ଭବିଷ୍ୟତ ଗଢିବା ପାଇଁ ସେମାନଙ୍କୁ ପ୍ରୋତ୍ସାହିତ କରାଯାଉଛି ବୋଲି ଭୂୟଙ୍କ ପ୍ରକଳ୍ପ ସଂଯୋଜକା ଶର୍ମିଷ୍ଠା ଦାଶ କହିଛନ୍ତି ।

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