



VIEWS, OAB OBSERVE INT'L DAY OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

VIEWS and Odisha Association for the Blind (OAB), in collaboration with Deutsches Katholisches Blindenwerk (DKBW), Germany, observed the International Day of Persons with Disabilities at OAB conference hall in Bhubaneswar on 3rd December 2022 (Saturday).

The theme of International Day of Persons with Disabilities, this year, was “Transformative solutions for inclusive development: the role of innovation in fuelling an accessible and equitable world”. The 2022 celebration focused on the need for innovative solutions to help create an inclusive developmental model to aid people with disabilities.

Of the one billion population of persons with disabilities in the world, 80% live in developing countries only. An estimated 46% of older people aged 60 years and over are people with disabilities. One in every five women is likely to experience disability in her life, while one in every ten children is a child with a disability. Also, persons with disabilities in the world are among the hardest hit by COVID-19.

Shri Pritiranjana Gharai, Minister of State in the Ministry of Rural Development (Independent Charge) of Odisha, was the chief guest for the





programme. Visually impaired persons, government officials, CSR representatives of many corporate houses and civil society leaders from across the state attended the programme.

Speaking on the occasion, Sri Pritiranjana Gharai, Minister of State in the Ministry of Rural Development (Independent Charge) of Odisha, said, "I am very grateful to be part of the celebration of the International Day of Persons with Disabilities here at the Odisha Association of for the Blind (OAB). Persons with disabilities are not to live with sympathy from others but it is their right to get equal opportunities in every field. It is our responsibility to provide you all the opportunities. Technology is playing a very important role in taking persons with disabilities forward. We need to think and take all possible steps for providing the benefits of technology to persons with disabilities in our state. Sanyasi sir is an inspiration for all of us. I will discuss with him and take suggestions for taking required steps for the betterment of the persons with disabilities."

Mr, Sanyasi Behera, President, Odisha Association for the Blind, said, "Access to basic services is essential for PWDs like other common citizens. In this regard, corporate houses and public sector undertakings should allocate budgets for projects for empowerment and employability of persons with disabilities under their corporate social responsibility."

The other dignitaries who spoke on the occasion included Mr. Sarat Kumar Das, General Secretary, OAB, Mr. Durga Charan Mishra, Director, MSME, Mr. Priyadarshi Mishra, former MLA Bhubaneswar North

Zone, Ms. Priya S. Mahapatra, GM, Corporate Social Responsibility at TCS, Mr. Rashmi Ranjan Mohanty from Tech Mahindra, Mr. Siba Prasad Sahu from Sightsavers India, Odisha state Lead, Mr. Manoj Behera from JSW Cement and Ms. Madhumita from SELCO Foundation.



Kitchen garden leading Layami's family towards better future

Thirty-five-year-old Layami Gamango, wife of Sukanta Gomango, a daily wager, is living in a Buldapanka village of the Gajapati district in Odisha. They live with their four children. Layami's husband goes to Mohana, the nearby town, to work as a daily wager. On the other hand, Layami looks after the children and works as an agricultural labourer as and when work available in her village.

Layami is a member of Mayeetri Atma Self-Help Group but she was not attending the group meeting regularly because she was not able to deposit money in the group account due to poverty. In 2020, VIEW, a not-for-profit organisation, implemented a project with the support of Frauen Power to promote organic kitchen gardens in Badakhani gram panchayat of Mohana block in which Layami's village is situated. Under this project, a total of 300 women farmers from the scheduled tribe in 10 villages of Badakhani gram panchayat were selected for improving their socio-economic status. Layami was one of the beneficiaries. Her family has got two acres of land in the backyard which was mostly used to cultivate paddy, ragi, etc. through traditional methods. Due to poor financial conditions, her family could never invest in new agricultural techniques, equipment and irrigation systems. They fully depended on rainwater for agriculture. So their earnings from the land were low and not improving the quality of life of the family.

As the project was implemented, the VIEWS team guided the women farmers and trained them on different farming techniques and skills. They provided vermin compost pits to the women for producing organic manure and trained them to produce liquid organic manure and pesticide. Apart from this, VIEWS also provided good quality vegetable seeds to all the farmers.

Layami cultivated tomato, pumpkin, radish, okra, beans, brinjal, bitter guard, etc and harvested good quality and quantity vegetables after three months. Her family consumed organic vegetables which were healthy and nutritious. Then they sold the surplus vegetables in the nearby market. Last year, Layami's family earned Rs 12000 from selling the surplus harvest from their organic kitchen garden.

About her kitchen garden experience, Layami said, "Before I grew the organic kitchen garden in the backyard, I used to spend Rs 100 per day on the purchase of vegetables from the market. The vegetables I used to buy were neither fresh nor



organic. Now, I feel very satisfied that my family is consuming fresh and organic vegetables every day. We no more spend money on vegetables, instead, we sell the surplus vegetables which add to our family income."

Through the project, Layami became an empowered woman and thought beyond the organic kitchen garden. She wanted to have an irrigation facility for her two-acre land. She discussed it with the VIEWS team who advised her to apply under the Mo Pokhari government scheme. Following this, she applied for a pond under the scheme in 2021. After her application was approved, she received Rs 1,90,000 for the excavation of a pond. Now she has a source of water to irrigate her land. In addition to this, she has started doing fishery in her pond.

This year, her eldest daughter took admission in a college at Mohana. Layami says, "Now that our financial condition has improved, we will provide good education to all our children."

PROJECT ENLIGHT 2.0: ANNUAL SPORTS MEET ORGANISED

The annual sports competitions were conducted at the five Girl Child Education Centres (GCECs) in five slums namely Shikharchandi, Saibanaphula, Muslimsahi, Tarinibasti and Patrasahi. Girl children from the slum communities who study at the Girl Child Education Centres took part in the competitions which were held in the first week of December 2022. All the 116 students of the five Girl Child Education Centres participated in different sport competitions. The sports competitions included 200m race, long jump, football, badminton, skipping, flying disc, sac race and spoon & lemon race. The children enthusiastically participated in different competitions and enjoyed a lot. Parents and community members witnessed the sports activities and cheered up the participants. After the end of the sports competitions, separate prize distribution ceremonies were organized at each Girl Child Education Centre.

Annual sports provide an opportunity for students and children to engage in physical activity, which is essential for maintaining good health and fitness. Participating in annual sports can help students and children develop important skills such as teamwork, sportsmanship, leadership, and communication. Annual sports events provide an opportunity for students and children to interact with their peers and make new friends. Participating in annual sports can help students and children develop confidence and self-esteem, as they learn to overcome challenges and succeed in competition. Participating in annual sports can also be a great way for students and children to relieve stress and have fun, promoting overall well-being and mental health. Overall, annual sports provide numerous benefits to students and children, helping them to develop physical and mental skills, build friendships, and have fun.

The annual sports competitions in the five Girl Child Education Centres were enjoyable experience for the child, providing them with the opportunity to be physically active, develop skills and friendships, and have fun.



CASE STUDY

'Digital literacy training was the turning point in my life'

Shik Hasina, a 23-year-old girl from the Sikharchandi slum in the capital city of Odisha, works as a customer care executive with Tata Power, a prestigious company in India. It's a dream come true for her to work in the office of such a big company.

Her family has been living in the Sikharchandi slum for the past about 40 years. Her father died two years back. So now she lives with her mother and two brothers. Her mother works as a housemaid. Her elder brother runs a chicken shop and her younger brother helps her brother ever since he completed matriculation. Her mother worked hard to meet the family expenses.

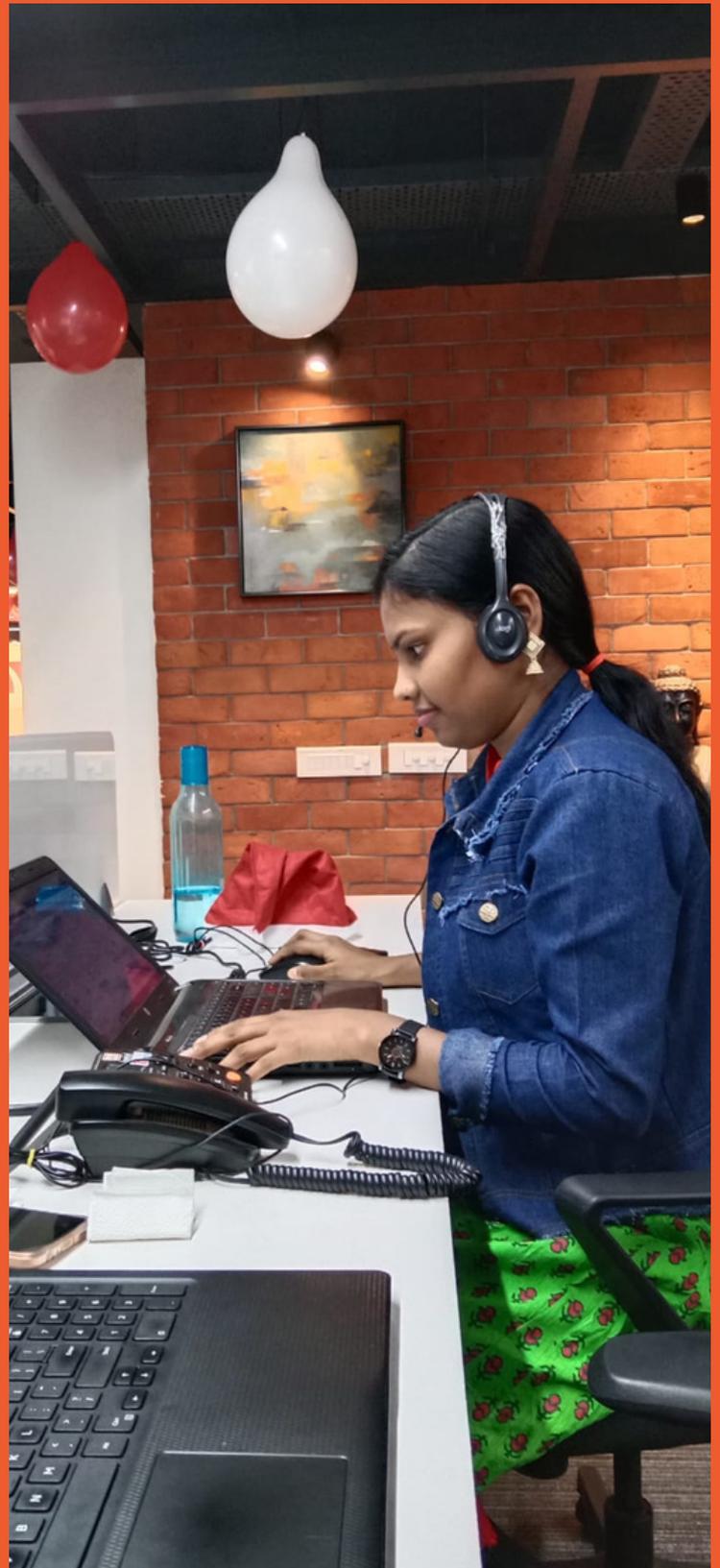
Hasina always wanted to study. She completed her graduation in arts. After that, she wanted to do some job so that she could contribute to the family income and be self-reliant. But it was very difficult for her to enroll in a professional course because of her family's financial condition.

Meanwhile, she learned from a community mobilizer of VIEWS NGO about the Digital Literacy Training Centre being run by VIEWS with the support of Asia Initiatives, a US-based non-profit. She came to know that the training was free of cost and in return, she had to teach two children. She got herself enrolled in the course happily. She attended all the classes and learned basic computer skills at the center. Simultaneously, she taught two children as part of the Social Capital Credits (SoCCs). In 2021 she completed the training successfully.

Following the completion of the training, she looked for a job. Once she along with her friends went to attend an interview at Tata Power for Customer Care Executive posts. When the result was declared, her name was there in the final list. She was elated. There was no limit to her happiness.

Terming the digital literacy training a turning point in her life, Hashina says, "It has been one year since I joined Tata Power company to work as a customer care executive. My life has changed completely. I had never imagined that I would be working in such a big company and such an environment. The training I received at the Digital Literacy Center in Sikharchandi not only helped me get this job but also enabled me to work efficiently in the office. I am thankful to

my mother who always supported my study and grateful to the sir and madam at the Digital Literacy Centre for providing training free of cost which made me self-reliant."



VIEWS RUNS CAMPAIGN TO PROMOTE MILLET PROCUREMENT IN VILLAGES

VIEWS ran an eight-day campaign in the villages of the Patrapur block in Ganjam district, Odisha, to promote the procurement of millets and the associated health benefits. For the campaign, a four-wheeler, decorated as a chariot named "Mandia Ratha" with banners affixed and a loudspeaker fitted on it, traveled through the villages, disseminating information and messages. The Mandia Ratha was flagged off by ADO Mr. Akshya Kumar Sahu and DPD Mr. Ajit Kumar Mahapatra at the District Agriculture Office in Berhampur.

The objective of the campaign was to share knowledge about the procurement of Ragi (KMS 2022-2023) from 130 villages of the Patrapur block. A total of 15 farmers were present during the launch of the campaign, which was attended by Mr. Shishir Kumar Bishoyi, BAO, Patrapur.



KITCHEN GARDEN PROJECT: TRAINING FOR TRAINERS HELD

A training of trainers (ToT) was organised by VIEWS for Nutrition Didi under its Kitchen Garden Project at Dhanaghara in Ganjam district on 16th December 2022.

A total of 23 Nutrition Didis took part in the training to learn about the Kitchen Garden. The focus of the training was on raising model kitchen gardens.

Ms Puspanjali Mohanty, an expert in this field, was the resource person for the training.

The objectives of the training were to build the capacity of Nutrition Didi on kitchen garden and organic farming, to enhance the knowledge and understanding of different kitchen garden models and building the skill set of Nutrition Didi to promote organic kitchen garden in rural villages.

The topics of the training included "Importance of Nutrition Garden and Kitchen Garden Models", "Why is Nutritious Food Important", "Elements of Nutrition Garden and Benefits of Vermi Compost", "Seed Bank and Management" and "Crop Pattern



VIEWS: A YEAR OF ACHIEVEMENTS

As we enter the New Year, we at VIEWS want to take a moment to reflect on the past year and express our gratitude for the support of our donors and partnership of our community. Despite the challenges and uncertainty that 2022 brought, we were able to accomplish so much thanks to the dedication and hard work of our team and the generosity of our donors. Whether it was sustainable livelihood project in the last mile villages in Ganjam district or imparting digital literacy to slum children in Bhubaneswar, we were able to make a real difference in the lives of those we serve. As we look ahead to 2023, we remain committed to our mission of empowering vulnerable communities to improve their quality of life. We are grateful for the opportunity to work alongside such a compassionate and dedicated community, and we look forward to continuing to make a positive impact together in the New Year.



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