

Voice Reaching Boundaries



Children's Participation
in transforming Society :
A Pathfinder towards
Empowerment.



People's Cultural Centre

(A Centre for people's Empowerment & Sustainable Development)

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

A child is any human being below the age of eighteen years.

Children's rights need attention to the special protection and care afforded to minors, including their right to association with both parents, human identity as well as the basic needs for food, universal state-paid education, health care and criminal laws appropriate for the age and development of the child, equal protection of the child's civil rights, and freedom from discrimination on the basis of the child's race, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, religion, disability, color, ethnicity or other characteristics.

Interpretations of children's rights range from allowing children the capacity for autonomous action to the enforcement of children being physically, mentally and emotionally free from abuse.

Children's rights are defined in numerous ways, including a wide spectrum of civil, cultural, economic, social, education and political rights. Such rights tend to be of two types: right of empowerment and as the right to protection. Focusing the individual rights of the children to allow children to grow up healthy and free, Freedom of speech, Freedom of thought, Freedom from fear, Freedom of choice and the right to make decisions and Ownership over one's body are important. It is modest attempt by PEOPLE'S CULTURAL CENTRE (PECUC) to facilitate and extend possible support to realize and ensure the rights of children in all facet of their life.

PECUC believes that all children have the same inherent human values and are competent human beings having the right to influence matters related to their lives. Hence ensuring their participation PECUC ensure children's views are sought and considered in all matters that affect their lives.

We are grateful to the children, those who are part of our journey and print a foot steps to indentify, deliberate and ensure their rights with various sectors of the system and society.

We are greatly indebted to the partner agencies, such as UNICEF, Save the Children-UK, Save the Children - Bal Raksha Bharat, Terre des homes –India Programme, Aide a l'Enfance (AEI) Luxembourg, BMZ- Ministry of Economic Cooperation, Federal Republic of Germany, Deutsch Indisches Kinderhilswerk e.v. Germany, for their partnership, time to time constructive feedback and continuous support in this endeavour.

I am very much thankful to all my colleagues in PECUC for their commitment and dedication to accomplish the work and ensure involvement of children with respect. Special thanks to Mrs.Anuradha Mohanty, Ms. Jyotirmayee Mohapatra, Mr. Jyoti Sankar Mohanty, Mr.Satya Narayana Mohanta, Mr.Abhaya Swain, Mr. C.B.Maharana, Mr. Basanta Barik, Mr. Santosh Rout, Dr. Sujit Pradhan, Mr. Prahalad Palai, Ms. Upama Mohanty, for their endeavour. My appreciation goes for Ms. Sushree Shailani Suman for her contribution. I also acknowledge the contribution of Prof. Adaramani Boral, Chairperson and members of Board of Management of PECUC, without whose guidance and visionary decisions the path so far would not have been paved along.

We also acknowledge and express our thanks to Sri Smruti Ranjan Jena, the consultant who took this pain to put the things together and bring it out as a document for public benefit.

Lastly, I hope this document will be useful for the child right activists, organisations, institutions, researchers, planners, administrators, policy makers and others who are working for the cause and improvement of life of the children.

Sri Ranjan Kumar Mohanty
Secretary, PECUC

Abbreviations

AWC	:	Anagan Wadi center
BDO	:	Block development officer
BRCC	:	Block Resource Center Coordinator
CDPO	:	Child development project officer
CEMIS	:	Community Based Education Management Information System
CEMIS	:	Community education monitoring information system
CFFS	:	Child friendly flood center
CLI	:	Child led indicator
CRC	:	Convention on the Rights of Child
CSO	:	Civil society organization
DRR	:	District risk reduction
ICDS	:	Integrated Child Development Scheme
MDM	:	Mid day meal
NCPCR	:	National Commission for Protection of Child Rights
NGO	:	Non-Government Organization
NREGS	:	Nation rural employment guarantee scheme
NSS	:	National Service Scheme
PECUC's	:	PEOPLE'S CULTURAL CENTRE
RTE	:	Right to education
RTI	:	Right to information
SC	:	Schedule caste
SMC	:	School management committee
SSP	:	School safety plan
ST	:	Schedule tribe
UNCRC	:	United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child
VCP	:	Village Contingency plan

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Voice Reaching Boundaries Children participate... Children Share...

(Child Participation: a process towards empowerment)

1. Background and Introduction about PECUC

In late 1980s a group of social activists, professionals from different background, artists and National Service Scheme (NSS) volunteers came together forming a team to help the children of different slums and outlying villages of Bhubaneswar and provided a platform for the children to explore their potentials. Subsequently, the group realized the need of the systemic interventions and registered a not for profit

PARTICIPATION IS IMPORTANT BECAUSE :

- It is children's right
- Leads to increased fulfillment of other rights
- Children and young people as citizen- better civil society and depending democracy
- Children are social actors and have their own perspectives
- For effectiveness of programs, resulting in better outcomes
- Recognizing children as rights holder
- For child development, and ultimately that lead develop competencies
- Create space for children to demand accountability
- Developing policies and programmes addressing children need and perception
- Enhancing children self-esteem, confidence, leadership skills
- Discovering own potential and realizing their talents
- Fostering mutual respect and shared responsibility

developmental organization in 1990 named **Peoples' Cultural Centre (PECUC)**.

PECUC's **mission** "is to empower and enable people especially children, women, the aged and other disadvantaged in society, to participate powerfully in their overall development. Mission is to create and strengthen peoples' institutions that sustain, promote and fulfill their development needs and rights to a life of dignity"

PECUC **vision** "a world, in which peace, justice and equality prevails, individuals and communities live in dignity and harmony respecting the cultural

and natural diversity. A world in which, people participate in their social, cultural, political affairs/ life and economic well-being, and to the rights to a life of dignity."

Over the last two decades PECUC has diversified its operations to cover the state of Odisha and India and has made significant contribution to the protection and promotion of human rights and dignity at the state as well as at national level. Through its interventions it empowered the weaker sections of the society, promoted and protected human rights. Focus is more on children, women, and elders of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and other socio-economically backward and marginalized communities.

PECUC works with the Guiding Principles that:

All children have the same inherent human values. PECUC believes that children are competent human beings having the right to influence matters relating to their lives. Vulnerable groups need special protection & support.

Through participation PECUC ensures that the children's views are sought and considered in all matters that affect their lives. Participation is about having the opportunity to express their views, influence decision-making and achieve changes.

Children participation is an ongoing process of children's expression and active involvement in decision making. It requires information sharing and dialogue between children and adults, which is based on mutual respect and power sharing. Genuine participation gives children the power to shape both the process and the outcome. Rights are applicable to all children without any discrimination irrespective of sex, age, colour, caste, creed, race, religion and ability. Every child has right to life and the state has an obligation to ensure the child's survival, growth and development, that PECUC is guided with.



2. PECUC's role in Child Rights and Child Participation:

Children have the right to express their views freely which should be taken into consideration along with the rights for good health, education, environment, and above all rights of safe and comfortable life without any kind of violence. All others including the government have to enable the condition to protect all these rights. Children should empower to bring changes in their lives and build a better future. Mere participation and attending functions is not going to build the confidence among the children. Hence PECUC initiated children's participation and facilitated towards protecting their rights going beyond mere participation.

As a catalyst PECUC created environment, knowledge and built capacity of the children in various means to protect, plan, generate demand and take decisions for the policies to bring meaning to their life. It envisages children to show talents, strength and perseverance in planning, decision making, organizing through consultations, facilitation research & advocacy.

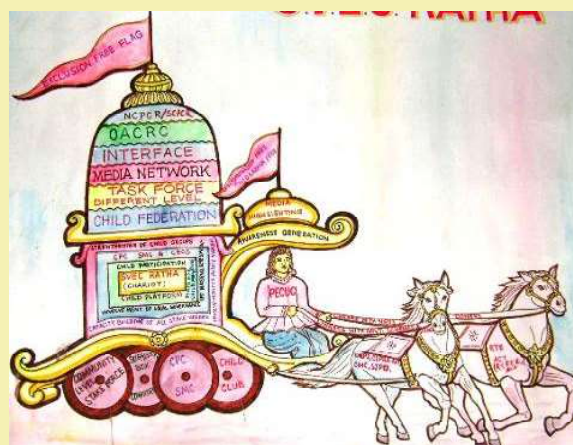
3. PECUC's interventions : a glance



4. Children as Change Agent

4.1 Sisu Mela (Children Festival)

Childhood is the best phase to flourish as a social being. It needs proper nurturing, encouragement, conducive environment, exposure and facilitate guidance. To bring originality and affluent innate potentials PECUC organized Sisu Mela, the



festival for children for a week during Children's Day. Children from all sectors and various schools in the city as well as the state are invited and encouraged to bring their creativeness and skills through various activities such as cultural events, literary events, quiz competitions, painting, rangoli

Objectives of Sishu Mela

- To create an atmosphere for a child friendly society.
- To create a scope for children to share their views, creativeness, potentialities and exchange culture.
- To inculcate the spirit of freedom, participation and integration amongst children.
- Sensitizing general public to prevent children from abuse and exploitation.
- Highlighting the issues relating to child abuse, Draw the attention of policy makers and enforcement authorities on child abuse.

designing, sports, creative competitions and many other. During this week long festival different theme based workshops relating to children are organized. Children artifacts are displayed and the best works are honoured. Children are felicitated for social work, bravery, seeking highest marks in upper primary, etc. The programme observed involving parents, civil society organizations, non-government organizations, social workers, eminent personnel, legislatures, bureaucrats and government officials. PECUC started organizing SISU MELA in the year 1990 at Government UP School, Unit-2, Bhubaneswar and presently it is being hold at Ekamra Haat. Meny eminent dignitaries including Governors of Odisha, Chief Ministers, Ministers of Odisha, Union Ministers, Judges, Bureaucrats, Cine Stars, Educationists,

Chairpersons of Rights Commissions and many eminent dignitaries from different walks of life have joined in the festival, spoken to children and given patient hearing to children too.

the Children. It is written, edited and published quarterly by children since 2005. The



“Help, Help, Help please help me to take birth. I am your daughter, sister, Please help me to take birth” said a nine year old girl Rupal Mishra in a heartbreaking self-representative campaign against female foeticide who is pleading for her right to life.

Cine child artist Akanksha Kabi and Nikita Mishra became the ambassadors of child rights and emphasised on the importance of childhood to create and provide an opportunity to develop innateness of the child through such activities and exposures.

Such campaigns are held at Ekamra Haat, the open air auditorium in state capital Odisha, Bhubaneswar. The auditorium was full of beans with colourful young children for a week. People of Bhubaneswar named the week as **Children's Week**. Each day of the week was devoted and dedicated to those bright lively children. Every evening becomes a colourful one with dance, music, sports, literary activities, fun and fantasy.

Empowering these disadvantaged children is the mission of PECUC (People's Cultural Centre), the NGO which just inaugurated its 21st Sisu Mela around United Nations Children's Day with teenagers, and the already known stars from Oriya cinema industry.

A group of volunteers from different sectors coupled together to improve and empower the children from lower socio-economic strata and to provide them opportunity to flourish and expose larger society said Mr Ranjan Mohanty, Secretary PECUC.

PECUC facilitate the whole fun-festive occasion, raising the awareness and advocate for pleasant childhood for all the children. Among the volunteers, public administrators, university professors, social activists and journalists join their hands and mark their commitment to improve the situation of children in the state.

PECUC is committed to bring back the childhood of children with all its efforts and resource said Ms. Anuradha Mohanty, Executive Director, PECUC. (Source-TDH-G & IP)

4.2 Child Reporter

The concept Child Reporter was conceptualized from Child Writers' Workshop: 2003 during Child Rights Week. In 2004 a group of children became the reporters for The Children Festival at state level.



Debabrata

Workshops were organized with technical support from journalists to improve reporting and report writing skills of the children. From then onward, children become the reporter of their areas. Issues were identified, analyzed and reported. Now children are the creator, writer, reporter acting as safeguard or the watchdog for the society. Debabrata and Ujjaini are two



Ujjaini

reporters from Kendujhar district among other child reporters, who reports issues, problems faced by children, generate awareness to protect children and their rights. **Bole Hoon Ti**, a children magazine carries news, features and literary cum educative articles by

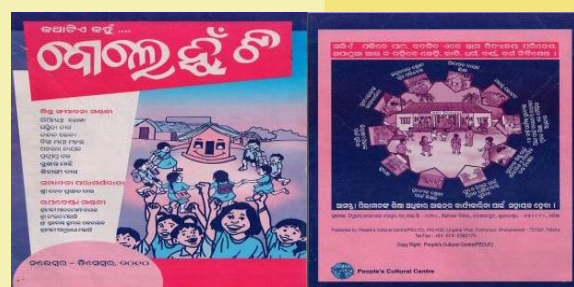
magazine enlarge the horizon of the child enhanced creativity, increased understanding on issues, developed confidence through putting their thoughts into words.

5. Children as Protagonist

5.1 Participation in development of State Plan of Action for Children

In the year 2007 PECUC conducted a consultation of children to give their views on the state plan of action for children. Their views were compiled and shared with the women and child development department, Government of Odisha.

5.2 Child Rights clubs - Children collectives



Bole Hoon Ti

Odisha kids band together to fight social evils

Hiramani Bentkar, 12, will no longer work in the fields in her village in Kendujhar district or help in any domestic works. She now proudly walks to school, carrying a bagful of books.

Hundreds of children like Hiramani, who have earlier supplemented the family income by working at roadside eateries, garages, brick kilns, cattle rearing and in collecting minor forest products have adapted to a new routine in Odisha, thanks to groups of children who worked to persuade their parents.

According to Hiramani, the children have formed a club in her village, Kumulabahali, in the mineral-rich Kendujhar district, about 250 km from state capital Bhubaneswar, and put up a determined fight against various social evils, including the widespread practice of encouraging girls to drop out of school to supplement family income.

The club 'Himalaya Sisu Sabha' has a total of 44 members, all of whom are below 18 years of age. The children meet once a week, usually on a Saturday, and discuss the issues they face and possible actions to better their lives. The children were encouraged to form the club and work as a group after volunteers of the Peoples' Cultural Centre (PECUC), met them and told them that children too could take matters into their own hands and demand their due. The efforts of the volunteers bore good results.

"Our village has now become child labour free. Almost all the children now go to school," said Hiramani, who herself joined the club after being enrolled into the school. Hiramani's club is only one among 300 such clubs formed in the district.

"The situation was shocking when we visited this village in 2005," said Ranjan Mohanty, secretary of PECUC, which has been instrumental in the formation of more than 300 such child rights clubs mostly in the Kendujhar area with support from International NGOs like Save the Children and Terre Des Hommes, Germany.

"A system locally termed as 'bagalia' (similar to bonded labourer) was widely practiced in the region and mostly children were hired on annual contract for animal rearing, domestic work and other tasks," Mohanty told IANS.

The first child rights club started with only about eight members. Gradually, more children joined the club and the numbers swelled, Mohanty explained.

Apart from their efforts to keep all children in school, the clubs have even begun to address issues like child marriage, child trafficking and gender or caste discrimination. These activities too are supported by local NGO activists.

"Children of different castes were not allowed to sit together during their midday meal in some schools and in community feasts a few years ago. Things have now changed," said Ujjaini Mohanty, 16, a resident of nearby Bolaniposhi village and a senior child rights club leader.

India is home to the highest number of child labourers in the world. Millions of child workers do not go to school. In Odisha, the children currently are not attending schools in the age range of 6-17 years is 18.3 percent, and children aged 5-14 years engaged in work is 4.1 percent, according to the government data.

The district of Kendujhar is considered to be one of the worst-hit when it comes to school dropouts, with a large number of parents sending their children for work both inside and outside the state.

"We are attempting to provide platforms to the children so that they actively participate in decision making and make their voices heard, said " Sasank Padhi, State Programme Manager of Save the Children which has been helping organisations like PECUC. - By Jatindra Dash, IANS



Sishu Sabha (Children Assembly)



Level	Association	Member
Village	Sishu Sabha	Children from a particular village
Panchayat	Sishu Panchayat	Leaders of village level Sishu Sabha
Block	Sishu Maha Sabha	Leaders of Sishu Panchayat

Sishu Sabha is a grassroots level institution of children to learn and promote child rights, human rights and citizenship. Irrespective of their caste, creed, language, sex, age, ability or disability and school going and non-school going children come together to form associations at village level and select their leaders among them. To endorse and protect child rights, PECUC facilitate the formation and functioning of Sishu Sabha from village to Gram panchayat and Block to district. The Sisu

Objective of Sishu Sabha

- All children would attend school/ICDS and study
- Those children who have enrolled in school/ICDS center but irregular or dropped out in the middle should be motivated to return to school/ICDS centre.
- To eliminate discrimination based on caste, creed, colour and sex etc.
- To develop inherent potentiality and qualities among children.
- To eradicate the system of child labour.
- To keep the environment clean, undertake plantation and promote awareness on environment protection in the community.
- To link all children with universal immunization program and to take measures to ensure healthy childhood.
- To discuss about roles and responsibilities of stakeholders and prioritizing children's needs in the event of flood, cyclone and draught.
- To spread awareness on different skill, knowledge and information.
- To encourage children's suggestions affecting their daily life.
- To participate in building an ideal home, village and school.

District	No. of Sishu Sabha	Members in Sishu Sabha
Keonjhar	184	10923
Kendrapara	19	518
Balasore	22	964
Khurda	4	200
Total	229	12605

Sishu Sabha	Number
Village level Sishu Sabha	229
Sishu Panchayat	20
Sishu Mahasabha	5

Sabha have regular weekly meetings on which various aspects and issues of the village

in relation to child rights and human rights and decisions taken for their benefit. In addition, the Sisu Sabha observe different special days and functions, learn and foster care and protection of natural environment, non discrimination and equity for all and for culture, and participate in social awareness rallies, campaigns and programs envisaged under the government and non government agencies. Sisu Sabha participates in different forums and platforms to raise their voices and concerns in the capacity of citizens.

Jharana join back school with her sister

Like Jharana many school going children in Pathakhagi hamlet of Kuapasi left the school for various reasons. The root cause was lack of understanding of benefit of school and education. Kuapasi is a village of Munda community and mostly daily wages workers. They worked in the field along with their children. Lack of awareness of community and finance crunch of the family pushed Jharana and her friends from school. Regular interaction and through various awareness programme by Kuapsai Sishu Sabha Kuapasi villagers understand the benefit of education and realizes that all their children must be educate. With collective decision initiated by Kuapsai Sishu Sabha 15 children along with Jharana joined back the school and are continuing their studies.



Jharana with her sister

Safe drinking water and sanitation for all

Child have the right for good health and hygiene, hence they need safe drinking water and a clean



environment in their surroundings. Putugaon School of Budhikaputi panchayata had an issue

of drinking water. The matter was discussed in Sibani Sisu Sabha and put forth the demand with School Management Committees. Ms. Bhubaneswari Mohanta, Ms. Baldehi Mohanta and Ms. Binodini Prusty, the members of sisu sabha,



carry forward the demand with block and discussed the matter in an urgent need. A tube well is placed in the school campus assuring children's right to safe drinking water and sanitation. The process also creates awareness among villagers that children should be made part of similar processes for speedy and impactful disposal of various issues and concerns.

There is one caste – the caste of humanity

Discrimination has no limitations, so as its manifestations. Discrimination on basis of caste is one of the oldest crimes. Such an instance was

Issues discussed, initiative taken in Sishu Sabha

- Free & Compulsory Education of children
- Enrolment and retention
- Children representatives in SMC
- Child labour, child trafficking, migration child marriage, and other social ills
- Quality MDM
- Requirement of teachers in schools
- Use of library and book bank
- Promotion of kitchen garden in school and medicinal plant in village
- School sanitation, cleanliness and beautification
- Social exclusion
- Anti liquor campaign
- Ecology, culture and biodiversity
- Disaster risk reduction strategy
- Other developmental programmes
- Provision of safe Drinking water in schools and villages

influenced and removes discrimination in the society. One head master of a School in Tangarapada Gram panchayat was used to call the children by their caste that hurts their sentiments. The matter was discussed in Sishu Sabha and was brought to the notice of School Management Committee and with the intervention of School Management Committee the head master was desist from the practice to reinstate a sacred relationship – between the teacher and the students.

“My work starts in a Hotel at Kolkata from early morning to late night, though I do not want. I hardly get any time to study. Said Dipak's elder brother.”

Dipak is the second child of his parents who are daily wage workers of Ramdeichak Village in Balasore District. Both the brothers were studied in Nigamnanda Upper Primary School. Due to financial crunch their father sent the elder son to Kolkata to work in a hotel.

Dipak became the member of Maa Jagadhattri Sishu Sabha and shared his issue. The matter was discussed in Sishu Sabha. The president Satya Prakash Mohanty and other members of Sishu Sabha raised the issue before Child Protection Committee

(CPC) and the teachers. Sishu Sabha members, teacher, CPC members all approached and motivated Dipak's parents to bring his elder son back. Finally the parents were convinced and brought back their son. Now both Dipak and his brother are in school and continuing their study. Hats up to Maa Jagadhattri Sishu Sabha who made



Dipak (centre) with his friends from the Sishu Sabha



Maa Jagadhattri Sishu Sabha discussing the issue of child labour in their weekly meeting

this to happen said Dipak's father. "After attending the meetings of the children's club I am very happy; I hardly had people to speak with me before, but now I have many friends. I am given more skills other than regular studies like Life skills, games, vocational training, songs, Personal Hygiene, Child rights, Child Protection etc" said Dipak's elder brother.

Impact of Sishu Sabha

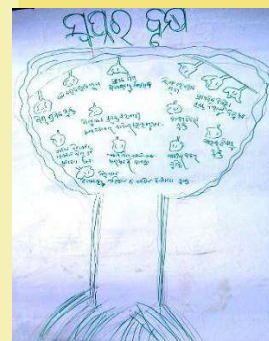
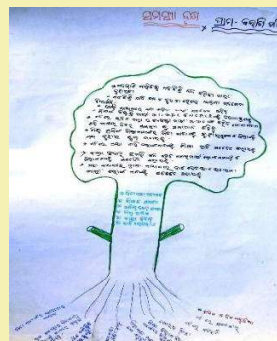
Sishu Sabha creates an avenue for children to think, reflect and come up with new ideas to suggest the betterment of the society as well as protect their rights. The level of participation increased at all sphere from home to state, from self to society. They become the torch-bearer, decision maker, responsive citizen, protagonist not only for safeguarding their rights also create an enabling just a humane society

Like Jharana, Ranu, Seema, Sasmita, Amulya, Sumitra, Niranjan, Girija, Barsha and many others are now in school and continuing their education with full extent.

Diagnosis of problems and take decisions in Sishu Sabha



5.3 Red Card campaign against child labour



Hundreds of School Children congregated at Master Canteen Square for Red Card campaign on 12th June Morning. Akankshya Kabi and Nikita Mishra cine child artists lead the campaign. Children together through red card campaign desire to build public opinion against engaging children as labourers. The children have right to education, play, care and protection. Their place is in school and not in work place.

5.4 Children lobbying for inclusion of child related issues in political party manifestoes during elections.

In elections, almost all political parties have declared their plans and programmes and published them as their party "Election Manifesto". The manifestoes present the success stories and future plans. Those are mostly general welfare programmes with some manipulative declarations. Hence PECUC had state level consultation with participation of more than 50 Children across the state. Children placed different issues relating to education, health, Child Labour and protection etc. and influence political parties to accept them as their party manifesto and seek a commitment to realize them. Such issues were exhibited in party manifesto of various political parties in 2009 and leaders were committed to address the issues.

5.5 Child participation in Community based Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)

Sishu Sabha members are in Gram Sabha and deliberating on their issues and concerns since 2004. During initial days, children were identified very small issues, which were never thought by adults. The issues such as unused-uncovered, well



in the campus, throne in the school campus, gaps between classrooms to be covered during rainy

season etc. Gradually the discussion going deeper and now-a-days Children are developing Village Contingency Plan (VCP) for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) along with the community for their villages in Balasore and Kendrapara districts.

The Bhograi Block under Balasore district in Odisha, is crisscrossed by the perennial and estuarine river Subarnarekha and its tributaries and the back waters because of its proximity to sea. Subarnarekha has passed through this block dividing it into two parts from west to east before surging into the Bay of Bengal. The Block has a long history of floods; but the frequency of its occurrence has increased over the years. Barring in year 2000, the block is badly affected by floods in the last decade alone. It also faces most of the cyclonic storms and depression related rains that originate from the Bay of Bengal. Floods in the



Discussion on DRR by children

last two years h a v e devastated the block, necessitating taking up a longer term Disaster Risk Reduction (D R R) initiative. PECUC facilitate two rounds of trainings to 250 members of community-based Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) Committees & 100 Sishu Sabha members on Child-Centered Disaster Risk Reduction mapping and planning followed by First-Aid training. Followed by planning exercise, specific skill trainings on search & rescue and First Aid trainings were given to selected children with leadership potentials. The objective was to equip children with the knowledge and basic skills on DRR to deal with their own safety needs in emergencies. It also aimed at changing adult attitude towards children and behaviour during emergencies. In the process, a total of 9962 children and 14985 adults were involved and benefited.



Red Card Campaign by children

Before the project intervention, I didn't know how to treat a person who is bitten by the snake. Now I have learnt basics of first aid training and able to save my mother's life. The training was helpful as I helped my little brother get rid of the fish bone that was stuck in his throat", says Anita

Anita is a 13 years old girl studying in Class VII of village Jaladha, Balasore district. With her schooling she looks after the house-hold work as her parents are daily agricultural laborers.

One day, as usual, her mother returned from work had meal and went to sleep. It was in the middle of the night when she had to go to the toilet. On her return from bathroom she did not noticed the snake near the door, so unknowingly she stamped on it and the snake bite her. She cried loudly seeing the snake, hearing her cry the family members came in a hurry. Anita noticed the snake bite marks on her mother's leg, tied bandage and her father squeezed the blood from the leg and took her to doctor and explained about first-aid done to her. The doctor appreciated the way the bandage was tied. Soon the doctor gave treatment to her



Anita's First aid support

and she was out of danger. After two hours she was brought home. Anita saved her mother.

Apart from this, Anita also learnt about different types of disasters management skills. She was also



aware of the different type of bandages and how to give first aid on several different incidents. Not only that but she also developed lot of self-confidence and now she is in a stage to help herself and others too. She was thankful for the first aid training, which proved very helpful in times of disaster as well in day to day life.



Children demonstrating their learning on First aid

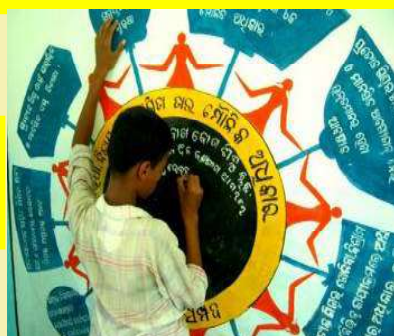
Sarat Kumar, a 14 years boy, studying in class VII, in the Upper Primary School in Jaladha, had no knowledge on disaster risk reduction and he was scared to talk to teachers and other elders. He never participated in any activity conducted in the school. But after the intervention of the organization he came to know about types of disasters, how to identify risk and safety places and how to prepare contingency map. He came to know about providing first aid techniques and also about the roles and responsibilities of task force groups.



Sarat and his friends discussing DRR activities and from TFG make a floatation device with locally available resources



Sarat Participating in Sishu Sabha activity



Today, Sarat is able to participate in all activities actively and he is able to ask doubts and clarification from teachers without fear. Apart from this, he is also teaching his sister & parents about different bandages, different techniques of carrying injured persons, etc. Now he is confident to protect himself when disaster occurs.

What they Say:

- “I found the school safety mapping exercise very interesting and also very useful. My friends and I have developed our school safety plans at our school level. In the task force, we, along with our teachers have identified risks and safe place in the schools. We have shown the toilets in the school, and although there exists separate toilets for boys and girls they don't have doors, which is an issue for protection. The classroom window is also vulnerable as children jump out of them and at times hurt themselves. Fire accident, road accident, flood, - are some of the risks identified by the children in the school that was visited” – Nirbhay Kumar
- “Before we used to enjoy swimming for just the fun aspect of it, but now also know the importance and how to protect ourselves. We also learnt what local resources (like old cold drink plastic bottles) to use as flotation devices.
- “I now know what the difference between what an emergency and a disaster is. In our Sunday meeting of the Sisu Sabha, Nirabh Madhan.
- “We have done a very interesting exercise of marking the vulnerabilities that exist in our school campus and within the village. Houses of physically challenged/pregnant women and elderly are marked distinctly. Those of Asha / ANM workers are also marked. Pukka houses and the temple which are slightly raised can prove to be a point for shelter for neighboring houses. The Child Friendly Flood Shelter (CFFS) is well marked and the routes to reach



the same from all parts of the village are shown. The water bodies, forest and other resource points as well as danger points are marked clearly” – Sabita Das, SHG Federation member.



Demonstration of cold drinks bottles as flotation devices

5.6 Participation in Developing School Safety Plan (SSP)



Village and school vulnerability mapping exercise

Children are the most vulnerable group in the community. They spend their vital period of their lives in school. Thus information regarding risks and hazardous within the school campus and various safety measures in schools are basic requirements to enable children to overcome the risk of hazards expected. School Safety Plan (SSP) is a Development Initiative that meets the above needs to ensure safety of the children from different natural and man-made hazards that strikes the school from time to time and to develop a second line of disaster preparedness at the grassroots by fostering a culture of disaster preparedness among school children.

The first School Safety Plan (SSP) was facilitated by PECUC in the year 2006-07 in Bhogarai block of Balasore district. It has become the culture in PECUC to facilitate the preparation of SSP in all schools in its intervention areas. Over a period of time, 30 SSPs in Balasore and Kendrapara districts are developed. The process was initiated and



Children in a stage-wise demonstration on how to rescue a person drowning in water using different techniques and the first aid to be given after rescuing from the water Demonstrating Learning form the Task Force trainings





Evacuating a person from a dark place by crawling technique demonstrated by Manoj Kumar Andia, a student of Class VI from the Upper Primary School in Jaladha village

catalysts to demystify the village resources highlights contingency needs for the community during disaster. The plan addressed different material needs, setting up of roles and responsibilities of persons, groups in the community during disaster.

5.8 Evaluate annual review and evaluation of PECUC projects

PECUC believes in enhancing capacity of the children to assert their rights and to enforce

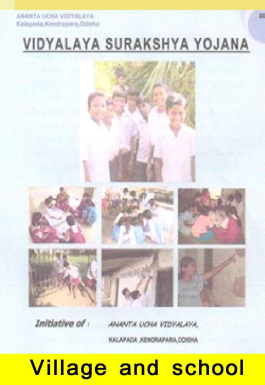
participated by children, teachers and the School Management Committee (SMC). In fact the key feature is that, the children took active part right from conceptualization, planning and updating of the plan with support from teachers and SMC. Child participation in School Safety Planning process ensures that the specific disaster preparedness needs of children are highlighted and integrated with the plan.

PECUC facilitated School Safety Plan in Kalapada High School of Kendrapara district in the year 2010 and subsequently updated by the school is awarded as one of the best school safety plan in the country by the National Disaster Management Authority and the National Institute for Disaster Management in the year 2012.

5.7 Participation in Developing Village Contingency Plan

In the process of developing Disaster Risk Reduction Plan, a Village Contingency Plan (VCP), which is otherwise known as Village Response Plan also develop. Children act as the

accountability among the duty bearers through review and evaluation processes. This is not an isolated activity for the sake of mere reviewing or evaluating the outcomes of the project. Through such process children need to foster an element of critical and analytical skill in them, being face to face with the events and ground realities that affect their life and wellbeing and suggest improvements thereof. It is an inbuilt process designed much before the implementation of the project. Children shared their understanding about the project and its impact on Community. They evaluate the projects such as “Participatory Action for eradication of child Labour”, “Stronger Voice to Excluded Children in Government and NGO’s Policies and Programmes”, “Exchange of International Best Practices in Education: Actions in India and Overseas”, “Poverty Reduction in Odisha”, “Health and Education





Projects', etc. of the organization.

5.9 Monitoring Cash for Work programme

Disaster preparedness is not about action in isolation. Space need to be created and vulnerable groups in the community like children need to play greater role in the overall disaster management framework to instate a culture of preparedness. Monitoring of Cash for Work programme by children is meant to ensure and enhance participation of children in disaster response and rehabilitation program. The learning of the initiative promotes children as responsible social actors and role players to mobilize their community towards child specific elements in reconstruction. The child is also able to learn the way money needs to be expended to replenish the disaster loss.

5.10 Child participation in Gramsabha

Good citizenship – Governance process, discipline participation, raising Child right issues and prioritize them. PECUC believes that children as right holders are entitled to equal and meaningful participation in all matters in which they share an interest. Thus, child participation in gram sabha and palli sabha is advocated and promoted in the intervention districts and communities in the state by PECUC. The said participation by children has a positive impact on children and their communities in identifying potential issues and addressing the underlying issues of the under privileged in the society. The child participation is also establishing new moral and ethical standards in local governance. Accordingly, the members of Sishu Sabha from Kendujhar, Balasore and Kendrapara districts are empowers and a space created for them to join in the democratic process and express their views and concerns. Interestingly, the issues raised by children in the above such are duly acknowledged by local governance and

documented in the proceedings. Demands and suggestions put forward to higher-ups for necessary actions.

Gram Sabha is the highest decision making body at the Gram Panchayat level where all the developmental activities are discussed and plans are made. The Gram Sabha is conducted by the Panchayta Raj Institutions. With PECUC's intervention and facilitation children from Sishu Sabha, actively participated in Gram Sabha raised their concerns and placed their demands to protect their rights.

There are instances in Kharid Pipal and other gram Panchayats where Shishu Sabha members actively participated, raised pertinent issue relating to children and village development and seek commitment from PRI. There were instances as proven fact that, Sarapanchas of Nachinda & Kusuda G.Ps committed to complete their commitment very soon through NREGS.

Impact of Child Participation in Gram Sabha and Palli Sabha

- Discussion with children in palli sabha and gram sabha are given prior attention and recorded in the proceedings for further follow up and necessary action
- The issues such as school education, preschool education, child labour, disability and other forms of exclusion, drinking water in their community, road and communication found a space in the above list of concerns expressed by children.
- Establishes a parallel in governance between children and the adults in the community
- Ensures that no issue of the child remain unheard and out of notice of local self governance
- Panchayat took initiative for timely supply of text books in Schools and students received text books on time.
- Two Children with special need of Kendeipasi and the Chakundapal village received pensions by the initiatives taken by SEO and Sarpanch





- Panchayat Raj Representatives visiting schools and extending collaborative hand leads developmental schemes in place such as quality improve in Mid Day Meal
- Sarpanch along with the supervisor visited to Angan Wadi Centers and supervise MDM. Now MDM served as per Menu.
- At Chakudapal High School Boundry wall and Class Room constructed with Support of the Panchayat.

that the children are going to access to their dreams in no time.



AWC under construction



Children of Bhulda Sishu Sabha

5.11 Gram Sabha at the Behest of Rights and Entitlements

Forty-one children of Bhulda village did not have easy access and safe Angan Wadi center. With a mini AWC the villagers tried many times for up gradation and for a regular concrete structure. The center continues to run on a varandha where the Sishu Sabha convene their meeting on weekends. Even the recent decisions by the government to establish or arrange permanent and safe structure for ICDS centers was not executed.

Thus calling for more forceful action on the part of the affected children and community living in the hamlet to realize their rights.

The action was initiated by Sishu Sabha in consultation with Child Protection Committee. Issue raised in Grama sabha on 15th Aug 2012 and memorandum submitted. An historic action taken by the local governance and issue was forwarded to BDO with copy to CDPO and the District Collector.

The dreams come true. The construction of AWC is on. It is a sweet surprise for all of us



Children Assembly – Children parliament
(Mock Assembly Photo)



Participation of children in Gram Sabha

Democracy calls for eternal vigilance and active participation from all quarters. Children form approximately 40% of the population in our country. Democracy cannot be successful unless and until it is able to address the needs and issues of this vital segment of the population. An assembly for children is a step forward, innovative initiative meeting short term needs and building long term perspective. On the one hand, children develop awareness on laws and



legislations to assert their rights in a more constructive manner and, create scope for

strengthening existing parliamentary democratic processes in the country on the other. State level Children Parliament (mock Parliament) was held in 2003 and 2009. The issues such as “Protect Children from Disaster Situation in 2003 and Children’s Right to Education in 2009 were discussed in these Mock Parliament by the children.

5.12 Child as Good Will Ambassador

“Child as Good Will Ambassador” is a messenger of peace and for child rights. The concept is envisaged under a broader initiative of “Protection and Promotion of Child Rights”. Their role is to disseminate the message of Child rights across all the sections of the children and community in the state and beyond. Objective is to promote a world, based on social justice, equity, non-discrimination and free from violation for all children. Akankshya Kabi and Nikita Mishra were declared as Good Will Ambassadors for protection and promotion of child rights by PECUC during 2011 at a grand ceremony in Bhubaneswar. Both the child ambassadors are working to bring the significance to life of the child and to foster peace, amity and fraternity.

6. Child led indicators

6.1 Child led indicators

Education for All will be realized when education will be by All. Children are the main stakeholder of the education and they have the right to foster own views and ideas about School functioning and performing. They must be part of visioning, planning and strategizing. PECUC facilitate the process to involve children in planning for their education at school level. Through facilitation children understand and analyze the issue pertaining to education in their school. Their planning and monitoring skills increased. Hence children become the planner, implementer and monitor along with the school authority and school management committee. They strategize the activities with specific, measurable, accurate, reliable, and time bound indicators called Child Led Indicators (CLI). Child Led Indicators are a list of indicators prescribing minimum standards in the school from

Dreams become Reality

There are 113 Santali household living in Nuapada, a remote village of Patana Block in Keonjhar. Many of them are daily wages worker with very few of agricultural land. Primary school of the village has 77 children with one teacher. Children are not regular in school due to lack of infrastructure, teacher, teaching learning materials, communication gap between teacher and children and so on.

With PECUC’s facilitation a Sisu Sabha formed and holds their discussion on child rights and other problems of the village in a regular basis. Discussion was focused on children’s education lead to vision a dream school by the children. Sishu Sabha discussed about the Child Led Indicators (CLI) and identified the indicators in priority basis. Child Led Indicators were discussed with School Management Committee. A meeting was arranged with teachers, SMC and other stakeholders. Responsibilities were shared, accountability were fixed with timeline. With continuous interaction, counsel and motivation all the parents agreed to provide belt and uniform to their children. SMC took responsibilities to do these activates.

Dreams turn to reality. Annual event was organized in schools, Annual sports organized, School tube well repaired, Boundary wall made, a new teacher appointed and children enjoying a good play ground.

child rights perspective to realize joyful learning and child friendly school environment. Its ultimate aim is to attain a safe school, a dream school for children. The indicators are identified through an empowering process participated by children, the School Management Committee and teachers. To know about the dream of children for their school and to accomplish those, Child Led Indicators have been developed in the schools. Later on the indicators are shared at school level for ratification and adoption. The process was initiated in 40 schools in Patana block of Kendujhar district during 2006-2008. Later on the process was adopted in more than 100 schools in the district involving children and community. They are empowered to adopt and own the process and update the CLI



Purpose of Developing CLI

- Inculcate a sense of Ownership of the program amongst stakeholders
- Increasing children's Participation – becoming change agents
- Increasing Influencing capacity
- Increasing Negotiating capacity
- Learning to view Child Rights from a Children's perspective
- Give recognition and respect to children and their role in society

from time to time. An annual review process followed to review the achievement of Child Led Indicators. School Management committee and teacher extend their support and cooperation to fulfill the achievement of CLI identified. Every year new indicators are substituting the achieved ones.

A Cool Mechanism in School

The tropical summer was showing its impact upon communities. Life was seeking comfort in open air under the cool shade of trees; people avoided long journeys and physical exertion during pick hours. It was not all that cool inside Tangarapada Upper Primary School of Kendujhar district in Odisha. The students in class 5th and 6th could hardly able to soak up the heat. They could not able to access to the cool comfort of electric fans enjoyed by fellow students in the school. It was as embarrassing and disheartening for the children as it had a negative impact on their learning. The individual issues become collective concerns and the children tabled their concern in weekly Sishu Sabha meetings. The Sishu Sabha leaders of "Maa Saraswati Sisu Sabha" took decision to address

the issue through CLI and suggestion box in the school. In the recently concluded CLI updating process, Sishu Sabha members and the School Management Committee (SMC) members included the issue as one of the CLIs in school. The issue of installation of fan in classrooms was also highlighted in the event of opening of suggestion box in the month of October 2012. Accordingly, the SMC took decision and the installation of electric fan in 2 classrooms is over now. Reacting to the installation of electric fan, one Namita Mahanta feels "*there was no ventilation of air, we could not able to concentrate in teachings, everyone in the class was disappointed . . . thanks to God! Now we have a cool classroom*".

Experience on Child Led Indicators are enriching day by day. Form 12 indicators from beginning now Tangarapada School have 16 and 27 suggestions outlined by the CLI are already addressed through quarterly updations process. A suggestion box is in place to CLI more meaningful and to have greater impact. The suggestion box is use by the children to monitor and track the action on CLI. The suggestion box is opened once in a month in the presence of head master, the Sishu Sabha members and the SMC and suggestion are considered in consultation with different stakeholders and decisions are taken accordingly.

Developing CLI is an ongoing activity facilitated by PECUC since 2005. The experience has been shared and similar models of CLI and suggestion box are replicated many schools in Patana, Ghatagaon and Jhumpura blocks of Kendujhar district. Now the students and the schools have adopted CLI and suggestion box as their key developmental activities to realize their dream school. While, the CLI is in demand outside the intervention area, the state government has already adopted suggestion box in every school in the state in the name of "Idea Box".

6.2 Suggestion Box Suggestion box is a strategic initiative at grassroots to establish children's right to participate in decision making process as envisaged by UNCRC 1989 and subsequently adopted by India through policies and programs on children. Apart from ensuring



Installation of fan in classroom



children's rights and providing scope for them to raise their issues and concerns, suggestion box

Suggestions through Suggestion Box

- Corporal punishment should be stop and CPC to look into it.
- Fair and equal distribution of foods / MDM in AWC and Schools for all children and it should be in quality and quantity
- Opening of new AWC in un-served habitations
- Teachers in school and AWW in Anganwadi should be regular in schools and centers
- SMC should take initiatives to get free text books in time
- Regular stipend to Schedule Cast Students
- SMC, Sishu Sabha and all others should take responsibility to admit all the drop out children
- CPC should actively participate in formation of SMC and be a part of it.
- Demand should be place before Govt. for teachers as per student's strength and classes.
- Issue of children should duly addressed in Palli Sabha and Gram Sabha
- Budget should made public by the Sarpanch
- Drinking water facilities should be provided to munda sahi in Manpur .
- Experts should be invited to share detail about various scheme for children such as *Kishori Balika Yojan, RtE, Rtl, etc.*
- SMC and community should take responsibility to facilitate the provision of safe drinking water to all schools and AWCs
- The CPC should take initiatives to rescue the girl children from ST community who are engaged in domestic labour or any other works
- Electrification of BPL houses should speed up
- Community should placed demand with concern authority for concrete building for AWCs.
- BPL card to the orphan in Dalanga
- AWC problem at Daburchua
- Drinking water problem in Khuntapada Primary School
- Class room problem in Jodichatar School

help bring about programmatic and policy related changes on children, develops them as active citizens and makes the stakeholders of child rights more responsive and accountable to children.

Suggestion Box in community

With continuous and regular interaction and interventions through suggestion box in schools, community also felt need to opine their views relating to various issue. Hence the process leads to have a suggestion box in the community for adult members to raise their concerns and constructive thoughts. In the community it is open to all. Anyone can put her/his suggestion / views without mentioning her/his name. It gives enormous opportunity to all community members to speak out their mind without blemish. The impact was awe-inspiring. Thousands of opinion, views, and concerns came with suggestive measures.

To have unbiased fair solution a committee is formed to open the suggestion box. Every month the suggestion box made public by the committee and follow up action taken with respective person, unit, or department.

Impact of Suggestion Box

In the village *Kendaiposi*, suggestions were taken up by the CPC. Committee met and discuss on the issue relating to child rights. A major step was taken by the committee to visit the family and parents to intimate and make them understand about rights of the child and to make support for a conducive and friendly environment. CPC took initiatives to ensure more participation in Kishori Balika Yojana and other developmental project for children and more particularly for girl children. Such intervention leads to a violence free home atmosphere in the village.

In the village *Mahishamundsi*, suggestion was to educate the illiterate parents. With request of the committee members local educated started evening class and took the responsibility to educate the adults in the village.

Suggestion was received in *Mahishamundi* to make aware about free and compulsory education for children of 6-14 age groups. A meeting was conducted and people of Mahishamundi and adjacent villages were made aware for free schooling and did not pay any fee for education of



their children. Based on suggestion, a leaflet was distributed on benefit and legal provision on Right to Free and Compulsory Education Act 2009.

findings of the mapping are documented and individual child profile developed and



Use of suggestion box by community member and children

In *Balaniposi* CPC coordinated with BRCC for supply of free textbooks to school in time and students get free textbooks *Balaniposi* Upper Primary School.

The name of contact number of Child Protection Committee members were displayed in the Sishu Sabha Gruha based on the suggestion from *Bhanrapur*.

There are instances regarding due interference of CPC, many family and children get free from domestic violence, corporal punishment, quality food in MDM, etc.

When the suggestion are beyond the purview at the village level, the issues are taken up with higher authority / institutions such as panchayat / block / district level to fulfill the demand and realize their dreams as true.

Apart from addressing issues and ensuring child participation and community participation in schools, the CLI and the suggestion box have positive impact on school attendance and retention thus influencing learning level of children in school.

6.3. Community Based Education Management Information System (CEMIS)

“Community based Education Management and Information System” (CEMIS) is an innovative development tool. CEMIS comes into force with initiation of social mapping at the community level participated by children and the community. The

maintained. Based on the child profile master child tracking system evolve for further analysis. The information made public and community made aware about the status of their children. At every step CEMIS ensure child participation and obtained their views with respect. Thus leads to formulate strategy and action for quality universalization of education for all our children. Findings of CEMIS create platform to advocate for policy level changes and to take right decision at right time and place.



Jubati Bentkar

Jubati Bentkar of 12 years of age, the daughter of Kanaka Bentkar and Milu Bentkar of Kumulabahali village in Palanghati gram Panchayat, Patna, Keonjhar was left her school on way back to support her parents in family earnings and to look after their domestic animals. Through CEMIS she was identified. The issue was taken up by the Sishu Sabha. Champabati Mahanta, Gitarani Mohanta, Dilip Mohanta and Mikirani Mohanta, the leaders of Sishu Sabha contacted her parents and discussed the issue. They mobilized Jubati's parents thrust upon the value of education and the opportunity provided by right to free and compulsory education for the children up to 6-14 years through RTE Act. The member also supported by the community members. To make their family income sustainable the grain bank under PECUC and TDH initiative was agreed to support grains to the family. Similarly,



the seed bank was interested to provide seed to her father to undertake cultivation. Finally Jubati

back to her school and continue her education. Bentka family expresses gratitude to Sishu Sabha and the community for all support and makes their child to get education.

6.4. Exclusion Mapping by Children

Keeping children as a part of exclusion making at the grassroots has a multi-dimensional effect on the development process. It is not a onetime process but an empowering initiative in which children are able to know what are the causes of exclusion, who are the excluded groups, what forms such exclusion, what needs to be done to address such exclusion and who are responsible for excluded children to access to their rights and entitlements. One significant aspect of the process is that excluded children themselves take part to own the process and benefits out of it. In the due course of time, these children in groups are able to mobilize others in the community and advocate for their rights, thus ensuring an inclusive society.

6.5. Interview panel member in selection of PECUC staffs

PECUC believes and practices the principles of involving children in guiding force and decision making. Teenaged children are selected from among children group leaders to be part of the panel in selection and interview process of PECUC personnel. Their views, decision and judgment given equal weightage and reflect in the outcome process.

6.6. Participation in preparing code of conduct for PECUC

As a right based organization, PECUC keep close contact with children all the times through participatory and democratic processes. Thus, the personnel are not only required to be versed in child rights and development; but also to demonstrate minimum standards of restraint in dealing with children, to ensure protection for children from abuse and harm. Such sensitive entity cannot be ensured unless and until children are adequately empowered and equipped. A reporting mechanism in place and children's voices are heard. Thus participation of children established in outlining code of conduct for



Child Friendly Flood Shelter at Kendrapara



Child Friendly flood shelter at Bhograi, Balasore

the organization. In the course of time, these children are able to comment and review individual team members performances and report accordingly. They share their concerns and learning to other children and set trends of protective environment for children in the community.

6.7 Child Friendly Flood Shelter

The Child Friendly components of CFFS include location of the structure at a child friendly place easily accessible to different groups of children, pencil/butterfly shape of the structure, play ground around the structure, use of bright colour, ramp facility, wider stairs with protective walls and small steps, exclusive space with designed walls and lower window sills in front of first floor for children to pass leisure time, use friendly wash basin, artistic designs inside rooms promoting artistic and writing skills among children, open terrace with protective



parapet around, a structural design in front of the terrace promote small children to play with it.

The Vivekananda children's group member, Ashish, says, *"We can all be together, study together and play together in the Ashray Kendra (CFFS) when floods occur. All people who are severely affected by flood can take shelter in the CFFS"*.

Ms. Basanti, a DRR committee member, sounded very excited when she said *"We saw the CFFS design in the computer; the Consultant showed it to us. The butterfly design is very new and very attractive – and it has so many walls!!!"*

"It is very important to have a structure like this during floods – we should have had it a long time back – but better now, late than never having the Ashray Kendra; I go and regularly see the progress of the construction of the CFFS", says Kabita Das

DRR committee member, Kartik Chandra mentions, *"We maintain a shelter maintenance fund of Rs 3000/- (Rs. 2/- saved per day) for our future. People can take shelter in this structure during floods; in other times, it may be utilized for immunization purposes and also for the purpose of holding SHG meetings. It can also be a temporary shelter for any family whose house is damaged by fire. All of us will ensure that we will not use this for any personal purpose and also not for any election or political purposes"*.

6.8 Child as Researcher

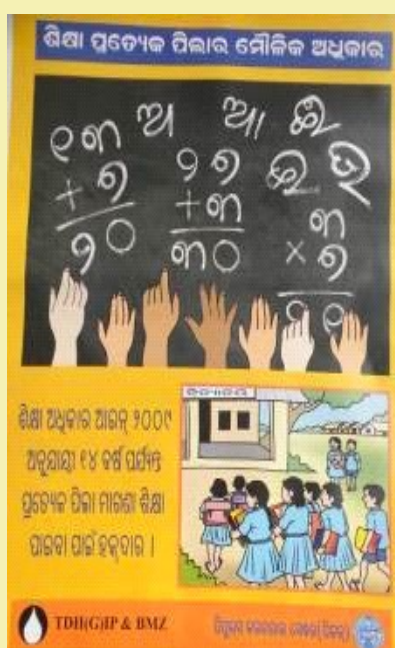
PECUC facilitate a study on **Quality Education**. The study was conducted by Sishu Sabha members in 20 villages in Keonjhar district. With the technical support children took part in design the study, developing tools, collect data, compilation and analyze the data.

Some of the major findings of the study:

- Around 30% of children of school age group children were out school, out them 10% were not even enrolled.
- The major reasons for children not attending schools were: domestic / household work and labour works.

- Awareness on sex discrimination and population control were yet to reach to these people, hence it was seen that families have 7-8 children from a parents with expectation to have a boy child.
- Majority of the families do not have minimum standard housing with sanitation facilities. Further the families having Tin / Asbestos or pucca houses do not have adequate living rooms and sanitary latrines.
- Around 53% families still have annual family income below poverty line (BPL) and another 30% having income just above poverty line (APL). This shows, the economic status of the area and people with approximately eighty percent of the families still struggling for survival.
- Despite implementation of ICDS Programme there were only 62.18% children enrolled in anganwadi centres. During data collection it was revealed by the children that, Anganwadi workers failed to provide proper and qualitative services in almost all the areas due to lack of proper orientation and motivation.
- In case of school education, there were lacks of basic infrastructure, such as about 32% of schools visited during the study were having classes without classroom. At about another 28% schools did not have adequate space in classrooms for student and to have an activity based learning process.
- Corporal punishment was another factor in schools, which push the children away. Reasons for corporal punishment as shared by the respondents were: incomplete o homework, committing mistakes during classroom learning, late attendance in school and discussing among peer during lesson transaction.
- Teachers' engagement in non-academic work was another factors affect children education in schools. A teacher was out of schools for non-academic works for around 43 days in a year.
- Parents were yet to realize the importance and benefits of education; hence demand for quality education from parents was not seen.





PECUC's Address :

Registered Office: VII-M-13, Sailashree Vihar, Bhubaneswar- 751021, Odisha, India

Coordination Office: Plot No -63, Phase -2, Indraprashtha, Pokhariput, Bhubaneswar -751020, Odisha, India

Phone No: 0674-2382175/0674-2352232

E-mail Id: pecucindia@gmail.com & pecuc@hotmail.com

Website: www.pecuc.org



People's Cultural Centre (PECUC)

Registered Office:

VII-M-13, Sailashree Vihar, Bhubaneswar- 751021,
Odisha, India, [Permanent Address]

Coordination Office:

Plot No -63, Phase -2, Indraprashtha, Pokhariput,
Bhubaneswar -751020, Odisha, India

E-Mail id: pecuc@hotmail.com/pecucindia@gmail.com

Website: www.pecuc.org, Facebook: PECUC Odisha

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