

# People's Cultural Center (PECUC)



## **ANNUAL REPORT**

### **2008 – 09**

*People's Cultural Center (PECUC)*

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## *From the secretary Desk,.....*

For **PECUC**, the year ended was one marked by hard efforts on many fronts, with the programmatic centers making limited but steady progress in their respective thrust areas.

The training and support programme of the organization conducted most of its programmes successfully and on time. This year there was considerable increase in the number of training programmes both quantitatively & qualitatively. The need assessment indicated a clear demand for more grassroots level programme on local dialect; more number of programmes on education with added emphasis on quality learning; and integration and linking of local self-governance with other prevailing issues.

In the course of the year, the organization subjected itself to a series of introspection and self-analysis exercises. First, there was an organization development (OD) exercise involving reflections on the systems and sub-systems of the organization. Second, a staff / member appraisal was undertaken with a view to enhancing personal as well as role effectiveness of the key personnel. The year also saw increased focus on mainstreaming gender in the organization.

I thank our funding members / partners for contributing the resources necessary for all this work – factored in the financial report. I also thank our operational members for their confidence and cooperation, which made our work possible. I also thank all the local government authorities, NGO staffs and the officials of the banks who extended their cooperation to reach us far beyond.

An attempt is made in the following pages to provide the readers with a brief glimpse into the activities carried out by PECUC during the year ended 31st March' 2009.

**R. K. Mohanty**  
**Secretary-cum-chief Executive**

## *Who We Are .....*

With a right-based approach to work for a just society People's Cultural Centre (PECUC) got legal entity in July 1990. Since then it has been undertaking various developmental works for the rights of the people in both rural and urban areas of the state. From the beginning PECUC's focus has been to help the downtrodden to join mainstream and have their rights. The Strategic Plan of PECUC identified five major issues of interventions and three cross cutting issues, which form the basis of the work of PECUC.

During 2008-09 PECUC has undertaken several activities for promotion of Child Rights, Women Empowerment, Aged Right, Alternative Livelihood Options, Good and Participatory Governance, etc. Since Orissa is prone to varieties of natural calamities, PECUC has strengthened and initiated relief, rehabilitation and risk reduction interventions in the flood-hit areas of the state.

PECUC's area of operation is spread all over the State. Currently it has direct micro-level interventions to create alternative development models in the districts of Keonjhar, Khurda, Balasore, Kendrapara and Cuttack. Besides, the organization is active in Policy Research and Advocacy at state and national level.

**Vision:** "Another world in which peace, justice and equality prevails. Individuals and communities live in dignity and harmony respecting cultural and natural diversity. A world in which people participate and have say in their social and economic well being, prosperity and exercise their rights to a life of dignity"".

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

### **Core Issues**

- Child Rights Protection & Promotion
- Livelihood & Household Food Security
- Right of the Old aged
- Access to information & deepening Democracy
- Community Health Management
- Human Rights
- Gender Justice
- Disaster Management & Preparedness

## KEONJHAR UNIT

### Quality and Inclusive Education

Swampatna is one of the remote and thickly tribal populated blocks in Keonjhar district of Orissa. Most of the villagers are landless and poor. Besides agriculture and allied activities they subsist on daily wages. Illiteracy coupled with ignorance does not allow people access to their basic rights. Education is considered meaning less as the performance of schools have little to do with the qualitative improvement of the child. Depletion of natural resources and increasing mining activities along with globalization has worsened the situation. Child labour is practiced more to meet basic requirements of the households than anything else. The results are grave social issues of – consequence.

The project was meant to implement for three years (2007-2010) in 40 villages of Swampatna block to strengthen the formal school system and arrangement of remedial classes with the help of community and children's participation. The project is supported by Save The Children & European Union

### **Capacity Building of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) like SHGs, CPC, SEC, PTA, MTA and PRIs on Child Rights, Child Protection and Value of Education:**

13 trainings have been imparted to a 800 participants from Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) like Self Help Group(SHG), Child Protection Committee (CPC), School Education Committee (SEC), Parents Teachers Association (PTA), Mothers Teachers Association (MTA) and Panchayatiraj Institutions (PRIs) of 40 villages. The trainings encompassed Child Right, Juvenile Justice Act & Child Labour Act with reference to the role of Civil Society in safeguarding Child Right, Quality Education & Child Protection issues.



### **Social Map and Vulnerability Mapping Exercise & Develop each child profile database and follow up for 10408 children:**

The activities are meant to develop a Community-based Education Information and Management System (CEIMS) to track and monitor each child in 40 operational villages. The SEC, PTA, MTA, CPC and SHG members in 40 villages have already reviewed the plan and devised strategies along with child club leaders and community to mainstream the out of school, drop out and child labour children

### **Formation and strengthening of children group:**

Children have rights to express their views on the matter which affects their lives. To promote their participation for their overall growth and development including education, school infrastructure, health, management of Mid-Day-Meal to other developments 40 child right groups with membership of 2897 children, including 1484 boys and 1413 girls have been formed in the project area.

### **Shradha Bhavan - community level child friendly centre:**

Shradha Bhavan brings changes in the lives of the children by mainstreaming the drop out and non-school going children in formal schools through their preparatory education at SB. So far 36 Shradha Bhavans have been established and 1,137 children both school going and non-school going and drop outs derived from diverse socio-economic backgrounds are regularly attending the SB centres

### **Community level awareness programme:-**

This campaign is done through IEC materials, rallies, wall painting, visibility board, information kit, cultural groups, puppet show to highlight on education and protection related issues – govt. schemes / programmes, act/ law, entitlements. 10 No of cases have been registered & addressed by the children groups on corporal punishment, Child labour rescue and Child exploitation..Rallies on “No Child Labour Day” & “School Challo Abhiyan” covered 825 children. Similarly on “Worls day against child Labour” 1200 children participated in the rally.

### **Children Assembly**

Children Assembly was organized to impart them knowledge about the functions of governance and discuss local issues like education, health, sanitation and sports besides making recommendations for corrective measures to the government. The leaders of child rights club played the role of Speaker, Chief Minister, Opposition Leader and other council of ministers.

**Develop minimum standards in 39 Schools using Child Led Indicators (CLIs):** Child led indicators have been prepared in all schools taken up under the project. The objective of CLI is to prepare a list of prerequisites for a model child friendly school. Suggestion boxes have been put in 39 schools and corresponding committees comprising students, teachers, representatives from PTAs, MTAs, SHGs and PRIs formed to draw the suggestion and divide the responsibility among the committees' members for their accomplishments.

**Adoption of Child Rights education in Schools:** Experts consultation meeting was organized involving educationists, human right activists and social activists to interact with teachers and students to develop the content and structure of curriculum for the students. The first phase of teaching of child right education is over in all 39 schools

### **Regular coordination with local SSA, education officials and line departments on planning and management:**

The project staffs have interacted with the Head Masters of all the 39 schools under the project. Regular meetings held with the local BDO, AWWs, District Social Welfare Officer, CWC members, DLO etc. for proper implementation of the project.

### **Publication of quarterly child bulletin - highlighting local issues, learning and sharing capturing creativity of children:**

A literary & News/Feature magazine is being published quarterly titled as "Bole Hun Ti" which is being written and edited by the children of the project area. Eight child editors were identified with the consensus of all child participants. 4 issues of Bole Hunti was published in the whole year. The magazine was distributed to children, PRI, government officials at different level and officials of education department.

### **Strengthening child protection mechanism within school and community level**

#### **Formation and strengthening of child protection committees:**

40 child protection committees, one in each of the 40 project villages, have been formed. They are working closely with school management, education department and police department. In 80% of child protection cases in all the 40 villages, CPC made successful intervention. In three cases CPC went to the level of district administration.

#### **Key achievements:**

- 1137 children (609 boys and 628 girls) get enrolled in 36 Shradha Bhawan.
- 40 no's of Child protection committee formed in 39 villages
- All the 39 schools have child led indicators
- Corporal punishment reduced in most of the project schools.
- Six local resource members are turned to become regular resource persons.
- 40 child right club have been formed. Including 2897 children ( 1483 boys and 1413 girls)
- 800 members from CSOs were trained on protection and promotion of child rights

#### **Persistent Effort in realization of a change**

Acute poverty stopped Jyosnarani Nayak to attend school. Her father did not listen to the words of education activist, cpc member and SEC chairman. In his opinion as a girl she should involve in domestic work as she would be tied in wedlock in future. The education activist tried again and again with others to convince him about the importance of study. At last it yielded to positive result and Jyosna came to school and her father started giving her all kind of

## **Participatory Action for Eradication of Child labour**

In view of the appalling condition of people predominated by child labour in the 10 villages of Swampatna block in Keonjhar district PECUC ,with the support from Terre Des Hommes [Germany ,India Programme] initiated a project to eliminate child labour from the area by ensuring education for all children.

### **Education as a Strategy:**

An Enrolment Campaign week was organized from 1st April to 7th April 2008 (School Challo Abhijan).Shradha Bhawans-Child Friendly Centres are functioning in all the project villages with the support of Multi Purpose Volunteers (MPV). 112 number of village meetings have been organized in all the 10 villages and 2507 villagers includes Male:- 1296 and Female:-1211 participated in it . The MPVs sensitized the village committees on various upcoming issues and facilitated them how to tackle the same collectively. 26 tribal children from Kolha and Majhi community who did not ever go to school , were enrolled in school and attended too.

### **Vocational Training**

Fifty children within the age group of 15-18 ,who were rescued from labour were given vocational trainings on thread stretching.

### **Child participation Activities:**

Children Club in each of the 10 project villages operates with 806 children. Alcoholism among teachers during school hours is strictly prohibited for teachers as a result of interface meeting of children with SI of schools. Children took initiative to plant trees in the schools and repaired damaged road in several villages

### **Livelihood Activities:**

Linkage with poverty alleviation schemes -Total 257 families were linked with Poverty Alliviation schemes of Government ,which includes NREGS, JSY, Old age pension , Widow pension, IAY(Indira awass yojana.227 women from child labourer families have formed 17 Self Help Groups (SHGs) and able to generate savings of Rs. 1,34,270 .

**Community Capacity building** Trainings were organized for the mothers' groups. The trainings were attained by 127 women. Training for the community level volunteers and staffs was organized covering different aspects like community mobilization, child labour issues, education, program planning and process documentation. 54 nos of PRIs, PTA, MTA, Teachers, school teachers, School Education Committee members and Anganwadi workers trained on the issues of child rights, power and functions different committees.

### **Awareness generation:**

Besides door to door campaign, village awareness meetings and counseling and motivation activities by the MPV were organized along with exhibition of posters to build environment against employment of children and to create a demand for education

### **Key Achievements**

- 232 no's parents of working children were counseled through family visits.
- 59 children (boys 30 and girls 29) have been mainstreamed in the regular schools.
- Total 242 non school going children including (dropouts and child labour) are regularly attending the Shraddha Bhawans.
- 806 children including male 429 and female 377 belonging to the age group of 6-18 in 10 child clubs are regularly attending the Sisu sabha meetings.
- Fifty 15-18 years of age were provided with need based skill development training and imparted training on thread stretching.
- 227 women from child labourer families formed 17 mother's Self help groups and able to generate savings of Rs.1,34,270
- 257 child labour families during the year were linked with different poverty alleviation programmes of the Govt. like NREGP, Old Age pension, Indira Awas Yojna, Widow pension scheme etc.
- Four groups were supported this year with Rs10000 each and started income generation activities which includes Rice processing, fishery, Paddy business.
- Corporal punishment is almost way out from all schools of the operational area.

## Education & Health Project in Patna Block of Keonjhar District.

Particularly in a tribal dominated area. Multi-faceted activities encompassing preparatory education for beginners and bridge course to drop outs, mobilization of community for creation of community education fund, health camps, counseling and awareness, Immunization, promotion of Mothers SHG,

Promotion of indigenous and traditional health practices by using locally available medicinal plants so that people use it when and where doctor is not available, increasing access to available health services and promotion of community-based organizations are integral part of the interventio

### Key achievements:

- Formation of Village Education Fund (VEF) in 18 out of 20 SB centers and deposited the amount Rs. 20, 042/- in different banks
- Formation of 10 new SHGs and all the shgs SHG have got support from ITDA, Keonjhar of Rs. 10,000/- each for its development without any interest and return.
- 4 SHGs got Rs. 20,000/- from Mission Shakti Patna Block ICDS
- formation of 20 Child Club and 18 Child Protection Committee
- Decrease in child labour and increase in strength of school attendance
- Ban of corporal punishment in 18 schools.

## National Child Labour Project

National Child Labour Project was in the offing in Swampatna area of Swampatna Block in Keonjhar District in August 2007. District Labour Department, Keonjhar supported it. Children who are engage in different gainful economic activities like Dhabas, hotels, shops and establishments; brick kilns, construction sites, etc are known as child labour. Mostly the poor parents have a negative attitude towards education of the children. So it is necessary to bring all children to one platform. The NCLP School at Swampatna provides the much needed platform for the child labours of the locality by ensuring their Right to Education.

### **Key Achievements**

- A total of 100 child labours were covered and enrolled from class one to class fifth in the school.
- Children received vocational training such as leaf let making, woolen carpets, envelopes and pottery.
- 5 students have been mainstreamed.
- One account in the name of each student was opened in the Indian Bank/Post Office and a stipend of Rs. 100/- per student per month was deposited..

## End of Violence against women -We Can campaign

### **Objectives:**

- Reduction of domestic violence
- Balancing of Gender equity in the society
- Creation of a violence free society

### **Key Achievements**

- A puppet show on women violence was organized on 22nd January-09 at Panchayat High school, Erendei of Swampatna block of Keonjhar district.
- On the programme more than 500 audiences from nearby villages and school children
- On the occasion of International Women's Day a 1000 event was organized
- 115 old change makers sensitized to continue work against domestic violence.
- 972 events were organized by the old change makers



## KHURDA UNIT

### Gender in Local Self Governance

#### Objectives

- Capacity building of women PRIs to ensure their effective participation on local self governance and fight for women right
- Leadership quality development among elected PRIs
- Develop strategic alliance to access support from various stakeholders through media linkage, publication and documentation

#### Key Achievement in a nutshell

- Grievance cell for women PRIs, working women, SHG leaders by BDO and Tahasildar has increased their access with the local administration and has led to solution of various problems of people.
- Capacitating of Women functionaries through trainings on their rights, responsibilities, powers and functions has led to their active and meaningful Participation not only in Panchayat meetings/ gram sava but also in development actions.
- Regular interface and interaction amongst the PRIs and Administration can lead to effective implementation of various schemes and programmes .
- Increased access to information not only ensures the meaningful and willful participation but also build self-confidence to work as a more people friendly representative.
- Getting an opportunity the women functionaries can play vital role in the process of overall development in the area



#### THE COURAGE OF.....

**Ruma Sahoo, Ward member of Ward no-16 of Bhingarpur Panchayat, aged about 42 years, residence of Bhingarpur village,** is a divorced woman. She lives with her younger sister and old mother. They are depending upon her for survival. So Ruma Sahoo has a small bittle shop near her house and it is the only source of income which provides financial support to manage her family. As she belongs to a very poor family, she has much more interest in doing welfare activities for the betterment of the people. Even she has courage to fight against violence and rights of the women. For example there was going to establish a liquor shop in Bhingarpur Panchayat. She gathered all other women and also her Panchayat male and female colleagues to fight against closing of the liquor shop. Again and again meeting was called by her to make the group strong to fight till achieve their goal of closing liquor shop. At first by the leadership quality of her, the group-started blockage of roads, gherao of MLA, wrote application to Collector, Sub-Collector, and Excise Minister and discussed with them about this shop. Even they reached at Chief Minister with a written application against sanction of opening of liquor shop. Lastly they did not hitch to break that liquor shop and also broke.



## **sponsor A Grant Parent - Programmme-Rights of the Age**

Old Age needs special protection to have its rightful place, which it does not have in this age of advancing technology and distancing relations. "Sponsor A Grand Parent" to village of Bariant Block Bhubaneswar Municipality area in Khurda district is fill up the vacant spaces in the lives of older people. The project is supported by HelpAge International & HelpAge India.

Major components are Family visit & counseling, Older persons SHG. The most important part is sustainability by convergence with other Govt programme

### **Key Achievements**

- *Creation of space for the old aged within the social set up*
- *Ensured Food security through monthly food material*
- *Increased dignity in the family & community*
- *18 person linked with Income Generation Programme .( Gotary, Paddy Processing, Beetle shop, Tea Stall)*
- *CBO's like SHG, youth clubs and children are taking care of old people*
- *Increased access to government plans and programmes including health facility*

### **Life of a lady changed**

She is living in a rented house since 20 years. The roof of the house has totally damaged and during the rainy season, the rain water get into the house through the damaged roof. In the summer time also it is too hot in the house. She is facing lot of difficulties. Her son is working in a saloon. In this crucial time the project gave her a new life. She made her new house and now living peacefully. There is one agriculture field near to her house. She planted few fruit plants there. She is living happily with her grandson and daughter in law. During the leisure time she always chit chat with other older person regarding their problems and issues and decide to share with the Project Care Worker. This is how the life of Kanchanbala Barik changed.

### **National Child Labour Project**

National Child Labour Project was in the offing in the Ashoknagar of Bhubaneswar and Bhainchua of Barianta block of Khurda district in August 2007. District Labour Department, Khurda supported it. Children who are engage in different gainful economic activities like Dhabas, hotels, shops and establishments; brick kilns, construction sites, etc are known as child labour. Mostly the poor parents have a negative attitude towards education of the children. So it is necessary to bring all children to one platform. The NCLP Schools at Ashoknagar and Bhainchua provide the much-needed platform for the child labours of the locality by ensuring their right to education.



### **Key Achievements**

- *A total of 100 child labours in 2 NCLP School*
- *Besides regular study the students also learn dance, music and games.*
- *Children received vocational training such as making toys out of clay, paper pots, tailoring etc*
- *one account in the name of each student was opened in the Indian Bank/Post Office and a stipend of Rs. 100/- per student per month was deposited.*
- *The CDPO, Barianta and Bhubaneswar provided the Mid Day meal and the SSA provided books.*

### **A Ray of Hope.....**

Generally the children of poor family do not dream great things, as they are not aware of their inner potentiality. But sometimes changes may occur in their life because of the intervention of the other people. This is what happened in the life of Pravakar Muli. His father is a carpenter and mother housewife. Since the poor parents did not show any interest for the study of their son, till 10 years Prabhakar did not see the door of school. He was engaged in a cycle repairing store.

At the time of survey Mr. Satosh and Miss Suprava came to know about him. They met his parents and talked to them about study of Pravakar. His father replied that Pravakar is providing financial support to the family and there would be only wastage of time by sending him school. Then he was motivated from a different angle and told about the benefits and losses of study in life. After few days Pravakar's father realized the value of education due to the continuous interaction with him and came to Santosh and requested for his son's admission in school. After getting admission, for few months he came to school regularly and some times he stays absent in school, because of his other engagement. Then again Santosh and Suprava discussed with his parents about the problem of Pravakar. At last the parents determined that they should not deny for school education to their son. After that Pravakar came to school regularly. He now reads very well and draws beautiful paintings, and also he is good in dance and play. Once he was selected to participate in an Interschool Game competition held at Deogarh and felt very happy. He dreams to be a govt service holder in future with a hope to lead a better life than his parents

## **Women Empowerment-Self Help Group Promotion**

The women SHGs are being promoted to give fillip to the socio economic status of women so that they can play the role of a salvager in the long run. On the other hand, PECUC also facilitated the marketing linkages for the women groups by way of participating in different exhibition and displaying the rural product to the urban buyers. Major objectives of the programme are to capacitate womenfolk on their rights, make them aware about laws related to women, different trades, and orient the SHG group members on the need, relevance and process for effective documentation of the entire process.

119 SHGs promoted and strengthened in 8 gram panchayats of Baliana Block and One Word (Word No.4) under Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation

Total Group	Total Member	Monthly saving	Internal loan	Bank deposit	Total fund
119	2182	43,737	31,45,927	15,02,714	4,268,998

### **Capacity Building**

To capacitate womenfolk to make them aware and to increase their negotiation with the external organization, training in different trade Dairy farm ,Poultry ,Goatery Shipary, Garment, Spices ,Mixture ,Homeopathic bottle

### **Federation of SHG**

Aimed at strengthening the self help capacity of women, developing better understanding, cooperation and information sharing and information sharing within the women groups, creating pressure group at grass-root, developing a self management system, PECUC has initiated the process of federating women groups at block and panchayat level.

## **Children Festival/ SISU MELA-2008**

To mark the Child Rights Week ,since 1990 ,PECUC is organizing SISUMELA (Children Festival week) for participation of children, highlight the issues relating to children and to provide a platform for wider section of the children for development of their inner qualities, creativeness, cultural exchanges, expression of thoughts and perception .This year SISUMELA was held at Eakmra Hat, Exhibition Ground, Unit - III, Bhubaneswar during 14th to 20th November' 2008..

### **Objectives :**

- 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.
- To sensitize children, parents and civil society regarding the "Convention on Rights of the Child"

### **Components:**

- Competitions (Music, Dance, Art, Quiz, Fancy Dress, Baby Show etc.)
- Cultural Programmes by children.
- Campaign for promotion of child Rights
- Observation of world day for prevention of child abuse
- Annual award distribution

## **Jana Adhikar Abhijan [ JAA]**

Jana Adhikar Abhijan a network of NGOs , Senior citizens ,Representatives of Media Houses has been initiated by PECUC to promote a human rights culture, strengthening Right to information movement in the state , promoting democratic values and good governance.

### **Orissa Election Watch**

Orissa Election watch is the part of National Election watch .Pecuc is the coordinating agency of orissa election watch. Before general election OEW organized a State level Convention on Poltics, Party, Public and Poll was organized by Orissa Election Watch Committee held at Red Cross Bhawan on 4th March 2009.

Resolutions and Recommendations emerge

1. District level election watch team should be formed. It should work in tandem with civil body, media and retired personnel to make people aware of their rights and election process and procedures and to exercise their adult franchise in a right manner.
2. People's manifesto to be developed and there is also a need to lobby with political parties to follow the norms laid down by Supreme Court and model code of conduct.
3. Information relating to election need to be disseminated not only to the media but also to the common people. To make common people understand the information in a better and coherent manner, the information need to be disseminated in vernacular language.
4. Special attention should be given to Kandhamal to create a conducive environment for conduct of free and fair election
5. There should be proper monitoring of electoral process with special emphasis on pre and post monitoring system.

On 23<sup>rd</sup> March the State Coordination meeting of OEW was held at koraput. There the following resolutions came to the floor:

- A district wise Lead Agencies as District Election Watch Member & a coordination team was finalized.
- Analysis on People's Manifesto-what the Political Parties Committed for peoples.
- All the affidavits filled by the candidate collected and complained .

## Orissa Alliance on CRC

### (Convention on Rights of the Child)

OACRC is committed to work for realization of rights of every child in Orissa.

The convention of the rights of the child is presently the most widely ratified international human rights instrument. This is monitored through a system of reporting by state parties to the committee on the rights of the child. The progress reports are required to be submitted by state parties once in every five year. Further, the committee on the rights of the child seeks specific, reliable & objective information from NGOs in order to obtain a serious and independent assessment of progress & difficulties ensured in the implementation of the convention.

The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989) is one of the historic Declarations on child rights. The Declaration is significant and important in many aspects i.e. state/parties are committed not only to make laws and legislation but to ensure that the rights of the child is protected through appropriate developmental schemes and programmes, state/parties are required report on the progress in every five years, the civil society organization for the first time given an opportunity by policy decision to submit alternative report on the progress to the UN Committee on Child Rights. It is therefore, pertinent to monitor the implementation of the UNCRC and advocate for the promotion and protection of the rights of the child.

During the year 2007-08, OACRC organized a number of Regional/State level workshops and consultations involving the children and representatives of partner organizations. In the workshops it was highlighted that increasing trend of child labour in unorganized sector, practice of untouchability, caste and gender discrimination is still rampant across the state. The sale of child, malnutrition, high incidence of IMR/MMR and violence against children is still persisting. Absence of schooling facility, lack of access and poor quality education, alarming gender gap in education, neglect of differently abled children both at the household/community level and by the government were also reportedly glaring. Further, lack of supportive and care environment for orphaned children and poor quality of institutional service is a challenge to protect the rights of the child. Other issues related to development and child participation, child sexual abuse, child pornography is still a major concern and rallying point to ensure overall development of the child within the broad framework of UNCRC. Taking stock of the above situation the Core Committee decided that monitoring and advocacy would remain focused during the year 2008-09. Accordingly, a Project named **"Policy, Advocacy and Capacity building on child rights"** was launched by OACRC with support of **UNICEF**. The following objectives and activities have been proposed for the year 2008 to UNICEF.

### Objectives of the Project:

- Building capacity of the alliance members and bring clarity on different aspects of child rights.
- Influencing change in policy making at the state/national level
- Monitoring the implementation of UNCRC

### Regional Level Workshops

Although it was planned to conduct two regional level training workshops, as per the project approved, looking at the greater response of the members across the state, after discussion in the core team, three Regional Workshops were agreed upon in consultation with UNICEF State office.



Keeping in mind the broader perspective of the alliance in a changing scenario; the training workshops were designed as per the need of the Alliance Members. The topics covered during the workshops are as follows: -

- Conceptual clarity on Right Based Approach
- Understanding Child Rights
- UNCRC
- Child Rights Monitoring and Advocacy
- Child Rights – Legal Instrument and provisions
- Child Rights & Gender Dimension
- Child Rights Programming
- Building Alliance for realization of Child Rights
- Identification of Regional need and step ahead.

**Outcome:**

- 138 Participants oriented on different aspects of child rights, enhanced their knowledge based.
- Broader Alliance of Child Rights Groups at the State and Regional level strengthened for the promotion and protection of Child Rights.

**State level Consultation with leaders of Political Parties**

A state level consultation with the leaders of the political parties on realization of Children's Rights in the state of Orissa was organized on 15th December,

**Outcome:**

- The consultation has opened up the opportunities for regular engagement with Political Parties, which can lead towards a political system with more responsiveness to the issues of children.
- The representatives of Political Parties committed to include the children's agenda in their respective election manifestos.
- The participating Political Party representatives along with other participants were updated their knowledge base on different issues relating to children.

The children, participated in the process, played the role of protagonist for their own growth and development would become more confident to take forward the process through out the states.

**Discussion and dialogue with Government departments**

Regular interaction with various departments by secretary and core group members has been integral part of the whole process. Interaction with Women and Child Development department, Labour and Employment department, Department of Health and Family Welfare, National Commission for protection of child rights has been taken up by the Alliance and its network partners for various purposes at different point of times.

**PECUC STANDS IN SOLIDARITY WITH THE WORLD DAY FOR PREVENTION OF CHILD ABUSE**

The world day for prevention of child labour is a process for the emergence of a culture of prevention & for the promotion of responsibility, dignity & respect for the rights of the child. It is our mission to expand the process by reaching out as many govt. & non-govt. agencies, institutions, educators, experts, media, children & professionals as possible to a collective stand for zero tolerance for child abuse & violence.

To develop a serious awareness on this sensitive issue, every year People's Cultural Centre (PECUC), a leading NGO observes 19th November as World Day For prevention of Child Abuse.

**Objectives:**

- Child Participation in Preventing Abuse and Violence Against Children
- To encourage participation in creating a world fit for children.
- To sensitize the participants of all categories on the related issues.



### Programme

- Poster Competition among school children
- Some steps in Keonjhar and Khurda district of Orissa

### Poster Competition among school children

PECUC is organizing since 1990 a weeklong children festival from 14th to 20th November every year. This year also PECUC organized the child right week. On 19th November a poster competition was organized at Bhubaneswar among the school children from LKG to Class 10th on Child abuse and the prizes distributed to the children on 20th November on child rights day. 200 children participated in the competition.

### FLOOD RESPONSE

Orissa flood in 2008 broke all records in the last 50 years by shattering the life and livelihood of 41, 26,135 people in 19 districts. Kendrapada was the worst affected of among all the districts. It is a coastal district. PECUC, with support from Save the Children, responded to the situation right from the initial stages of the flood. PECUC immediately operate relief in Kendrapara district.



### Key Achievements

- 30 number of Health camps in 30 villages of 9 GPs in Kendrapara Block have been organised. A total number of 4499 patients (adults: Male:-1795 Female –1342) and 1362 number of Children (Boys 759, Girls-603) have been covered under the health camps. No of health camps increased from 20 to 30.
- Temporary shelter for 4000 family
- Distributed Hygiene kit 4760 family
- Baby food for 5600 family.
- Water purification for 4500 family
- Create 30 child friendly space.

**Handling the Challenge of the Challenge-less** - Nirakar Nayak, age 11 year, S/o. Bishnu Charan Nayak and Mrs. Usarani Nayak of Kalapada village in Kalapada block in Kendrapara district is a mentally challenged child. He is also physically disabled. Though he admitted in school, lack of support and comment of the village children made him isolated, segregated from others.

He was not attending school and her mother who happen to be working on early childhood care was not taking sufficient care of the child. Mrs. Kranti, the village volunteer came to know about it and contacted his parents and requested them to send the child to school. The parents then sent their child regularly to school. The child use to play different games regularly with others in the school. The sports materials and games have brought him close to many and help him attend school regularly. On the process he has developed some friends in the school.



**Rule of Justice** - Ganeswar Sethi, age 40 years, S/o. Gandharba Sethi, is a resident of Purusotampur village under Shyamsundarpur Grampanchayat in Kendrapara block. He was not enlisted in the primary round of beneficiary selection. As per his suggestion a core staff member along with the village volunteer visited his house and discussed with the local committee member and found that he was not in the list because his father is selected and another





brother is already in the list. But Ganeswar has been separated from his parents and living in a separate house with his family that consisted of small children as well.

The visiting staff made a detail enquiry about Ganeswar and observed the house. Then they met local committee member and discussed about the case of Ganeswar. Though the committee members acknowledged the fact that Ganeswar's house has been severely damaged but they could not allot him the benefit owing to the fact that Ganeswar's father and one of his brothers have already received the benefit. So they are unable to provide more to one household. The matter was resolved then and there. Further the visiting staff ensured that Ganeswar be enlisted as a beneficiary. Polythene and baby food is allotted to his family. He also expressed his satisfaction and gratitude to the core staff member and PECUC.

#### **Impact:**

Adjacent to canal line near the house of Mr. Gobind Ch. Lenka of village Khasadhi (hamlet of Kalapada) village shift toilet was installed during flood by PECUC, Save the Children- Bal raksha Bharat. 12 families covering 76 population were using the make shift toilet during flood time. After that it developed as practice for using the toilet. & now-a-days 12 families are using the make shift toilet. They are no more interested for open defecation.



#### **Health Camps:**

Health becomes the most critical areas of concern during and after a flood. PECUC initiated health camps as early as the areas become accessible for communication and transportation. In most places, Pecuc was the first to extend health services to the community.

#### **Flood Relief & Rehabilitation programme in Blianta Block**

The 2008 Orissa flood left people of Baliana with no option in the agriculture which is the main source of livelihood in the area. At this juncture, PECUC's initiative with the support of DIK, Germany, Terres Des Hommes and the Hunger Project provide to restore household food security. Once food security was ensured, people took care of other household duties like repairing the house, health & education of children and family and search of alternative livelihood sources.

- Paddy seeds distributed to 55 Self help group to 900 women members
- 36 quintal [3600 kg] quintal paddy seeds distributed.
- The distribution coverage was in 23 villages of 6 gram panchayts of baliana block
- 1000 Blanket distributed to 1000 scheduled caste poor persons in 12 villages in 3 gram panchayat and one ward in bhubaneswar municipality area [ward no 4]



#### **Humanitarian Need and requirement for Restoration of Normal condition / Rehabilitation**

- ◆ Raising the platform of tube wells
- ◆ Repair of damaged school infrastructure and material Construction of washed out schools
- ◆ Support for Housing material
- ◆ Flood Shelterm

## **MAHANGA UNIT**

Mahanga Block of Cuttack District was worst affected by the 2008 flood. In this Block 51 villages of 12 GP were affected covering 25 hectare of agricultural land with sand casting. Total 53636 people suffered from this flood. Out of these 21467 are children. At this crucial period PECUC with support of Terre Des Hommes stood by the side of the people.

There was every chance of out break of an epidemic. But the Health camps of PECUC in this area helped bring the things under control. The communities including children were provided with basic information and awareness relating to health, hygiene and sanitation.

Orientation training on use of Bleaching and Sanitation drive campaign were organized in 12 villages to aware the people.

## **BALASORE UNIT**

### **Emergency Flood Response and immediate Relief programme**

Floods are a recurring phenomenon in the state of Orissa. Almost every year, floods bring lives to standstill and cause devastation in the settlements. In 2008, helped by a depression in the Bay of Bengal, heavy rainfalls swelled major rivers such as Jalaka, Subarnarekha, Baitarani and Budhabalanga & Baleswar was the worst affected area.

PECUC with support of Save The Children (Bal Raksha, Bharat), intervened in 25 villages of three most floods affected GPs like Kusuda, Nachinda, and Kharid pipal of Bhogarai block. Total household covered were altogether around 5000.

#### **Key Achievements**

- 80 community grain bank storage place established in 25 village .
- 2000 individual grain box distributed in 156 SHGs .
- 25 village DRR plan prepared.
- Training of 104 village committees to produce vulnerability, risk and resource maps and actions plans to identify 'safe evacuation points', risk reduction works (eg, repair embankments),
- Training of 1263 no of young migrant people trained on migration right, risk and policy of govt.
- 2285 family ensure their food security.
- 34275 man days created.
- Village Road, Mount ,Cannel renovation in 19 village.
- 25 tube wells plat form raised in 25 village.
- Training to CHW, TBA and core Health Staff training
- 32 No. of TBA Trained.
- 793 pregnant, lactating women and adolescent girl are trained and aware about health & hygiene practices.



**Women became self depend** There are six women SHG groups in the Jaldha village. A number of Schedule Caste poor families live in the village. They depend upon daily wage & share cropping. The condition of the families become worse day by day as they could neither get regular work nor able to save for future. It was a great day for them when PECUC (by the support of Save the Children Bal Raksha Bharat) called the SHG meeting and supported them in establishing the grain bank. They got individual and community grain box and paddy seeds and established a federation within the six groups. The federation is running with the leadership of president and secretary.

### **DRR plan developed by school children**

Name of the school:- Raghuchack sevashrm school  
Block:- Bhogarai, Dist ; Balasore

PECUC had given training to DRR committee and Sisu Sabha members on DRR plan preparation. Children are very happy to learn some thing new and very helpful. They were told how to prepare the plan. They called all friends of the village to the center place. Then they prepared the village DRR plan with support of village committee. They collected all types of materials like colure dust paper etc.. Prepared DRR plan of the village like social, hazard, and development plan of village and school also.



### ***Way forward.....***

The socio-political scenario is fast changing. Human values and humanity itself are likely give way to consumerist culture patronized by the global economic order. Some of the visible trends in the coming years are: More environmental degradation; privatization of social service sectors ; restriction of access of the poor people to natural resources ; expansion of fundamental forces ; migration of people; increase in unemployment ; criminalization of politics; deterioration of law and order situation ; degradation of human values.

In consideration of such contextual aberration an NGO like PECUC with its limited resources aspire to take a few meaningful steps in near future. These would include: Organizing the people in accompanying them; issue-based networking, alliance building and advocacy; conceptual and financial support to potential organisations; consultancy service to grass-roots organisations.

We look forward for a society free from all sorts of discrimination, fear and having mutual respect among the people and human values.

