

EDITORIAL

Climate change due to global warming is now widely recognised as the major environmental problem facing the Globe. In developing countries like India, climate change could represent an additional stress on ecological and socioeconomic systems that are already facing tremendous pressures due to rapid urbanization, industrialization and economic development. Increased temperatures will impact agricultural production. Higher temperatures reduce the total duration of a crop cycle by inducing early flowering, thus shortening the 'grain fill' period. According to the economic survey, India is now spending over 2.6 percent of its Gross Domestic Product to adapt to climate change. The effect of climate change on "agriculture, water resources, health and sanitation, forests, coastal-zone infrastructure and extreme events" are "specific areas of concern", says the survey.

Similarly the impact of climate change on Orissa looms large. The state is prone to climate change because of its geographical location. It is located at the mouth of Bay of Bengal and a slight change in the behaviour of sea wrecks havoc on the state. The state, for over a decade, has been teetering from one extreme weather condition to another: from heat wave to cyclone, from drought to flood. The state has been officially declared disaster-affected for 95 years out of the last 105 years. Floods have occurred for 50 years, droughts for 32, and cyclones hit the state for 11 years. Since 1965, these calamities have not only become more frequent, but striking areas that had never experienced such conditions before.

In the last 10 years, calamities have claimed more than 30,000 lives. They have not only become more frequent, but have hit areas that were never considered vulnerable. As a result, Orissa's economy has been ripped apart. All such calamities bring large-scale devastation and make the life miserable for the vulnerable population. The recently released World Bank study also highlights that the agriculture in the state will be hit by climate change. The rice yields in the state could decline by 5 per cent to 12 per cent and profits by 6 per cent to 8 per cent under climate change.

A huge adivasi rally was organised to mark the world environment day at Koraput on 5th June 2009. People who came in large numbers demanded expeditious implementation of Forest Rights Act-2006 and creation of new forest in the devastated land through the participation and ownership of the community. A memorandum was also submitted to the District Collector demanding fair prices for the forest products collected by the adivasis, proper rehabilitation of already displace people, conserving water resources for ensuring the livelihood, establishing more and more small scale food processing units while supporting the cultivation of fruits like pineapple, orange and lemon in the region starting from Niyamgiri to Deomali mountain range.

With the primary objective of facilitation of the marginalized communities with the skill of video production of the struggles and movements to ensure effective highlight of issues at different levels, it is planned to provide training to the potential candidates from the marginalized communities on video documentation. /the training programme was organised and the interns have produced two documentary films on the them of Pollution and Development and Destruction.

The space allocated for reporting poverty issues in both print and electronic media has been gradually squeezing. To highlight the issue the Workshop on Challenges to Media on Poverty Reporting standards was organised where academicians, journalists, activists analysed the issue from different perspectives.

The Orissa Development Action Forum(ODAF) and Orissa Adivasi Adhikar Abhiyan(OAAA) has been working with the adivasis, dalits and other vulnerable communities for last 20 years. It was launched in 9th January 1988 and completed two decades of its service in January 2009. The journey of ODAF over 20 years

has been a meaningful engagement of collective efforts for bringing change in the lives of the poor and the marginalised. In this occasion, a two-day programme was organised on 9th and 10th January 2009 at Bhubaneswar. Inaugurating the celebration, Mr. Jagadananda, the Election Commissioner of the state, appreciated the efforts of ODAF and OAAA in empowering the vulnerable communities in Orissa. During the celebration a National Seminar on Challenges to Peace and Development was also organised on 10th January 2009 at Hotel New Marrison, Bhubaneswar.

Peace is generally understood as absence of conflicts and violence in the society. Conflicts are pervasive in society and are held in place due to uneven distribution of socio-economic as well as political power, religion and regional difference. In order to develop a group of peace activists in the wake of increased violence in the state, ODAF, IRDWSI and others jointly organised a ToT programme on peace and conflict resolution in Bhubaneswar in which activists, volunteers across the state participated.

Apart from the above mentioned matters, this issue of SANDESH covers information on FCFC meeting, Team leaders meeting field accompaniment process, the notification on wage hiked wage rate, etc. for the knowledge of our readers. The valuable comments, suggestions and contributions from the readers have been enriching the news letter. We would appreciate if the esteemed readers continue to send in their write ups, articles etc on various issues relating to sustainable development of the marginalized communities.

Editorial Team -ODAF

Global Warming and Orissa

The state of Orissa, for over a decade, has been teetering from one extreme weather condition to another: from heat wave to cyclone, from drought to flood. The state has been officially declared disaster-affected for 95 years out of the last 105 years. Floods have occurred for 50 years, droughts for 32, and cyclones hit the state for 11 years. Since 1965, these calamities have not only become more frequent, but striking areas that had never experienced such conditions before.

The 1999 super cyclone affected places like Bhubaneswar and Nayagarh, which were never traditionally cyclone-prone. While the 2001 drought parched fields in coastal districts, the unprecedented floods of 2001 submerged 25 of the state's 30 districts. Many of these areas had never witnessed floods before. Orissa has experienced around 952 small and big cyclones and 451 tornadoes between 1891 and 1970. From 1901 to 1981 there were 380 cyclones, of which 272 resulted from depressions in the Bay of Bengal and 29 of them were devastating.

Change in cropping and flowering pattern noticed. Mango and Mahua trees have been reported of early flowering and that results in low yielding. The key parameters of climate change in terms of sea level rise, extinct of wild animals, flora and fauna, increased drought, flood and flash flood, increased temperature and rainfall over the years, the climate will have a significant impact on the environment, social, economic and cultural life of the people in the days to come. The increased intensity and frequency of storms, drought and flooding, altered hydrological cycles and precipitation variance have serious implications on food security of the people. The rising sea surface temperature would have serious impact on the distribution and production of particular fish species and the timing of their catch would seriously affect the aqua culture and sea fishing.

Moreover the rare occurrence of flowering in bamboo trees in many forests in the state has concerned the people about the outbreak of an famine. Flowering in bamboo would lead to death of all bamboo bushes and environmentalists fear it will be a threat to biodiversity as it would take years for fresh plants to grow.

Recently mass flowering of bamboo has been reported from Balasore, Mayurbhanja, Jajpur, Athagarh, Gajapati, Ganjam, Khurda, Dhenkanal, Angul, Satokosia and sunabeda forest areas. Early record of flowering of bamboo show that the thorne bamboo had blossomed in 1969.

Sea level rise which is the off shoot of global warming has become a serious threat to livelihood and food security. The sea is now marching towards Satabhaya and Kanhupur. In the early 1980s, Gobindpur, Manhipur and Kuainri Ora villages in Satabhaya Panchyat of Raj Nagar block in Kendrapara district went under the sea. In the mid '90s, the sea devoured two more villages Kharikula and Sarpada. Only Satabhaya and Kanhupur in Satabhaya panchyat remain but for how long, no one knows These are partly ravaged. Both the villages might be wiped out in less than a decade. The intensity of the ingression of sea has significantly increased in last decade and the villagers say that the sea has crossed nearly nearly 2.5 km towards the village. Similarly in Gopalpur, the sea has engrossed the land areas of Arya palli, Kandara Aryapalli and Kuturu under Chatrapur block. The farmers and fishermen who are the traditional food producers living in such a fragile environments, have been ecologically, geographically and economically marginalized and among them, the poor are the worst affected. Sea level rise has resulted in the growth of environmental refugee across the globe. Satabhaya region in Kedrapara is no exception to this phenomena. People in large number are migrated from their original habitat and are becoming new vulnerable communities of environmental migrants.

Climate Change will hit Crop Production in Orissa : World Bank

World Bank has cautioned that the climate projection suggested a substantial shift in pattern of rainfall towards the flood-prone coastal regions with dramatic increase in the incidence of flooding in Orissa. The probability that the discharge of flood water might exceed 25,000 cubic meters per second (cusecs) (at the measuring station at Naraj on the Mahanadi river in Orissa), is currently low – about 2 per cent. But under climate change, this is projected to rise dramatically to over 10 per cent. World Bank has projected 23 per cent increase in annual mean rainfall in delta region. Similarly, at district level average annual maximum temperatures are expected to increase between 2.4 degree Celsius and 3.7 degree Celsius. The study predicts that the minimum temperature was expected to increase by greater amount. In Puri and Jagatsinghpur, Work Bank assessment finds that rice yields could decline by 5 per cent to 12 per cent and profits by 6 per cent to 8 per cent under climate change. The projections on possible magnitude and impact of floods under climate change were made by World Bank in its report *‘Climate Change Impacts in Drought-and Flood-Affected Areas: Case Studies in India,’*. Researchers have conducted household survey in three villages each under Jagatsinghpur and Puri districts to assess present damage and possible impacts of floods on economy and life of people. “Education is disrupted by floods in two ways: children are either forced out of school to engage in work to supplement the household income or they cannot attend because school facilities suffer damages. Of surveyed, 27 per cent reported that their children drop out of school following a flood event,” says the WB report. It says though economically viable solutions remain elusive a greater emphasis on rabi cultivation could be further facilitated by improving irrigation access in the drier months.

Moreover, World Bank has laid emphasis on income diversification for minimisation of flood impacts. With the escalating demand for fish in India, and across the world, there is scope to increase aquaculture production in flood-prone areas. Regarding Orissa, the report finds out that the State is utilizing more funds by over-emphasising relief and restoration but there is not much spending to build flood resilience.

The study also recommends that the policymakers build climate risk assessment for long-lived infrastructure projects and explore new and innovative financial instruments to promote income diversification in rural areas. Moreover, it underlines the need for greater support for agricultural research. Although climate change impacts may take decades to manifest, there is a need for action now to avoid higher future costs and missed

opportunities associated with a development path that compromises on climate risk management,” said Richard Damania, environmental economist in the World Bank and leader of the study.

Amongst its several suggestions to better manage climate risks, the report has called for setting up a climate information management system to help integrate baseline information into policy, planning and investment decisions. It advocates building climate risk assessment as a requirement for all long-lived infrastructure projects; explores new and innovative financial instruments to promote income diversification in rural areas; emphasises the need for aggressively pursuing water conservation and controlling groundwater demand at a larger geographical scale and suggests strengthened support for agricultural research and extension to promote sustainable modes of dryland farming.

The report also warns of high risks associated with complacency. It predicts considerable and mounting human toll from climate change and highlights the need for mitigating avoidable costs, particularly among the vulnerable sections of society. Its recommendations include exploring “new and innovative financial instruments to promote income diversification in rural areas”.

Impact of Climate Hazards in Orissa :

- ? Nearly one lakh people are affected every year from the coastal districts. Flood and Cyclone account for 93 percent of the population affected
- ? Orissa has recorded an annual average loss of Rs.924 million. The trend of damage is increasing over the years.
- ? On an average 23500 houses are destroyed annually
- ? Annually 580 people are dying and the figure has been increasing since 2000
- ? Loss of crops increasing over the years
- ? No of Lightning events are increasing, annual occurrence is nearly 130 .Human casualty due to lightning is increasing over the years.

Eight Facts about Global Warming

- ? Global warming is caused by green house gases, which trap in the sun’s infrared rays in the earth’s atmosphere, which in turn heat up the earth’s atmosphere. These green house effect warming is called as global warming. The effects of green house effect are visible more prominently in the recent years, with number of natural calamities on the rise in the whole world.
- ? The global warming has happened in the past few years and is evident from the rise in mean temperature of the earth’s atmosphere. The main causes for the global warming are attributed to release of green house gases by human activities. The main gases contributing to green house effect are carbon dioxide, water vapor, methane and nitrous oxide. The largest producers of these gases are the thermal power plants, which burn the fossil fuels and produce these gases in large quantities. The second biggest sources of these green house gases are the road vehicles and industries.
- ? The global warming has led to increase in mean earth surface temperature and thus melting of polar ice. There are frequent melt down of glaciers that result in floods and other natural calamities. The

melting of ice at the poles had led the mean sea level. And further increase in temperature may further melt the ice and lead to further increase in mean sea level, which will engulf low lying countries.

- ? The effect of global warming is very evident on the animal kingdom also. Some animals have become extinct due to loss of their natural habitat or their inability to evolve to the rapid changes in the climate. Also there is a change in their life style because of the changes in the seasons. The migrating birds have changed their time of travel and also their place of migration.
- ? The effect of global warming can be felt on seasons too. There is shift in season cycle, as the summers are getting longer than the winters. This has affected the animals and made them to change their lifestyle accordingly, and those who failed to do so have perished or on the verge of extinction.
- ? The global warming is also responsible for the introduction of some new diseases. The bacteria are more effective and multiply much faster in warmer temperatures compared to cold temperatures. The increase in temperature has led to increase in the microbes that cause diseases.
- ? Global warming is also effecting the crop production, as the crops are getting destroyed by the sudden change in temperatures or sudden on set of rains. Also the flash floods and other natural calamities affect the crop.
- ? As a matter of fact, because of global warming, the earth's atmosphere is getting more unpredictable with heavy rains in the areas, which have scanty rainfall or drought in the areas, which received good annual rainfall. The months of rainfall has also getting affected.

Study on the Impact of Climate Change by ODAF and VAK: Climate change has impacted on the livelihood and support system of people and to study the impact of climate change on the vulnerable communities, especially in the forest river basin-coastal and forest eco systems in Orissa, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu, ODAF and Vikas Adhyan Kendra(VAK) are jointly organising a study on the impact of climate change on communities in coastal and forest eco system. The main objective is to systematically document local experimentation processes which come about as a response to a felt need to adapt to climate change; understand local communities' perceptions of "climate change"; develop documentation of various innovations (adaptations) at local level; draw lessons on the potential impact/influence of local innovation processes on climate-change and adaptation policies and programmes.

Ambition is a Joy for Ever: a Success Story of Gandhi Gurukul

Gandhi Gurukul is an innovative concept of Antyodaya Chetana Mandal to enrich the level of education among the tribal people and to fulfill the dreams of the poverty stricken tribal youths drooping out at the high school level for the lack of both financial & moral support. Operating in Rashgovindpur, Kaptipada and Kotagarh units the Organization, it has earned a good reputation in the educational sphere of these areas. In the educational year 2006 – 2007, as many as 20nos of high school drop out students got admitted into Gandhi Gurukul at Radiguma, Kotagarh. Twenty-two years old Joseph Majhi, was one of them.

Joseph belongs to a poor family of Nuagaon village in Jodabali Panchayat of Kotagarh block. His father, Sri Bilika Majhi, originally a resident of Karnaguda village, had shifted to Nuagaon since 30 yrs ago. His family is comprised of his father, his mother and his only sister and he himself. His family has no land holding of his

own, neither any homestead land nor any agriculture land. He earns his livelihood by cropping the land of the other persons in share and also by going for daily labour. However amidst all the adverse conditions, Joseph continued his study and appeared in High School Board Examination in the year 2000. But unfortunately he failed in the examination and despite all his efforts he could not appear in the examination once again due to monetary reasons. While continuing his study, Joseph was dreaming of a good academic career and a bright future. He was wishing to earn enough money for the construction of a house and also for the marriage of her younger sister. But with the failure in the High School Examination and with his incapability to reappear in the Examination, all his dreams and wishes came to an end.

Due to financial constraints in the family, he went to Berhampur and tried his luck in a Gutkha factory as a worker. He toiled hard there to earn Rs.20/- per day. But his little income as a worker did not help his cause, because neither he could manage his daily living nor send any sum to his family. In frustration, he returned to Kotgarh, where he worked as a helper in an Auto Repairing and Welding Garage. Time gradually passed for him. He somehow became succeeded in helping his father in maintaining the family. But one thing was always pricking him that he failed to cross the High School hurdle. Still he had the enthusiasm and passion. Antyodaya Chetana Mandal fueled his interest and provided him opportunity to get pass that hurdle. Gandhi Gurukul at Radiguma, Kotagarh was taking admission for the new batch of drop out students and was inviting applications for the interested students. Knowing from a source, Joseph applied for the same. Though he had left education for a long period of six years, ACM could not deny his admission looking to his high interest and strong perseverance towards education.

He stayed inside the premises of Gandhi Gurukul. The teachers of Gandhi Gurukul taught him hard. Since Gandhi Gurukul believes not only in the conventional educational system, rather tries to build the students vocationally so that education can best be a real earning source for the students in future. So apart from the study syllabus, Joseph was made trained on Yoga, gardening, carpentry and masonry etc. In herbal garden, he was made to learn the essence and utilization of various herbal plants. With an objective of reviving and promoting the tribal culture, heritage and skills, Gandhi Gurukul, like other students had prepared Joseph culturally, so that he can propagate the rich culture, tradition and skills of the tribals. He was provided with food and also the necessary teaching/learning materials like book, khata, guide book etc.

Finally he appeared in the High School Board Examination 2007 through Correspondence Course. And at last, the most awaited day in his life came when he got passed successfully that ever hindering and pricking hurdle. However his success story did not end here. Because within 2months from the publication of his result, there was an advertisement for the post of Para-Teacher in Nuagaon Upper Primary School. He applied for the same. Here apart from his educational qualification, all his co-curricular knowledge went in his favour and he got selected for that job.

Now Joseph is a teacher in Nuagaon Upper Primary School. Meanwhile he has got married. He is living happily with his family. Once again the lost dream is sparking in his mind and it seems that he has already entered into his future, which is full of brightness, prosperity and well-happenings. However, he never fails to thank Antyodaya Chetana Mandal for providing him with a new initiation and for encouraging him towards a sustainable bright future. But ACM says, "Education plays a significant role in the development of a person, a family, a society or a nation and Joseph has proved it & has come up as role model for the numerous tribal students, becoming drop out due to financial or other related reasons."

ODAF's Celebration of its 20 Years Journey

ODAF is a forum of different Non-Governmental Organisations who came together to address drought issues in Orissa through a long term systematically planned development processes towards overcoming the impact

of drought and facilitate building sustainable communities. It was launched in 9th January 1988 and completed two decades of its service in January 2009. The journey of ODAF over 20 years has been a meaningful engagement of collective efforts for bringing change in the lives of the poor and the marginalised. In this occasion, a two-day programme was organised on 9th and 10th January 2009 at Bhubaneswar.

The foundation day i.e. 9th January 2009 was celebrated at Freedom Fighters Ground, Bhubaneswar where the programme began with the inauguration of an Exhibition based on ODAF programmes. The exhibition was inaugurated by Dr. Rajaratnam, Economist and Chairman of ODAF. He was accompanied by Mr. Jagadananda, Information Commissioner, Government of Orissa and the Guest of Honour for the occasion. After the visit of the exhibition, the Guests were escorted on to the dais. The opening song was presented by a Cultural group consisting of staff of ODAF member NGOs. Dr. Joe Madiath, Vice Chairman, ODAF welcomed all and introduced the dignitaries on the dais. Dr. Madiath also read out the message from Shri Muralidhar Chandrakant Bhandare, His Excellency, the Governor of Orissa. It was followed by the Lighting of the Lamp by the Guests and release of the Book on ODAF and Greetings by Guest of Honour Shri Jagadananda.

A brief presentation of 20 years Journey of ODAF was done by Dr. William Stanley, Executive Secretary, ODAF. The address of OAAA was made by Mr. Prem Patra Jani, President, OAAA. Greetings from EED, Germany was read out by Mr. Felix Madiath, Finance Consultant of ODAF. Mr. Sailesh Chakravarty, National Convener, FCFC greeted on behalf of FCFC which was followed by the greetings from FMSF by Mr. Sanjay Patra, Executive Director, FMSF and Ms. Anuradha Singh of FMSF. Greetings from Padmashree Tushar Kanjilal, Secretary, TSRD was shared by Mr. Digambar Satapathy, Liaison Officer, TSRD.

Late Dr. Badal SenGupta was honoured by the Chief Guest and to Mr. Bijoy SenGupta, younger brother of Dr. Badal SenGupta received memento on behalf his family. It was followed by the address of the Chief Guest - Dr. K. Rajaratnam, Chairman, ODAF. At the end of the inaugural session, vote of thanks was given by Dr. Aditya Patnaik, Treasurer, ODAF.

The second session after the Tea break was named as Reflections. In this session, the welcome and introduction of the guests was done by Adv B.P. Tripathy, Advocacy Consultant, ODAF. The session was moderated by Mr. Pramod Patnaik, Member, ODAF. ODAF recognised and honoured some people in various categories (Posthumous, Change Makers, Civil Society Leaders, and Member NGOs of ODAF) for their contribution for evolution, journey and efforts for the betterment of people especially poor and marginalised sections of Orissa. Vote of thanks was given by Ms. Basanti Kui, Member, OAAA.

The third session was Rejuvenations to celebrate the event through cultural programmes from various corners of Orissa that reflected the colourful and culturally rich Orissa. The programme was facilitated by Mr. GP Samantaray, member of ODAF. Vote of thanks was given by Mr. Bhusan Benya, Member, ODAF. A get together and dinner of the ODAF family called it a day for the 9th January 2009.

The second day of the celebration was a 'National Seminar on Challenges to Peace and Development' organised at Hotel Marrion, Bhubaneswar. The Keynote Address was presented by Dr. Rajaratnam, Economist and Chairman of ODAF; Prof. Lawrence Surendra, Environmental Economist on 'The New Development Challenges: Peace and Sustainability' followed by three sessions such as 'Developmental Paradigm and Societal Conflicts'; 'Ethnicity, Caste, Class and Gender'; 'Food Security, Peace and Governance'. Dr. K.C. Malhotra, Anthropologist; Dr. Shiela Benjamin, Executive Secretary, SCINDeA; Mr. Anil Chaudhary, Human Rights Activist; Dr. Walter Fernandez, Social Scientist; Adv. Sanjay Upadhyaya, Advocate, Supreme Court of India; Mr. Digambar Satapathy, Liaison Officer, TSRD; Ms. Bisakha Bhanja, Women's Rights Activist; Dr. Bhagbanprakash, Former HRD Advisor, Common Wealth - Asia Region and

WHO (WR); Mr. Dominic D'Souza, Social Scientist; Mr. Sanjay Khatua, Independent Researcher; Mr. Kumar Kalanand Mani, Gandhian; Dr. Gopal Krishna Panda, Professor in Geography, Utkal University; Dr. Richard Devadoss, Human Rights Activist; Mr. Pradeep Esteves, Social Scientist were the resource persons in the Seminar.

On the eve 20 years celebration of OAAA and ODAF with the communities, a drawing competition was jointly organised on 11th of January 2009 at Martyrs Memorial cum Freedom Fighters Home, Bhubaneswar by IRDWSI, OAAA and ODAF. The themes for the drawing competition were Peace for better Tomorrow, Children's Hope for Peace, Peace and Society. 65 no of children from 9 schools of the city participated. Certificate of Participation were provided to all the children participated in the event. Two Professors from the Orissa Art Academy were invited as judges for the programme. Those who secured position were awarded with merit certificate and trophy.

The gracious presence of the guests, dignitaries and the partners of ODAF made the programme a grand success and created more enthusiasm and encouraged the ODAF family to continue the work with the oppressed communities for their wellbeing to live with dignity.

30 years celebration of Gram Vikas : Gram Vikas, a member organisation of ODAF, celebrated its 30 years of service with the community on 22nd of January 2009 at Mohuda, Berhampur. Gram Vikas, which literally means 'Village Development' is an organization that has been working since 1979, to bring about sustainable improvement in the quality of life of poor and marginalised rural communities - mostly in Orissa. The core group of Gram Vikas had come to Orissa as student volunteers of Young Students' Movement for Development (YSMD), Chennai to serve victims of a devastating cyclone in early 1970s. Gram Vikas currently serves more than 295,800 people in 851 habitations of 22 districts in Orissa.

Attending as the chief guest on the occasion, Honourable Governor of Orissa Shri Muralidhar Chandrakante Bhandare appreciated the efforts made by Gram Vikas in the areas of empowerment, education and livelihood upliftment. He also inaugurated the Kankia School building on this occasion. Among others, Dr. Lalit Mansingh, formerly Ambassador to United States of America, Dr. Joe Madiath, the Executive Director of Gram Vikas, etc were present on the occasion.

Drawing Competition on Peace: On the eve 20 years celebration of OAAA and ODAF with the communities, a drawing competition was jointly organised on 11th of January 2009 at Martyrs Memorial cum Freedom Fighters Home, Bhubaneswar by IRDWSI, OAAA and ODAF. The themes for the drawing competition was Peace for better Tomorrow, Children's Hope for Peace, Peace and Society. 65 no of children from 9 schools of the city participated. Certificate of Participation were provided to all the children participated in the event. Two Professors from the Orissa Art Academy were invited as judges for the programme. Those who secured position were awarded with merit certificate and trophy.

Workshop on Challenges to Media on Poverty Reporting Standards: The workshop was organised by WACC, ODAF and IRDWSI on 25th of April 2009 at Hotel Pantha Nivas, Bhubaneswar. Inaugurating the workshop, Mr. Sampad Mohapatra of NDTV shared about how the basic issue in Orissa is not being given importance by the media as it deserves. Highlighting the poverty in Orissa, he said that the media has a vital role to address the issue by properly covering the issue. Eminent economist Prof. Baidyanath Mishra delivered his views on chronic poverty in Orissa. Prof. Mirnal Chatterjee of IIMC, Dhenkanal narrated about the trend of sidelining the poverty issues in the frontline newspapers. Along with professors in Economics, Sociology and Political Science, representatives from media, civil society groups, intellectuals and activities attended the meeting and contributed to the process. Participants stressed on the development and promotion

of alternative media for addressing the issue. Two films on environment made by the peoples journalists were released on the occasion.

ODAF Team Leaders Meeting: The Team Leaders Meeting of ODAF was organised on 22nd and 23rd of February 2009 at Hotel Green Park, Visakhapatnam. Dr. Aditya Patnaik, treasurer of ODAF presided over the team leaders meeting. On behalf of ODAF the chairman welcomed Ms. Jutta Werdes of EED to the meeting and suggested the ES to present the Agenda for the meeting. The Es said that recently ODAF celebrated its 20 years of service to the communities and expressed gratitude to EED for extending continued support and cooperation to ODAF for last two decades. The matters discussed in the meeting include current phase progress and problems, financial sustainability of ODAF members, climate change activities, networking and alliance building- CFC/FCFC/INECC.

Field Accompaniment Programmes: ODAF programmes are being implemented by its member organisations in 850 villages spreading over 13 adivasi dominated districts of Orissa. With the basic objective of understanding the impact of various programmes on the community, status of the schemes implemented by the government, functioning of government run schools and facilitate smooth field implementation of ODAF programmes, compilation of data, preparation of reports, etc. The staff from the ODAF Secretariat periodically visit the operational villages, CBOs, NGOs etc. During their visit they meet the team leader, staff, volunteer, elected PRI members, community leaders, children and women, common people, government officials including the bank officials deployed at the village level. Such accompaniment process not only help in boosting up the morale of the staff volunteers but also become crucial in understanding and documenting the vital outcome of the various programmes. Secretariat staff visited CPSW, ACM, SB, RAD, SEDP,SVK and IRDWSI .

Celebration of International Women's Day: The international Women's Day was celebrated on March 8th 2009 at IRDWSI campus in Semiliguda. This programme focussed on creating awareness among the adivasi women about their rights and how to assert the rights if violated arbitrarily. The programme started with the discussion on the importance of International women's day and various women rights by the legal experts. Adivasi and Dalit women in large number including representative from ODAF secretariat participated in the programme.

TOT Programme on Peace and Conflict Resolution: The State Level Training on 'Peace and Conflict Resolution' was organised from 15th to 21st February 2009. This was a joint programme being organised by Citizen's Committee on Communal Harmony, Institute of Peace Studies and Conflict Resolution (Bombay) and supported by NAWO, Action Aid, ODAF and IRDWSI. The programme was organised at CRD office,Khurda. Mr.Ram Punayani, Dr.Asgar Alli Engineer, Mr. Irfan Ali Engineer Prof.Bijay Bohidar, Mr.Kedar Mishra were the resource person for this programme. Staff and volunteers from the member NGOs of ODAF and OAAA participated in the programme. A two-days training on 'Peace and Conflict Resolution' exclusively for the staff and community representatives from member NGOs of ODAF was also organised by ODAF at Pantha Nivas, Bhubaneswar. The subjects discussed in the training programme include

- ? Understanding violence
- ? Theories of Peace and conflict resolution
- ? Understanding Religion, Secularism and State
- ? Understanding Islam, Christianity and Hinduism
- ? Myths about Muslims, Christians and Hindus
- ? Rise of communal forces during Freedom movement

- ? Rights of Minorities in International Law and Indian Constitution
- ? Origin of RSS and its from organizations and its political vision
- ? Communal politics and the marginalized sections of society, including Adivasi, Dalits, minorities, women and workers.
- ? Nationalism and the issue of Pakistan and Kashmir
- ? Syncretic cultural traditions and composite religious practices.
- ? The issue of Uniform Civil Code
- ? Kandhamal Violence
- ? Neo-liberalization/globalization/imperialism – possible linkages with Communalism
- ? Identity Politics

Mr.Ram Punayani was the facilitator for the programme. Staff of the member NGOs and members from OAAA participated in the programme.

Mammoth Adivasi Rally at Koraput:

Thousands of Adivasis representing different anti-displacement groups like Deomali Surakhya Sangram Parishad, Orissa Adivasi Adhikar Abhiyan, (OAAA), Loka Urnayan Sangha, Maliparvat Surakhya Samiti, Koraput Zilla Basachyut Mahasangh along with members of Paraja Sangh, Kuvi Sangh, Gadaba Sangh, Koraput Zilla Banavasi Sangh from across the district took out a huge rally in the district headquarters before submitting a memorandum to the district collector. Raising the slogan “ *Save Environment–Save Koraput*”, the Adivasi leaders demanded expeditious implementation of Forest Rights Act-2006 and issuance of land pattas in favour of them. They also urged the district administration to create new forest in the devastated land through the participation and ownership of the community. Rather than promoting mines, efforts were needed to establish more and more small scale food processing units while supporting the cultivation of fruits like pineapple, orange and lemon in the region starting from Niyamgiri to Deomali mountain range, the leaders stated in their memorandum.

The rally was organised on 5th June 2009 to mark the World Environment Day. Addressing the huge gathering ,Mr Prafulla Samantara, an environmental activist apprehended that the multinational companies and moneybags will pressurise the government to stall implementation of the Forest Rights Act. "The pro-adivasi Act will never get implemented in its totality," he cautioned while pointing out that multinational companies were eyeing valuable forest land of Koraput, Kalahandi and Bolangir districts for mining activity. Mindless and large scale mining in these regions will have a disastrous impact on the ecological balance, he said. Looking at these concerns of the people where there is a danger of losing the basic livelihood opportunities, the government should put a ban on any mining activity in Deomali, Maliparvat, Kodingmaili, Bafilimali and Sadubohumali mountains in Koraput district.

The Memorandum submitted to the Collector by the Adivasis of Koraput

To
 Mr. Naveen Pattanaik
 The Hon’ble Chief Minister,
 Government of Orissa, Bhubaneswar.

(Through the District Magistrate & Collector, Koraput)

Dear Sir,

Today, the 5th of June, is observed as the World Environment Day worldwide including our country and state both at the governmental & non-governmental or civil society level. The significance of this day lies in the fact that human survival is essentially linked to the very survival of the nature or natural resources. The preservation of natural resources is the protection of the environment. To satiate their consumerist and expansionist hunger, the capitalist wealthy so called developed nations in the name of industrialization have been expropriating the natural resources of poor countries. This has generated enormous pollution in these poor developing countries and caused heavy damage to the environment.

In our country, through these polluting industrial drives, endless mining the nature is being raped mindlessly and forest, water, agriculture, etc. is plundered. Development for the rich few is heralding destruction for the majority have-nots. In Orissa, the bountiful earth is turning desert, many water sources are drying up, many rivers are either dying a premature death or heavily polluted. There are drastic changes in the climatic conditions in Orissa, which is being reflected in the steep rise in temperatures, the decline in rainfall or highly uneven distribution in rainfall, and increasing regularity in natural disasters. This results in the overall insecurity and impoverishment for our people in general, and tribals and farmers in particular. They lose their meager livelihood and get deprived of the social & economic security.

Our undivided Koraput District is getting emptied off many valuable natural resources. Its water table is rapidly declining and the average temperature is shooting up causing severe distress for the general public. Excessive mining at some places has caused the destruction of the forest cover. Many industries here are polluting the water sources besides causing general pollution. Scores of corporate houses are invited to mine bauxite for alumina industry in the hills of Niyamagiri, Baphilimalli, Kotingamalli, Maliparbata, Deomalli, etc. Many perennial streams are drying up due bauxite mining. It will cause death to many of the rivers that start with these streams. The biodiversity of these hills and forests will disappear causing serious threat to the very survival and wealth creation of our society.

Hence, we plead before your government to bring necessary changes in its industrial and development policy and help preserve our natural resource bases to be sustainably used for the benefit of all. We, the people of Orissa, hereby submit this petition with these following demands for your urgent consideration and necessary action.

1. Our natural resources must not be expropriated for the profit and luxury of the rich. Instead, a new alternative policy of development has to be pronounced that uses these resources for the benefit of the large majority whose survival depends upon the natural system.
2. Immediately stop the indiscriminate and reckless mining activities in the hills of Niyamagiri, Baphilimalli, Kotingamalli, Maliparbata, Deomalli, etc.
3. The Tribals' & other Traditional Forest Dwellers' Recognition of Forest Rights Act 2006 be implemented as soon as possible and the claimants be given *patta* on forest land as per the letter & spirit of the law. The officers who do not act as per this Act and not doing the needful must be penalized.
4. To compensate the loss to the environment and to regenerate the natural system, massive forestation on the vacant land be urgently taken up. Such assignment is given to the local communities and its management be carried out by them also.
5. The government should evolve mechanisms through which various forest produces collected by the tribals be procured at fair prices and marketed with efficiency.

6. The water from streams on the hills be stored and used for encouraging various crops. This would generate livelihood sources and ensure food security among the tribals.
7. The tribals, who are the trustees of the natural resources for generations together and have been displaced due to development projects losing their livelihood and habitat, must be immediately rehabilitated through proper implementation of R&R laws.
8. The development of the people of Koraput is possible through the sustainable use of natural resources. It requires a proper combination of development of agriculture, forest produces and small & cottage industries based on these. This would generate livelihood and employment for the thousands of local people.

Thus, your government has to take up a kind of industrialization and development that is devoid of massive pollution and preserves the water, forest and land of our *ecosystem people*. With these demands of our people, we the members of tribal and forest dwelling community coming in this march on the World Environment Day on behalf of the Natural Resources, Environment & Livelihood Protection Campaign (Orissa), submit this petition before you through the District Collector for urgent consideration & action.

Participation in International film Festival

The ViBGYOR Film Festival, is the largest alternative film festival held every year in Thrissur, Kerala, celebrates the vagaries of identity and the richness of its embodied diversity in the Festival of Short and Documentary films. The four-day Film festival invests not just in the banquet of films of value and sense but strives to make the event a rich visual and intellectual experience in interfacing with filmmakers, activists, peoples' movement leaders and academicians from as divergent streams of life and activities. The objective of film festival include

- ? To show case socially relevant short and documentary films made in the last two years all over the country and abroad.
- ? To create a wider space for films on social issues.
- ? To work as a space for interaction among filmmakers, activists, youth and professionals and general public.
- ? To expose the Indian filmmakers, film students and activists to International films and issues.
- ? To inform, educate, inspire and motivate social concerns among filmmakers, activists, youth and professionals and general public

The fourth edition of ViBGYOR was held from 4th to 8th of February 2009 at the Sangeet Nataka Akademy Campus, Thrissur. The festival was inaugurated by Prof Illa Sen. In the film festival a number of documentaries were filmed and two films showing the Kashipur struggle “ Goan Chadiba Nahin” were shown. 12 No of activist film maker along with and team leaders participated in the international film festival held at Trissur during 4th -8th of February 2009.

Peoples Journalism: Release of two films: With the primary objective of facilitation of the marginalized communities with the skill of video production of the struggles and movements to ensure effective highlight of issues at different levels, ODAF has planned to provide training to the potential candidates from the marginalized communities on video documentation. This proposal is to equip the adivasis, fisherfolks, dalits, women, children, sexual minorities and other marginalised people in their struggles to protect their rights to life and livelihoods in the face of globalisation, growth oriented development models, social conflicts with skills and knowledge to use video (a powerful media) communicate their message to larger masses,

intellectuals, civil society, development planners, policy makers and activists. The first training programme for the journalist was organised at PIPAR campus, Dhenkanal. During this training programme, Mr.K.P.Sashi, Mr.Meghanad, Mr.Saratchandra, Mr.Bijoo Tappo, and Mr. Aditya were the resource persons. 20 No of activities belonging to different struggle groups participated in the programme. All the participants were divided in to four groups and produced short documentaries highlighting the pollution, development and destruction, forest protection, elephant menace. The participants learned how to use the video, train to handle camera, editing machine, sound effects, visual effects, interviews, voice over, ad music, titling and basic skill of mixing.

FCFC Meeting on Climate Change: The Eastern Region FCFC meeting was organised on the 22nd of February 2009 at Hotel Green Park, Visakhapatnam. Representatives from different CFC member organisations participated in the meeting. Mr. Sailesh Chakravarty, the National Convenor of FCFC welcomed all the participants to the meeting and mentioned that this meeting is significant as Ms.Jutta and Mr.Richard have come from EED to discuss on the issue of climate change. He said though it is mentioned as FCFC, but INECC, EED and others who have a concern for the issue are also involved in this process and in this meeting there will be discussions and sharing of experiences and future planning on the climate change. The matters discussed in the meeting include FCFC Climate activities – Advocacy, FCFC, INECC and EED cooperation on climate change, Preparation for CoP-15 etc.

Recent FCFC and ODAF Publications:

Impact of Mining and Industrialisation on Food Security, Livelihood and Natural Resources in Orissa

On behalf of CFC Eastern Region and ODAF a study was commissioned on the impact of mining and industrialisation on food security, livelihood and natural resources in Orissa(Micro Study in Talcher and Angul Region) to assess the impact of mining on food security. The study helps in understanding the whole issue of mining and allied activities and how high energy intensive consumption leads to climate change, pollution of water resources, air, agricultural lands and destruction and loss of diversity of aquatic species.

Climate Change – Issues and Perceptions

It is a compilation of proceedings of the round table consultation organised by FCFC, ODAF, INECC, and DHARA on 30th October 2008 to discuss and debate various impacts of climate change.

Minimum wages hiked in Orissa: The Orissa Government has announced a hike in minimum wages for different categories of labourers. Making the announcement in the State Assembly, Labour and Employment Minister said as per the revised rates unskilled labourers will be paid wages of Rs. 90 per day, while semi-skilled labourers would be paid wages of Rs. 103, skilled labourers Rs. 116 and highly skilled labourers Rs. 129. The increased wage rate would be effective from 26th of February 2009 and would be applicable to all the employees employed in 83 notified employments. The revised wage rate was gazette notified on 13th July 2009.

- ? The minimum rates of wages are all inclusive rates including the basic rates, the cost of living allowances and the cash value of the concessional supply if any of essential commodities
- ? The daily minimum rates of wages shall be inclusive of wages payable for the weekly day of rest.
- ? The minimum rates of wages are applicable to employees employed by contractors.

- ? The minimum rates of wages for disabled persons shall be same as payable to the workers of the appropriate category.
- ? There shall not be any discrimination between male and female workers in the matters of payment of minimum wages in any category of employment.
- ? "Unskilled" work means work which involves simple operation requiring little or no skill or experience on the job.
- ? "Semi skilled" work means work which involves some degree of skill or competence acquired through experience on the job and which is capable of being performed under the supervision or guidance of a skilled employee and includes un-skilled supervisory work.
- ? "Skilled" work means work which involves skill or competence acquired through experience on the job or through training as an apprentice or in a technical or vocational institute and the performance of which calls for initiative and judgement.
- ? "Highly skilled" work means work which calls for a high degree of performance and full competence in the performance of certain tasks, acquired through intensive technical or professional training or practices, work experience for long years and also required for workers to assure full responsibility for the judgement or decisions involved in the execution of these tasks.
- ? An adult employee shall work for 8 (eight) hours per day excluding half an hour of rest.

Source: Labour and Employment Department, Orissa-Notification dated 13th July 2009.