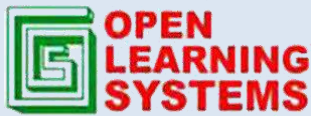


## OPEN LEARNING SYSTEMS (OLS)



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Annual Report 2016-17

## From the Desk of the CEO

### Dear Readers

Greetings from OLS.

Another year has passed with significant contributions of OLS towards the society. OLS has made significant strides in being recognized as a committed, rights based organization working for the protection of the rights of the most vulnerable sections of the society. It is a matter of great pride that OLS has been approached by Heritage Vision Education Trust (HVET) to collaborate with it and implement projects jointly in the rural development sector whereas it is the other way around in general, a voluntary organization has to approach everyone. An MOU was signed between OLS and HVET in this regard and the first step taken was a small initiative in educating the younger children of two villages who have either discontinued their school education or never been to school because of various reasons. Learning Centres have been opened in these two villages where qualified and educated unemployed youth of the villages have been engaged as teachers. The idea is to try to give the children an opportunity to get education and develop a habit to come to a place of learning. The objective is to continue their education so that they are not out of sync when the time comes for them to be able to go to formal schools. It is also for the parents and whole community to understand the value of education and not neglect their wards citing flimsy excuses.

The year has been fruitful in several ways. Discussions of collaboration have been successful with L.V. Prasad Eye Institute in the provision of Rehabilitative Services for children with eye impairments, Grants-In-Aid were received from SSEPD department for partial support of Rehabilitation Services for 30 children of the CCI, and from the WCD Department for partial support for management and running of the CCI which shows the commitment of the State Government for creating an enabling environment for the realization of the right to life with dignity. The SSEPD department also provided financial support for the conduct of the State Spastics program which had been discontinued for a couple of years without any reason. This benefited nearly 600 direct beneficiaries and as many number of other stakeholders in early identification and intervention.

OLS also passed a rigorous scrutiny and received the ISO-9001-2015 certification for its high standards of products and service delivery in provision of care, protection, education, rehabilitation, empowerment and realization of the rights of the vulnerable sections of the society like children in difficult circumstances, persons with disabilities and women.

Adoptionscentrum and Forum Syd reposed their faith in OLS after an external evaluation of its CBR project implemented for the last 3 years and the success of the Environment Project. OLS passed the assessment with usual aplomb in the CBR and hence it was approved for implementation in a new area for the next 3 years from 2017 to 2019. The Environment project was extended for another year in the same location for consolidation of the Right Way Forward approach.

Full-fledged psychological counseling unit has become functional with eminent psychologists providing counselling for any matter that is affecting a person's physical, emotional and social wellbeing.

I take this opportunity of expressing heartfelt gratitude to our patrons, partners, collaborators, and all stakeholders for reposing their trust in us.

**Prakash K Rath**

## COUNSELLING UNIT

The repercussions of disability tend to hit hard on the physical functioning and psyche of an individual. When the physical, psychological, emotional and social aftermath of disability continues its denigrating perpetuation, psychological counselling becomes imperative in empowering the individual to overcome the same and live a meaningful, dignified life. The Counselling Unit, started functioning with renewed vigour after the eminent psychologist and the Vice President of OLS, Dr. Pratap Rath, started looking after its functioning post retirement from his full time job as Professor of Psychology from the Utkal University in June 2016 and the induction of Ms. Sareeta Behera, a Ph.D. scholar of psychology as the Coordinator-Counsellor. It has now become one of the pillars of strength of OLS in facilitating emotional and psychosocial wellbeing of children and individuals with special needs.

### **Core Features:**

- Empowering the children with special needs and their parents/caregivers to deal with the negative aftermath of disability.
- Enabling the children with special needs and the parents/caregivers to be well-equipped with the personal, psychosocial, community and know-how service modalities in the disability sector.
- Ensuring the child's Right to Life with Dignity and to work in the best interest of the child.
- Enabling persons suffering from depression or negative thoughts to cope up with the situation and come out of the trauma

### **Counselling Method and Beneficiaries:**

The OLS-Utkal counselling approach developed by Dr. Pratap Rath, who did his Ph.D. in Psychology as a Commonwealth Scholar in the University of Exeter (U.K.), is being considered as the principal approach to counselling by the Unit. This process of counselling utilizes the strength of the Constitutional mandate, the substratum of social responsibility and the inalienable right of an individual to excel in life. This is the only rights-based approach which combines the socio-legal scenario of Odisha with the ideals of individual's Right to Life with Dignity.

Through specific counselling sessions and interventions children with special needs, parents/caregivers and different personnel at the inclusive school levels have been benefitted with the counselling inputs. This involves one to one counselling, functional interventions, group counselling, training and workshops on on Child Rights and Constitutional Provisions and various Acts. The counselling sessions are based on the specific counselling needs of the child, parental concerns and induction training, guidance, sensitization and experience sharing sessions on maturation and sexuality, safeguarding oneself, enhancing a sense of self-confidence and dignity, relationship issues, staff reflections, capacity building and skill training using counselling and psychological inputs.

### **Achievements:**

- Development and practice of the OLS-Utkal Counselling approach. Strengthening the counselling approach through in-depth research and counselling sessions.
- Development and training of an ability rating scale for children with special needs. The rating scale serves as a qualitative and quantitative psychological measure to chart out the functional abilities of the children with special needs. It aids in formulating child-friendly personalized counselling and psychological interventions. It also substantiates the development of Individual Education Plans for the teachers and trainees working with

special children. It is being adopted by some parents as a marker of the abilities and progress of their children over a period of time.

- Ms. Sareeta Behera was nominated by OLS and selected by the Social Security & Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities Department (SSEPD), Government of Odisha to participate in the National Level Master Trainers Workshop on the Assessment and Certification of Autism Spectrum Disorder conducted by the National Trust for the Welfare of Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation & Multiple Disabilities and the Paediatric Neurology Division of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi.
- Post training, Ms. Behera was selected as one of the members of the State Autism Appellate Board under the SSEPD Department, Government of Odisha.
- Successful training and focussed group discussion on Child Rights, Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse and Children with Special Needs in inclusive schools viz. EuroKids, Happy Hours School, Sai Bachpan School, Bhubaneswar and special school, CATCH, Bhubaneswar.
- Starting of a parent support group for parents of children with special needs. The parent support group is a functional WhatsApp group that shares information related to special needs, technical know-how, different events, sharing of experiences, motivation and well-being.
- Collaborated with the SSEPD Department, Government of Odisha in conducting the “Samarthya Shibira”, identification and assessment camp for PwDs as an Expert in the Area of Autism held on 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> of March 2017 at Bhubaneswar.

Championing child rights, internalization and practice has been the mission of OLS. The Counselling Unit serves as the mainstay of imparting psychological guidance, counselling sessions and interventions based on the backbone of child rights and ensuring the best interest of the child.



Use of Art and Colours as an intervention technique, to share feelings, emotions, thoughts and experiences



Specific skill development sessions to foster better eye hand coordination, cognitive skills, social interaction and reciprocity.



## **“HOPE-SOPAN” HVET-OLS LEARNING CENTRE**

In order to provide education to the children who are not going to school or have dropped out of school for various reasons, long distance from home to the school and too young age being the major problems. OLS started the “HOPE SOPAN LEARNING CENTRE” in collaboration with the Heritage Vision Education Trust, Bhubaneswar at Khandahata Ninigan and Barihapada of Nimapada block.

### **Objectives:**

1. To provide education at the door step for those who cannot go to school or dropped out of school for various reasons.
2. To continue the education so that they do not become permanent drop outs.
3. To groom the children so that they are enrolled and continue studies in formal school.
4. To impart education through ease of learning methods which create interest in the minds of the children and make them inquisitive.
5. To counsel parents, guardians and community members to understand the importance of education and to go that extra mile for the sake of education of the children in formal schools.
6. To provide an opportunity for the educated unemployed to get vocational training in various market oriented trades.



### **Activities undertaken by OLS:**

OLS formally started the “Hope Sapan Learning Centre” in Barihapada and Khandahata Ninigan from 1<sup>st</sup> March 2017. Earlier OLS and HVET members had visited the villages to assess the needs by interacting with the children, the parents and other members of the village communities and witnessing the physical condition of the village, the roads and the schools available in the vicinity. It was found that majority of the young children in those villages are deprived of primary education due to long distance of the school and due to lack of parents interest in education. The community



members provided the village community halls for the centres which function from 7am to 11am due the harsh summer condition.

Two educated unemployed youth with relevant qualification and attributes of a teacher have been engaged as educators in each of the centres. HVET has provided the financial support for procurement of the required materials and the remuneration of the youth engaged as educators. OLS staffs and the educators have counseled the community members. Presently 44 children

in the age group of 4 to 11 are coming to the centres. All the children are encouraged to go to the formal schools and the parents are being counseled to put in their best efforts to take the children to the schools. The approach being adopted in the centres is the joyful learning through the use of fund games and the outside environment.

## CENTRE FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION FOR THE CHILDREN WITH CEREBRAL PALSY

Ensuring a dignified life imbued with better quality services and skill development has been the backbone of the Cerebral Palsy Wing. The CP wing adopts an eclectic approach for the special education, capacity building, specific individual interventions, group sessions, extension activities and ability valorization to enable the children to lead life meaningfully with greater efficacy. The CP wing works in close collaboration with the parents and the community at large. This has catered to the development of appropriate services for the children with cerebral palsy, their parents/caregivers and has helped them achieve higher realms of meaningful survival, self-confidence, self-reliance, skill acquisition, all-round development. The CP Wing has worked towards achieving its objectives through various activities:

### Diagnosis and Intervention Centre

Appropriate assessment and diagnostic measures are imperative for the development of intervention techniques, management and rehabilitation apt for the children with cerebral palsy. The CP Wing of OLS comprises of a team of well qualified and experienced professionals, viz. special educators, physiotherapist, speech therapist, psychologists and caregivers. New entrants of the wing are duly assessed with professional precision and after proper intake orientation as well as counseling they are imparted with suitable services based on their functional abilities. An aggregate of 90 children in the current year 2016-17 received therapeutic interventions and special education through the Centre of Special Education for the children with cerebral palsy. The details of the same are as follows:

#### Baby Clinic:

Early identification and intervention plays a vital role in improving the medical and psychosocial prognosis of the neurodevelopment condition. If left unattended during the early developmental years, cerebral palsy and its concomitant complications may prove to be fatal for the life of an innocent child. Owing to this, the CP Wing takes extensive measures to impart early intervention and care. The baby clinic provides early detection, screening, diagnosis and intervention services for newborns and babies up to three years of age. During the year 2016-17, 9 males and 15 females benefitted from the baby clinic services.



#### Physiotherapy Unit:

The neurodevelopment conditions and concomitant symptoms of Cerebral Palsy require the usage of Physiotherapeutic interventions. The Physiotherapy Unit of the centre imparts extensive physiotherapy to improve motor level functioning, postural regulations and maintenance as well as muscular toning exercises to foster an optimal physical functioning of the children with cerebral palsy. Newer methods of physiotherapy like electrotherapy and radiation therapy are used. The physiotherapy unit aims to help the children regulate their body/physical functioning with greater efficacy to capacitate them for daily life functioning. More so, OLS trains the children to maintain normal posture and provides training on the use of gaiters



and other external mobility aids. Activities are provided to improve fine motor function in order to improve the muscle coordination and normalize tone and strengthen the weaker group of muscles. The physiotherapy unit of OLS has provided services to 65 children (35 males and 30 females) during 2016-17.

### **Occupational Therapy:**

Children with special needs often benefit through the various interventions of occupational therapy. In particular, the sensory integration technique proves to be helpful for the children with multiple disabilities. The occupational therapy unit of OLS imparts comprehensive therapy techniques to cater to the therapy needs of the children with cerebral palsy and multiple disabilities. Therapies are planned after an in-depth functional profile of the children. The OT unit provides inputs for sensory development and integration, fine motor skills, ADL skills and other functional abilities of the children. Regular monitoring and evaluation of the condition/progress of the child is done in order to improve the functioning of the child and overall services. The provision of adaptive and assistive devices is also made for the children who are in the severe side of spectrum of disability and for the children with the symptomatic need of such adaptive/assistive devices. The OT unit works in collaboration with the special educators to have an appropriate discretion of the functional assessment and therapy goals of the child. During the year 2016-17 a total of 31 children received therapeutic intervention services through the occupational therapy unit.

### **Speech Therapy:**

Speech, language and communication serve as the major foundations of daily life living and other important aspects of life. The speech therapy unit of OLS works with children who face difficulties with speech, language and communication. Following an appropriate screening of the functional speech modalities, speech therapy is provided to the children on a regular basis. Alternative Augmentative Communication tools are used for children who are non-verbal. Electronic equipments and new tools/improvised techniques are utilized for effective speech stimulation and communication. In the reporting year 25 children were imparted speech therapy.

### **Home Based Management Program:**

Parent-teacher collaboration along with bridging the paths between the organization and the parents/families is the main aim of home based management program. For children who stay far away from the organization and cannot come to the school on a regular basis are greatly benefitted by the home based management program. Psycho-education of the parents and the immediate significant other/care givers on the different dimensions of cerebral palsy, training parents and care givers on the different techniques to understand and manage the challenges faced, prevention and making the home environment child-friendly are some of the core features of the home based management program. A total of 30 students got services through the home based management program in the year 2016-17.

### **Special Care:**

Special care and attention is imperative for children with cerebral palsy and multiple disabilities. The special care unit of OLS looks into the intensive care and management of the children in the school environment. Training for carrying out Activities of Daily Living (ADL) is imparted with far greater care and special attention is given to those children to overcome their severe physical problems. Functional therapy and early stimulation is provided to these children. During the year 2016-17, 11 children (7 males and 4 females) were enrolled in this program.

## Special Education

### **Play Group:**

Inculcation of special education and skill sets through the play way method of learning is the hallmark of the play group. A joyful learning method along with 'learning by doing' is adopted by the play group. This fosters better eye hand coordination, logical and cognitive functions, gross motor skills, social skills and behavior management. The play group has 10 students (3 males and 7 females). Utmost importance is given to therapeutic stimulation, early stimulation, positioning of a child, training in Activities of Daily Living, counseling the parents and educational support.

### **Functional Academics:**

As part of enhancing the functional abilities and academics of the child, they are taught various functional skills and social skills like handling money and simple money transactions, concept of weight and measurements, simple daily life calculations and so on. The functional Academics also serve as an educational and skill development hub for students with special needs/cerebral palsy who are admitted in different inclusive education settings. These include BJB Autonomous College, Rama Devi Women's College and other inclusive schools. 11 numbers of students (6 males and 5 females) in the year 2016-17 have been successfully continuing their special education with the help of the functional academics of OLS.

### **Prevocational Unit:**

Vocational skills are an integral part of sustainable development and meaningful survival of an individual. Challenges and special needs should not be a limitation in the abilities and prospects available for the persons with disabilities. The prevocational unit of OLS works towards developing the vocational abilities of the students with cerebral palsy, required for pursuing a specific vocation. Prevocational training includes the skills and activities such as weight and measurement, functional mathematics, functional reading and writing, occupational skills, self-help skills, family life education. Vocational training focuses on grooming of one's self and social behavior. The numbers of students benefitted from the prevocational training program (2016-17) are 9 children (7 males and 2 females).

### **Family Life Education:**

Prevention of sexual abuse, bodily autonomy, coping with maturational challenges and self-regulation across lifespan are important for the safety and integrity of children with special needs. The sensitized and sensible staff of OLS imparts family life education and sex education to the students. Utmost care and efforts are made to ensure the confidentiality, dignity and integrity of the students. OLS has been a zero tolerance organization towards child sexual abuse. It trains its staff and students to be alert, sensible and sensitized towards care, protection and prevention of abuse.

### **Extra Curricular Activities:**

Recreation and sports are equally important as education and skill development. To foster the spirit of recreation, positivity, sportsmanship, team work and creative abilities, the special education wing of OLS takes active initiatives in helping children explore, develop, participate and express their extra-curricular activities. The students are exposed to dance and movement session, music, art, and much more exciting recreational activities on a regular basis. Our students have successfully participated in different state and national level special sports activities as well during the current year. The sense of cheer and self-confidence that are reflected in them through the extra-curricular activities are something worth cherishing.



**Home Visits:**

The children's homes are regularly visited by our special educators. This results in the special educator getting the real picture of the home environment of the special child and gets acquainted with the family members and assesses their competencies to deal with the special child. This helps in prescribing any aids and appliances or toilet specification, access to accommodations, ramps and disabled friendly innovations that can be used or developed at home. The involvement of the family members in the progress of the child is tracked by the OLS team which gives them a strong foothold in times of crisis to help the parents.

**Outreach programme:**

The CP wing staff along with the trainees of the Diploma in Special Education visited around 12 different slums in Bhubaneswar to identify the children with different disabilities who are not attending any school or institution due to various reasons. They identified 45 children with different kinds of disabilities. After the assessment and sensitization programme 10 children's parents were persuaded to send their children to OLS for special education. For those who are unable to attend regular classes for various reasons, OLS started the outreach programme by assigning special educators, physiotherapist and speech-therapist who visit their homes and provide the services there. A resource centre was also opened in Salia Sahi for the benefit of nearly 15 children.

**Academic Achievements:**

- Out of 10 children in the play group, 4 have been promoted to the Pre School.
- Out of 11 students in the functional academics, 2 students were promoted to the pre-vocational training level.
- Out of 11 students undergoing pre-vocational training, 3 were promoted to the vocational level based on significant improvement in their abilities and attitude.
- Out of 22 students in inclusive education group, 3 have been promoted to class IX, 2 have been promoted to class VIII, 2 have been promoted to class VII, 3 have been promoted to class VI, 3 have been promoted to class V, 2 have been promoted to class IV, 2 have been promoted to class III and 3 have been promoted to class II.
- 3 students have successfully cleared the +3 examinations.

**Co-Curricular Achievement:**

- Rajesh Patra, Shriya, NutanTripathy, Stuti, and Ashis Sahu participated and were awarded with prizes in different competitions on 9<sup>th</sup> November 2016 in the National Integration Fair 2016 organised by Nehru Institute of Youth Affairs.
- In various sports events organized at district headquarters Khurda, to mark the International Day for the Persons with Disabilities, Rajesh Patra, Arabinda and Chiraneev represented OLS in Junior Soft Ball Throw (Boys), Binay and Mukesh in Senior Soft Ball Throw (Boys), Payal and Tulasi in Junior (Girls), and Shriya, Stuti and Fatima in wheel chair race (Junior Girls) participated and were awarded during the events.

**Observance of the International Day for the Persons with Disabilities:**

The day was observed at Adivasi Ground on 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2016. OLS participated in the cultural programme and the exhibition, displaying its physiotherapy equipment and special furniture, TLMs and products manufactured in the Vocational Training



units. The exhibition was held for 2 days and a large number of visitors the stall and appreciated the work of OLS.

### **Celebration of Independence Day:**

The 60<sup>th</sup> Independence Day was observed with pomp and ceremony at OLS in which the Cerebral Palsy wing took part. Mr. Manoj Panda, Centre Head, TCS Bhubaneswar graced the ceremony as the Chief Guest and deliberated upon the significance of the day while reiterating the onerous task of rebuilding the nation in the coming days. It was a joyous occasion for all the students, staff and parents of children. The Vice Chairman of OLS Governing Body and the CEO, OLS were present on the occasion.

### **Celebration of the Republic Day:**

On 26<sup>th</sup> January 2017, OLS celebrated the Republic Day in which the Cerebral Palsy wing participated. Ms. Preeti Raychand, President, NALCO Ladies Club attended the celebrations as the Chief Guest. After the event an art competition was organized by Childline Nodal Centre in which all the students of the Cerebral Palsy wing participated with great joy.

### **Aadhaar card camp:**

The Cerebral Palsy wing conducted an Aadhaar camp in OLS premises for all the students of various wings of OLS on 19<sup>th</sup> Sept. 2016. It was carried out by an 8 member team from the UIDAI. In the process all the students of the CP wing got their Aadhaar cards.



### **Observation of World CP day:**

The World Cerebral Palsy Day was observed on 5<sup>th</sup> September 2016. The students of the D.Ed.SE-CP and the staff of the CP wing sensitized the public at different places in Bhubaneswar creating awareness about the condition, the abilities of the persons with the condition, the role of the parents and the society in letting them live as any other member with equal rights. They also highlighted the achievements of the persons with



cerebral palsy in order to make their point. OLS CP wing conducted a cultural programme in the premises on the theme of inclusion.

### **Exposure visit to Jayadev Vatika, Bhubaneswar**

Children of the Cerebral Palsy wing visited Jayadev Vatika, a huge botanical garden with medicinal plants, on 20<sup>th</sup> January 2017 with their teacher. They enjoyed the visit very much and gained knowledge from it.



## SCHOOL FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION OF CHILDREN WITH INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY

Every child grows in his social world and the education pursued him in the formal institutional setting or otherwise includes to a great extent social activity to transmit a social selection of knowledge. Acquisition of knowledge through active involvement with content and not imitation or memorization of material are at the root of acquisition of knowledge. Here students should have autonomy for their own learning opportunities and for peer collaboration and autonomy encourages students to construct their own knowledge and gain new perspectives through hands on experiences rather than follow prescribed information.

Education is to help to generate and promote learning among the learners.

- Language abilities – listening, speaking, reading and writing.
- Communication skills- speech therapy, receptive and expressive language.
- Academic ability to develop logical mind.
- Understanding of the environment in its totality – natural and social.
- Knowledge and attitude and habits necessary for keeping physically and mentally fit and strong.
- Prevocational and vocational skills and willingness to work hard and dignity of manual work.

The emphasis on learner centered approach necessitates careful determination of objectives of education to be achieved at particular stages in keeping with the norms of physical, mental, social, emotional and normal development of learner.

To achieve the above objective School for the Children with Intellectual Disability continues its efforts to provide suitable learning experiences by providing self learning material i.e. toys, learning aids etc. in different media to facilitate the growth of the child. The education, we aim at, is more meaningful that enables our children to cope with the day-to-day living in the family with greater confidence, ultimately to face the community and defend their rights to a life with dignity.

Our groups are formed on the basis of what exactly children are able to do i.e. his/her current level of functioning. Our priority is to help in the development of self –independent and self-sufficiency of the children. The task is very difficult because each special child is unique and in nature. Due to tireless efforts of the professionals and strong will power of our children to improve, the children showed their excellence in different field in national and international level. For the last 20 years our differently able children have been taking part in the Special Olympics movement at the state, national and the international level. It is a very special event not only for the children but also for the parents.

The School for the children with Intellectual Disability consists mainly of

- (1) Pre-Primary group (3 to 6 years)
- (2) Primary group (7 to 10 years)
- (3) Secondary group (11 to 14 years)
- (4) Pre-Vocational group (15 to 18 years)
- (5) Care group. (No age bar)

In Pre-primary & Primary group, the primary activities are activities of Daily Living Skills (ADL), Social Skills, Art & Craft, and Music. Speech and occupational therapy form an integral part of their curriculum. Play as you learn is followed in the main areas of training in Self help skills, Pre-academics, communication and socialization skills. In special cases that need 1:1 training are

catered through Individualized Education Program (IEP). Regular parent teacher interaction assists in assessment and evaluation of the children in Pre-primary and Primary group.

In the Secondary group the children are trained in their basic self help skills, language, cognitive, academic skills and extracurricular activities in a more structured form. Creative inputs like Music, Dance, Art & craft, Tabla, and Yoga form the part of their curriculum. Therapeutic intervention in speech and language development, occupational therapy, behaviour management programs are also provided simultaneously with the main learning schedule of the children.

As the children approach the threshold of adulthood, the young children with special needs are exposed to new goal in life. The training is focused on new avenues of independent living. The training is programmed to promote and develop vocational based skills. The children in the Pre-vocational group are exposed to functional academics. Developments of time concept, weights & measurements and money recognition and exchange are part of the training. They are also exposed to social skills and community orientation.

Special classroom and individual attention is provided for children with severe and profound level of intellectual disability, who are too old to remain in the primary group. Behaviour modification and special care facilities are provided to severe and profound group children. Special attention with multisensory stimulation are providing for children with Autism Spectrum Disorders.

**Strength in different groups during the reported year:**

Sl. No	Group	Boys	Girls	Total
1	Preprimary	2	0	2
2	Primary-I	14	1	15
3	Primary-II	13	4	17
4	Secondary	17	5	22
5	Prevocational-I	6	4	10
6	Pre-Vocational-II	5	7	12
7	Care group	4	2	6
	<b>Total</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>84</b>

**Major Activities:**

- Special Education
  - Group teaching
  - Individualized Education Program (IEP)
- Management of behavioural problems.
- Early intervention
- Therapeutic stimulation
  - Speech therapy
  - Occupational therapy
- Pre-vocational training
- Exposure visit, outing
- Art, Music & Dance
- Sports & Games, Yoga



**Achievement during 2016-17:**

- Out of 10 students undergoing prevocational training 5 were promoted to vocational training for their significant improvement in pre-vocational skills.

**Co-curricular achievements:**

- World Autism Day was celebrated worldwide on 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2016 and the students of School for Children with Intellectual Disability participated in various competitions like blowing glasses, threading flowers, playing basket ball, sticking matchsticks on the sand, spoon potato race, bursting balloons, sorting marbles in water, removing clothes clips in the programme organized by CATCH, Bhubaneswar in which Aditya Panda, Prajyot Dash, Suman Pattnaik, Bandana, Spandan Tripathy were awarded prizes.
- Very Special Arts India, New Delhi organized its 20<sup>th</sup> Annual National Art Competition 2016 in which 10 children from the School participated along with 5 children with Autism.
- Twenty children from special school participated in the “Festival of Joy” a multi event sports program for special children on 10<sup>th</sup> November at NIYA campus as a part of “National Integration Festival 2016” organized by Nehru Institute of Youth Affairs, Bhubaneswar.
- Ten children participated in different workshops of ANJALI, National Children’s Festival organized by Swabhimani on the occasion of Children’s Day from 14<sup>th</sup> -18<sup>th</sup> November 2016. They received certificates and prizes.
- Twenty Children from the School participated in “We Care Film Festival - VI” on 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> January 2017 at Institute of Engineers, Bhubaneswar organized by Aaina.
- On behalf of the “Manage Autism Now (MAN) Trust, sports meet was organized at “Autism Therapy Centre” on 5<sup>th</sup> November 2016. Five Children with Autism participated in different events and awarded the prizes.
- On the occasion of International Day for the Differently Able, a sports competition was organized by the Social Security Section of district administration, Khordha at BJB High School ground. Thirteen children participated in the sports competition. Subrat and Nirlipta won 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> prizes in Soft Ball Throw and Music Chair respectively.
- All the Children of the School participated in the celebration of International Day for the Differently Able which was observed on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2016 at Adibasi Ground, Bhubaneswar organized by the SSEPD Department, Government of Odisha.
- The students and staff of the School participated in the Ability Marathon on 3<sup>rd</sup> December, 2016 organized by the SSEPD Department.
- Five children of the School participated in the painting competition on 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> February, 2017 organized by Regional Museum of Natural History, Bhubaneswar to understand the different aspects of nature and natural history using various resources in the museum.
- Children and staff of the School participated in Harmony-ble 2017, an inter-school competition of art, instrument, dance and vocal for special children on 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> March 2017 organized by Shree Sai Niketan Trust, Bhubaneswar.
- Ms. Sasmita Mohapatra, Special Educator, represented India as a Coach in Floor Hockey and participated in the Special Olympics World Winter Games 2017 held in Graz, Austria from 14<sup>th</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> March 2017.

**Exposure Visit of Children:**

- Sixty children of the School along with 6 teachers and 6 supporting staff visited Jaydev Vatika, Bhubaneswar on 9<sup>th</sup> November 2016 for exposure and recreation.
- The students and staff witnessed the 1st Special Olympics Inter-Regional Unified 11-a-side Football Tournament organized by Special Olympics Bharat – Odisha at KIIT Stadium from 2<sup>nd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> December 2016 in which India, Thailand, Korea and Bangladesh competed.

**Celebration in the Institution:**

- All the students and staff of the School participated in the Independence Day celebrations.
- All the students and staff of the School participated in the Republic Day celebrations too.

**Exposure Visit of students of various colleges to OLS Special School:**

- Two 3<sup>rd</sup> year B.Sc. (Home Science) students and one Research Assistant from College of Home Science, OUAT, Bhubaneswar visited the School on 30<sup>th</sup> June 2016 to acquire practical experience on Functional Interiors for Special need students.
- As part of their orientation training, 36 students of B. Ed. Spl. Edu. (HI) 1<sup>st</sup> year along with 2 teaching faculties of Pingalakhi Public Welfare Organization, Nimapara visited the School from 20<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2016 for observation of Classroom teaching.
- As part of their orientation training, 30 B. Ed Special Education (MR) students along with 2 teaching faculties of Chetana College of Special Education, Bhubaneswar visited the School from 2<sup>nd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> February 2017 for practical experience on education and management of children with Autism and Intellectual disability.

**Internship for professional development:**

- During the year 2016-2017, Ms. Sareeta Behera, Ph.D. scholar from the Department of Psychology, Utkal University undertook research work in different classes and studied assessment procedure, teaching procedure and strategies.
- Five 2<sup>nd</sup> year MSW students from NISWASS undertook internship for a period of six months as part of their project work to know the different categories of children with developmental disabilities, teaching methodologies and counseling of the parents.
- Mr. Sourav Nandy, a student of Master of Design of National Institute of Fashion Technology, New Delhi undertook the research work on children with intellectual disability at OLS for his dissertation from 17<sup>th</sup> February to 20<sup>th</sup> March 2017.

**Workshop/Training/CRE program attended by the Staff Members:**

- Mr. Damodar Dash, Special Educator attended the workshop on different schemes implemented for the welfare of PwDs on 8<sup>th</sup> April, 2016 at hotel The New Marrian, Bhubaneswar organized by SSEPD Department, Government of Odisha.
- Mr. Manatosh Behera, Principal, attended the Orientation program for State Resource Group (SRG) on CWSN on various themes from 30<sup>th</sup> June to 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2016 at SCST RTI, Bhubaneswar organized by the Directorate of TE, SCERT and OPEPA.
- Mr. Bibhuti Bhusan Nanda attended the one day workshop on National Trust under Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Government of India in collaboration with SSEPD Department, Government of Odisha for stakeholders on 19<sup>th</sup> May at HHI, Bhubaneswar.
- Mr. Manatosh Behera, Principal, Mr. Bibhuti Bhusan Nanda and Mr. Damodar Dash, Special Educators attended the training programme on 5<sup>th</sup> November 2016 at IDCOL auditorium, Bhubaneswar organized by RCI, East Zone, Kolkata.
- All the staff members of the School attended the Convention on Ending Violence Against Children from 15<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> December 2016 at Institute of Engineers, Bhubaneswar organized by Odisha Alliance for Child Rights and OSCPCR.
- Mr. Manatosh Behera, Mr. Damodar Dash, Mr. Bibhuti Bhusan Nanda attended the 3 day CRE program from 23<sup>rd</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> January, 2017 organized by OLS at Bhubaneswar.
- Ms. Sasmita Mohapatra, Mrs. Geeta Panda and Mrs. Shradhanjali Mohanty, Special Educators attended a 2 days CRE program from 6<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> February, 2017 organized by NIEPMD, Regional Centre at VRCH, Bhubaneswar.

**Staff Members as Resource Persons:**

- Mr. Manatosh Behera, Principal, was a resource person in RCI sponsored CRE on “Group Education Programmes” on 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2016 at SEVA, Nayagarh.
- Mr. Manatosh Behera, Principal, was a resource person for development of module for training of RPs and IE Volunteers from 16<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> July 2016 at OPEPA, Bhubaneswar.
- Mr. Manatosh Behera, Principal, was a resource person for DRG members training on training module from 8<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> August 2016 at Bhubaneswar.
- Mr. Manatosh Behera, Principal, was a resource person for 5 days teachers training program for the teachers of BMC on the module “SAMATA” held from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> January 2017 at NISWASS Bhubaneswar organized by DPO, SSA Khordha.
- Mr. Manatosh Behera, Principal, was a resource person in the Seminar on Inclusive Education on 18<sup>th</sup> January 2017 organized by Pingalakhi Public Welfare Organization, Nimapara.
- Mr. Manatosh Behera, Principal, was a resource person for providing training to the staff of Community Based Rehabilitation of Children with Disabilities on 9<sup>th</sup> February 2017 at OLS Project Office, Nimapara.

## COMMUNITY BASED REHABILITATION OF CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

In order to provide care, protection, education and rehabilitation to every child with disability in the community, OLS has been implementing the Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR) programme with the support of Adoption Centrum of Sweden. The aim of this programme is to empower the children with disabilities and their parents/guardians/family members to protect and realize the rights of the children with disabilities with the active support of the elected peoples' representatives, teachers, health workers, SHG Members, School Management Committees, community based organisations etc by orienting them with knowledge and information and developing their skill on protection and realisation of the rights and entitlements of children with disabilities using advocacy tools. The main aim of the project is to ensure that no child with disability is exploited, neglected, abused or abandoned and the community responsibly discharges its duties so that the children with disabilities lead a life with dignity as enshrined in the Constitution of India.

The organisation provides home based management services which include family counselling, special education with the help of TLMs in the resource centres, facilitation for enrolment and education in the mainstream schools, linkages with various schemes and promotion of independent living of children with disabilities in their activities of daily living.

The following were the major activities carried out during the reporting period under the CBR programme:

Requisite therapeutic services and educational support were provided to children at 6 resource centres at Sagadadeuli, Ratilo, Badrikilo, Chadheigan, Badaninigan and Bantigram in Nimapada block of Puri district. These centres are fully equipped with necessary equipment and human resource for providing updated and regular services to children with disabilities. Total 92 children with CP and ID were able to conduct their Activities of Daily Living independently with the interventions at these Centres.

In order to sensitize on their rights and their obligation to the nation as future responsible citizens and to build their capacity in understanding, resource and vulnerability mapping has been conducted in 42 villages by the children's club members in their own localities. With the mapping the children came to understand the issues that they face with regard to their education, health and sanitation, communication, physical growth, conducive environment and a host of other issues affecting their development. Similarly, children understood the resources available with them that they could bank on or utilize to further their cause. 10 panchayat level children's forums and one block level children's forum have been formed and functional.



During the period 120 parents, 102 School Management Committee Members, 126 child protection committee members, 400 SHG members, 120 adolescent girls and 80 school teachers have been trained in care, protection and inclusion of children with disabilities.



The project observed the World Autism Day, the World Deaf Day, the World CP Day, the World Mental Health Day and the International Day for the Persons with Disabilities with the participation of the Communities. Awareness on various disabilities and interventions have been created through the celebration of these Days with eminent experts giving talks and sensitization through competitions and debates.

In order to ensure participation a cultural programme "SHISHU MAHOTSABA" was organized on 6<sup>th</sup> November 2016 at Nigam Mandap, Balanga. Children, parents and community members were present. The main purpose of the event was to encourage Children with Disabilities to participate in any competition held in any platform. Initiatives to include CwDs and to ensure their participation in



all sphere of the life has been done through various social activities like sports, cultural programmes etc. One such big event was the conducting of the District Games for Persons with Disabilities held from 21<sup>st</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> July 2016 at Nimapada in collaboration with Special Olympics Bharat-Odisha. This event gave the children with disabilities an opportunity to showcase their talents and abilities, and boosted their confidence. It also created awareness among the communities that the children with disabilities have abilities like any other.

In order to ensure sustainability of the project and continuation of the activities for realisation of the rights of the children with disabilities, a parents forum was formed during the last 3 years of the project implementation and was strengthened with the membership reaching more than 200 last year.

## INTEGRATED REHABILITATION CENTRE FOR ADDICTS (IRCA)

Sankalpa is a 15-bedded Centre, providing in house treatment, which requires that a 'client' be admitted at the Centre for a period of at least one month or 30 days. Even though a number of clients get discharged after completion of 30 days, there are quite a few clients who choose to stay for two or more consecutive terms. It is generally well known that 90 days (3 terms) is the best time



frame for treatment and thus clients, who on their own volition are keen on extending their stay at Sankalpa, are encouraged to do so. It is on account of such measures that Sankalpa today has had some measure of success in rehabilitating 'users'. Relapse and recovery are two sides of the same coin and often relapse is seen as a part of recovery. Quite a few of our clients have been treated before be at Sankalpa or at other Centers. Relapsed clients are also welcome at Sankalpa in the hope that one cannot say with certainty when recovery shall happen. Given the very nature of the disease of addiction, it becomes difficult to have exact figures regarding relapses and recovery rates. However with the assistance of our peers and the recovering community, we get a fairly accurate picture of how our ex-clients are doing. Apart from such methods, our counselors also undertake follow up visits to our discharged or drop out clients. Sometimes such follow up visits can provide much needed support to an ex-client on the verge of relapse or even motivation to relapsed clients to seek readmission at the Centre.

**Education:**

Out of 179 clients, 28 were re-admissions and 3 are drop in clients and therefore are taken into account once for the purpose of establishing the percentage calculation as far as different educational backgrounds are concerned. The educational qualifications of the 179 clients are as follows:

Primary school 28, Middle school 45, High school 39, Higher Secondary 32, Graduation 29, Post graduation 3, Professionally trained 3.

**Length of stay:**

Readmission cases are also taken into account for the purposes of calculating length of stay as they occupy a bed. We had 28 readmission cases out of which 03 were discharged and came back again after relapse. The break up is as follows:

1 – 10 days 2, 11 – 20 days 4, 21 – 30 days 166 and 31 – 60 days 7

**Marital Status:**

The break-up of the 179 cases for marital status is as follows:

Never married 71, Married 99, Divorced 2 and Separated 7

**Employment Status:**

Even within the employed or working, the percentage of persons with addiction among self-employed is higher than those employed either part-time or full time for a different employer. The lack of accountability and fear of disciplinary actions may be a contributory factor in this discrepancy between the self-employed and those working for others. However, the highest number of 'users' belong to the 'Currently Un-employed' and "Never Employed" groups. The break-up of the employment status is as follows:

Currently Unemployed 64, Never Employed 7, Part Time Employed 2, Full Time Employed 21, Self Employed 75, Students 5 and Pensioners 5.

**Referral Details:**

Family continues to be the main source of referral for admissions followed by recovering addicts. Both recovering addicts, especially NA members and ex-clients play a very important role in getting users admitted into Sankalpa. The total here is 179, as in the 3 relapse re-admission cases, the referring person on the first occasion was a NA member, which subsequently changed to a family member on re-admission. Self 2, Friends 2, Family 162, Social Worker 2, Private Doctors 1, Counseling Centre 1, and Ex-Clients or their family members 7.

**Types of Abuse:**

The term drug of choice means that each client admitted into Sankalpa has his own choice of drug(s) that he abuses. The type of drugs abused depends on various factors such as financial background, educational qualifications, social standing, market availability of drugs etc. Most of the persons with addiction to Brown sugar were readmitted themselves for the next course and hence they reflected by less in numbers in comparison to prior years.

Opium 1, Buprenorphine 2, Propoxyphene 1, Brown Sugar 18, Alcohol 115, Cannabis 33, Sedatives 1, Volatile Solvents (Inhalants) 5 and Others not listed 3.

**Other supportive activities:**

- Establishing linkages with all stakeholders including media, police, society at large, doctors and policy makers.
- Organizing detoxification camps in high-risk localities.
- Organizing prevention and awareness programme in different educational institutions regarding drug de-addiction.
- Organising Workplace prevention / awareness camps at different susceptible areas and localities to prevent from the risk of HIV/AIDS.
- Targeting intra-venous drug users (IDUs) as a major risk group for HIV/AIDS, especially in Bhubaneswar and Cuttack. Imparting harm minimization skills and information to IDUs.

## CHILDLINE NODAL AGENCY FOR CUTTACK DISTRICT

Since 19th November 2001, Open Learning Systems has been working as the Childline Nodal agency for Cuttack providing supportive supervision coordinated services to the Collaborative Agency, "BASUNDHARA". The Nodal Agency also conducts training programmes on various aspects of child rights and its violation to the staff members of the Collab Agency and the various other stakeholders and conducts advocacy in the district as well as the State Level with the policy makers' level and the bureaucracy for efficient implementation of the policies. The Nodal Agency also coordinates with the various departments of the government at the district level to ensure convergence of efforts to ensure that the interventions bear fruit.

**The various activities conducted by the Nodal Agency in the reported year are:**

Orientation on care and protection of distress children, awareness meetings on the roles and responsibilities of the staff members, coordination meetings of CHILDLINE at the Cuttack city level. The nodal agency has conducted Weekly and Monthly meetings with the Childline Collab Agency staff members. As collab agency team members directly work with vulnerable children or the children in distress their experiences are shared in the weekly meetings and strategies for interventions on case to case basis are worked out.

**Weekly meeting with team members:**

The major objectives of the weekly meetings with the team members is to refresh their knowledge, improve interaction between the members and seeking suggestions for adopting innovative ways of interventions looking at the unforeseen issues cropping up from time to time through the communities. It also helps to improve the skill and capacity of the members. Help finding solution to tackle new emerging issues. Planning for the coming week with activities targeted to create more awareness in the vulnerable areas of the telecom city. Prepare action plan to organized

sensitization programme in market place, railway station, and hospital and slums. Every Saturday the Nodal Coordinator had a coordination meeting with the Collab Coordinator and his team with the following objectives.

**Monthly meeting with team members:**

Team members meeting were held at Cuttack every month for the analysis the activities of whole month. Monthly meeting is a platform of sharing problem, issues and conflict with other "CHILDLINE" members and prepare strategy for deal with conflict situation. Chalk out future action plan for awareness campaign, coordination with different stakeholders and exchange ideas for better intervention. Monthly meeting is basically held to review the worked done throughout the month and compile and complete the monthly reports. The progress is also reviewed by the Nodal Director along with the Director of the Collab.

**Awareness and outreach activities:**

Outreach programme is one of the major activities of "CHILDLINE". Every month the Nodal Agency has coordinated with the Collab Agency in planning and conducting outreach programmes in the entire district. The objective of the outreach programme is to create awareness among the general public and children regarding the services of Childline and how the helpline number 1098 works.

**Methodology of outreach programme:**

Verbal discussion

Leaflet distribution.

Poster distribution

Face to face interaction

Issue identified and escalated for action.

Resource organizations that joined in the programme:

Swadhar home.

- DCPU
- Police personnel
- Open shelter
- CWC
- Lawyers
- JJB
- Teachers
- Child care Institutions

**Directors' Meeting:**

A special meeting of all the Directors was held on 21<sup>st</sup> July 2016 which was also attended by the Odisha State-In-Charge, CIF, Kolkata; the DCPO, Cuttack; the Nodal Coordinator and the Collab Coordinator.

Several issues like the reported rape of a 12 year old girl child in Cuttack district were discussed and decisions taken to further the protection of children. CWCs recommending many special needs children to the CCIs where there is no proper infrastructure to take care of them which is creating a lot of problems for the children and the CCIs was discussed. It was decided that the matter should be brought up in the DCPC meeting and suggestions for opening Special CCIs in the districts should be given.

It was decided in the meeting to contact and motivate the college students as volunteers of CHILDLINE. As more and more child marriage cases are being reported, it was decided to conduct more awareness and sensitization programmes on the issue. Childline facing the problem when a child is admitted in Shishubhawan due to no free attendant facilities, it was decided to raise the issue in the DCPC meeting for provision of free attendant facility. Looking at the vast areas to be covered in the district and the problems related to it, it was decided to submit a proposal to the DCPC to set up a Sub Centre. The District Collector will recommend the proposal and DCPO will follow up for materialization.

### **Programmes conducted by Childline Nodal Agency:**

#### **Interactive seminar with Lawyers on Juvenile Justice Care and Protection Act 2015**

An interactive seminar with lawyers on JJ Act 2015 and Child Protection Mechanism was organized 18th May 2016 at Biju Patnaik Club, Athagarh with 70 lawyers of the block in attendance.

Major points covered were:

- The need for the act and the amendments
- Roles and responsibilities of Lawyers to ensure children's rights
- Ensuring child protection and participation.
- Role of SJPU and JJB
- Creating more awareness through Lawyers
- Discussions on specific case studies
- Roles and responsibilities of CHILDLINE
- Coordination between Childline and Lawyers



#### **One day awareness on Juvenile Justice Act 2015 for Resource Organisations:**



The programme was held with members of 22 organizations in attendance. Eminent Child Rights Experts were the resource persons.

Major points discussed were:

- Why JJ Act 2015
- Importance of Child Care Institutions in ensuring the rights of the children
- Roles and responsibilities of resource organisations
- Problems face by resource organisations and how to solve those
- Child friendly approaches
- Strong protest and other actions against violation of child right.

#### **Roles and responsibilities of Children in Home Management Committee:**

A one day training programme for children on their roles and responsibilities in Home Management Committee was held by the Nodal Agency in which more than 100 children participated from different organizations of Cuttack district. The children had an opportunity to interact face to face with the Chairperson of the Odisha State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (OSPCPR).



Major points discussed:

- Child rights, understanding and ensuring.
- Right to Free & Compulsory Education 2009
- Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act 2012
- Understanding the Preamble of the Constitution of India
- Roles and responsibilities of the children.
- Procedure to follow the norms of Home Management Committee.
- Role of OSCPCR.
- Understanding the toll free number prescribed by OSCPCR
- Understanding the Childline number 1098



### Swachh Bharat Abhiyan campaign



A drawing and painting competition was organized on Swachh Bharat Abhiyan in the Centres for Special Education of Children with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Intellectual Disability and Multiple Disabilities run by OLS on the occasion of the 68th Republic Day Celebrations on 26th January 2017 in order to make them aware about the importance of cleanliness of the surrounding, hygiene and sanitation.

More than 60 children with the assistance of trainees of special education diploma course took part in the competition in which Childline provided all the necessary materials, food and gifts. All the children participated and produced beautiful paintings that showcased their understanding and skills.



### COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (CMHD)

This is the second phase of implementation of the Community Mental Health Programme earlier being implemented by OLS in Nimapada and Puri Sadar blocks with the support of Basic Needs India, Bengaluru. The programme caters to nearly 700 persons with mental illness out of which 448 were identified and serviced in the first phase. The programme is now being implemented with intensity in 10 gram panchayats. The main objectives of the programme are:

- ❖ To ensure that approximately 784 PWMIs are accessing comprehensive care including psychosocial, medical and community level services
- ❖ To build the capacity of the project staff members for sustainable mental health interventions
- ❖ To mobilize the identified PWMIs, carers and community stakeholders towards ownership of their mental health agenda

- ❖ To advocate with Governments for the entitlements and policy changes are required for the rights and benefits of the PWMIs

### Target beneficiaries:

- Persons with Mental Illness
- Carers/Parents of PWMIs
- Other family members of PWMIs and community members

### Programme Activities:

- Identification and assessments of PWMI
- Parental counseling for access to treatment of the PWMIs
- Counseling to PWMIs.
- Regular psychiatric and medical consultation for treatment.
- Provision of medicines for identified PWMIs
- Regular D.P.O meetings
- Livelihood support for PWMIs.



### World Mental Health Day

The Day was celebrated on 10<sup>th</sup> October 2016 at the project office at Nijoga Kasoti with the participation of many the concerned ward members, sarapanchs, parents of PWMIs and PwDs, CBO members and community members where an awareness meeting was held and information disseminated on the major aspects of the nature of mental illness, the Recovery Mechanism, the support required from the community and the right to life with dignity of the PWMIs. A small Rally went around the village to make people aware about the occasion.

### Exposure visit of CMHD staff of other organizations

A group of representatives of CMHD project from Assam, Jharkhand, Meghalaya, Manipur, Kerala, Tamilnadu, Bihar and Odisha visited the project area on a exposure visit and interacted with the family support group members in the Pilot Panchayat at Badasiribila in the month of April 2016.

### Achievements in the reporting period

- Total number of New PWMIs identified - 457
- Total number of PWMIs under Treatment - 272
- Total number of PWMIs receiving livelihood support – 6

## OKCL AUTHORISED LEARNING CENTRE FOR OS-CIT

The Government of Odisha has recently promoted an innovative and well articulated complete computer course named “Odisha State Certificate in Information Technology (OS-CIT)” through the Odisha Knowledge Corporation Ltd. to provide computer knowledge to the students of Odisha at an economic price and to increase their employability. Now computer knowledge and skill is necessary in every field of job and daily life.



Odisha Knowledge Corporation Limited

Presents

**OS-CIT**

Odisha State - Certificate in  
Information Technology

Complete Computer Course approved by  
**Government of Odisha**

OLS has been selected as an Authorised Learning Centre (ALC) of the OKCL to impart courses of the OS-CIT. The computer course provided by the OS-CIT Course has advantages over the computer course provided by other private institutes, because the certificate provided by ALC is recognized by the Government of Odisha. Another benefit of the course is that, one gets multifarious courses at a economic price tag. Also the teaching qualities of the teacher will be better than other institutes without relevant affiliations. OLS has become a proud partner to such skill building initiative by providing infrastructure and technical support for actualising such an ambitious project by Odisha Knowledge Corporation Ltd.

Information Technology has come of age in the last five years or so. It has made progress by leaps and bounds in this period and has the widest range of services and opportunities to choose from for the youngest to the oldest generation. OLS saw the opportunity being provided in this field by Odisha Knowledge Corporation Limited and applied for an Authorised Learning Centre. After due diligence by OKCL, OLS was found to be having the requisite expertise, human resource and infrastructure to conduct the Certificate in Information Technology. It was declared an ALC in January 2016.

The courses are of two months duration. A total of 36 students enrolled and passed out of the Centre in the reporting period. A new course K-Lic was added to the list of courses in the year.

### DIPLOMA IN EDUCATION - SPECIAL EDUCATION (CEREBRAL PALSY)

The need for developing a cadre of professionals to carry forward the supportive and advocacy activities for the children with special needs, Open Learning Systems provides a two year full time “Diploma in Education - Special Education (Cerebral Palsy)” approved by the Rehabilitation Council of India (RCI), New Delhi with 30 students per year. OLS has so far completed 17 batches. Almost all the students who have passed out of OLS have been absorbed in the Government of Odisha services for the persons with disabilities like the SSA.

OLS has set up excellent infrastructure and training facilities for the programme that is one of the best in Odisha. The Core Faculties and the Guest Faculties are chosen from among a host of eminent educationists and activists from the field some of who are retired professors from reputed universities.

State-of-the-art equipment and gadgets including digital ones are used for the better understanding of the students and keeping them abreast of the fast changing world with the technological innovations.



The students gain practical experience on a regular basis as the institute is attached to the Special Schools for children with autism, cerebral palsy, intellectual disability and multiple disabilities run in the same premises with nearly 200 children. Speech therapy and physiotherapy units are also attached to the centre which is an added advantage for the students of the diploma course.

A Continuing Rehabilitation Education (CRE) programme of 5 days duration was conducted



on “Assistive Devices and Technology” in January 2017 in which 30 rehabilitation professionals from across the state participated and upgraded their knowledge and skills. Mr. Niten Chandra, Principal Secretary to the Government of Odisha, Department of Social Security & Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities was the Chief Guest of the Valedictory function on 24<sup>th</sup> January 2017. He spent more than 3 hours with the trainees of the CRE, the students and staff members of OLS and the trainees of the D.Ed. SE-CP course and had a freewheeling interaction with all on various subjects relating to the field of disability.

The D.Ed. SE-CP Students of the Course also get the additional benefit of getting exposures to the competitions and various training programmes of the Special Olympics which has its State Office in OLS premises. An alumnus of the training programme, Ms. Swagatika Parida, represented India as Coach in Unified Floor Ball and participated in the Special Olympics World Winter Games 2017 held in Graz, Austria from 14<sup>th</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> March 2017.

### CHILDREN'S HOME (CHILD CARE INSTITUTION)

OLS has been recognized and registered by the Women & Child Development Department, Government of Odisha as a Child Care Institution (CCI) under the Juvenile Justice Act since 2004 providing home environment and services to children in need of care and protection. In the reported year, OLS catered to 34 children with disabilities from the autism, cerebral palsy,



intellectual disability and multiple disabilities categories. These children have been rescued from various places by the Government agencies like Childline, Police, CWC et al and referred to this Home. These children live here in a homelike environment with foster mothers to take care of them. All requisite infrastructure and facilities as prescribed by the Government are available in this Home. Utmost care is taken to provide the best possible services and the Child's Best Interest is the serving guideline under

which the Home operates.

- Number of House Mothers – 8
- Cook and assistant - 2
- Number of girls -23
- Number of boys –11
- Number of Children with Cerebral Palsy – 12
- Number of Children with Intellectual Disability – 10
- Number of Children with Autism – 5
- Number of children with multiple disabilities - 7



All the children are exposed and enrolled into the Special Education imparted by OLS. They have all their rights protected in the Home and are given opportunity to fulfill their 4 fundamental rights of life, security, development and participation.



The children have formed a club named LIGHT CLUB, for group development. In the reported year the children participated in all the activities conducted as part of the Centres of Special Education already enumerated in the previous pages. A special camp



was organized by the Sai International School of Bhubaneswar exclusively for the children of the Home.

#### **Achievements of the inmates:**

- Dadhichi and Priya who have been enrolled in the mainstream school passed class 5<sup>th</sup> successfully. They have got admission in Vivekananda High School, Chandrasekharpur.
- Dadhichi and Priya once again received the National Award in the painting competition held by the Very Special Arts.
- Mukesh and Tulasi also got admitted into the general school.
- Itishree, Biswanath and Purnima were enrolled in the Anganwadi Centre
- All the 34 children have been produced before the CWC and 11 inquiry reports submitted by February 2015. As per the Juvenile Justice rule, FIR have been filed in the case of 21 children (0 -14) Boy - 11, Girl 10 submit FIR in Nearby Police station.
- Priya Ranjan and Dadhichi participated in music and drawing competitions in Sishu Mahostav, SURABHI program on 21<sup>st</sup> October at Government Railway Colony primary school under cluster level function for selection of Block level function organized by Sarva Sikha Abhijan.



#### **Government Support:**

The CCI received grant-in-aid in partial support of the salary of the staff members engaged and the cost of ancillary provisions in the running of the institution from the WCD Department, Government of Odisha under the ICPS scheme from November 2016 to March 2017. OLS also received a grant-in-aid from the SSEPD Department for 2016-17 to provide rehabilitative services for the children of the CCI.

### **CONSOLIDATION OF “CHILDREN’S RIGHT TO PLAY”**

OLS being one of the long standing partners of the National Alliance of Grassroots NGOs (NAGN) has been striving to consolidate and strengthen the alliance to fight for the Rights of the Children in India. One of the most important aspects of the children’s development is “play”. This aspect is grossly neglected by almost everyone who is responsible for the child, be it the parent, guardian, teacher, government, school, college etc. OLS has been conducting various events and programmes for promoting the Children’s Right to Play.

#### **Participation in Special Olympics World Winter Games 2017:**

“Children’s Right to Play” was given emphasis by speakers in an event organised by Open Learning Systems on the occasion of celebration of “World Play Day” on 28<sup>th</sup> May 2016 held in the Town Hall of Nimapada in Puri district of Odisha. An awareness generation on Children’s Right to Play was organised along with the Preparatory Camp for Participation in the Unified Floorball National Championships of Special Olympics Bharat to be held in Himachal Pradesh in the first week of June 2016.

Ms. Sarita Routray, an alumus of OLS and Ms. Sonali Pradhan, a student of Vocational Training Centre of OLS were selected to represent India and participated in the Special Olympics World

Winter Games held in Austria in March 2017 in Floor Hockey and Floor Ball respectively. Even though these games are usually played in the states in higher reaches like Himachal Pradesh, J & K, Uttarakhand and Punjab, the opportunities given to the athletes for participation in the State and National Level Competitions proved fruitful. Ms. Sarita Routray bagged a Bronze Medal in the Team event and made OLS, Odisha and India proud.

### **Swimming classes for Children with Cerebral Palsy and Autism:**

Odisha has never participated in aquatics at the State or National Level competitions of Special Olympics because of non-availability of facilities and proper infrastructure at the grassroots level. Lack of trainers also has been another major factor in not having participants.

Keeping the future in mind, OLS has now engaged the services of the Special Olympics Bharat's Head Coach of India in Aquatics, Ms. Arpita Mohapatra, to train children who have talent and can be groomed to participate in competitions. She has identified Master Priya and Master Dadhichi, two children with cerebral palsy residing in the Child Care Institution of OLS, and has started giving them swimming lessons in the Biju Patnaik Swimming Pool Complex at Kalinga Stadium, Bhubaneswar. Both of them have shown their grit and determination and have been progressing well. They are expected to be selected for participation in the Special Olympics World Summer Games to be held in Abu Dhabi in 2019.



A couple of children with autism from outside OLS have also joined the swimming classes under her tutelage who are showing signs of good progress and talent. OLS has also been scouting for talents by organizing training programmes in swimming for children from rural areas. Some of the 120 children trained last year have been doing well and have kept up practice. They will be given opportunities for participating in swimming competitions in the general category if they perform well. However, it is the

fulfillment of their right to play which is the most important thing.

### **Awards and Recognition:**

At the fifth edition of "Aarya Awards", organized by Parichay foundation, Ms. Sarita Routray, an alumnus of OLS and an International Athlete of Special Olympics, was awarded in the Sports Category through the hands of the Nobel Laureate in Peace from India, Mr. Kailash Satyarthi on 5<sup>th</sup> March 2017 in a glittering function held in Hotel Crown, Bhubaneswar. Sarita, youngest of all the recipients, bagged the



award for excellence in sports. Apart from winning several medals in various sports like athletics, cycling, floor hockey and bocce at the district, state and national competitions, Sarita bagged a

Gold Medal in the Unified Beach Volleyball for India in the Special Olympics World Summer Games 2015 held in Los Angeles, USA from 23<sup>rd</sup> July to 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2015. She has been the torch-bearer for OLS, the State of Odisha, India and her family for the last 7 years or so.

Following the felicitation Sarita left for Austria to participate in the Special Olympics World Winter Games 2017 representing India in the Floor Hockey competitions. She came back with a Bronze Medal in the team event proving her prowess once again as an all-round athlete.

Sarita has deservedly been appointed as an Office Assistant in OLS and has been entrusted with an additional responsibility of a Coach Assistant.

### **“SAMBHABA” SPECIAL SCHOOL AT PURI**

Sambhaba has always promoted rights of children with disabilities. The foremost objective of Sambhaba has been to promote the right to life with dignity for every child. In our society the child is almost always underestimated and denigrated. The child with disability suffers even greater humiliation. Sambhaba has promoted parents counseling camps rather than identification camps that serve only to further stigmatize the children without any scope for accessing the facilities and scope provided by the government and non governmental agencies. In order to up scale the skills and abilities of children with disabilities towards formal education, reduce the effects of their disability, providing various therapeutic interventions, sports skills along with social inclusion, Sambhaba has played a significant role. During the year 55 children benefited from the school. There were 11 children with intellectual disability who achieved partial independence in their Activities of Daily Living. The details of the segregated data of the students are given below.

Care Group		Pre -primary Group		Primary Group		Secondary Group	
BOYS	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls
11	3	10	4	4	9	6	8

#### **Activities undertaken in the centre for special education:**

- Individualized Education Program developed for all enrolled children
- Functional education and academics.
- Therapeutic inputs like physiotherapy ,occupational therapy ,speech therapy ,yoga and clap therapy ,art therapy, early stimulation (sensory) dance therapy etc
- Sports and game skill development for children with intellectual disabilities and cerebral palsy.
- Activities of daily living with home based management.
- Behavior management program with parental orientation.
- Mobility and orientation training to school, community and other regular activities.
- Parents counseling.
- Individualised Education Program
- Speech and language training

#### **Achievements of children**

**LAXMI**, a child with intellectual disability, passed the Class X Examination in 2016. **Amiya**, a child with intellectual disability improved his writing skills. **Gudu**, a child with cerebral palsy developed his learning skills, communication skills, and behavioral skills.**Jagannath**, a 7 year old boy with intellectual disability, is able to count numbers in English and Odia up to 10 and write letters A to J

in English. He is always ready for any activities like dancing, singing and playing. **Satyaranjan**, a 13 year old boy with cerebral palsy, is now able to speak “Bou, Bapa, and Bhai. His were developed communication,”& He is also able to walk few steps independent skills.

### **Participation of children**

- 2 children had participated in the 2<sup>nd</sup> District Games for PwDs organized under the aegis of Special Olympics Bharat-Odisha and Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports, Government of India at Nimapada
- 3 children attended programme held on the occasion of the World Health Day organized by the Puri District Administration at District Headquarters Hospital

### **Parents counseling and other activities ensuring rights of the child**

This is a special unit of Sambhaba that provides free counseling service to the parents and children which helps them overcome their emotional problems and builds their self confidence. It also provides counseling to the teachers, caregivers and any other person associated with children with disabilities.

Sambhaba plays an active role in ensuring protection, legal support and justice to the child victimized by the society by working with other likeminded individuals, organizations and the government agencies, conducting training programmes and advocacy programmes.



### **Vocational Training**

Sambhaba also conducts Vocational Training in various trades like artificial jewellery making, mobile repairing and tailoring from time to time not only for the students of Sambhaba but also for other persons with disabilities from the society.



### **Promoting Gender Equality Among The Youth**

In the 21<sup>st</sup> century India, aspiring to be an economic super power and to hold a position of moral ascendancy on the ground of human rights and equity, the gender related violence is a big let down. In thousands of years of male dominance and feudalistic way of thinking, the modern ways of Right to Life with Dignity often comes as an ideal which not too many of the citizens have actually experienced or has idea about the implication.

The Constitution of India in its preamble clearly proclaims the Universal Human Ideals of Justice, Liberty, Equality and Fraternity to all its citizens while “ensuring the dignity of the individual”. It speaks of equality of status and opportunity which is above the man made differentiation of caste, creed, religion, race, age, sex etc. The feudal approach is to maintain dominance as a necessity, the demonstrative approach is the highest human ideal of equality based on equity. People, groups



as races simply do not become equal by declaring equality because inequality has been perpetrated over ages. Those who were denied equality must be protected to be able to enjoy equality. For example, by saying that a legless person is equal to someone with legs will not enable the person without legs to be able to race against the person with legs. But if using the principle of equity, helping the legless person to get artificial legs, removing the social barriers and most importantly, instilling in the person the right to equality and self belief, the legless of yesterday can become better with the leg person of today.

For far too long, women because of the perceived weakness of body and physiology made to carry and raise a baby, have been dominated and denied their right to equality by the dominant male groups. Even in the so called civilised western world, the right of women equality is a fairly recent phenomenon. Even then the violence against and subjugation of women has not vanished. It requires a systematic approach of gender sensitivity training for the dominant male groups and assertiveness training to the female groups as a matter of their rights to change the mindset which has allowed this violation of human rights to continue even now.

The Right to Life with Dignity enshrined in the Constitution of India implies a right of the person to love, respect and accept the person whether male, female, transgender or otherwise oriented as an unique individual. It obviously implies an individual's right to differ, to challenge and be accepted that diversity is not a threat but the beauty of human existence. Like any other person, a woman is not to be an object of dominance but an equal partner in the process of growth.

The process of shaming the perfectly normal natural process of menstruation which is part of the process of being a woman is something to ponder over. The process of discrimination and violence starts even before birth in the mother's womb. The girl foetus is aborted. In a life time there is a process of discrimination. Worse still the girl/woman is made to feel that much discrimination is normal and that males are the ones that protect them and theirs' is a life time of dependence. Having some very strong women leaders has not changed the mindset and the condition.

There is a need to educate people on gender sensitivity. Of course there is subjugation of other groups but nowhere is it as glaring as in case of women because they are not a minority. Respecting people belonging to female gender as well as to person with other sexual orientation is really respecting one's right to life with dignity.



While human beings are sexual beings and the recent thrust on individual's expression of one's sexuality, the fact remains that no person likes to be portrayed as a sex object sans emotionality and human sensitivity. It is in our interest to promote gender sensitivity among the younger generation like college students where they interact they do so in a healthy and mutually respecting environment.

In this respect, OLS organized a gender sensitization rally and workshop for the college students of Banishree Mahabidyalaya at Kanapur, Nimapada block of Puri district of 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017 in collaboration and with the support of the Odisha State Women's Commission (OSWC). The programme was attended by nearly 500 students and staff members of the College. It was an interactive programme with the students and staff members getting an opportunity to build their awareness and sensitivity on this vital social issue through the presentations and interactions of the eminent resource persons. Dr. Pratap Rath,



eminent psychologist and human rights activist; all the members of the Women's Commission led by Ms. Snehanjali Mohanty took the sessions. It was quite a success as OLS has been receiving calls for support on many issues relating to gender and violence against women post the workshop from the students.

It was a momentous occasion as some of the women achievers viz. Ms. Sarita Routray, an International Special Olympics Athlete and Ms. Arpita Mohapatra, an Adventure Sports Specialist and a Special Olympics National Trainer were felicitated by the members of the Women's Commission to drive home the point that women are second to none and their rights should be protected and respected.

Ms. Sarita Routray, a persons with multiple disabilities, has overcome all odds to participate in 2 Special Olympics World Games held in USA and Austria and come back victorious bagging one Gold and one Bronze medal respectively in Unified Beach Volley Ball and Floor Hockey. Ms. Arpita Mohapatra has been the only woman from Odisha who has conquered the mountains, the sky and the sea in adventure sports. She is a mountaineer, a scuba diver, a para sailer, a trekker, a swimmer, cyclist and a Special Olympics National Trainer. She holds the Limca Book of Records as the only woman from Odisha completing a cycling expedition in the treacherous route of 600 kilometres from Manali in Himachal Pradesh to Khardunga-la pass in Leh Region of Jammu & Kashmir ending up at more than 18500 feet above sea level. She is also the only woman to have taken 11 persons with vision impairment to the snow-laden Saurkundi Pass. As the Head Coach of India she took a contingent of swimmer from across the country to the Special Olympics World Winter Games held in Los Angeles, USA and came back with a team tally of 2 Gold, 2 Silver and 1 Bronze medal.



## COMMUNITIES FOR ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION & DISASTER PREPAREDNESS (CEPDP)

This project was an outcome of the felt need for “disaster preparedness” in the flood and cyclone prone Nimapada block where OLS has been working very closely with the communities for the past more than 18 years. The need for the “environment protection” is felt everywhere and OLS chose its operational areas of CBR project to start the initiative. OLS is fortunate to receive the approval and support of Adoptionscentrum and Forum Syd of Sweden for this initiative which has transformed the people of the areas in their outlook, thinking and understanding for the better.

It has created awareness on environment protection and ways and means of preparedness to face disasters like flood and



cyclone to mitigate the loss of lives, property and livelihood in 20 villages of 5 panchayats. It has also created various committees and taskforces with the help of empowered communities in these areas. The project has also built the life saving skills of 120 children of these areas by training them in long distance open water swimming. The selection of the GPs and villages was based on criteria as follows:

- Direct discussion with the people of the communities
- History of disasters in the panchayats/villages
- Occupation of the concerned people
- Distance of communities from cyclone centre. Etc
- Distance of rivers from the villages
- Total Households affected in last flood/cyclone

The objective of the programme was to create awareness on environment protection and ways and means of preparedness to face disasters like flood and cyclone to mitigate the loss of lives, property and livelihood.

The activities were limited to the following for more impact within a short period of time:

1. Formation and capacity building of Community Level Environment Protection & Disaster Preparedness Committees
2. Formation and capacity building of Panchayat Level Task Forces on the subject
3. Training of children and youth in long distance open water swimming and rescue
4. Training of Youth, Committee members and community members in administration of First Aid

**The formation and training of various Committees** were conducted under the guidance of the



CEO, OLS who is a Disaster Management Expert and eminent resource persons Mr. Basanta Mohanty and Mr. Girish Prasad Swain. In each village 8 committees were formed with at least 3 members in each committee selected on volunteering basis in which the participants had reached consensus. Active professionals like Angan Wadi Workers, Accredited Social Health Activists, Teachers, CBO members, Self Help Group women members etc. have taken the lead and been inducted into the committees. During the training

programmes apart from topics on environment and disaster, the roles and responsibilities of the various committees were dealt thoroughly. The approach taken was the “Right Way Forward” as advocated by Forum Syd. The Resource persons used LCD projector and social game, group activities and sharing of experiences. Women’s representation in the committees was given priority.

**Life saving skills** of 120 children from the 20 villages were built through rigorous training in swimming by eminent national level long distance swimmer Ms. Arpita Mohapatra over a period of nearly one year.

OLS selected some ponds in five panchayat which was suitable for children as well as resource person for swimming training. It also provided all swimming and safety gears and accessories to the participants. The dates and venue were finalized in consultation with the committee members. The Committees took the responsibility of selection of participants as per the swimming guidelines of CEPDP programme.

**The formation of the Task Force** took place through a process where the names were suggested by the Committee members and a consensus was reached by all stakeholders. Accordingly 20 members attended the training from each Panchayat out of which 8 were selected as the members of the Task Force.

It was really heartening to note that women took the lead in almost all the villages and Panchayats. In Sagada Panchayat only 3 male persons were nominated by the Committees to the Task Force whereas as many as 8 women were nominated because of the leadership qualities and the work they had already done at various levels. People had enormous faith in their capabilities.



#### **Visit of the Program Manager of Adoptionscentrum:**

Ms. Ulrika Oberg, Program Manager, International Development Cooperation of Adoptionscentrum, Sweden visited the project areas and met and interacted with some of the Committee Members and the Task Force members of Badasiribila Panchayat. It was an excellent feedback session with many members highlighting their understanding of the project and appreciating the need and utility of the project. They also demonstrated their learning that has made a significant impact on their lives and has changed the way of their thinking about environment protection and disaster preparedness.



Environment protection week was observed in June culminating in celebration of the World Environment Day on 5<sup>th</sup> June 2016. A huge plantation drive was conducted on the banks of river Dhanua in Bhagabansundara village in which all the Committee members and Task Force members, children, youth and others of the communities participated enthusiastically.

Eminent environmentalist, Professor Radhamohan gave a talk on the evolution of the environment, how it is being polluted and what can be done to improve and protect it. He focused on environment friendly approaches in agriculture as the participants were interested in the same. Question and answer session clarified many doubts of the participants. It was enriching for all.



**Capacity building training on First Aid, Immunization, Sanitation, Safe Drinking Water etc.** were conducted for high school students, youth and volunteers in five GP. A total 250 persons were trained by Mr. Bikram Mohanty of Saint Johns Ambulance who used easy to understand practical demonstrations in participant friendly language and presentation. Books developed and printed by OLS on First Aid were distributed among the participants for their use in times of need.





**Boating training programme** was conducted for 96 children under the life saving skills upgrade of the project in October 2016 imparted by Ms. Arpita Mohapatra and under the close monitoring by the CEO, OLS. The participants from five vulnerable GPs were selected by the Task Force members. Many of the Task Force members and the Committee members became the Trainers after being trained by the Resource Persons. Ms. Mohapatra also taught and trained the participants on “how to use local resources for prepare a boat during flood” as it is not practically possible for all the communities to have proper boats.



### **De-weeding of Dhanua river and irrigation canals:**

The staff members of the CBR and CEPDP project led by the CEO, OLS started the de-weeding of the Dhanua river near Bhagabansundara village on a rainy day which motivated the villagers and the Task Force members to join in the work which was basically for their own good. The weeds as high as 6 to 8 feet were deeply entrenched in the river bed and protruding over the water for almost 4 feet high. At the area near the bridge at the junction of Badasiribila and Bhagabansundara village roads, the weeds have stretched up to nearly 800 metres obstructing the flow of water in the river. This would have led to flooding of the villages due to the monsoon rains and hence OLS showed the way of



disaster preparedness.

The impact was also observed in Sagada GP and Dhanua GP where the Task Forces cleaned the village ponds and the canals of weeds, the roads of unnecessary growth and stagnant water near the tube wells.

**Vermi compost training** was conducted to promote organic farming and self-employment opportunities especially for those who do not like to move out of their localities. It was also conducted for all the Task Force members of the 5 GPs. Mrs. Sabita Mallick, Task Force



member of Sagada GP who has been producing and utilizing vermi-compost for a long time conducted the training. It has had a good effect as all the trained members have pledged to start producing and using the compost for organic farming in their lands.

**An exposure visit** was organized to “**SAMBHAV**” at Nayagarh to show the Committee members and the Task Force members the huge model of successful soil conservation, watershed management, organic agriculture, seed bank, use of organic pesticide and environment protection. All the Task Force members were visit to SAMBHAV to learn about organic pesticides and organic

process of agriculture systems. Since 2 days they have been attend regular class at “SAMBHAV” and collect much information on preparation of “Seed bank” as well as organic pesticides etc.

### **Sharing Exposure visit discussion:**

After they return from “SAMBHAV”, OLS organized a sharing exposure visit discussion for taskforce members as well as communities’ members. In that meeting Task force members those were attend to exposure visit, they had sheared with other about their experience and learning.

### **Task force Review meeting:**

OLS organized 40 meetings of the Task Forces in five GP. Every taskforce meeting was called by



Task Force member for discussion regarding environment issues. After discussion Task Force members discussed issues and prepared resolutions for action.

### **Plantation & Rally:**

OLS conducted massive rallies and widespread plantation drives in the five panchayats to create awareness on environment protection and creating green patches. The Committee members and Task Force members took active role in



motivating the people to participate in these activities. The message given to people was to stop cutting of trees and promote village afforestation.

## **CHILDREN’S DEVELOPMENT KHAZANA (CDK) & CHILD HEALTH COOPERATIVE (CHC)**

The programmes are designed to inculcate a habit of savings and utilizing the savings for a better life of productivity and healthy condition. The programmes also build the capacities of the children especially from the economically weaker sections on life skills, accounting, and other important aspects of life like education, health etc. The programmes strive to bring attitudinal changes in the community towards savings, health, education, rights of the children. Majority of the children enrolled are from slum areas and they encounter various forms of exploitation and abuse like child labour, child marriage, lack of proper education, protection and health services. The main objectives of the CDK and CHC are:



- ✚ To enable children to meet their survival needs, help children learn to prioritise their needs, motivate street and working children to continue education and access health care.



- ✚ To equip children with financial management skills, inculcate habit of saving and budgeting along with provide basic training in keeping books of accounts.

- ✚ To facilitate children's participation in decision making processes, empower children with knowledge, values and skills of democracy participation and orient children to know their own rights and responsibilities.

### Highlights of the year:

- 3 new branches were added to CDK and CHC family of OLS
- Bank accounts of 53 members who crossed the age of 18 were opened and their amounts deposited
- OLS organized the State Level CDK and CHC workshop in Hotel Mahavir Sheraton, Puri in which 80 children from different organizations, Focal Persons and volunteers participated
- Health sessions on yoga, hand wash, cleanliness and sanitation were held on a regular basis in all the branches
- The members took step for solving their community problems by taking up the issues with the concerned authorities and getting drains cleaned, roads repaired, water connection restored etc. in various branches
- 144 new members added in this period taking the total to 859 members
- Total savings of CDK members rose to Rs.2,76,236/- by the end of March 2017
- 136 General Body Meetings held
- 64 Balsabhas and club meetings held
- 36 CHC meetings held
- 119 health educators have been given first-aid training
- 27 children have been given financial training
- 36 CDK members have been re-enrolled in formal schools



### Stories of change:

Priyanka Sahoo (Puja), a girl from Balikuda slums, joined the CDK programme in 2009 at the age of 14 years. Due to the poor financial condition of the family she was not able to continue her studies. But after counseling and support of CDK she took some advance and continued her studies. In the year of 2011 she became the Child Volunteer Manager of the Balikuda Branch. She showed her leadership qualities by calling all the children, members and non-members, and advised them for saving their pocket money. She persuaded others to study too. She enlarged the member base in her branch considerably. She also took an advance of Rs.4500 as welfare loan to support her family and her brother's study. With her influence, her younger brother became a CDK member too. With her learning from CDK and her

own dedication, Priyanka passed her Graduation in Sociology with Honours and also completed Post Graduate Diploma in Computer Applications (PGDCA). She set a good example in her own community. She became a role model and a mentor after becoming an adult. She joined OLS, Puri as a Computer Operator and an Assistant to the Focal Person to carry forward the good work she had started in her locality.

### **Children's participation in community action for development:**

Children have been writing letters to Ward Members, Councillors and the Municipal authorities highlighting the issues in their localities like the bad roads, unhygienic conditions, poor condition of the schools etc. and following up to ensure that the condition/situation improves. The road condition which was terrible in the Baliapanda Slum improved due to the sustained efforts of the children of the CDK and CHC



Road condition before

Road condition after intervention



### **Visitors:**

CDK and CHC authorities of Butterflies visited the Puri branches in the month of January 2017 and had a very fruitful interaction with the members and staff of CDK and CHC.



## **FELICITATION OF OUTSTANDING PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES**

Mr. Sannyas Kumar Behera, a firebrand activist for protection and realization of the rights of the persons with disability and himself a person with complete vision impairment was felicitated by OLS for successfully clearing the Odisha Public Service Commission Examination for the Odisha Administrative Service. He became the first person with complete vision impairment to clear the examination. His was a long fight with the OPSC which did not allow persons with disabilities to appear for the examinations. Mr. Behera moved the State Commission for the Persons with Disabilities and the High Court and finally was successful. He also encouraged others who sat for the examinations and 16 of them including 5 women were successful and were inducted into the OAS and ORS.



Mr. Behera had worked for 2 years with OLS as the Coordinator of the State Nodal Agency Centre of the National Trust for the Welfare of Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation & Multiple Disabilities and also the Coordinator of the Eyeway of the Score Foundation.

Mr. Behera was felicitated by the CEO, staff members and students of OLS at Bhubaneswar for his achievements which will go a long way in paving the way forward for the persons with disabilities of the State.



Many of his ex-colleagues fondly remembered the days spent with Mr. Behera. Mr. Behera was presented with a silk vest that he can wear to work proudly.

## ACHIEVEMENTS OF OLS AT THE NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL LEVEL

### National:

#### **Utilizing the knowledge and expertise for human enrichment in other States:**

In view of the expertise and experience in the field, the CEO of OLS, Mr. Prakash K Rath, was chosen by SoulAce CSR Consulting Services, Gurgaon to conduct a “Need Assessment for Paediatric Health-Care Services” in the State of Sikkim for the reputed Glenmark Pharmaceuticals Ltd. and recommend feasible projects and implementing agencies from the State. The assignment was undertaken and completed in November 2015. Project proposals for 6 different interventions were recommended to Glenmark. The 1<sup>st</sup> one in the list of projects, “Health On Wheels (HOW)”, a Mobile Children’s Health Unit was approved by Glenmark for implementation for 3 years in the first phase through Voluntary Health Association of Sikkim, the agency recommended by Mr. Rath.

Mr. Rath was again engaged for project initiation, capacity building of the project implementing staff members, building rapport with the Government Health functionaries and the communities and providing supportive supervision to the implementing agency. Now the project is in operation strengthening the efforts of the State Government in bridging the gap in the health-care service delivery and supporting it in its objective of bringing down the IMR to single digit by 2019. The project is reaching out to the pregnant and lactating women, and children below 6 years through its mobile unit in Tumlabong, Chuba, Namli, Namin, Samlik-Rumtek and Marchak areas in the hilly East District of Sikkim. The population coverage would be around 20000.

### International:

The CEO, Mr. Prakash K Rath, was chosen by the National Action & Coordination Group, India of the South Asian Initiative to End Violence Against Children to represent the Civil Society of India in the “Training on Advancing Inclusion and Improved Accountability of the SAARC and ASEAN Countries” organized by Plan International Regional Office at Bangkok, Thailand from 2<sup>nd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> October 2016. Mr. Rath made a presentation on the successful model of Special Olympics Bharat on social inclusion of children/adults with disabilities through sports which was highly appreciated by the representatives of 23 countries. Mr. Rath also contributed to the development of the training resources manuals.

## DISTINGUISHED VISITORS TO OPEN LEARNING SYSTEMS DURING THE PERIOD

<b>Name and designation</b>	<b>Date of Visit</b>	<b>Office of representation/Personal</b>
Mrs. Poonam Thakur, Member	12/08/2016	NALCO Mahila Samiti, Bhubaneswar
Mr. Manoj Tripathy, Zonal Head, TCS	18/08/2016	TCS, Bhubaneswar
Dr. Tapan Kumar Chand, CMD	17/09/2016	NALCO, Bhubaneswar
Mr. Biplab Keshari Samantaray, BSSO	17/09/2016	Social Security Cell, District Office, Khordha
Mr. Victor Vaz, National Sports Director Mr. M. M. Khurram, Manager - Sports Ms. Sulekha Rana, Manager - Sports	29/09/2016	Special Olympics Bharat, New Delhi
Mr. B. B. Mishra, General Manager	11/11/2016	MCL, Bhubaneswar
Mr. Sanjay Bhatnagar, Regional Director	05/01/2017	SBI Life Insurance Corporation Ltd. Bhubaneswar
Mr. Niten Chandra, IAS Principal Secretary	24/01/2017	Department of Social Security & Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (SSEPD), Government of Odisha
Mrs. Pritee Roy Chand, President	26/01/2017	NALCO Mahila Samiti, Bhubaneswar
Dr. Reinold Brunner	31/01/2017	UKBB, Switzerland
Mr. N.P. Surendranath, Secretary	18/04/2017	Samveda Training and Research Centre, Darbhanga, Bihar