

# NCE INDIA NEWSLETTER

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## Big Stories of Small Girls



Relentless Bharti, smiley Jainab, jubilant Pooja, abstemious Durga, victorious Tasleem and combatant Pappu Rayka were the stars of the Big Story programme at the launch of Global Action Week in New Delhi, the capital of India on 3rd May 2011.

When these small girls started narrating their stories of struggle and achievement with hundreds of college girls, women, civil society leaders and journalists, many ears were there to listen and every mind was to learn from them.

Senior Journalist Ms. Geetashree, who received Journalism of Courage award from the President of India last year, was speechless on the achievements of these girls and women. Showing her inability to express their achievements in words, she said that the confidence and will, these small girls have to fight for everyone's education is unfortunately missing among our Ministers of present time.

Mr. Rampal Singh, the General Secretary of NCE India felicitated all the girls for their extraordinary achievements.

While learning about these girl's extraordinary efforts Mr. Jagdish Thakore, Member of Parliament; send a written message to NCE, India appreciating efforts of these courageous girls. He also wished them a bright future and assured them to provide any assistance for their prosperous future.

Appreciating the efforts of NCE, Mr. Ambarish Rai, Convener, People's Campaign for Common School System said that such stories collected by NCE showed that change makers are there in the society. But we need to keep on pressurizing the government for the implementation of RTE so that the most marginalized section of society must get its benefit.

A role model for girls of Muzaffarpur district in Bihar, a storm for evil eradication, a thin women having high aspiration for change, a lady having her entire world on her shoulders... Many more titles can be attributed several other qualities can be spelt out but **Bharti** is even more than all these accreditations being expressed in words. She started her journey for change with being a hard nut for mushroomed liquor mafias in Bihar. After many unsuccessful attempts to get them convinced on the issue of closer of such liquor shops, which she believes are the root cause of women exploitation in the area she is living in, she evaded the liquor shops and destroyed them. After many unsuccessful brutal attacks on her by these mafias and their goons her journey of change is still un-affected. But in this journey Bharti is not alone now she has become a movement for change having more than 3000 women and girls together. Astonishing to mention that women and girls associated with Bharti's campaign put Bharti as their surname. The show is still on...



**"Pooja**, a saved daughter of died HIV positive parents, received humane care of Father Victor in Uttarakhand and secured top position in Government school in her 7th standard. She is still continuing her education with her maintained top educational status in the school."

"Another girl named **Durga** from Rajasthan have shown her strong will and stood tall against the widespread social evil known child marriage. Durga with the help of many other children of her age group put pressure on her parents against her early childhood marriage and denied to be married in a tender age."

**Jainab** is the only girl in her village who had passed 10th Standard. Every day she travels 6 kilometers to attend her college. She is in 11th Standard now. Jainab's efforts resulted in hundred percent school enrollments in her village. Her father is proud of her. Her father Mr. Abdul Sattar said that though I am an illiterate but I want to ascertain that Jainab should study as much as she can. I know the importance of education.



# Global Action Week and Orissa : Big stories



**3rd May 2011, Bhubaneswar.** The state capital of Orissa witnessed presence of many brave hearts who have been continuously fighting a strong battle with adversities in their lives. National Coalition for Education along with its partner organizations celebrates Global Action Week 2011 in Orissa. On this occasion brave girls were invited to tell their stories for spreading a strong message that one can think of great success if someone indomitably strives for it.

The story-telling begins with a warm welcome of these girls in Bhubaneswar, where various civil society representatives, media, college girls, academicians and many other individuals from different fields were present to listen their story of great success.

Ms. Namrata Chaddha, well known social activist and steering committee member of NCE, was also present in this story-telling event to share her views and also to appreciate efforts of these brave hearts. She says that now education is a Right for every child but the pace of its implementation and realization is much slow which needs to be accelerated. The proper implementation of this RTE Act can eradicate the exploitation of girls in our society. She further says that these girls' life stories are a living example of courage and determination. She says that girls of our society must be given proper care and should also become focus of government policies.

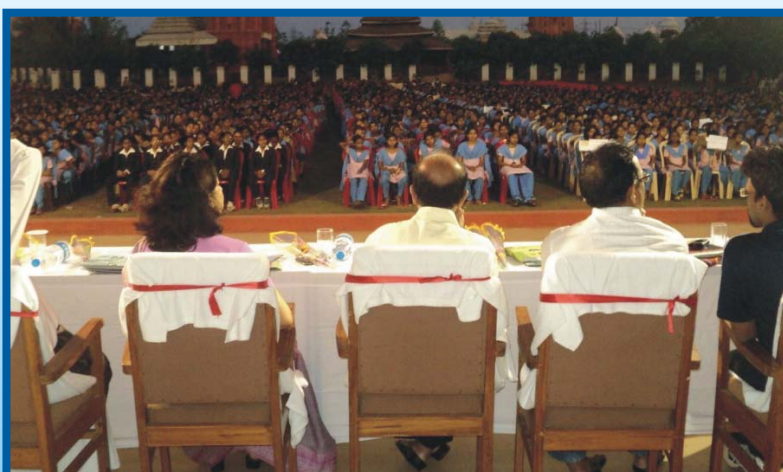
Alleging the state government for not implementing the RTE Act properly in Orissa state, the state advocacy coordinator, NCE, Mr. Naba Kishor Puijari said that teachers are being engaged in non-teaching avocations, which violets the provisions of RTE Act. He also said that this violation is very apparent in the state and state government seems neutral to this violation, which is unfortunate. He appealed to all stake holders to join hands together for fighting against these odds to ensure the quality of education in the state.

The girls who have shared their stories were Ms. Bhagyalaxmi Barik, Ms. Ranjita Rani Naik, Ms. Tillotama Nayak, Ms. Sumati Soren, Ms. Kalyani Soren, Ms. Minati Singh, Ms. Amisha Pradhan and Ms. Amrita Naik. The event received the wide coverage of print and electronic media of the state.

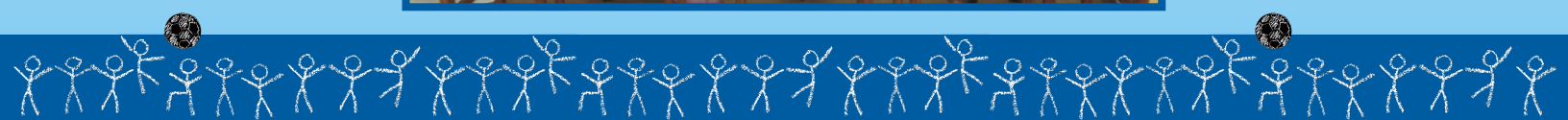
## Big Stories from Orissa

**Bhagyalaxmi Barik**, represented India in the 16th Asian Games (rugby), held at Guangzhou, China from November 12 to 27, 2010 hails from a poor family of Sabara community from Khuntuni of Cuttack district. The given poor status of her family and the odds due to that has never proven to be hard for her to achieve aspirations that she has aspired early her childhood. She believes that this has become a reality only due to strong belief in education, commitment, will and thinking beyond the status given in the society. At present she is pursuing her 2nd year of graduation from Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences (KISS), Bhubaneswar. She thanked the initiative of NCE for this great cause and requested girls to spread the message of importance of education in their villages so that many girls like her can get the opportunity to lead dignified life.

Like Bhagyalaxmi, Jharana Sundari Nayak and Saraswati Hansada who also belongs to tribal community of remote tribal district Mayurbhanj of Orissa has been selected to participate in the netball coaching camp. In her speech, Jharana said that she has faced many obstacles in her early childhood life. Girls in our tribe are supposed to assist in household work and there is hardly any arrangement for us to get education in a formal educational set up. She further narrates that faced with this situation most of the girls of my community are illiterate and have been left for exploitation and slavery. The ignorance about the rights of girls is a general phenomenon among her community's girls. She stressed on the fact that tribal communities should also be included in the mainstream social development which will lead to the development of our country.



Ms. Ranjita Rani Naik, Tillotama Nayak, Sumati Soren, Kalyani Soren, Minati Singh, Amisha Pradhan and Amrita Naik also were very excited when they were telling big stories of their life before their classmates and other people present. They agreed that, education has made this happen in their lives and therefore more action for women and girls education is needed.



# Children's score card on Schools and Anganwadis



Child researchers submitting their demands and a copy of study to Smt. Krishna Tirath, Minister of Women and Child Development, Government of India at her office

In a joint initiative of Wada Na Todo Abhiyan( Keep your promises campaign), World Vision India, Peoples Action for Rural Awakening and National Coalition for Education(NCE), twenty thousand children conducted a research study of primary schools and Anganwadis in 16 states of the country. This score card portrays a real picture of government's preparedness on implementation of RTE Act. The survey looked at the infrastructure of 3677 schools and 3810 Anganwadis spread over 16 states in 57 Parliamentary constituencies, 120 assembly constituencies over 1000 villages.

On 6th May 2011 during the Global Action Week on Education for All a copy of the study report was handed over to Smt. Krishna Tirath, Minister of Women and Child Development, Government of India at her office by a group of child researchers. These children also met Dr. Shantha Sinha, Chairperson, National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) on 4th May and discussed the findings of this report at length.

During a formal launch of this report, in a press conference on 6th May, these child researchers briefed media personals on their findings. Mr. Reni Jacob, Director, Advocacy, World Vision India, Fr. Thomas Pallithanam, Peoples Action for Rural Awakening, Ms. Radha Khan, Wada Na Todo Abhiyan were also present during the launch of this report at Teen Murti Bhawan, New Delhi.

The copies of the report were also shared by National Coalition for Education with those 57 Members of Parliament whose constituencies got covered in this survey. These members also assured to take action on the recommendations made in the score card.

Mr. Rama Kant Rai, National Convener, NCE while talking about this research report said that this report by children is a unique example of child participation. He appreciated all the children and research team for this historic initiative.

## MAJOR FINDINGS

- Out of 3677 schools 3352 schools have permanent buildings. That is 91% of schools surveyed.
- Only 2863 (77%) have safe drinking water.
- 2294 schools have separate toilet for girls. That works out to 62% of all schools.
- 1866(51%) schools only have ramp to provide access to differently abled.
- 2655 out of 3810 Anganwadis only have permanent buildings (70%).
- 2296 have food store (60%).
- 3058 (80%) Anganwadis have weighing machines
- 2717 (71%) have educational and play materials.
- 2437 (64%) only have safe drinking water facility.



Child researchers handing over the copy of study to Dr. Shantha Sinha, Chairperson, National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR)



# Capacity building workshop of civil society stakeholders on RTE in Uttar Pradesh

Apart from research, advocacy and campaign, NCE now also started the training of civil society stakeholders on Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act 2009. In a major step towards networking with likeminded organizations, NCE became a part of the State Collective for Right to Education (SCORE) in Uttar Pradesh. SCORE selected NCE as the training and capacity building institution on RTE to various stake holders in the state.

NCE training unit gone through the situation of elementary education in Uttar Pradesh studied the status of model rules for the implementation of Right to Education Act in the state and the efforts made by the Government as well as the Non Government organizations. A detailed training manual was prepared by NCE to help civil society players in awareness along with the action required for the implementation of the same.

Under the banner of SCORE and support from CARE India, 5 regional capacity building workshops at 5 different places (Lucknow, Bahraich, Varanasi, Chitrakoot and Meerut) were organized in the month of May and June 2011. NCE Advocacy Coordinator, Mr. Umesh Kumar Gupta and Research and Documentation Coordinator, Mr. Sandeep Ch. Mishra were the resource person for these workshop.

While inaugurating the first workshop in Lucknow Mr. Prashant Kumar Dash, State Program Manager, CARE UP said that the status of implementation of RTE Act in UP is moving with a very slow pace. The first step towards its implementation i.e. the drafting of state model rule for implementation is yet to be done. Further he says that CARE with the help of SCORE partners, where NCE is also a member, is advocating children's demand with the government to get them articulated into final draft of state model rules.

During the capacity building workshop, 86 civil society organizations, students of Social Welfare department of various Universities, grassroots activists and representative of teachers' organizations took part. The participants also came out with a six monthly action plan for pressurizing the government for the notification of model rules with the concerns made by civil society, awareness campaign at the grassroots level, formation of school management committees and State Commission for Protection of Child Rights.



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