

## **Livelihood Project for Persons with Disabilities**

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Persons with Disabilities tend to face social discrimination right from their childhood. The State Government as well as the Central Government has initiated lot of programmes and measures for the welfare of PWDs and enacted a number of legislation for their welfare. However, most such schemes are based on medical model of rehabilitation and merely address the medical needs and rights and entitlements of PWDs. In the absence of any programme to develop their residual skills and day to day functional abilities, PWDs tend to grow up being dependent on others and deprived of gainful livelihood opportunities in most cases.

In this context, under Odisha Livelihood Mission, a Pilot Project has been taken in Tarbha Block of Subarnapur for welfare and all around development of Persons with Disabilities. The project is a holistic approach aimed at all around development of PwD, their sustainable livelihood, rehabilitation and integration into society and their participation in mainstream developmental process. The main component of the project is creation of livelihood opportunities for PwD to help them to attain financial independence. This is planned to be achieved through formation of SHGs among PwDs and providing training as per their need in any suitable employment activity for vocational rehabilitation. The project also aims to address the needs of PWD children and their guardian and facilitate their better upbringing and development in the family in particular and society in general

Subarnapur district has about **13431** numbers of Persons with Disabilities. As Tarbha Block is the most backward block among all the blocks of this district with high incidences of labour migration, this block has been taken up as the pilot block for implementing the Plan. Tarbha Block has **1476** nos. of Person with Disabilities as per baseline survey conducted for the purpose of the project.

### **Purpose & Priorities:**

- i. Identification of all persons with disability in Tarbha block and assessment of their socio-economic status.
- ii. To promote socialization and participation of PWDs through formation of their Self Help Groups and create a federated structure of these SHGs
- iii. Medical assessment of individual PWDs to explore options of medical intervention to reduce the impact of disability in their lives.
- iv. To create livelihood opportunities for PWD by providing vocational training and providing financial access through SHG structure and thereby helping them attain financial independence
- v. To break environmental barriers in accessing services, especially in education and health services
- vi. To give better care to disabled children by training their care givers and prepare them to face challenges.

### **Strategies Adopted:**

- i. **Identification of needs & gaps through survey:** A comprehensive baseline survey was undertaken in Tarbha Block, through Anganwadi centres, for identification of persons with disabilities. The survey has 40 key indicators providing details of educational background, employment status, status of disability certificate, access to other rights and entitlements, social security etc of Persons with disabilities. Two rounds of verification and correction of the survey data was done to improve accuracy of the survey.



Tarbha Block - Survey data										
	<9	9-14yrs	14-18		18-40		40-60		>60	Total
			m	f	m	f	m	f		
Visually impaired	20	25	10	8	50	28	20	1	14	176
Hearing Impaired	24	26	7	7	61	62	43	50	15	295
Speech Impaired	14	13	5	4	15	12	9	3	2	77
Loco-motor Impaired	34	35	14	14	225	118	171	53	49	713
Intellectually challenged	17	30	10	10	45	42	20	16	3	193
Other	6	5	1	2	4	1	0	0	3	22
Total	115	134	47	45	400	263	263	123	86	1476

- ii. **Stakeholders and expert participation in project planning and implementation:** A 3-days capacity building workshop was organized for all district level officials and NGOs working in the district for sensitizing them towards various issues faced by Persons with Disabilities and capacity building for effective implementation of



Collector R.P Singh attending sensitization meeting at Charbhatta Gram Panchavat

project. Eminent experts in the field of various disabilities attended the workshop. Discussions on various aspects of project were held. Expert opinions were incorporated into the project. Similar meeting was conducted for Block level officials as well.

- iii. **Sensitizing community and grass root level institutions:** Community level sensitization meeting was conducted at each Gram Panchayat for general public with an aim to create awareness about different issues faced by persons with disabilities, importance of their financial independence, need for this initiative and concepts of community based rehabilitation.
- iv. **SHG formation and training:** The central component of the project is formation of Self Help Groups of persons with disabilities. The primary target group is PwD of 18-60 years age. SHG members were given basic training on various aspects of SHG group functioning. Alongside SHG training, sensitization meetings are being held at GP Level and Cluster Level to bring awareness among SHG members about various components of the project. These meetings were also attended by District level officials.



**Training of SHG members on group activates at Baghia**

Particulars	Achievements
Total number of persons with disabilities in the age group 18-60 in Tarbha Block	1046
Number of SHG Groups formed	138
Number of persons with disabilities brought into SHG fold	822
Number of SHG bank accounts opened	138

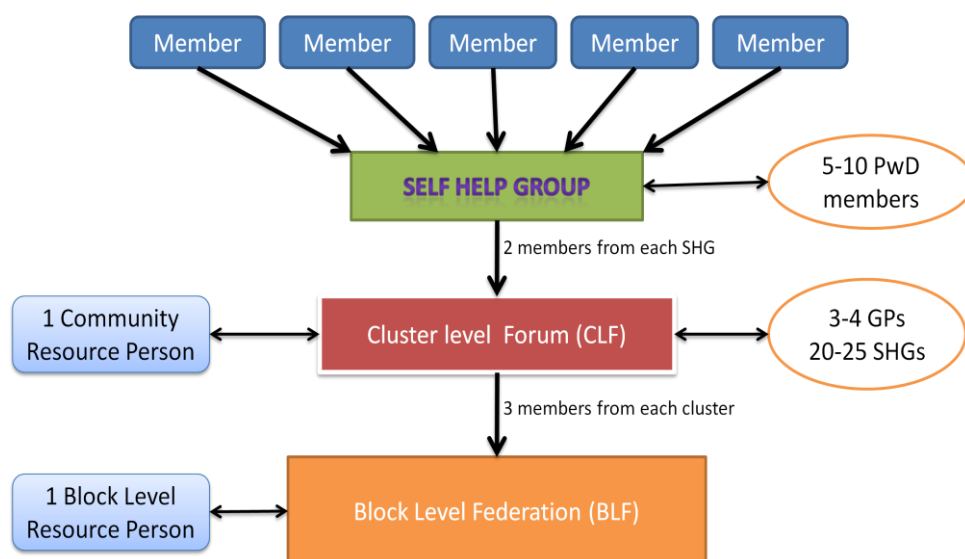
- v. **SHG federation:** PWD-SHG's have been federated at Cluster Level and Block Level. A cluster is ideally formed at Gram Panchayat level comprising of minimum 8 numbers PWD-SHG's. 13 clusters were formed at Tarbha block. Cluster Level Federation in all the 13 clusters and Block Level Federation at block level were



formed. All the office bearers have also been selected and subcommittees have been formed

Tarbha BLF	
No. of CLF	13

Formation of Cluster Level Federation and selection of Executive Committee Members at Menda Cluster



- vi. **SHG functioning and handholding support:** The task of foremost priority is to ensure proper SHG functioning. The project team has been giving handholding support to all SHGs in conducting SHG meetings regularly and performing other group activities. This process is being closely monitored at all levels on a weekly basis. Financial assistance for strengthening SHG functioning has been planned along the lines of NRLM. Following are the details:

Financial Assistance	Condition	Amount
Revolving Fund - given to bolster SHG savings	Achieving Grade-I	Rs. 1500/- per person

Seed Capital – given to assist members in income generating activities	Achieving Grade-II	Rs 5000/- per person
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Five Community Resource Persons (Cluster Facilitator) have been selected for facilitating the processes of Group formation, Capacity building, Validation of the SHGs for obtaining Revolving Fund and Seed Capital after attaining Grade-I & Grade-II and other activities required for implementing the project successfully. One Young Professional has been posted at block by SMMU to closely monitor the project. Further, one experienced staff at the block (Block Level Coordinator) has also been recruited for overall coordination and supervision.

Total number of SHG	138
Total SHG savings	Rs. 490881/-
Number of SHG members who have taken loan from group	115
Total SHG internal lending	Rs. 119520/-
Total number of group validated for Grade-I and distribution of revolving fund	135
Total number of groups achieved Grade-I and obtained revolving fund	119 (659 members)



**Block Level Federation meeting of Tarbha BLF**

- vii. **Medical and Vocational Assessment Camps:** An assessment camp has been conducted for all members of PwD SHGs and all PwD within the age group 14-18 years, wherein medical and vocational assessment of individual PwDs were done. This was done in consultation and collaboration with Directorate of Disability and other expert agencies like VRCH, SightSavers, SIDR and SMRC.

Number of persons with disabilities under SHG fold	822
Number of persons with disabilities assessed	686
Loco-motor impaired	357

Type of disability assessed	Visually Impaired	77
	Hearing Impaired	144
	Intellectually challenged	68
	Others (including multiple disability)	40



**Medical-cum-Vocational Assessment Camp**

<b><u>Medical Assessment</u></b>		<b><u>Vocational Assessment</u></b>	
<b>Requirements of assistive devices identified and distributed</b>		<b>Vocational training requirements suggested</b>	
Wheel Chair	14	Dairy	81
Crutch	44	Goatery	124
Tricycle	45	Tailoring	59
Special Shoes	10	Food processing	23
Prosthesis	14	Small business	117
Hearing Aid	146	Candle/Agarbathi making	22
Blind stick	43	Electric and domestic appliances repairing	6
Low vision glasses	69	Leaf plates making	22
<b>Cases of specialist rehabilitation identified</b>		Cycle repairing	7
Physiotherapy	35	Mobile repairing	2
Orthopaedic surgery	2	Computer training	4
Neuro-specialist	1	Carpentry	2
Speech and language training	60	Welding	1
Referral to ENT specialist	5	Weaving	5
Surgical correction of eye	2	Vegetable cultivation	13





### Distribution of Aids and Appliances

- viii. **Vocational Training and Capacity building:** Based on the details obtained in the assessment camp, with the help of specialized NGOs/institutions training programmes at the block level will be organized to develop residual abilities to do livelihood related activities suitable to the PwDs for their day to day functional skills. An Individual Development Plan will be prepared for each PWD based on the assessment outcome. At this stage intervention in terms of equipment support/ assistive devices will also be explored.

Initially a 4-day disability development camp will be organized as an orientation towards vocational training. Subsequently, each PwD shall be inducted into specific vocational training programmes based on their aptitude. This shall be done with collaboration of institutions like RSETI and in convergence with various related government schemes. Special Focus will be on developing capacities of the mentally retarded and other such vulnerable PWDs.

Training programmes conducted so far		
Tailoring	Women	25
Goatery	Women	34
	Men	62
Dairy	Men	30
Small Business	Women	18
	Men	25



**Training programmes and certificate distribution**

- ix. **Untied funds for development of PWDs:** A one-time Disability Development Fund of Rs. 1 lakhs for each cluster is proposed which may be utilized for the various immediate needs by the group members on borrowing basis at mutually decided terms. At the Block level, the BLF will be granted a Disability Development Fund (DDF) grant of Rs.5 Lakhs which may be utilized for the various needs by the group members on borrowing basis. Similarly, a Disability Development Fund (DDF) of Rs.10 Lakhs will be provided at the District Level.
- x. **Care-giving training:** Training on care giving shall be provided to the parents of PWDs of age group 14-18 years. This shall be organized at the block level wherein one person for each PWD will be provided training to enable better care to the PWD, awareness on the facilities available under different government schemes and programmes, as well as to build up on the capacities of PWD to take up livelihood activity in future through the above training programme. Parents shall be given allowance and TA for attending the program.
- xi. **Rights and Entitlements:** PwD federation at block level has been envisaged to take up all the issues related to persons with disabilities including their rights and entitlements. The BLF is expected to act as a bridge between persons with disabilities and administration. Grievances and application for various social security schemes are submitted to administration by BLF. This has drastically improved the service delivery of administration with matters regarding persons with disability.

### Some Success Stories



Netra Meher, 27 years, is a member of Bajrang Bali Group, Menda. Netra was financially depended on his family. He learned weaving and took loan from his SHG to establish his own weaving setup. He now earns Rs. 4000-5000 /- per month. He wishes to take more loans to improve the infrastructure of his weaving shed.

Sumati Sahu, 47 years, is loco-motor impaired. She is a member of Durgamadhaba SHG, Katapali. She has taken loan from SHG for establishing poultry business. She now earns on an average Rs. 2000/- per month from this business.







Ahalya Bhoi, age – 20, is loco-motor impaired. After joining Sadhana Group, Kamsara, she started vegetable selling business. She took financial assistance from group for this purpose and paid it back in time. She now daily earn average Rs. 60/- and stands on her own.

Ranjan chowan, age 27, now runs a mobile repairing and Xerox shop in Singhari village. He earns a daily income of Rs 300/- . He belongs to Shibasakti SHG Group



Chandrabanu Sahu, age 38, runs a grocery shop. Here, he is selling his products in evening market of Trabha Block

Sindhusuta Naik, age 55, started 'Mudhi Frying' business after she joined SHG group. She took a loan of 200 from group to start it. Now she along with her husband is doing the business.



## Other Activities

- Apart from the pilot project, the District administration has also been proactively working towards financial assistance for livelihood from **Chief Minister's Relief Fund** in convergence with various governmental schemes. Total of 54 nos. of PWDs have been provided livelihood support of Rs 20,000/- each out of the Chief Minister Relief Fund. Secretary, W&CD department appreciating the initiative has written to all Collectors for similar support.



**Smt. Kalpana Bagarti, Age-27yrs, a widow with disability, Bishimunda, Sonepur.** She is having a qualification of +2 and was trained on tailoring for 3-months by the RARE, an NGO working for the rehabilitation of PWDs in Subarnapur District. In October, 2013, she was financially assisted with Rs.10,000/- under CMRF to run her personal tailoring unit. After, setting up the unit, she is earning about Rs.1200-1400 per month i.e. an

annual income of Rs.16000-17000. Now, she is self dependent and earning her family livelihood smoothly.

**Dhruba Charan Sika, Age-57, Sankara GP, Binka Block,** a physically challenged person having 3 dependent children in his family. He started his cycle repairing workshop after receiving financial assistance of Rs.10,000/ under CMRF and earning an amount of approx. Rs.1800 per month.



- **Banishree Scholarship:** Government of Odisha started Banishree Scholarship for Children with special needs with an aim to assist and encourage them to study and acquire technical/vocational training so as to earn a living. District administration of Subarnapur worked proactively to ensure 100% coverage of school going children with disability under Banishree Scholarship Scheme during last couple of years.

**Diptee Mayee Sahu, 9-Yrs Girl, Class-4th, Upper Primary School, Tangarsahi** has intellectual disability. She was sanctioned with the "Banishree Scholarship". The scholarship amount has been spent on her educational activities like purchasing study materials to continue her education.





A massive drive was under taken under the active leadership of DPC, SAA for sensitization of the stake holders such as the monitoring staff under SSA - the BRCC & CRCC, BRT, IEV, AWW along with the head masters & teachers of educational institutions and the children & parents of PWD children. BDOs who are the sanctioning authorities were actively involved and publicity was done during grievance hearings and meeting of officers. Despite being a small District with a population of about 6 lakhs, 100% eligible students could be covered and 2047 nos. of scholarships amounting to Rs.44,85,700/- could be sanctioned to eligible students. A small District like Subarnapur stood second in the fund requisition & distribution next only to Cuttack district.

- **Accessible public infrastructure:** All Gram Panchayat Offices and Rajiv Gandhi Seva Kendra are being provided with ramps and railings. Necessary modifications in Block and District Level buildings also have been taken up.

The district administration has also provided funds for building PWD friendly hand pumps in many Gram Panchayats. 14 such hand pumps have already been installed. Efforts are being made to build at least one such structure in all Gram Panchayat.



**Tube well platform with RAMP (At Jhillimunda Primary School, Balikhamar G.P., Tarva Block)**

- **Organization of cultural events for persons with disability:** A cultural festival called 'KASTURI' was organized by an NGO - RARE - in collaboration with district administration. The aim of this program is to bring out creative potential of children with disabilities and raising awareness regarding issue related to persons with disabilities. It is planned to expand such programs in to other areas like sports etc.