

ANNUAL REPORT

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उन्नत भारत अभियान
UNNAT BHARAT ABHIYAN

ACADEMIC SESSION 2018-19

I. GRAM SABHA AT AMRENDRAPUR

The student team of Unnat Bharat Abhiyan has identified various problems that persist in rural India that require urgent attention. Inadequate hygiene and sanitation facilities, inequitable access to education especially digital literacy and need for skill development to instill entrepreneurial spirit are some of the most grave issues plaguing villages.

The field research revealed some distressing aspects about the socio-economic fabric of the village. It was revealed that the education system is grossly inadequate due to poor student-teacher ratio leading to shallow understanding of concepts among children. Caste discrimination is rife as lower-caste students are prevented from sitting in the same class. There is gross inadequacy of WASH (water, sanitation and hygiene) facilities in Amrendrapur including lack of access to sanitary napkins. There is no hospital or pharmacy within a 15km radius of the village as well. Employment opportunities are scarce and the low-level of skills along with lack of self-help groups has aggravated the situation.

These problems motivated the student team to identify and adopt a village in Odisha named Amrendrapur under the Gram Sabha programme. A detailed interactive session was conducted along with a field research. The research was aimed at identifying the problems faced by villagers in order to better equip NLUO's UBA Cell to address these problems. In the interactive session held, students spoke to the villagers about the vision and mission of UBA and how they intended to work in areas of women empowerment, education, health and sanitation, modern agricultural methods and access to government schemes.

Various solutions were posed to the villagers including setting up self-help groups for generating self-employment opportunities for the rural unemployed youth. Moreover, women were given suggestions as to how they could develop their skills alongside setting up self-help groups to increase household income. There is a persistent drainage problem in the village as well. The experience has painfully revealed the urgent need to address the prevailing inequality and marginalisation. It has given a roadmap for the student team for the problems that need to be addressed and the solutions that need to be implemented. It is our goal to continue working in these areas to improve the overall socio-economic conditions of Amrendrapur.

II. PLANTATION DRIVE IN A SCHOOL OF NARAJ VILLAGE

The plants for the plantation drive were arranged from nursery in the Cuttack and the equipment for gardening was adequately arranged from the gardeners of the university thus making the activity more economical. Thereafter, the members of UBA, NLUO took permission from the school staff and performed the plantation. This was undoubtedly a memorable experience for all the members. The school staff and the school children also supported and cheered the efforts of the UBA, NLUO. Thereafter, an interactive session was conducted by the members of UBA, NLUO with the students and school staff in which the importance of plants in our lives was explained.

While performing the plantation drive, the members of UBA, NLUO realised that medicinal plants and their various products can be viewed as an important commodity items for sustainable economic development of the rural region. Therefore, a plantation activity of the medicinal plants was proposed by the members of UBA, NLUO, in which the villagers can be explained about the economic importance of the medicinal plants.

III. FACT FINDING AND SURVEY

UBA cell NLUO did a survey on livelihood of people at Amrendrapur village which is in Cuttack district. The main reason behind this survey was to identifying and understanding of challenges faced by the villagers and to facilitate challenging resources towards the problems of village. We the committee want transformational change in rural areas. We did the survey among the villagers. These surveys were made with to analyse sanitation, electricity, ration, and access to public welfare schemes, education and various other basic amenities in the village and measures that can be taken to improve. We went their houses and saw the reality of their life. They co-operate us in this survey and gave all the information which we wanted.

Enthusiasm of villagers encouraged us to do the survey. We will continue this survey yearly so that we can know how our survey helps them to change their livelihood. For the Covid situation it's not easy to conduct an offline survey so our plan is to conduct an online survey. After knowing the availability of internet and technology then we will proceed with our survey.

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IV. MEDICAL CAMP

The cell prioritizes health and well-being of the villagers and in furtherance of which it organized a medical camp at Amrendrapur village which is in Cuttack district. It also facilitated cell's aim to make people aware of their unhealthy food practices and guide them towards healthy diet. Our vision was to know them that how much health is important. This camp provided villagers with free of cost basic health check-ups and diabetes tests. We went there with a medical team. Doctors and nurses are from SCB Medical hospital. We collect the details of their health problems. Furthermore, medicines were prescribed from case to case basis.

Although health condition of villagers was satisfactory at that time but we will organize a medical camp again. This time we will focus on Corona. How people are taking precautions for Corona and how much oxygen levels on their body. This time we will start a Telemedicine service so that they can get their query easily.

V. SENSITIZATION THROUGH SKIT

Expressions and emotions bind us together across different languages. Understanding the importance of drama and theatre as a way of communication, the Unnat Bharat Abhiyan cell conducted a skit in school to spread awareness about the environmental changes.

Climate change is one of the core problems that the current world is facing but ignoring to accept; to curb such problem, awareness is vital for which the skit was conducted. The main idea behind this activity was to sensitize the children of school about the detrimental effects of pollution and deforestation on the environment and human beings. They were also introduced to different techniques by which they can contribute to conserving the environment.

The cell is looking forward to more such activities to spread awareness about the environment. As we are witnessing, things are folded as per their needs in this everyday growing society, and many essential resources are sacrificed. We will try to put a pause on such activity and make our future more liveable.

VI. SOCIAL AWARENESS QUIZ

Fundamental Rights protect the liberties and freedom of the citizens against any invasion by the state; prevent the establishment of the authoritarian and dictatorial rule in the country. They are essential for the overall development of individuals and the nation. Keeping in mind the idea of spreading awareness, the Unnat Bharat Abhiyan cell conducted a quiz to promote awareness about various fundamental rights and duties, general polity and geography.

A quiz is an interactive medium of engagement with the audience; people actively participated in assimilating the information. Post-quiz conversations helped us build a deeper connection with villagers and provide an insight into their problems, and this activity answered many of their problems. They were told about different authorities to approach for their query redressed and also after this activity they have some better clarity about working of our political system.

In our future activity, we will be focusing on more such activities as many people are unaware of their basic rights and remedy. The cell believes that knowledge should not be sacrificed due to a lack of resources. Keeping this spirit, we are moving forward, and we will try to spread awareness to the fullest.

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VII. LECTURE VIDEOS ON ENGLISH AND ODIA GRAMMAR ON UBA OFFICIAL YOUTUBE CHANNEL

The Covid-19 pandemic has affected each and every class of the society including the vulnerable sections. Food, shelter, health, education etc. has been a challenge for the rural people to adjust with less resources and increasing needs. Since March 2020, schools and other educational institutions are closed due to the pandemic, the UBA Cell had decided to reach out our adopted villages and help them to cope up with the existing situation.

An Official UBA YouTube Channel has been created to share worthy and useful video lectures prepared by members of UBA Cell. These lectures cover significant topics related to English and Odia Grammar (language paper) and succinctly explained the basic concepts in the simplest way.

The target group was the students appearing for their 10th Board examinations to provide them easy access to learning without any barriers.

Since there were some virtual constraints this time, the UBA Cell tried to reach to the adopted villages crossing each digital obstacle. As Albert Einstein said- Education is what remains after one has forgotten what one has learned in school, UBA Cell step up to foster the same and give doorstep learning to these curious minds.

VIII. VOLUNTEERS SENSITIZATION ON VDMED TELE-CONSULTATION PROGRAM TO HELP VILLAGES AVAIL FREE ONLINE ALLOPATHY SERVICES

IIT Delhi and *Dhanush Infotech* in collaboration conducted a sensitization programme for volunteers of all participating institutions under the UBA initiative. It threw light on role of Participating Institution as a bridge to connect free quality health services and remote villages. These health services include *Aarogya Mitra Webinars* in four languages, vaccination awareness and VDMED Tele-consultation program, an application. Volunteers were sensitized to identify doctors in their assigned villages, support State Coordinators, and create distributional programs and aid implementation of the program.

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