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United Artists' Association

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Annual Report

2015-16

Introduction:

United Artists' Association (UAA) facilitates community empowerment and provides support and strengthens people's organizations in its area of operation. UAA has been working since last 40 years in different areas especially in Ganjam district, Odisha to support the people affected by natural calamities, extinct poverty, encourage people's initiatives and support activities carried out to empower women and girl children. UAA was established in the year 1964 by a group of youth dedicated to help the people affected by natural calamities and for social transformation. Since then it has been working with exploited groups of society comprising of fisher folk, tribal, dalits, farmers and other back ward communities with special focus on women and children. UAA is headquartered at Ganjam in the district of Ganjam, Odisha at a distance of 140 Km towards south from the State capital Bhubaneswar.

Legal Status:

United Artists' Association (UAA) is a registered organization under the Societies Registration Act of 1860 since 6th September 1967. It is registered with the Ministry of Home Affairs in 1982.

History, Philosophy, Aims and Strategy:

Earlier to 1964 various social welfare activities were carried out by different youth in Ganjam village. But in 1965 different youth groups formally came together to work unitedly. They aimed for the development of the area and to promote and spread the culture by performing art. They raised funds by performing various cultural programmes & drama at different areas to be used for welfare, emergency relief and establishment of library and educational institutions. Thus the organization was named as –**UNITED ARTISTS' ASSOCIATION**. Volunteers in their leisure time carried out development activities. Voluntarism was corner stone of the organization. The founding members of the organization got themselves involved in generating awareness among the local people, Fisher folk and Farmers about the environmental hazards caused by a chemical industry. To prevent water and air pollution some important legal and administrative measures were taken by the Government due to public pressurization for more than a decade.

Up to the year 1977 UAA worked exclusively with its own funds. In 1978, the first government funded Balwadi and Crèche programme was taken up. During the next decade UAA stepped up its involvement in the rural areas, introduced a process of participatory development enabling the disadvantaged sections of society to be active partners in the process of development to improve their quality of life. UAA continued the socio-economic development of different communities by expanding its area of operation with external funding, in a phased manner. UAA gradually realised the value and importance of managing the projects and programs professionally in order to achieve its short-term and long-term objectives through time-bound intervention. By including more & more sophisticated, well-trained and dedicated youth in to the well established UAA family, the organization gradually stepped forward towards success. To achieve the set objectives various programmes with development approach were taken up which included community organization, education, health and sanitation, protection of environment, training, social forestry, disaster preparedness, livelihood and application of appropriate technology. UAA has adopted a ‘bottom-up’ strategy to ensure the involvement of the community in planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the programme.

Vision:

Establishing a non-exploitative, gender and human rights sensitive, environment friendly, hunger free, self-reliant, healthy and knowledge based society in Odisha.

Mission:

- Organizing the poor of the society to raise their voice against the injustice.
- Support the neglected sections to shield and endorse their livelihood.
- Facilitating the needy in leading a better life.
- Lobbying and advocacy with Government policy makers and planners for people friendly development strategy.

Objectives:

To improve the socio-economic conditions -of the backward and weaker section of the society mainly the fisher folk, Scheduled Caste, Tribal, Slum community and farmers by making them aware on various sustainable livelihood, water, sanitation, hygiene, conservation programmes.



Focus groups and partners:

UAA works with fisher folk, tribal, dalits (Scheduled castes), and other backward castes in **six coastal districts** of Odisha. UAA has worked in collaboration with the Government, UNICEF and International donor agencies like Action Aid and OXFAM, Water Aid since 80's for ushering a better quality of life for the marginalized sections of the society. Now it has also tied up with CWS and CCD for other two projects to develop organic farming and for the conservation of coastal livelihood and enterprise development respectively.

Capabilities:

In the course of 40 years of development work at the grassroots level, the organization has acquired *special skills in community organization and the process of building up people's organizations*. It also enjoys active support and co-operation of the state, district and Block level officials. As one of the leading organizations in the state, it has a high standing as a reliable committed voluntary organization in Government circles. This is born out by the fact that the Government has nominated UAA to various state and district level consultative/ advisory committees from time to time. Funding agencies too, hold a very favourable impression of UAA, because of its reach at the grassroots level, consistency in field involvement and judicious handling of funds.

Community Organization:

UAA has made efforts to mobilize the deprived sections of the community for forming the groups and linking them with the forums at the district, state and national level. The intent was to raise the issues affected the poor at various levels where they can be addressed and justice provided to the poor communities with active participation of the community. A few people's organizations and CBOs like Odisha Traditional Women Fish Worker's Organization, SAMUDRAM, SWOSTI, ANWESA, Rushikulya Rayat Mahasabha and Ganjam Zilla Adivasi Manch have emerged over the years and are functioning independently for the last 11 years. UAA has also developed 2 network of Block level NGOs in Ganjam and Puri district and works with them as and when required. UAA's prime motto was to build up the capacity of the people's organizations through training, exposure and interactive dialogue.

Activities:

The activities taken up by UAA with the participation of its partner NGOs and People's Organizations broadly covers:

Capacity building of CBOs, advocacy and lobbying, mass campaign, media interface, sustainable organic agriculture, WASH & health, education, livelihood support programmes, disaster preparedness, study and documentation etc.

Projects/ Programs implemented:

1. Disaster Preparedness and livelihood support to marine fishers, dalita & tribal.
2. Community cooperative marketing for income enhancement of women fisherfolk in 4 coastal districts.
3. Strengthening advocacy efforts of Samudram- the women fish workers federation and Odisha Traditional Fish workers Union
4. Community-based marine conservation through collaborative efforts of the Odisha marine resources conservation consortium (OMRCC) in Odisha,
5. Promotion of Sustainable Agriculture in Ganjam district.
6. Improvement of rural sanitation status in 100 villages under 7 blocks of Puri district and WaSH programs in Schools and slums in Puri Municipality
7. Advocacy and Lobbying

Achievements during the YEAR: -

Livelihood Support and disaster preparedness

Supported by: Oxfam- India and Action Aid

Approach:

- * The program is implemented in collaboration with Samudram the state level federation of marine fisher women, Block level federation of dalit and backward communities through SWOSTI & Anwesa.
- * Joint Planning for implementation, monitoring and periodic review is done at field and central level periodically.
- * Samudram takes the lead in mobilizing community to avail social safety net available for them.
- * Assets procured out of the project are kept with Samudram to develop a clear sense of ownership. They finalize the plan to handover assets to their affiliated Women organizations basing on the request received and need.



- * Joint disaster preparedness plan prepared by the communities and accepted at GP, Block and District level.
- ❖ According to plan the community leaders campaigned with people's representatives and administration to make their villages face the challenges of disaster.
- ❖ An interface of marine fishworkers' was organized with insurance companies to impress them about the need for devising a policy to insure productive assets of marine fishers. Till date not much progress has been achieved.

Livelihood support to marine fishers: During the period Samudram traded 2789.5kgs of fish and prawn in different regional markets benefiting 1090 fisher families working in 78 motorized boats and 150 catamarans. This initiative also indirectly benefited other fishers whose boats were under contract to demand the price given by Samudram to their traders. They also demanded private traders to weigh their commercially valuable catches before purchase.

■ UAA provided 3 deep freezers of 400 liters capacity to preserve high value fish/prawn for a longer period to get better price in the market.

■ UAA mobilized Krushi Vigyan Kendra to provide skill development training to 24 fisher women to produce value added fisheries products. Also availed expertise of college of fisheries, OUAT, Rangailunda to train 17 fisher women to produce value added fisheries products.

■ During the period the trained members of Samudram produced 62.130kgs of value added fisheries products and traded through Samudram in various exhibitions in Bhubaneswar, Gurgaon, Madurai, Gopalpur-on-Sea, Khalikote, Ganjam, Chatrapur, and their counter in Sana Nolianuagam and Katuru. This provided them an extra income of around 30%.

■ The trained members were produced and sold fast-food items like fish pokoda, fish cutlet, fish finger etc. from 94.8kgs of fish in different market points.

■ To explore market potential of marine fish and fish products two resource agencies namely 'International Resources for Fairer Trade', Mumbai and 'Xavier Institute of



Management’, Bhubaneswar respectively were engaged and presented their findings to



Samudram for escalating their initiative.

- Samudram organized one women convention attended by district revenue officials, officers from labour department, fisheries department and women and child development department.
- It was resolved the labor department will take care of registering fishers who are going to Goa, Gujarat and Maharashtra to get employment there and harassed by the employers.

Community-based marine conservation through collaborative efforts of the Odisha Marine Resources Conservation Consortium (OMRCC) in Odisha

Supported by: Own Fund

Objective:

- To develop collaborative programmes for community-based fisheries management in coastal Odisha through the OMRCC.
- To advocate for socially and ecologically appropriate coastal development in Odisha through the OMRCC.
- To create awareness on marine conservation and sustainable fisheries management practices among the fishing communities with the support of ICSF, Chennai.
- To facilitate an attitudinal change towards conservation among traditional marine fishers by community organization around supplementary livelihood mechanisms through micro-enterprise activities in demonstration villages.

Approach:

- * This program is implemented in collaboration with Odisha Marine Resource Consortium (OMRCC).
- * Joint planning for implementation, review is done both at field and central level.

- * Along with OMRCC, Samudram unions also roped in for successful implementation of the project.

Achievements- Physical:

- ❖ An advisory committee has been formed to plan, implement and monitor the program related to turtle conservation and livelihood of fishers.
- ❖ Beach cleaning, quiz, debate and painting competition organized with the cooperation of local schools and colleges.
- ❖ Meetings organized in villages to raise awareness to prohibit multifilament nets which are detrimental for turtle movement in open sea.
- ❖ Guided visitors during mass nesting and hatching period for safe nesting and smooth passage of hatchlings into sea.

SANITATION status improvement in rural areas of Puri district:

In this 3rd year the focus has been given to strengthen the WaSH taskforce, SMC, District RtE forum, Bal brigade federation. In the process of strengthening above mentioned institutions focus have been given to role of SMC and how they develop appropriate School Development Plan (SDP) for their respective schools with involvement of PTA and other stakeholders. By this training SMC and RtE forum members were able to how to highlight the WaSH issue through grievance readdress system and role of different department to take remedial action was discussed. This training was facilitated by departmental officers and WaSH experts from within the organisation and outside. After training SMC, Bal brigade team and RtE forum members were taken action and visited slum and school to discuss about WASH situation. After visit the committee facilitated to submit petition to different department like Chairperson Municipality, EE municipality, PHD, PWD and DPC etc. Total 74 petitions was submitted and out of that 42 application are recognised for immediate action to develop WaSH infrastructure like CWSN friendly toilet, Separate toilet for girls, Hand wash unit, Drinking water facility and drainage provision for disposal liquid west and dustbin provision in different school and slum. In this year total Rs 48, 44,100/- has been leverage from different department to develop WaSH infrastructure in School and Slum.

This year 5 schools developed as a WaSH secured school .In these school WaSH infrastructure provision like CWSN friendly toilet , Separate toilet for girls , Incinerator facility for adulation girls , Hand wash unit etc are done .In some school renovation to the existing structures are done . In this activity total 1480 children's (Boy-831 & Girl-649) use the infrastructure to ensure their good hygiene practice.

With the facilitation of Bal brigade children, the school WASH committee which is an integrated body of different committees, has taken steps to provide safe drinking water to the students and staffs during school hours. With the support of local councillor, these committees have insisted the responsible govt. staff & department and install 13 new water points in 13 school& Slum and connect 12 pipe water supplies with reserve tank provision in 12 school and slum. In many school and slum defunct water source are repaired and water quality are tested through H2S vile.

In this year total 22 slums has been developed as Open Defecation Slum (ODF) by installing 895 IHHL in house hold level. Bal brigade children, Slum WaSH committee and WaSH taskforce team members were supported for this royal activity. By this activity 11352

peoples are benefited. By leverage government fund total 2 community toilet are installed in two slum and community themselves installed 2 community in two slum. To fulfil RtE norm total 6 separate for girl's toilet and 3 CWSN toilets are installed through SSA.

During this year school children lead by bal brigade student were posted 246 post card to fulfil their basic need. By this campaign 2 language teacher are appointed in two school, frequent visit of health worker to school, available of soap , surf, hand wash liquid , brush at hand wash unit and at toilet are fulfilled and quality of MDM improved.

Functionaries of Education department, Municipality, Health department, RWS & S, Sewerage, DCPU and PHD were roped in the program to realize the objective of the project by organising district level multi stakeholders meeting

During this year to bring awareness among school children and their parents 35 mothers meeting , 79 WaSH committee meeting , 194 bal brigade meeting .74 MHM class , 5 drawing and slogan competition , 176 hygiene session and 79 SMC meeting and 48 school WaSH plan meeting are conducted . Similarly in slum level 53 slum WaSH committee meeting, 21 Slum WaSH plan meeting. 73 Children club meeting and 24 Kumari club meeting, 12 rally, 52 hand wash demonstration, 10 , Interface meeting with government functionary and 2318 Slum level HH visit are conducted.

In this year the observation of special days narrated below were organised;

- **Hand wash campaign** (Global Hand wash day observation) was organized in 11 Slum and 40 school where 3258 participants were participated in hand wash demonstration . In this day 42 post card are posted to SSA and district collector for provision of hand wash basin with running water in school premises. Bal-Brigade members were staged rallies in slums with slogans and placards in their hand to raise awareness and strengthen the importance of hand wash during critical times. They also organised demonstration to educate their fellow youngsters and parents as well.
- **World Toilet day on 19th November** was organized in 5 School and Slum where 2535 participated was participated. In this day two slums was declare as ODF with presence of authority of district administration.
- **Menstrual hygiene day on 28th May** was observed in 23slum where 356 adulation girls were participated and discussed on different issue of menstrual hygiene.
- **World Water day, 22nd March** was organized in 17 slums and 3 schools where 456 participants were participated.
- **International Women's Day , 8th March** was observed in UAA filed office where 55 women's leader were participated
- **National worms Eradication day 10th February** was observed in 5 schools where 1042 participants were participated.
- **World Environment day** observed in 5 slums where 502 participants were participated.

Advocacy & Lobbying

Supported by: **Own fund generated from interest income and community contribution/donation**

Objective:

- To Support Land Rights campaign of Tribal in Ganjam Generating awareness on sanitation in Ganjam district
- Propagation of plantation
- Initiating anti liquor campaign in Ganjam district
- Strengthening district level tribal federation
- Organizing health checkup and treatment camps
- Supporting activists to highlight issues of south Odisha



Activities undertaken:

- Providing critical support to Ganjam Zilla Adivasi Manch (GZAM) to strengthen their campaign by organizing district level consultations, village level mass meetings,



filling complains to providing legal title over homestead and agriculture of forest dwellers.

- Provide support to strengthen NGO network in promoting rural sanitation, community and personal hygiene and organic farming.
- Providing support to CBOs and interested individuals to undertake plantation in public places.
- Launch anti liquor campaigning with the support of CBOs, Women organizations and organize awareness generation programs on effect of consumption of illicit liquor in collaboration with district administration.
- Supported Samudram to organize health check up and treatment camps in inaccessible fishing habitations.
- Supported an activist group to organize consultation and highlight different issues that deteriorate development process of South Odisha.