

**ANNUAL REPORT
FOR
2000-2001**

WOSCA

**WOMEN'S ORGANISATION FOR SOCIO-
CULTURAL AWARENESS**

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Dear friends,

We have immense pleasure and rapture to bring out the " ANNUAL REPORT " of WOMENS' ORGANISATION FOR SOCIO-CULTURAL AWARENESS (WOSCA) for the year 2000 - 2001.

This Annual report comprises the details of activities during the period - 2000 -2001, which have more or less proven beneficial in fulfilling the overall objectives of WOSCA . Moreover, the newer issues, action ,initiatives that have been initiated in the process are also placed in these documents.

But human suffering does not arise only out of highly visible calamities. Less dramatic but just as disastrous is the poverty that is a daily reality for a large part of both the urban and rural population. Shortly after its beginning, WOSCA also took up this challenge , and since then integrated development has been prominent part of the programme ,both in urban settlements and in several of the most remote and neglected areas of Keonjhar District.

Over the years , and also in 2000 ,WOSCA has contributed to the efforts to improve conditions for the most vulnerable people. This has always taken place in close co-ordination with other efforts, be they from local and national government institutions ,local NGOs and Clubs.

Confident about continued fruitful relations, I take this opportunity to thank all, with whom we have been privileged to work throughout the year passed: our partners OREDA, OMFED,ITDA, ORMAS, NABARD AND STATE SOCICAL WELFARE BOARD,

March 2001.

*Rina Routray.
President.*

Annual Report

2000- 2001.

Introduction:

WOSCA is a non-profit, non-political, and non-sectarian organisation committed to the economic and social development of Orissa. WOSCA believes that development refers primarily to the development of people and not merely of goods and things. It aims to facilitate this process by working with villagers, as a catalyst, in the establishment of institutions and technologies which are comprehensive, future oriented and appropriate to the existing economic, social and physical situation.

The underprivileged and the poor, naturally, occupy the place of priority in the WOSCA scheme. Areas of work include community organisation, preventive health and health education, environmental awareness, wasteland development and sustainable development.

It was conceived in the year 1992. Registered under the Societies Registration Act XXI of 1860 and Foreign Contribution regulation Act, 1979, it determined to work for socio-economic development of rural poor with special focus on Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes. An Executive Committee headed by the Chairman controls the management of the organisation. Administration and financial matters lie with the executive committee of the organisation. Books of accounts, of the organisation are audited regularly by qualified Chartered Accountants. Since its inception, the organisation is actively engaged for the socioeconomic development of SC/ ST/ OBC people, protection of environment, population control, prevention of atrocity and eradication of untouchability, educational development and welfare of the women, children and aged. The activities of the organisation are supported by the subscriptions collected as member fees and donations from its well wishers. With a view to serve the people in the lower stratum of the society, who live below the poverty line and in the web of poverty, the organisation is working relentlessly since its inception to bring them to the main stream of the society.

Basic principles

- Development is the work of the poor themselves. WOSCA facilitates the process.
- Sustainable development is built on resources available to the poor, skills, common properties, savings, assets they have or can acquire such as land and animals, as well as resources available from government and banks.
- Management of any enterprise lies with the village participants themselves.

- WOSCA is not a permanent institution in the life of a village , but a catalyst which completes its work and goes on to work in other areas.
- Women's development is central to the sustainable development of the poor.
- WOSCA's work focuses on the poorest and most socially backward ,believing that their development provides the foundation for the development of all.
- In addition to village level work, development depends on impacting policy through joint efforts of village and voluntary organisations, especially through federations of these organisations.

Basic philosophical tenet

(The working philosophy of the organisation heavily relies upon the ideologies of the great Indian sages i.e. Equality, Justice, Fraternity and Non-violence.) It believes in individual liberty and dignity, the dignity of labour and social prestige while aiming at social reformation with grass root level development. It would work for the upliftment of the people, those who are deprived, depressed, neglected and culturally subjugated from a long period. Also mass awareness.

Goals

The active goal of the organisation is "SOCIAL REFORMATION" by grass root development and stop of man to exploitation.

- Transform the present condition of people's poverty and suffering into self-reliant and self-supporting communities and to live in peace and harmony with others.
- Build up a dynamic and creative organisation which will continuously strive to participate in all developmental endeavor/efforts with knowledge, skills, and commitments with aspirations and struggle for the cause of poor and disadvantaged, and adopt to the changing time and needs.
- Work in voluntary spirit with dedication of time, energy, and knowledge, with the service for the people and their cause by way of understanding offers work beyond duty and pursuit for excellence at work.

Operational Area

The operational area of the organisation is in Keonjhar District as well as all district of Orissa.

ACTIVITIES IN BRIEF

INCOME GENERATION

(Making independence a way of life.)

To meet the financial needs of poor people and to make them independent and impart dignity to their lives WOSCA runs over 30 income generation projects in Keonjhar Districts.



In 2000-2001, WOSCA initiated 2 income generation projects at a cost of Rs.2 lakh. Some partner agencies are DRDA, Keonjhar, NABARD, Keonjhar and ORMAS , Keonjhar.

It promotes poor people's independence by providing earning opportunities through Badi, Pickles, Papad, Sauce, Spices, Turmeric Powder and Chilly Powder.

Says Bisakha Patra, 46 beneficiary of WOSCA "The people here are mostly farm workers who get work only during the harvesting season. There is no place for poor people like me, we are dependent for even the basic necessities of life".

This project was sanctioned Rs.2 lakhs which is given to needy people as revolving, 50% subsidy loans. These are repaid monthly and then passed on to a new group.

WOSCA has Bank linkage these two groups to get Rs.1 lakh each. Bisakha Patra is just one of the few beneficiaries of this programme.

VISION

Treading the Micro-credit Path

Shifting from welfare to development oriented work. WOSCA has recently added to micro credit to its portfolio of programmes . Through these, WOSCA aim is to organise people and arm them with a tool that empowers them to participate in decisions pertaining to their own lives.



What is Micro Credit ?

Micro credit is a way of organising people and empowering them to participate in the process of decision making . The micro credit initiative was taken by WOSCA considering the fact that the poor people is not a priority for Banks. Banks often ask for collaterals, which poor people can seldom afford. On other hand, money lenders charge heavy interest rates and are not always able to service borrowers who have unique needs.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Social Development Fair.

The social development fair brings development organisations on a common platform and allows them to highlight their work . WOSCA's participation at this year's fair attracted big crowds and received a lot of recognition . The fair is held under the umbrella of Orissa Rural Marketing Society (ORMAS).



CRECHE CENTRE

At present , we have only one crèche centre which is functioning in our project area i.e. at Nischintpur, Raghunathpur G.P. under Keonjhar Sadar Block. Our centre is for children of the lower income group, especially families from the daily wages earners. This programme was started in 2000. There are now 25 children who are getting these facilities . The centre function from 8 A.M. to 12 A.M. The centre has a basic child care programme .A medical officer visits the centre twice a month and looks after the health of the children. Specially attention is given to the total development of the children including health, nutrition and creation. Every child is given bread ,biscuits, etc. The children are taught good manners, singing, dancing ,etc. For play and recreation and to keep them happy and cheerful, they are provided with modern toys.

ACTION AGAINST DOWRY

WOSCA is now member in the District Dowry Prohibition Cell form how to create anti dowry awareness among the people, social boycott of pro-dowry people, eradication of casteism, action for social awareness to bring changes in the present marriage system and gender justice etc.

PARTICIPATORY RURAL APPRAISAL AT NISCHINTPUR AND GOPALPUR

Nischintpur and Gopalpur are small villages in Raghunathpur G.P. under Keonjhar sadar block having undulated land, less vegetation, extreme climate followed by vagaries of monsoon. For mere sustains, people thrive on the remaining forest and cutting trees is leading to further environmental degradation.

In this backdrop, the villagers assembled at a common place for two days and undertook "Participatory Rural Appraisal"(PRA) exercise to discover the village by themselves in terms of geographical situation, demographic condition, natural resources, problem and causes, strengths and the weakness etc.

Once the village map was sketched on the ground, people demarcated the position of local infrastructure along with its resources. After in depth discussions, people themselves identified the problems and causes of their sufferings and backwardness. They could realise only no development planning was implemented by the Govt. mechinaries during long span of 1952-99 as the local people did neither take interest nor involve themselves in the development process and consequently they had been victim of poverty, unemployment and debt. They become aware that unless they themselves take active part for their own development process, no outside agencies could bring change for improvement in their lifestyle and they have to work hard and make judicious and scientific use of the existing resources to improve the quality of their life. The people expressed thanks to WOSCA for handling the life of hope and to work untimingly for their empowerment.



WOMEN ORGANISATION

By the process the women groups in 6 villages were strongly organised and highly motivated to serve for their own as well as for their villages. As a result the women groups undertook road repairing, pond cleaning, use of clear drinking water and all such activities. Now the women groups are sensitised on sanitation issues by using powder, phenyl in their own areas.

SELF HELP GROUP

Though in all activities which is initiated by WOSCA so far focus on women participation still some specific actions were initiated for the women development. The action of the women development was initiated by keeping so objects in view.

The objectives are:

- to aware them about their role and position in society.
- to uplift the status of member by organising them.
- to create confidence among the members to tackle the problems relating to women is particular and society in general.
- to create urge among them for strong women organisation.
- to arrange financial support for groups to bring self-reliance.

HEALTH PROGRAMME

We have helped in the implementation of govt. programme, i.e., polio immunisation programme, sterilization camp and eye camps and arranged various health camps and check-ups.

EYE CAMP

Human resource potential of WOSCA aims at integration of the multi-dimensional health programmes to achieve the goal. Taking into account the financial condition of those affected people by night blindness WOSCA organized an eye camp at Rajnagar covering 32 villages of Patna block and .29 no of cases were feasible for diagnosis. Among these patients some cases are referred to Bhubaneswar and others have undergone intra-ocular Lence surgery at Keonjhar Sadar hospital.



PULSE POLIO VACINATION PROGRAMME

To eradicate the polio disease from our country a nation wide immunisation programme 'Pulse Polio' was launched by the Govt. of India . Under this programme , all the children below 5 years were administered Pulse Polio vaccine on 2000 and 2001.

WOSCA participated in this national programme by creating awareness among the people on the cause and effect of polio disease and motivating them to get their children immunised by giving pulse polio does on the fixed dates from the nearest primary health centre.

