

STAKEHOLDERS' MEETINGS REPORT

Shanta Memorial Rehabilitation Center (SMRC) has organized four Stakeholders' Meeting with two meetings organized at its Project Office, P-II, Jaydev Vihar, Bhubaneswar and two meetings with the local stakeholders at Rajnagar, Kendrapara, Odisha.

Aims and Objectives of the Stakeholders' Meeting

- Share the findings of the survey done in Rajnagar Block of Kendrapara District with respect to Climate Change Adaptation and Women with Disabilities and seek stakeholders' comments and observations.
- Undertake the survey regarding possible adaptation measures for women with disabilities in coastal region.
- Seek stakeholder feedback regarding barriers to policy implementation and criteria for successful adaptation for women with disability being affected by climate change and coastal erosion

Participants Profile:

The participants in all the stakeholders were from Government Departments, Non-Government Organizations (NGOs), local ward members, Integrated Child Development Services officer, Panchayat Extension Officers, respondents from Rajnagar (women with disabilities), independent Journalists and local contact from Rajnagar. The Government Departments which participated in the Roundtable are:

1. Social Security and Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, Govt. of Odisha.
2. Department of Agriculture and Farmers' Empowerment, Govt. of Odisha.
3. Climate Change Cell, MOEFCC, Govt. of Odisha.
4. Chilika Development Authority, Govt. of Odisha.

Introduction to the Theme:

The Meetings were commenced with the welcome address by the representatives of Shanta Memorial Rehabilitation Center. They shed light upon the importance of adaptation and inclusion of women with disability in disaster risk reduction and adaptation process for their social security. They also shared about the objective of the meeting, which is to prepare an adaptation inventory for the women with disabilities affected by climate change and coastal erosion. They mentioned that by 2050, more than 1 Billion people around the world have to relocate and migrate because of sea level rise.

The representatives clearly informed the participants about the steps taken by the Government of Odisha regarding climate change adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR). They informed the participants that the state government has taken various adaptation measures like, relocation of vulnerable communities living within the buffer-zone of 5 kilometers from the shoreline. They also informed that, the government has constructed Multi-purpose cyclone centers in the districts vulnerable

to cyclone and flooding. They particularly mentioned about the Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) and the Geo-synthetic tube installed on the Pentha Beach which was eroding faster. They also shared that during the emergency, the state government's response to it is exemplary. But, sea level rise and coastal erosion are more life changing threats where the victims will lose their agricultural land, residence and livelihood. Under such circumstances, adaptation is the only effective measure and should be planned and proper policies should be made and adopted. They asked the participants to suggest various adaptation measures that could be adopted by the women with disabilities after the Presentation on the survey.

Presentation on Survey:

Prof. Swarnamayee Tripathy, presented the findings of the Survey at the final stakeholders meeting at Bhubaneswar Roundtable. She informed that, the primary objective of the survey was to find the issues faced by the women with disabilities because of climate change and coastal erosion in Rajnagar Block of Kendrapara district. Through the survey, the adaptation measures being practiced by the respondents could also be understood. Prof. Tripathy mentioned that, because of coastal erosion the life and livelihood of the natives of Satabhaya is affected severely. The persons who were engaged in the formal sector somehow managed with the phenomenon. But, the majority of the population who were engaged in the informal sector was affected the most. Prof. Tripathy mentioned that, if the poor people without any disability are affected to such an extent that, they had no means of income other than migration, then what problems the women with disabilities are facing who have to bear double discrimination, that is, one being women and the other being disabled.



Prof. Tripathy, mentioned that, there are more than 40,000 Persons with disabilities in the district of Kendrapara out of which 44 percent are Women with disabilities. The survey took into account the women with disabilities who are within the working age, that is, above 18 years age and are less than 60 years of age. A total **169** Women with disabilities are surveyed in two phases, that is, **150** in the first phase and **19** in the second phase. It is found that 38 percent of the WOMAN WITH DISABILITY have disability in movement and 30 percent have psycho-social disability. Another

important finding is 40 percent of the Women with disabilities are illiterate and 38 percent are literate up to primary level, which implies 78% of the respondents have not received quality education. Most of the respondents are unaware of climate change but, they have observed the changes in rainfall pattern, unusual heat in summer and short and cold winter. Because of frequent cyclones, people are bearing crop loss and damage to livestock. An important observation is, Women with disabilities are unaware of social security policies and services available for the WOMAN WITH DISABILITY apart from the disability pension. These women showed willingness to work. Prof. Tripathy informed that 88.68 percent of the respondents' households have had loss of crops because of climate change related extreme events ranging between Rs. 5,000- Rs. 50,000. Similarly, 55 percent of the households engaged in animal husbandry and allied activities have bore losses because of extreme events. The households are mostly poor or below poverty line, thus the Women with disabilities are unable to access quality healthcare, special education, and nutritious food. Prof. Tripathy mentioned about domestic violence towards Women with disabilities in the form of verbal abuse and mistreatment. The respondents stated that, if they can do the household chores or help the family in any other work, then they are not mistreated. Therefore, during the emergency situations when they cannot help their family, they are mistreated. According to the respondents, they are the last one to be helped during a disaster. About 17 percent of the Women with disabilities from Bagapatia have informed that, they could not bring their belongings during the relocation process. She also mentioned that majority of the respondents have not renewed their disability certificate to the smart card provided for Persons with disabilities so, they are unable to avail various services provided by the government.

The Government of Odisha has **six** adaptation programs for the Women with disabilities which are:

1. Multipurpose Cyclone Shelter with the newer ones built disabled friendly.
2. Geo-Synthetic wall in Pentha Beach to protect against erosion.
3. Planned Relocation to safe place, with provision of basic infrastructure and services like School, Primary Healthcare Center, Community center, water supply, paved roads etc.
4. Monthly pension for the Women with disabilities.
5. Provision of assistive devices for the Women with disabilities.
6. Inclusion in Antyodaya Yojana for availing food grains for free.

Prof. Tripathy informed that the Women with disabilities are facing problem in accessing the Multipurpose Cyclone Shelter which lack ramps. These structures are not made accessible even though the new ones are built with ramps. The allowance received by the Women with disabilities through DBT (direct benefit transfer) is taken by the family. The respondents have informed that Bagapatia is inundated during monsoon because of which the Women with disabilities are facing problem in their mobility. From the survey it was found that, very less Women with disabilities are engaged in earning their livelihood. The respondents who are working are mostly goat herding, where they take the goats with their family and neighbors for grazing. Some of the respondents are engaged as domestic help. She has also mentioned that, there are certain Women with disabilities who are migrant labors.

Prof. Tripathy reiterated that, Women with disabilities in the Rajnagar are more affected because of coastal erosion and climate change because of the double discrimination they face. The Women with disabilities have informed about their requirements and expectations from the Government, which are:

- Kitchen Garden: information on horticulture, seeds, fertilizers, and training.
- Funding to set up a small grocery shop or a stationery shop.
- Tailoring training and sewing machine.
- Funding for animal husbandry (goat rearing, and poultry farming).
- Floating garden: information, seeds, fertilizers, and training. (applicable in the region with long inundation period).
- Job/Employment opportunity from the Panchayat office.
- A piece of residential land and house registered in the name of the Women with disabilities.

Basically her presentation summarized all the findings from the various activities done at Rajnagar, which includes **five** number of workshop on adaptation for the women with disabilities and the **two** rounds of stakeholder interaction being done at Rajnagar and Okilpal, respectively.

Women with Disabilities and their issues:

Ms. Reena Mohanty informed the participants regarding the issues faced by the Persons with Disability because of the climate change and the problems faced by the



Women with Disability in earning a livelihood and living a dignified life. She gave many real life examples of the problems faced by the women with disabilities in taking care of their health requirements, availing nutritious food, accessibility issues, etc. She shared that, the women with disabilities can work and earn a dignified livelihood if they are trained/skilled and made them feel important to the family and the community as a whole.

She has asked the participants to share their idea about what kind of work is suitable for the persons with disability in earning a decent livelihood. She also asked the participants to shed some light upon the accessibility issues of the persons with disabilities. She also inquired about the persons with disabilities being included in community meetings and Self Help Groups to which the participants denied of their inclusion. The participants were skeptical if the persons with disabilities can actually work in par with the persons without disabilities, to which Ms. Mohanty clarified that, the persons with disabilities can even perform tasks better than the persons without disability but, provided they are given skill training and are supported by the community to work and earn their livelihood with dignity. The women with disabilities are not able to avail the entitlements because of lack of awareness. Finally, Ms. Mohanty asked the participants to provide the adaptation measures that could be adopted by the people in the Rajnagar region.

The stakeholders at the local level mentioned the following adaptation measures that could be taken up:

- Ground water to be extracted to irrigate the agricultural fields. The government has taken up the initiative and the work is in progress.
- Climate resilient (flood resilient/drought resilient/saline resilient) crops.
- Rice-fish cropping.
- Goat rearing, small scale poultry farming or animal husbandry.
- Rainwater harvesting in ponds for use in dry season.
- Rainwater harvesting in underground tanks/tanks/wells etc.
- The SHGs should be engaged in manufacturing and marketing.
- Micro composting. The government provides seed funding of Rs. 60000/- for individuals who are willing to install infrastructure for micro composting.

- Short cycle paddy cropping (60 days and 90 days variety).
- Fruits like guava, banana, coconut, etc. are grown for local consumption.
- Farmers insuring crops.
- Farmers using modern equipment
- Migration as most prominent adaptation technique.
- Aquaculture.
- Various activities like tailoring, candle making, incense stick making, *papad* and *badi* making, etc. basically the activities that could be done by the Self Help Groups .
- Households opting for more than one source of income.
- Using solar lamps and other types of equipment.
- Farmers availing loans for agriculture.
- Farmers being provided loan waivers for crop loss.
- Kitchen Garden.
- Bee Keeping and collecting honey.

All the aforesaid adaptation techniques were shared with the 160 women with disabilities in the Rajnagar through the Workshops. These adaptation measures were shared with the chief guest of the final stakeholders' meeting Dr. Nagendra Mallick, where he provided insights to various schemes of the Government of Odisha and the Department of Agriculture and Farmers' Empowerment, Govt. of Odisha that

would provide seed funding and the training required by the women with disabilities to adapt to their preferred measure.

Address at Stakeholders' Roundtable:

Dr. Nagendra Mallick appreciated the presentation and the work done at Rajnagar, Kendrapara. He shared that though the meeting being conducted in a small audience, yet it is vital for the policy making in near future. He iterated that climate change cannot be denied as it is supported by scientific evidence and it has to be accepted. Hence, appropriate policies for adaptation and mitigation should also be floated. It is important to have sympathy and empathy towards the forest, ocean and those communities like the Persons with disabilities who are being excluded from the adaptation process. Dr. Mallick informed that agriculture is such a primitive profession; no life could be imagined without it. It is the foremost sector which is highly volatile to changes in climate.





Dr. Mallick shared about different schemes of Department of Agriculture and Farmers' Empowerment (DAFE), Govt. of Odisha for livelihood adaptation options to climate change:

- Provision of seeds which are resilient to climate change to the farmers.
- The DAFE provides license to the persons who have educational qualification up to the intermediate level for agencyship for selling fertilizers, seeds, insecticides, etc. and earn.
- DAFE provides women and disabled friendly agricultural equipments with 50 percent subsidy as a support to women and person with disability farmers.
- The DAFE is providing subsidy of up to 80 percent to the women farmers through Mission Shakti.
- Under the Mukhya Mantri Krushi Uddyam Yojana, the Govt. of Odisha provides food processing machines and equipments to the Persons with disabilities in subsidy up to 50 percent, for establishing small food processing units.
- The Women with disabilities can create a Farmers Producer Organization (FPO) with minimum 5 members. Through the FPO the members can access loans from the banks, contract from the companies for selling the products directly to the companies, access to land, and farm implements in subsidized price.
- Crop insurance is the best adaptation for the Women with disabilities engaged in agriculture. With only 2 percent premium the whole harvest is insured for 130 days under PMFBY. The persons engaged in Animal Husbandry can also insure their animals.
- The landless farmers can make a group of 4-10 members and approach a bank for loan of up to Rs. 200000 under Balaram Yojana.
- Under Kalia Yojana, the farmers having land can avail support for farming. As an extension to the Scheme of State Government the disabled children in the

family who are in education can avail scholarship from primary to the doctorate level.

- The Women with disabilities can avail training on Agriculture and allied activities from the local Krishi Vikash Kendra.
- The Women with disabilities can adapt Jute farming and can also engage in making jute based products through SHGs. Jute farming and processing has been able to transform the cash crops cultivation in Kendrapara.
- Mangroves protect against the storm surges and erosive action of sea. Hence, restoration of Mangrove forests is an important adaptation activity.
- The Women with disabilities should cultivate native species of paddy, millets, etc. and should rear native animals instead of going for cross breed and foreign breeds, as the native breeds are able to adapt to local conditions.
- The DAFE's one-stop solution for all the schemes and agriculture related queries is an website, that is, www.sugam.odisha.gov.in which is now operational and can be accessed by the Women with disabilities for further information.

Apart from these adaptation measures Dr. Mallick has assured that the DAFE will help in capacity building, financial linkage, handholding support and last mile support to the Women with disabilities who wish to adapt to climate change by earning a livelihood through the agricultural sector. He mentioned that Govt. of Odisha has collaborated with International Labor Organization for a project on Migration, that is, Migration Multi-Partner Trust Fund (MMPTF) for involved, capacitated and safe migration. The program envisages creating a database of Migrant Laborers who belong to Odisha. Apart from creating a database, the program will provide vocation skill to the people who wish to migrate for work. The project is implemented in Kendrapara and Ganjam districts of Odisha. This project can be extended to include people relocated from Satabhaya for which Dr. Mallick will approach the Govt. of Odisha. Dr. Mallick has assured that he will present the survey report to the Secretary of DAFE to approach the Govt. of Odisha for making appropriate policies for Women with disabilities. He also mentioned about the importance of land rights for Women with disabilities because without it the Women with disabilities can never be able to empower. Reiterating the importance of the survey, he assured the participants that he will propose upscaling of the micro level survey done by SMRC.

Dr. Mallick mentioned that the Govt. should be approached to make proper policies for reducing the domestic violence happening with the Women with disabilities. Dr. Mallick mentioned that the Women with disabilities should be made aware about various schemes by the Govt. of Odisha and Govt. of India because it is the first step to educate the Women with disabilities about their rights and adaptation to climate change.



In the final Stakeholders' Meeting, Mr. Sannyasi Kumar Behera, Deputy Director, Social Security and Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (SSEPD) was invited as the Guest of Honor. He provided his Valuable insights to various schemes and policies in place for the empowerment of persons with disabilities in the state by the Government of Odisha being provided by the SSEPD.



Mr. Sannyasi Kumar Behera, Deputy Secretary, SSEPD, Govt. of Odisha thanked Dr. Mallick for his comprehensive and eloquent presentation and thanked SMRC for organizing the meeting as it is a vital topic for future policy making. Mr. Behera suggested certain adaptation measures that could be explored by the Women with disabilities. The adaptation measures are:

1. The Women with disabilities can apply for Job Card under MGNREGA (Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act). The card can be used to avail jobs which can be done by the Women with disabilities which is based on the guidelines. If they are not able to get any work, the Govt. will give employment allowance to the beneficiaries.
2. Under the Bhima Bhoi Samarthyaa Abhiyan (BBSA) the Women with disabilities who have registered an SHG which has disabled persons as members, can avail an one-time grant of Rs. 50000 which is non-refundable. The grant can be used as seeding capital for the SHG.
3. The Women with disabilities can apply for free assistive device at the Block Social Security Office, which will be helpful in increasing mobility of the Women with disabilities.

4. Any large scale business organization who wishes to employ the Women with disabilities, can apply in BBSA to become a livelihood incubator for the Persons with disabilities.
5. The BBSA has a plethora of schemes for the livelihood development of Women with disabilities which can be availed Block office and Panchayat Office.
6. The Supreme Court has ruled that the government should recruit more number of special educators which would be helpful for imparting education for Women with disabilities.
7. BBSA has a self-employment kit for the Women with disabilities which can be applied by women with disabilities at the individual level and through SHGs by and for women with disabilities.
8. The Women with disabilities can apply for a MUDRA loan for establishing a shop from the nearest bank.
9. The SSEPD has a state level helpline, that is, "14567". The Women with disabilities can dial the number and approach the SSEPD for any help required.

Mr. Behera reiterated the importance of accessibility to the basic services like, tubewells, water taps, toilets, public buildings and offices. He mentioned that the SSEPD is working towards making the development process inclusive of Persons with disabilities and especially Women with disabilities. The Govt. is developing a policy of providing 25 percent extra grant for construction of toilet to the households having a person with disability. Another proposal is floated in the central government to instruct the Members of Parliaments and Members of Legislative Council to spend 5 percent of their Local Area Development grant for the poverty alleviation of Persons with disabilities. Mr. Behera informed that the Women with disabilities should upgrade their disability card to the new smart card without which many of the services available for the Persons with disabilities cannot be accessed by the beneficiaries. Finally he advised SMRC to create a documentary of the Women with disabilities in Rajnagar and showcase their problems which could be presented to the Govt. of Odisha for further action on livelihood development of Women with disabilities.

Open House Discussion:

In the open house discussion session Mr. Sujeet Kumar Sahoo from the Engineering department of the Climate Change Cell mentioned that the state action plan on climate change is an inclusive action of the Government of Odisha where 11 departments, naming, Agriculture, Coasts and Disasters, Energy, Fisheries and Animal Resources, Forestry, Health, Industry, Mining, Transport, Urban Planning and Waters Resources, have involved and working in coordination. But, many policies and schemes of different departments are unknown to cooperating department. Therefore, there is a requirement of increasing coordination and information sharing for increasing policy reaches. Also the schemes of all these



departments are unknown to the common people, let alone the Women with disabilities. It is in such forums like the Roundtable meeting where the information gap is observed.



In the open house discussion the importance of accessibility of Persons with disabilities to cyclone shelters and other structures during emergency is reiterated. Providing solar lighting at the shelters is advised to keep the rooms lit during occupancy to reduce violence against Women with disabilities. Training to counsel the Women with disabilities after the emergency situation is another important point mentioned by Rakhi Ghosh. Mr. Behera advised that the Final Report of the Survey to be presented to the Government of Odisha with a policy brief for raising the concern with the government for appropriate action.

Adaptation Measures accessible to women with disabilities:

After the discussions the following adaptation measures accessible to the women with disabilities have been summarized and mention:

- Acquiring agencyship for selling fertilizers, seeds, insecticides, etc. (applicable for women with disabilities having education up to higher secondary level).
- Small scale food grains processing units.
- Scholarship for girls with disabilities under Kalia Yojana.
- Jute farming and manufacturing jute products.
- Restoration of Mangrove forests.
- Cultivating native species of crops.
- Rearing native species of animals, like goats, cows and chicken.
- Availing jobs and benefits by registering in MGNREGA scheme.
- Availing free of cost assistive devices from the block office to increase mobility.
- Availing the Bhima Bhoi Samartha Abhiyan self-employment kit.
- Availing MUDRA loan for establishing grocery or stationery shop.

The stakeholder from the government departments have shared information for availing funding for various adaptation measures they have shared. The Government of Odisha has a one-stop portal, that is, www.sugam.odisha.gov.in where all the

agriculture related information could be availed. The SSEPD's helpline, that is, '14567' is being operated for the persons with disabilities to reach out for help and queries.

Concluding Remarks:

Various valuable insights were provided by the stakeholders throughout the **four** rounds of meetings that were organized. The government of Odisha has various policies and schemes in place for the women with disabilities to adapt to. It was observed in the meetings that many women with disabilities were unaware of the government policies and schemes. The **20** women with disabilities were invited to Bhubaneswar to provide them with all the adaptation



measures they could adapt to and were informed about the various schemes and policies through which they can avail benefits from the government. They were connected with a network of women with disabilities where they can connect to other women with disabilities and acquire information regarding

the developments, new schemes and policies made by the Government of India and the Government of Odisha.



List of Adaptation Measures provided by the stakeholders.

1. Acquiring agency ship for selling fertilisers, seeds, insecticides, etc. (applicable for women with disabilities having education up to higher secondary level).
2. Small scale food grains processing units.
3. Scholarship for girls with disabilities under KaliaYojana.
4. Jute farming and manufacturing jute products.
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9. Availing free of cost assistive devices from the block office to increase mobility.
10. Availing the BhimaBhoiSamarthaAbhiyan self-employment kit.
11. Availing MUDRA loan for establishing grocery or stationery shop.
12. Ground water to be extracted to irrigate the agricultural fields. The government has taken up the initiative and the work is in progress.
13. Climate resilient (flood resilient/drought resilient/saline resilient) crops.
14. Rice-fish cropping.
15. Goat rearing, small scale poultry farming or animal husbandry.
16. Rainwater harvesting in ponds for use in dry season.
17. Rainwater harvesting in underground tanks/tanks/wells etc.
18. The SHGs should be engaged in manufacturing and marketing.
19. Micro composting. The government provides seed funding of Rs. 60000/- for individuals who are willing to install infrastructure for micro composting.
20. Short cycle paddy cropping (60 days and 90 days variety).
21. Fruits like guava, banana, coconut, etc. are grown for local consumption.
22. Farmers insuring crops.
23. Farmers using modern equipment
24. Migration as most prominent adaptation technique.
25. Aquaculture.
26. Various activities like tailoring, candle making, incense stick making, *papadand badi* making, etc. basically the activities that could be done by the Self Help Groups .
27. Households opting for more than one source of income.
28. Using solar lamps and other types of equipment.
29. Farmers availing loans for agriculture.
30. Farmers being provided loan waivers for crop loss.
31. Kitchen Garden.
32. Bee Keeping and collecting honey.