

Annual Report

2002-2003



Women's Organization for Socio-Cultural Awareness

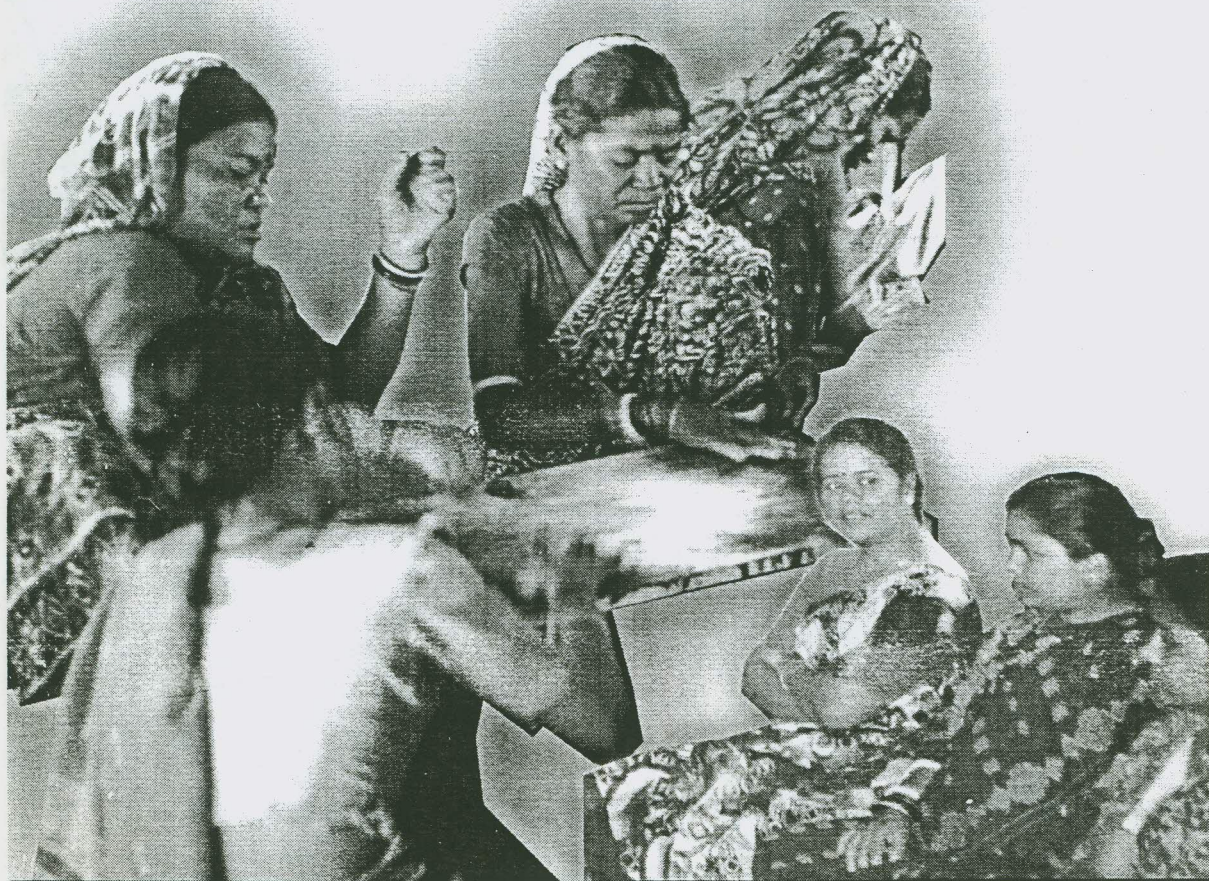


WOSCA

Participation is the Key to Success

annual report

2002-2003



Women's Organization for Socio-Cultural Awareness

Registered Office:
Baladevjew Colony, Mining Road,
Dist: Keonjhar 758 001, Orissa, India
Tel: 91-6766-253490
E-mail: wosca@rediffmail.com

Branch Office:
746, Saheed Nagar,
Bhubaneswar 751007, Orissa, India
Tel: 91-674-2510339

From the President's Desk

In the mean time a long nine years have passed since we formed this Women's Organization for Socio-Cultural Awareness (WOSCA).

The track record of the organization has been quite satisfactory. We have proved our sincerity and dedication in our mission: transformation of thoughts into deeds through people's participatory actions, people's organizations, participatory learning and working together for human resource management.


Not only the community has been involved in the program implementation process, but also the cooperation of elected representatives of the local self government and the social activists has been properly utilized in achieving the goals of the organization.

We have also received cooperation and support of the district administration, the line departments of the state government, assistance and support of the various ministries of the union government, and a few nodal organizations committed to rural development, women's empowerment, environment and ecological upgradation, and so on. On behalf of WOSCA, I am deeply indebted to all of them who empathetically looked into the problems and issues of women living under difficult circumstances, and have stood with us all the while.

This report summarizes our programs during FY 2002-2003, reflects a sense of achievement, and shows the broad spectrum of our activities. We place these records for others to judge us and offer their constructive suggestions.

Let's find solutions to the problems in the ground rather than be a part of it.

Dr. Rina Routray
President



The spirit of
Togetherness.
The strength of
Achievement.

Organization's Profile

Credo:

WOSCA involves itself in multifarious developmental activities through need-based programs for socioeconomic, environment and human resource development. It strongly believes that people should not be the passive recipients. WOSCA has strong commitment for sustainable development through resourceful training, capacity building and community participation towards establishment of an equitable society.

WOSCA focuses on people-centered development through following strategies:

- Sustainable livelihood development initiatives.
- Community involvement/participation.
- Animation of the community and sensitization.
- Community organization or organized power.
- Promotion of human potentialities, skills and knowledge.
- Mobilization and capacity building.

Vision Statement:

A society full of peace, joy and happiness where there will be no poverty, ignorance, diseases, suffering, hunger, exploitation, injustice, and which will be saturated with solidarity, integrity, fraternity, nationality, non-discrimination, brotherhood and prosperity.

Mission Statement:

Transformation of thoughts into deeds through people's participatory actions, people's organizations, participatory learning and working together for human resource management.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Miss Sukeshi Oram

Chairperson, TRIFED
Former Member of National
Mahila Commission for Women,
Govt. of India

Rajeswari Panda

Dy. Director, Indian Nursing
Council, Govt. of India

Chakradhara Biswal

Educationist

A. K. Nayak

Retd. D.F.O., Keonjhar

Dr. P. N. Satapathy

Retd. D.T.O., Keonjhar

Rajesh Ku. Sahoo

Chartered Accountant

GOVERNING BODY

Dr. Reena Routray	:	President
Mrs. Sunita Mohanty	:	Vice-President
Dharitri Rout	:	Secretary
Mansingh Durga	:	
Prasad Nayak	:	Member
Manjari Murmu	:	Member
Pravat Kumar Pradhan	:	Member
Khageswar Mahanta	:	Member

WOSCA'S MEMBERS

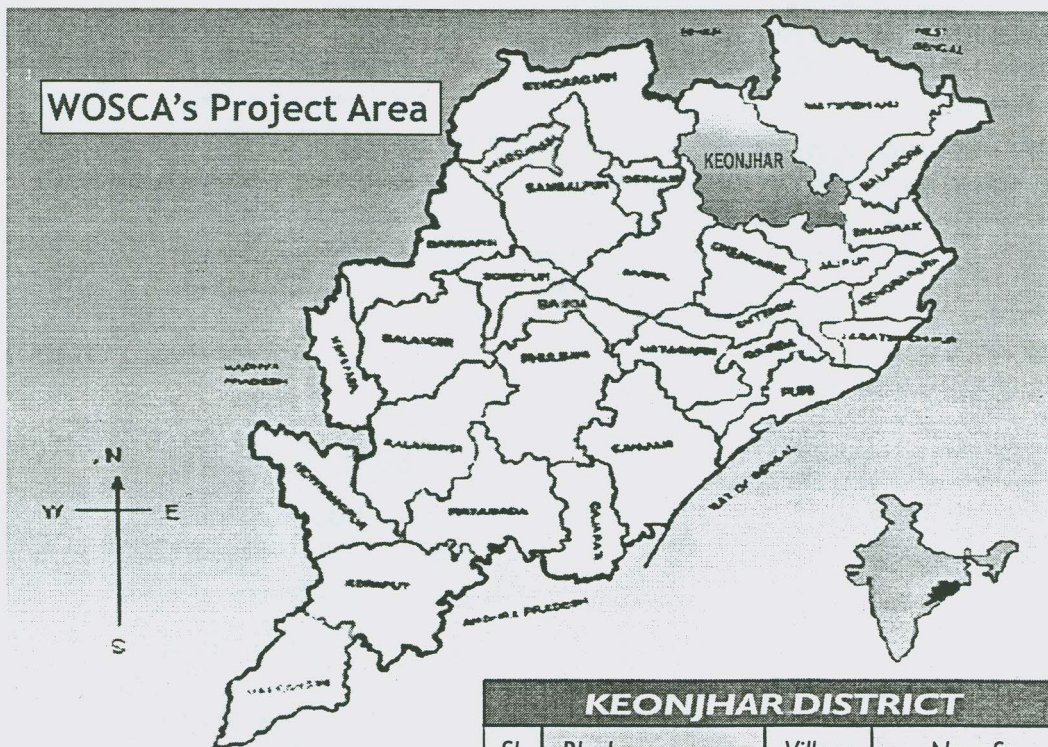
General Body Members	:	11
Governing Body Members	:	07

LEGAL STATUS

- » Registered under Societies Registration Act., 1860 in 1993.
- » Registered under Foreign Contribution Regulation Act., 1976 in 2000.

WOSCA's Major Thrust Areas

- ▶▶ Women's empowerment; promotion and strengthening of Self Help Group
- ▶▶ Agriculture and Rural Development
- ▶▶ Sustainable Development of Livelihood of underprivileged, marginalized and oppressed groups
- ▶▶ Environment and sanitation promotion
- ▶▶ Reproductive Child Health and Community Health Management
- ▶▶ Welfare of the handicapped and elderly
- ▶▶ Human Resource Development and Literacy
- ▶▶ Human Rights and Legal Aid Service
- ▶▶ Science and Rural Technology
- ▶▶ Establishment of Technical, Non-technical and Vocational Training Institutes
- ▶▶ Disaster Mitigation and Natural Resource Management
- ▶▶ Child Development and adoption
- ▶▶ Poverty Eradication and Income Generation
- ▶▶ Handicraft Promotion & Development of Rural Artisans
- ▶▶ Revamping of culture for better living and human rights
- ▶▶ Animation and capacity building
- ▶▶ Reproductive Health



KEONJHAR DISTRICT			
Sl. No.	Block	Village	No. of Beneficiaries
1.	Keonjhar Sadar	24	1640
2.	Patna	23	982
3.	Ghatagaon	4	311
4.	Hatadihi	1	100
5.	Jhumpura	13	185

Expertise, Experience and Facilities of WOSCA for Promotion of SHG

The focal area of work for WOSCA is women's empowerment through participatory initiatives and joint accountability. Since last nine years WOSCA has been giving high importance on socioeconomic development of village women through promotion and strengthening of Self Help Groups. Today, there are seventy SHGs, promoted and strengthened by the sincere effort of WOSCA team. WOSCA has been able to initiate two partner NGOs for promotion of SHGs. WOSCA has strength and expertise in this field because of...



state, and national programs on empowerment of women through SHG.

- » Long experience in implementing projects on women's empowerment through SHGs with support from such nodal agencies as NABARD, NIRD and SIRD.
- » Suitable infrastructure and mobility facilities that accommodates training, production, storage and marketing requirements easily.
- » Good rapport with financial institutions and government bodies, hence convergence of services could be achieved very effectively.
- » Marketing facilities including trade fairs.
- » Good networking, lobbying & advocacy.

- » It has three number of trained skilled staff who have participated in many district,

WOSCA's Linkage with Government Agencies

WOSCA has been associated with MAHILA VIKASH SAMABAYA NIGAM, ORUPA, ORMAS, TRIFED, PLC-ITDA, State Dowry Prohibition Board, District Health Advisory Board, OVHA, NYK, District Sexual Harassment Committee and Hind Kusth Nibaran Sangha.

PROGRAM PARTNERS

Government:

- ORMAS
- TRIFED
- State Social Welfare Advisory Board
- DRDA
- ITDA
- Ministry of HRD, Dept. of WCD & Tribal Development
- Ministry of Environment & Forest
- Ministry of Textiles, Handicraft Development Commission
- Mahila Vikash Samabaya Nigam

Non-Government:

- OMFED
- NABARD
- CARE
- Centre for Environment Education

BANK ACCOUNT

Central Bank of India: Keonjhar Branch
(A/C No. 462)

Central Bank of India: Keonjhar Branch
(A/C No. 1437 for FCRA only)

State Bank of India: Bhubaneswar Branch
(A/C No. 01100061687)

Contact Person

Mrs. Dharitri Rout, Secretary

Fixed Assets

As on 31st March 2003: Rs.2,06,483.65

WOSCA's Staff Strength

Full Time: 19; Part Time: 02



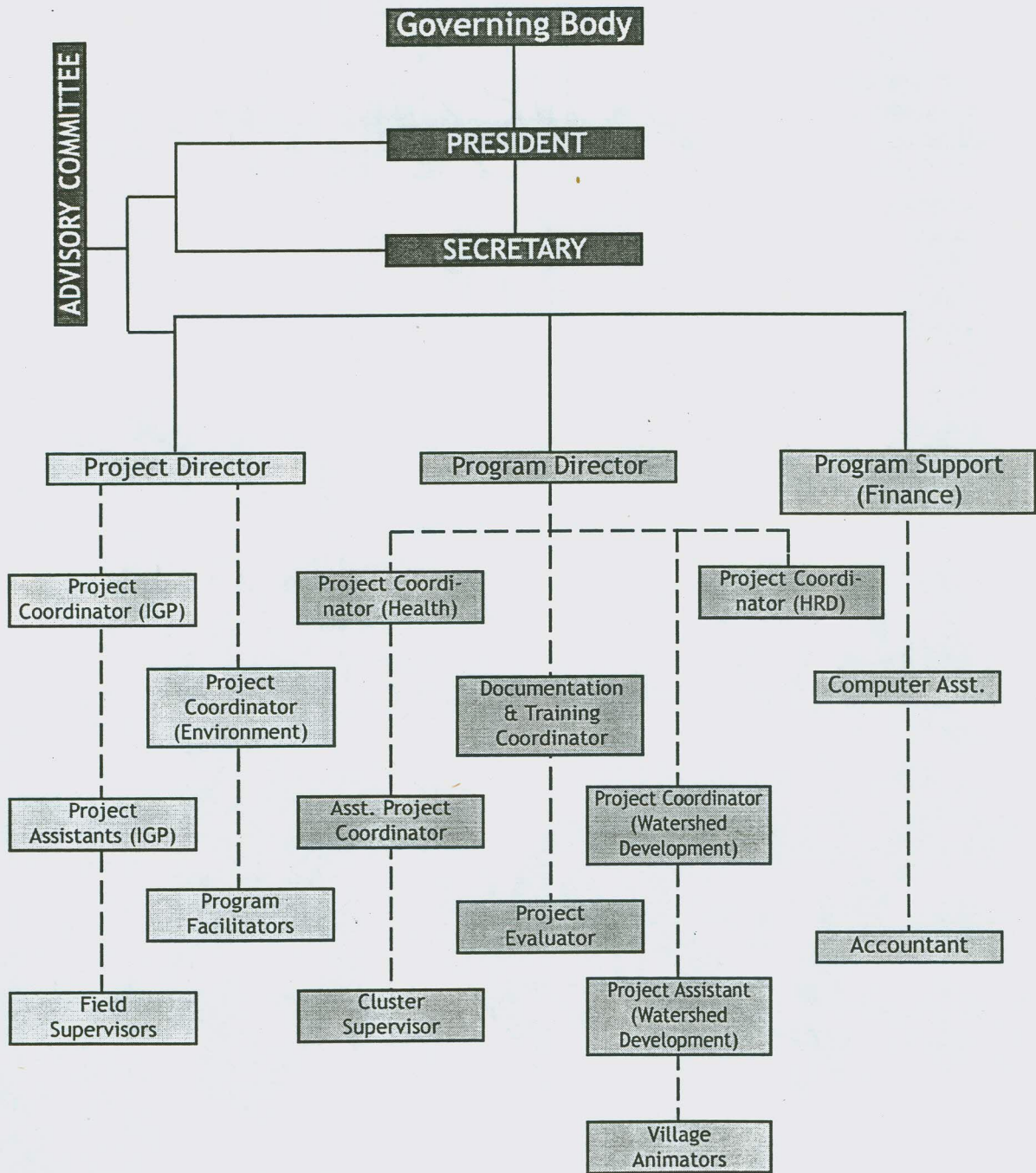
WOSCA

past, continuing, new

programs...



Organogram of WOSCA



Past Activities in Brief



The Women's Organization for Socio-Cultural Awareness (WOSCA) has undertaken a number of activities in Keonjhar district in the year 2001-2002. The activities include organization of camps, workshops, awareness generation programs, cultural programs and income generation programs. A glimpse of those activities is given below:

CAMPS:

A health check-up camp was organized by WOSCA on 12th December, 2001 at Chikina in which 178 patients had come for check-up and were supplied with medicines free of cost. WOSCA had organized a four-day non-residential **family counselling camp** in Silsuan village from 17th to 20th October, 2001. A total of 60 women participated in the program. A **vaccination camp** was also organized by the organization at Dabarchua on 21st January 2001. On the very day a total number of 163 children were given pulse polio vaccine and 92 cases were immunized.



WOSCA with the help of agricultural professionals had organized a **demonstration camp on improved farm technology** in Gopalpur village on 26th October 2001 where nearly 60% farmers of the locality had



taken part. Besides, WOSCA had organized a two day **legal counselling camp** near Juruli of Joda NAC on 20th and 21st September, 2001 which was attended by 50 women labourers. All the participants were enlightened about the existing labor laws and its applicability in the field. They were also encouraged to fight against exploitation in the camp. A four days non-residential **leadership-cum-legal counselling camp** was organized by WOSCA in Gobardhan village of Sadar block from 17th to 20th October, 2001. Twenty women participants were made aware of legal provisions for prevention of atrocities and exploitation in the camp by legal experts.

WORKSHOPS:

WOSCA had organized four workshops in the year 2001-2002. A two-day **workshop on promotion and marketing of**

forest produce was organized by TRIFED in Keonjhar district headquarters on 9th and 10th January 2002. IDA and WOSCA as the coordinating agencies had taken the responsibilities to mobilize the tribal people and local NGOs to



participate in it and exhibit different types of non-timber forest produces for knowledge of

common people. WOSCA had organized a **workshop on waste management** at Keonjhar town on 22nd August, 2001 with 50 participants. Mostly housewives attended the program. The volunteers of WOSCA explained to them about use of waste materials as manure for kitchen gardening. Similarly, a **workshop on Rehabilitation of Child Labourers** was held on 15th November 2001 in Joda town in which 20 child labourers along with their parents participated. The parents were encouraged to provide minimum education and need-based vocational training to their children. WOSCA had also organized a **workshop on Preservation of Tribal Culture** to motivate the *Santalis* living in Gonasika hilly areas to continue their cultural practice and preserve the rich traditional culture of *Santali* folk dance and songs.

SERVICE FOR THE DISABLED:

The volunteers of WOSCA had visited the disabled persons in Kashipur village and had provided them with necessary medicines, and required physio-therapy training was imparted in some cases.



CONSUMER AWARENESS & INTERFACE PROGRAM:

The Project Director ITDA, Dy. Director Agriculture, Chief District Veterinary Officer, The BDO, the Asst. Director Sericulture along with WOSCA members had organized a **Consumer Awareness-cum-Interface Program** in Nischintapur village on 17th July, 2001. In the program, the volunteers of WOSCA and invited resource persons explained the villagers about the procedural methods to fight against the trademen who are usually in habit of exploiting the illiterate mass in their business sphere. The village leaders were clarified about their roles and responsibility.

CULTURAL PROGRAM:

On the occasion of Children's Day, WOSCA had organized a cultural program in the recreation hall in OSME at Keonjhar town. Most of the child participants performed different cultural items, viz., dance, song, drama, etc. The local people and the parents of the participants had extended their full support to raising funds for the program and making it a success.

OTHER ACTIVITIES:

Besides, WOSCA has taken up certain other activities in its operational area which are continuing in nature, viz., Income Generation Programs (Rural Handicrafts, Bakery, Soft toys, Tailoring Units, etc.), Micro Credit Program, Watershed Development, Environment -Conservation Program, Women and Child Development Program, Creches, Vocational Training to SC, ST and OBC boys and girls, etc..

These Continuing programs of the organization are dealt with in details in the following section.

■ ■

A Glimpse of Continuing Activities

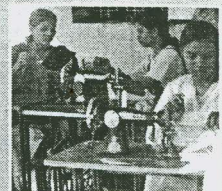


WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT



WATERSHED & ENVIRONMENT

CHILD CARE



VOCATIONAL TRAINING

Several previous years' programs were continued during the reporting year: 2002-2003. The activities included providing continued support to Women's SHGs by linking them to SGSY Scheme. WOSCA remained as the facilitating agency for ITDA's watershed project; and it took steps towards protection of natural environment with people's participation, and

INCOME GENERATION ACTIVITIES:

Self help is the best help. Having understood the statement WOSCA has all along being promoting self help groups among the village women of same class, caste and socio-economic status. The organization has formed two self help groups in 2001, in Chaka village named as Indra Sanchay Samiti and Gramin Vikas Samiti with 10 members in each group. The main work of these two groups is Incense Stick Making. These groups are linked with bank under SGSY scheme and are availing Rs.2,50,000 as loan assistance from Bank of Baroda. The monthly income of the self help groups is Rs.5,000. The Gramin Vikas Samiti was awarded the second place for its effective work on the occasion of Independence Day in 2002. Similarly, WOSCA has formed 30 SHGs in Patna block, 35 SHGs in



Sadar block and 5 SHGs in Ghatagaon block of Keonjhar district. Out of these, 67 groups are female groups and 3 groups are male self help groups. Twentyfive groups have been linked with the bank and 5 groups are working under SGSY scheme. Out of them two female groups have got Kisan Credit Card. The major income generation activity which are taken up by the SHGs are goatery,

beekeeping, badi, papad, pickles, sauce and spice making, incense stick making, woollen garments, applique work, bamboo work, etc. WOSCA also provided marketing support to the SHGs by sending their end products to different fairs and exhibitions and also to the 'Gonasika', a sales outlet given by the District Administration.



Block	SHGs
Patna	30
Sadar	35
Ghatagaon	05
TOTAL:	70
Female SHGs: 67	
Male SHGs: 03	
Bank Linkage: 25 SHGs	
SGSY Linkage: 05 Female SHGs	
Kisan Credit Card: 02 Female SHGs	

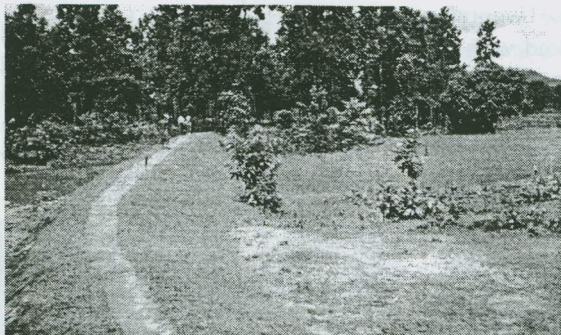
MICRO CREDIT PROGRAM:

People's awareness and participation in WOSCA have been the prime force for proper utilization of bank credit. Even though natural resources are plenty in this district, there is lack of proper knowledge to utilize those resources for growth of income. Realizing this urgency and to uplift the socio-economic condition of the poor villagers, WOSCA has involved itself in the national SGSY program since 2001. WOSCA has formed a number of self help groups in Sadar, Patna, Hatibadi and Ghatagaon blocks of Keonjhar district. The financial assistance through Micro Credit Scheme for smooth running of SHGs are provided by Baitarani Gramya Bank and Bank of India located in Keonjhar. WOSCA has been taking steps to complement the process through training, management, product process assistance and marketing for income generation of the SHG members.



district, agricultural production is less than the average and there are some rural villages where safe drinking water is not available. WOSCA is running Watershed Development Project since 2001, in

association with ITDA (PIA) as chief facilitating agency for Nischintapur - Gopalpur covering an area of 550 hectares. The activities that have been covered under this project in the current year include demonstration on crops like Paddy, Maize & Arhar, Mango plantation over 6.5 Acres of land and Cashew plantation over 14.5



WATERSHED DEVELOPMENT:

Keonjhar, being one of the drought prone districts of the state, draws maximum attention on Watershed Projects with a view to improve the economic status of the inhabitants. Watershed is the water balance to maintain the equilibrium between elements of the natural eco-system, vegetation, land and water on the one hand and human and animal activities on the other. In Keonjhar



Acres which have been done by the volunteers of WOSCA. Pond renovation has been taken up under the program. Besides, nursery raising and goatery as income generating activities have also been

taken up in Nischintapur and Gopalpur. Watershed development, being a drought-proof measure, enhances the capacity building potential of the community by ensuring them a definite source of earning for sustenance. The members of ITDA and WOSCA are organizing meetings at regular intervals to ensure effective implementation of this project.



ENVIRONMENT CONSERVATION:

It is well recognized that the management of the environment requires the participation of people as they are closest to it and have a stake in its preservation. Human society is fully responsible for environment degradation. Keeping this in view, WOSCA has taken steps to protect the environment with active participation of people. It has organized NEAC program at Gujarati Samaj Keonjhar on 7th August 2002 with 18 NGO representatives and 70 SHG leaders from rural areas of Sadar Block. It has also facilitated formation of 'Bana Surakhya Samitees' with a view to conserve and protect the forest and environment. The organization invites environmentalists from time to time to explain the rural people about the cause of environmental degradation and relationship between protection of forest and ecological upgradation. The operational areas of WOSCA are prone to shift (Podu) cultivation, as a result of which vast tracts of forest are being devastated. The volunteers of WOSCA and the resource persons educated people to use organic manure and scientific methods of cultivation for higher production in their own field and to discontinue shift cultivation.

WOMEN & CHILD DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM:

Women's Empowerment:

Rural women in our country suffer from being both economically and socially 'invisible'. To counter this situation, WOSCA has formed some women self help groups to empower them economically. These groups have regular meetings, interactive sessions and experience sharing on various problems faced by them. Realizing the heavy exploitation by the middlemen and money lenders, women groups have mobilized their savings to a common fund. WOSCA also organizes legal literacy workshops for these women's groups and promotes leadership quality among them.



Creche Centre:

With increasing economic pressures more and more women have to take 'out of home' jobs. Especially, rural mothers struggle hard not only in the fields but also to collect fuel, fodder and water. Thus their time 'out of home' is much more and majority of them are forced to either take their infants along or to leave them under the supervision of elder children who stay at home, or even alone. Realizing this WOSCA is running a Creche Centre in Nischintapur of Sadar block of Keonjhar district since 2000. A total of 25 children

(16 boys and 9 girls) are being taken care of in this centre under the supervision of two Balsevikas/Ayas. In this Creche Centre children and ailing mothers are provided with nutritional food and medicines. Timely health check-up, immunization, vaccination are also done by the volunteers of WOSCA. The children are also being provided with pre-school education, mid-day meals, in-door games, etc. The State Social Welfare Board provides financial assistance to run this centre successfully.

Vocational Training:

Most of the target groups of WOSCA are rural women and girls who are educated but unemployed. Hence, in order to provide some employ-



ment opportunities to the educated, dropouts and uneducated rural youth and women, WOSCA has initiated various vocational training programs like tailoring, embroidery, knitting, fabric printing, soft toys making, bakery, etc. This program is continuing since 1993. Thirty girls are enrolled in each batch of tailoring and 20 girls in each batch of soft toy making as well as bakery. The tailoring and embroidery unit is affiliated to The USHA International which conducts examination every year since 1994 and awards certificates to the students. Out of them 8 students have started their own tailoring unit and are able to earn Rs.1000 to Rs.1100 per month. WOSCA also provides half-yearly training program on Diesel Mechanic to SC/ST boys and Spinning & Weaving to SC/ST girls. Similarly, the organization provides Tie & Die and Tailoring training to OBC boys and girls. After successful completion of the course the students are involved in SHGs to take up a cooperative initiative on Textile.



Current Year Activities



The new activities/programs taken up during 2002-2003 correspond to: Health and Nutrition Interventions in 26 villages, Bio-diversity Conservation program in 15 villages, legal literacy, vocational training especially on food processing and garment making; awareness on HIV/AIDS, Waste Management; Sensitization of PRI members, and so on. Brief outlines of these activities are presented below.

INTEGRATED NUTRITION & HEALTH PROJECT-II:

Integrated Nutrition & Health Project-II has been implemented in 26 villages called Demonstration sites of Patna & Jhumpura blocks of Keonjhar district since 1st March, 2003 by WOSCA with the active support of CARE-Orissa, ICDS and Health Department of Government of Orissa. The main objectives of this program is to improve the nutritional and health status of pregnant women and lactating mothers, of children within the age bracket of 0-6 years, to reduce the



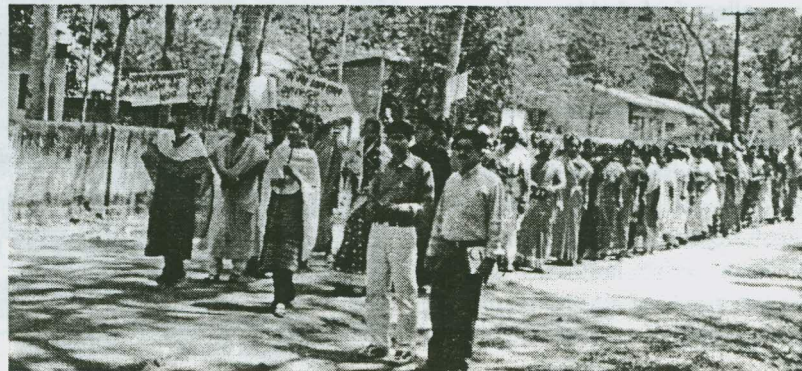
at AWC during pregnancy and lactating period along with child care, new born care, immunization, breast feeding, supplementary

feeding, etc. Another important activity under this program is to facilitate the Nutrition & Health Day (NHD) which is observed in a fixed day every month in Anganwadi centres. On this day ration (food) is distributed to the pregnant and lactating



rate of IMR & MMR, and to sustain this process. The project is implemented to facilitate & streamline the access of target groups towards service provided at Anganwadi centres in village level. The activities undertaken under this program include Mother's Meeting, Capacity Building of CBOs, Service Providers & Change Agents, etc. Change Agents are basically selected from the village community to voluntarily spend their time to motivate 15-20 households each regarding availing of regular service

mothers, antenatal check-up is done and immunization with help education tips is provided to the target groups in the villages.





WORKSHOP ON ESSENTIAL DRUGS:

A workshop on Essential Drugs was organized by OVHA, Bhubaneswar in collaboration with WOSCA on 27th March, 2003. A total of 40 NGO personnel attended the workshop. Mr. Alok Kumar Dey, CDMO, Keonjhar, inaugurated the workshop by lighting the lamp. Dr. A. K. Samal from OVHA was the invited guest. The resource persons explained the participants about the use of essential drugs. Dr. A. K. Samal highlighted on the necessity of taking medicines at proper intervals and side effects of drugs. This workshop was supported by B.F.W., Germany.

HEALTH CAMP:

A health check-up camp was organized by WOSCA last year in Ghatagaon block of Keonjhar district in December 2002. A total of 278 patients came for check-up in this camp. The health camp was conducted by two doctors from the government hospital. They referred some critical cases to the district hospital. Medicines were provided free of cost to the participants. The doctors advised the patients to follow different preventive measures to improve their health status. Volunteers of WOSCA also educated the participants on small family norm, child immunization and motivated them to adopt birth spacing methods.

AIDS AWARENESS CAMP:

Good and sound physical health reflects a healthy mind. Good health prevails in a sound physical and social environment, in which man lives. In this context, an AIDS Awareness Camp was organized by the volunteers of WOSCA in Patna block of Keonjhar district in November 2002. About 57 participants attended the camp to know more about the most hazardous health problem. The invited resource persons and doctors informed the participants about the transmission, spread and prevention of HIV/AIDS and were motivated them to work for their communities and undertake family level counselling to spread the message.

WORKSHOP ON WOMEN LITERACY (SRC):

A workshop was organized by WOSCA on Women Literacy on 16th March 2003 at Keonjhar. A total number of 78 women



participants attended the program who hailed from different villages. The main aim of the camp was to sensitize the mothers to send their children, both boys and girls, regularly to school. The resource persons made the participants aware about the importance of education and motivated the uneducated women to join adult literacy program.

TRAINING FOR NEWLY ELECTED PRIs:

An one-day training program for newly elected PRIs was organized on 19th December, 2002 by Panchayatiraj Sadhan Kendra, CYSD, Bhubaneswar with the active support of WOSCA. All newly

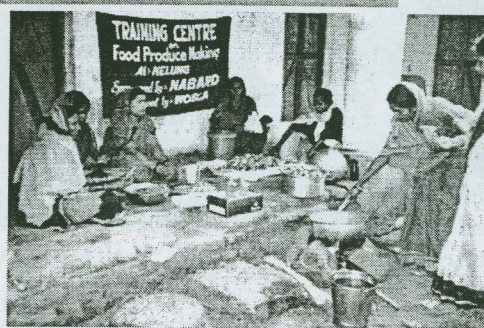


elected Ward Members and Sarpanchs from Raghunathpur GP, Basantapur GP and Pichulabeda GP of Sadar and Ghatagaon blocks attended the program. The main aim behind this training program was to sensitize the PRI representatives towards their duties and responsibilities. Many people from Gopalpur village also participated in the program. They were also motivated to extend their maximum support to the people in distress and work towards the upliftment of their community.

BIO-DIVERSITY CONSERVATION PROJECT:

WOSCA has started the Bio-Diversity Conservation Project from February, 2003 with the support from Centre for Environment Education (CEE), Delhi, under Small Grants Program (SGP). The main target area of this project is Raghunathpur GP of Sadar block of Keonjhar district, comprising of sixteen villages. The major objectives of this project are to promote sustainable development among the tribals through participatory bio-diversity conservation program, to enhance and conserve the traditional methods of environment eco-system, to undertake capacity building activities of tribal community regarding conservation of eco-system. Adopting PRA technique, a base line survey was conducted by WOSCA to know the existing conservation system that is closely associated with people's livelihood.

The organization is planning to undertake some more activities, viz., Nursery Raising, Promoting Kitchen Garden and Medicinal Plantation, Providing Horticultural Support, Organic Farming, and Promoting Sericulture as an alternative to traditional cropping pattern in near future in its four Demonstration Sites covering 16 villages in Keonjhar district.



TAILORING & FOOD PROCESSING:

A training centre on Tailoring & Food Produce Making has been established on 22nd April, 2003 in Nelung village in Sadar block of Keonjhar district by WOSCA. This program is supported by NABARD, under ARWIND Scheme. Two groups have been formed with 30 trainees (15 in each group). The trainees are trained on preparing of pickles, sauce, jam, jelly, etc., under Food Produce Training Program. Similarly, under tailoring program the students are trained

on making of blouse, petticoat, salwar, punjabi, dresses, etc. The main aim of this training program is to enhance the skills of village women and girls on tailoring and to provide them with some kind of income



generation activities, so that they can set up individual units for their livelihood. Two self help groups named Mahapat and Srikrishna have been formed and they are earning Rs.3,500 to Rs.4,500 per month.

A mid-term evaluation by NABARD has shown appropriate increase in skill development of the food processing unit by which the members are able to earn Rs.34,800 in six months.

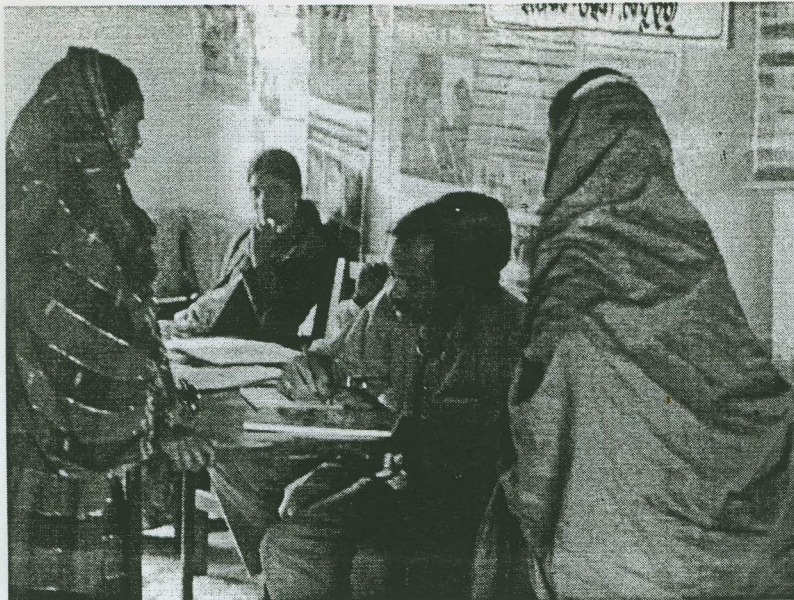
HEALTH & LEGAL LITERACY CAMPS:

This year, WOSCA organized four Health-cum-Legal Literacy Camps from 16th September to 30th September, 2002 in four villages, viz., Khireitangiri, Baunsuli, Aaharposi, and Palaspanga of Patna and Sadar block. The duration of these camps were four days and about 45 to 50 participants attended each camp.

In these camps the resource persons educated the participants on healthy habits, personal hygiene, antenatal and post-natal care, proper immunization, etc. They also emphasized on maintenance of good sanitary habits. Many a times people are not aware of the legal provisions & legal formalities. For instance, people



may not know where to approach the lawyer, or may be unable to find their way in side the court. They may also find the court procedure confusing.



In these camps the resource persons and the volunteers of WOSCA informed the participants about the legal provisions which can be availed by them at the time of need. The participants were also motivated to raise their voice against atrocities and exploitation. The organization is obliged to Women Dairy Project, OMFED, Keonjhar, for extending support and guidance.

WASTE MANAGEMENT:

Waste materials are causing serious health problems in rural as well as in urban areas. A workshop was organized by WOSCA on Waste Management in December, 2002 to inform the villagers about the best use of waste materials. A total of 53 participants attended the workshop. Most of them were women. The invited resource persons informed the participants about the innovative methods of management of household waste and how to use the waste materials in the kitchen garden by making compost pits.

A team of women volunteers continued their effort to motivate the people residing in different parts of Keonjhar town to prepare manure out of the waste materials.

Besides preparation of compost pit ideas about productive use of household waste materials were discussed at the family level.

CULTURAL PROGRAM:

To make the rural and tribal youth active, WOSCA has initiated steps towards the rejuvenation of rural and tribal culture. Through cultural programs like drama, dance, music, song, etc., the organization makes necessary arrangements to provide scope to the rural youth to participate actively. It seems that people are more responsive to the informations conveyed through the cultural programs and they are more prone to adopt it from the examples given by the characters. Therefore, it is an easy way to create awareness and motivate the rural and slum people. WOSCA organizes the cultural programs at regular intervals at different places focusing on the major issues confronting the common people in the society.

SAMADHAN CELL

An advocacy cell called 'SAMADHAN CELL' provides legal aid to women in distress in Keonjhar district. As a member of this cell, WOSCA has been providing counselling and legal services to the women who face problems like dowry death, harassment, rape, eve-teasing, etc., in their daily lives. SAMADHAN CELL had celebrated its 6th Annual Day on 8th March, 2003 (International Women's Day) in Keonjhar District. The District Collector had inaugurated the function by lighting the lamp. A total of 43 participants including the DPRO, DIPRO, NGO activists, District Panchayat Officer and other members of SAMADHAN CELL attended the program with great zeal. Some cases on dowry, eve-teasing and harassment were presented by the participants which were carefully heard by the resource persons. Certain valuable suggestions were given by the resource persons to eradicate the problems presented by the participants.



READYMADE GARMENTS MAKING:

WOSCA has started a training program on Readymade Garments to upgrade the skills of rural women and adolescent girls under NORAD scheme in its Bhubaneswar Branch since April, 2002. This program was supported by Mahila Samabaya Vikash Nigam of the WCD Department, Govt. of Orissa. Ms. Chandarani Mohanty, DSWO, Khurda visited the program and advised WOSCA to form Self Help Groups. By respecting her view, WOSCA formed two Self Help Groups, each comprising of 15 members. These two groups sell their products in nearby locality and are able to earn some money for themselves.



FAIR & EXHIBITION:

To exhibit the rural products made by Self Help Groups in the operational area of WOSCA, it has participated in many fairs and exhibitions in and outside of the state. WOSCA had opened a stall in the Micro Finance Convention, organized by CARE Orissa, from 27th February to 2nd March, 2003 at Bhubaneswar.

Besides, the organization has also exhibited its items in fairs like Gramshree Mela, Bali Yatra, Puri Festival, Utscha-Bhubaneswar, TRIFED-Delhi, etc., during the reporting year.

WOSCA has observed keen interest of the Visitors to the Melas and Exhibitions on the rural products, especially because they are largely craft work and inexpensive.

My Dream's Fulfilled!



Mrs. Minati Malla, W/o: Mr. Nilamani Malla, 29 years, resides in Santipalli of Saheed Nagar, Bhubaneswar.

Minati has two sons, aged 8 & 6 years, presently studying in Sri Aurobindo School. She belongs to a poor farmer family and has studied up to 10th class in her own native village. She lives in a Kucha house in Santipalli and possesses no land for cultivation. She has one brother and one sister.

Her husband works as a X-ray technician in a private clinic and gets around Rs.1,500 per month which is not sufficient to meet the needs of the family including school fees of Rs.250 per month of their two sons. In order to meet the increasing pressure of household expenditure, she took up the training program on 'Tailoring' in WOSCA under NORAD Scheme. She regularly attended the training program for six months from June, 2002 to November, 2002, and has undergone training on 'Cutting and Tailoring' for Readymade Garments production. After completion of the training program she has managed to purchase an old sewing machine from her household savings. Now she is earning Rs.700 to Rs.1,000 per month by stitching dress materials (blouse, petticoat and children's garments, etc.) in her own house, by getting orders from nearby tailoring shops.

She is also a member of a SHG named 'Mahila Milan' in which 15 women members of Santipalli are contributing Rs.30 per month each. When asked about the future of her sons, she said, "I wish to make them doctors".

I'm Independent Now!

Mrs. Arati Nayak, W/o: Mr. Gangadhar Nayak, 34 years, resides in a Kucha house with AC roof in Santipalli of Saheed Nagar, Bhubaneswar.

Arati has two sons, aged 15 & 12 years, presently studying in Govt. High School, Saheed Nagar. Her husband works as a driver in a private firm which manufactures nets, and gets a salary of Rs. 1500 per month. In order to acquire skills on income generation, she enrolled herself in the training program on Readymade Garment making, organized by WOSCA at Saheed Nagar, under NORAD Scheme. She underwent the six months course on "Cutting and Tailoring for Readymade Garments production" from June, 2002 to November, 2002. After completion of the training program she could arrange an old sewing machine to pursue her tailoring activities. Now she is earning Rs. 500 to Rs. 700 per month. She is at present stitching blouse, petticoat and other dress materials in her own house as per orders of local tailoring shops. Mrs. Arati Nayak is thus able to supplement her husband's income.

She is also a member of a SHG named 'Mahila Milan' in which 15 women members of Santipalli are contributing Rs. 30 per month each. She has aspirations to enroll her two sons in Engineering College.

When asked about her future plans, she said "I want to expand my activities. I have already purchased a new Sewing Machine from my own income. I may buy another in next few months. I shall invite other needy women from my community to join my small enterprise. I'm independent now!"

WHERE WAS EACH RUPEE SPENT?

