

## WORLD WATER DAY CELEBRATION

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Udyama

*Dated 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2010*

*Vanue: Ghodar GP, Titlagarh, Bolangir, Orissa (India)*

With community, UDYAMA organized a small get together on the eve of World Water Day celebration dated March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2010 Participants were mainly from women leader, members from women self help group, adolescents, children, ANM, member from panchayatraj institution etc School teachers..



The entire occasion was divided into few segments

- **Community actions,**
- **Mass rally**
- **Group reflection.**
- **Initiating a citizen action**

At the outset participants were engaged in basti Safai (approach road clean, Clean the disposed water at tube well and dug wells, in the villages of Ghodar GP. at panchayat head quarter just 10 KM from revenue division head quart Titlgada of Bolangir district. Genesis of celebrating WWD at a Village Ghodar, GP head quarter to involve women towards community resilience process, accelerate community and citizen action on safe water use and sanitation, enhance the self/community capability towards adaptation to water related issues due to climate change disaster risk reduction and livelihoods resilience.



Titlagada is one of the most hottest place in Orissa and India where temperature goes up 55 degree celcius in mid May. This area is the water and food stress area combined with a hub of Distress migration, malnutrition, distress sale. The impact of recurrent Drought and flash floods have pushed the are into chronic poverty. The entire pogram was manage by Smt. Harapriya a tribal women of hodar and facilitated by Sri.Pankaj panigrahi of UDYAMA. Hilight of the small event is to minimize health hazards, contagious water borne diseases, like diarrhea, filarial, gastroentits and other water related diseases.

- Use safe drinking water and sanitation
- Ensure Clean and green village
- Ensure to keep clean the water sources
- Use fresh food
- Use misquotes
- Resilience to lives and livelihoods
- Ensuring governance and mainstreaming development

Local ANM, she highlighted that most of the diseases are occurring due to the water, food which are directly transmitted when contaminated water is consumed. Hence water source has to be protected from all form of contamination and we should make our surrounding clean.



## World Water Day Celebration from Network Partners front at different parts:

### ASHA

ASHA observed International Water Day on 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2010 at Rengali in Redhakhol block and at Lipinda in Jujumara block of Sambalpur district, Odisha, India with cooperation of Anchalika Mahila Vikash Sangathan, Charmal and Udyama, Bhubaneswar.

In Rengali meeting more than 260 women, villagers, tribals, representatives of SHG, GP Including ABDO, PS member, local forester and teachers have participated.

Similarly in Lipinda meeting more than 135 persons participated. ASHA organized the meeting bearing all the logistic and SHGs contributed the food for the participants.

### *Highlights*

Women leaders invariably expressed that when a single drop of water is not available in the entire Redhakhol region, the International Water Day was being observed. Presently only source of water for human beings and animals is tube well. Due to current year drought all most all water sources have dried up, as a result local villagers, plants, animals, wildlife's will face real water crisis in the coming months. Mrs. Sumitra Nayak, leader of Langabahal SHG appealed all the participants to raise their voice and demand water rights. All the people should first think water for plants, animals, birds, wild animals, snakes including elephants. We human beings can manage anyhow and can also purchase bottle water but what they will do? There is no water for them. She said it should be the responsibility of each villagers, GP, block and Govt. to create special provision for these beings. She encouraged all the participants to keep water in open pots and in some places to the vicinity of their houses and villages so the other beings can drink and survive. Mrs. Surubali Majhi told there is enough water but we have no plan to store. If we harvest water during rainy session, during summer we can use it. Since crisis of water is often faced by women including lifting, carrying water is an additional responsibility of household women, so they emphasized to aware other women to organized and demand water rights. Some of the female participants highlighted when there was dense forest; water was available in stream and village round the year. Now the scenario has completely changed due to climatic change and environmental degradation. Let's protect and generate forest in each village so we can get water. An old woman told we can get sons and daughters but we cannot get water to survive our children. We quarrel for water in villages. We also steal water. We wait long hours to get a pitcher of water from tube well. We even wait sleepless night to get a bucket of water from dug well. But no enough water is recharged in well. Mrs. Droupadi told water is our life. Our hunger, crop failure, indebtedness, migration increases because there is no water to grow more crop, kitchen garden, plant more trees. All the women marched the village with slogans ***"water is our life". Let's save it and demand it"*** and initiate mass awareness generation and campaign and our rights to water.

### Action for Better Living and Environment (ABLE)

On the eve of World Water Day ABLE observed WWD-2010 thru organizing a village level seminar in Kendrapara. The main objective of the seminar was focusing on **localized water issues and problems** the participants share there experience how the region was a water surplus few decades



back, they also express the scarcity of water was never experience since 80s but since then it has been increasing day by day. few of the participant express if necessary stem will not taken in war front, day will come the whole coastal region will face water scarcity during prost monsoon like the western Orissa. at the end the participant vowed to preserve and take possible actions in preserving safe water sources. More than 60 men and women were participated in the seminar.

### Action for Protection of Wild Animals (APOWA )

In order to increase the awareness with regard to water resources conservation, APOWA (Action for Protection of Wild Animals) in association with EARTH, Pattamundai have come forward to observe the World Water Day on 22nd of March 2010 at Sandhapalii, Kendrapara district.

The highlight of this programme was the wide range of enthusiasts. There were children from different schools have been participated in essay competitions on this year's theme of *'clean water for a healthy world'*. Many dignitaries have also participated in this observation in the public meeting at Sandhapalli on 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2010. The chief guest of the programme was Dr Mihir Pattanaik, Forest Range officer, Rajnagar Mangrove Forest Division. Dr Pattnaik explained the extent of the threat of ground water, the ways to combat the problem, awareness building approach, some alternate technologies for supply of safe water such as Rain-Water Harvesting, and others. Mr. Basanta Kumar Nayak, secretary, EARTH delivered the welcome address followed by the talked by Mr. Manoj Kumar Satapathy, Eco club teacher, Ucha Sikhya



Srama Arua Kadalibna. In his speech, Water is critical resource of human consumption, agricultural use or sanitation. If more sustainable ways of water use are not put into place without delay, we will have to face serious water crises. The chief speaker of the programme was Mr. Akshya Kumar Biswal, journalist, The Dharitri, Pattamundai. Highlighting the importance of the day, he stressed upon the need of ensuring access of common man to healthy environment and clean drinking water. The president of APOWA, Mr. Bijaya Kumar Rout was presided over

the meeting. Finally, the chief guest distributed prizes to winner students of the essay competition. The vote of thanks presented by Mr. Gyana Ranjan Dhal. Among others villagers, teachers, CBOs, youths and school students participated in the program. At the end of the programme, each participant pledge to conserve the water resources.

At the end the women and WSHGs members took the oath to make villages and surrounding clean from now onward.