

A brief Report of One Billion Rising 2015-2016

On the occasion of World Human Rights Day

10th December 2015 at Ekamra Haat, Bhubaneswar



Background: One Billion Rising (OBR) campaign is a global call to action to stop violence against women and girls. It is about connecting all efforts across borders and boundaries to create a safer world for women and girls. The call for One Billion Rising Campaign has been given by the well known feminist activist, playwright and actor Eve Ensler. It aims to mobilize and bring out one billion people on the streets across the world on 14th February, 2016, to sing, dance and protest, to end violence against women and girls **ONCE AND FOR ALL**.

One Billion Rising is the biggest mass action to end violence against women in human history. The campaign, launched on Valentine's Day 2012, began as a call to action based on the staggering statistic that 1 in 3 women on the planet will be beaten or raped during her lifetime. With the world population at 7 billion, this adds up to more than **ONE BILLION WOMEN AND GIRLS**. On 14 February 2013, people across the world came together to express their outrage, strike, dance, and **RISE** in defiance of the injustices women suffer, demanding an end at last to violence against women. On 14 February 2014, **One Billion Rising for Justice** focused on the issue of justice for all survivors of gender violence, and highlighted the impunity that lives at the intersection of poverty, racism, war, the plunder of the environment, capitalism, imperialism, and patriarchy. For the third year of the campaign,

One Billion Rising's global coordinators chose the theme of "Revolution" as an escalation of the demand for justice, and to build upon the massive efforts of communities worldwide that also looked at the roots and causes of violence as part of their call for justice. On (or around) 14 February 2015, millions of activists in over 200 countries gathered to Rise for REVOLUTION, to change the paradigm, demand accountability, justice and systematic CHANGE. We are rising to show we are determined to create a new kind of consciousness - one where violence will be resisted until it is unthinkable. In 2016, the theme of Revolution continues with a call to focus on marginalized women and to bring national and international focus to their issues; to bring in new artistic energy; to amplify Revolution as a call for system change to end violence against women and girls; to call on people to rise for others, and not just for ourselves.

This year in Odisha, the OBR campaign was launched on 25th November 2015 with a rally for revolution involving college youth, domestic workers, dalits and other marginalized communities. Subsequently we have programmes in colleges and universities.

In 10th December 2015 we organized a grand programme with Sangat South Asia Coordinator Ms. Kamla Bhasin and other cultural programmes including all the sections of society, youth from schools and colleges, civil society representatives, persons with disabilities, feminist poets, writers, dancers, folk music of Odisha etc.

On the occasion of World Human rights Day NAWO Odisha celebrated OBR by doing the following events;:

- Integrated OBR campaign in existing programs of the organisation
- Printed of leaf let, posters having concepts on OBR campaign
- Inaugurated two books named 'Agraganya' and 'Annanya'
- Involved celebrities, cine artists, govt. and non govt. organization members in campaign
- Involved veteran writers to write on the issue
- Involved youth, colleges and students in the campaign

- Involved domestic workers from the slums of Bhubaneswar as the representative of marginalized sections of the society.

Inaugural and Address by the guests:

The programme began with two dramas by the children of an orphanage and participants of an NGO. Both the acts were addressed to the women facing violence in different forms. Then a keynote address given by Ms Lalita Missal, State Coordinator NAWO. She welcomed the participants on behalf of the organizers and apprised them regarding the purpose of the gathering. The programme was attended by approximately 650 participants from diverse sectors like students, civil society groups, trade unionists, mass leaders, Sarvodaya leaders and many SHG women, domestic workers, lecturers, professors, cine artists, Ms. Jayanti Rath, Director Doordarshan, Ms. Snigdha Pangrahi, member Mahila Commission etc. She requested the guest of honors to come on the stage. The eminent guests of that day were, Kamla Bhasin, renowned feminist and social activist and Coordinator of OBR of South Asia, Ms. Finnola, Trocaire Ireland, Ms. Jharana Das cine artist, Mr. Biswanath Mohapatra, feminist writer of Odisha, Sarpanch Andhari Majhi, tribal activist, Mr. Askhaya Kumar Biswal, Regional Director Oxfam, Ms. Manorama Khatua, fighter for POSCO movement. Then she requested the Ms. Sneha Mishra member of NAWO, Secretary Aaina to brief the House on the significance of the OBR campaign. She also recounted the history of the campaign and also talked in some details the important role played by different organizations of various sphere worldwide. Again she spoke about the concept of the One Billion Rising campaign. She also explained the need for this campaign at this juncture where the state authorities such as the police, medical fraternity and common people in general are so apathetic to the violence that is taking place all over the state.

Two feminist books published by NAWO were formally inaugurated by the guest of honors on the dais. Ms. Pramila Swain, convener NAWO elaborated about The Book 'Agraganya'. She told about the women's contribution in greater social movement and the existence women's movement in Odisha. Again she explained that the book was the recognition towards the contribution of

Odia women for our society. The second book, '*Anananya*' was portrayed by Ms. Pragyan Bastia, NAWO. She said that the book was all about the women achievers recognized and felicitated by NAWO every year in International Women's Day.

All the guests spoke a few words to encourage the participants and their perspectives towards human rights day. Then the chief speaker, Kamla Bhasin addressed the mass. She started her speech by saluting the women of Odisha for their contribution and struggle for rights. In the Human Rights Day, she made all remember that the preamble of Indian Constitutions which says that all human of all race and caste have the equal rights. She strongly addressed all to remember all " Everyone is born equal and free in dignity and rights" As all human including men and women are equal and all have the equal rights. Still then the women of the nation have to fight and protest to avail the right as their rights. She also spoke about patriarchy and how the system imposes women subordination. The patriarchal structure and ideology triumph everywhere in the world which create violence in the society She also linked her speech to the One Billion Rising, the global call to end violence against women. She at the end of her speech shouted slogans as slogans has a amazing effect to raise awareness. Her slogans were as follows:

- Rising for climate justice as a fundamental right of nature and people.
- Standing up for marginalized communities - tribal people, dalits, minority religious communities, displaced and migrants, single women, the people with multiple sexual orientation, disabled people etc.
- Against war and militarized violence, against communal and caste violence and above all against Violence against Women and Girls.
- Inclusion of voices of the youth - girls and boys in democratization of national development agenda.
- Against globalization and corporatization of resources and peoples' habitat and livelihoods.

After the enlighten speech inspired the mass of diverse sectors. Participants got a new feministic perspective of observing the human rights day. After that some of the feminist writers recited their poems. They were Ms. Hiranmayee, Ms. Chirashri, Ms. Aprna. Their poetries shows the women's resist and also accomplishment.

Some youth from colleges of Bhatli, Bargarh did an inspiring act on gender based violence. Which followed by another small drama on realization and recognition of unpaid care work that women generally perform every day to build and prepare men to contribute towards nation's economy.

At the end of the event everybody along with our guests danced on OBR international Anthem to rise for women. Then Ms. Pujafula Pattanayak gave vote of thanks with a group song 'chaltey jayenge': walk together produce collectively to show the way towards happy and violence free lives, written and composed by Kamla Bhasin.