

ANNUAL REPORT

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उन्नत भारत अभियान  
UNNAT BHARAT ABHIYAN

**ACADEMIC SESSION 2018-19**

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**I. GRAM SABHA AT AMRENDRAPUR**

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The student team of Unnat Bharat Abhiyan has identified various problems that persist in rural India that require urgent attention. Inadequate hygiene and sanitation facilities, inequitable access to education especially digital literacy and need for skill development to instill entrepreneurial spirit are some of the most grave issues plaguing villages.

The field research revealed some distressing aspects about the socio-economic fabric of the village. It was revealed that the education system is grossly inadequate due to poor student-teacher ratio leading to shallow understanding of concepts among children. Caste discrimination is rife as lower-caste students are prevented from sitting in the same class. There is gross inadequacy of WASH (water, sanitation and hygiene) facilities in Amrendrapur including lack of access to sanitary napkins. There is no hospital or pharmacy within a 15km radius of the village as well. Employment opportunities are scarce and the low-level of skills along with lack of self-help groups has aggravated the situation.

These problems motivated the student team to identify and adopt a village in Odisha named Amrendrapur under the Gram Sabha programme. A detailed interactive session was conducted along with a field research. The research was aimed at identifying the problems faced by villagers in order to better equip NLUO's UBA Cell to address these problems. In the interactive session held, students spoke to the villagers about the vision and mission of UBA and how they intended to work in areas of women empowerment, education, health and sanitation, modern agricultural methods and access to government schemes.

Various solutions were posed to the villagers including setting up self-help groups for generating self-employment opportunities for the rural unemployed youth. Moreover, women were given suggestions as to how they could develop their skills alongside setting up self-help groups to increase household income. There is a persistent drainage problem in the village as well. The experience has painfully revealed the urgent need to address the prevailing inequality and marginalisation. It has given a roadmap for the student team for the problems that need to be addressed and the solutions that need to be implemented. It is our goal to continue working in these areas to improve the overall socio-economic conditions of Amrendrapur.

### II. PLANTATION DRIVE IN A SCHOOL OF NARAJ VILLAGE

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The plants for the plantation drive were arranged from nursery in the Cuttack and the equipment for gardening was adequately arranged from the gardeners of the university thus making the activity more economical. Thereafter, the members of UBA, NLUO took permission from the school staff and performed the plantation. This was undoubtedly a memorable experience for all the members. The school staff and the school children also supported and cheered the efforts of the UBA, NLUO. Thereafter, an interactive session was conducted by the members of UBA, NLUO with the students and school staff in which the importance of plants in our lives was explained.

While performing the plantation drive, the members of UBA, NLUO realised that medicinal plants and their various products can be viewed as an important commodity items for sustainable economic development of the rural region. Therefore, a plantation activity of the medicinal plants was proposed by the members of UBA, NLUO, in which the villagers can be explained about the economic importance of the medicinal plants.

### III. FACT FINDING AND SURVEY

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UBA cell NLUO did a survey on livelihood of people at Amrendrapur village which is in Cuttack district. The main reason behind this survey was to identifying and understanding of challenges faced by the villagers and to facilitate challenging resources towards the problems of village. We the committee want transformational change in rural areas. We did the survey among the villagers. These surveys were made with to analyse sanitation, electricity, ration, and access to public welfare schemes, education and various other basic amenities in the village and measures that can be taken to improve. We went their houses and saw the reality of their life. They co-operate us in this survey and gave all the information which we wanted.

Enthusiasm of villagers encouraged us to do the survey. We will continue this survey yearly so that we can know how our survey helps them to change their livelihood. For the Covid situation it's not easy to conduct an offline survey so our plan is to conduct an online survey. After knowing the availability of internet and technology then we will proceed with our survey.