

# ANNUAL REPORT

2017-2018



**United Artists' Association**

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### **Introduction:**

United Artists' Association (UAA) facilitates community empowerment and provides support and strengthens people's organizations in its area of operation. UAA has been working since last 40 years in different areas especially in Ganjam district, Odisha to support the people affected by natural calamities, extinct poverty, encourage people's initiatives and support activities carried out to empower women and girl children. UAA was established in the year 1964 by a group of youth dedicated to help the people affected by natural calamities and for social transformation. Since then it has been working with exploited groups of society comprising of fisher folk, tribal, dalits, farmers and other back ward communities with special focus on women and children. UAA is headquartered at Ganjam in the district of Ganjam, Odisha at a distance of 140 Km towards south from the State capital Bhubaneswar.

### **Legal Status:**

United Artists' Association (UAA) is a registered organization under the Societies Registration Act of 1860 since 6<sup>th</sup> September 1967. It is registered with the Ministry of Home Affairs in 1982.

### **History, Philosophy, Aims and Strategy:**

Earlier to 1964 various social welfare activities were carried out by different youth in Ganjam village. But in 1965 different youth groups formally came together to work unitedly. They aimed for the development of the area and to promote and spread the culture by performing art. They raised funds by performing various cultural programmes & drama at different areas to be used for welfare, emergency relief and establishment of library and educational institutions. Thus the organization was named as –**UNITED ARTISTS' ASSOCIATION**. Volunteers in their leisure time carried out development activities. Voluntarism was corner stone of the organization. The founding members of the organization got themselves involved in generating awareness among the local people, Fisher folk and Farmers about the environmental hazards caused by a chemical industry. To prevent water and air pollution some important legal and administrative measures were taken by the Government due to public pressurization for more than a decade.

Up to the year 1977 UAA worked exclusively with its own funds. In 1978, the first government funded Balwadi and Crèche programme was taken up. During the next decade UAA stepped up its involvement in the rural areas, introduced a process of participatory

development enabling the disadvantaged sections of society to be active partners in the process of development to improve their quality of life. UAA continued the socio-economic development of different communities by expanding its area of operation with external funding, in a phased manner. UAA gradually realised the value and importance of managing the projects and programs professionally in order to achieve its short-term and long-term objectives through time-bound intervention. By including more & more sophisticated, well-trained and dedicated youth in to the well established UAA family, the organization gradually stepped forward towards success. To achieve the set objectives various programmes with development approach were taken up which included community organization, education, health and sanitation, protection of environment, training, social forestry, disaster preparedness, livelihood and application of appropriate technology. UAA has adopted a 'bottom-up' strategy to ensure the involvement of the community in planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the programme.

**Vision:**

Establishing a non-exploitative, gender and human rights sensitive, environment friendly, hunger free, self-reliant, healthy and knowledge based society in Odisha.

**Mission:**

- Organizing the poor of the society to raise their voice against the injustice.
- Support the neglected sections to shield and endorse their livelihood.
- Facilitating the needy in leading a better life.
- Lobbying and advocacy with Government policy makers and planners for people friendly development strategy.

**Objectives:**

To improve the socio-economic conditions -of the backward and weaker section of the society mainly the fisher folk, Scheduled Caste, Tribal, Slum community and farmers by making them aware on various sustainable livelihood, water, sanitation, hygiene, conservation programmes.

**Focus groups and donor partners:**

UAA works with fisher folk, tribal, dalits (Scheduled castes), Urban slum dwellers and other backward castes in **six coastal districts** of Odisha. UAA has worked in collaboration with the Government, UNICEF and International donor agencies like Action Aid and OXFAM, Water Aid since 80's for ushering a better quality of life for the marginalized sections of the society. Now it has also tied up with balance fund of WaterAid, ActionAid for Increasing Income of

Children as Agents of Change, Capacity building of dalit/ backward communities in Ganjam Puri and Jagatsingpur district. UAA partnered with Yashoda Foundation to establish a women degree college in Ganjam NAC.

### **Capabilities:**

In the course of 40 years of development work at the grassroots level, the organization has acquired special skills in community organization and the process of building up people's organizations. It also enjoys active support and co-operation of the state, district and Block level officials. As one of the leading organizations in the state, it has a high standing as a reliable committed voluntary organization in Government circles. This is borne out by the fact that the Government has nominated UAA to various state and district level consultative/ advisory committees from time to time. Funding agencies too, hold a very favourable impression of UAA, because of its reach at the grassroots level, consistency in field involvement and judicious handling of funds.

### **Community Organization:**

UAA has made efforts to mobilize the deprived sections of the community for forming the groups and linking them with the forums at the district, state and national level. The intent was to raise the issues affecting the poor at various levels where they can be addressed and justice provided to the poor communities with active participation of the community. A few people's organizations and CBOs like Odisha Traditional Women Fish Worker's Organization, SAMUDRAM, SWOSTI, ANWESA, Rushikulya Rayat Mahasabha and Ganjam Zilla Adivasi Manch have emerged over the years and are functioning independently for the last 11 years. UAA has also developed 2 network of Block level NGOs in Ganjam and Puri district and works with them as and when required. UAA's prime motto was to build up the capacity of the people's organizations through training, exposure and interactive dialogue.

### **Activities:**

The activities taken up by UAA with the participation of its partner NGOs and People's Organizations broadly covers:

Capacity building of CBOs, advocacy and lobbying, mass campaign, media interface, disaster preparedness, study and documentation etc.

### **Projects/ Programs implemented:**

1. Enhancement of Disaster Preparedness of dalit and backward communities.

2. Supporting Samdram in establishing market linkage in Regional level.
3. Community-based marine conservation through collaborative efforts of the Odisha marine resources conservation consortium (OMRCC) in Odisha,
4. Improvement of rural sanitation status in 4 villages under Brahmagiri block of Puri district and Sustaining WaSH activities in Puri Municipality through established citizens group named Puri WaSH Taskforce.
5. Advocacy and Lobbying for reduce distress paddy sale.



### **Achievements during the YEAR: -**

#### **Disaster preparedness**

Supported by: Action Aid India

#### **Approach:**

- \* The program is implemented in collaboration with Block level federation of dalit and backward communities through Sneha Aviyan, Jagatsingpur, SWOSTI & Anwesa, Ganjam.
- \* Joint disaster preparedness plan prepared by the communities and shared with GP, Block and District level.
- ❖ According to plan the community leaders campaigned with people's representatives and administration to make their villages face the challenges of disaster.

#### **Marketing support to Samudram:**

■ UAA mobilized expertise of college of fisheries, OUAT, Rangailunda to train 9 fisher women to produce value added fisheries products.

■ During the period the trained members of Samudram produced 2.3 MTs. of value added fisheries products and traded through Samudram in online ([www.exportersindia.com](http://www.exportersindia.com)), ([www.indiamart.com](http://www.indiamart.com)), ([www.indianyellowpages.com](http://www.indianyellowpages.com)) etc. to individuals and retail traders in Bhubaneswar, Gurgaon, Madurai, Nagpur, Puna, and their counter in Sana Nolianuagam and Ganjam. This provided them an extra income of around 20% apart from the wage they received for producing the product.

## **Community-based marine conservation through collaborative efforts of the Odisha Marine Resources Conservation Consortium (OMRCC) in Odisha**

**Supported by: Own Fund**

### **Objective:**

- ✓ To advocate for socially and ecologically appropriate coastal development in Odisha through the OMRCC.
- ✓ To create awareness on marine conservation and sustainable fisheries management practices among the fishing communities with the support of NFF, Kolkata.
- ✓ Facilitated to bring an attitudinal change towards use of ring net which is detrimental to turtle movement in sea.

### **Approach:**

- \* This program is implemented in collaboration with Odisha Marine Resource Consortium (OMRCC).
- \* Along with OMRCC, Samudram unions also roped in for successful implementation of the activities.

### **Achievements- Physical:**

- ❖ Beach cleaning, quiz, debate and painting competition organized with the cooperation of local schools and colleges.
- ❖ Meetings organized in villages to raise awareness to prohibit multifilament nets which are detrimental for turtle movement in open sea.
- ❖ Guided visitors during mass nesting and hatching period for safe nesting and smooth passage of hatchlings into sea.

### **SANITATION status improvement in rural areas of Puri district:**

Develop WaSH institution like School WaSH committee and Bal brigade team in all school under puri municipality. SMC chairperson and WaSH teachers are capacitated on WaSH knowledge. WaSH infrastructure in school have been made functional. The SMCs, teachers have taken a lead responsibility to address WaSH issue in school. The SMC and RtE forum members were able to how to highlight the WaSH issue through grievance readdress system and role of different department to take remedial action was discussed. This training was facilitated by departmental officers and WaSH experts from within the organisation and outside. After training SMC, Bal brigade team and RtE forum members were taken action and visited slum and school to discuss about WASH situation. After visit the committee

facilitated to submit petition to different department like Chairperson Municipality, EE municipality, PHD, PWD and DPC etc. Total 74 petitions was submitted and out of that 42 application are recognised for immediate action to develop WaSH infrastructure like CWSN friendly toilet, Separate toilet for girls, Hand wash unit, Drinking water facility and drainage provision for disposal liquid waste and dustbin provision in different school and slum. In this year total Rs 48, 44,100/- has been leverage from different department to develop WaSH infrastructure in School and Slum.

R& M grant utilized for WaSH improvement in Maximum school. Petition submitted to different department and requested for remedial action Maximum SMC members are aware on WaSH issue. With the facilitation of Bal brigade children, the school WASH committee which is an integrated body of different committees, has taken steps to provide safe drinking water to the students and staffs during school hours. With the support of local councillor, these committees have insisted the responsible govt. staff & department and install 13 new water points in 13 school & Slum and connect 12 pipe water supplies with reserve tank provision in 12 school and slum. In many school and slum defunct water source are repaired and water quality are tested through H2S vile.

To fulfil RtE norm total 6 separate for girl's toilet and 3 CWSN toilets are installed through SSA.

During this year to bring awareness among school 5 drawing and slogan competition , 176 hygiene session and 79 SMC meeting and 48 school WaSH plan meeting are conducted .

**Hand wash campaign** ( Global Hand wash day observation ) was organized in 11 Slum and 40 school where 3258 participants were participated in hand wash demonstration . In this day 42 post card are posted to SSA and district collector for provision of hand wash basin with running water in school premises. Bal-Brigade members were staged rallies in slums with slogans and placards in their hand to raise awareness and strengthen the importance of hand wash during critical times. They also organised demonstration to educate their fellow youngsters and parents as well.

#### **Improvement of Collaboration with line departments:**

Meeting with DPC, DEO, BEO and BRCC. Meeting with SMC chairperson and WaSH taskforce members. Consultant with technical person and prepare estimate with presence of HM and SMC members. Organized Media engagement and district level multistakeholders meeting. Liaison with State RtE forum and organise meeting with RtE forum members. Consultation meeting with CRCC, HM and WaSH teacher. Meeting with DEO and BEO .



Consultation meeting with RtE forum & WaSH taskforce members. Frequently meeting with RtE activist and identify 11 block level convener to strengthen the block level RtE forum. Identify 11 GP to develop model as per RtE norm . Orientation on SDP with presence of BEO and CRCC, Teacher, SMC members and WaSH taskforce members. School development plans designed in all 79 schools and Taskforce along with SMC, HM & WaSH teachers taken oath to provide handholding support in sustaining the activities and Maintain the infrastructures created by the project.

### **Establishing degree college of Arts and Science for women:**

Supported by: **Own fund generated from interest income.**

UAA in association with Yashoda Foundation Trust, a district level reputed NGO, has set up a Women's Degree College in Ganjam town named- Yashoda Women's Degree College. The State Govt. has approved Science and Arts stream with Hons. and 64 seats each. The college has started imparting education in Sociology, Education, IRPM, Economics in Arts stream



and in Science stream Computer Science, Mathematics, Physics and Chemistry. It is the only college at the degree level for women to cater the need of Ganjam block and two NACs in Ganjam district and Krushna Prasda Block in Puri district.

The very poor students deprived of getting higher education have now access to the college. Most of them are first generation in their families to be in the college. They will break the poverty chain not only in their parents, families but also future in-laws families.

UAA has handed over its infrastructures like building, water and sanitation structures and 2 acres of land to the college. During 1<sup>st</sup> year 42 students enrolled in both Arts and Science stream. Govt. of Odisha, Department of Higher Education provide permission and recognition in June 2017 and Berhampur University accorded affiliation to the college.

### **Strengthening capacity of tribal and dalit communities:**



Supported by: **Own fund generated from interest income and community contribution/donation**

**Objective:**

- Generating awareness on SBM-R and U sanitation program in Ganjam and Puri district.
- Initiating anti liquor campaign in Ganjam district.
- Strengthening district level tribal federation to capacitate themselves to face impacts of climate change.
- Supporting activists to highlight issues of south Odisha

**Activities undertaken:**

- ❖ Providing critical support to Ganjam Zilla Adivasi Manch (GZAM) to strengthen their campaign by organizing district level consultations, village level mass meetings, on effect of climate change and prepare the communities to act upon whenever disaster like situation arose.

■ Trained women SHG Farmers on organic kitchen garden. After training they got Seed and other input support from Grasim Industries Chemical Division to create kitchen garden in their backyard for improving nutrition status of their children.



■ Provide support to strengthen NGO network in promoting rural sanitation, community and personal hygiene, understand the provisions of Right to Education and organic farming.

■ Providing support to CBOs and interested individuals to undertake plantation in public places.

■ Launch anti liquor campaigning with the support of CBOs, Women organizations and organize awareness generation programs on effect of consumption of illicit liquor in collaboration with district administration.

- Supported Samudram to organize health check up and treatment camps in inaccessible fishing habitations.
- Participated and supported an activist group Odisha Development Action Network (ODAN) to organize consultation and highlight different issues that deteriorate development process of South Odisha.