

aaina participates in International Women's Day 2012



Like every year, *aaina* participated enthusiastically in International Women's Day at various places in its work area. One of the main involvements was in a celebration organized by NAWO at Adiwasi ground, Bhubaneswar on 7th and 8th of March 2012. **It was a gathering of more than 500 women tribal, Dalit, and youth leaders representing all the 30 districts of Odisha.** The two day program included inauguration, felicitation to women achievers, State level Convention on liquor free Odisha and state accountability, parallel workshops on different issues related to women and different cultural programs. This year the foremost focus was on the discussion to make liquor free state and dowry as the root cause domestic violence.

The program started with a state level convention on Liquor-free Odisha and State Accountability. Ms. Sneha Mishra, secretary *Aaina* was one of the inaugurators of the convention. Dignitaries from political parties, activists of anti-liquor movement from different districts, retired judges, advocates, media persons, student leaders and women leaders from different districts participated. A total of 120 participants covering 18 districts were present in the convention. The convention was chaired by retired Justice of Odisha High Court, Justice P.C.Mishra.



Celebrate together on the same platform

Five parallel workshops were held on different issues. Mrs. Sneha Mishra and Mr. Pradipta facilitated the workshop on Role of the different Commissions (Human Right commission, Women's commissions, Commission for persons with Disability and the ST and SO commission) in addressing Violence Against Women. There were 45 participants in that workshop.

The inauguration of the second day of convention was followed by the introduction by the participants from all the districts. Rappporter/facilitators of different workshops presented the summary of the discussions held in their respective sessions. Ms. Sneha Mishra compiled the demands of each session and read it out before all the participants. *Mrs. Sneha stressed that one can go to HRC when the basic need of any human being is hampered. Due to many*



Felicitation ceremony

hazards like social, cultural, cast system, economical, political, various problems of people cannot be solved at government level. To address these issues, commissions have been made. They are all judicial and independent body irrespective of cast, class and political backgrounds.

The event concluded by felicitating there were eleven women who were facilitated for their initiatives in the local villages. Two women from aaina, Nayana Gamanga from Kandhamal and Hemalata Pradhan also from Kandhamal were facilitated for taking commendable initiative in

anti liquor issue and Child Rights issue.

It was a well attended event involving almost all the members present. Participants from interior rural areas got an opportunity to talk about their struggles and achievements in front of a diverse audience at different power levels so that the issues can be well heard understood and taken to the next level.