

## 1.Introduction



Greetings from SWADHINA! We are pleased to share with you the Annual Report for the year 2010 -2011. It is a great opportunity for us to present this report to you because it depicts the story of struggle of the people as well as ours. We are also excited as we are at the door step to celebrate 25 years of 'Journey of SWADHINA'. This can not be depicted by some data or indicators. Yet, our effort is to give some understanding of our relentless struggle in favour of the poor and marginalized - particularly for the women and children.

For the first time Panchayat Elections took place in Jharkhand. It is a new challenge for us to facilitate awareness among the elected representatives and common masses about the processes, roles, acts and rules and the programmes of the Panchyat. System.

The fast changing development scenario demands more intervention to address the development related issues. The commitment of our workers in the midst of all adversities is always encouraging. We recognize the same and express our whole-hearted thanks for all their efforts. We would also like to express our utmost gratitude to all our reference people, resource persons, donors, members, well wishers and staff for their Moral, Physical and Financial support throughout the many years of our existence. We look for your support and cooperation as ever.

*- Swadhina Team*

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## **2.About SWADHINA**

This being our 25<sup>th</sup> year, we need to look back – reminding ourselves of what we are and giving a glimpse of our humble background to those who know us more recently.

### **2.1 Background**

It was back in the winter of 1986, some very simple but determined and committed young women & men gathered together to give birth to **SWADHINA** with a thrust on development of women and children. It was formally inaugurated by , the then idol of many, Justice Padma Khastagir and former Vice-Chancellor of Calcutta University Dr. Roma Chowdhury. They had a dream to fulfill. Though time to time the approaches and methodologies have changed as per the need of the hour. Swadhina began her work with a sum of Rs. 300 collected through door to door sale of hand – made year planner. With limited funds from friends and well-wishers, activities were held in and around South 24 Parganas and Hooghly districts of West Bengal.

We gratefully and humbly remember that the direct and indirect support and contribution of the people like Indrani Roy Chowdhury, Rajan Singh, Paul Siromoni, Mohan Larbeer, Aruna Gnanadason through mobilizing financial assistance from Oxfam, Bridge Street United Church, and World Council of Churches etc. It is to be note-worthy to name Rekha Mukhopadhyay, who offered her drawing room as the Registered Office of Swadhina. Many of our pioneer friends are no more in this world physically but their presences is felt always.

It was primarily an organization focused on self-reliance and empowerment of women. Believed that positive social change has a direct a direct effect on the lives of women and that change is possible only through an equal and spontaneous participation of women. At present Swadhina is working in four states of India i.e. West Bengal, Jharkhand, Orissa and Tamil Nadu on an issue based approach, depending on the need of the reference area. Our struggle is on till the battle is own.

*Our main emphasis is to establish of a culture of Hope & Peace replacing of culture of silence, fatalism, conflict and all forms of societal disharmony.*

### **2.2. Development Understanding**

#### **2.2.1 VISION**

**SWADHINA** believes in a just, equitable, participatory and ecologically sustainable society which allows creative blossoming of all whereby life becomes an every day celebration

#### **2.2.2 Mission**

**SWADHINA** primarily a women’s development organization, was established in 1986. It is registered under the Societies Registration Act and is also registered under the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act of the Ministry of Home, Government of India. The primary thrust areas are

- 1 Non-violence and social empowerment
- 2 Sustainable agriculture and food security
- 3 Energy and environment protection
- 4 Health promotion and reproductive child health care
- 5 Literacy and education promotion
- 6 Economic sustainability

**SWADHINA** works in West Bengal, Jharkhand, and Tamil Nadu among the women and children in particular and SC, ST, Backward class, poor and marginalized in general. They are our reference people.

### **2.2.3. Objective**

- 1 To promote and propagate Non-violence
- 2 To strengthen culturally the reference people, especially the women to shun all forms of suppression and oppression affecting their lives
- 3 To make the women force as an organized power at the village level
- 4 To make the women become economic participant in the family to enhance the power of taking decision in the family and society.
- 5 To make the children interested in education with a value of positive participation in the society.
- 6 To support and facilitate the process sustainable agriculture and food security

### **2.2.4. Strategies**

- 1 Direct involvement at the village level
- 2 Development Training and capacity building
- 3 Networking

### **2.2.5. Programmes**

- 1 Issue based training, seminar, workshop
- 2 Exchange programme
- 3 Livelihood and food security support
- 4 Literacy and education promotion
- 5 Health education and action
- 6 Issue based publication of books, cassettes etc.
- 7 Emergency support and rehabilitation programmes
- 8 Income generation activities

### **3. Major Areas of Intervention: 2010 - 2011**

#### **3.1. E.SINGBHUM, JHARKHAND:**

##### **3.1.1. Gender Meet**

This is one of the crucial programmes for us. The main emphasis was to strengthen the local women through participatory process. During this meet the need for women's literacy and property related rights were highlighted. Special Gender Meet Support booklets have been made to use as a guide book. In this reporting period we organized 17 numbers of such meet through which more than 1200 participants got benefited. Such programmes helped to improve awareness of gender-based issues. Participation of women in different societal issues has been very encouraging.

##### **3.1.2. Good Governance Meet**

We have initiated this programme with a background that the Panchayat elections were held for the first time in Jharkhand. Our motive was sharing of information, roles and responsibilities of the Panchayat to the elected members and the related officials in particular and people in general to strengthen the capacity of them. A special guide book for the same has been prepared to conduct the meet. About 700 hundred people participated in 10 Good Governance Meet. In this meet we have informed the reference people, particularly to the women about the various schemes and programmes of the Central as well as State Government in which Panchayat has a significant role to play such as NREGA, Old Age Pension, Widow Pension, Indira Awas, B P L Ration Card etc. Capacity building of the elected members is a very important so that the women members may not be victimized because of their ignorance. On the other hand people should be very much aware of the rules, acts, schemes/programmes so that they can properly monitor the activities of their respective Panchayat and take interest in active participation in the related matters. These meets helped the people to demand for their lawfully rights at their level.

##### **3.1.3. Literacy Rally**

Literacy Rallies brought forward the importance of literacy and literacy as a signature of empowerment of women. This was done through posters, placards and banners on the literacy. 11 literacy rallies were organised during this period. The major highlight of this campaign was different innovative games on literacy and sharing inspirational stories about women fighting for their own literacy needs. About 75% of women attending the literacy rally have learnt to sign their names. In an average 45 participants were there in each rally.

##### **3.1.4. Rozgar Mela (Job Fair)**

In this reporting period 2 Fairs were organized. There were different counters and sections. These fairs were primarily divided in three parts. First, stalls/kiosks on the work opportunity and income generation. Secondly, sale on produces such as seeds, vegetable, agro implements etc.. Thirdly, different competition for women and short training on handmade works. Different resource persons from various financial institution like insurance, bank, govt. department highlighted and explained different opportunities of schemes and loans available for business needs of women and also different work opportunities for women in the government sector, agricultural projects and special schemes by Government of Jharkhand, especially in East Singhbhum region. It has improved knowledge about various income sources and women friendly schemes. Women

also got the opportunity to discuss about various income-generation scopes available for women.

### **3.1.5. Basundhara Mela (Earth Festival)**

In November, 2010 we have had this festival. There were several stalls on i) Fruits, Flowers, Birds that are available in our country (pictures, clay models with information) ii) Dresses of India (pictures and live dresses) iii) Food stall (pictures and recipes) iv) Women in agriculture (Pictorial posters on women contribution on Agriculture).

Cultural programmes organized. The most important was the street theatre which depicted the importance of saving our Mother Earth particularly by protecting the trees and the forests. There were also quiz contest for the women regarding the environment, ecology and agriculture. Also interactive sessions took place for women where the rights of the women were discussed.

### **3.1.6 Leadership Training**

About 40 participants took part in this training programme. It was held in Kolkata. The 4 day long training was to train village leaders on aspects of advocacy leadership. Group discussion, interactive sessions, cultural expression, video shows, poster-based discussion were the methodologies followed. The facilitators were from different aspects of life such as Women activist, corporate trainer, tribal rights worker, teacher and retired bureaucrat. This programme helped to improve knowledge about the legal and social rights of women. It also helped our staff to enhance their working capacity. More such programmes will certainly bring a positive change in the quality of life.

### **3.1.7 Produce Specific Training**

13 such training organized for our primary reference people. The training was designed as per the resource availability, capacity of the women, cost effectiveness and marketability of the items. Items like Pickle making, Sauce making, handicrafts material prepared out of Jute, mud (terracotta) were taught to the women. Ideas of income generation by using local resourced have been developed.

### **3.1.8. Marketing Training**

One TOT on Marketing training organized in Kolkata. The idea was to train our village level workers on the topic so that they can train the villagers as per the need in a small group. We emphasized more on the basic nuances of marketing, marketing strategies, rural marketing techniques, profit and loss calculation etc.

As a part of the follow-up to the TOT of Marketing Training organised in December 2010, one village-based marketing trainings took place in this period. It was held at Kuchia, organised on 30.04.2011. Attended by 50 participants, this training included discussion and concept-building on topics like: "Basics of Business", "Rural Marketing Techniques", "Book-keeping in rural businesses" etc. The booklet "*Byabsar Tuki-taki*" (Knick-knacks of Business)- developed by Swadhina was used in the training. Apart from this games like "Mock Business", "Ways of Marketing" etc were conducted to give a first hand experience.

### **3.1.9. Functioning of 'Navodaya' Literacy & Knowledge Building Centres**

20 fully functional centres are there. There are Navodaya instructors in centre provided with a specially developed Navodaya Hand Book which has specific issues related to awareness. They have also provided with a handbook which provides a proper instruction to the animators. Different information aspects like health, information on government schemes/programmes, nutrition and overall functional literacy are dealt with in these centres. These centres helped the women to sign, participate in the quiz contest, participate in word building exercise and a good numbers of women are able to handle thermometers.

### **3.1.10. Functioning of Women's Resource Centres**

These centres are the venue of 'Navodaya' classes and the meeting point of the local women. These centres are mainly used to build awareness among the women. These are equipped with awareness building posters, forms of different government schemes/programme, wall magazine, different awareness messages and pictures. There are two hubs. One central in Ghatsila and other local hub in Bondih. These WRC's have become important information junction for local women. These are also used as to organize local programmes.

### **3.1.11. Education Support to Young Women**

Large number of young women applied for this support. At present we could support about 100 of them. After a careful scrutiny we finalized the list. This programme was to encourage the young women who are studying with all adversities. We have supported them with the uniform, side-bag, umbrella, steel carrier Tiffin Box and university level dictionary.

### **3.1.12. Formation and functioning of Neo-literate Libraries**

Two libraries have been formed at two info-hubs. So far there are about 600 books. This programme was launched to grow a habit of reading. A process has been started. And we believe that over time this habit among the local women would grow on.

## **3.2. WEST MIDNAPORE, WEST BENGAL**

### **3.2.1. One day meet at Local Level**

Two meets were took place in this reporting period particularly on the land rights of the women. More than 100 participants were there. The issues covered were quite in-depth.

### **3.2.2. District Level Seminar**

The first seminar was organized at District Level. However, we had to organize another seminar at the block level as the participants of the first seminar had shown keen interest to promote and propagate the same to more women. There were about 35 participants in the district level seminar and more than 100 participants at the block level one. The rights of the women on Land and property were discussed at length. It has successfully created impact at the local level.

### **3.2.3. Publication of Awareness posters and booklets**

5 booklets and 6 posters were published in this period. The topics of the booklets were Laws on Women, Learning Law with Kala Teacher Cartoon boklet), Women's Empowerment Laws, Social Booklet Part I and Part II. Posters were on the theme of illiteracy, land rights of

women, need for education among women etc.

#### **3.2.4. Production of video films on gender rights and violence**

A short film on women's empowerment and land rights was developed entitled "Uttaradhikar" (The Successor). It was a story of a recent widow who has to face the opposition from her husband's relatives who want to grab the land. It is a story of her struggle and the support she receives from the women of her village. The film is about 32 minutes duration. The film has been exhibited to the different participants of the various training programmes. Also distributed in different areas amongst those who can show it to others. Special video-shows were organised at the village-level to raise awareness on the issue.

#### **3.2.5. Socio-Legal Leadership Training**

Socio-Legal Leadership trainings were held to improve awareness level of the grass roots level women on the socio-legal aspects of the women including the land rights, property rights. About 60 village level women with leadership quality participated in this programme.

#### **3.2.6. Signature Camps**

This programme is aimed at building confidence of the women so that they are confident to hold the pen. 6 camps were organised. More than 125 reference women participated in these camps. Each one get note book to practice daily. It is being checked by the Swadhina Volunteers to ensure that the concerned women are practicing daily. Each camp had three components - learning the importance of signature, learning signature and practising signature.

#### **3.2.7. Earth Festivals**

Three special festivals known as Earth Festivals were held to generate awareness and to develop the link between women and land. The highlights of the festivals included worship of Tree as a symbol of Mother Earth - the worship being exclusively conducted by women, dance by men worshipping and commending the contribution of women in agriculture, photo exhibition of endangered rural birds and flowers of Bengal, handicraft exhibition of rural women, agro-implements used by women, agro-products made and developed by women, exhibition of vegetables and fruits grown by women, various contests for women, sit-n-draw competition on environment for children, cultural performances by the cultural group

### **3.3. PURULIA, WEST BENGAL**

#### **3.3.1 Haat-Bazaar : The Rural Market**

Haat-Bazaar is a venture undertaken to promote rural markets in rural interiors of Purulia. The objective is to augment the local economy by promoting local-level marketing and actively involving women. The secondary idea is to use this platform of Haats to generate awareness on issues like gender, environment, literacy and health.

Swadhina has successfully facilitated functioning of 5 Haats (Rural Markets) in the region at Hesla, Sasandih, Hatnadih, Damrabad, Dhargan-Asanbers. The local Haat committees have been gradually handed over the entire process of managing the Haats. The local women's committee is an active participant in the functioning of the Haat and it is the Women's Committee members who had formally inaugurated the Haat at all the places. Encouragement awards, special incentives for women have served to encourage women. A section in the markets, called 'Demonstration Pavillions' have been used as a venue of social awareness hub. At the Demonstration Pavillion services like health check-up opportunities have been rendered by renowned doctor and ex-CMO of Tata Hospital - Dr.A.K.Misra. Animal Care camps by trained personnel have also been arranged through these pavillions. Another important aspect has been distribution of saplings among young children and seed sale to promote afforestation in the area. Awareness Booklets and posters displayed at the pavilion and cultural programmes at these pavillions have attracted many people to these Haats and have generated mass-awareness. The best thing is that the Haats have been able to provide a distinct identity to the villages and marked them as economically potential zones. This is and would continue to improve the socio-economic status of the women of the area.

### **3.3.2. Women & Children Development Programme**

This programme has been initiated since January 2011. The aim of the project is to provide socio economic & self-development support to women, youth and children belonging to marginalized communities of 5 villages of rural Purulia in West Bengal to address the issues of : poor pre-primary education system for the marginalized, lack of adequate awareness on healthy and environment friendly living, non-availability of steady income source through agricultural means. As a response to these problems an effort has been initiated whereby women's income generation activities are being encouraged through organised women's groups. Children's supportive pre-primary education centres are going to be started and awareness generation camps on different social issues are being undertaken.

## **3.4.KANYAKUMARI, TAMIL NADU**

### **3.4.1 Women's Social Support Activities**

There are many schemes for women and poor families introduced by the State government of Tamil Nadu. But many of these schemes require the beneficiaries to approach the proper department and make the needful application. So one of the prime activity of Swadhina staff in this region is to provide support to local women and their families to avail these facilities. The local staff helps in procuring forms, taking the beneficiaries to the respective departments, approaching the department in case of delay etc. A large number of local women have been able to procure ration card, widow pension, handicapped support grant, marriage support benefits, old-age pension, procuring small-business loans etc through these support activities.

### **3.4.2. Women's Awareness Generation**

Women's awareness generation is done in two ways - regular awareness generation gatherings and special one-day meets. Women gather as small groups -two to three days a week and discuss on awareness generation and knowledge-building issues. Reading from books, newspapers, discussion on social issues affecting their families or village or



the society in general are all part of this regular awareness generation gatherings. This apart, special One-day meets are organised where specific issues are highlighted. For instance this year, Environment Day was observed on 5<sup>th</sup> of June 2010, Day against Violence on Women was observed on 1<sup>st</sup> of Decembers 2010, Swadhina Day was observed on 29<sup>th</sup> of December 2010 and International Women's Day was organised on 12<sup>th</sup> of March 2011.

### **3.4.2. Women's Income Generation Support**

Apart from the regular SHG groups of women which were initiated through Swadhina, several families were supported in their kitchen garden initiatives through seed support programmes. Not only seed support but regular advice is provided by the local staff about the proper nurturing of kitchen garden plants. This has helped in nutritional support and additional income generation of the families.

## **3.5. PAN-INDIA PROGRAMMES**

### **3.5.1. Young Green Champions Programme**

On the occasion of Commonwealth Games held in New Delhi in 2010 a special 6 month programme was undertaken by Swadhina called "Young Green Champion Programme". Swadhina was selected to be one of the representative for West Bengal on the behest of CEE, supported by UNDP. The purpose was to use the platform of Queen's Baton Relay of the Commonwealth Games to spread message on ecology and environment through youngsters.

For this students and youth from George Telegraph Cricket Coaching Centre, P.Sen CCC Kalighat Club, Good Hope School etc were selected.

As a part of this programme 12 representative members from Swadhina, equipped with banners and posters and wearing T-shirts on ecology & environment, took part in a Green Concert was organized at Science City Auditorium in Kolkata on 31<sup>st</sup> of July 2010. The highlight of the programme included songs by the band Euphoria, environment quiz and film shows.

Over 125 young students chosen by Swadhina participated in the Calcutta leg of the Queen's Baton Relay. All the students stood along the pathway, at the sides, as was instructed by Bengal Olympic Association. All the students held large banners upholding the cause of Young Green Champions. The multi-coloured posters included information on combating carbon footprints and conservation of green-earth.

Other than this Swadhina also arranged plantation of 400 saplings in different areas of Kolkata, West Midnapore and Purulia through school students in their house and home premises. All the students would receive a training on low carbon practices during October & November 2010. The training included presentations from toolkit, quiz contests, group games and activities.

### **3.5.2 Non-Violence & Social Empowerment**

i) Every year Swadhina proudly takes part in the 16 days of action against Gender Violence campaign beginning from 25<sup>th</sup> of November to 10<sup>th</sup> of December. This year was no

exception. Swadhina Kolkata unit undertook the responsibility of organizing the programmes all over the different field areas in India. Over 200 persons were given Solidarity Ribbon - to be worn all through the fortnight as a support of the cause. This apart speech contests were organised for rural women of West Midnapore and East Singbhum on 29<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> November 2010 respectively. In Kanyakumari a special One Day Meet was organised on 1<sup>st</sup> of December 2010. A one-day meet was organised at Ghatsila in Jharkhand. The concluding programme was held on 10<sup>th</sup> of December 2010 in commemoration with YMCA at Kolkata. The special Guest-of-Honour on this occasion was well-known women's activist Mrs. Aruna Gnanadasson.

ii) On the evening on 1<sup>st</sup> of December 2010 about 50 members from different parts of India gathered at a short, solemn ceremony in Kolkata remembering all the Prisoners of Peace - all across the world. Candles were lit in remembrance of all those warriors of peace - conscientious objectors or objectors against fascist regime or militarism - who are imprisoned or under house arrest. After moments of silent remembrance story of one such brave warrior of peace of India - Irom Sharmila Chanu, was shared amongst those present. War Resisters' International's special letter commemorating the prisoners of peace was read out and explained. Most of those present at the meet could relate with the issue as many of them belonged to areas where terrorist conflicts are part of their daily lives.

iii) The 100 years of International Women's Day was observed with much fan-fare and festivity in the different working areas of Swadhina. It was like a week-long festivity with each area having its own form of celebration.

The women's day celebration at Bonkuchia in East Singbhum, Jharhand took place on 8<sup>th</sup> of March 2011. It comprised of two sections - an exhibition on "Literacy and Knowledge enhancement" and a programme at the Tagore Society Hall. The exhibition comprised of a piece of cloth with signature of learner women. The different materials used for literacy and knowledge-building were used as exhibits. Laminated picture cum information on different types of birds, floweres, food crops, dresses, food, contribution of women towards agriculture etc. were exhibited. As to the programme, since this was supposed to be a celebration of womanhood, several aspects related to life and living of the local women were projected through various competitions like conch blowing, singing etc. The local women participated with great fun and festivity. The chief guests of the programme on this day were Ms. Saraswathi Rao and Ms. Wendy Zavala, representatives of organization Welt Hungerhilfe from New Delhi.

A small gathering of well-wishers of Swadhina and dignitaries present in the small town of Ghatsila in East Singbhum district in Jharkhand was organized on 10<sup>th</sup> of March 2011. This was organized at the banquet hall of "Hotel Akashdeep" for a select number of guests comprising of local principals, school teachers, representatives from media and newly elected Panchayat Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson.

The celebration for West Bengal was held as a joint collaboration of Swadhina and YMCA at the YMCA-Wellinton Hall in Kolkata on 13<sup>th</sup> of March 2011. About 68 participants from different organizations like World Vision, YMCA, SOUL, DBSSS, Asha Niketan, Gargi etc, other than a large number of well-wishers, friends and field-representatives from West Midnapore took part in this celebration. It consisted of songs by Swadhina Cultural Troupe,

play-reading, interactive contests and debates, puppet show etc.

The Kanyakumari unit of Swadhina joined the worldwide celebrations on the occasion of International Women's Day on 12th March 2011. This was held at Velliyavilai village of Kanyakumari district in Tamil Nadu. The one day meet began at 10 am and continued till 2 pm. This was attended by 42 persons.

### **3.5.3 Good Hope Schools**

The concept of Good Hope School stemmed from the question – Do the children of remote rural areas deserve only NFE Centres or basic Primary Education centres? Can the mother who is an agro-labourer of a remote rural area not dream of a Montessori education from her child? Good Hope Schools were born out of this idea of equal opportunities. These are rural pre-primary education centres run on the concept of English-medium kindergarten schools. Special uniforms and colorful books are given to the children for a token amount. Special curriculum and education-system based on urban English-medium schools developed by well-established educationists is followed. A grade based fun-pattern of examination is specially prepared centrally and sent to the different centres. The concentration is on a holistic improvement of a child. In this year 5 such centres were functional all over India. Good Hope schools are run purely on donations from friends and well-wishers who support the cause.

### **3.6 Exposure/Interaction**

i) In Coimbatore a Gender Workshop held and was organized by WHH our overseas partner. 3 of our Management level women staff- Ms.Smriti Sarkar, Ms.Chhanda Ghosh and Ms.Rina Acharjee attended the same. It was very enriching experience. The main emphasis was to make the participants understand how systematically women are exploited and oppressed. Also it was made clear that how women are projected as non-productive and commodity instead of resource and power. The programme was conducted by KODI.

ii) Swadhina took part in an invitation programme of Kolkata YMCA on the theme of Women's Empowerment. All the staff of SWADHINA at Kolkata attended the same. This took place on 20<sup>th</sup> of November 2010.

iii) A delegation of members from organisation SARRA in Andhra Pradesh made a field-exposure trip to field areas in West Midnapore in the first week of November 2010. They took part in a seminar organised there and made a tour of the village areas.

### **5. Distinguished Visitors**

i) Mrs. Aruna Gnandasson, prominent feminist theologian, formerly with World Council of Churches, and a long time well-wisher of Swadhina since Swadhina's inception graced Swadhina's Human Rights Day programme, held at Kolkata in association with YMCA in December 2010. She addressed the group and shared her anxieties on the issue of women in conflict areas and also conveyed her good wishes to Swadhina on its 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Swadhina was proud to have her as she had been one of the first well-wishers of Swadhina who had arranged for many funding opportunities for the fledgling organisation.

ii) It is perhaps a matter of co-incidence as well as great joy that Swadhina team had the

privilege of meeting Mr. Grantham Fernando and Mrs. Kari Fernando during its Silver Jubilee Year. Mr. Fernando has been a guide, friend and well-wisher of Swadhina since his days with Stromme Foundation, Norway. And even after the formal closure of the project Mr. Fernando continued to be a friend of the Swadhina family, also being joined by Mrs. Kari. This year in March 2011, Mr. Fernando and Mrs. Kari on their way to Assam, made a stop-over at Kolkata and joined the Swadhina team for a Get-together dinner. Mr. Fernando shared many new insights from all-over the world and it was heartening also to re-live some old memories.

### **6. Jubilee Programme**

This being our Silver Jubilee Year we are looking forward to many plans and programmes throughout this year. The inception of Jubilee programmes was through a grand celebration of International Women's Day programme celebrated at all the field areas. An Anniversary Souvenir cum memoir is on the anvil and will soon be published. A collection of 25 selected short stories and features from the in-house Bengali journal "Swadhina" would be available for our readers and well-wishers very soon. An Anniversary Fellowship Meet cum Exhibition is being planned which would happen around December 2011.

### **Beginning of another innings:**

Our phenomenal growth in the last 25 years have encouraged us to further scale new heights! In the coming years we have plans to spread our wings in more states with a new project vision called: "*Rights to Right Livelihood*" - a programme across many states with a stated aim of '*creating space for women to empower themselves by improving quality of life and living, and, providing creative scope for children to grow with joy and dignity*'.

You have always supported and upheld us. We move forward - with you beside us.

**Swadhina Team**