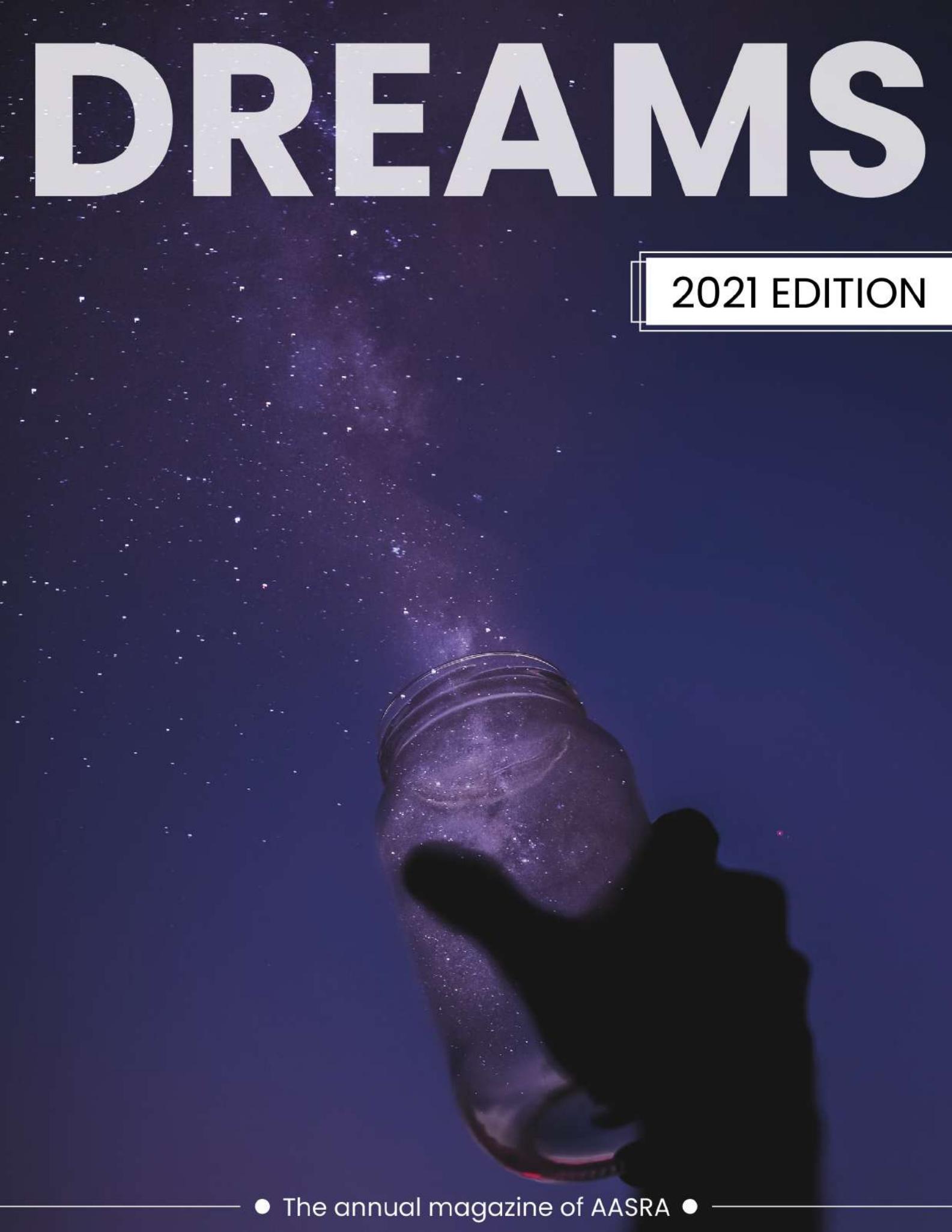


DREAMS

The background of the cover is a dark, textured blue that resembles a starry night sky. In the lower right quadrant, there is a large, dark silhouette of a person's head and shoulders. The person is holding a glowing, translucent jar or lantern that emits a soft light, illuminating their hands and casting a glow on the surrounding darkness.

2021 EDITION



AASRA, the social service family of NITR, has completed 16 years of its notable existence. It has exceeded expectations and set new bars each year. In spite of the various challenges thrown by 2020, AASRA has continued to serve those in need. I am proud to have been a part of the AASRA family.

Our society is unequal by nature. It stands out as a responsibility of those who have been blessed with resources and opportunity to lend a helping hand to others who don't have access to basic privileges of life. We, at AASRA, consider Education to be the best tool to help them. Hence is our continuous effort to educate the underprivileged kids in sectors of Rourkela free of cost. Being part of one of the premier institutes in the country, knowledge is the best thing we can share with these kids who struggle to afford tuitions and better schools. We also look for the improvement of their quality of lives by raising awareness among the communities and sharing information which may come at a premium to them.

2020 posed several challenges to our teaching-learning process and we are very happy that AASRA continued to impart knowledge through virtual platforms. Of further satisfaction is the fact that kids who have now grown up having been tutored by us have taken up the mantle to teach the younger ones around them. It goes a long way in achieving the self-sufficiency we ultimately aim for.

This year looks very promising. We should formulate various short term and long term plans and work tirelessly to implement them. There is no bigger aim than to provide the kids with the learning opportunities they deserve. I wish everyone in AASRA the best to keep up their good work and be of service to humanity.

– Prof. S.K. Das

AASRA carries the kind-hearted spirit of NIT Rourkela. Year after year it adds to the glory of our institute. It makes the presence of NIT Rourkela felt by many in and around Rourkela socially. Such divine compassion practised by youngsters leaves footprints worth following for many conventional lives. On its birth anniversary, I congratulate each of its success carriers. I wish them to be the torchbearers for their succeeding generations in this novel mission of social reciprocation. I wish this mission to move towards exemplary heights with broad range participation.

Prof. D.P. Acharya



Wish you all a very Happy New year. I hope this year has better things in store for everyone. The last year was very hard on particularly those who are not very privileged. Education is not an instant solution for them, but in the long run, its influence trumps all other options. It is very appreciable that in a year ravaged by a global pandemic and resultant adversaries, AASRA has continued to render its services, primarily educational, to the people in need.

The young men and women in AASRA have built on those positives and rendered their commendable services. I wish Team AASRA the best to continue their tremendous effort in future as well.

- Prof. A.Thirugnanam



AASRA as I know



Being a faculty of this great institute for close to a decade, AASRA- an autonomous social service group of NIT Rourkela is a familiar name for me. I have been watching them perform to their best of the intentions from the last six to seven years in serving the underprivileged kids through free tuitions. With their guidance and support many children have passed their matriculation exams and qualified for better schools. Education is a great leveler. The volunteers of AASRA truly believe this. With the quality of teaching-learning degrading in the public schools, AASRA provides an alternate platform of community teaching. This is the best payback to society. We all know that institutionalizing teaching-learning limits human potentials. For learning to happen, brick-mortar buildings are hardly required. The volunteers of AASRA may design and develop new methods to help children grow holistically to a new level of experience and not only through books, and performances in the examination. Blended-learning approaches that emphasize skill development in these kids would help the future generation and the world in the long run. My message for the group and the alumni of AASRA would be 'shaping the young is extremely important' for a sustainable world and you must invest wisely where it is needed the most.

- Prof. R.K. Biswal

The Sixteenth anniversary of AASRA, The social service family of NITRKL, on 26th January 2021 is an occasion for thanksgiving to the former supporters and at the same time welcoming the newcomers to AASRA family for joining hands in the noble cause.

For the past fifteen years, AASRA has been able to achieve their ambitions through the untired support and determination of thousands of dedicated and passionate volunteers. The AASRA family has devoted tremendous time and efforts on various social outreach activities for the benefits of the underprivileged community in various sectors of Rourkela, to help those people realise the real impact of education on their life. **The advocation of sustainable strategies such as "Teaching a man to fish, rather than giving him a fish" has definitely paid off well and will continue to do so in the coming times.** The club's endless efforts and untired commitment in helping the impoverished community in the city develop, as well as, the financial and moral support from alma mater is worth commending.



I salute every single member of the AASRA family who has dedicated their time off this vibrant campus for empowering the underprivileged children's education and ultimately helping out their families. Let's join hands together to keep bringing smiles on the impoverished community. Wish you a very Happy New Year 2021. May this year bring more smiles on everyone's face.

- Prof. P. Balasubramanian

PRESIDENT'S NOTE

Within a few days of joining NIT Rourkela, I had attended the orientation and induction of AASRA and from there a lovely journey started for me. "**AASRA is not a club, it's a family**", I heard these words in the orientation from a senior. After spending around 4 years in AASRA, I can now vouch for that, it's not just a club, it is a family.

AASRA is mainly run by campus members with the help of our alumni and beloved faculty advisors. Alumni members guide us in all possible ways and also help us financially for the club events and activities. We are also very fortunate to have regular valuable inputs from our faculty advisors.

We live in a world where inequalities are woven into its very fabric. Even only in Rourkela, many don't have access to basic necessities and privileges in life. For the economic and social development of such communities, there can be no better way than education. And who better to educate than the little budding minds there. We, at AASRA, create opportunities for students to improve their skills in various fields. Our main goal is to share our knowledge and provide education to the children who live in the slum areas of Rourkela. We also provide employment opportunities to the parents of the children through Diya project. They make the Diyas, we sell them on our campus and the profit earned is distributed among them. Another one of our events is Little's Science Yard, a science exhibition in which children make their projects and come to NIT during the techno fest, Innovision, to showcase their scientific acumen. Professors of NITR judge the projects in each category and the kids are rewarded with prizes accordingly. Apart from these we also organise awareness programs that help the society in various aspects.

But we are not limited to only these activities. We enjoy all the festivals with the children and join them in all their celebrations much to their joy and guide them when they face any problems, especially academically. This sharing of emotions and activities is what completes us as a family.

Now that we are at the end of another session, we look forward to the next one with hope and excitement. We will be welcoming a new team of executives for the session and I wish them the best. New members will also join and the cycle will go on, but as has been the case for 16 years now, AASRA will continue to flourish.

- Abhishek Vaidya

EDITORIAL

First of all, I must thank everyone who sent us content for this magazine. All, including those which unfortunately couldn't be published due to various constraints, were wonderful reads. Deserved appreciation for the members of the editing team and the Smithraj Karna-led design team for a very impressive job.

We have focused extensively on maintaining the originality of the writings and present the stories and thoughts as unabridged as possible. The intent is to give you insights into the club, present experiences of people involved with AASRA and give you a chance to marvel at the creativity offered through the pieces. **The special attention is articles by the kids pouring their pure emotions through words.** We enjoyed preparing and presenting the magazine to you and hope you find the reading experience as enjoyable.

Let me also sneak in here my experience with AASRA so far. What an incredible journey it has been. **Apparently, we are here because they need us, but the kids have taught me so much that it's impossible to reciprocate.** Each time I go to my workplace, what strikes me the most is the unbridled joy on the face of each child there, which mind you, is an orphanage. It quickly flashes the realisation that unhappy me still has much smaller problems than them, yet they remain the ones with smiles on their faces. A boy, Manoj, goes about making paper balls and ensuing the subsequent chaos without a care in the world. But when you manage to catch his attention, he learns as fast as anyone is capable of. Sangeeta isn't as gifted. But she has risen from the depths of life to manage to be there as a loving elder sister to her 2 siblings there. I can go on, these little stories will never end and the romantic in me will keep waiting for the glorious highs of all such stories.

The life lessons, the stories and the hard work behind them are what I hope I will take away from my time with this family. Every time we fall short of fulfilling our responsibilities as members of AASRA, these stories and those smiling faces should be enough to remind us of the reason we are in it, to make those smiles everlasting and ensure they don't remain tied down by constraints they never chose but were born into, constraints which haven't yet upset their free spirits and never should.

- Prabhudatta Mohapatra

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- 01 The secret of Happiness
- 02 Let's talk
- 03 Journey
- 05 Ghar
- 06 AASRA: A Family
- 08 Paigam Aakhri
- 09 An open letter to AASRA
- 12 Suna Hai Maine
- 13 Who needed whom?
- 14 Kalam
- 15 Life within walls
- 16 Kuch ankahi baatein Maa ke liye
- 17 My first day with kids
- 18 I don't know why
- 19 Year at a glance
- 20 Why god made teachers
- 21 Shikshak
- 22 School
- 23 Naari Shikhya
- 24 Hasiba Mora Desha

The Secret of Happiness

Have you ever wondered what is actually needed for learning and getting good education? Is it experienced and skilled teachers? Is it the right to education for all irrespective of social barriers? Is it exposure to practical knowledge? These all are very essential. But there is one important factor that we miss many times. Learning requires the utmost concentration and the thirst for knowledge, which we call Jigyaasa. It requires many small steps to inculcate Jigyaasa in students. We can help them acquire it by supporting them and motivating them in every step of theirs to success. One of our seniors told us that if a child fails to grasp what we teach, don't blame them, rather change the way you teach. This quote has had a great impact on me. Every student is special and as a teacher, it's our duty to know our students.

Sometimes, students also teach us very valuable lessons. I was teaching a 6th class child on a weekend. His will to learn was so strong that even though it was difficult for him to read a line without errors, he was trying to read a whole paragraph. I saw his dedication to learning in all the classes I taught him. I asked about his likes, his life. I was very surprised to see his interest in studies. He found his happiness only in education and though he faced many serious problems at a very early age, no one could take his smile away from him. There have been many incidents like these in AASRA which showed me how to stay strong with a smile in tough times.

Once, we went to celebrate Diwali in one of our workplaces. We distributed crackers to all kids. I saw a kid who stretched his hands holding crackers and happily danced turning around himself. That's one of the best moments my eyes captured. He is generally very shy to dance. But when he had crackers in his hands, he danced like he had all the happiness of the world in his hands.

There's a girl in our workplace who is very smart. She aimed to become a scientist. She lost her mother in her 11th class. After that, she was not the same energetic girl. It took one year to console her. She couldn't concentrate the same way she did in her 10th class. Without her mother and father, she faced many difficulties. However, she started concentrating on her studies in 12th class. But she failed to clear exams due to lack of basics. She didn't give up. She tried next year and cleared all subjects, qualified in JEE Mains and is now concentrating on higher studies.

Every individual in AASRA learns very important lessons of life which can only be experienced. These are a few incidents where children in AASRA taught me invaluable lessons. The way I look at people and problems changed. In these five years, I have seen how my mood changes from any state to happiness when I teach my students and learn from them. Sometimes, students may lack concentration or they may not be able to grasp lessons we teach them. But with a little support, motivation and teaching skills, we can sow seeds of knowledge and wisdom in them.

- Hemalatha Alapati

Let's Talk

दिल के जख्म है साहब !
जल्दी कोई खोलता नहीं,
वो भी सुनता बहुत है
कुछ बोलता नहीं ।

सुना है अब तुम
मुस्कुराते बहुत हो,
दर्द ज्यादा है क्या
छुपाते बहुत हो ।

नजरें ढूँढती हैं किसी को
क्यूँ बताते नहीं,
दरवाजा खुला तो है
क्यूँ दिल तक आते नहीं ।

नाराज हूं बहुत कि
अपना कह अकेला कर गए,
जो इशारों में बोल देते
सागर आंखों तक लाते नहीं ।

जो दिल खोल दिया होता
तब तो इतना रुलाते नहीं,
अब हर पल साथ तो हो
पर साथ निभाते नहीं,
हां बोलो क्यूँ साथ निभाते नहीं?
हां क्यूँ साथ निभाते नहीं..?

- अभिषेक कुमार गुप्ता

JOURNEY

I had always wondered how I was going to get used to my college life with my shy and less talkative nature. I had never even attended any club's Orientations or Inductions due to the fear of interacting with people. I met my mentor Sankalp Bhaiya in my 1st year who was a member of AASRA, and he told me I could join the club if I were interested in teaching kids. He gave me the contact of a Telugu senior Hema Di presuming that I would feel comfortable around Telugu people which wasn't true at all. So, I never contacted her. I told him I wanted to go with him, so he took me to Sector 2 workplace.

1st day at Sector 2 to Present:

I really didn't talk much even with kids and the seniors. I hardly told my name and the course I am in. I started teaching kids in a very low voice so that no one could hear me except the kid beside me. At the end of the 1st day, I felt very happy and was able to talk with Sankalp Bhaiya and Nimisha Di like a normal person. At present, I have become so comfortable that I lie on the floor with kids to watch the stars and sky and tell them stories like I used to do with my dad.

1st GBM to Present:

I was waiting at the back alone for the meeting to start without talking to anyone as I didn't know Sec 2 members who had come to the meeting. The then Vice President of AASRA, Samir Bhaiya, made me sit on the 1st bench with Hema Di and Ramya di and told them to talk with me but I didn't talk to them much that day. Now, both of them can't stop me from talking with them and playing around them like a kid.

Those days and the people of AASRA slowly changed me into a very energetic and talkative person and I started feeling like I had a new family. I started sharing my problems with them and used to trouble them a bit with my health issues. I never realised how close I became with AASRA members in just 4 to 5 months until I called them at night after 10 pm because I had a cut on my head and I was afraid of getting stitches.

After 5 months, no one in AASRA could have seen a shy girl in me. AASRA members made me change the way I look at my life. Interaction with my seniors and especially "**gyaan night outs**" (**one of the best times of my life**) have made me realise how I should work on my goals if I'm serious about it, how to be a good leader no matter whether you have a name for it or not. I always remember all the suggestions I got from my seniors and now I would love to share them with my juniors.

"Leaders are not the ones who lead a group of people, real leaders create other leaders."

"Aasra members are not here to just teach kids in the way they are taught in schools and make them ready for this competitive world, we are here for them to make them go at their own pace."

"As a member of AASRA, your work is to make kids and parents realise how important education is and make parents think independently about the education of their kids."

"If members make any mistake regarding anything then talk about it in front of them but if they do something good praise them when they are not near you."

Aasra does help people outside our campus but it helps the members of the club too to grow personally. Kids of different workplaces have made me realise how fortunate I am for having a family and for being in a condition to afford my education and it has made me strive for my goals more than I ever did before meeting them through AASRA. Members of AASRA made me believe in myself and turned me into a leader by trusting me.

- Roja Ramani Gavara

घर

बहुत कुछ देखा है इस घर ने,
अपने आंचल में बहुतों को जगह दी है।

बहुत सी किलकारियां इसके आंगन में गूंजी हैं,
बहुतों ने गिरकर उठना सिखा है।

बहुत दुख भी देखा है इसने,
बहुत लोगों को कंधा भी दिया है इसने।

गर्मी, सर्दी सब मौसम में डटकर खड़ा रहा है ये,
दाढ़ी के डंडे से भी पीटा है ये।

इसने सबका गुस्सा भी सहा है,
सबकी अनकही बातें, अपनी तिजोरी में छिपाकर रखे हुए हैं।

पर हर साल काई गिरा कर ये दीवाली तक अपनी इच्छा पूरी कर लेता है,
हर साल दीवाली पर ये नए कपड़े पहन लेता है।

ये झगड़ा नहीं करता है,
बस चुपचाप सब सुनता रहता है।

रात में जब सब सो जाते हैं,
तब मच्छर, चीटी सबके साथ मिलकर परेशान करता है,
शायद सारे दिन की भड़ास निकलता है।

ज्यादा लोगों के आने पर, ये अपने ज़मीन पर सबको पनाह देता है।

अजीब सी दास्तान है इसकी, अजीब सा रिश्ता है इससे।

अब बहुत पुराना हो गया है,
और किसकी हड्डियां भी थोड़ी कमज़ोर हो गई हैं।

पर इससे बहुत लगाव है,
इसके पास रहकर अलग ही सुकून मिलता है।

घर, घर होता है।

-Sejal Gupta

AASRA: A Family

Aasra is not just a club. It's the cure to the hearts frustrated out in the entanglement of boring classes and tiring labs. Out from the Campus, when I went for the first time to the Sector, the kids asked me my name with a cheerful smile on their face, held my hands to give a small tour of the place while jumping in merriment. I wondered who taught them to be this hospitable at such a young age. In no time, they embraced me as family. My joy never knew bounds each time I saw the excitement on their face the moment they got a sight of us arriving in an auto. The discontent I had that I wasn't with my brother on our special day of Raksha Bandhan was healed by my dozen brothers that I got on the day at OSAP. They were shouting with excitement, "Didi! Tie rakhi on my hand na."

I was very shy and silent, too afraid to talk to seniors when I joined the Institute. Thanks to the naughty kids, the pitch of my voice became high disciplining them while teaching. Every year OSAP members take the kids to the Lakshmi Puja Mela. I met some amazing seniors there for the first time. I wondered why I was afraid to interact back then. As time flew by, I got so acquainted that I even started roasting them.

Diya Project is an emotion. From arranging the materials, interacting with the ladies while making diyas to delivering them to the professors and hostels, although it was a bit tiresome, it gave an amazing satisfaction of being able to provide some seasonal profit to the sectors on Diwali. In front of each house, small houses with clay and bamboo are made and lit with diyas and fairy lights similar to the Barbie doll's house. Burning crackers, flying sky lanterns together, having sweets took away all our homesick disappointments.

We get invitations to lots of regional festival celebrations in the Sector such as Nuakhai, Makar Sankranti, Dhunipuja etc. Even though I am an Odia, I still had little knowledge about them. We celebrate with them and a sense of gratification fills up when our non-Odia members get to see the real Odisha outside NITR. Members of other sectors become our guest for the day.

As soon as you are a part of Aasra, you find your fellow members everywhere around the Campus. Every spring, Vaishnodevi Hilltop visit is organised with the OSAP team. Waking up at 4 in the morning is a must so that we don't miss the sunrise from the top. At the summit, you find some models desperately posing to be clicked, some palmists reading hands, some brooders completely lost in their thoughts from the height, and some energetic individuals gathering these versatile members at a place.

The new executives are declared at the Cake party. The excitement lies in the shape of the cake every year that seniors plan. For Farewells, juniors dedicate a dance performance for every senior passing out. BBA becomes our practice ground for it. As you make a round around the place, you can find the whole Aasra family practicing while boycotting the senior-most members. I don't know how this began, but it's a unique way to bid adieu to our seniors. God! I missed this.

26th January is not just a National holiday for us. We celebrate the establishment of Aasra with kids from all the sectors showcasing their talent at NIT. This time it's us giving a tour of the campus to the kids. The various traditions it has are unique to Aasra. One has to do a detailed investigation to know the roots of Aasra and its rise. The Covid-19 situation has created a gap among the respective batches where the tradition is passed on to the juniors. Let's hope Aasra does not lose its old charm with the new normal, when people are back on campus.

-Chinmayee Mahapatra

पैग़ाम आखिरी

लेकर आयी हुं पैग़ाम आखिरी, जाने फिर कब ये रात होगी..!
 पल दो पल का साथ और है, जाने फिर कब ये मुलाक़ात होगी..!!
 आए थे कुछ अपने लेकर, आंखों में कुछ सपने लेकर,
 यारो की जागीर थी अपनी, दिल में एक तस्वीर थी अपनी,
 हा वक्त हमारा खूब रहा, हर शाम सुबह महबूब रहा,
 जब सजती थी महफिल यारो की, होती थी बात बहारो की,
 बिछड़ के जब हम जाएंगे, आंखों पे बादल छाएंगे,
 हसते थे कभी जिन बातों पे, जाने फिर कब वो बात होगी..!
 पल दो पल का साथ और है, जाने फिर कब ये मुलाक़ात होगी..!!

कुछ वादे हुए ना पूरे है, कुछ ख्वाब अभी अधूरे है,
 कुछ यादें और बनाने है, कुछ किस्से नये सुनाने है,
 ये दौर हैं कुछ यूं बीत रहा, जैसे है कुछ तो छूट रहा,
 क्यों बेचैनी सी छाई है, क्यों आंख मेरी भर आयी है,
 क्यों व्याकुलता है सीने में, क्यों मुश्किल सा है जीने में,
 क्या इसी को कहते जुदाई है, ये दोस्ती को हमने बनाई है,
 कल तक जो बेगाने थे, ना मिलने को करते बहाने थे,
 पर अब जो साथ है छूट रहा, कुछ अंदर तक है टूट रहा,
 कोई दवा हो जिसको पी ले हम, और उस पल को फिर से जी ले हम,
 हा चांद सितारे हो तुम सब, आंखों के तारे हो तुम सब,
 हम जीते रहेंगे यादों में, एक दूजे के जज्बातों में,
 हर मंजिल को जब पा लेंगे, जाने कैसी वो कायनात होगी..!
 पल दो पल का साथ और है, जाने फिर कब ये मुलाक़ात होगी..!!

Kajal Kishori

An Open Letter to Our AASRA Family

Dear AASRA Family,

Hopefully, everyone is healthy and doing well in life. Going through a challenging phase for the survival of humankind, I hope all in our AASRA family are fine and keeping their lives going on. This pandemic has been teaching us a variety of life lessons. The conditions around us are indeed giving the same message as the theme of AASRA – “**Because They need us**”. Although in a truer sense, it is “**Because We need each other in society**”. The conspicuous scenes of scathing hunger, helplessness and hopelessness, dreadful misery and sufferings of many people around us during the Covid lockdown and its aftermath were utterly heart-wrenching. Hopefully many from our family have been in the forefront during this unprecedented situation and rendered philanthropic services to the needy at their personal and collective capacities. The learnings from the AASRA family have always been the motivating factors for the same to act upon. The tenure as an AASRA family member always comes up with a number of virtues, a bunch of unforgeable anecdotes, memories, gifts of qualities for personality development and a lot of lifelong learnings. Many instances are there where we have acquired many positive vibes from the workplace communities. I can personally quote a few.

At OSAP, unfortunately, Hemant’s father had been suffering from complete limbs paralysis in 2016- 17 and was incapable of any movement. The community people requested us to provide him with a ‘walking aid’ for his self-movement. We contacted our alumni and easily arranged the required amount and handed over a walking aid to his family. He used it for his movement during his stay at the local hospital and also at home. Within 6-7 months, he completely recovered. Later, one day while we were interacting with the community people as a part of our routine activities, we came to know about something which was extremely delightful. Hemant’s family had donated that walking aid to a paralyzed patient in need at the philanthropic health centre near the OSAP colony and his father was also serving voluntarily to the ailing old people at that health centre. **We learnt if one indeed wants to serve, he/**

she doesn't need a plethora of resources to do so, just needs a helping hand and a kind heart to initiate something noble: big or small, doesn't matter. Similarly, examples of Arvind from OSAP and Padmini from Sector 21 can be quoted remarkably. Arvind who is known as the first student under AASRA's founding batch is working as a philanthropic member of an NGO in Rourkela and serving destitute persons, old homeless people with a meagre emolument but with a generous instinct. Padmini, who once struggled to avoid her early marriage, is self-employed now after learning hospitality and hotel management skills and inspiring many girls and women of the community to acquire various skills to become 'Atmanirbhar'. They indeed imply the famous quote by Pablo Picasso:- **'The meaning of life is to find your gift. The purpose of life is to give it away.'**

Every AASRA family member during their attachment with the family must have experienced many such major or minor anecdotes which are inspiring, delightful and satisfying of their purpose of being part of AASRA. I can claim guarantee that there is no AASRAite who hasn't been/isn't missing or cherishing AASRA days, those memories of celebrations, workplace activities, Diya project works, foundation day functions, farewells, orientation programs and also many sleepless nights for AASRA planning programs, countless joy and jubilations, even after long years of passing out. Recent Alumni are in fact more affected victims of such sweet memories flashbacks (chuckles!!!). Current members are on the way to that scenario.

In the end, I would like to share something for AASRA as a team, individual members, and some ways forward. As a Team of energetic volunteers and an organized group in NITR, we must focus upon Team Spirit, Thinking & Planning from workplaces' perspectives (according to children and community ground realities, not as per what we are thinking in a centralized manner); formulate both short term and long term vision plans (semester wise short plans and long term plans like making some children self-sufficient by guiding their career perspectives, like Arikhit was guided by various batches of members but with a long term career plan); pragmatic approaches for implementation (like we can't implement the idea of assessment of children just by seeing question papers from class-wise test papers, for that we need child-centric assessment); adding creativity and innovation to daily/monthly/half-yearly/annual activities (Some alumni had thought and implemented 'Little's Science Yard' that's why it's one of the annual activities of AASRA now. Think new and act

practically, but don't neglect routine ones); utilize members judiciously to gain from everyone's ability; track progress (for each child and our programs), review regularly and self criticize constructively (prepare mechanism for review and assessment by a committee of senior and active members in a time bound manner); further robust the tripartite interactions and contacts between alumni, current members and children & community (may go for annual or biennial get together or regular social media interaction or cloud meets etc.) For an Individual AASRA Family member:- **(1)** Always address 'We', not 'I'; **(2)** Responsibility and sincerity are keys if regularity can't be maintained because of other works (many members can't visit regularly to the workplace but they track the programs, contribute in other ways and interact with other members and children to get things done so they possess special bonding with both kids and community); **(3)** Justify your joining in AASRA till the day of your farewell (set your own goal of contributing either in big or small ways which may help make a child's life better even in 0.001%- that's also satisfying, keep inspiring and nurturing kids as your own brothers and sisters); **(4)** Avoid power tussle in either latent or manifest forms (Each member is an equal stakeholder in AASRA and can infuse his/her ideas unhesitatingly. Many alumni who hadn't been in any posts during their tenure but were very well known and beloved among children and community for their active contributions and participation); **(5)** Develop 'empathy' and act as you are dealing your own family members, brothers and sisters; **(6)** Most importantly rationalise your own behaviour and speech, as children, directly and indirectly, follow you at the workplace; **(7)** Think and opine logically and innovatively (attend meetings and share your active views regularly through various forums).

So finally, in the end, a thanks-giving for the current volunteers for showing their perseverance and teamwork to continue disseminating knowledge and learnings for the children during these pandemic days. Keep the good works on and keep spreading smiles...Best wishes and congratulations for the upcoming 16th Foundation Day celebration and hopefully we will meet soon...

Your Family Member
Debasis Acharya
2014-18 batch

सुना है मैंने....

सुना है मैंने, की तू अपने बच्चों को रोता हुआ नहीं देख सकता,
 यह ज़रूर इंसान के ही कर्मों का फल है,
 उन्हें अपनी गलतियों का हो रहा एहसास है,
 थाम ले तू उनका हाथ,
 क्योंकि सुना है मैंने, तू अपने बच्चों को बीच मजधार में नहीं छोड़ सकता ।

नहीं रख पाए कलश नवरात्र में,
 जुम्मे की नमाज भी अधूरी रह गई,
 गुरुद्वारे का लंगर उठ गया,
 ईस्टर की रि-यूनियन भी रुक गई,
 इससे पहले कि लोगों का भरोसा टूटे,
 तू दिखा दे करिश्मा अपना,
 क्योंकि सुना है मैंने, तू अपने बच्चों को कभी निराश नहीं करता,

सारी जमा पूँजी खत्म हो गई ,
 कितनों कि मंजिले पीछे छूट गई,
 तेरा घर बनाने वाले, आज खुद सड़क पर आ गए,
 तेरे दरबार में भोग लगाने वालों के बच्चे आज भूखे सो गए,
 तुझे अपने मन में बसाने वालों का दिल दहल सा गया है,
 थोड़ी और देर हो, और इंसान की आस ही टूट जाए,
 इससे पहले, बता दे सबको की बस तू ही जीवन का असली आधार है,
 क्योंकि सुना है मैंने, की तू अपने भक्तों को कभी अकेला नहीं छोड़ता,
 सुना है मैंने , की तू अपने बच्चों को रोता हुए नहीं देख सकता ।

- ऋचा श्रीवास्तव

WHO NEEDED WHOM?

Entered my Avant-grade through thicks,
Feeble at mind, dreamy by heart,
To my little infantilism, to my undone tricks,
I remember throwing mud on my shirt.

To the shady days of choosing clubs,
To the befogging nights of attending inductions,
When my likings to help others rub,
I remember choosing a family instead of a collection.

To the day I ambled into the sector, to those winsome little faces,
To the prankish acts, they did, to the mousy tokens hide,
To those wonky games we played, I clipped my memory races,
I remember asking myself WHO NEEDED WHOM?!?!

Were it the fledgling littles who asked answers,
Or was it the youngster who asked for a family away,
Were it the teens who asked acquiescence of plays,
Or was it the stripling asking for a bijou hand in its way?

I remember getting a little meek, a little down every day,
I remember getting a little worried for the teenybopper's smile every day,
I remember getting a little mature, a little benign for the small smiles every day,
I remember asking myself the question, I remember answering myself the same
every day.

Now I can blush and laugh and call them out,
My sector kids or my friends of contrary aged,
My sector times and my sector things and those little fingers
that twined around my hand,
As I came seeing them off with their parents, I recalled:
“I NEED THEM MORE THAN THEY NEED US!!”

- Nigam Mohanty

कलम

मैं कलम हूँ,

वही जो तुम्हारी खामोशी पढ़ जाती है,

हाँ वही जो लफजों को समेत कोरे कागज पर उतार जाती है।

हाँ मैं वही हूँ, जो सर झुकाकर सब कुछ बयां कर जाती है।

हाँ मैं कलम हूँ।

वही जो पाँच रु में मिलती है,

पर इतिहास रच जाती है।

हाँ मैं बहुत सस्ती हूँ,

पर बड़ी बड़ी हस्ती से मिलती हूँ।

हाँ मैं कलम हूँ।

हाँ इक कोने में पड़ी रहती हूँ,

पर जब चलती हूँ तो चारों खांने चित्त कर देती हूँ।

हाँ मैं वही हूँ, जो अपने छोटी नोक से

बड़े बड़े काव्य रच जाती हूँ।

हाँ मैं कलम हूँ।

हाँ वही कलम जो कभी तलवार बन वार करती है,

तो कभी ढाल बन रक्षा करती है।

कभी लफजों को समेट जिंदगी सवार देती है,

तो कभी सहारा बनती है।

हाँ मैं वही कलम हूँ।

कभी जिंदगी जीने का सलीका सिखा जाती है,

तो कभी मंजिल तक पहुँचा जाती है।

हाँ मैं वही हूँ,

हाँ मैं कलम हूँ,

हाँ बस एक कलम हूँ।

- कार्तिक

Life within walls

For us, an occasion means new clothes and delicious food; for them, new clothes and delicious food is an occasion. For us, having a meal three times a day is routine, for them, it's a challenge. For us, happiness and sadness are emotions; for them, it's a time of crisis.

So, who are they? They are those who don't need to travel the length and breadth of the world to live life, but they understand life more beautifully and extensively despite living within the walls. They are those who smile by heart, not just for the camera. They are those who have a vision in their eyes but are not privileged enough to fulfil it. They are those who don't run from others' problems, instead, they unite. They are those who are cheated by different leaders in the name of votes but still love their country. They don't need a yard for playing, but land to feed their family. They are those to whom culture is more important than money and fame. **They are surrounded by barriers, but free in heart and spirit. They are those who can't be us and they shouldn't be.**

- Dheeraj Matania

कुछ अनकही बाते माँ के लिए



1. निराशा के अंधकार में

प्रकाश की ज्योति है तू ,

सागर की अटल गहरायी में

एक अनमोल मोती है तू

या यूँ कहूँ मेरी जिंदगी की किताब में

हर पन्हे में होती है तू

2. मेरे हर सपने और अपने में

पहली छवि तेरी है,

दिल को सुकून देने वाली

तेरी हँसी मुझे बहुत न्यारि है .

3. जब भी मैं हारा, गिरा पड़ा, रोया

तेरी उंगली ने मुझे उठाया,

कभी हँसाया और सहलाया

तेरी दूरी ने मुझे रुलाया.

4. अपने बच्चों पर जान छिड़कने वाली

एक महान देवी है तू

मेरे जैसे छोटे से कविता का

सर्जन करने वाली कवि है तू

5. गीता की अमृत वाणी जैसे

तेरी बोली बहुत मीठी है

जीवन रूपी महाभारत में

मैं तेरी पार्थ तू सारथि है.

6. मुझे पहला अक्षर सिखाने के लिए

कितनी मेहनत है तूने किया

पर मैं नासमझ हर बात पे

तुम्हें बहुत सताया

7. मेरी हर गलती माफ़ करने वाली

मेरी प्रेरणा है तू

किसी अच्छे काम का परिणाम

या फिर मेरी साधना है तू

8. कभी मैंने गुस्सा किया

कभी तू मुझसे रूठी है

पर हमेशा तू मेरी पहली गुरु

और सबसे प्यारी साथी है.

9. तुम आज मेरे पास नहीं हो

पर तुम्हारा एहसास मेरे साथ है

ये दुनिया चाहे कितनी पराई क्यों न हो

मुझे डर नहीं , मेरे सर पर तुम्हारा हाथ है

10. मुझे पता है मेरे शब्द

तेरा वर्णन कर नहीं पाएंगे .

पर मैं क्या करूँ माँ

तेरी तारीफ किये बिना ये रह नहीं पाएंगे

Suprita Devi

My first day with Kids at the workplace

As freshers we all wish to explore the campus, various clubs, make new friends, bloom along with the environment, learn new skills, work on our personality and so on.

In short, as rightly said in YJHD, "**Mai daudna chahta hu, udna chahta hu, girna bhi chahta hu par kabhi rukna nhi chahta.**"

With the same intention, I buffed myself up and started to work on my interests, one of which was contributing to society in some or the other way. Thus I joined AASRA.

On the first day, as I got into the Auto-Rickshaw with my fellow AASRAites, I was overwhelmed by the support of my beloved seniors. I was somewhat nervous. "**How am I going to handle the kids? Will the kids like me? Will that visit bring a change in the kids' life?**" All these streams of questions made me wonder and in no time we reached the workplace.

Seniors guided us to the secret base of the kids. As the door opened, their pet dog circled us and was wagging his tail with joy. Few kids opened the door to the room filled with many other kids who looked at us excited. **This feeling of witnessing their joy was worth a billion.**

We entered the secret base of the kids, they arranged the mats and all the essentials required to study and unlike traditional student-teacher behaviour, I saw a spark in their eyes which was telling me that those kids are willing to learn and grow and contribute to the nation with the power of education. **As I taught them, the curiosity and the intriguing ideas triggered the kids and their cute inquisitive faces amazed me.** Their satisfaction after learning the things was precious. After their academic part, we headed out of their secret base into the playground and **played cricket with the kids.**

I was overwhelmed and excited at the same time and **a thought came to my mind that yes I can be a change in these kids' lives by providing them with the best out of me and never let their expectations down.**

-Aditya Lote

I DON'T KNOW WHY.....

From a child born in an apocalyptic world after another world war

I don't know why tangled tubes are around me
I don't know why I am preserved in a container
I don't know why my father is shedding tears
 I don't know why my mother is idle
 I don't know why all are in white suits
I don't know why my father is having patches
 I don't know why we are in a desert
 I don't know why it's difficult to see
I don't know why it's difficult to breathe
 I don't know why it's difficult to cry
 I don't know why I am half-born
 I don't know why I am born

Udaya Sankar

Notifications

Teaching through virtual modes

Aasra primarily aims at empowerment of society through education. We are continuing with online teaching of children at various workplaces during the pandemic.

JNV preparation

We are continuously training the students for the JNV selection test. We have facilitated the registrations of 7 students for the exam.

12 April- Alumni meet

Online Alumni meet was organised which proved to be very cheerful and insightful.

April- Collaboration with YfS to raise funds

During the Covid 19 pandemic AASRA along with other social service clubs of NIT Rourkela collaborated with YfS to raise funds and help the needy.

May- Adarsh Vidyalaya Entrance tests

Students were guided and facilitated to appear in the entrance exams for Odisha Adarsh Vidyalayas. 2 students, Suruchi and Ruchi cleared the entrance test.

May-June - Provision of food supply for Sec-6 workplace residents

During the pandemic AASRA kept in constant touch with all the workplaces, checking that basic amenities for life were always available. When people of sector 6 faced food shortage, AASRA made provisions of regular food supply for the residents.

July- 10th & 12th exam and results

Regular rigorous teaching and practice sessions were arranged for tenth and twelfth class students. All the students passed with flying colours with Sanjana also clearing JEE Mains.

2nd August- Online farewell

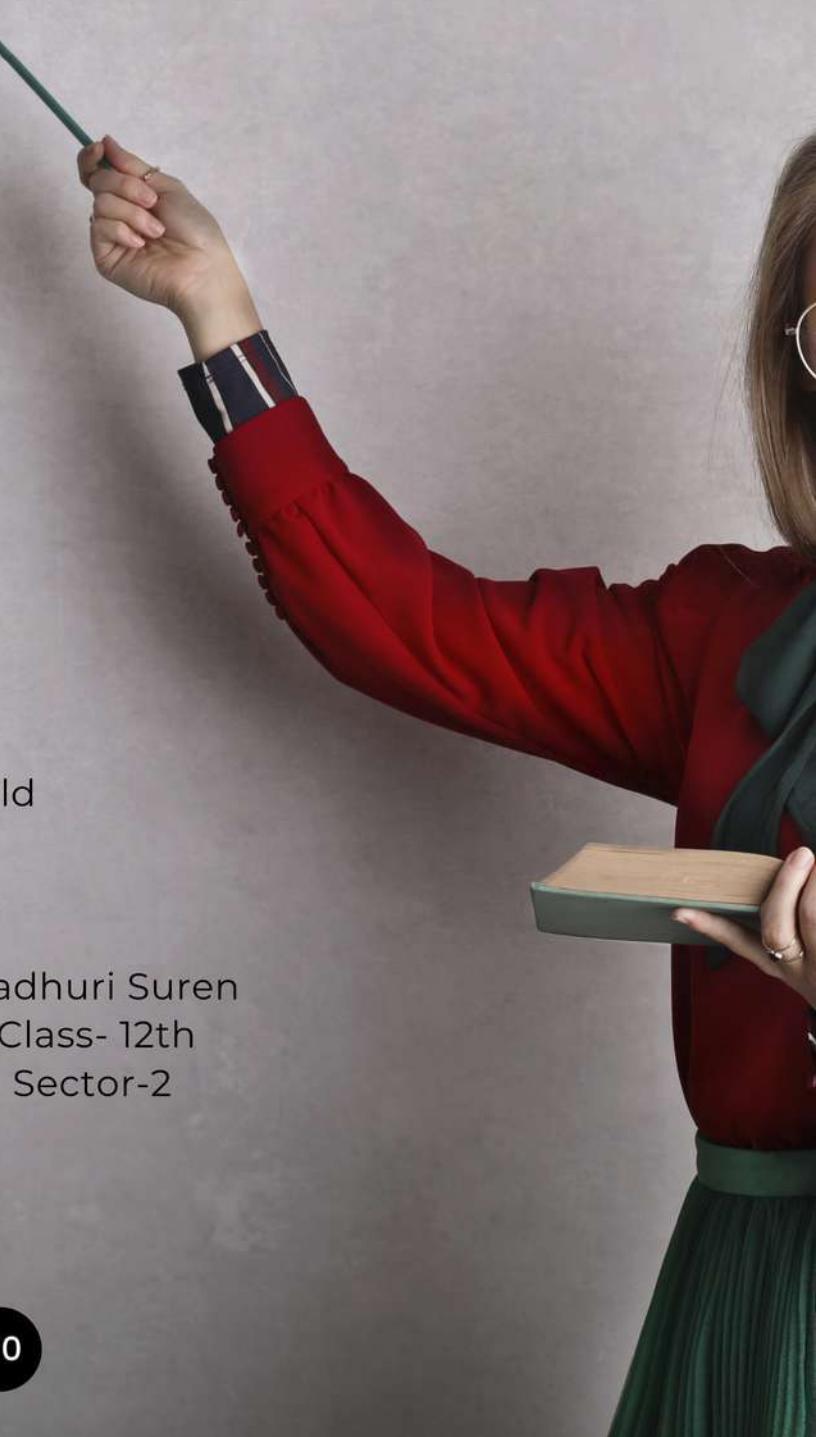
This year AASRA bid farewell to the seniors via online mode.

December- Online orientation and induction

Keeping the club culture of NIT Rourkela alive, AASRA conducted its online orientation and induction successfully.

Why God Made Teachers

When God created teachers
He gave us special friends,
To help us understand his world
And truly comprehend,
The beauty and the power
Of everything we see,
And become a better person
With each discovery.
When God created teachers
He gave us special guides,
To show us ways in which to grow,
So, we can all decide.
How to live and how to do
What's right instead of wrong,
To lead us so that we can lead
And learn how to be strong.
Why God created Teachers
In his wisdom and his grace,
Was to help us learn to make our world
A better, wiser place.



Madhuri Suren
Class- 12th
Sector-2

शिक्षक

जीवन में जो राह दिखाए,
सही तरह से चलना सिखाए ।
माता पिता से पहले आता,
जीवन में सदा आदर है पाता ।

सबकी मान प्रतिष्ठा जिससे,
सीखी कर्तव्यनिष्ठा उससे ।
कभी रहा न दूर मैं जिससे,
वह मेरा पथ दर्शक है ।
जो मेरे मन को भाता,
वह मुझको भाता ।
वह मेरा शिक्षक कहलाता ।

कभी है शांत, कभी है धीर,
स्वभाव में सदा गंभीर ।
मन में दबी रहे ये इच्छा,
काश मैं उस जैसा बन पाता ।
जो मेरा शिक्षक कहलाता ।

हेमवन्ती
कक्षा नवमी
(OSAP)



स्कूल

हम स्कूल रोज है जाते
शिक्षक हमको पाठ पढ़ाते,

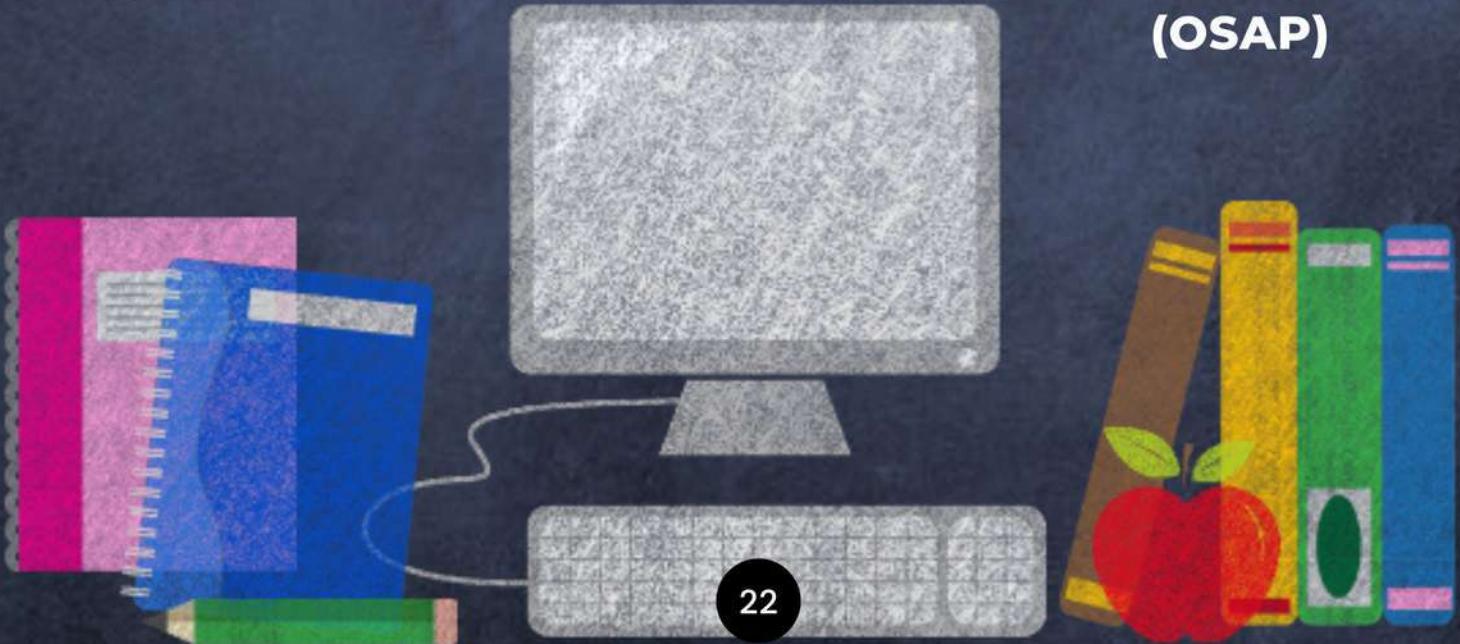
दिल बच्चों का कोरा कागज
उस पर ज्ञान अमृत लिखवाते,

जाति - धर्म पर लड़े न कोई
करना सबसे प्रेम सिखाते,

हमें सफलता कैसे पानी
कैसे चढ़ा शिखर बताते,

सच तो ये है स्कूलों में
अच्छा एक इंसान बनाते ।

ममता
कक्षा दशवी
(OSAP)



ନାରୀ ଶିକ୍ଷା

ଯୁଗତ ବଦଳି ଗଲାଣି କେବେଠୁ,
 ଆଗଭଳି ଆଉ ନାହିଁ ।
 ତଥାପି ନାରୀଙ୍କ ଶୈତ୍ରରେ ବହୁତ
 କୁସଂସ୍କାର ଅଛି ରହି ॥
 ନାରୀ ବିନା କେବେ ଆଗେଇ ପାରେନି
 ଦେଶ ଅବା ପରଦେଶ ।
 ଏକଥା ପ୍ରମାଣ କରିପାରିଛନ୍ତି
 ନାରୀ ଶୂନ୍ୟ ଇତିହାସ ॥
 ଶିକ୍ଷା ଅଭାବରେ ବିତଳ ଜୀବନ
 ହୋଇ ଅନ୍ଧକାର ପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣ ।
 ଏବେ ସରକାରଙ୍କର ଚାଲିଅଛି
 ସନ୍ତ୍ରିକରଣ ଅଭିଯାନ ॥
 ଅନ୍ଧାରି କୋଣରେ ବସି ନରହି ଯେ
 ଅନ୍ୟାୟ କେବେ ନସହୁ ।
 ସେଥୁପାଇଁ କେତେ ସୁନ୍ଦର ଯୋଜନା
 ଅସଫଳ କେବେ ନ ହେଉ ॥
 ତଥାପି ଅନେକ ବୁଝିପାରନ୍ତିନି
 ଶିକ୍ଷା କେତେ ପ୍ରୟୋଜନ ।
 ସେଥୁପାଇଁ ନାରୀ ଶିକ୍ଷାର ପ୍ରସାର
 ହୋଇ ନାହିଁ ପରିପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣ ।
 ଆଖୁ ଖୋଲି ସର୍ବେ ଜାଗ୍ରତ ହେବାକୁ
 କରୁଅଛି ନିବେଦନ ।
 ଦେଶ ଆଉ ରାଜ୍ୟ ସୁନାମ ଅଞ୍ଜିବ
 ନାରୀକୁ ଦିଆ ସମ୍ମାନ ॥

ଦେବକୀ ଭୋଇ
 ଓ.ଏସ୍.ଏ.ପି

ହସିବ ମୋର ଦେଶ

ଆକାଶଟି ହସିଇବୁ,
ତାରା ଫୁଲ ଫୁଟିଲେ।
ବଗିଚାଟି ହସୁଆଏ,
ଫୁଲ ବାସ ଛୁଟିଲେ।।
ଆମ୍ବଗଛ ହସୁଆଏ,
କୋଇଲିଟି ଗାଇଲେ।
ପେନ୍ଦ୍ରିପେନ୍ଦ୍ରି ବଉଳରେ,
ମହୁମାଛି ବସିଲେ।।
ନଈଟିଏ ହସିଇବୁ,
କୁକୁକୁକୁ ଗାଇଲେ।
ମଜାଗପ କହିଲେ।।
ଘର ଆମ ହସିଇବୁ,
ମିଳମିଶି ଚଳିଲେ।
ମା ମୋର ହସିଇବୁ,
ଉଲ ପାଠ ପଡ଼ିଲେ।।
ଦେଶ ମା'ଟି ହସିଇବୁ,
ଶତ୍ରୁ ସାଥେ ଲଢ଼ିଲେ।
ଉଲ କାମ କରି ଆମେ,
ଚେକ ତା'ର ରଖିଲେ।।

ପ୍ରଭାସିନୀ ରଣା
ଓ.ଏସ.୧.ପି
ଶ୍ରେଣୀ:- ଅଷ୍ଟମ

Meet the Team!

The creative minds without whom this magazine was unimaginable!



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Content Team



Vishal Kumar

Design Team



Ujjwal Raj

Content Team



Shivam Kumar

Design Team



Kartik Kant Raman

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Basundhari Naik

Content Team

“

I see dreams. Clear as crystals to me, blurry to others. Reality thinks these are impossible stuff, mere fantasies. My vision disagrees. Reality is mortal. Dreams aren't. I may not have the resources, but no one can take away my ideas. All I need is an AASRA.

”

