

International Women's Day 2017

Report on Women's Day 2017 Workshops at the Community Sport Program, Bhubaneswar, Odisha



In celebration of International Women's Day, Pro Sport Development (PSD) held 5 interactive workshops at its Community Sports Program centres in Bhubaneswar, Odisha from the 27th of February to the 8th of March, 2017. The workshops saw the total participation of 201 children (46% girls), aged 9-14 years from 5 centres: (Refer to Figure 1)

Centres	Location	Total Children	Number		Percentage %	
			Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls
Bhaktakabi Madhusudan U.P School	Dum Duma	23	12	11	52	48
Binabharati Vidya Mandir School	Bharatpur	68	38	30	56	44
Kalinga Vidya Mandir School	Salia Sahi	27	16	11	59	41
Saraswati Shishu Mandira School	Bharatpur	39	19	20	49	51
Vivekananda Siksha Kendra School	Dum Duma	44	24	20	55	45
Total Participants		201	109	92	54	46

Figure 1: Table showing the number of participants from each Community Sports Program Centre.



The workshops were conducted by PSD's trainers, with the assistance of volunteers from KIIT University. The workshops consisted of classroom sessions and practical sessions. The classroom sessions involved interactive activities aimed to educate the children about International Women's Day. These activities included informing the children about the importance of the day, why it is celebrated, along with the students learning about the following 5 inspirational Indian Women:

Manasi Pradhan: Women Rights Activist & Author

Kiran Bedi: India's First & Highest ranking Woman Indian Police Services Officer

Padmini Rout: International Chess Player

Mary Kom: Olympic Indian Boxer

Nandini Satpathy: Indian Politician & Writer

Each group was given a poster describing information regarding each of the women. Then the groups were asked to explain to the rest of the class the role and achievements of these women, why they are an inspiration and what they have learnt from them.



Below are some of the reactions of the participants:

Yasmin Begam, girl aged 12 years from Bhaktakbi Madhusudan Upper School: "I have learnt from reading about Mary Kom that women are not weak in sport; if I get the opportunity I want to play more sport in the future".

Usharani Prusty, girl aged 13 years from Kalinga Vidya Mandir School: "I have learnt from Kiran Bedi that if we are strong minded, then we can achieve what we want to".

Bikash Sahoo, boy aged 10 years from Saraswati Sishu Vidya Mandir School: “Padmini Rout achieved her titles in Chess by concentration and hard work. I have learnt from her that if I want to do well in my studies I need to concentrate and work hard to achieve this”.



To conclude the classroom sessions, the children were asked which women in their lives have been an inspiration for them. This was challenging for some of the students, especially the boys whose role models were mostly male. Once the students were given the chance to discuss, they then began to understand the importance of women in their lives, and how they have an equal impact on them as compared to their male role models. Student volunteer from KIIT University, Somya Das Taldukar, observed that the children were starting to appreciate the role of women in their lives. She said, “They understood and started to relate in their life how much hard work their mothers, sisters and other female figures do and the care they provide for them”.

Below are a few of the responses from the students about their role models:

Ashrujeet Rout, boy aged 13 years from Binabharati Vidya Mandir School: “I love my mother because she is always there for me and encouraging me to do my best”.

Bijaylaxmi Sethi, girl aged 13 years from Bhaktakbi Madhusudan School: “My mother because she always takes care of me, my grandmother and father and she helps and encourages me in my studies.”

Prem Kumar Sahu, boy aged 13 years from Bina Bharati Vidya Mandir School: “The female astronaut Kalpana Chawala has inspired me; if we all have strong belief like her then in the future India will improve to become a better country.”

For the practical session, PSD trainer’s selected 10 girls (2 from each centre) based on their contribution and development throughout the program. These girls were given the opportunity to lead their favourite game from the Community Sports Program to their peers. For all of the girl leaders, this was a new experience and many of them were nervous as this was the first time they had the opportunity to lead a whole group. However once their session had started, all of them were able to lead their game very well. Aysa Rout, aged 12 years from Binabharati Vidya



*The quotes in this report have been translated into English from Oriya, in which they were originally spoken.

Mandir School said, “before the game I was very nervous about being the leader, but once it started I was happy because the class listened to me and understood my instructions”



All the girls were able to set up the games, give instructions to their groups, ensure the game was played correctly, introduce new rules and recap the game using questions. For PSD trainer Laxmi Priya Sahu this was fantastic to see, “It is great to see the girls lead the sessions, they are confident, giving clear instructions, encouraging their group and being creative with the progressions they use”. The opportunity for the girls to lead a session allowed them to show and develop their leadership, communication and creative skills. Below are the reactions from some of the girls about their experience of leading the games:

Abhilipsa Maharana, age 12 years from Vivekananda Siksha Kendra School: “As a coach I was happy, my class listened to me in my session and they enjoyed playing the game. I encouraged them throughout the game. To be a leader was challenging for me but I was able to do it”.

Monalisa Das, age 12 years from Saraswati Sishu Vidya Mandir School: “I kept the class disciplined, they also listened to my instructions and had fun playing the game”

Sushree Subhashree Raj, age 12 years from Saraswati Sishu Vidya Mandir School: “I enjoyed teaching the game Leaders Leaps because I gave everyone the chance to lead and to be creative.”

Bijaylaxmi Sethi, age 12 years from Bhaktakbi Madhusudan Upper School: “I was happy to be the leader, if a student did not follow the rules I had the confidence to correct them.”

The workshops were well received by the centres, with the teachers sitting in the classroom sessions



or watching as their female students lead the practical. It was great to see the teachers involved and even add to the workshop.

An example of this was Mrs. Namita Sahoo, principal at Bhaktakabi Madhusudan Upper School. She stood up and spoke to the students during the classroom session saying, “Always respect every woman in your life everyday, ensure you always give opportunities and help them. Also you can learn good things from your mother and teachers”.

Mr. Ajay, who teaches Class 6 at Bina Bharati Vidya Mandir School, was very happy that the students had this opportunity to participate in the workshop. He said, “We are very happy to celebrate International Women’s Day, it is important for our students to learn about Women’s day. It also gave two of our female students the chance to lead a game and become a leader which they enjoyed and



were able to do easily. Thank you to Pro Sport Development for organising this Workshop”.

At the conclusion of each workshop, the girl leaders from each centre received a prize to congratulate them on their performance as young leaders. Overall, the International Women's day workshops educated the students, teachers, volunteers and trainers about the values of Women's Day, along with showcasing these values through the young female leaders. The experiences and information from this workshop will inspire this young generation to play their roles in realizing Goal 5 of Gender Equality from the Sustainable Development Goals for 2030.

