



PRESS NOTE

“Fight against corruption needs more citizen participation”

Modern governments play a significant role in providing the basic services like provision of drinking water, primary education, health care, public distribution system, roads, etc. Corruption-free services are the rights of every citizen. However, ordinary people are having difficulties in accessing these services controlled by few public officials. Non-payment of speed money often leads to delayed decisions or denial of services which are clear indications of violation of rights especially of the poor.

Due to the widespread corruption and lack of accountability the general public suffers most and are unable to get their entitlements and there is also a huge loss of tax payer’s money. In this regard Coalition Against Corruption is an alliance of citizens, activists and civil society organizations a citizen led campaign against corruption in public service delivery in Berhampur city launched in 2009 has reactivated its activities by strengthening its operation.

The main purpose of the initiative is to offer hand holding support to citizens willing to fight corruption and bring social justice to the poor and marginalised section of the society in Berhampur city of Odisha. The objective of CAC is to reduce the burden of corruption faced by ordinary citizens in their day-to-day public life. The sole intention of addressing the issue of corruption at the lower end of the system is to give some relief to the common man who otherwise doesn’t seem to have any helping hand in corruption.

The major activities CAC is undertaking are

- support citizens to access basic services by lobby and advocacy with the government departments in a corruption free manner
- promote active citizens ships
- sensitise on various govt. schemes, acts and inform the poor slum dwellers
- support citizens to use RTI and other social audit tools to reduce corruption and bring social accountability
- engage with public officials and elected representatives to bring improved service delivery
- work with media and other CSOs to discuss issues and take action on this

In the current stage CAC focused primarily on three basic services i.e. Drinking Water, Public Distribution System, ICDS and other issues pressing to the ordinary citizens and slum communities.

For the CAC alone is not enough to do its designed activities to bring the results for the poor. So we request all the citizens, intellectuals, CSOs, media and other likeminded groups of Berhampur city to actively support our activities for a greater cause of humanity. In this occasion all members of CAC including Guru Charan Patro,,Ramesh Chandra Sahu,,Surya Narayan Behera, Saroj Kumar Pattnaik, Bibhu Prasad Sahu and others were present in this occasion.