

BASUNDHARA

History

A timid knock was heard on the door in a pleasant afternoon on December 12, 1985. Obviously, the visitor was not known. She was a girl between the age of 20 and 22 standing on the threshold holding a tiny baby (a baby girl of four days old) in her arms. She put the child on the floor and burst into uncontrollable sobs, as if there was no sky over her head. The lover had fled away leaving her to bear all the agony of an unwed motherhood. The parents had agreed to give her shelter only if she abandoned the so-called unwanted child. She could not look after the child all by herself. She handed over the baby to the safe hands and went back to her parents. The child was named as "Basundhara" and thus was born "BASUNDHARA". A house was taken on rent, funds were raised, and a committee was formed. The committee members took the oath to proceed religiously braving all odds and obstacles that might come on their way. With time Basundhara came in touch with increasing number of women married and unmarried in different age groups, and elders who had been forced out from their homes under diverse circumstances and had to open the doors for them. From 1985 to 1997, Basundhara has rehabilitated 130 children among the Indian parents, 69 children among the foreign parents through adoption, has given shelter to 302 unwed mothers and 164 distress women and 148 distress elders and also has given vocational training to 724 divorcee and distressed women. Basundhara has started nine schools in the slum and tribal areas of Orissa.
