

COMMUNITY EXTENSION PROGRAMMES: SERVING SOCIETY THROUGH EDUCATION AND COMPASSION

Organised by: Centre for Distance and Online Education (CDOE), Maharaja Sriram Chandra Bhanja Deo University, Baripada, Odisha

Date: 10 April 2026

Venues: Adruti Organisation, Takatpur and Anand Marga Orphanage School, Debendrapur

Programme: International Day of Yoga 2026 – 72 Days Countdown Programme

Introduction

With the vision of nurturing socially responsible citizens and strengthening the bond between higher education and society, the **Centre for Distance and Online Education (CDOE), Maharaja Sriram Chandra Bhanja Deo University, Baripada**, organised **Community Extension Programmes** on **10 April 2026** at **Adruti Organisation, Takatpur**, and **Anand Marga Orphanage School, Debendrapur**.

The extension programmes reflected the University's belief that education is not limited to the transmission of academic knowledge but also encompasses the cultivation of compassion, empathy, civic responsibility, and service to society. Through direct engagement with children residing in care institutions, the University sought to create meaningful learning experiences that foster confidence, creativity, emotional well-being, and social inclusion while promoting the ideals of humanity and collective responsibility.

Objectives

The programmes were organised with the following objectives:

- To promote the University's commitment to community engagement and social responsibility.
- To strengthen the relationship between higher education institutions and community-based organisations.
- To encourage holistic learning through educational, cultural, and recreational interactions.
- To motivate children towards education, creativity, self-confidence, and healthy living.
- To promote the values of compassion, empathy, inclusiveness, and volunteerism among faculty members.
- To provide experiential learning opportunities through meaningful community service.

Programme Highlights

Faculty members of the **Centre for Distance and Online Education (CDOE)** visited both institutions and spent quality time interacting with the children in an atmosphere of warmth, encouragement, and mutual respect. The extension programmes were designed not merely as visits but as meaningful engagements that encouraged learning, creativity, confidence-building, and emotional support.

The sessions commenced with informal interactions during which faculty members and the Director, Prof. Sukanta Kumar Nayak, introduced themselves and interacted individually with the children. The conversations created a welcoming environment where children freely shared their interests, aspirations, educational experiences, and dreams for the future. Faculty members encouraged them to remain committed to their studies, develop confidence in their abilities, and cultivate values such as discipline, kindness, perseverance, and respect for others.

A variety of educational and recreational activities were organised to ensure active participation. Faculty members conducted interactive learning sessions that included storytelling, reading activities, educational games, quizzes, vocabulary-building exercises, drawing, creative thinking exercises, and group discussions. The activities were designed to make learning enjoyable while stimulating curiosity, communication skills, teamwork, and critical thinking.

The faculty members also conducted simple learning activities and guided the children through creative exercises aimed at improving their communication, imagination, and problem-solving abilities. Basic concepts related to health, hygiene, positive habits, environmental awareness, and the importance of regular physical activity were also discussed in an engaging and age-appropriate manner. These interactions reflected the University's commitment to extending educational support beyond conventional classrooms.

One of the most memorable aspects of the programme was the enthusiastic participation of the children, who proudly showcased their remarkable talents before the visiting faculty members. They presented a variety of dance performances like Chau, sang melodious songs, recited poems, and participated in cultural interactions with great confidence and enthusiasm. Their performances reflected not only their artistic abilities but also their confidence, discipline, and creativity.

The children also exhibited a wide range of artworks, paintings, drawings, handmade crafts, decorative items, and handicrafts prepared by them as part of their regular learning and skill-development activities. The faculty members appreciated the creativity, patience, and craftsmanship reflected in these exhibits and encouraged the children to continue nurturing their artistic talents. The exhibition highlighted the important role played by the institutions in promoting creativity, vocational skills, and holistic personality development among the children.

Faculty members interacted closely with the children while observing their artistic creations, appreciating their efforts, and providing words of encouragement. The interaction became an inspiring exchange of ideas where learning occurred mutually, strengthening the emotional bond between the University and the children.

Distribution of Sweets and Refreshments

As a gesture of affection, encouragement, and solidarity, the faculty members distributed sweets, snacks, and refreshments among all the children at both institutions. The distribution was carried out in a cheerful and inclusive atmosphere, bringing immense joy to the children and making the occasion memorable.

The simple yet meaningful gesture symbolised the University's commitment to sharing happiness with the community and reaffirmed the values of care, generosity, and human compassion that lie at the heart of community extension programmes.

Interaction with Institutional Authorities

During the visits, the faculty members also held detailed interactions with the management, teachers, caregivers, and staff members of Adruti Organisation and Anand Marga Orphanage School.

The discussions focused on understanding the educational framework, skill-development initiatives, extracurricular activities, rehabilitation efforts, and welfare programmes undertaken by the institutions for the holistic development of the children. Faculty members appreciated the dedicated efforts of the staff in creating a nurturing environment that promotes education, discipline, creativity, and emotional well-being.

The interaction also explored possibilities for future collaboration through educational outreach programmes, digital literacy initiatives, awareness campaigns, life-skill development workshops, career guidance sessions, health and wellness programmes, and other community-based extension activities. The discussions strengthened institutional relationships and laid the foundation for sustained cooperation in promoting inclusive and quality education.

Outcomes and Impact

The Community Extension Programmes achieved significant educational and social outcomes by creating a platform for meaningful interaction between the University and the community.

The programmes:

- Strengthened the University's outreach and community engagement initiatives.
- Enhanced educational motivation, confidence, and emotional well-being among the participating children.
- Encouraged creativity, artistic expression, and self-esteem through cultural and creative interactions.
- Provided opportunities for the children to showcase their talents, artworks, crafts, and handicrafts before members of the academic community.
- Enabled faculty members to contribute directly to community learning through interactive educational sessions.
- Fostered mutual learning, empathy, inclusiveness, and social responsibility.
- Strengthened collaborative relationships between the University and community-based organisations for future educational initiatives.
- Reinforced the University's commitment to experiential learning and socially relevant education.

Conclusion

The Community Extension Programmes organised by the **Centre for Distance and Online Education (CDOE), Maharaja Sriram Chandra Bhanja Deo University**, successfully

exemplified the University's vision of integrating academic excellence with meaningful community engagement. The programmes demonstrated that higher education institutions have a vital responsibility not only to impart knowledge but also to promote compassion, inclusiveness, dignity, and service to society.

The enthusiastic participation of the children, their inspiring cultural performances, the display of their artistic creations and handicrafts, the educational interactions conducted by the CDOE faculty members, and the distribution of sweets and refreshments together created an enriching and memorable experience for all involved. The programmes strengthened the bond between the University and the community while reinforcing the values of empathy, volunteerism, and social responsibility.

By reaching out to vulnerable sections of society through education, encouragement, and human connection, the Centre for Distance and Online Education once again demonstrated its commitment to building an inclusive, compassionate, and socially responsive academic ecosystem. The initiative stands as a significant milestone in the University's continuing efforts to transform education into a catalyst for community development and holistic societal progress.



