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Annual Report 2006-2007



About us

Since 1979, Gram Vikas has been working with poor and marginalized communities of Orissa towards making sustainable improvements in their quality of life.

Gram Vikas has its origins in a group of student volunteers from Madras University, who came to Orissa under the umbrella of the Young Students Movement for Development (YSMD). Gram Vikas was registered as a society on January 22, 1979. The organisation, as on 31st March 2007 serves a population of over 202,000 across 542 habitations in 17 districts of Orissa.

Our Vision

An equitable and sustainable society where people live in peace with dignity

Our Mission

To promote processes which are sustainable, socially inclusive and gender equitable, to enable critical masses of poor and marginalized rural people or communities to achieve a dignified quality of life.

GOVERNING BOARD OF GRAM VIKAS

Mr. J.B. Singh - Chairman
Former Commissioner
Agriculture, Government of India;
Former Director, AFPRO, New Delhi

Ms. Neelima Khetan
Chief Executive,
Seva Mandir, Udaipur

Dr. Rajesh Tandon - Treasurer
President, PRIA. New Delhi

Dr. Saraswati Swain
Director, NIAHRD. Cuttack

Prof. Debi Prasad Mishra
Institute of Rural Management, Anand

Ms. Rita Bhatia
Formerly with AFPRO. New Delhi

Mr. Vijay Mahajan
Managing Director, BASIX, Hyderabad

Mr. Joe Madiath
Executive Director Gram Vikas. Mohuda

Mr. Basant Kumar Panigrahi
Lawyer. Berhampur

Awards for the Year 2006-2007

Skoll Award for Social Entrepreneurship

Gram Vikas is one of the 10 organisations that received the 2007 Skoll Awards for Social Entrepreneurship. These awards are designed to honour and support organisations led by social entrepreneurs who have made outstanding contribution for transforming life of disadvantaged or marginalized population of society, on the basis of pioneering mind and innovative methodological approach.

Gram Vikas was chosen for this award for its objective to bring water and sanitation to 100,000 families by 2010. Gram Vikas will receive a three-year grant of \$1,015,000.

India NGO Awards - NGO of the Year 2006

The India NGO Award was launched in 2006 by The Resource Alliance, UK in partnership with The Nand and Jeet Khemka Foundation to acknowledge and facilitate organisations, which have shown remarkable achievements in intervention and practices, in terms of resource mobilisation, accountability and transparency.

Eight organisations were short-listed from four regions of the country and from among them, national winners were announced on 1st March 2007, in Delhi. Gram Vikas and PRADAN, New Delhi was declared joint winners, receiving the title of "NGO of the Year 2006", a trophy and a prize money of \$ 15,000 each.

The Ashoka Changemakers Innovation Awards

Gram Vikas has been selected as one of the three winners in two cycles of the Ashoka Changemakers Innovation Award Competition on "Health for All" and "How to Provide Affordable Housing. The winners of the awards competition were selected through online voting from a slate of finalists chosen by a panel of judges. The awards comprised of a certificate and prize money of \$5000 each.

The MANTRA of Gram Vikas

Gram Vikas' mission is realised through MANTRA - Movement and Action Network for Transformation of Rural Areas – an integrated habitat development programme guided by the belief that all people deserve to live in peace with dignity. The core values of MANTRA are:

- **Inclusion**: All households must be involved in the development process and must benefit equitably. Participation of all households in the habitation is a non-negotiable condition of the programme.
- **Social Equity**: Representation of all sections of the community in decision-making processes across caste, economic status and other barriers, to ensure that a level playing field is created in terms of access to basic services and decision-making space.
- **Gender Equity**: Equal representation and participation of men and women in community level decision-making and control.
- **Sustainability**: Development processes have built-in institutional and financial mechanisms for sustainability and are necessarily based on sound environmental values.
- **Cost sharing**: Poor people *can* and *will* pay for beneficial development services but there are some 'social costs' which society at large must meet.

MANTRA unites communities to overcome barriers of social exclusion. Water and sanitation, as an entry point to new habitations, is not only a vehicle to improved health, but also a way of transforming hierarchical caste and gender based exclusion into equitable inclusion.

MANTRA is undertaken with clear sustainability mechanisms established from the outset facilitating systematic role transformation and the incremental transfer of responsibility to the communities themselves. A typical programme cycle is between 3 to 5 years after which Gram Vikas withdraws from the habitation and the community takes full responsibility for the management, operation and maintenance of all systems thereafter.

Gram Vikas intends to form 'critical masses', and will attempt to reach a minimum of 20% of the population in each of the Gram Panchayats that become a part of MANTRA. Gram Vikas aspires to work with 1% of Orissa's population, approximately 100,000 families by 2010, or roughly 500,000 people, covering 1% of the total population of Orissa (projected for 2010).

Networking with organisations both within and outside Orissa remains a core strategy for expansion. The aim of these partnerships is to draw on the experience and capabilities of Gram Vikas to enhance the capacities of partner organisations and enable them to implement similar systems in their operational areas. Towards the end of the year, a strategy for engaging with community-based organisations (committees promoted by Gram Vikas in previous years) was also formulated.

Gram Vikas is engaged in estimating the resource-requirement for the proposed scaling up of operations. Along with forming alliances with other NGOs and CBOs, it will also involve building capacities of present staff, recruitment of new staff at appropriate levels, strengthening Gram Vikas' internal systems of monitoring and evaluation and mobilising the external funds required for implementation and other costs of the organisation.

The resource mobilisation strategy continues to focus, on one hand, on increasing the levels of government funding – at least for programme activities – while the inflow from national/international agencies continue on the other hand.

Demographic Profile										
District	Coverage			Households				Population		
	Blocks	Panchayats	Habitations	Dalits	Tribals	Others	Total	Male	Female	Total
Angul	3	5	5	131	93	163	387	1025	935	1960
Bargarh	7	25	37	420	432	1900	2752	7652	7373	15025
Bolangir	9	40	75	2139	2096	5400	9635	24002	23573	47575
Boudh	1	3	4	80	23	154	257	806	725	1531
Deogarh	3	3	3	15	75	55	145	411	379	790
Dhenkanal	1	2	2	2	69	15	86	235	201	436
Gajapati	7	35	104	48	3722	530	4300	10771	11017	21788
Ganjam	24	63	134	1124	1752	6881	9757	27555	25271	52826
Kalahandi	4	15	79	612	2037	777	3426	8590	8605	17195
Keonjhora	6	17	22	107	384	1272	1763	4730	4521	9251
Koraput	1	2	2	32	46	37	115	290	292	582
Mayurbhanj	17	32	51	252	1849	1826	3927	11632	10992	22624
Nawarangpur	1	2	2	115	47	16	178	608	527	1135
Nayagarh	5	6	9	70	1	772	843	2663	2361	5024
Rayagada	1	1	1	7	6	37	50	100	100	200
Sambalpur	1	3	5	103	41	167	311	877	835	1712
Subarnapur	2	7	7	88	50	327	465	1384	1244	2628
Total	93	261	542	5345	12723	20329	38397	103331	98951	202282

- The Integrated Tribal Development Programme (ITDP) covers 178 habitations
- The Orissa Tribal Empowerment and Livelihood Programme covers 34 habitations
- Watershed development projects in Bongamunda block of Bolangir district covers 42 habitations
- The water and sanitation-led habitat development model covers 361 habitations. This includes 73 habitations from the ITDP apart from 288 new habitations

Name of programme	Total habitations covered	Habitations under water and sanitation
ITDP	178	73
RHEP	288	288
OTELP	34	0
Bongamunda	42	0
Total GV	542	361

FOCAL AREA I – Self-Governing People’s institutions

Participatory Development

The inclusion of local populations in the development process is essential for its sustainability and success. Through its participatory approach to development, Gram Vikas recognises the value of local involvement and promotes and facilitates self-determination and autonomy within rural communities. One of the fundamental aspects of Gram Vikas’ approach to development is its requirement of unanimous support and participation from local communities. Project sustainability is ensured by the establishment of Village Executive Committees (VEC) that are empowered to manage common resources after the withdrawal of Gram Vikas. During committee meetings, people outline the issues affecting them and collectively develop micro plans that allocate responsibilities to various community members and aim to solve these problems. The promotion of participatory governance and democratic principles enables communities to tackle development issues in a unified and participatory manner.

Equitable representation

Gram Vikas promotes the equitable representation of all persons at all levels of governance. VECs comprise of individuals from all caste, class and gender groups. Furthermore, they are underpinned by democratic principles rendering every person equal and able to contribute to the organisation and development of the community.

Initially, exclusive women’s general bodies are established to enable women to participate in community decision-making processes and to allocate responsibilities to female members of society. In time the women and men’s bodies are combined and the VEC is elected with 50% of the positions reserved for women.

Resource management

Committees are registered under the Societies Act 1860, giving them institutional autonomy to enter into agreements and undertake financial transactions. There were 286 registered committees as of March 2007 and others are under the process of registration. Additional Sub-committees are formed to manage particular development activities (e.g. sanitation committees, health committees, education committees, etc).

In 2006-07, habitations, with assistance from Gram Vikas mobilised government funds worth nearly Rs. 410 million for various development activities, out of which Rs. 87, 680,036 was received.

Status of community funds (as on March 31, 2007)

Corpus fund	Habitations	361
	Households	26,850
	Amount	Rs. 32.3 million
Watershed Development Fund	Habitations	49
	Households	7542
	Watersheds	20
	Amount	Rs. 3.5 million
Village funds	Habitations	70
	Households	2309
	Amount	Rs. 637,928

Promoting representation, Achieving rights

Gram Vikas believes that representation at all levels of governance is required to ensure that marginalised populations receive the rights and services they are entitled to. Gram

Vikas functionaries educate local populations about their rights and empower community leaders and the VEC to demand these entitlements. Community leaders also become development ambassadors, influencing neighbouring habitations and nearby areas where they have relations or seek to build relations through marriage. Habitations are developed in clusters, so that a critical population (at least 20%) is covered in each Panchayat. Members of Panchayats are often a part of the local institutions. Over time, men and women showing leadership potential are also encouraged to participate in Panchayat elections.

People's victory at Galusahi

This is the story of the newly elected Sarpanch of Galusahi Panchayat in Mayurbhanj district. Jaipal Singh Tiu, who revealed that he had no hopes of even contesting the elections, since he did not possess what it apparently took to win.

Jaipal Singh had been an active social worker in the habitation since long and as he himself said, had been active especially in helping people secure their rights from the Gram Panchayat. When people from three habitations requested him to contest, they also promised to campaign for him even without the standard incentives – money or liquor or both. People raised funds for Jaipal's campaign, and everyone, especially women, canvassed enthusiastically throughout the electioneering phase.

Having won, Jaipal Singh's first agenda is to win over those sections in his Panchayat who did not vote for him. He says he wants to first turn his opponents into his supporters, and exuded confidence that this will not hurt his supporters who knew of him as a committed social worker. In the days to come, he plans to raise awareness in his Panchayat regarding the importance of education and that of hygienic sanitation and access to clean drinking water.

Capacity building of local institutions is an ongoing process and happens through workshops and discussions in structured training sessions as well as practical support. Elected leaders (men and women) participate in regular leadership programs. Ongoing support includes the accompaniment and confidence building of leaders. Particular support is given during interactions with external individuals and institutions. Functional literacy programmes are organised for leaders to enable them to understand and participate in management effectively.

Actualising OREGS

Project teams have been active in generating awareness on Orissa Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme in tribal districts of Ganjam, Gajapati and Kalahandi. In meetings held with village communities people were informed on the provisions under the OREGS and the procedures for applying for employment in their respective Gram Panchayats. The awareness created through these meetings and campaigns has led to an evident improvement in the way OREGS has been operationalised in the project areas. People have applied for job cards and even unemployment allowance in cases where the work has not been undertaken. Village communities, more informed and confident about their entitlements with regard to OREGS, are monitoring the records mainly the muster rolls and entries of number of workdays in the job cards. As a consequence people both men and women have been able to receive the minimum wages as had been declared by the government. In cases where disparity was noticed people have made use of the Right to Information and have put their queries to the concerned officials.

FOCAL AREA II – Health

Water and Sanitation

Gram Vikas has identified the lack of access to safe drinking water as being one of the root causes of mortality and morbidity amongst rural populations, especially *adivasi* and *dalit* populations. Waterborne diseases account for 80% of morbidity cases within rural areas and are the principle cause of ill health amongst infants and children. As a result, facilitating access to safe water and improving sanitation practices is one of the focal points of Gram Vikas' work under the larger sectoral focus on health. The water and sanitation programme, which motivates and mobilises communities to build their own safe water and sanitation systems, constitutes the key entry point activity of MANTRA. This unique approach ensures that all households participate in, and benefit equally from, the development process.

The water and sanitation programme, established in 1992 (under the name – Rural Health and Environment Programme or RHEP), has been successful in coalescing communities and improving the health of rural populations. By 31st March 2007, Gram Vikas had reached 361 habitations, covering 26,850 households. The programme continues to grow as local communities increasingly recognise the value of water and sanitation infrastructure.

Collaborative action

Gram Vikas recognises the need for community participation within the development process in order to empower local population and to promote sustainable development. Through the water and sanitation programme, Gram Vikas works in partnership with local communities to facilitate positive change. The whole Communities participate in the discussion, planning and implementation stages of the project.

Local people with the help of the trained masons are responsible for the construction of their own toilets and bathing rooms. All households build the same infrastructure including toilets with ceramic pan, footpads and door, separate bathing room and continuous access to piped water supply through three taps, one each in the toilet, bathing room and kitchen.

Once people construct the toilets and bathing rooms up to the roof level with locally available materials, Gram Vikas releases its subsidy that covers the cost of external materials required to complete the facilities like the ceramic pans and footpads, doors and cement and steel for roof casting. At the same time, Gram Vikas and the community commence work on the establishment of water supply system. Gram Vikas provides all necessary technical support throughout the process.

Cost-sharing

Gram Vikas believes the poor can and will pay for beneficial services. Communities are mobilised to meet nearly 60% of the costs of toilets and bathing rooms and 25-30% of the costs of water supply. Contributions are in the form of cash payments, skilled and unskilled labour and the collection of locally available construction materials. The communities are entirely responsible for operation and maintenance costs. Gram Vikas also recognises the right of rural populations to access the same services and infrastructure available to wealthier, urban communities. Furthermore, it believes that the provision of such infrastructure contains social costs which society at large must bear.

A single toilet-bathing room block costs between Rs. 8,500 – 10,000 depending on material costs at different locations. Gram Vikas provides a support of Rs.3,000 per household (and Rs.3,500 for SC/ST households) for the construction of toilets and bathrooms. These funds

are mobilised from government and national and international donors. Gram Vikas also accesses, for families living below the poverty line, Rs. 1,200 from the Total Sanitation Campaign, the government's sanitation programme.

Gram Vikas is a Project Implementing Agency for the government programmes - Western Orissa Rural Livelihood Programme (WORLP) and the Orissa Tribal Empowerment and Livelihoods Programme (OTELP). In these programmes, the government has recognised water and sanitation as the entry point activity for watershed development projects.

In another encouraging development, NABARD has recognised the Gram Vikas model of sanitation infrastructure as cost-effective and has issued guidelines to all nationalised banks as well as commercial institutions to facilitate loans to families to implement toilet-bathing room blocks following the Gram Vikas model.

Gram Vikas attempts to construct overhead water tanks, which have a storage capacity of 40 litres per-capita. Hence the costs of water supply for a habitation varies according to its population. To meet the costs of water supply, Gram Vikas facilitates the habitation committees to access funds from the Integrated Tribal Development Agency, government schemes like Swajaldhara, Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana (RSVY). In addition to these, in very poor habitations, efforts are made by Gram Vikas and the community to obtain additional funds from local area development funds from Members of Parliament or Members of the Legislative Assembly. Per-capita costs of construction are high for small populations. This is one of the reasons the government is reluctant to fund small remote habitations. In these cases, Gram Vikas sources funds from external donors to fund the water supply system.

Instances of non-cooperation from government officials and insufficient funding from government bodies have been responsible for (in some cases) very long delays in implementing water supply systems in some habitations. In spite of this, Gram Vikas remains committed to working with government funds to the extent possible for water supply systems.

Habitations	Water tanks under construction	Overhead Water tanks Completed	Water Supplied
361	42	219	185

Building sustainability in water and sanitation

At the initiation of the programme a corpus fund is collected. Every household contributes Rs. 1,000 on an average; however, individual payments differ and are dependent upon the capacity of each family. This creates a strong sense of ownership of the development process within the habitation. The corpus fund is placed in a term deposit. The interest is used to cover the social cost of extending the water and sanitation system to new households, ensuring total coverage at all times. 166 toilets and bathing rooms (43 in 2006-07) constructed by communities themselves after Gram Vikas withdrew from water and sanitation are a validation of the concept of the corpus fund.

Status of corpus funds (in Rs. million)

Habitations	Families	Maturity value of corpus deposited	Deposited for water supply*	Raised in material**
361	26,850	16.7	11.25	4.99

*Water and sanitation committees have to deposit 10% of the project cost of establishing water supply as their contribution to be able to access funds under government schemes.

**People who are unable to contribute cash, do so in the form of materials, in lieu for which, Gram Vikas deposits an equal amount into the corpus fund.

Local resources, including community horticulture in common lands, forests and ponds for pisciculture, are developed to contribute to operation and maintenance costs including electricity charges for pumping water. Local youths are trained to operate the pump and to repair most technical problems. Drainage systems are developed to ensure that wastewater does not accumulate. Banana and papaya trees planted around soak pits help to leach excess water and keep the pits dry. The Executive Committees are capacitated to take over full responsibility and management of the water and sanitation systems once it is established.

Some time later...

In August 2006, Adhei Jugudi Sahi in Gumma block of Gajapati district was the first habitation in the Karadasing project to have their own water and sanitation system, and was therefore considered a model for other habitations in the vicinity. Step by step, the people were discovering a new kind of life, where water is delivered directly at home. The members of the community were getting very excited about how to improve their toilets and bathrooms and make them more "luxurious" by installing shower devices and getting plastic mugs for the toilets.

Eight months later, in May '07, the sound of water can be heard all over the habitation. The taps run and the toilets are used. Some families put locks on the doors of their toilet/bathing rooms as a way of saying that these belong to their respective household and that nobody else is allowed to use, or in other words, to "dirty" them. Because women are presently free from the task of getting water, especially in the mornings and evenings, gatherings including women and men can be seen around the habitation.

In a few months, things have changed in this little habitation located in the middle of Gajapati's hills and people seem to have accepted these modifications as their new way of living. Children here will grow up not knowing how life was without toilets – the kind of life their parents had to deal with.

Recently, the people have started to build toilets and bathrooms next to the community church – has hygiene become as important as religion?

Hygiene education

Gram Vikas understands that the provision of water and sanitation infrastructure will be ineffective unless a comprehensive hygiene education programme accompanies it. Consequently, it not only facilitates the construction of infrastructure but also educates local populations about the new technology and the importance of hygienic and sanitary practices. A Health Committee is formed and is responsible for monitoring the water and sanitation facilities and collecting monthly tariffs to meet their running costs. Communities are motivated to keep their surroundings clean, while children are educated about personal hygiene and the benefits of a pollution-free environment and are encouraged to participate in maintaining their habitations clean.

School Sanitation and Hygiene Education

The education campaign, which creates awareness regarding hygiene and sanitation, is a fundamental component of the water and sanitation programme. During the year school sanitation and hygiene education was implemented in 21 schools in different districts of Orissa. It motivates local communities to adopt new approaches to sanitation and to implement the behavioural changes necessary to improve health. Hygiene education in schools focuses on the importance of hand washing nails cutting, clothes washing and general cleanliness and is integral for the success and sustainability of the programme. Children become increasingly aware of health and sanitation issues, therefore are able to

adopt new behavioural patterns and are able to influence and change non-hygienic habits of adults in their villages.

Sustainability of water source

In the initial stages of the water and sanitation programme bore-wells were the preferred source of water. However, instances of failure as well as concern for environmental sustainability rendered a shift to open wells which have more appropriate protection and re-charge mechanisms. This strategy has been adopted within all new project areas, while back-up water sources are being developed for older project areas that rely on bore-wells. Where feasible, gravity flow water supply is utilised and appropriate land development and water harvesting activities are undertaken to further ensure sustainability of the water source. The shift away from bore wells and electrical water pumping is driven by Gram Vikas' efforts to reach poorer and more remote habitations. By not depending on electricity for pumping, the recurring expenses of running the water supply system are brought down significantly. The shift in water source is evident in the table below

Sources of Water

	Total habitations	Dug wells	Springs	Percentage
Pre 2003	105	4	4	7.6%
Post 2003	256	39	64	40%

Scaling up

Gram Vikas had covered in the first ten years of the water and sanitation programme, 5000 families. Over the last five years, Gram Vikas has added nearly 22,000 families to its earlier coverage. This scaling up was possible due to several factors – (1) increasing experience of field level and senior level staff and resultant expansion of capacities, infrastructure and systems within Gram Vikas, aided by consistent external donor funding; (2) favourable demonstration effect among communities and an emerging demand-pull situation for water and sanitation based on the Gram Vikas model; and (3) increasingly favourable government policies, due to recognition of the Gram Vikas model as worthy of replication.

Community health management

Health committees monitor the health status of their community, focusing particularly on the health of antenatal mothers and children under 5. Antenatal mothers receive tetanus immunisations and are supplied with iron tablets and malarial preventives. Kitchen gardens with banana, papaya, drumsticks and seasonal vegetables are promoted to improve nutritional intake, while growth monitoring of children helps prevent malnutrition. Health committees also pressurise government functionaries to provide basic health services like immunisation and ensure regular visits from government health workers who are reluctant to visit remote habitations.

Malaria is endemic within many of Gram Vikas' working areas and remains the single biggest reason for deaths in tribal areas. Most cases of malaria in recent times have been found to be cerebral malaria – a possibly fatal ailment, unless detected and treated early. Trial efforts in malaria prevention using various herbal remedies to be used as a preventive have been expanded to cover communities in the malaria prone *adivasi* areas. Mosquito nets are also widely distributed and households are made aware of government provision of malarial preventives. Gram Vikas supported Drug Distribution Centres and Village Health Workers (VHWs) have improved the detection and treatment of malaria and have reduced mortality due to malaria.

Training and capacity building is a core component of the health strategy. Health workers are trained to identify illnesses such as Tuberculosis and Malaria and to manage and dispense basic medications. They also monitor treatment and ensure that patients take appropriate medication in a proper manner. Furthermore, training Traditional Birth Attendants (TBAs) in improved delivery practices and antenatal care has contributed to a significant reduction in birth complications, and infant and maternal mortality.

Gram Vikas organises health camps in isolated regions to ensure communities have access to government health services; these are attended by doctors from the local Primary Health Centre (PHC) and people from nearby habitations. During the past year, 43 health camps were held, where more than 3000 patients were treated.

Insuring lives

Gram Vikas facilitates people to subscribe to the Janashree Bima Yojana (JBY) of the Life Insurance Corporation of India and the Bima Kawach Plan of the Birla Sunlife Insurance Company.

In the JBY, an annual premium of Rs.100 provides insurance cover of Rs.20,000 in case of natural death and Rs.75,000 in case of accidental death. Currently 2396 persons from our operational areas in *adivasi* habitations of Ganjam, Gajapati and Kalahandi districts are insured. To date, 158 claims worth Rs. 3.2 million have been settled. An accompanying scheme of the JBY is the Shikshya Sahayak Yojana, which provides scholarships to children of insured persons, studying in Classes 9-12. 105 children are currently receiving Rs.100 per month under the SSY scheme. In the Bima Kawach Plan that was introduced this year, Gram Vikas has insured 291 persons. Under this plan, a one time-insurance premium of Rs. 50/100 insures the beneficiary for 100 times the premium in case of death within three years. In case the person survives, she/he gets back Rs. 110 at the end of three years.

FOCAL AREA III – Education

Education is widely recognised as being fundamental to community development and empowerment. Gram Vikas' education program is underpinned by the central aim of promoting and facilitating access to education for all eligible children. The program employs two differing approaches to education. In isolated areas where government education facilities are lacking, Gram Vikas establishes its own education centres and in areas where the government infrastructure is available, Gram Vikas supports and strengthens the existing systems and also empowers communities to hold accountable the responsible government officials. The implementation of each approach is determined by geography, accessibility and also importantly, quality of government provided education services.

Gram Vikas operates education centres throughout eight project areas (earlier called the Integrated Tribal Development Project or ITDP) in the regions of Ganjam, Gajapati and Kalahandi, servicing children from its 178 operational habitations in these areas. These centres provide education for *adivasi* populations across 178 remote habitations. In these areas, the education infrastructure established by Gram Vikas aims at facilitating a steady progression of tribal children (mostly first generation learners) from pre-school on to the day schools and finally to primary and high school. Therefore, in these areas, Gram Vikas operates *balwadis* (pre-school centres), day schools and residential schools.

Balwadis (pre-school centres)

Gram Vikas operates 76 centres with a total enrolment of over 1100. *Balwadis* provide education for children up to the age of 6. Situated in isolated habitations, these centres teach essential social skills as well as the basic skills required to commence formal

schooling. Balwadi centres also free older siblings from the responsibility of caring for younger members of their family and allow them to attend school.

Joyful learning approaches are employed by all Gram Vikas education facilities. *Balwadi* centres approach education in a creative, active and enjoyable manner. Classes usually consist of playing, songs, dance, and story telling and playing. Children are educated about the importance of nutrition and are provided with one cooked meal everyday. Furthermore, nature classes are held within the local environment in order to ensure learning is interesting and relevant to the local setting.

Gram Vikas is in a withdrawal mode in the ITDP areas and one of the steps being taken is to have *balwadis* for clusters of habitations, where the number of enrolled children was few. During the past year, the number of operational balwadi centres reduced from 109 to 76. Some of the habitations where Gram Vikas has discontinued running *balwadis*, people have taken responsibility in running them by linking them to the government programme. In some other habitations where there are very few children eligible to be enrolled in *balwadis*, they have been merged with day schools run by Gram Vikas. As children grow and their learning abilities increase, they move on to lower primary school, run by Gram Vikas or by the government (where they function satisfactorily).

Day Schools

Day schools for grade 1 to 3 operates in remote tribal regions. Presently, there are 110 of these schools servicing 126 habitations. Over 2000 children who have graduated out of the *balwadis* (with nearly equal numbers of boys and girls) are enrolled in these schools. Classes are scheduled at flexible times to synchronise with habitation routines and enable maximum attendance. These schools provide education to clusters of isolated habitats. Locally appointed facilitators now run most schools and attend regular capacity building programs conducted by Gram Vikas.

A school fund is generated from collections and community horticulture developed to meet school needs. Other common resources such as habitation ponds, agriculture and forest produce are also being tapped.

Residential schools

Gram Vikas operates 6 residential schools that provide upper primary and high school level education for tribal children from its own operational habitations. Those graduating from the Gram Vikas day schools join government schools, if possible. Others join the Gram Vikas residential schools right from the upper primary level. Gram Vikas High School, Konkia also enrolls students directly into high school – both from other upper primary Gram Vikas residential schools and from government schools. Tribal children live and learn together under the care of teachers residing at the schools. Residential school enrolments continue to rise as rural and tribal populations become increasingly interested in, and value, education. During the past year, enrolment figures rose above 1200.

The provision of free education for female children has led to improvements in the enrolment rates of girls, rising from 454 in 2005-06 to 543 in 2006-07.

Enrolment figures for Residential Schools

District	School	Class	Total	% Boys	% Girls
Ganjam	Kerandimal Middle Education School, Konkia, Ganjam	III to VII	208	63%	37%
	Gram Vikas High School, Konkia, Ganjam	VIII to X	204	66%	24%
	Gram Vikas Vidya Vihar, Rudhapadar, Ganjam	III to VII	166	36%	64%
	NCLP School, Tumba, Ganjam	II to V	49	48%	52%
Gajapati	Mahendra Tanaya Ashram School, Koinpur, Gajapati	III to VII	381	55%	45%
Kalahandi	Gram Vikas Shikshya Niketan, Kumudabahal, Kalahandi	III to VII	224	56%	44%
Total			1232	55%	45%

Academic performance of residential schools

In 2006-07, 86% of the students who appeared for the standard X examinations from Gram Vikas High School, Konkia were successful and 50% of the students passed the Standard X examination through correspondence course. This is a significant improvement on the previous year, when only 57% of the candidates passed the standard X examinations. Regular-b=22,g=14, correspond b=11, g=9

Examination Details (Standard X)									
Name of School	Year	Appeared		Passed					
		B	G	1 st		2 nd		3 rd	
				B	G	B	G	B	G
Gram Vikas High School, Konkia	2005-06	23	10	4	0	7	1	4	3
	2006-07	33	23	3	1	12	6	13	6
Examination Details (Standard VII)									
Name of School	Year	Appeared		Passed					
		B	G	1 st		2 nd		3 rd	
				B	G	B	G	B	G
KME School, Konkia, Ganjam	2005-06	22	14	6	6	11	6	4	1
	2006-07	21	11	4	3	10	7	7	1
Mahendra Tanaya Ashram School, Koinpur, Gajapati	2005-06	21	11	8	3	9	6	4	2
	2006-07	32	12	11	4	12	3	9	5
Gram Vikas Sikshya Niketan	2005-06	17	8	15	8	2	0	0	0
	2006-07	15	12	11	10	2	1	2	1
Gram Vikas Vidya Vihar	2005-06	13	9	3	1	5	5	5	3
	2006-07	14	13	2	4	9	6	3	3
	2005-06	73	42	98%					
Pass percentage	2006-07	82	48	100%					

B=boys, G= girls

At the primary, middle and secondary level schools, regular classes incorporate active approaches to education and are paralleled by extra-curricular activities such as cultural events, kitchen gardens, regular physical activity, exposure trips, community service, competitions and vocational classes and training.

Highlights from last year

- Government-facilitated Mid Day Meal scheme made available to students of Gram Vikas Shikshya Niketan, Thuamul Rampur.
- Bhima Savar, a student of Mahendratanya Ashram School (MTA), Koinpur was awarded by SAMBAD for his ART. He also stood first in the Art competition held at Block level.
- Ramesh Sabar and Jara Sabar of Mahendra Tanaya Ashram School were felicitated by the District Collector, Gajapati and awarded with a citation and cash prize of Rs. 5000 each for their arts.
- Four students from Gram Vikas Residential School, Kankia joined the kalinga Institute of Social Science (KISS) with Gram Vikas Support
- Twelve students of Std. III and V got the stipend from the government.
- One girl and Eight boys from Gram Vikas Residential School, Kankia were awarded Orissa state level talent Scholars search examination organized by World Health and Education Scheme, BBSR
- Nine students from the four residential schools got admission in Navodaya Vidyalaya.
- Eight students of Gram Vikas Residential schools succeeded in the NRTS Examination. Of them five students of MTA School, Koinpur got the first five position at the block level.
- The students of Std. VI and VII of MTA, Koinpur received boarder's stipend of Rs. 1,14,100 for the first time.

Supporting and Strengthening Education

Gram Vikas' approach in the areas outside of the 178 habitations in the Integrated Tribal Development Projects is one of a facilitator. Gram Vikas works with rural communities to promote education and to strengthen existing educational facilities. This approach is possible in these areas since the majority of the habitations have access to government schooling services and the main problem is their irregular functioning. Invariably, enrolments tend to be low and education standards are inadequate. Gram Vikas works with local communities to emphasise the importance of education and to motivate enrolments and attendance. It also establishes and supports education committees that monitor education facilities and ensure they are functioning effectively.

The local governing committees are crucial in the promotion of education within the communities. Furthermore, they play an active role in ensuring that high educational standards are upheld. Where the student-teacher ratio is high, committees have engaged and financed additional tutors. In 142 habitations, communities have self-funded tuition classes.

Gram Vikas also promotes children's savings groups across all its operational areas. 138 children's savings groups with over 3081 members had accumulated Rs. 382,046 as on 31st March 2007.

Gram Vikas cooperates with and supports government appointed teachers. It co-runs several government schools and encourages teachers to attend education trainings, development workshops and various other extra-curricular activities. It works to establish a positive relationship between education facilitators and local communities, to initiate changes in community and governmental attitudes towards education and to improve the functioning of education centres.

Village and Resource libraries

Gram Vikas as part of its educational promotion programme with support from Rajiv Gandhi Foundation, New Delhi has set up resource libraries for students and village libraries for the rural communities. Presently 10 village libraries and 4 resource libraries in four residential school at Ganjam, Gajapati and Kalahandi were set up, with the aim to sustain literary skills, to provide people with access to good quality books and to expand and disseminate knowledge.

The current membership in the village libraries is 362. The libraries have been provided with a wide range of reading materials, ranging from pure sciences to literary fictions. Besides the books, daily newspapers and periodicals are also provided, to keep the students and villagers up-to-date with the latest regional, national and international happenings. A library committee has been constituted for each library to look after the maintenance and encourage the people to avail of the books. The committees have organised various promotional events like drawing competition, debates and other group activities that has lead to a visible increase in interest of men, women and children towards reading books.

FOCAL AREA IV - Livelihoods and Food security

Supporting communities to manage their natural resource endowments has been an integral part of the programme of Gram Vikas. While understanding that development of physical infrastructure is critical for people to achieve a "threshold level of quality" of life, Gram Vikas strongly believes that the health of the natural infrastructure in the form of land, water and forest is vital to sustain the livelihoods of the poor.

Initial interventions were mostly geared to halt the process of alienation of tribal people from traditional sources of livelihoods – the forests and other natural resources and help them to gain control over their resources. Over the years the interventions have been designed to help the communities to manage their lands and water resources sustainably through a variety of interventions in promoting community forestry and horticulture, land and water conservation and development to strengthen the productive potential of these resources and ensure food security of households.

In Western Orissa, which is subject to recurrent droughts, the focus has been on supporting the communities to cope with drought through improving water resources, diversification of crops, strengthening credit linkages as well as improving the linkages with the market.

Integrated watershed development

Under schemes of the Government of India, Gram Vikas has been recognised as the Project Implementing Agency for watershed projects in Bongamunda Block, in drought affected Bolangir district since 2002. In this block Gram Vikas is implementing watershed projects falling under four schemes of the Government of India. These include:

- ❑ Ten watersheds under Western Orissa Rural Livelihoods Programme (WORLP).
- ❑ Four watersheds under Drought Prone Area Programme (DPAP) 7th batch
- ❑ Four watersheds under Drought Prone Area Programme (DPAP) 8th batch
- ❑ Two watersheds under the Additional Central Assistance-Revised Long Term Action Plan (ACA-RLTAP)

A total of 20 micro watersheds are being developed covering 10,163 hectares across 49 habitations. 7,542 households with a population of 30,605 are involved. The funds are directed through the District Rural Development Agency (DRDA) Bolangir.

Gram Vikas is also a Project Implementing Agency for the Government funded, Orissa Tribal Empowerment and Livelihood Programme (OTELP) in Thuamul Rampur Block, Kalahandi District covering 12 watersheds and 39 habitations with a population of 6,509. During the year Village Development and Livelihood Plans (VDLP) of all the thirty-nine habitations have been drawn up with the communities and submitted to the ITDA for approval.

Additionally, Gram Vikas undertakes watershed work in the tribal pockets of Ganjam, Gajapati and Kalahandi districts from its own resources to enhance the natural resource base and to demonstrate best practices in communities that traditionally engage in unsustainable slash and burn cultivation.

Focus on treatment of all categories of land within a micro watershed has helped to improve and harness the potential of all these lands; the lands previously considered infertile is developed using appropriately selected crops and trees that require little water. Ponds are excavated to harvest water and benefit nearby land through seepage.

As the impacts of the physical activities become visible, the focus of the programme also shifts to improving cropping patterns and value addition to forest produce. Linkages are established with the various government departments so that farmers can avail know-how of good practices in agriculture, horticulture and livestock rearing.

In every habitation covered by the government watershed programmes, Watershed Committees (WCs) and User groups are formed to manage watershed activities and mobilise the community with the assistance of Gram Vikas. Forest committees are formed under the Joint Forest Management Programme of the government to protect and manage the forestlands. During the year 33 watershed societies and 16 and Forest Committees were formed.

Watershed treatment works in 2006-2007

Development of uplands to arrest soil erosion has been the major intervention; loose boulder checks and gully treatment was carried out in 84 villages covering 2414 acres of upland. These interventions have been effective in reducing the runoff and improving vegetative cover of the uplands. Additionally 17 water-harvesting structures were constructed in the drought prone districts and tribal regions to tap the runoff and improve the moisture condition of the area. The water harvesting structures have also helped to bring 250 acres of area under irrigation.

Participation of community is ensured at all stages of the work and the Watershed committees are responsible for implementing the work as per the plan. Communities also contribute a part of the wages earned towards the Watershed development funds (WDF). The purpose of the WDF is to create a community fund that will serve to meet maintenance costs of the watershed work and potentially other development activities in the future.

District	Habitations	Watershed development fund (Rs.)
Bolangir	49	1,951,000
Ganjam	22	1,04,190
Gajapati	26	69,074
Kalahandi	49	1,550,264
Total	146	3,674,528

Community forestry and horticulture

Rapid depletion of forest cover has had negative fallout on dwindling resources that sustain livelihoods as well as maintain water resources in the area. In response to this Gram Vikas has motivated communities to regenerate common and private wastelands by growing trees for fuel, fruit, fodder and timber and also by developing small horticulture plantations. The community horticulture areas have proved to be a sustainable alternative to the slash and burn cultivation practiced by tribal populations.

In the tribal areas of Ganjam, Gajapati and Kalahandi, where the slash and burn cultivation is still predominant, Gram Vikas encourages farmers to invest in development of their farmlands to enhance the productivity of these lands. It is also a strategy to wean away tribal families from this practice while improving the food security at the household level. In other areas, efforts are focussed on development of micro irrigation facilities that can help farmers to take a second crop. Agricultural activities including cultivation of paddy and vegetables are promoted and supported through field training, credit support and seed distribution.

During the year, 795 hectares of land have been brought under community forestry and horticulture. 306,039 saplings of mixed species were planted in these habitations. The resources are also an important source of revenue for the habitation to meet their recurring expenses. Promotion of horticulture plants like pineapple, orange, jackfruit, lemon, cashew and banana are done to augment returns from the dry lands. In the last year, 3071 families across 159 habitations took up horticulture.

Also, vegetable cultivation in the *kharif* and *rabi* season were taken up by 2,337 families in 205 habitations. The returns on the crop being good, the farmers are keen to continue vegetable cultivation in the coming seasons also. Success of the crops, among other factors, also depends on the soil and environmental conditions of the region. It has been observed that banana has yielded good results in Thuamul Rampur block, while cashew has given significant economic returns in Ganjam and Gajapati districts.

Dasaru Majhi, a 28 yr young man from Thuamul Rampur, Kalahandi district was initially reluctant to take up banana cultivation due to extra care and effort required for the plants. After an exposure visit to Kesinga, he agreed to experiment on 2 acres of land. He tended his plants well and his hard labour bore fruits when he sold 30 bunches of banana in a month at Rs.50 for each bunch. He invested his income for his household expenses as well as to contest the local elections. Today he is an inspiration for many other farmers in his habitation.

Similarly **Indra Majhi** of Kuang, Thuamul Rampur, Kalahandi District had planted banana in 2 acre of land and could sell 50 bunches a month for Rs.50/bunch. He invested his income to repair his house and purchase fertiliser for paddy.

Livestock promotion and care

Livestock promotion in our assessment has the potential to be one of the most viable interventions to boost the economy and enhance the incomes, especially in the context of the resource poor of Orissa. Towards this end our efforts have been to address the bottlenecks related to healthy livestock like absence of timely and suitable veterinary services and better husbandry practices.

Linkages have been established with the local government departments for regular immunisation of livestock and provide training to farmers on better husbandry practices. During the year 20,022 cattle and goats were immunised and 3,360 animals were treated

for worms and other infections. In addition, we have also embarked on training local habitation youth as village-vets to cater to emergency needs in the area, 92 people underwent training programmes on livestock care and are actively engaged in veterinary care in the area.

Sustainable livelihood

In the non-farm sector, focus on sustaining and diversifying livelihoods is hinged on increasing incomes and savings to reduce the vulnerability of communities. Promotion and working with self help groups, skill building, community enterprise in collection and processing of agriculture and minor forest produce and technological applications for livelihood diversification are some of the areas of intervention of Gram Vikas.

SHGs

Self-help groups are formed to encourage thrift among members who are mostly women so that through collective savings, groups or individuals can borrow money at reasonable rates to meet immediate consumption needs or invest in productive activities. Investments on income generating activities are mostly in agriculture and horticulture, livestock rearing (poultry, goats, bullocks), leaf plate making, broom binding and others. Gram Vikas undertakes capacity building of the groups mainly in record keeping, financial training, and supports groups to undertake income-generating activities. As the groups gain ability and confidence, they are linked to B-MASS (the block level government sponsored SHG federation that facilitates loans through a government established revolving fund) and local banks for external funds, allowing them to undertake income-generating activities on a larger scale.

The self-help groups have also enabled the women to gain confidence as a collective and take up leadership roles in habitation affairs. Members of these groups have been instrumental in the maintenance of the water supply and sanitation systems in habitations, ensuring immunisations in coordination with government health workers, growth monitoring, proper functioning of habitation education centres and regular attendance of children in schools, management of renewable energy technology, and habitation cleanliness.

Success stories

Twenty women's groups have been successful in getting permission for providing mid-day meals to the schools under government programme. Normally, the programme is routed through the Anganwadi (under the ICDS programme), but in the absence of these Anganwadis, the women's groups have taken the responsibility for the same. This can help them to monitor the quality of education being imparted in the schools in addition to providing nutritious food for the children.

Sixteen women's groups have also taken charge of the Public Distribution System (PDS), a critical welfare measure of the government for households having less income. The PDS mostly remains non-functional in these remote pockets but with the women's groups managing these, the functioning has come to people's expectations.

Status of SHGs:

Habitations Covered		393
Groups	Male	108
	Female	1,335
	Mixed	2
	Total	1445
Members	Male	1,456
	Female	17,174
	Total	18630
Opening Balance	Savings	13,376,276
	Group Loan O/S	7,960,976
	External Loan O/S	22,217,803
Transactions during reporting period	Collection	5,207,401
	Group Loan Repaid	4,481,847
	External Loan Repaid	11,794,986
	Interest/Profit Collection	2,044,305
	Bank Interest	107,325
	Expenses	1,038,908
	Group Loan disbursed	7,063,384
	External Loan disbursed	20,444,974
Closing Balance	Savings	17,114,862
	Group Loan O/S	10,542,513
	External Loan O/S	30,867,791

Skill Training

Gram Vikas invests in skill training of the rural youth - both men and women - especially in masonry, stone dressing, wire bending, plumbing and house painting. Arising from a need to have a cadre of trained masons to support the construction work of the major programmes of Gram Vikas, we have also realised that enhancing skills of rural youth has been the most effective livelihood enhancing intervention. In a short span of time it increases the employability and income of the people who previously worked only as unskilled wage earners.

Gram Vikas runs a 75-day customised course on masonry that also includes on-job training. During the year, 16 training programmes were conducted for 376 rural youths. After the training Gram Vikas provided employment to the new masons giving them experience and allowing time to increase the demand to employ them. Trained masons have since been able to find regular employment and are not dependent on Gram Vikas – a regular monitoring system has been put in place to establish the results of skill development trainings.

FOCAL AREA V – Livelihood Enabling Infrastructure

Developing Renewable Energy Applications

Gram Vikas implements various community-based renewable and energy-efficient technologies. Energy for cooking, lighting, and water pumping has been identified as high priority for Gram Vikas' current beneficiaries. A large number of Gram Vikas' operational habitations are un-electrified and use kerosene for lighting and wood for cooking. Addressing energy needs in these areas is crucial for the success of water, sanitation, education, health and livelihood projects. Having implemented proven technologies on a large scale and having piloted new technologies, Gram Vikas is now scaling up successfully piloted applications to programme level of implementation, as listed in the table below. The subsequent sections highlight new developments in each focus area.

In parallel with technology innovation, Gram Vikas also focuses on innovating knowledge-sharing processes that enhance participation of communities, from monetary and labour contributions, towards taking up greater responsibility in managing and sustaining the installed systems.

Energy Programme: Activities and scale.

Energy Need	Technology	Current Scale
Clean cooking	Biogas	Programme
	Wood-based gassifier	Pilot
	Smokeless stoves	Programme
Lighting	Solar CFL Lanterns	Programme
	LED Lanterns/HSLs	Pilot*
	Micro hydro	Pilot*
	Charcoal-based gassifier	Pilot
Water pumping	Solar Photovoltaic	Programme
	Bio diesel	Pilot
	Gravity Flow	Programme

*Transition from Pilot to Programme

Clean Cooking: Smokeless Stoves

The smokeless chullah (stove) programme has been scaled up this year to cover all operational households of Gram Vikas. The programme incorporates the Gram Vikas chullah design--a double-pot, mud stove design that was a result of a detailed study and corresponding modifications to existing designs. The design uses locally made mud pipes, allowing income generation to local potters. Attempts are made to fine-tune the design according to local needs, an instance of which is an elevated platform chullah constructed by women in Kalahandi district.

For implementation, Gram Vikas uses a local entrepreneurship approach to ensure quality implementation that can easily be scaled up. Local youth and women's self-help groups are trained to promote and construct the stoves. Each household pays the promoter who constructs the stove. Gram Vikas gives a monetary incentive to the promoter for assuring that each constructed chullah is functioning for at least 3 years. Over the course of 3 years,

the chullah user will have learned maintenance methods from the chullah promoter. In 2006-07, there were 5,148 chullahs installed across Gram Vikas' operational areas.

Lighting: LED Lights

Gram Vikas has successfully piloted LED-based lighting products to address basic lighting needs in non-electrified habitations. Light emitting diode (LED) lighting is an affordable technological breakthrough for rural lighting needs. Because LED lights consume less than 1 watt and do not fuse, they can be cost-effectively combined with a variety of decentralised energy sources, such as solar, bio diesel, Pico/micro hydro, and other local grid systems.

With this aim, Gram Vikas has piloted 2 different LED products to determine the most appropriate and affordable model for its working areas, targeted towards 100% inclusion of the community. Powered with solar PV, the pilot projects have shown that although household solar lighting is typically too expensive for poor families in rural areas, LED lighting is affordable because its efficiency allows for smaller batteries and solar panels, reducing capital costs and making them affordable without grants and subsidies. The pilot projects focused on involving both men and women of each household in the installation and maintenance of their system.

Lighting: Micro Hydro Systems

In October, Gram Vikas commissioned a second, community-based micro hydro system in Kalahandi district. The system provides 10-25 kW of electricity to 110 households of Karlapat habitation. The community has played a crucial role in the success of the system, using a management committee to organise in-kind labour, a corpus fund, and tariff collection to sustain the system. Gram Vikas workers have trained selected youth from the community to operate and maintain the system. Initially, the system will be used only for lighting, with the goal to gradually incorporate electricity-based livelihood activities.

The pilot projects have yielded crucial lessons to improve technical and social aspects of implementation. Gram Vikas will continue to pilot micro hydro applications, with the aim to establish effective design standards and social processes to ensure low cost, easy-to-use, and preventive maintenance. Gram Vikas is in partnership with Practical Action South Asia (earlier known as Intermediate Technology Development Group - ITDG) and Engineers Without Borders to scale-up the micro hydro projects from pilot to programme level implementation. The partnership will implement 3 new systems in the coming year.

Water Pumping: Bio diesel Systems

The Gram Vikas-CT_xGreEn Biodiesel project was launched in February 2004 through a World Bank Development Market Place Award (WBDM 2003). CT_xGreEn, a Canadian not-for-profit organisation is implementing the project in Orissa in close partnership with Gram Vikas.

While most biodiesel efforts in the country rely on promoting *Jatropha* this project is unique in that it utilises locally available under-utilised seeds. The technology is very small in scale (5 L and 20 L batch production) developed in dialogue with the community and includes good organic agronomic practices to supplement local forest seeds (*Karanja-Pongommia pinnata* and mahua- *Madhuca indica*) with Niger (*Guisotia Abyssinia*, an indigenous oil-seed) in habitation community fallows.

Starting with the pilot plant at Mohuda which today doubles as a resource centre for biodiesel, habitation units were established in Kinchlingi in Nov. 2004 and in the twin

habitations of Kandhabanta – Talataila in Dec 2004. In spite of several challenges the habitation of Kinchlingi has been running the biodiesel pump set for over 24 months since June 2005.

In the second set of habitations, Kandhabanta and Talataila, biodiesel was initially used for water pumping but has recently been replaced by a gravity-flow water-supply system. The community would now like to use biodiesel for providing 2-3 hours of electricity for home lighting. How to sustain such an enterprise in a manner that the habitation grows its own feedstock and there is minimal cash-flow to the outside is being discussed with the community even as alternatives for provision of lighting (individual LED based mobile lighting versus a mini-grid supplying to two fixed power points in the house) are being explored.

In the third area of implementation, Tumba a cluster of habitations is the focus. CT_x GreEn and the Gram Vikas field team are working closely with the people in assessing under utilised oil-bearing trees in the forests and have developed a local livelihood plan that begins with watershed management. The community here has identified small livelihood activities like oil expelling and water pumping for irrigation as the niche for using biodiesel.

Biodiesel from different oil seeds including Niger, Karanj and Mohua have been developed at the pilot plant at Mohuda. Another role of the pilot plant is to develop good operating practices to manage and monitor the technology and its impact on the community. The thrust over the last two years has been to train barefoot technicians (usually 7th and 8th grade drop-outs) from the local community to monitor the quality of the fuel, operate and maintain machines, keep logs and most importantly run the unit as a sustainable enterprise.

Alternative to Water Pumping: Gravity Flow

Gram Vikas has found that water can be harnessed from perennial springs or shallow wells and diverted through pipelines (sometimes from as far as eight kms) using the principles of gravity flow and siphoning to traverse over small hills to reach a storage tank in the habitation and from there, to individual homes. Along with optimal utilisation of local knowledge and local resources, this also enables establishment of a community-managed water supply system, with benefits such as reliability, low maintenance costs and environmental sustainability.

Gram Vikas has successfully implemented the gravity flow system in 68 tribal habitations in remote hilly parts of rural Orissa.

Bringing water to Upar Landusahi

Four kms away from both the nearest all-weather road and at a similar distance from the nearest fresh water source, away atop on a hill, water scarcity was an acute problem for the residents of Upper Landusahi Habitation in Koinpur project area in Gajapati District. The burden of the circumstances was primarily borne by the womenfolk of the habitation, as they had to trudge the requisite distance each day to fetch water for basic daily needs. Vagaries of nature and safety concerns had further aggravated their problem.

Finally, Gram Vikas offered a solution to their problems, by employing the gravity flow water system, a simple and sustainable concept, which has successfully managed to provide continuous water supply to the habitation. In gravity flow, water from a spring or a well on a higher altitude than the habitation flows to the habitation overhead water tank, using the principles of gravity from where it is again distributed through pipes to all families round the clock.

At present, the water has been channeled to the habitation and the construction of the tank is underway. For the people of Upar Landusahi, this is a big leap and they look forward to a continued alliance with Gram Vikas.

FOCAL AREA VI – Human and Institutional Development

Capacity building of both staff and communities is an ongoing activity. Consistent efforts through periodic training programmes, meetings, exposure tours, exchange visits and various melas (fairs) are organised to enable people to widen their horizons and upgrade and expand their skills.

Community capacity building

Training has been conducted at the community level by project staff with facilitation from external resource persons when required. Trainings include habitation level record keeping, management of self-help groups, pisciculture, health, gender sensitisation, Panchayati Raj Institutions, veterinary training and leadership development. In all, 263 training programmes were organised this year for communities.

International women's day was celebrated with rallies and speeches in all project locations. Health camps, *vigyan melas* (science fairs), *sanchaya melas* (savings fairs), *sisu melas* (children's fairs), *yuba melas* (youth fairs) were also held periodically.

Staff development

65 in-house staff trainings were conducted over this year. New staff attended orientation and induction programmes. In each project monthly staff meetings were held, following this Project Coordinators met at Head Office to share progress of work, discuss challenges and seek additional support when needed.

In-house trainings were conducted in the areas of health, joyful education, Panchayat Raj Institution (PRI) efficacy and advocacy. Staffs were trained in the technical aspects of the sanitation programme. Trainings on agriculture and livestock care were also conducted.

Team building workshops and trainings in gender and leadership were organised at field offices for staff. Field staff also attended workshops to increase their skills in communication

and motivation. Accounts and documentation trainings were held at project offices. Skill development sessions in soil conservation, pisciculture and bee keeping were also conducted.

Inter-project exposure trips were arranged to facilitate cross learning in the organisation. Representatives from all projects attended training in the construction and use of smokeless chullahs.

Organisation-wide review and planning events were held in April and October. Over 150 staff from across all project areas participated. These events create learning and sharing platforms, and provide a forum where specific policies and strategies of the organisation were discussed.

Gram Vikas Foundation Day

January 22 marks the Foundation Day of Gram Vikas. This year, it was decided that staff in their respective projects would celebrate Gram Vikas day. Each project team as well as the team at the head office organised a workshop to address communication and coordination needs at work. Team building exercises were also conducted.

External Trainings

Staff and community representatives have participated in training programmes and exposure visits to the following organisations during the year: NIRD, Hyderabad, WIDA, Semiliguda, WOTR Ahmednagar, PRADAN, Baliguda, M.S.Swaminathan Research Foundation, Jeypore etc. Aspects covered under the external trainings include Watershed development, Self help group and microfinance, improved agriculture practices and institution development.

FOCAL AREA VII - Outreach and Networking

Outreach

Through the year, senior staff of Gram Vikas took part in regular government meetings and various consultations, regarding water and sanitation, livelihood, disaster mitigation, food security, energy resources, etc. Dr. Joe Madiath, Executive Director participated in Annual World Economic Forum meeting at Davos in January 2007; 4th citizens day at Kyoto, Japan, organised by the So optimist International and Kyoto Municipality (with Mr. Sojan Thomas). The Executive Director also attended a BSHF study visit to China for an exposure to straw-bale energy efficient housing project, July 2006, the Christian Aid Disaster Mitigation Programme, New Delhi August 2006, the Skoll Awards ceremony 2007 at Oxford in March (with Ms. Valsamma Melanoor), Sustainable Development Conference organised by Minerals Council of Australia (MCA), Melbourne, October 2006, World Toilet Forum at Bangkok in November and the India Economic Summit in November 2006.

Gram Vikas was represented at different basin SA meetings by the Executive Director and Mr. Suvojit Chattopadhyay (at the partners' meet at Delhi in December 2006) , Mr. Sojan Thomas, Programme Manager (in Lucknow on Habitat Finance). Ms. Urmila Senapati, Programme Manager, attended various workshops as a part of the Orissa Development Action Forum (ODAF) on issues like NREGA, RTI, and National Tribal Policy etc. Ms. Senapati also represented Gram Vikas at the Christian Aid training workshop on HIV/AIDS. Ms. Dipti Vaghela, Coordinator, attended the Himalayan small hydro Summit at Dehradun in October and the Orissa Development and Climate Change Workshop organised by Practical Action, Sri Lanka at Bhubaneswar. She also attended a workshop on "NGOs perspective on Climate change" held in Bonn in March 2007

Networking

Gram Vikas adopts a multi pronged strategy for scaling up the MANTRA programme in Orissa. The geographical expansion is guided by a clustering approach and the demonstration effect of the implemented project in new habitations in the area.

Further, in habitations where the programme has been implemented, members of the local committee (CBOs) are being encouraged to take forward the programme in adjoining habitations. If the habitation committees are able to successfully take on the role of social mobilisers, Gram Vikas staff will concentrate on technical supervision, training the habitation committee members in the new habitation as well as providing process support towards improving decision-making processes. In the coming year Gram vikas shall initiate a formal agreement with such interested CBOs to take forward the work in the nearby areas.

Over the last two years, in various districts Gram Vikas is collaborating with NGOs who are keen to implement the community based sanitation and water supply process. Centre for Youth in Social Development (CYSD), RASS, BISWA, Samajik Seva Sadan , ASSART are among the few with whom collaborations have been initiated.

A slow but steady groundswell is visible in NGOs outside Orissa who are ready to adopt and implement the MANTRA model in their areas. Gram Vikas has already forged collaborations with Shramajeevi Unnayan, Jharkhand, Magan Sangrahalaya, Wardha and Hritika, U.P.

Gram Vikas is also a member of various networks like basin South Asia, Credibility Alliance, Voluntary Action Network of India (VANI), Orissa Development Action Forum (ODAF), Habitat Forum, New Delhi.

Volunteers and Visitors

SISIN (Sustainable Income Security for the poor in India), jointly funded by the European Union, Christian Aid and ICCO, came to an end in March 2006. The final evaluation of SISIN was conducted in April 2006 by ICCO, the lead agency. The evaluation, conducted by Ms. Meher Rehman (ASK, Gurgaon) and Mr. Fons van der Velden (Context, The Netherlands), brought out their final report in July. This report was discussed in two follow-up workshops in Anantapur, Andhra Pradesh in August and in Delhi in November 2006.

Fifteen members of the Global Philanthropists Circle and board members of the Synergos Institute, New York, led by Ms. Peggy Dulany, visited Gram Vikas in February 2007. The purpose of this visit was to meet people and to learn about the activities and achievements of Gram Vikas in the field and also identify challenges that the organisation faces.

Ramani Leathard and Anjali Kwatra from Christian Aid visited Gram Vikas to learn more about results achieved and impacts perceived in the projects supported by Christian Aid.

Louis Boorstein from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation visited Gram Vikas to learn about MANTRA.

Ashoke Chatterjee and Ravi Narayanan visited Gram Vikas to conduct an assessment of Gram Vikas' programme, MANTRA, on behalf of the Rajiv Gandhi Foundation, New Delhi.

Jack Sim, CEO, World Toilet Organisation and Trevor Mulaudzi from South Africa, visited Gram Vikas in March 2007 to study Gram Vikas' intervention strategies in water and

sanitation and explored possibilities of future collaboration. World Toilet Organisation, Singapore has expressed interest in implementing the Gram Vikas model of water and sanitation in the rehabilitated habitations in Aceh, Indonesia. Trevor Mulaudzi who owns a company that provides raw material and service support to institutions to maintain clean toilets in South Africa has expressed keen interest in taking MANTRA to urban as well as rural areas in South Africa.

Rohitha Ananda and Upali from Practical Action, Sri Lanka visited Gram Vikas to see the various applications under the Energy programme of Gram Vikas.

Naoko Shinkai and a group of professors from GSID, Nagoya University, Japan visited Gram Vikas in August as a study tour on rural development.

A volunteer from UK, Allice Pepperel did photo documentation for the RHEP and Education programme.

Ray Kancharla led a team from Christian Aid that visited Gram Vikas in September for an exposure to the various livelihood related projects in Gram Vikas.

Karlien Some and Annemiek, from The Netherlands, visited Gram Vikas for a three-month internship. They undertook research on the education system of select schools in Ganjam district and on the participation of tribal people in Panchayats.

Damien Clavel from Switzerland spent 4 months in Gram Vikas visiting various projects, learning about planning and executing development interventions in remote rural areas.

Carla and Andrew Whitley visited Gram Vikas, engaging with children in Gram Vikas high school, Konkia

Volunteers from National Foundation of India, Abhineet Singh and Viren Falcow, completed a month-long internship and contributed towards internal documentation.

Institutional and Government Funding

VIKAS MANTRA - SDC	MANTRA - ICCO	MANTRA - Christian Aid
Grant from ODAF- Phase II	MANTRA - PRIA (DFID)	MANTRA - BHP Billiton
10 Village Libraries - Rajiv Gandhi Foundation	MANTRA – PWx	MANTRA- KKS
Grant from ODAF- Phase I	WORLP, DRDA, Bolangir	Grant from CTx Green
Grant from ADEME	Repair & Reconstruction of Schools - DRDA Ganjam	MANTRA - CRS
Skill Development Training in Masonry (GIDF)	Const. of 10 toilets for Anganwadi Centres – Thr	19 High School Buildings under PMRF - DRDA, Gm
MANTRA - Rajiv Gandhi Foundation	High School Buildings under RSVY, DRDA, Ganjam	Grant for NCLP Guruda, NCLP, Berhampur
Roof Top Rain Harvesting Project, Ministry of Water Resources	Housing Subsidy - DRDA, Subarnapur	ACA (RL TAP) Watershed, DRDA, Bolangir
DPAP - III Watershed, DRDA, Bolangir	DPAP - IV Watershed, DRDA, Bolangir	OTELP, Thuamul Rampur, ITDA Bhawnipatna
Centre for Environmental Sciences, NEAC	MANTRA - Rajiv Gandhi Foundation	RHEP Sikachida - DWSM, Bolangir
RHEP Sikachida -RWSS, DWSM,	RHEP Tentuligaon - DWSM,	RHEP Tentuligaon -RWSS,

Bolangir	Bolangir	DWSM, Bolangir
RHEP Badapathara - BDO Khunta	RHEP Chiruhati - Angarpada G.P.	RHEP Chudamanipada - DPO Kalahandi
RHEP Bhangabandha - ITDA, Baripada	RHEP Ghunchapal - DWSM Angul	RHEP Katapalli - DRDA Subarnapur
RHEP Birudihi - ITDA, Baripada	RHEP Karanjia - ITDA Karanjia	RHEP Koinsi - BDO, Keonjhar
RHEP Chakapala - DRDA, Dhenkanal	RHEP Kusalda - ITDA Kaptipada	RHEP Nuagaon Barasahi - DWSM Angul
Water Tank & WS systems-RSVY, DRDA, Gajapati	RHEP Tundla - DPO Kalahandi	
Water Tank & WS systems-RSVY, DRDA, Ganjam	RHEP Sunariposi - BDO Keonjhar	

Awards - Foreign Sources

Kyoto Soroptimist International (mantra)	Asoka Innovations (health)	Asoka Innovations (housing)
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Donations - Foreign Sources

Australian Volunteers International	Synergos Institute Inc.	Favona S.A
Mr. Clavel JM	Mr. Andrew Lauglin Whiteley	Mr.Damian Clavel
Ms. Ruth		

Donations - Indian Sources

All Gram Vikas Staffs	Srinivasa Drillers	Rita Bhatia
Rama Krushna Sahu -Ex GV staff	Krishana Plast Pipes Pvt. Ltd.	G.J. Enterprises
Thiruvvelavan Enterprises	Soma Dutta	B.Kiran Kumar, Hyderabad

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31st MARCH 2007

Particulars	As at 31.03.2007 (in Rupees)	As at 31.03.2006 (in Rupees)
<u>LIABILITIES</u>		
Capital Fund	213,988,178	180,852,819
Project Funds	18,670,840	27,228,906
Other Funds	82,075,807	74,647,822
Loans	25,121,100	38,840,661
Current Liabilities and Provisions	43,132,751	44,779,177
	382,988,676	366,349,385
<u>ASSETS</u>		
Fixed Assets	36,323,654	36,527,331
Livestock	258,750	394,600
Investments	179,824,475	157,305,275
Current Assets	166,581,797	172,122,179
	382,988,676	366,349,385

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2007

Particulars	Year ending 31.03.2007 (in Rupees)	Year ending 31.03.2006 (in Rupees)
<u>INCOME</u>		
Grants in Aid	81,597,234	83,765,638
Awards	2,379,313	-
Interest Income	9,450,142	8,198,947
Income from Investments	16,719,146	16,554,938
Profit on Sale of Investments	101,200	6,474,841
Miscellaneous Receipts	4,580,058	6,283,147
Total	114,827,093	121,277,511
<u>EXPENDITURE</u>		
Programme Expenses	81,814,025	107,814,005
Grants & Donations	-	29,317,340
Administrative and General Expenses	5,414,969	6,265,758
Depreciation	3,127,748	4,484,744

Total	90,356,742	147,881,847
Excess of Income Over Expenditure	24,470,351	(26,604,336)

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2007

Particulars	Year ending 31.03.2007 (in Rupees)	Year ending 31.03.2006 (in Rupees)
Opening Cash & Bank Balances	5,071,619	5,861,616
<u>RECEIPTS</u>		
Grants in Aid	81,597,234	83,765,638
Awards	2,379,313	-
Interest Income	10,062,994	8,813,586
Income from Investments	16,733,302	17,836,019
Miscellaneous Receipts	4,479,189	6,188,958
Sale of Assets	205,696	118,612
Profit on Sale of Investments	101,200	6,474,841
Other Receipts	22,829,419	59,093,672
Total	138,388,347	182,291,326
<u>PAYMENTS</u>		
Programme Expenses	74,276,488	86,559,202
Grants & Donations	-	29,317,340
Administrative and General Expenses	5,732,151	6,014,682
Capital Expenses	6,494,087	4,029,565
Other Payments	53,501,547	57,160,534
Total	140,004,273	183,081,323
Closing Cash & Bank Balances	3,455,693	5,071,619

Publications

1. Sojan Thomas, "Financing the Poorest Sustainable Habitat Development" Basin – South Asia – 2006/No. 6, Basin-South Asia Regional Knowledge Platform.
2. Joe Madiath and Suvojit Chattopadhyay "Gram Vikas – A model for sustainable community development", paper presented at Conference on Sustainable Development, Minerals Council of Australia, Melbourne, October 2006,
3. Joe Madiath and Suvojit Chattopadhyay "Building dignity, not toilets!", paper presented at World Toilet Organisation, Bangkok, November 2006,
4. Biraj Swain, "Challenging Exclusion Through Water and Sanitation: Journey of Gram Vikas: Sanitation for All Still A Long Way to Go", Water Aid India 2006.
5. Dipti Vaghela, "Powering Dignity —MANTRA and Micro Hydro", Uttaranchal Micro Hydro Summit.
6. L.C. Jain, "Backward areas need forward thinking", Xover BCIL.
7. Anjali Kwatra, "Seeds of hope that fuel a cleaner future", Christian Aid News, Women and Sanitation.

Other documents

1. The Learning Curve": Australian Volunteers International – Spring 2006
2. "Partnership with Gram Vikas – VSBK – 2: Action Research in Technology Transfer – VSBK": A case Study by Development Alternative
3. "Overcoming infrastructural bottlenecks in provision of basic services to remote rural areas", basin SA website, February 2007
4. Geeta Vaidyanathan, Ramani Sankaranarayanan. "Sustainable Rural Livelihoods in agroecosystems of forest based communities. The case of village level biodiesel production". Paper presented at the Shastri Indo Canadian conference on "Human dimension of science and technology" session on Technology for Environment and Development at New Delhi, India, 23 Feb 2006.
5. "Village-scale biodiesel-fuelled energy system". One of four case studies by the Wuppertal Institute in their "Promotion of Resource Efficiency Projects" (PREP 8): Sustainable bio fuel production and use, options for greener fuels. please visit www.wisions.net and more specifically www.wisions.net/pages/PREP.htm - go to the 8th PREP topic and click on PREP brochure.
6. "Gram Vikas-CT_x GreEn Biodiesel Project. Village level biodiesel production- legal implications" Brochure sponsored by SDC-IC: The Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation –Intercooperation, Switzerland.
7. Poster presentation at State Level Tribal Exhibition, Bhubaneshwar, Orissa, India.
8. Geeta Vaidyanathan Ramani Sankaranarayanan. " Livelihoods in agroecosystems of forest-based-communities - Village-level biodiesel production". Paper presented at the AFPRO (Action for Food Production) conference: "Approaches for addressing food security through NRM" at Puri, Orissa, 27-28th February 2007.

Glossary

List of abbreviations

ANM	Auxiliary Nurse Midwife
BPL	Below Poverty Line
DRDA	District Rural Development Agency
GP	Gram Panchayat
HDFC	Housing Development and Finance Corporation
ITDA	Integrated Tribal Development Agency
ITDP	Integrated Tribal Development Programme
KBK	Koraput Bolangir Kalahandi (undivided)
MLA	Member of Legislative Assembly
MP	Member of Parliament
NGO	Non-Government organisation
NIRD	National Institute for Rural Development, Hyderabad
NABARD	National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development
OREGS	Orissa Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme
PHC	Primary Health Centres
PIA	Programme Implementing Agency
PRI	Panchayati Raj Institutions
RHEP	Rural Health and Environment Programme
SGSY	Swarna Jayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana
SHG	Self Help Group
TERI	The Energy and Resources Institute, New Delhi
VSBK	Vertical Shaft Brick Kiln
WORLP	Western Orissa Rural Livelihoods Programme

Translation of Oriya words

Adivasi	People from Scheduled Tribes
Anganwadi	Pre school centers run by government
Balwadi	Pre school centers run by Gram Vikas
Bogodo/ Dangar	Slash and burn cultivation
Dalit	People from Scheduled Castes
Didi	Sister
Gram Sabha	General body meeting of the Panchayat
Gaon sathi	Friend of the Village
Haat	Weekly market
Kotho Dhaan	Community Grain storage system
Mela	Fair (a large gathering of people)
Pala	Local theatre troupe
Palli Sabha	General body meeting of a village/ hamlet
Pucca	Of permanent nature
Shiksha Sahayaks	Education facilitators
Shramdaan	Voluntary contribution of labour
Vaidya	Native doctor/ Traditional healers