

Annual Report 2007-08

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Who Are We?

Gram Vikas, which literally means ‘village development’, is an organisation that has been working since 1979, to bring about sustainable improvement in the quality of life of poor and marginalized rural communities- mostly in Orissa.

The core group of Gram Vikas had come to Orissa as student volunteers of Young Students’ Movement for Development (YSMD) to serve victims of a devastating cyclone in 1971. Registered as a society on 22 January 1979, Gram Vikas today serves than 252,000 people in 704 habitations of 21 districts of Orissa , in Eastern India.

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 marginalised rural people or communities to achieve a dignified quality of life.

GOVERNING BOARD OF GRAM VIKAS

Mr. J.B. Singh, Former Commissioner, Agriculture, Government of India and Former Director, AFPRO, New Delhi	Mr. Basant Kumar Panigrahi Lawyer, Berhampur
Dr. Rajesh Tandon, Chairman President, PRIA, New Delhi	Ms. Neelima Khetan Chief Executive, Seva Mandir, Udaipur Dr. Saraswati Swain Director, NIAHRD, Cuttack
Prof. Debi Prasad Mishra, Treasurer 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

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Message from the Chairman

I am delighted to pen this page. Though my association with Gram Vikas dates back to 1981, this is the first year of my role as Chairperson of its Governing Board. I have seen the processes of evolution and transformation in Gram Vikas from close quarters, and even been associated with those processes actively at times. It is a remarkable organisation which has learnt to retain its core commitments to improving the quality of life of the poor and the marginalised in Orissa.

During the year 2007-08, as the following pages clearly illustrate, Gram Vikas has scaled new heights in its programmatic achievements. It has surpassed its targets, and the quality of its services to the people have improved visibly. I specially want to point out to three aspects of this trend.

First, the approach to rural water and sanitation demonstrated by Gram Vikas in Orissa has now found its relevance in other parts of the country too. It is heartening to see similar projects take-off successfully in Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Uttarakhand.

Second, the Planning Commission and other national ministries have begun to acknowledge the appropriateness of this model for the country as a whole. To what extent that will translate into reality is yet to be tested.

Third, the work of Gram Vikas has not only received international recognition, it has also been invited to share its expertise internationally, specially in sub-Saharan Africa. How Gram Vikas can respond to such opportunities is a matter of planning in the coming period.

These achievements are worthy of acknowledgement, appreciation and pride.. I salute Joe Madiath and his team.

At the same time, this the moment for strategising how to put the institution of Gram Vikas, its mission and values, its products and services, its infrastructure and human resources--all of it--on a path to sustainable trajectory into the future. It is to this task that we need to apply our collective wisdom and acumen. I thank my fellow Governing Board members for their service to Gram Vikas during this year, and invite them to contribute to this challenge in the coming period.

The changing economic and political context of India in general, and Orissa in particular, demands from Gram Vikas a new level of leadership of the future.

Rajesh Tandon

MESSAGE FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

As we move towards the 30th anniversary of the foundation of Gram Vikas, we are conscious of the need to mark this momentous occasion in January 2009 whilst also looking into the future. Milestones are not for sitting on; they are for measuring the distance still to travel. To have come as far as we have is due to the unstinted support of the Governing Board and the many dedicated employees, past and present. Our sincere thanks to them all.

As I travel, attend meetings, workshops and conferences, I am encouraged to meet people with the same or similar mission of Gram Vikas- an equitable society where people live in peace with dignity- I am struck by how many thousands of people worldwide are marching to the beat of the same drummer. In recognition of the fact that Gram Vikas could achieve what it has largely because of the hard work and dedication of staff, we are mentioning the names of the current members of the Staff on the cover pages.

However our task remains daunting. In the state of Orissa less than 20 percent of the rural population has access to protected water, less than 1 % to piped water supply and less than 5 % to sanitation facilities. I am still convinced that water and sanitation is the right entry point for our MANTRA (Movement and Action Network for transformation of rural areas) programme.

I would like to thank the members of the Governing Board and General Body, our institutional donors, central and State governments, the many individual donors, volunteers, friends and well wishers for their continued support and faith in us.

It is with great pride that I present the 29th Annual report of Gram Vikas.

Joe Madiath.

The **MANTRA (Movement and Action Network for Transformation of Rural areas)** of Gram Vikas

Our mission is realised through MANTRA - **Movement and Action Network for the 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 of a 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.
- **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 activity in new settlements, is not only a vehicle for 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 very outset. Systematic role transformation and an incremental transfer of responsibility to the communities themselves, is thus realised. A typical programme cycle is between 3 and 5 years after which Gram Vikas withdraws from the habitation. Thereafter, the community takes full responsibility for the management, operation and maintenance of all systems.

Gram Vikas intends to form 'critical masses', and will attempt to reach at least 20% of the population in each Gram Panchayat that become part of MANTRA. We aspire to work with approximately 100,000 families by 2010 (about 500,000 people) covering 1% of the total population of Orissa projected for 2010.

Networking with organisations within Orissa and elsewhere continues as a core strategy for expansion. The aim of such partnerships is to share the experience and capabilities of Gram Vikas to enhance the capacities of partner organisations. This would enable them to implement similar systems in their areas. A strategy for engaging with community-based organisations (committees promoted by Gram Vikas in previous years) has also been put into action.

In addition to forming alliances with other NGOs and CBOs, this involves improving the capacities of present staff, recruiting new staff at appropriate levels, strengthening internal monitoring and evaluation systems, and mobilising external funds.

The resource mobilisation strategy continues to focus on increasing government funding, while at the same time attracting support from national and international agencies.

ACHIEVEMENTS DURING 2007-2008

Achievements

The table below indicates the position of water supply and sanitation in habitations under MANTRA programme

Status of sanitation coverage in 2007-2008

Period	No. of States	No. of Districts	No. of Blocks	No. of habitations	No. of Households	No. of Toilets and bathing rooms
Up to 31st March 2007	1	17	90	361	26850	26850
Up to 31st March 2008	2	22	111	522	35428	35428

Status of piped water supply coverage in 2007-2008

Period	No. of States	No. of Districts	No. of Blocks	No. of habitations	No. of Water tanks required	No. of Water tanks Constructed	No. of Water tanks under Const.	Not started	No. of water supply commissioned
Up to 31st March 2007	1	17	90	361	355	219	42	94	185
Up to 31st March'2008	2	22	111	522	512	277	19	216	250

- During the reporting period, in collaboration with Haritika, two habitations of 49 households and a population of 280 in the district of Chattrapur in Madhya Pradesh have implemented the MANTRA programme.
- Formal agreements were signed with 13 NGOs within Orissa and 3 NGOs in the states of Jharkhand, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh to promote work in their operational areas.
- Interest has been expressed by several groups in adopting the MANTRA programme for the benefit of communities in India and abroad.
- Members of staff have participated in internal and external training programmes in areas as diverse as water management, communications and fund mobilisation, participatory planning, NREGS, RTI, leadership development etc.
- In collaboration with TNO, a Dutch research agency, innovative systems for monitoring of results as well as process have been initiated. Members of TNO have also supported on monitoring groundwater systems and water quality testing.

- 29 villages have accessed funds from Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana and Swajaldhara schemes for establishment of piped water supply.

Recognition

Shri. Joe Madiath was awarded the Jayadev Award for best Social worker in Orissa by Jayadeva Institute of Social Sciences and Research, Bhubaneswar

Shri. Joe Madiath received the Award of Excellence from National Institute for Science and Technology, Berhampur

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR

Focal Area I SELF-GOVERNING PEOPLE'S INSTITUTIONS

Gram Vikas believes that to translate truly the spirit of the 73rd Amendment of the Constitution into reality, large number of people should experience the values of democracy, governance and accountability through a process of experiential learning. A long tradition of division and hierarchy of social classes and genders has robbed people off their capacities to assert their right and entitlements from the state as well as the market.

By reinforcing the concept of community using universally important needs of drinking water and sanitation, a common ground is made for villagers to sow the seeds of a "village republic".

The first step to mobilise the community is to bring all men and woman of a village together as a general body. This body forms the platform for discussion, putting forth one's opinion and gaining a consensus among all households to implement the programme. This is followed by selection of the Village Executive Committee (VEC) comprising 50% women, and a proportional representation of all the social classes. The VEC is registered as a legal body and can legally enter into contracts on the behalf of the village and take a leadership role in the development process. Gram Vikas steers the community towards establishing vibrant and equitable local institutions, which plays a prominent role for development of the village.

- During the year, of the 161 new villages, 77 village level societies have been registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860. For the remaining villages the registration process is underway.
- Participation of women in all stages of the project is essential. Women constitute 50 percent of the members of the Executive committee. They also hold positions of office, viz President, Secretary or treasurer.
- During 2007-08 Rs. 57.7 lakh was accessed for sanitation under subsidy for Total Sanitation Campaign as well as Local area development funds of the people's representatives. Village committees could access an additional Rs. 1.33 crore for establishing 58-piped water supply systems in their villages.

		Significant achievements
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Existing Registered Societies: 286 • New societies set up in 2007-08: 77 • TOTAL as on Mar 31,2008: 363 		<p>Sikachhida in Bolangir and Neeladripur in Ganjam received the "Nirmal Gram Puraskar"</p> <p>Talapatratikra of Bargarh District received "Agrani Gram Puraskar"</p>

"Earlier when some of us came for the village meeting, the men would ridicule us saying "from when did women have anything to do outside their homes?" But now a meeting won't take place if women do not attend it, says Shantilata Swain, President of Mahila Samiti, Kusuguma Village , Dharakote block, Ganjam District.

Focal Area II: HEALTH

Water and sanitation is the first activity undertaken by any new village under MANTRA. This is the first step towards better health. The programme brings safe piped drinking water and a toilet and bathing room for each family. This project coalesces the community, releases women and girls from the drudgery of fetching water and gives them privacy with dignity.

With technical assistance of Gram Vikas, villagers build their own toilets and bathing rooms. They also contribute to the construction of overhead tanks. This takes one to two years of sustained effort by the entire community. Unskilled youth, both men and women are trained in masonry who once trained, construct the toilets and bathing rooms. In the meanwhile the villagers collect local materials. People, especially children are trained in hygienic practices. Capacity building activities of the Village Executive Committees are taken up so that they are able to address the issues of gender, equity, cost sharing, inclusion and sustainability.

- **Water and sanitation coverage** – As on 31 March 2008, 35428 households in 522 villages now have sanitation facilities. This is an increase of 8578 households in 161 villages over the past year. Of the total toilets and bathing rooms that have been constructed till now, 18044 in 250 villages are already functional, with water supply. To ensure sustainable water supply, use of more open dug wells is encouraged. Costs of water projects are shared between the government and community. In sanitation, Gram Vikas sources 40 % of the costs (the cost of externally sourced materials), the rest being borne by the community and individual families.
- **Formation of Village corpus-** The corpus fund is established by mobilizing contributions in cash and kind of an average of Rs. 1000 per family in a village. The interest generated on the corpus is used to fund families that come up in the future in the villages. This ensures cent percent coverage even after Gram Vikas has withdrawn from a village. During the year Rs. 85.38 lakh of corpus has been mobilized in 160 villages. In 31 villages 67 new families have been supported by the village committees during this year for construction of toilets and bathing rooms post programme implementation.
- **Operation and Maintenance:** Sustainability of water supply and sanitation system is ensured by creating a maintenance fund to meet recurring expenditures like electricity tariff, salary of pump operator and other incidental repairs. In 188 villages, Rs. 21.74 lakh has been generated through household collection, revenues from common resources like ponds, horticulture gardens or contributions in kind from households.
- **Reduction in life threatening diseases** – Incidences of water borne diseases have reduced by over 80 % in villages, which have implemented the MANTRA programme. Although malaria remains the single biggest cause of deaths in tribal areas, the mortality rate has been reduced because of early detection, use of mosquito nets and preventive medication.
- **Health and hygiene education** – Maintaining standards of safe water requires a high degree of hygiene education for adults and children. Children become the ambassadors of general cleanliness campaign. Lessons learnt by them in school are passed on to the whole family. Thus children become strict enforcers of new rules of hygiene at home. To facilitate this process 105 trainings for 5745 children in different districts have been done in the year.

- **Community health management** – Gram Vikas supports the training of village health workers and organises health camps in remote areas. During the year 40 health camps were held, where 4675 patients were treated. Trainings to Village health workers, TBAs and communities were conducted on 30 occasions, 718 members underwent training on health aspects.
- **Insuring lives** – Gram Vikas continues to facilitate the subscription of villagers to life insurance. In this year 460 people were insured for a total of Rs.1.40 crores. 7 families have received benefits of insurance to the tune of Rs. 1.5 lakhs during the year.

“ We were bathing in the same water along with the cattle of the village. The polluted water caused many diseases. Now, with clean piped water in our homes, we can give keep our children clean and have more time to make ropes from sabai grass, says Binodini Singh of Nangalakata village of Baripada block of Mayurbhanj district.

Focal Area III: EDUCATION

- **Balwadis (pre-school centres) – 47 centres in 3 districts with an enrolment of 566.** In tribal villages, parents often think their children, even though aged 7 or more, are “too small” or too young to start class 1. Balwadis, for children up to age 6, teach social skills and prepare children for formal schooling. With the ever-present risk of dropping out once the children are “big enough” to work, Balwadis play a crucial role in starting them off early on the path of education
- **Day schools (class 1 to 3) – 109 schools serve 122 villages with an enrolment of 1797.** Day schools will continue to function in remote areas as long as the need is there and where government schools do not exist. 151 students have passed Class 3 and joined one of our four residential schools or government schools.
- **Residential schools (class 2 to 10) – 4 residential schools serve 1161 students.** The new building at Kankia School in Ganjam is nearing completion. This will provide dining facilities for all 400+ students and staff, as also 3 floors of dormitory accommodation for boys. 3 of our schools provide education upto Class 7 while the fourth in Konkia imparts education till Class 10.
- **Academic achievements** – In the past year, 165 appeared for Class 7 exams while 163 have passed. Students who appeared for Class 10 board exams are awaiting results.
- **Village and resource libraries** – With assistance from the Rajiv Gandhi Foundation, 4 resource school libraries and 10 village libraries continue to function. 2036 people including school children are enrolled as members.

Individual Achievements

- Two students from Konkia School won silver medals at National level weight lifting competitions
- Five students from Konkia school won Gold medals for District level weight lifting competitions
- Seven students from the residential schools have been selected for admissions in Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya
- Jamesh Bhuyan of MTA School, Koinpur received an award from Sambad Oriya daily newspaper for painting.
- Birama Sabar of Konkia school received Yogasan award from District Yoga Society, Berhampur
- Twelve students received State Talent Scholarships from World Health Service, Bhubaneshwar.
- Two students of MTA school, Koinpur qualified for National Rural Talent Scholarship.

“Every time a child excels in a particular field, we feel satisfied that we have fulfilled one of the responsibilities of being a teacher: to nurture the potential in every child and bring out the best”, says Ms. Geetanjali Prusty, Principal Konkia High School

Focal Area IV: LIVELIHOODS & FOOD SECURITY

Supporting communities to manage their natural resources like land, water and forest in a sustainable way is an integral part of Gram Vikas' programmes. Such support actively promotes conservation of water resources, crop diversification and rotation, which leads to improved food production and food security at the household level.

- **Watershed development** – Gram Vikas is implementing Integrated Watershed project in Bongamunda block in Bolangir District under Western Orissa Rural Livelihoods Programme (WORLP) and the Orissa tribal empowerment and Livelihood Programme (OTELP) in Kalahandi District. During the reporting period, additional three areas in Lanjigarh and Thuamul Rampur Blocks in Kalahandi District and Mohana Block in Gajapati district have been assigned to Gram Vikas under OTELP. Additionally, watershed interventions are being carried out in Ganjam, Gajapati and Kalahandi districts with support from EU-SCIAF.

Name of District	Name of Block	Project Name	No. of MWS *	Treatable area	Number of families
Bolangir	Bongamunda	WORLP	20	9866 ha	7579
Kalahandi	Th. Rampur	OTELP I	10	5000 ha	1480
Kalahandi	Th. Rampur	OTELPII	11	5500 ha	1271
Kalahandi	Lanjigarh	OTLEP II	10	5000 ha	815
Gajapati	Mohana	OTELPII	10	5000 ha	1186
Kalahandi	Th. Rampur	Community based Natural resources and Food security	6	500 ha	334
Kalahandi	Th.Rampur		5	500 ha	182

* MWS- Micro watershed

- These projects are resulting in reclamation of land earlier considered uncultivable, rejuvenation of water sources and improvement in agriculture in these areas. During the year a total of 740 hectares of land have been developed for agriculture through various soil and water conservation measures. 25 water bodies have been constructed or renovated during the year.

Community forestry – Depleted forest cover over the years, has had a serious negative impact on the economies of rural communities. It has also resulted in soil erosion and run-off of water. Communities have been motivated to regenerate common and private wasteland by growing trees for fuel, fruit, fodder and timber. 647 hectares have been brought under forestry during the year.

Horticulture – Tribal families are encouraged to abandon their former practice of slash-and-burn cultivation and switch over to a more sustainable means of livelihood. Promotion of horticulture at the household and community level has resulted in improvement in cash income up to 20 percent. During the year, 633 hectares of land have been added to community horticulture.

Agriculture - Vegetable cultivation has been promoted in areas where water availability has increased due to recharging mechanisms. Families cultivating single crop are now able to take up vegetable cultivation in kharif and rabi seasons. 360 families have been supported during the year

Livestock – Regular immunisation and improved husbandry practices is an ongoing programme. 9255 cattle and goats were immunised during the year, 1107 animals were treated for infections and 97 people received training on livestock and veterinary care.

Fish farming in Samiapalli village pond

- **Self Help Groups** – Formed to encourage thrift amongst their members (mostly women), SHGs have also enabled women to gain confidence and become driving forces in village affairs. Gram Vikas undertakes capacity building of the groups, mainly in record keeping, financial training and business skills. We also support SHGs to undertake sustainable income-generating activities. 389 members underwent training on these aspects that contributed to improved functioning of the groups. During this year 74 new groups with 947 members have been formed. Till 07-08, 1275 SHGs have been formed in 388 villages. Out of these, 765 groups are linked to banks and have availed credit for production as well as consumption purposes.
- **Skills training** – Unskilled youth, both boys and girls, are trained in masonry, stone-dressing, wire-bending, plumbing, house-painting and brick moulding. Such trained skilled workers are engaged in Gram Vikas' programmes and also find employment elsewhere. A few have developed into entrepreneurs on their own right. During the year 24 training programmes helped 508 young people in this way.

“If I had not learnt masonry, I would have spent my days collecting firewood and fruits from the forest. Now I am able to buy food and clothes for my family and also have some savings in the bank, says Sarada Mallick of Tamana village of Kukudakhundi block in Ganjam District.

Focal Area V: LIVELIHOOD ENABLING INFRASTRUCTURE

Community-based renewable and energy-efficient technologies are promoted by Gram Vikas to provide energy for cooking, lighting and provision of water in villages without electricity.

Clean cooking –5072 smokeless mud chullahs (stoves) designed by Gram Vikas were installed this year, now totalling 10321 in GV villages. 232 local youth and women SHGs have been trained in chullah-making and they in turn, guide users in maintenance

LED lighting systems, after being piloted in 2 communities in Ganjam district, are now in the process of being implemented in 15 more communities.

Micro hydro systems, having been piloted in 2 communities of Kalahandi district, are now being implemented in 2 new communities in the same district, in order to provide household lighting. Gram Vikas is working with **Practical Action South Asia** and **Engineers Without Borders at Columbia University** to explore the possibility of extending this system to other non-electrified areas, using a community-driven approach that establishes local design and local manufacturing of hardware.

Gravity flow – Perennial springs and streams exist in hilly areas. Water is tapped from these sources through intake wells and diverted to overhead tanks in villages below, using the principles of gravity. 96 villages, mostly in tribal areas with no electricity now have reliable, community-managed water supply systems with zero-energy cost.

Bio-diesel pumping – In partnership with **CTxGreEn**, a Canadian not-for-profit organisation, this unique project uses under-utilised non-edible seeds available locally to produce bio-diesel for pumping water. The bio-diesel is manufactured using pedal-power.

- **Village Resource Centres-** In collaboration with the Department of Space and ISRO, Gram Vikas has set up 14 Village Resource Centres in 7 districts within Orissa. Having become operational during the year, these centres are slowly emerging as single window delivery systems for providing services in the areas of health, education, agriculture, environment as well as information and awareness on the different policies of the government.

“We could never imagine that one day there would be light in our lives!! But it is a reality for us now and perhaps for many villages like ours”, exclaims Jagannath Behera, President of Village Committee, Ankuli village of Patrapur block in Ganjam district where water supply and indoor lighting has been done using solar power.

Focal Area VI: HUMAN & INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Substantial efforts have been made during the reporting period in enabling people, both staff and communities, to widen their horizons and upgrade and expand their skills. This increases motivation and maintains momentum in addition to the direct benefits of newly learnt skills.

- **Community capacity building** – During the year, 80 capacity-building training programmes were arranged for village communities, run either by project staff or by external resource specialists. These covered topics such as leadership, book-keeping, fish farming, health and veterinary training, NREGS, Panchayati Raj and gender issues.
- With an emphasis on promoting active involvement of village youth, men and women, seven programmes were organised on subjects related to role of youth in development, current issues, adolescent health, women in development.
- **External training** – External courses on water management, participatory planning, fund raising and communications and NREGS were attended by staff members. In addition, a few staff members also got an opportunity to attend overseas training and exposure.
- **Staff Development** – In-house staff training took place on 25 occasions, on themes as varied as understanding the recent policies and acts, leadership, Panchayati Raj, gender, communication and creative writing. New staff and volunteers followed comprehensive orientation and induction programmes that were organised on 2 occasions. Each project held a monthly staff meeting, following which Project Coordinators met at Mohuda to share progress, discuss challenges and seek support.
- **Gram Vikas Foundation Day** was celebrated on 22 January 2008 at Headquarters at Mohuda. It was a two-day event involving 500 members of staff. Activities included awareness building, competitions and workshops covering the history of Gram Vikas, achievements and objectives. Cultural performances by schoolchildren in the evenings were a highlight of the programme. The celebration brought together all staff members working in offices as well as the field and also their families.

“It was interesting to have the opportunity of meeting the field workers, interacting and sharing our experiences. For new members of staff in particular, it was a chance to learn in detail about Gram Vikas’ history and the organisation’s achievements and future plans. With 500 of us together, it was like a rehearsal for Gram Vikas’ 30th Anniversary next year, which will be a big celebration!”

Silla, PMED Department

Focal Area VII:

OUTREACH & NETWORKING

Dissemination of information of the work of Gram Vikas happens through participation in various state and national level workshops and consultations organised by government, national and international organisation. Links forged by participation in conferences and meetings with co-workers, other NGOs, government departments, visitors and volunteers often result in great rewards in the long-term.

- **Outreach** – Senior staff of Gram Vikas took part in regular government meetings and various consultations regarding water and sanitation, livelihood and food security, disaster mitigation, and renewable energy. With visibility of MANTRA increasing, organizations and individuals within and outside of the country are approaching us to facilitate implementation of the programme in their area of operation.
- **Networking** – With an aim to bring partner organisations within and outside of the state on a common forum, two-day consultations had been arranged on two occasions. This led to sharing of experiences, raising queries and understanding the core values and guiding principles of the programme. The visits to the field and interaction with the local communities provided greater insight to the discussions and clarifications that arose during the consultation.
 - **Collaborations:**
 - With TNO, a Research organisation based in the Netherlands, a project on understanding ground water resources and management was taken up during the reporting period. Under the same collaboration, a separate project on developing monitoring frameworks has also been initiated.
 - In collaboration with the Centre for Micro finance and J-PAL at MIT a study has been initiated to evaluate the impact of interventions to reduce Indoor Air Pollution (IAP) with a focus on the impact of IAP on economic outcomes, such as labor supply, accumulation of wealth, health expenditure, through a large scale randomised evaluation.
- **Visitors** – During the year, several individuals as well as representatives from organisation visited us to see the MANTRA programme.

Ms. Shanta Sheela Nair, Secretary, Govt. of India, Water supply and Sanitation, Shri. Ajit Tripathy, Chief Secretary, Govt. of Orissa, Shri. S.N. Tripathy, Secretary, RD, Govt. of Orissa and Shri. Satyabrata Sahu, RDC, Govt. of Orissa, IAS probationers, Jeanne Devos, Members from Christian Aid, ICCO, Charity Waters USA, Shri. Jagadananda, Member Secretary, CYSD, members from Byraju Foundation, students from Rishi Valley, Madanapalle and Vidyaranya School, Hyderabad.
- **Volunteers** –Thirteen volunteers, from Australia, Canada, France, the Netherlands, South Korea, Switzerland, the UK and the USA spent periods varying from one to four months working as volunteers with Gram Vikas. Some of them were volunteering for a second or third time, while one was the son of a previous volunteer and another, the mother of a former volunteer.

“The donations received in memory of my late husband have helped to fund the new building at Kankia School. A volunteer himself at Kankia School just before his death, I am confident that a little of his spirit and love of learning will always remain with the school.”

Luyse Groulx, Canadian volunteer

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Gram Vikas is grateful to the many individuals, organisations and institutions who have been associated with us. We express our appreciation and thank each of them especially the Government of India, the Government of Orissa, the State and District level Administration of the Government of Orissa, the State and District Water and Sanitation Mission, the Department of Rural Development, Department of Panchayati Raj, Health and Education Department, Department of SC and ST Development, Department of Home Affairs, Department of Planning and Coordination, Hon'ble MPs of the State and Hon'ble Members of the State Legislature and the representatives of the Panchayati Raj Institution.

We are thankful to Ademe, France; BHP Billiton Minerals India Pvt Ltd, UK; Catholic Relief Services, USA; Christian Aid, UK; CTx-GreEN, Canada; European Union, Favona S.A., Geneva; I.C.C.O. (Interchurch Cooperation), Netherlands; Karl Kubel Stiftung, Germany; O.D.A.F., India, PRIA-DFID, India; P.W.X. (Blue Planet Run Foundation), USA; Rajiv Gandhi Foundation, India; Tata Social Welfare Trust, India, S.C.I.A.F., UK; Swiss Agency for Development & Cooperation (S.D.C.), New Delhi; Stitching Doen, Netherlands, Global Giving, USA, Charity Waters, USA

We owe thanks to Practical Action, South Asia, TNO, The Netherlands, Auroville, Pondicherry , BASIX , BASIN SA, Credibility Alliance , C.Y.S.D., Bhubaneshwar ; Development Alternatives, New Delhi; I.F.M.R & M.I.T., India/USA; I.R.M.A., Anand ; INHAF , KKS & CEVA, India; MS Swaminathan Foundation N.F.I., N.I.R.D,N.R.S.A & I.S.R.O, PRIA , PRADAN, Sadguru foundation, Seva Mandir , T.E.R.I., VANI, WOTR, Ahmednagar, XIMB for support in Trainings and Research.

We would also like to thank Australian Volunteers International, Australia, Engineers without Borders, USA ; Ecole des Mines de Nancy, France, K.O.P.I.O.N., Korea; Twente University, Germany; PriceWaterhouseCoopers, Voluntary Services Overseas for their support to Gram Vikas ' work through their inputs and advice.

We also place on record our gratitude to the numerous individuals and institutions who have provided support and solidarity to the cause of Gram Vikas.

Publications:

Keirns, Pamela. *Water Supply and Sanitation Services for the Rural Poor – The Gram Vikas Experience*. 2007. Practical Action Publishing

Joe Madiath “Facilitating change: Gram Vikas Experience” paper presented at SaciWaters conference at Kandy, Sri Lanka.

Publicity

“A Dignified Solution” a documentary by Rahul Brown and Asha Patel

Joe Madiath: Toilet training and Hygiene lessons for Orissa’s rural poor, article in livemint (www.livemint.com)

Twelve issues of the inhouse newsletter “Gram Vikas Samachar”.

TREASURER'S STATEMENT

The accounts of Gram Vikas have been audited by M/S Padhi & Co in accordance with standard practices and have been found.

Prof Debi Prasad Mishra
Treasurer



