

Gram Vikas Annual Report 2010-11

About Gram Vikas

Gram Vikas, literally meaning 'village development,' is a non-governmental organization working for sustainable improvements in the quality of life of poor and marginalized communities in Odisha. Founded by a group of student volunteers from Chennai, under the umbrella of the Young Students for Development (YSMD), Gram Vikas has been actively involved in development activities since 1979 and has grown to have significant outreach in Odisha. Gram Vikas maintains its head office at Mohuda village, 12 kms from Berhampur, as well as 25 field offices throughout Odisha. With 424 (March '11) employees, Gram Vikas has been able to reach 1089 communities with a population of over 298,000 in 23 districts in the state of Odisha and initiated programmes in Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh.

Vision

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

Mission

To promote processes which are sustainable, socially inclusive, gender equitable; to enable critical masses of poor and marginalised rural people to achieve a dignified quality of life. 'Dignified quality of life' - whether for people or communities would include the following:-

- Options for appropriate family and community infrastructure and sources of energy
- Sustainable use and management of natural resources
- Food security and access to secure livelihood opportunities
- Assured access to basic education, protected water supply, sanitation and adequate health services
- Strong self-governing people's institutions with equal participation of men and women

Gram Vikas' interventions are directed at energising entire villages/habitations, and are driven by the involvement of the entire community in planning, implementation and monitoring. Gram Vikas recognises that empowering the communities through strengthening Panchayati Raj Institutions and systems is essential. This will become the democratic vehicle of delivery of services and in essence enhance and preserve quality of life of the people. The integrated approach to development includes:

Education	Village based pre-schools and primary schools, residential schools for Adivasi children and project based Education Resource centres
Livelihood and Food Security	Diversification of livelihood options through skill and capacity building based on locally available natural and human resources, formation of self help groups for micro-credit and micro-enterprises and market linkages
Natural Resource Management	Drought proofing of villages and watershed management, involving conservation and development of land, water and forests
Infrastructure	Disaster proof housing, sanitation and water supply systems and community infrastructure including schools, grain banks, roads, drainage, and alternative energy production
Health	Promotive, preventive and curative health services imbibing traditional knowledge in medicines and health practices

Message from Chairman

The curious case of India in the race to achieve Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) is being increasingly acknowledged; more Indians have mobile phone connectivity (nearly 500 million) than sewerage connectivity (less than 20%). Sanitation targets will not be achieved in near future. Millions of women, men and children in rural and urban India continue to defecate and urinate in the open, on railway tracks, sideways of roads, near their own (or other's) homes as well. Not only is this humiliating and risky, (women have been molested when going into the open, men have 'unzipped' anywhere, anytime), it is also the biggest source of ill-health due to air and water pollution.

All this is, of course, well-known, adequately documented and suitably discussed in conferences. But, has it made any difference? Most policy-makers in Delhi believe that open defecation in the vast rural fields is healthy---in fresh air? Most programming at national level, over successive five year plans, has been myopic at best, as allocations to and designs of schemes for rural sanitation have been pitifully distorted and woefully inadequate.

Despite all such odds, Gram Vikas has been at the forefront of promoting 'life with dignity' for thousands of households in rural Odisha by enabling them to have water and sanitation facilities covering 100% of the village population. Over the past fifteen years, Gram Vikas has single-handedly served more than 66,000 families in more than a thousand villages covering 354,131 poor in 27 districts of Odisha. Gram Vikas has been the single largest user of government funding under the Accelerated Rural Water Supply scheme (ARWSP) from the government of Odisha during this past year; it has been able to access and utilize nearly Rs 10 crores during financial year 2010-11 from the Odisha government's Rural Development department to provide safe drinking water and reliable sanitation to 7307 poor families during this year, bringing the cumulative total to 55,422 households.

This remarkable achievement of accessing such large amounts of government funds by an NGO has been done without any payment of consideration or facilitation 'fees', i.e. corruption-free. And, it has been utilized to produce high quality, sustainable and community-owned facilities for the rural poor. How? How come Gram Vikas has been able to do so over all these years? It was possible because Gram Vikas was able to mobilise flexible funding from international donors to pay for additional staff costs, travel and facilitation expenses and expenses related to education and mobilization of families and communities. If Gram Vikas had relied only on funds available within government schemes alone, it would have been forced to cut corners in quality, let alone not bother about sustainability through community ownership. In the experience of Gram Vikas, it has needed nearly around 30 paisa for every rupee of government funds utilised to do its job well.

As the Governing Board and leadership of Gram Vikas is well aware, access to that flexible funding is rapidly declining, largely because India is now seen as a 'developed' country. In future, even an organization like Gram Vikas will be unable to effectively utilize government funding for the rural poor of Odisha for water and sanitation programmes, as these flexible international funds would disappear. It will be indeed a miracle if existing pattern of funding in ARWSP scheme of the government of India could be amended to enable NGOs like Gram Vikas to continue to serve the rural poor.

In light of these and other forces, the Governing Board of Gram Vikas began to discuss a strategy for the next phase of its work. I am happy to note that there has been considerable progress towards consolidation of programme focus and geographical locations, to be finally achieved by the end of the current fiscal year. In addition, there has been important progress towards enhancing leadership of Gram Vikas beyond its energetic and visionary founder Joe Madiath. The Governing Board is overseeing this process actively.

On behalf of the Governing Board, and my own, I want to place on record our deep appreciation of the hard and dedicated work of all colleagues in Gram Vikas, who work in such difficult circumstances with limited resources. We appreciate deeply the impacts that Joe's dynamic leadership is having much beyond Gram Vikas—in shaping future policy at national level, and in many African countries as well.

Once again, I thank my fellow Board members and members of the general body of Gram Vikas for their sustained and thoughtful support towards making it a wonderful institution.

Rajesh Tandon

Chairperson

Message from Executive Director

I am proud to present this, the 32nd Annual Report of Gram Vikas, to the Governing Board and General Body members of Gram Vikas, those we work with, our donors, government, NGOs, partners and colleagues. As always, I am humbled by what we must yet achieve, but heartened by all we have accomplished.

The challenges we face in realising our mission are always many and varied, but some remain constant: achieving ambitious programmes with limited human resources and making those programmes work in regions with little or no infrastructure remain one of our greatest challenges. I am most proud that in the light of these difficulties we have to date reached 1089 villages of which 943, a total of 55,390 families, benefited from water and sanitation. Once again our staff has done commendable work within the constraints of human and financial resources. We are finding new ways to overcome some earlier challenges: for example, our resource mobilisation team has, over the past 2 years, worked hard to produce detailed estimates and measurements required to access government funds for water supply. Their work has alleviated some of the financial pressures an organisation like Gram Vikas always experiences. In other ways too our persistent lobbying has paid off; we continue to work on behalf of our constituents so that now, for instance, almost 90% of water supply is funded by government.

We still continue to work primarily in rural Odisha, with some projects initiated further afield in Madhya Pradesh, Jharkand, Andhra Pradesh in India and The Gambia and Tanzania in Africa. The tribal communities remain the focal point of our work, because we could go another 100 years and still justice will not be done in the hinterlands. Bringing development and infrastructure to the marginalised and excluded, particularly alleviating women's and girls' back-breaking work of water collection is our raison d'être. It is, of course, challenging for our staff to operate in these inaccessible areas where there are few facilities. Cerebral malaria is not only a threat but a reality and where transporting materials, often by head load is an enormous task. In addition to the increased financial cost of providing services in these areas, there is also a human cost, when staff are living in such isolated pockets, with very poor communications, there is always an anxiety about their health and well-being.

Of course, our work takes some time to produce results. We have had experiences of villages, like Jhadabandh in Ganjam district, where we were working with the community who expressed interest in sanitation and water supply but failed to reach agreement on 100% participation and so we withdrew. Then, 10 years later, they have once again approached Gram Vikas ready to implement the water and sanitation programme, fulfilling all conditions laid down by the MANTRA programme. The moral of the story is that its worth making the effort even if you do not know when, or even if, the results will come.

So, what next for Gram Vikas? We will continue to penetrate deeper and deeper into the forest and remote areas to make available to new communities the MANTRA programme. There are new ways in which we can contribute to sustainable livelihoods of our constituents. The Forest Rights Act (FRA), for example, presents us with a once in a lifetime opportunity; through this legislation we can support tribal villagers to realise their right to land. Although the legislation has been passed, the process is far from simple, but this year we helped 2503 families successfully file claims. However, the average settlement of less than one acre was disappointing given the allowed eligibility of up to 4 hectares. Just as in the past with FRA, Right To Information (RTI), Right To Education (RTE) and MGNREGA (Mahatma Gandhi Employment Guarantee Act), as we see new legislation being enacted, we will continue to work with tribal communities, supporting them to access these rights.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank my hardworking colleagues in Gram Vikas for their energy enthusiasm and effort, overcoming challenges daily. As always we are indebted to our donors and the Government Department of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj for their confidence in us and support and for funding our programmes. The volunteers and interns who pass through our doors continue to contribute to our ongoing efforts. Most importantly, I would like those with whom we work, who have contributed until it hurts them and who have taken our work forward in an organised manner making it a sustainable effort.

Our colleague, Mr. Saroj Kumar Sahu, passed away on 28th February 2011, at Bafla project because of a heart problem. We are indebted to him for the contribution that he has made to Bafla project and to Gram Vikas.

Joe Madiath

Executive Director

MANTRA

Movement and Action Network for Transformation of Rural Areas (MANTRA) is a comprehensive habitat development and governance programme that uses the common concerns regarding clean water and sanitation as a tool to unite and empower communities, to launch development initiatives, to improve community health and quality of life. MANTRA is based on the values of inclusion, sustainability, cost sharing and social and gender equity.

MANTRA APPROACH

100% Inclusion: Participation of all households of a habitation is non-negotiable, which assures that all community members, including the poorest and most marginalized, benefit from the interventions equally.

Social Equity: All villagers, regardless of gender, caste or economic status, must be represented prior to the implementation of a project and participate equitably in its planning, implementation, operation, management and maintenance.

Gender Equity: Equal representation and participation of men and women in community level governance is essential. Women must play an active role in community governance institutions by assuming positions of power and responsibility equal to that of their male counterparts.

Sustainability: Development processes are based on sound environmental values that have built-in institutional and financial mechanisms to ensure sustainability throughout the life of the project.

Cost Sharing: Communities contribute to the cost of development and maintenance of the infrastructure with cash and labour. Certain social costs, however, have to be met by society (government).

MANTRA creates unity in a village by inspiring the leadership, creating an environment that fosters community initiative for development work that is community driven, directed and managed. MANTRA programmes target health, education, livelihood and food security, self-governing people's institutions and livelihood-enabling infrastructure.

As of March 2011, Gram Vikas has reached out to 1089 villages, comprising of 66,564 families (and a total population of 354,131) in Odisha, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh and Jharkhand. Of this 943 villages comprising of 55,422 families with a population of 299,815 have access to sanitation and 24 hour potable piped water supply. In the current year alone, the MANTRA project was implemented in 155 villages totalling 7307 families.

Just one person makes a difference....

Many different factors affect the motivation of villagers to implement the MANTRA programme; it can be a question of economics, caste, tradition, access to materials or even something like a widened road! Whatever the factors for or against implementation, it is always true that even one person can make a difference.

More than 10 years ago, one man made a difference in Jhadabandh (Ganjam district): the village was ready to move forward on the water and sanitation project just like its neighbour, 2 km away, Samantrapur. The community had gone as far as raising a considerable corpus of ₹65,000 but this one man was against the project and against the village leadership; by influencing 20-25 other families he used this personal rivalry with the leader of the village to derail the whole process. Just as one man can make a negative difference, so too can one man make a positive difference. Today, the great efforts of the community, particularly those motivated youngsters returning from working in Surat have found support from another man, Kora Bisoy, (Secretary of Samantrapur). Now Jhadabandh's water & sanitation project is finally underway. Kora is helping these youngsters not only to motivate their village, but also to convince Gram Vikas staff to invest time, energy and expertise in a community that has had 'cold feet' in the past.

And in the past 2 years, up in the north, we have again experienced the power of one man: Ramesh Ekka of Chutiatolla, Sundergarh. As part of its Corporate Social Responsibility programme, Rourkela Steel Plant (RSP) engaged Gram Vikas to provide water and sanitation to its peripheral villages, invited Gram Vikas to start working in 5 peripheral villages, and supplied a list of 200 villages from which to chose. After visiting over 50 villages without success the staff began to feel discouraged. But then Mr. Ramesh Ekka, who believed in Gram Vikas and the programme, took the trouble to go to another district, Bargarh, to see a MANTRA village for himself, taking some of his fellow villagers with him. So passionate was his commitment, that although his village was not on the original list, they managed to persuade RSP to start with Chutiatolla. Ekka's leadership has not only transformed his village, but he is motivating neighbouring villages also to take up the project.

As Chutiatolla is located by the side of the Rourkela-Ranchi highway, many can see its water tower and visit the village to see for themselves what a difference one person can make!

Governing Board of Gram Vikas

The Governing Board has 13 members, development practitioners, academicians and professionals – bringing rich and valuable experience and expertise. The Board plays a significant role in periodic review and policy guidance.

Dr. Rajesh Tandon (Chairman)

President of PRIA – Participatory Research Institute in Asia, an organization based in New Delhi. Dr. Tandon is a social worker, who joined Gram Vikas Board in 1984.

Prof. Debi Prasad Mishra

Mr. Mishra is a professor at the Institute of Rural Management Anand in Gujarat. He has served Gram Vikas since 1998.

Sri. Vijay Mahajan

Mr. Mahajan is a widely renowned development consultant and the ex- Managing Director of BASIX, in Hyderabad. He joined the Gram Vikas Board in 1990.

Sri. Basant Kumar Panigrahi

A lawyer by profession, Mr. Panigrahi works in Berhampur and has served on the board of Gram Vikas since 1998.

Ms. Neelima Khetan

Ms. Khetan has a background in social work and joined the Board in 2003. She has served as the former Chief Executive of Seva Mandir in Udaipur.

Dr. Saraswati Swain

A physician by profession and director of NIAHRD, an organization based in Cuttack, Dr. Swain joined Gram Vikas Board in 2003.

Ms. Rita Bhatia

Ms. Bhatia had served on the Gram Vikas Board for 19 years, since 1990.

Ms. Soma Dutta

Regional Coordinator of Energia South Asia, Ms. Dutta recently joined the Board, becoming a member in 2008.

Mr. Ashoke Chatterjee

Mr. Chatterjee, a development consultant, has been a member of the Board since 2008.

Mr. Lalit Mansingh

Former Foreign Secretary of the Government of India, Ambassador to the USA, and High Commissioner to the UK, Mr. Mansingh joined Gram Vikas Board in 2008.

Mr. Ravi Narayanan

Mr. Narayanan, former director of WaterAid, is a development consultant and has been a board member since 2008.

Mr. Ram Sanker (Treasurer)

A Chartered Accountant, businessman, and exporter, Mr. Sanker joined Gram Vikas Board in 2008.

Dr. Joe Madiath

Dr. Joe Madiath is the founder of Gram Vikas and has served as the Executive Director since 1979.

Working With Tribal Communities: A Chapter from Gram Vikas' History.

After the Young Students Movement for Development (YSMD) wound up its lift irrigation projects in the present Kendrapara district and decided to work with tribal people, they moved in 1976 to Mohuda, on the fringes of the Kerandimal range of hills where quite a few tribal villages were situated. They initially began their contacts with tribal people as YSMD.

It was quite difficult initially to get the trust of these innocent people, who had been exploited systematically for generations by money lenders, liquor merchants, land lords and fake do-gooders. More than 95% of all assets of the tribal people were illegally or usuriously taken away from them. The liquor merchants (Shundies) ensured that these people became addicted to their harmful brew and snatched away their possessions. When the tribal people lost all their land, trees and animals they gave their children as bonded labourers to the exploiting class of people.

In 1995, during the emergency, the Government of India declared a moratorium on rural indebtedness and bonded labour. Using this act, gently wherever possible, with pressure and force of numbers, wherever necessary, the tribal people could recover most of the land, property and human beings (bonded labour).

This early work in the tribal communities helped the team identify the key challenges they were experiencing. Because of the remoteness of the villages they were constantly deprived of government programmes through negligence, lack of information or access. In addition to learning about the challenges facing the tribal communities their character became apparent to the volunteers who could see their courage, simplicity and honesty. Over time it became clear that all tribal communities faced similar challenges: retaining their land, destructive liquor habits, disease (primarily malaria and TB) and education. By the time YSMD had evolved into Gram Vikas in 1979 the group were focusing their work with tribals in three key areas: rights issues (particularly land rights), health and education. Today challenges remain in all three areas.

With reference to land rights, despite the enactment of legislation to protect and reinstate rights to cultivable land, progress in this arena remains slow. Decades of alienation of land may take decades to redress and FRA must be seen in this context. However there is cause for optimism; over the years Gram Vikas interventions have led to tribal families seeing benefits of planting and harvesting more fruit yielding trees such as cashews and other horticultural plants. Now they have developed an attachment to their land and can not only claim it, but also demonstrably profit from it.

Education plays an important role in developing the skills and confidence to exploit opportunities and Gram Vikas has spent much of its time and resources developing education amenities and infrastructure. The residential schools, for example, started as an informal solution to the challenge of providing education across a wide geographical area, where access was difficult and there was little, if any, penetration by government agencies. In the early stages of the education programme Gram Vikas staff selected young people to act as tutors in their villages. They would come to Mohuda for 3-4 days every month for an intensive 'teacher-training' session; during this session they would learn the curriculum to be taught in the coming 3 weeks to their students in the village. As time passed, the communities looked for more advanced and broader education, so Kankia School was established. It was, in those early days, a veranda school. Children would travel to the village to attend school and would be fed and sheltered by the villagers. Then in 1982 Gram Vikas built the first residential school in Kankia; what started with 30 kids learning on a veranda has now become 500 students on a large (though never large enough!) purpose built campus, and three more schools providing education for 1400 children.

Despite decades of development work tribal areas remain underdeveloped when compared to other regions and so disillusionment, especially of the youth, has become a big issue. It is hard for them to see the value of staying back to work in their communities when they see so little progress. Livelihood,

education and health interventions can bring about change, but there are larger influences at work where the government has not been able to stem the tide of alienation of land, mining interests, left wing extremist activity etc. This presents both a challenge and opportunity for Gram Vikas and the communities it serves.

These high level challenges can most often be seen at village level as challenges of leadership and sustainability. As the tribal youth are getting good education, they are also being attracted to work elsewhere, which deprives the community of their skills and leadership. This trend has a negative impact on long term sustainability as the leadership by the Gram Vikas schools' alumni could lead to greater community empowerment. For example, strong local leadership would encourage more and more people to take up issues of FRA, MGNREGA, RTE, RTI etc building momentum and mobilising a critical mass. If tribal people do not take up leadership roles, perhaps due to a lack of confidence or information, then many such opportunities may be lost.

Tribal programmes such as Gram Vikas' can be considered a success when every child has access to all government health and education schemes and every family has a sustainable source of income, and when all this is accomplished not by exploiting natural resources but while sustaining and replenishing them. These natural resources will continue to provide sustenance to the tribal communities long after a Gram Vikas withdraws from the area.

1. Self governing people's institutions

At MANTRA's core is the principle of uniting a community to drive and manage development, initially focussed on the needs of drinking water and sanitation. Central to the formation, development and sustainability of self governing people's institutions are the tenets of 100% inclusion, social and gender equity.

Gram Vikas works with local communities to build models of democracy at the grass roots level and to support communities developing partnerships between Village Executive Committees (VEC) and Gram Panchayats. The existence of village institutions is not enough for democratic representation and the makeup of these groups is very important. Traditionally, women's role in village decision making is minimal. Under MANTRA programmes, women's groups are established initially, and over time women and men's groups are combined so that the VEC is formed with 50% women. Equity is also evident in the representation of the entire community, castes and classes in these groups which are based on democratic principles, ensuring every person is equal and able to contribute to the organisation, development and decision making of the village. This year 53 self governing people's institutions, including 318 women members, were registered as societies. The total number of societies registered is now 546, and the number of self-help groups actively monitored by is 1578.

Results of self-governing people's institutions for the year:

- Rs. 6.30 crores has been mobilised towards Village corpus fund and used for the construction work
- 2503 claims over forest land by tribal families have been settled by the government
- 33 trainings on Leadership development was conducted for 1028 participants
- 52 trainings on SHG functioning and record keeping for 1304 participants were held
- Rs. 45.97 lakhs mobilised by Village committees from MLA LAD funds for Water and sanitation programme

Building these relationships and models at a local level is especially productive in relation to FRA and RTI; both these pieces of legislation can have far reaching benefits for individuals and communities. This year Gram Vikas assisted in the filing of 2503 land claims. Although the resultant average allocations of less than one acre have been considerably smaller than the eligibility of up to 4 hectares, these settled claims still represent progress.

RTI applications have continued to be filed to address problems with the implementation of government schemes. For example requests for information regarding villager's rights to forest land, irrigation facilities, employment guarantee schemes, government provided electricity supply and access to home improvement grants, have lead to positive responses and ultimately renewed action to assert the right of villagers to these rights.

Empowerment, and particularly the empowerment of women continues to progress, for example in Tumba Gram Panchayat (Ganjam), 30 women met the Block Development Officer at Patrapur to request an update on the electrification of their area. Because even though more than one year had passed since the transmission wires and poles were erected, the villages still had no electricity. so during the 2010 International Women's Day celebrations the women decided to request a status update. Within two months of their petition all but the most inaccessible of villages had been electrified.

More and more communities are accessing public money for development work, last year accessing a grand total of Rs **4,378,750** under the Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC) as subsidy, benefiting 2015 families.

Better late than never, thanks to the RTI Act.

Sata Bauni stream is a perennial stream which separates the villages of Linagapur from Anandpur in Gajapati district of Odhisa. The bridge which connects these villages was used every day for activities like transporting vegetables and marketing. When it was damaged in 2004 by floods, people had to find alternative ways to cross Sata Bauni. It became even more difficult during the monsoon when the water flow was stronger. In 2004 a contractor was hired to reconstruct the bridge but there was no progress made. Another contractor was hired in 2007 with the same outcome and although the matter was brought before the DLCC (District level Coordination Committee) by the project coordinator of Gram Vikas no action was taken.

Then the RTI act came into force and there were series of trainings conducted at the Gram Vikas Head office about the purpose and use of the act. The act turned out to be a blessing for the villagers. In April 2010 the supervisor - Jogendranath Swain, filed an RTI asking for all the details regarding the bridge. This application highlighted that according to records, work on reconstruction had started on 19th September 2006 and was supposed to be completed by 18th March 2007. The completion date was then postponed to 15th August 2010. In June an enquiry was made by the DRDA officials and in July the construction started. Work was finally completed in August so now the people of Linagapur and Anandapur villages can easily and happily cross their restored bridge and continue with their daily lives.

These self governing institutions play both a developmental and practical role in the successful implementation of the MANTRA programme; in practice achieving results through FRA or RTI legislation demonstrates how powerful a community can be and developmentally these successes unite the entire community as equals in sharing the responsibility of creating a sustainable future. Building on these successes communities feel empowered to access public money and challenge public bodies for better services and support for their development ambitions.

2. Health

According to the World Health Organisation "the combination of safe drinking water and hygienic sanitation facilities is a precondition for health¹". Mainstream health interventions concerned with disease prevention or cure focus primarily on tertiary health care without relating to the impact of bottle necks such as lack of infrastructure i.e. roads, water, sanitation, housing etc which have a significant bearing on accessing health care and overall quality of life.

¹ World Health Organisation (WHO) (2004) Meeting the MDG Drinking Water and Sanitation Target: Mid-Term Assessment of Progress [online]. World Health Organisation, Geneva, Switzerland. Available from: http://www.who.int/water_sanitation_health/monitoring/jmp2004/en/

Gram Vikas works from the premise that access to safe water and improving sanitation practices is the first step towards better health. The water and sanitation programme is generally the first activity undertaken in any new village, based on the core values of MANTRA. From proportionate representation of all to cost sharing, to 100% inclusion, the water and sanitation programme is a powerful, value led and health focussed entry point for community development. In a context where over 80% of diseases are water borne, Gram Vikas chose to act through inclusive water and sanitation as an entry point intervention. This has developed into a powerful tool to tackle health issues - especially mother and child health while spinning off activities on livelihood in the villages.

During the year, Gram Vikas was able to commission 197 water supply projects and we are grateful to the Department of Rural Development, Government of Odisha for the support and releasing the long pending budgets to implement piped water supply projects in the villages.

As part of Gram Vikas' continued commitment to sustainability and innovation, a gradual shift over the years towards open dug wells and gravity flow systems means accessing only rechargeable sources of water rather than mining water from deep aquifers. The induced gravity flow systems have made a breakthrough in providing zero-energy transport mechanisms for piped water supply in rural areas. This facilitates reaching more remote communities as it reduces the dependency on electricity for pumping.

Water & Sanitation as the Gram Vikas Entry Point

Since 1992, Gram Vikas has carried out a programme in which each family in the village builds their own toilet and bathing room, with piped water supply from a common water tower to which water is lifted by pumping from open wells or bore wells or from perennial springs through gravity flow water supply. The sanitation and water supply systems ensure access to protected piped water to all families all through the year.

100% coverage, involvement of all families in the village habitation and raising a corpus fund with `1,000 from each family on average, are non-negotiable conditions in Gram Vikas' approach. Adult men and women are motivated to come together at the start of the intervention as the village general body, and they elect a representative executive committee with equal number of men and women. The amount collected towards the corpus fund is placed in a fixed deposit account and the interest from the corpus fund is reserved for extending support for building toilets and bathrooms to new families in the village in the future. The water and sanitation programme requires communities to bear 60% of the cost of bathing rooms and toilets, (water supply systems are generally supported by government funds). These contributions can take the form of local materials and skilled or unskilled labour and some cash to build the structures.

Work for establishing water supply systems is undertaken only after completion of construction of toilets and bathing rooms by all families. Gram Vikas provides all technical support in establishing the water supply systems. Villagers arrange for electricity and are responsible for operations and maintenance of the system. They are trained by Gram Vikas in undertaking minor repairs and maintenance so that the local people are able to take complete responsibility and manage the systems.

Together with toilets and bathing rooms, drainage systems are developed to ensure that wastewater does not accumulate. In several villages, banana and papaya planted around the soak pits have helped to absorb the water and nutrients from the soak pits. In addition the families get good quality bananas and papayas.

Project teams in various districts used the opportunity of World Water Day and World Toilet Day to engage with government officials and local communities driving home the importance and urgency of expanding sanitation coverage at the Gram Panchayat and Block levels.

Traditionally, the communities with which Gram Vikas works have practiced open defecation, and therefore merely building water and sanitation infrastructure will do little to change the habit of generations of people defecating by river banks and pond embankments or the roadside. For this reason, Gram Vikas' programme includes a wide range of hygiene and sanitation education

programmes, especially in schools and with adolescent girls. As children adopt more hygienic practices, they become ambassadors and even enforcers of hygiene rules in their communities. This together with peer pressure ensures 100% open defecation free villages.

Results for Sanitation coverage 2010 (New Villages):

Period	Villages	Households
2009-2010	86	3362
2010-2011	155 new villages	7307 new families

Monitoring the quality of water is also an important part of the programme; local community members are trained in the use of field-testing kits so that changes in the chemical or microbiological composition of water can be monitored and managed, and this year 40 barefoot hydrologist trainers were trained.

637 water supply systems have been established and 197 systems were commissioned in the year 2010-11.

Government funds channeled for WATSAN

Govt. funds	2009-2010	2010-2011
TSC	Rs. 79.44 lakhs	Rs.43.78 lakhs
MLA LAD	Rs. 26.06 lakhs	Rs. 45.97 lakhs
Swajaldhara/ARWSP	Rs.2.91 crores	Rs. 9.92 crores

Community health management

Mother and child healthcare comprises a core component of community health care work with focus on training health workers and members of the community to identify and ensure antenatal and post natal care. Women members of the community are made aware of the need for immunisation, nutrition, safe delivery and child care practices; over the years persistent communication on these have led to a decrease in mother and child mortality especially in the tribal pockets where Gram Vikas is active. The National Rural Health Mission has provided an opportunity to work more concertedly at the village level and make the communities aware of the health care services and provisions available. During the year, Gram Vikas staff worked to strengthen the role of the Gaon Kalyan Samitis at the village level, involving them in the health planning and monitoring the use of funds. Expectant mothers have availed of institutional delivery in the tribal regions; receiving cash benefits under Janani Suraksha Yojana.

In Thuamul Rampur block of Kalahandi district, a team of health workers works on strengthening the health system towards better service delivery and monitoring the public health service through a well defined health information system. The overall activities are concentrated in one Gram Panchayat of 34

villages where several activities including mobile clinics, health camps, school level health camps and training ASHA workers on using rapid diagnostic kits for malaria detection have taken place. In other locations staff continued to work on malaria prevention, monitoring immunisation and child care at the Anganwadis, training village health workers and traditional birth attendants.

2010 Results for health care:

- 138 school sanitation and hygiene education sessions held for nearly 9000 children
- 20 reproductive and child health care training for 289 members, 987 adolescent girls trained on in MHM
- 85 cataract patients underwent operations at eye camps and 559 reading glasses sold to people with eyesight problems
- 107 tuberculosis patients were identified through health camps and are currently undergoing treatment

Prevention and cure of Malaria

Malaria persists as a plagues disease endemic to most tribal areas and Gram Vikas continues to work on prevention and early detection using rapid diagnostic tests. At present 95% of malaria is of the PF +ve type, which affects the brain. The consequence of a cerebral attack of malaria can be very dangerous, unless treated early. This year, staff also embarked on trials for malaria cure through cultivation of a shrub called Artemisia Annu; by processing the plant, the extract can be used as an effective antidote for malaria. Currently 175 plants have been harvested and the trial is being done with staff at Thuamul Rampur project (which is a malaria endemic area). This trial involves monitoring the frequency and severity of incidences to evaluate the efficacy of the herb in curing or preventing malaria.

Prevention and cure of Tuberculosis

Under the Revised National Tuberculosis Control Programme (RNTCP), Gram Vikas has been designated the nodal agency to liaise between villages and RNTCP in Rayagada block of Gajapati district. Now, Gram Vikas supervisors have access to diagnostic kits, so that, if they suspect a member of the community is suffering from TB, a simple sputum sample can be quickly dispatched for analysis. Once diagnosed, the patient is attended daily by the DOT provider (Directly Observed Treatment) who will administer the government issued medication. This treatment can continue from 15 days to 6 months depending on the severity of the illness. The patients are then retested and treatment continues if they have not been cured.

Insuring lives

As a social security measure, insuring lives provides families with some assurance of stability in the event of a family tragedy. Gram Vikas' collaboration with the National Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) to provide low premium life insurance cover for the rural population seeks to ease the worries and burdens of poor families. In 2010 the initiative to provide the rural poor with insurance coverage gained momentum, and this year 1587 households, that is 1671 individuals have taken micro insurance coverage through the Gram Vikas partnership with LIC.

Other results for health

- 1671 policies & 1587 families were enrolled for Micro insurance of LIC and two villages declared as **Bima Gram** in Gajapati district
- Gram Vikas has been actively promoting awareness within communities on the role of the Gaon Kalyan Samiti as part of **National Rural Health Mission**.
- Other efforts: providing permanently medicated mosquito nets, chlorination of wells, immunisation camps and tuberculosis treatment.

A remedy for reduced eyesight

In many remote communities, poor eyesight can become a severe limitation, as few people can afford to make the journey to get their eyes tested and buy spectacles. Older people suffering from presbyopia, where aging weakens elasticity of lens, find it very difficult to carry out simple tasks like removing stones from rice, stitching leaf plates or reading. A Gram Vikas initiative with Vision Spring has brought a solution to this problem; Gram Vikas staff have, with Vision Spring, arranged training of locally based, young entrepreneurs in eye-testing. Together they organise health camps and provide eye-testing free of charge. The entrepreneurs can provide glasses to those who need them for the small price of Rs 120, and those who are suffering from more serious eye complaints such as cataracts or glaucoma are identified and referred to hospital for treatment. These small local interventions provided a new lease of life for 419 people suffering from poor eyesight last year and this year it is estimated that as many as 5,000 can benefit from this programme.

Mega Surgery Camp

In collaboration with the Rotary Club, Berhampura Mega-Surgical Camp was organised at Berhampur from 23rd January to 7th February 2011. The camp was staffed by 40 doctors of various specialities who performed critical operations on the patients recommended for surgery. In total 1156 patients were treated in the camp and 1110 surgeries were carried out, of which 284 were major surgeries.

Gram Vikas provided the logistic support and accommodation for doctors to organise the camp and was instrumental in facilitating access to tribal people in the remote locations of Ganjam and Gajapati districts to undergo treatment at the camp. 24 such patients received treatment and 6 patients underwent major surgery at the camp.

Civil society collaborations such as these can pave way to bring more of such specialised health care to unreachable and non-served populations in the future.

The range and reach of health related interventions of Gram Vikas tries to address health in a holistic manner focusing on determining conditions, prevention and primary health care. MANTRA values drive the activities in Gram Vikas' health programme, so that the legacy of each activity leads to a healthy, sustainable community built on equity and inclusion.

3. Education

The values of MANTRA underpin Gram Vikas' education programme, particularly in relation to equity, sustainability and cost sharing. These values have led to creation of a two-pronged approach to education; supporting communities to strengthen government facilities where they exist and where they are absent, helping people establish local education centres.

There are many challenges in providing education facilities in remote areas where historically education was not seen as a priority by parents, or children. Coupled with the livelihood burden of the tribal communities, education programme had to suit the work cycle of the parents and get children accustomed to attending schools. Spanning nearly three decades, today we see a palpable change in the demand for education even in the remote locations. However, two great challenges have remained constant: having enough space for students and even more difficult, attracting and retaining talented and committed teachers to work in such remote areas. Now there is a third challenge related to the sourcing and payment of materials for teaching and learning; recent changes in the school curriculum by the government have meant new text books and materials are required which adds to the cost burden. Although the challenges of sourcing teachers and teaching materials continue to frustrate, finding space has often been possible because of the sheer determination of staff and communities. For example, from the very beginning, starting with Kankia school's genesis as a 'veranda school', local

tribal communities have played a vital role in supporting children's education by providing classroom space, food and sometimes even shelter.

Looking back over the years, it is heartening to see the increased value placed on education by parents; in the beginning parents would view their child graduating from class 7 as akin to having a degree. Over the last five years, more than 90% of children enrolled in the schools progressed to class X. Parents are engaged in feedback meetings regarding their wards on a monthly or quarterly basis. Such interactions help them to understand their children's capability or redress issues if encountered.

A glance at the information below on the students completing their matriculation from the three tribal project locations helps understand the improvement in education.

District	Project Name	Students completing High School	
		Before 2000	As on 2010-11
Ganjam	Tumba	9	101
Gajapati	Anandapur	10	61
	Koinpur	44	182

Baidehi Majhi exemplifies the situation that girls, in particular from tribal families, face with regard to education. Born into a poor tribal family in Bhatipas village (which falls under Koraput district, but adjacent to an operational village in Thuamul rampur block), she lost her mother while she was a child. Her step-mother did not feel the need to take care of her and she was left wandering within the village or sharing the household chores. Staff of the village motivated her father to allow her to attend the day school run by Gram Vikas. Over time Baidehi continued her education till the seventh class in Thuamul Rampur residential school and later joined the Gram Vikas High School at Kankia. Her latent skills blossomed under the guidance of the caring teachers and she went on to become a state level champion in weight lifting. She got the opportunity to attend several competitions at the district, state and national level and made the school proud of her achievements.

After passing out from the Baidehi School returned to her village. She had no idea what lay in store for her. Her step-mother announced that she had already arranged for her marriage with an uneducated tribal boy. One day when she had gone to visit some of her relatives, two people came and informed her that they had come to take her back as her sister was seriously ill. Worried, she went along with them, only to realise some time later that the bus which they had taken was going to some other place. She was clever enough to understand that the men were from the boy's family and they had come to forcibly take her to their house! With great presence of mind, instead of raising the alarm she quietly got down at the next stop, which was fortunately close to a village where her friend stayed. From here she contacted her teachers at Thuamul Rampur who, on hearing her plight brought her to Thuamul Rampur School and later to Kankia School. The teachers at Kankia helped her to take admission for intermediate and she is presently continuing her +2 studies there. She also takes bridge classes for drop out children at Kankia School.

When asked about her future plans, she says that it was because of the education she received, she was able to take the decision about her future. She feels sad that very few girls in her community get opportunity for schooling and are often forced into early marriage. She thinks that she can play a role to encourage more girls to get education and so she wants to become a teacher.

The education system established by Gram Vikas started with setting up of Balwadis and day schools in the villages. Presently Gram Vikas does not run Balwadis and conduct only limited day schools. The focus is to make the government system function better and raise the awareness of the parents regarding education. Day schools are operational only in those locations where there is acute scarcity of government schools and teachers. The focus is to engage children in elementary education through

joyful learning methods. In 2010 a total of 387 children were enrolled in the 16 day schools run by Gram Vikas.

SI No	District	Project	No. of Centres	Village Covered	Total Students		
					Boys	Girls	Total
1	Ganjam	Tumba	3	3	34	38	72
2	Gajapati	Koinpur	6	29	122	84	206
		Anandapur	4	4	23	28	51
		Karadasing	3	6	34	24	58
		Total	16	42	213	174	387

Simultaneously, noticing the high drop out rates of children in the primary schools run by the government, bridge course have been initiated. The three month bridge course plays a key role in ensuring that vulnerable children are not left behind. This year Gram Vikas ran six bridge course centres attended by 310 children. Of the 274 who passed, 159 children including 58 girls gained admittance in Gram Vikas residential schools. Parents of the children contributed in money and kind to run the bridge course.

2010 Education Highlights

- 100 percent students passed Matriculation examination
- 11 students got admitted to Navodaya Vidyalaya
- Rs. 32.26 lakhs received as stipend

Residential Schools

Currently Gram Vikas runs four residential schools for the tribal children, where they live and learn together under the care of teachers residing at the schools. The good performance of the children in academic and co-curricular activities have increased the demand for places, however space and teaching staff constraints have limited enrolment. Apart from education, children get exposure to various co-curricular and extra-curricular activities through participating in block, district and state level events and by undergoing training. Various national and international volunteers also spend time in the schools and conduct teaching classes or extra curricular activities facilitating cultural exposure. The schools provide some other essential supports, such as health checks by both government doctors and staff, and in 2010 eighteen such check-ups were organised.

Status of Residential Schools

The following table shows the student capacity in the four schools

SI No	District	Project	Name of the School	Total Students			
				Class	Boys	Girls	Total
1	Ganjam	Head Office	Gram Vikas Residential School, Kankia	III to VII	174	65	239
				VIII to X	136	113	249
		Rudhapadar	Gram vikas Vidya Vihar, Rudhapadr	III to VII	125	80	205
2	Gajapati	Koinpur	Mahendra Tanaya Ashram Scool, Koinpur	III to VII	179	114	293

3	Kalahandi	Th. Rampur	Gram Vikas Sikshya Niketan, Kumudabahal	III to VII	143	132	275
	Total				757	504	1261

Periodic examinations were conducted to test the academic standard of the students. This year 93% of the students who appeared for the seventh class exams graduated to the high school level and at the matriculation level 100 percent of the students appearing passed the examination. Additionally 11 students were selected for Navodaya School during this year.

The following tables show the details of academic performance

7th Standard Examination

District	Name of the School	No of Students Appeared			No of Students Passed		
		Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total
Ganjam	Kerandimal U.P. School , Kankia	16	12	28	16	12	28
	Gram Vikas Vidya Vihar, Rudhapadar	8	15	23	8	15	23
Gajapati	Mahendra Tanaya Ashram School, Koinpur	20	19	39	20	19	39
Kalahandi	Gram Vikas Shikshyaniketan ,Kumudabahal	9	16	25	9	16	25
	Total	53	62	115	53	62	115

10th standard Examination

Year	Name of the School	No of Students Appeared			No Students Passed			
		Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total	%
2010-11	Gram Vikas High School, Kankia							
		49	36	85	49	36	85	100

Year	1st Class			2nd Class			3rd Class		
	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total
2010-11	21	11	32	18	12	30	13	10	23

In addition to the academic achievements of the students, 2010 has been a proud year in terms of cultural and sporting achievements too, with Gram Vikas students excelling in many events and in some cases even achieving first in the district.

Student Learning Exchange

Gram Vikas hosted school children from Vidhyaranya High School (Hyderabad) for a rural exposure visit in the month of November. On the first day the students were given an introduction to Gram Vikas and its work followed by a head office/campus tour. On the second day there was a detailed presentation about the Gram Vikas residential schools followed by a question & answer session and then they visited Kankia High School.

The activities began with an ice breaker and later the merged schools split into smaller groups and were given a topic to paint. Language is never a barrier when you truly want to communicate, and this proved to be the case; although the students spoke different languages (Telugu/English and Oriya), they managed to communicate very effectively, occasionally calling on the one Telugu/English and Oriya speaking kid who became a roving translator!

This was followed by a school campus tour and after lunch and sports breaks, a cultural evening. The evening ended on very high note with music and dancing. Even though these two groups came from different cultures and spoke different languages, they had become firm friends in no time.

The third day was entirely dedicated to a village visit by the Vidhyaranya students. The children were divided into 2 groups, one group visited Sarkat and the other group visited Baniyamari. The children initially took a walk around the village, interacted with the villagers and took notes on even the smallest aspects of village life. For their part, the villagers were very happy to welcome the school children; they were informed in advance of their arrival so they welcomed the children with Telugu music in both the villages. The Hyderabad children were very astonished and happy. After the children got comfortable, they were again divided into smaller groups and with the help of the villagers; they dug a compost pit for each family in the village. This gave them an understanding about the realities of village life and how hard villagers work.

All in all it was a great learning experience not only for the two groups of students, but also for all the teachers, villagers and staff.

- Mahendra Tanaya Ashram School at Koinpur in Gajapati district was felicitated with Shimadri Dharma Rao Memorial Award for Best Academic Award 2010-2011
- Gram Vikas High School, Kankia in Ganjam district was awarded the Best Athletic School award in District 2010-2011
- Pintu Barik of Kankia School got the first prize in Sanskrit language competition
- Balakrushna Mallik of Kankia School received the first prize for IQ test in Divya Jyoti Gyan Pratiyogita at Ganjam
- Gangamani Sabar of Kankia School was the district champion in athletics
- Students from Mahendra Tanaya School, Koinpur secured first position in song, dance and painting competitions.

The success of Gram Vikas' education programme is not defined just by the achievements in schools, but also by the empowerment of communities to demand the best possible education for their children. More and more communities are challenging local government schools to deliver the same standard of education as provided by Gram Vikas' schools. It is through this kind of village ownership that true sustainability is achieved, and it is through this kind of community mobilisation to demand equity that the MANTRA programme comes alive. In a broader example of community mobilisation, parents of Kankia students rallied around earlier this year to build a boundary wall when the school's right to its land was threatened. That togetherness of Gram Vikas and community, men and women, young and old to overcome challenges is the living reality of MANTRA.

4. Livelihoods and Food Security

Sustainability is the hallmark MANTRA value underpinning Gram Vikas' approach to enable communities to enhance food security by managing their natural resources. This value demonstrates a commitment to sustainability of the environment and to the livelihoods of those who inhabit it. The aim of these

programmes is to maximise the income from the natural assets available while safeguarding the environment for the future.

Livelihoods and Food Security: Summary of Activities

- Area Coverage
- WORLP: 9866 hectares
- Families: 7579
- OTELP: 20,000 hectares
- Families: 4752

In collaboration with the government, Gram Vikas works on empowerment and livelihood programmes in Kalahandi, Gajapati and in Bolangir. These integrated projects incorporate watershed development through a range of activities on land, water, forest and strengthen capacities of the local communities to manage their resources. Gram Vikas is the Project Implementing Agency of Western Orissa Rural Livelihood Programme (WORLP) in Bongamunda block (Bolangir District) and also implements Odisha Tribal Empowerment and Livelihood Programme (OTELP) in Kalahandi and Gajapati districts. These large scale programmes span seven years and have broad impacts, particularly in agriculture and horticulture practices. These also make an observable and quantifiable difference in economic welfare terms. For example in Thuamul Rampur block in Kalahandi District, the results under the phase I of OTELP is already visible. In Prustiguda village which is distant from the approach road and most of the tribal families have very little land, the increased surface flow in the stream has helped most farmers to take up three crops. Balki Majhi, a small farmer, has been able to earn around Rs. 80,000 from his patch of sloping land that he developed under OTELP, by cultivating onions!

Reflecting on the Bongamunda Project as it comes to a close after 7 years some interesting observations can be made of real change. There is evidence of asset creation in the villages, increase in ground water and vegetative cover which has spun off agriculture activities in the region. Bongamunda block falls under a rain shadow area and has semi arid conditions. Intensive work in the catchment region has led to visible increase in the ground water thereby bringing a change in the agriculture pattern. In the dry lands there is increased area under ground nut and pulses and in irrigated patches, the area under onion has increased considerably. Even families having very little land have been provided support for non-farm based livelihood which has shown positive results. One of the significant impacts has been in the livestock sector where service delivery through para-vets, trained under the project has positively changed the state of livestock health in the region.

Some Facts about Bongamunda Watershed Project under WORLP

No. of Gram Panchayats	- 14
No. of villages under watershed development	- 48
Total villages covered under watershed	-20
Total treatable area	- 9866 ha.
Land treated under watershed intervention	- 6866 ha.
Land developed under individual horticulture	- 70 ha.
Land developed under community horticulture	- 25 ha.
Land covered under mixed plantation	- 324 ha.
Land brought under terracing	- 622 ha.
Dug well excavated	- 691 nos.
Water harvesting structures constructed	- 133 nos.
Farm ponds constructed	- 243nos.
Irrigation facility	- 650 ha.
No. of SHGs	- 180 nos.
No. of SHG members	- 2438 nos.
Total saving by SHGs	- Rs 40,55,875
No. of SHGs linked to Bank	- 95 nos.
No. of youth trained as para-veterinary workers	- 15 nos.

Of course there are also challenges in such large scale programmes. It is critical that the implementing organisation has the capability and resilience to ensure funds are balanced and channelled towards constructive community activities, sometimes in the face of opposing demands from opportunistic leaders who may hijack resources. This requires investing time in building and strengthening democratic institutions and also a great deal of vigilance to ensure that achievements are characterised by integrity and transparency.

Agriculture

In the agriculture sector focus has been on improving yield of paddy, pulses and oil seeds. In 44 hectares, improved variety of paddy was sown using SRI technique and farmers were trained in SRI method of paddy cultivation. Propagation of pulses, maize and oilseeds was done in collaboration with the agriculture department under Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana wherein sunflower and maize was cultivated in most of the villages under OTELP. Up-scaling of area under ground nut, pigeon pea and black gram is evident in Thuamul Rampur block of Kalahandi District.

In 943 hectares, horticulture plants - mango, sapota and cashew have been planted this year wherein SHG members raised nurseries of grafted mango and supplied to the villages in the surrounding areas. Gram Vikas also facilitated horticulture support under National Horticulture Mission in Gajapati District through linkage with the Horticulture department.

There is a significant increase in acreage under vegetable cultivation in the operational villages in Thuamul Rampur block. Farmers in Lanjigarh block were supported in vegetable cultivation through supply of improved seeds training and 50 farmers have cultivated cabbage, cauliflower radish and tomato in the winter season.

2010 Highlights:

- 943 hectares of horticulture plantation done
- In 44 hectares, improved variety of paddy sown using SRI
- Propagation of pulses, maize and oilseeds under Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana in Kalahandi and Gajapati
- 35 farm ponds and 12 Water harvesting structures made in Bongamunda
- Up-scaling of area under ground nut, pigeon pea and black gram evident in Thuamul Rampur
- Vegetable cultivation undertaken on a large scale in Thuamul Rampur and initiated with 50 farmers in Lanjigarh
- 492 youth trained in masonry in 21 trainings

Skill development

Training youth in masonry, plumbing and bar bending have been the core areas of skill enhancement to support livelihoods. These skills are in great demand and Gram Vikas wants to make best use of this opportunity to improve income earning capacity of unskilled youth within a relatively short period. On average trained men and women can get at least double the wages earned prior to the training within six to eight months. Training programmes were organised in most of the project locations under the supervision of master masons. After the training the trainees get an opportunity to work in the villages where construction of toilets and bathing rooms are under progress.

Self help groups and savings

Mobilising women members to form self-help groups has been a strategy to engage with women and work on economic and social empowerment of women in the villages. Currently many non government and government organisations are also forming SHGs. Therefore to avoid overlap; GV focuses on mobilising women members who have not been included previously. Periodic training sessions on the roles and responsibilities of members, book keeping and record maintenance are arranged. Linkage with banks and support for livelihood generating enterprise form the regular work with SHG members. Raising nurseries, pisciculture, vegetable cultivation, petty vending, collective marketing, managing of public distribution system, back yard poultry, goat rearing and leaf-plate making form some of the enterprises taken up by members of SHGs.

A Grocery Shop with the Support of Livelihood Grant Funds:

Ganesh Bacha, 30 years old, is from Putupara village in Bongomunda block under the Adimata Watershed. He was a school dropout and made a living as a labourer. But at the age of 24 he was affected by a disease which left him paralysed and he was forced to sell his land in order to arrange money for treatment.

Considering his poor economic background, the Adimata Watershed committee selected him as a beneficiary for a livelihood grant. He received Rs. 5000 under the WORLP project and by adding a self contribution of Rs.3000; he started a Grocery shop in his village with this initial investment of Rs8000. In the early days the volume of business was not so encouraging, but gradually his business began to pick up. Right now he is earning Rs80 per day and his monthly return is about Rs2500. He also earns around Rs500 per month by repairing electronic goods like TV, radio, and VCR etc. He is working hard to develop his business and earn a better return from his investment.

He is very thankful for the grant support given, without which it would not have been possible for a disabled person like him to start a grocery shop. Now he is able to manage the economic needs of his family better and has started saving a portion of his income for future needs.

By facilitating sustainable development, working with village men and women to identify and make use of private and community livelihood opportunities, Gram Vikas demonstrates its commitment to MANTRA and the communities it serves. These programmes expand the livelihood opportunities in the region by restoring the natural resource base and enhancing skills in the community so that they can live a dignified quality of life.

5. Livelihood Enabling Infrastructure

The values of sustainability and equity are core to livelihood enabling infrastructure. These MANTRA values ensure communities take ownership, not just for development, but also for the infrastructure required to safeguard their future security. These programmes focus on energy and communication as central pillars to development and security producing such outcomes as solar powered energy for individuals and communities, bio-diesel fuel, smokeless Chullahs, and gravity flow water-supply.

Micro Hydro (MH) Projects are an example of Gram Vikas' commitment to developing infrastructure to support livelihoods. MH technology refers to the application of hydro electric power sized for small communities, single families or small enterprises and uses downhill streams to produce 5 kW – 100 kW of power. Rajiv Gandhi Gramin Vidyut Yojana (RGGVY) policy guidelines ranks micro hydro as the best among the available options for decentralized electricity, based on capital cost, generation cost, manageability, and potential for enhancing rural livelihoods

Gram Vikas has completed four MH projects in Thuamul Rampur block of Kalahandi and one project each in Lanjigarh and Thuamul Rampur blocks are currently in progress. Within the core MANTRA values, Gram Vikas' approach to micro hydro emphasise the sustainability of the project in three areas: technical, financial and socio-institutional.

Technical Sustainability is managed through the capacity building of local experts, quality assurance, and appropriate technical innovation.

Financial Sustainability: As with other MANTRA programmes micro hydro projects emphasise the need for a community-formed corpus savings fund to ensure that finance is available to sustain the programme in the long run.

Socio-Institutional Sustainability is crucial to maintain the equitable empowerment aspects of the MANTRA model. The key socio-institutional factors that are specific to community-based

MH projects are village-to-village mentorship and community-lead and demand-driven implementation.

Kalahandi lacks local economic development, which can be addressed by integrating livelihoods activities with MH systems. The success of Gram Vikas' MH projects has mainly resulted from the local capacity building, design and fabrication of the schemes, along with active participation, involvement, and contribution from the consumers. Now ready to facilitate replication of the approach, in its six years of MH implementation Gram Vikas has gained invaluable and in some cases ground-breaking lessons to improve innovation, functional longevity, productive use and equitable outcomes.

MHP VILLAGES IN KALAHANDI	Completed Project Details
Amthagouda	<p>Population: 67 households Power generation: 5-20 kW Loads: 60 watts/household, 10 streetlights Commissioned: January 2006 Consistent Operation: May 2010 – present</p> <p><u><i>Livelihoods and income generation:</i></u> An oil expeller and a rice huller are installed in the village. With the help of these machines, villagers are able to reap the direct benefits by processing their own produce and also generate an income by running the machines for people from outside village.</p>
Karlapat	<p>Population: 112 households Power generation: 10-25 kW Loads: 60 watts/household, 12 streetlights Commissioned: October 2006 Consistent Operation: Nov. 2008 – present</p> <p><u><i>Livelihoods and income generation:</i></u> Since operation consistent for over 1 year, electricity-based agro processing is being planned, e.g. oil pressing and rice hulling.</p>
Purnaguma	<p>Population: 60 households Power generation: 10-13 kW Loads: 30 watts/household, 19 streetlights Commissioned: November 2008 Consistent Operation: Nov. 2008 – present</p> <p><u><i>Livelihoods and income generation:</i></u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Operation consistent for over 1 year, electricity-based agro processing are being planned. - A clinic is constructed in the village and it is anticipated that this clinic would serve few nearby villages with the help from district health officials.
Karnivel	<p>Population: 19 households Power generation: 5-7 kW Loads: 30 watts/household, 12 streetlights Commissioned: April 2010 Consistent Operation: April 2010 - present</p> <p><u><i>Livelihoods and income generation:</i></u></p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Electricity-based agro processing is being planned with conjunction with OTELP - With the water coming out of power house, the villagers were able to build a piped irrigation system under the supervision of OTELP that now serves the fields of all the households. This has changed the cultivation patterns and has thus increased income levels.
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MHP VILLAGE IN KALAHANDI	Projects in Progress Details
Bijapada	Population: 50 households Power generation: 15 kW Loads: 30 watts/household, 19 streetlights
Punjam	Population: 110 households Power generation: 15 kW Loads: 30 watts/household, 12 streetlights

As an additional livelihood benefit, convergence with NREGA is verbally approved for the ongoing projects by the district officials. Official approval represents a significant milestone in Gram Vikas MH projects by taking them a step ahead in livelihoods front.

Housing

After the cyclone of 1999, when most Kutcha houses were destroyed, Gram Vikas accessed loans from HDFC (Housing Development Finance Corporation) and on-lent to 3630 beneficiaries to build disaster resistant houses, with at least 450 sq.ft. floor area. There was also a subsidy of ₹.10,000/- for 2184 beneficiaries from a special allocation from the Government of Odisha. However, as further subsidies were not forthcoming, Gram Vikas was unable to continue the housing programme. Now, negotiations are continuing with the Odisha Government in efforts to restart this programme with a view to working with entire villages - especially tribal villages to build disaster resistant houses with enough space for 3 generations to sleep separately (minimum 450 sq.ft.). Such villages would have toilets and bathing rooms for every family and 24 hour potable piped water supply. This would be done under the credit-cum-subsidy scheme of Indira Awas Yojana.

This has been a good year for other infrastructure projects and as always, as projects progress and are completed, there are opportunities for reflection and learning. In relation to centralised solar systems for lighting, for example, communities find the high, ongoing costs of maintenance hard to bear and the challenges of access to service and maintenance from outside technicians are frustrating. Decentralised solar powered lighting systems on the other hand have proven not only easier and less costly to maintain, but at a household level families retain more control. So the decentralised approach is becoming a more attractive option to address the continual challenge of lighting remote rural areas.

Key Achievements 2010:

- Two Micro hydro plants under construction in Kalahandi (earlier constructed 4 plants)
- Solar powered electrification system set up in Maligaon in Kalahandi and four solar powered pumping and Lighting systems have been functional
- Nearly 3500 solar powered LED lights procured by tribal families and 750 study lights to school children
- 1003 smokeless cookers, 943 hectares of stoves and 22 biogas plants were installed during the year

The participatory approach which Gram Vikas employs in these programmes continues the MANTRA story; entire communities work and learn together, sharing the work and cost of building sustainable infrastructure which serves everyone in that community. This infrastructure will continue to provide both assets and income to the community and so forms the foundation for a virtuous cycle of community led development.

6. Human and Institutional Development

The MANTRA values of equity, inclusion and sustainability not only underscore all Gram Vikas' human and institutional development activity, but are drivers for efforts in relation to developing community and organisational capacity and capability.

The entire community can benefit from building knowledge and awareness, while specific groups such as rural youth are the target of skills training, and leadership. This personal development builds not only skills, but also confidence and often form the foundations for future community initiatives. Last year for example there were 33 leadership trainings, attended by 1028 participants, and more than half of those attending were women.

Within Gram Vikas too there is encouragement and support for development and growth. Formal training on work related topics is available and opportunities to network with peers and managers happen throughout the year to ensure knowledge is shared across the organisation. Last year almost 80 training sessions were organised. Often these training sessions focus on current 'hot' topics to keep staff up to date, for example, in the past 12 months training on legislation such as RTI and FRA was attended by almost all staff. For those who are new to Gram Vikas there is formal induction training sessions, many facilitated by senior staff members followed by extensive supervised field visits to current projects. In addition, the managers and project coordinators meet every two months to share updates and learning; twice a year these meetings expand to review progress and plan for the months ahead.

Following last year's strategic workshop, the senior managers worked together throughout this year to formulate detailed strategic project plans, ensuring the experience and learning was shared by involving some less experienced managers. There was also an opportunity for all staff in Gram Vikas to share their views of the past, present and future during the 32nd GV day celebrations. The annual teacher-training workshop, highlighting better teaching practices, took place in Mohuda during the school summer break.

Key Achievements in Human and Institutional Development this year:

- Two RTI clinics set up in two Gram Panchayats in Gajapati District
- Community and Staff filed 217 RTI applications on various topics- IAY, electricity, social security, development work, NREGS and have got encouraging results
- 80 training sessions on leadership, communication, book keeping, gender, RTI, documentation and health awareness water quality monitoring were organised for staff.
- Staff and community used RTI to redress various issues at the village level- e.g. housing, electricity connection, social security benefits, development work

For the 3rd year, Gram Vikas welcomed the Tata Jagriti Yatra group on their tour of India's NGOs and the group participated in lively discussion and debate as they visited the campus and programme sites. As always, Gram Vikas hosted several national and international volunteers and interns in 2010. Regardless of the duration of their stay, the chance to observe and partake in complex, holistic rural development projects gives these future development professionals an opportunity to appreciate field work, both its challenges and rewards.

Building human and institutional capability and capacity continues to be a challenge, but Gram Vikas' commitment to the communities it serves and its staff means that reflection, learning and development happen constantly. The planned interventions supplement, but could never replace the experiential learning.

7. Outreach and Networking

MANTRA not only governs Gram Vikas' programme and organisational activities, it influences collaboration with other agencies and relationships outside the organisation, consulting with others to learn and share sustainable and inclusive approaches to development.

The most important and productive relationships continue to be with the Department of Rural Development and Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation, Government of Odisha and the Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation, Government of India.

In April, Gram Vikas hosted the "Exchange Meet to Safeguard Future Rural Drinking Water Supply in Odisha" with UNICEF and Deltares, the Netherlands in Bhubaneswar. Presentations were made by members of government, research institutions, donor agencies and practitioners facilitated discussions on how ground water access and quality can be assured. Those attending included government officials from the Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation, civil society organisations, donor agencies- ICCO and Arghyam, India and researchers from the field of ground water and geohydrology. Supported by Tata Social Welfare Trust, Gram Vikas also organised a national workshop in September, "Inclusive Water Supply and Sanitation – Possibilities and Challenges"; where civil society partners were present and efforts on inclusive sanitation models were discussed and deliberated upon.

The Global Transparency Fund (GTF) *in partnership with* Freshwater Action Network, South Asia (FANSA) made a documentary on Gram Vikas highlighting rights based advocacy for water and sanitation. With support from Water Aid, a documentary "Wings of Change" was made to highlight issues related to menstrual hygiene and its management.

Staff members participated in various workshops and seminars, in India and abroad. The Executive Director represented Gram Vikas at several conferences, including the YES Summit (Sweden), the Planning Commission meeting on Water & Sanitation (New Delhi), the Clinton Global Initiative (New York) and the Skoll World Forum in Oxford with Ms Urmila Senapati. In September, Gram Vikas was invited to Geneva by United Nations Human Rights Council to share best practices in drinking water &

sanitation where Gram Vikas was represented by Ms Chitra Choudhury attended. In addition, there was an opportunity to contribute to the 12th plan for sanitation and water supply as Joe Madiath was appointed as chairman of this working group.

During 2010, Gram Vikas received delegates and visitors from many renowned institutions such as ICS (Kenya), PeerWater Exchange (PWX), Christian Aid, Prayas, TATA Social Welfare Trust, EC – SCIAF, Green Earth, Habitat for Humanity, VANI, Arghyam and Schneider Electric India Ltd.

Working formally and informally with partners, Gram Vikas continues to share the MANTRA values and experience, working with and learning from other organisations.

The hardest component of MANTRA is the component of 100% coverage. It is quite often that Gram Vikas is able to involve up to 95% of the families in a village, nevertheless, the last 5% takes more time, energy and effort than all the 95% put together. This is a daunting task and the reason for not attracting many other NGOs down the path of 100% inclusion. In spite of repeated experiences of this nature, Gram Vikas still believes in total inclusion and expanding this programme in collaboration with other civil society actors, Panchayats, governments, donors and well wishers.

Treading on less trodden paths have been the history and strength of Gram Vikas. Gram Vikas will still continue to charter on such adventure however difficult it may be.

Gram Vikas Publications in 2010

- Rural sanitation block construction manual; developed by Knowledge Works, supported by Tata Social Welfare Trust.
- MANTRA; developed by Knowledge Works, supported by Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation.
- Manual for simple water tanks for rural areas; developed by Knowledge Works , Tata Social Welfare Trust.
- Documentary “Wings of Change” on the issue of Menstrual Hygiene

Facts about Odisha

- The state of Odisha is home for 36.7 million people, of which 88% are living in rural areas with a large tribal population
- 47% of the population lives below the poverty line (BPL)
- Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) stands at 75 out of every 1000 live births
- Less than 7% of rural households have access to safe sanitation; less than 20% of the rural population has access to protected water and no more than 1% to piped water supply
- 80% of the instances of morbidity and mortality cases in rural areas are caused by water-borne diseases
- Only 63% of the population is literate; among the female population, the literacy rate is just 50%
- Only 31% of women are employed
- More than 70% households have no electricity connection

(Sources: Census of India 2001 & Orissa Human Development Report 2004)

Financial Report

Treasurer's Report to the members of Gram Vikas on the financial operations of 2010-11.

I am happy to present the audited accounts of Gram Vikas for the year 2010-2011 certified by M/s Padhi & Co, Chartered Accountants.

1. The financial systems in Gram Vikas maintain a high order of integrity and transparency. I am pleased to report that there is regular internal audit scrutiny and the management is continuously reviewing and implementing the needed improvements.
2. Gram Vikas has satisfactorily complied with all statutory requirements related to FCRA, Income Tax, Provident Fund and Gratuity.

Mr. Ram Sanker

(Treasurer)

Source of funds & use of funds graphs to be inserted

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