

ANNUAL REPORT
2012-2013



FACTS ABOUT ODISHA

- The state of Odisha is home for 41.95 million people of which 83% are living in rural areas (as of 2011).
- 22% consist of Tribal population and 17% are Dalits or scheduled castes (as of 2011).
- 28% of the population lives Below the Poverty Line (BPL) (as of 2011).
- 70% of the poor is Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribal (as of 2011).
- 73% of the population is literate; among the female population, the literacy rate is about 64% (as of 2011).
- Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) stands at 65 out of every 1000 live births (as of 2011).
- 42% of rural households have access to basic sanitation facilities and only 26% of rural households have access to piped water/hand pumps. Still the quality of drinking water is very low (as of 2010).
- 80% of the instances of morbidity and mortality cases in rural areas are caused by water-borne diseases (as of 2004).
- Only 27% of households have electricity connection (as of 2001).

(Sources: Census of India 2011, Economic Survey 2010-11 Government of Odisha, Annual plan 2011-12 Odisha, Odisha Human Development Report 2004 and UNICEF & KIIT University information on Water and Sanitation)

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Design: Suneha Mohanty
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Message from the Chairperson

Another year has passed in the life of Gram Vikas. It has been a momentous year in several ways. First, Gram Vikas and Joe Madiath received a major global recognition during the year through the Grand prize by the Global Journal.

Second, the programme of MANTRA has made new strides towards achievement of its objectives in respect of providing water and sanitation to the families of tribals and other rural poor in Odisha. This programme has now reached a level of coverage in the state that shows the scalability of its main features. While the programme coverage in the areas of operation of Gram Vikas has been growing, it is heartening to note that other government and non-governmental agencies have begun to adopt this approach as well. A particular example is the Rourkela Steel Plant which commissioned Gram Vikas to implement this programme in the plant's catchment areas.

Third, there is a new initiative which focuses on youth participation in sports. Called the Khel Vikas, this initiative is reaching out to students of the four Gram Vikas schools as well communities around them. Natural sporting talent of the local tribal and rural youth is being tapped for sports development as well as their own growth as competent sports-persons.

Fourth, Gram Vikas has begun to consolidate its local interventions in order to make the programmes more self-sustaining. In this direction, special efforts have to be launched in the near future to build further capacities of governance of more than 1000 village committees, with particular emphasis on women's leadership.

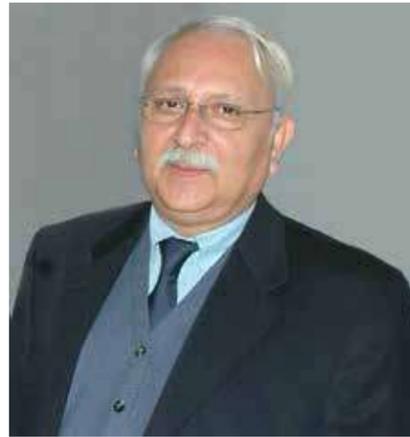
As Gram Vikas reaches another milestone to complete 35 years of its journey in early 2014, plans are afoot to bring in new leadership to chart the future course of its journey.

Special thanks are owed to all the supporters and donors of Gram Vikas, its dedicated team under the ever so dynamic leadership of Joe Madiath and network of community based associations in realising the mission of Gram Vikas with determination.

I am grateful to my fellow Board members, and the Treasurer for taking seriously their continued fiduciary and governance responsibilities.

I invite the readers of this Annual Report to share their comments about the work of Gram Vikas to enable it to continue to serve its mission diligently.

Rajesh Tandon
Chairperson, Governing Board.



Message from the Executive Director

It is with great joy that I present the 34th Annual Report of Gram Vikas.

In 34 years, Gram Vikas has come a long way, each year becoming more and more relevant to the context of Odisha and each year dedicating itself to the development agenda of the poor and marginalised rural people of Odisha with renewed vigour.

Today, we access considerable resources from the government of Odisha. This, however, is not easy. When you begin to work with people, the momentum cannot be stopped half way, because the promised funds from government do not materialise. You spend your own or borrowed money. As work progresses, the debt burden increases until it almost crushes you. This happens even after all concerned admit that the work is world class. This is the reality that we live in. This reality has placed enormous burden on us. We, however, plod ahead, thanks to some bureaucrats and politicians who understand and appreciate our work.

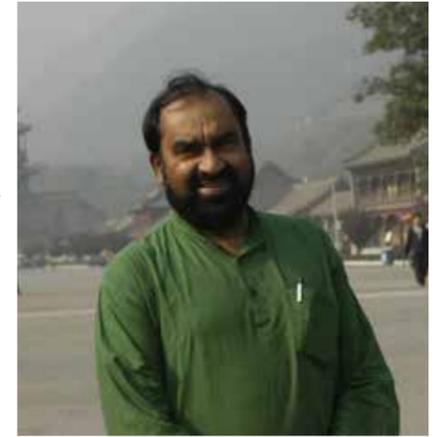
As one works in the development sector and has to deal with government, one gets a feeling that honesty is not appreciated. In fact, it is discounted and discouraged. Gram Vikas, however, places integrity and honesty in all dealings as a cardinal principle, which cannot be by passed or sacrificed.

Gram Vikas' collaboration with government is not limited to the field of water and sanitation alone. We work with government agencies in seven Odisha Tribal Empowerment and Livelihood Projects (OTELP). As government funds are funds of people, people have a right to it. It is this right based approach that propels Gram Vikas to seek government funds and work with the government system with all its difficulties.

May I take this opportunity to thank the Governing Board Members of Gram Vikas for their steady support and guidance? I am indebted to my colleagues who have spared no efforts to enable the organisation to work with the people whom we have identified as the focus of our attention. I am grateful to the agencies who have provided us financial and other resources to enable us to actualise the work on the ground. We are grateful to the State and District administrations who believed in our work and supported us.

Throughout the year we have had the good fortune of quite a few international and national interns and volunteers working with us. We are truly indebted to them.

Joe Madiath
Executive Director.





A. INTRODUCTION

‘Gram Vikas’, words which literally means ‘village development’, is a non-governmental organisation that works with rural and tribal communities in India. Gram Vikas partners with rural communities to address their critical needs of education, health, safe drinking water, sanitation, livelihoods and alternate energy in a manner that is sustainable, socially inclusive, gender equitable and empowering. These partnerships are fostered through local institutions in the villages through an experiential learning process of democratic and equitable ways of governance. Gram Vikas’ mission is to enable critical masses of poor and marginalised rural communities to achieve a ‘dignified quality of life.’

THE FORMATION

Gram Vikas' founders first came to Odisha in 1971 as Student Volunteers with the Chennai-based Young Student's Movement for Development to help cyclone victims. Seeing the acute poverty and underdevelopment in Odisha, a few of them decided to stay and work in development after the relief work was over. Initially, they worked in the field of irrigation and agriculture thereafter moving to Ganjam district to work with tribal people. Their extensive involvement with the rural people of Odisha motivated them to



form Gram Vikas in 1979 with an initial focus on health, education and livelihood for tribal communities and eventually implementing installations of biogas plants and improved cook-stoves on a large scale in rural Odisha.

VISION

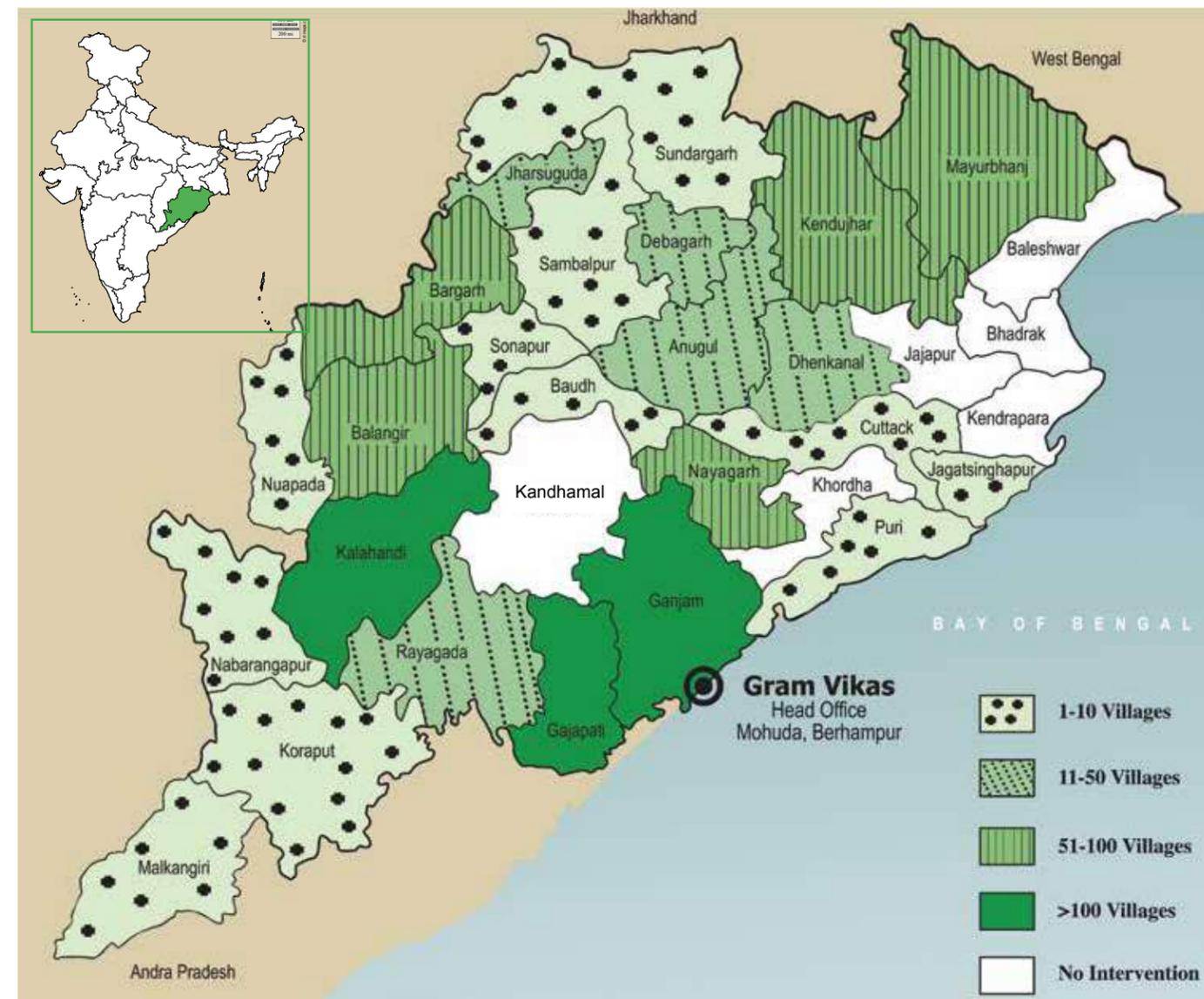
An equitable and sustainable society where people live in peace and dignity.

MISSION

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

AN EMPHASIS ON WATER + SANITATION

In the early nineties, after a decade long engagement with renewable energy, mostly biogas promotion, Gram Vikas took an internal evaluation of its work. It became evident in the discussions that the interventions taken up were mostly beneficial to households that had some assets or resources, mostly in the form of cattle. We were not able to include the poorest households within the fold of the biogas programme as they did not possess cattle. Further ill-health seemed to be the most significant cause for impoverishment and it was clear that we needed to address this. The approach adopted was not based only on curative aspects of diseases commonly affecting them, but a preventive mechanism through basic facilities of safe drinking water and sanitation. Our study showed that more than 80% of all diseases were caused because of poor quality water and this in turn was caused unhealthy practices of disposing of human waste. Open defecation and bathing in public water bodies have severe affects on the health of the villagers. These in turn cause loss of productive days and have a deep economic impact. This also gave us scope to design a programme without exclusion of any family in a village. The rationale was clear- the waste disposal habit of even a single household was likely to affect the quality of water for the entire community. Therefore, if safe water and better health were a desirable outcome, the entire community had to transform their defecation practices. Gram Vikas was also sensitive to the need for privacy for women and young girls. This led to the integration of a bathing room with the toilet so that women could bathe and clean themselves properly in a private space. Round the clock potable water supply to the toilets, bathing rooms and kitchens is an integral part of the programme. Water and sanitation programme has thus become our entry point, alongside which we implement an array of development initiatives.



WHERE WE WORK

We work, primarily, in the Indian State of Odisha. Our work has spread to 24 districts of Odisha as well as in Chatarpur district of Madhya Pradesh, Sairekela Karsawan in Jharkhand and Srikakulam in Andhra Pradesh. As of March 2013 we have work with 1199 villages which includes 19 villages in two blocks of Kandhamal district, extended our work under OTELP Plus in 12 new villages in Thuamul Rampur block of Kalahandi district and in 30 villages

in Rayagada block of Gajapati district. In Rourkela, there is a request from SAIL to extend the pilot project to more villages in the peripheral area of Rourkela Steel plant.

Taking the MANTRA beyond India, Gram Vikas has started the programme in The Gambia and Tanzania. In The Gambia, with Riders for Health the work has been initiated in two villages.



B. MANTRA

Since 2004, Gram Vikas has formulated a holistic developmental programme called the Movement and Action Network for the Transformation of Rural Areas (MANTRA). This was based on learnings derived from working across cross cutting themes in the Integrated Tribal Development Projects and the Inclusive approach of the Rural Health and Environment Programme.

Gram Vikas' response under MANTRA is context specific with a common entry through the water and sanitation programme. The total inclusion model promoted in the water and sanitation programme provides the foundation for taking on other issues affecting the people. Given the diverse social and economic situation of the communities, who form part of the process, the relative felt importance of sectors will vary from one community to the other. Another integral component of MANTRA is to expand through networks of local organisations and institutions to form a critical mass that will influence the decision making process from the Gram Panchayat level ultimately to the state and national level.

MANTRA INITIATIVES

Health: Enable and promote people's access to primary health care services, education on preventive health and hygiene practices and support promotive and curative health care in rural areas.

Education: Provide an enabling environment for children from disadvantaged communities to access quality education either through Government run schools or village

schools promoted by Gram Vikas. Focus is on all round development of children through education.

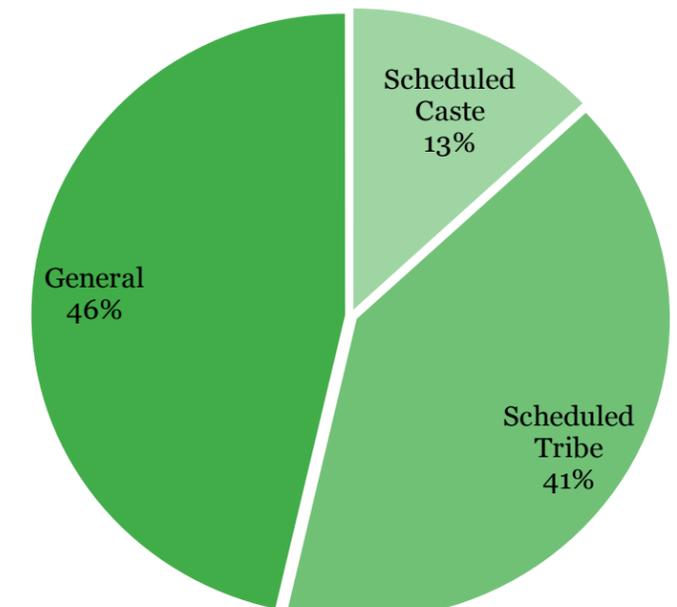
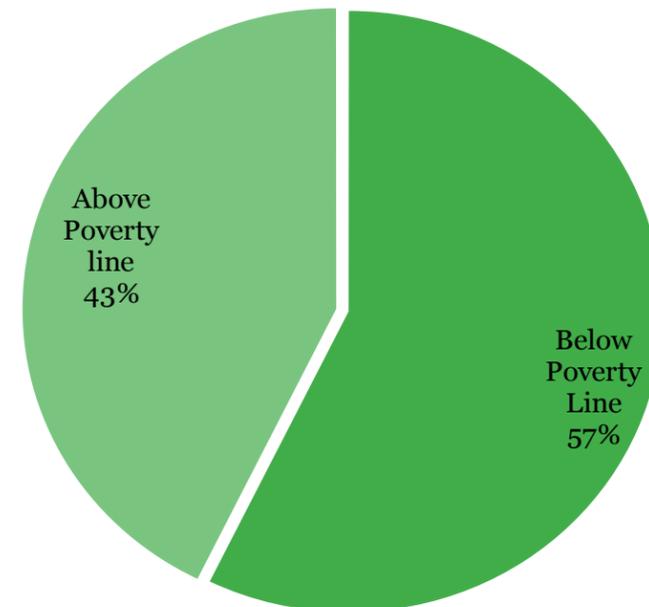
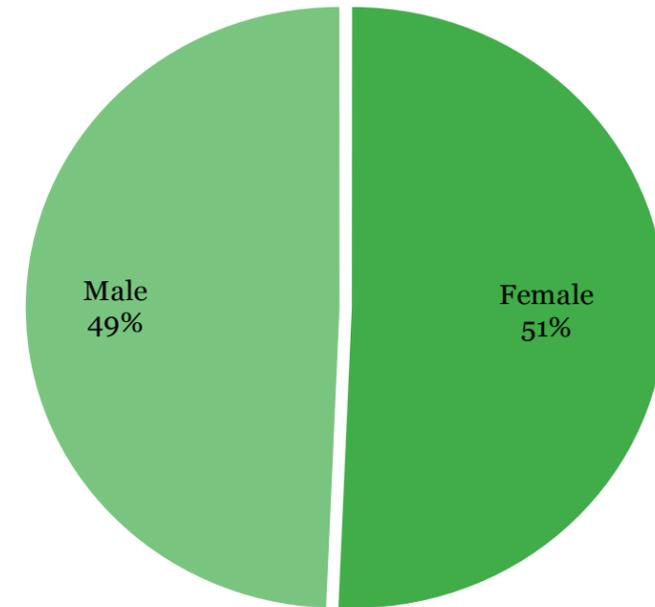
Enabling Infrastructure: Includes creation of appropriate living conditions like disaster resistant housing, alternate energy systems, safe drinking water and sanitation facilities as well as community infrastructure.

Livelihoods and Food security: Supporting communities in remote locations to improve their farm productivity through new crop introduction and improved cropping practices and developing improved irrigation systems. Non-farm livelihood activities are done through enhancement of skills in trades such as masonry, plumbing, bar bending, stone dressing etc.

People's institutions: Foster and promote local village level institutions having equal participation of men and women in the decision making process. Through a process of accompaniment and handholding integrate values of democratic governance and capabilities to bargain and negotiate with the state and other agencies and institutions.

MANTRA COVERAGE IN 2012-2013

The water and sanitation programme is taken up in a phased manner in the villages. We first motivate the community to complete the construction of their toilet and bathing room units and after that the work on water supply is taken up. It takes almost a year for all the households to complete the construction of their sanitation infrastructure. In the year 2012-2013, sanitation units were completed by 55 villages comprising of 2908 families in 6 districts of Odisha. Water supply systems were established in 147 villages that had already completed the sanitation work in the previous years. Cumulatively we have covered 60737 families in 1043 villages.



Village meeting in Thuamul Rampur, Kalahandi

SANITATION

Year	No. of States	No. of Dis-tricts	No. of Blocks	No. of villages	No. of families
2011-2012	1	8	16	45	2371
2012-2013	1	6	26	55	2908

WATER SUPPLY

Year	No. of States	No. of Dis-tricts	No. of Blocks	No. of villages	No. of families
2011-2012	2	15	47	121	6949
2012-2013	1	13	37	147	7270

SUSTAINABILITY IN MANTRA

The capacities of the local institutions to manage their own water and sanitation systems as well as take new development initiatives are our benchmark for sustainability. The Village Executive Committees take charge of the entire water supply system, its operations and running expenses. They are able to mobilise funds through family contributions as well as innovative use of common resources like village ponds, village forests, or community plantations to generate resources for maintaining the water supply systems.

Each village also mobilises a “corpus fund” that is a one-time collection raised through an average contribution of Rs. 1000 per household. This fund is placed in a term deposit in a bank. Using the interest of the corpus funds new families in the villages are supported to build their sanitation facilities after Gram Vikas has withdrawn from the village.

Gram Vikas also emphasises on use of renewable water for consumption. This is done through promotion of open dug wells and gravity fed systems for drinking purpose that tap recharge-able ground water. Water recharge mechanisms are adopted at the catchment to increase percolation. In places where bore well is the source of water, Gram Vikas is encouraging communities to install water meters for each household so that users can pay as per use. We feel that this step can tackle free riding behaviour within the community on water use.

Democratic decision making processes experienced through the MANTRA programme are reflected in the Palli sabhas and the Gram sabha meetings held periodically. With the roll out of the Nirmal Bharat Abhiyan which requires the demand for sanitation to be passed by the Palli sabhas and Gram sabhas, there was a high turn out of people in these meetings. They have placed their demand for work and other social security entitlements in these meetings which have reflected in the annual plans of the Gram Panchayats. Creation and nurturing of local institutions form part of the exit and sustainability plan of Gram Vikas.



Toilets and bathing room units in Lunugundi, Ganjam

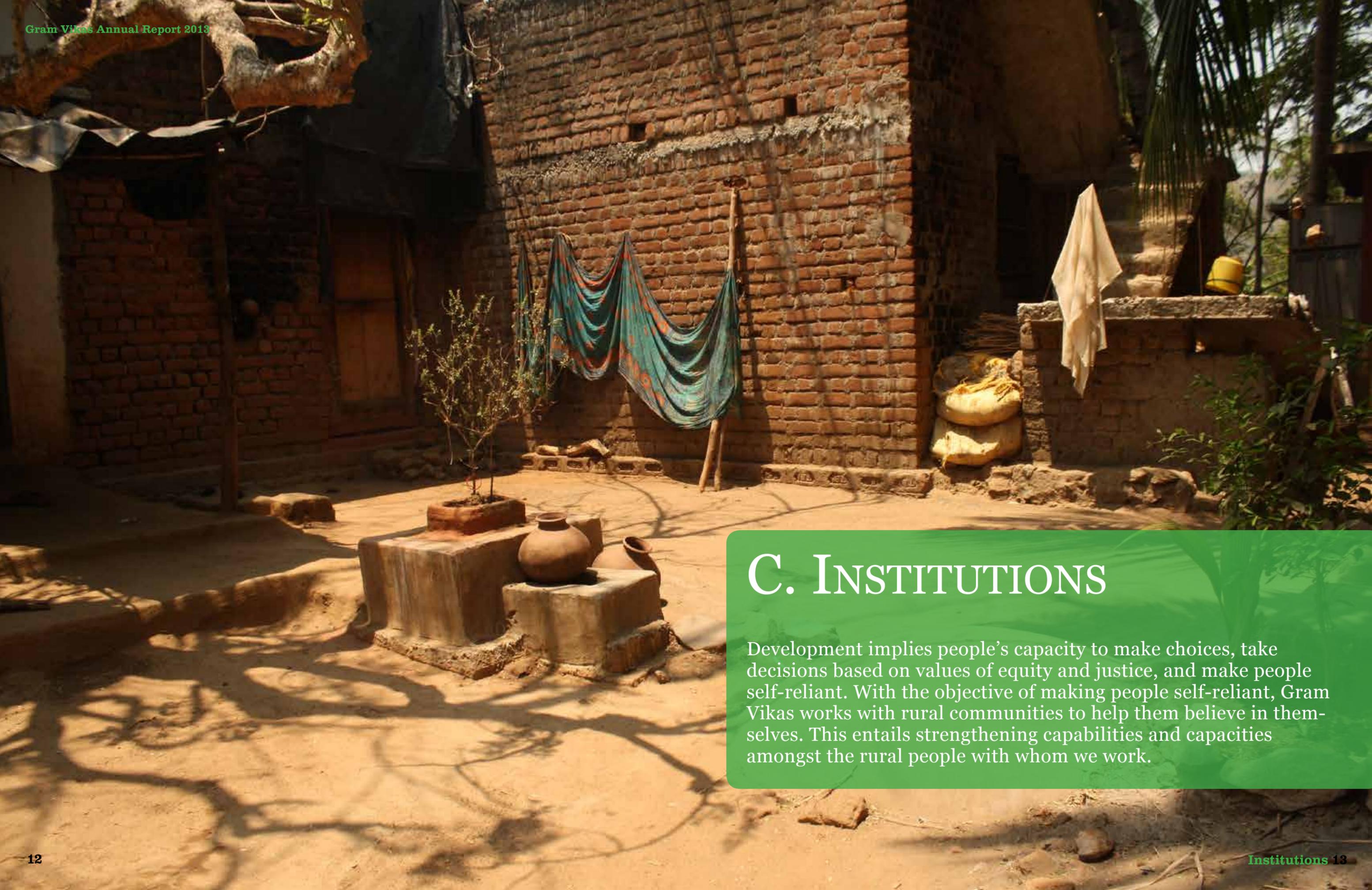
CORE VALUES OF MANTRA

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

Social and Gender Equity: All villagers, regardless of gender, caste or economic status, must be represented. Equal representation and participation of men and women in community level governance is essential. A Village Executive Committee, comprising 50% women, and representing all castes and economic classes proportionally are elected to oversee the implementation of the programme. This body becomes the platform for community decision making.

Sustainability: It is necessary that all development processes implemented by MANTRA are based on sound environmental values and have built-in institutional and financial mechanisms to ensure that infrastructure is sustainable and well maintained.

Cost Sharing: Through monetary contributions and active participation in construction, communities contribute towards the cost of the development and maintenance of facilities. On average, each family contributes 60% of the cost of sanitation and bathing infrastructure, and 30% of the cost of establishing a piped water supply system.



C. INSTITUTIONS

Development implies people's capacity to make choices, take decisions based on values of equity and justice, and make people self-reliant. With the objective of making people self-reliant, Gram Vikas works with rural communities to help them believe in themselves. This entails strengthening capabilities and capacities amongst the rural people with whom we work.

SELF GOVERNING PEOPLE'S INSTITUTION

The foundation of strong and self reliant people's institutions charts the path for sustainability of the interventions undertaken by the organisation. Believing and appreciating local leadership skills at the grass root level provides the right foundations to build community institutions. The process of handholding takes time and terms of accompaniment changes with the phase of implementation in a particular village. The challenge is to be able to withdraw within a limited period of time by putting in processes and systems which the community can make use of. Gram Vikas uses common concerns about water and sanitation to strengthen the community by building self governing institutions that manage resources, lead various initiatives especially those on health, livelihood and mobilisation of community funds.

VILLAGE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

MANTRA programme necessitates formation of a Village General Body (VGB) which is the first step in the process of creating self governing institutions. The VGB consists of the headman and the headwoman of every household of the community. This body becomes the platform for community decision making. Once a consensus is reached, the members of the VGB sign a MOU to be responsible for implementing the MANTRA programme. Members who show leadership skills and take initiatives are chosen by the community to form the Village Executive Committee (VEC). The programme requires that members of the VEC are equally represented across gender and proportionately represented across economic and social groups. The VEC is the single most important decision making body when it comes to implementation



Village meeting in Bafla, Kalahandi

Strengthening local leadership capabilities

42 year old Sarath Sabar – two-times Sarpanch of Marloba Panchayat in Gajapati District - is a born leader. During his career, he has experienced it all: a crushing defeat, a marginal win and then a landslide victory contesting three Panchayat elections.

A resident of Cherusahi village of Gajapati district, Sarath dropped out of school in class-6 before working as a labourer and then a labour supervisor in Arunachal Pradesh. In 1994, he returned to Odisha and began his career with Gram Vikas as a non-formal teacher. Thereafter he was engaged in most of Gram Vikas' work in the villages and received trainings on leadership, Panchayati Raj and several government social security schemes. These trainings made him aware of how the people in his area was being duped by the local government machinery and infused in him a desire to change the situation. Within four years of Sarath's return to his home state, he was elected a ward member of Marloba Panchayat, an area consisting of 33 villages. Sarath's first challenge came as he lobbied on behalf of his ward for the proper distribution of rice to families living below the poverty line – a government initiative under the Public Distribution System that was being subverted by a supply inspector. Sarath wrote to his Block Development Officer and the Collector to address the issue, before going on strike with the people of his Panchayat. This action broke the inertia of the Government machinery and in a short time a new supply inspector was assigned and proper rice distribution followed.

Taking advantage of the numerous training courses offered by Gram Vikas in local governance and leadership, Sarath rose to prominence. In 2002 he became a member of the project committee under the Orissa Adivasi Adhikar Abhiyan, before contesting his first election for the Sarpanch of Marbola Panchayat that same year. Although unsuccessful in this first attempt, Sarath continued to campaign for the improvement of rural infrastructure and living conditions over the years. In 2007, he contested another election and this time won a marginal victory. Once Sarpanch, Sarath was able to enact radical improvements in his Panchayat - building roads for, and electrifying all 33 villages in his first five years in power. With the assistance of Gram Vikas, Sarath implemented the MANTRA programme in his Panchayat and 26 villages have already built, or are in the process of building, high quality water and sanitation facilities.

Sarath's achievements bore fruits in the 2012 election which he won again by a landslide margin, receiving over 2500 votes from a total of 3000. His plans for this term include the further expansion of water and sanitation infrastructure, making his Panchayat a Nirmal Panchayat with zero open defecation, and providing disaster resistant homes for all residents – a target he is already on the way to achieving with pukka houses now accounting for almost 60% of the households in his Panchayat. He also wishes to learn more on the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme – his vision to provide all of the 1233 job card holders in his Panchayat 100 days of work every year.

and monitoring of the water and sanitation programme. These committees are registered under the Societies Registration Act of 1860, giving them a legal entity and powers to undertake financial transactions, leverage development resources and enter into agreements. In the last year, Gram Vikas registered 64 new village societies. There are currently 674 active village societies which manage a range of development activities in the respective villages.

WOMEN'S SELF HELP GROUPS

Involvement and participation of women of the villages is crucial for the benefits and outcomes of the programme to be enjoyed by all. Gram Vikas recognises the challenges in reaching out to women members within the span of the programme implementation period in a village. Societal norms and stereotypes often prove barriers in meaningful participation of women. To overcome this, women are first organised in "women's groups" which now are becoming synonymous with the SHGs. In most villages, there are SHGs existing which become the platform for interaction. Slowly more members are inducted and the SHGs in a village constitute the Women's General Body. This body is informed about the programme through the various meetings and is encouraged to participate in the common village meetings. The solidarity generated through these groups encourage women to participate in the village meetings. Over time the participation of women in the programme is significant and very often they play a decisive role in generation of 100% consensus for the water and sanitation programme.

Gram Vikas also encourages the women's groups to take up income earning enterprises by linking them to nationalised banks to access soft loans. Over 80% of the groups are engaged in some sort of income earning



activities either as a group or as individuals. Depending upon the local resources available or the local markets, the groups take up suitable activities. Quite many groups of tribal women formed under the Odisha Tribal Empowerment and Livelihood Programme have received intensive exposure and trainings that helped them to earn significant income through group activities.

BUILDING INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITIES

The terms of engagement with the community institutions are the building blocks for institutional capacities. Community leaders are encouraged to take responsibility, access resources and help solve conflicts with an emphasis on equity. Gram Vikas takes adequate steps in the form of leadership training, financial accounting and book keeping, public speaking and gender sensitisation. These skills strengthen a community's ability to understand and obtain the framework of developmental entitlements

Metering Water Use for Conservation

Bajuni Dangar village in Keonjhar block under Handibanga Gram Panchayat in Keonjhar district of Odisha consists of 62 households with 55 of the families categorised as Scheduled Tribes. The rest of the families in this village belong to the Mahanta community. Mahantas are known to be an entrepreneurial community. Although they have marginal land holdings they are always trying out ways to maximise their returns. It is a common saying in these parts of Odisha that a Mahanta will produce everything that they consume except salt. The only reason being, one cannot produce salt in the land-locked district of Keonjhar. After the MANTRA programme, these communities were very excited with availability of water in their homes and it initiated backyard farming by most of the families.

Water supply was commissioned in the year 2010 from a bore well and an overhead water tank of 30,000 litres capacity was constructed to store water. The total population of the village being 333, and considering an average consumption of 50 litres per person per day, the tank was supposed to store nearly double the requirement of water. Despite this, after a year, there was news about water scarcity in the village and the pump had to run more than two cycles every day. This also raised the electricity bill and the Village Executive Committee was concerned about the sustainability of the system. In summer months, the problem was intensified due to extended hours of power cuts because of which the tank could not be filled up.

Gram Vikas' supervisor held meetings on the issue of water conservation, but these did not have any significant impact. He observed that once the tank was filled, many families diverted the water from their bathing rooms to the backyard vegetable gardens through hosepipes. Some homes, the broken taps were not replaced and there was leakage of water. These issues were discussed again in the village meetings and the idea of introducing water meters for every house was discussed with the Village Executive Committee. It was explained to the VEC members that there are always chances of individuals trying to maximise benefits from a common resource and unless norms are enforced strongly, such behaviours cannot be contained. In the case of this village, the water was being used for the vegetable gardens established by the Mahanta families, leading to shortage of water for domestic use for most households.

After some discussions every household was asked to install water meters and charges were fixed at 1 paise per litre. In the first month of installation, it was noticed that people limited the use of the bathing and toilets for fear of high water charges. However, when the individual readings were taken, the charges amounted to less than ten rupees per month for a family on an average. In the subsequent meetings, it was explained that the meters were not supposed to limit their water needs for domestic use and encouraged them to use the toilets and bathing rooms. The VEC is quite convinced about the use of meters as now the pump runs only once a day. Today, The Mahantas still use the water to irrigate their gardens but with much caution and are ready to pay more for such use. Thus sustainability is ensured by taking steps in a manner that promote equity and deter free riding behaviour over common resources.

promised to them by the government. Our trainings have been instrumental in building capacities of organisations to benefit from government programmes like the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), Indian Forests Rights Act (FRA), Right to Information (RTI), Right to Education (RTE), National Rural Drinking Water Programme

(NRDWP), Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY), Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY) and the new Nirmal Bharat Abhiyan (NBA). Such trainings have helped many local leaders to secure positions in Gram Panchayats or at the Block or District Panchayats and work for the development of their community.



C. EDUCATION

Education is the foundation for sustainable development, providing for self development and enhanced employment opportunities for future. It is a key factor in helping poor families move up the social ladder while broadening leadership potential of rural communities. Despite the government passing the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act in 2009, many children are still not able to obtain quality elementary education from the state.

In Odisha, the average literacy rate currently stands at 73%—falling to 64% for females and, in tribal regions, dropping well below the state average. The need for intervention in the education sector is critical, and Gram Vikas focuses specifically on providing education for children in tribal areas; making extensive efforts to promote the enrolment of girls in schools and to ensure that a quality education is accessible to and affordable by all.

The nature of the educational institutions in which children are enrolled varies from one project location to another. In areas with access to government schools, Gram Vikas empowers rural communities to engage and participate in the functioning of the schools and hold government teachers accountable to the communities they serve. Parents are encouraged to monitor the quality of education received by their wards. In geographically isolated areas or areas in which the difficult terrain inhibits the ability of children to travel to government schools, Gram Vikas establishes its own schools and educational centres to serve local rural communities.

DAY SCHOOLS

Gram Vikas currently supports 9 day schools in which 343 children are enrolled and receive education till the third grade. Of these the school at Gatida in Koinpur in Gajapati district alone has 160 students who come from a catchment of 42 villages.

Project location	Number of day schools	Boys	Girls	Total number of students
Koinpur	2	117	81	198
Karadasingh	3	40	24	64
Tumba	4	46	35	81

The increase in demand for education led us to start the fourth grade in this school in the last year. The schools are run by the local volunteers from the region who are trained in teaching elementary grade children and use joyful methods of teaching and learning. The retention rate of children in these schools is over 90 percent.

BRIDGE COURSE

Every year children from rural areas drop out of the formal education system either to help their families in the farm or due to abject poverty. Gram Vikas staff identifies such children and motivate the parents to enroll the children in bridge courses. Bridge course is a three month residential training for children who have dropped out of formal schools. Through individual coaching the need of the child is identified and thereafter the facilitator designs the modules for teaching. In this period the facilitator also motivates the child to return to formal school. The bridge course is done during the lean agricultural season when children are not engaged in farming and is completed by the time children can take admission in a formal school. This year a total of 218 students—132 boys and 86 girls— were coached through bridge courses. Undertaken in our project locations, these bridge courses are financially supported by parents through student fee payments. 96% of the students who attended bridge courses are now enrolled in the formal schools.

Education for the most deprived

Nidhi Sabar was born in 2006 in Kalinga village in Gajapati district. When he was four, his mother left the family, and shortly after, his father committed suicide. With no one else to look after him, Nidhi was left in the care of his 60 year old grandmother. The ailing health of his grandmother, combined with their lack of money or property, made Nidhi's future highly precarious.

On request of the villagers of Kalinga, it was decided that Nidhi would be provided admission to the locally established Gram Vikas primary school in Gatida village, 5kilometres from his home village. He was provided with books, uniform and other requirements. Children from very vulnerable families are identified and supported to access education. 129 children from such families, of which 39 are girls, are currently receiving education in the schools.

RESIDENTIAL SCHOOLS

Trusts set up by Gram Vikas manages four residential schools for tribal children in four different project locations. The residential school at Konkia which is close to the Gram Vikas head office is a Higher secondary school having classes till the tenth grade whereas the other three schools are at the middle school level having classes from the third grade to the seventh grade. At present, these four schools serve a total of 1301 students, consisting of 761 boys and 540 girls. These schools follow the state board curriculum and focus on co-curricular as well as extra-curricular activities.

Over the last four years, an average of 99 percent students successfully passed the tenth grade. Children have performed very well in sports, art and debate competi-

tions at the district and state levels and have brought accolades to the schools and their teachers. The quality of education and the overall development has increased the demand for the schools; however, we are limited by our infrastructure facilities as well as lack of qualified teachers to meet the demand.

KHEL VIKAS - SPORTS DEVELOPMENT

Nurturing talent in children has been an ethos of the education system of the schools. The talent and excellent performance of children in various sporting events at the district, state and national levels have encouraged us to invest in focused development of sporting talent amongst the tribal youth. In partnership with the Delhi-based sport develop-

District	Name of the school	Class	Boys	Girls	Total
Ganjam	Gram Vikas High School, Kankia	III to X	297	210	507
	Gram Vikas Vidya Vihar, Rudhapadar	III to VII	118	67	185
Gajapati	Mahendra Tanaya Ashram School	III to VII	185	124	309
Kalahandi	Gram Vikas Shikhya Niketan	III to VII	161	139	300

Nurturing excellence: Sanathan's story

'I started doing weightlifting in 2012 and in 18 months I have achieved great results. Over the next 18 months my goal is to represent Odisha at the national competitions and win medals for the state', says Sanathan Mallick, a student and leading weightlifter at Gram Vikas Residential School in Kankia. Sanathan is in class 8 and, like most students at the school, comes from a tribal village in Kerandimal region of Ganjam district.

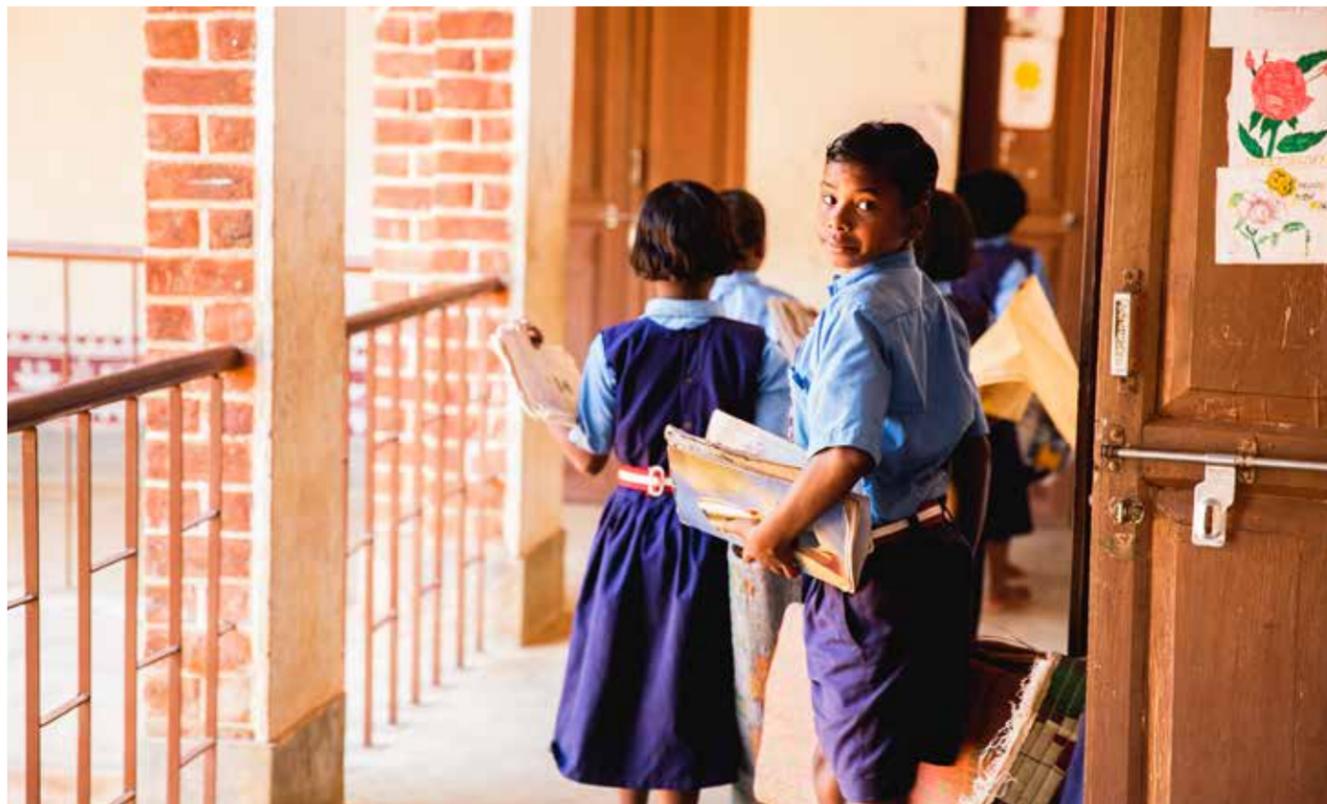
Sanathan's pursuit of a comprehensive education was not always a possibility for his family. Coming from a family of six sisters and one brother, Sanathan's upbringing was one of acute financial hardship and he recalls how there were times when there was not enough food to feed his entire family. To alleviate some of the financial burden, his parents married three of his sisters early, and his elder brother was withdrawn from his schooling to work in the fields. For Sanathan, a similar fate seemed likely, until he was enrolled at Konkia school and took advantage of the Khel Vikas (Sports Development) initiative.

Here, he receives a formal education and is provided with three protein-rich meals a day - something he says was a big motivating factor in his interest to continue with his chosen sport. He also gets exposure to international quality coaching from international volunteers who train the students in sports. Over the last year, his performances in weight lifting have been remarkable, winning a Gold medal at the PYKKA Odisha State Meet, bronze medal at the Panchayat Yuva Krida Aur Khel Abhiyan (PYKKA) Rural National Meet, Silver at the Odisha State Championship, and the Silver in District Open Championship.

Sanathan's sporting excellence is set to put him in contention to represent India, and has provided a drive, focus and confidence that is benefitting his academic performance and is enveloping all other aspects of his life.



Coaching for volleyball in Konkia school



Children in Gram Vikas residential school, Thuamul Rampur, Kalahandi

ment trust, Pro4Sport Solutions (P4SS), a sports development programme has been launched during this financial year. Khel Vikas, which literally translates as 'sport development', promotes the theme of the right to play - supporting youth who wish to achieve sporting excellence and providing a focus and self-esteem that carries through into all other aspects of life.

In the first five months of the Khel Vikas initiative, short-term sport camps were organised in badminton, cricket, football and volleyball at all Gram Vikas schools. Introducing the youth to the basic techniques and rules of the sports, the camps also focus on team-building exercises and enhancing communication skills to aid in

the holistic development of local youth. Given the interest and success of the students in weight lifting, this strength-based sport was identified for elite sporting development. Subsequently, a high-performance weightlifting program has been formed and students are receiving sustained coaching from qualified sports instructors. Sports infrastructure was upgraded and investments were made on a range of new sports equipments.

The Khel Vikas programme is already having a positive social effect in schools and has produced a number of students competing at the regional level. The scope of the programme is expected to grow in the coming years.



D. HEALTH

Odisha continues to be a state with poor health indicators, especially, on infant and child survival, maternal mortality and malnourishment. Despite improvements in food production, implementation of poverty alleviation programmes and nutrition programmes like the Integrated Child Development Scheme, including supplementary nutrition and mid day meal, malnutrition continues to stalk the children of the state especially in the rural regions.

Odisha ranks among the lowest in India with regard to health indicators. The death rate for people in Odisha is much higher and life expectancy is lower than at the national level. The underlying causes of child mortality are diarrhoea, gastroenteritis, anaemia and jaundice which together accounted for 35.4% of total child's death. As regards to immunisation, barely 62.4% of children are fully immunised. For Odisha, institutional delivery is 44.3% and it is even worse in tribal dominated districts. The incidence of malaria, TB, and other communicable diseases like HIV/AIDS etc is found to be high in Odisha.

Rural communities often lack access to safe drinking water due to absence of government infrastructure and geographical remoteness and thereby suffer from waterborne illnesses that affect their health and, in extension, their ability to perform well economically. In addition, the lack

of access to general and basic health care remains a pressing issue in rural communities, a burden which women and children are the main bearers.

The sanitation habits of people in rural areas are still poor. Odisha lags far behind in terms of access to toilet facilities. Between 2001 and 2010 sanitation overall coverage in Odisha increased from 8% to 42% but sustained toilet usage, sustainability of NGPs and adoption of hygiene practices remain key challenges.

While 81% rural habitations have access to drinking water, against 73% across India, these are plagued by issues of seasonal irregularities, quality and water safety, and inequitable access determined by class, class and other social stratifications. Major reason for perpetuation of diseases like diarrhoea, gastroenteritis, anemia and jaundice can be attributed to the non-avail-



Health care for the poor is a possibility!

When Gram Vikas field supervisor Vinaya, a nurse, first met Ananda in his tattered hut in Amathaguda village in Kalahanadi district, she found a 20 year old weak boy crying in pain. He had undergone surgery a month ago during which a steel rod had been inserted to fix his broken leg. There were post surgical complications which resulted in pus formation and severe pain. Ananda is an orphan and his old grandmother could not afford any further treatment. The boy's condition was left to his fate. When Vinaya spoke to the boy about the incident, she suspected that the fracture was not due to a fall or accident but because the bones had become weak. In order to confirm her doubt she discussed the case with a doctor at Bissam Cuttack and shared her suspicion about bone tuberculosis.

The doctor at Bissam cuttack asked her to bring the patient to the hospital. She knew that it would mean undergoing tests and an extended period of stay if bone TB was the cause. Ananda's family could not afford the modest treatment cost at the hospital.

Vinaya was aware of the role of Gaon Kalyan Samiti and the provisions within that to financially support extremely poor families who could not afford medical treatment. She discussed the matter with the Anganwadi worker who is a member of the GKS and also one of the signatory of the bank account of GKS. The Anganwadi worker was not sure whether funds could be used to support individual treatment and requested to get permission from her supervising authority, the CDPO. But Vinaya was sure that such a provision existed and a meeting of the Village Health Committee was called. In the meeting she explained to the members the role and responsibility of GKS and the purpose for which the Rs. 10,000 annual grant could be used for. The case of Ananda was discussed and the members of the Village Health Committee including the Anganwadi worker agreed to sanction Rs. 5,000 towards treatment cost for Ananda.

Thereafter Ananda was admitted in Bissam Cuttack hospital and after the diagnosis he was put on medication for bone TB. He is responding to the medication positively and there is improvement in his condition. With a small support from the GKS funds, the young boy got a new lease of life.

This case has set a precedent for GKS to extend support to vulnerable families for medical treatment, which otherwise was not used for such purposes.

ability of safe drinking water with poor sanitation facilities and practices. Availability of drinking water facilities remains very poor in Odisha.

Only 25.6% of households are covered by piped water supply or by hand pumps in the State as against 88.5% households covered at the national level. Though over 80% of schools have drinking water, there is still a long way to go to ensure all schools are covered with sanitation facilities. In collaboration with government Primary Health Centers Gram Vikas emphasises a

threefold approach to health development focused on water sanitation and hygiene: preventive, promotive and curative services, combining modern and traditional knowledge and practices.

SAFE WATER AND SANITATION

Gram Vikas motivates communities to build their own sanitation facilities and supports them in establishing piped water systems. In this intervention, the main pivot is 100% inclusion, without which we do not work with a community. The necessity of this is

driven home in the argument that the waste disposal behaviour of a single household is likely to affect the quality of drinking water for the entire community. Once the community agrees to the 100% norm, the process of collection of materials and formalising the roles and responsibilities of the Village Executive Committee starts. Each household builds a toilet and a bathing room. The bathing room is an integral part of the design as it provides the privacy to young girls and women to bathe and clean themselves properly. Each toilet is connected to twin leach pits that collect the waste. The purpose of the twin leach pit is to keep the toilet functional at all times. The waste is diverted to one pit at a time. When this fills up, the flow is diverted to the next pit through a lever. The waste in the first pit decomposes over a period of time and can be used as manure. By the time the second pit fills up, the first pit is ready for reuse.

Gram Vikas is convinced that toilets without water are unsustainable in Indian culture of cleaning. Therefore in the MANTRA model each toilet and bathing room is connected to water through pipes, thereby having running water 24 hours a day. Availability of water in the toilets has sustained higher use of toilets in the villages where we work.

Communities and staff are trained to monitor water quality, especially chemical and bacteriological contamination by using field test kits. Based on the report, the source of contamination is found and corrective action taken. Other measures include regular cleaning of the water tank once in a month, chlorination of water source; especially open dug wells or gravity fed systems in the monsoon season to control bacteriological contamination during heavy downpour. With support from One Drop, a Canada based organisation, Gram Vikas plans to install electro chlorinators in selected villages in the coming year as an effort to improve the standard of drinking water.

HYGIENE AND SANITATION EDUCATION

Building toilets and bathing rooms is half the battle in improving health conditions of the rural communities. The crucial other half is motivating people to use them and adopt hygienic practices. In the baseline studies that we undertake in the villages at the start of the programme, we see that over 70% of the households use only water and another 15% use mud and water to clean their hands after defecation. Therefore after the toilets and water systems are established, efforts are made to intensify education on hygienic practices. The link between disease and hand washing with soap is emphasised in these sessions and we continue to monitor hygiene behaviour in the communities.

Periodic school sanitation and hygiene education is conducted in the schools within the operational areas of Gram Vikas. These sessions encourage children to take responsibility for maintaining cleanliness within the school premises, keep the toilets clean, promote hand-washing after use of toilets and before meals. Staff also educate children on environment cleanliness and carry out village cleanliness drives. Children become torchbearers in their communities and influence positive hygiene behaviour among adults.

Community health interventions

Mother and child health care continues to be the focus in community health interventions. Weak government infrastructure and service especially in the tribal pockets make it difficult for people to access information pertaining to health programmes. Gram Vikas staff fill this gap through conducting training programmes on government health schemes, meetings with the health committees in the villages to help plan their health interventions and use of the funds available under Gaon Kalyan Samitis. Pregnant women are identified and supported for



School sanitation and hygiene education camp at Bafla, Kalahandi

registration under Janani Suraksha Yojana and MAMTA schemes. We collaborate with the ANM in the areas to ensure coverage of all eligible children under immunisation programme. Health camps were organised in six tribal pockets in collaboration with the government health workers which included treatment for malaria, common cold, diarrhoea etc and serious cases were referred to the district hospitals for treatment. Such efforts have improved access to health services in these rural locations.

Other efforts include identification of patients having tuberculosis and ensuring treatment of these patients. 63 new cases were identified and referred for treatment and 61 older cases were cured in this period. Similarly over 400 malaria cases were referred by the project staff to the government hospitals where the patients

underwent treatment. In Kalahandi, we had conducted trials on people having recurrent malaria attack using a herbal medicine prepared from Artemisia Annu which had shown positive results for combating malaria. Ointment made from the same plant extract were used for treating burn cases, snake bites and other septic wounds. The effect of the ointment on such applications was remarkable.

Sight interventions

Through a combined initiative of Gram Vikas and Vision Spring, people with poor eyesight in the operational villages were facilitated to access quality reading glasses at a small cost. Local entrepreneurs trained in identifying and screening such cases in the eye camps were successful in providing glasses to 166 people.



Adolescent health camp at Gajapati district

SABLA

Government of India introduced the Rajiv Gandhi Scheme for Empowerment of Adolescent Girls - SABLA in November, 2010 with the objective of improving the nutritional and health status of adolescent girls in the age group of 11-18 years. Since January 2013, Gram Vikas is implementing the programme in 4 blocks, Gosani, Rayagada, Gumma and Kasinagar of Gajapati district. These trainings have focused on building capacities within the adolescent girls who are identified as 'Sakhi' and 'Sahelis' within an ICDS area. These girls are educated about health, nutrition, Government schemes on health and nutrition for children and women, their role under SABALA in assisting the Anganwadi workers and motivating other adolescent girls in their villages. Trainings were also conducted with adolescent girls on life skill education, communication, leadership, rights of a girl child and awareness on the impact on early marriage. In the six trainings conducted, we have seen an increase in the confidence levels of the girls when they spoke about themselves, their personal problems and dilemmas that they face at their age. The trainings are conducted over a three day session and it has built solidarity amongst the trainees which will help build a support base for the girls in the region.

HEALTH INSURANCE FOR RURAL COMMUNITIES

Gram Vikas took initiative through a campaign mode to introduce the Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana (RSBY) of Government of India which provides health insurance to rural families. The campaign approach enabled faster registration of members under RSBY, helped people understand the benefits of the scheme and also enabled patients access financial support for their treatment. Through meetings at the Panchayat level, Gram Vikas staff explained the applicability, validity and limitations of the Smart cards. Separate campaigns were conducted to help the people register and obtain cards for their families. A total of 2757 families in 145 villages were supported to apply for the smart cards under RSBY during this period.

MICRO INSURANCE

Micro life insurance provides social security to the family in case of sudden death of the bread winner of the household. Gram Vikas has promoted micro insurance policies of LIC as well as the Janashree Bima Yojana of the Government of India. These policies have helped many families receive financial compensation in the event of death and have provided some stability to them. 1831 policy holders under LIC and 900 families covered under JBY have benefitted from these insurances. Under JBY there is a provision for two children of the family insured to receive a stipend of Rs. 1200 for education per annum. 191 children have received the benefit during the year.



TRAINING ADOLESCENT GIRLS

Health needs vary as per age and gender within a community. Adolescent girls have a unique set of needs which have an impact on their health in the future. It is also this group whose health needs are usually neglected by the family and the community. Gram Vikas staff conduct periodic health, hygiene and nutrition education for adolescent girls in the project villages. Menstrual hygiene management is an important topic of discussion during these trainings and girls are informed about good practices during those times. Staff collaborates with local health workers especially the Anganwadi workers to see that adolescent girls receive iron and folic acid tablets and supplementary nutrition as provided by the Government.

F. LIVELIHOODS AND FOOD SECURITY

Promoting interventions that maintain and improve the ability of rural communities to derive food and livelihoods from their local environment is a crucial component of the MANTRA programme.

Rural communities are highly dependent upon forests, watersheds and natural resources for their sustenance. However, due to climatic conditions and poor geographical accessibility, many communities experience difficulties in maintaining a productive environment and sufficient employment opportunities throughout the year.

Working with rural communities, and with an ethos that promotes self-reliance, Gram Vikas has designed and implemented sustainable solutions for the management of natural resources and food security. Lands previously considered barren and infertile are cultivated with suitable plants through community horticultural and forestry projects; water sources are conserved and developed in a way that renders land more

productive and reliable; links with markets are expanded; and crops are diversified to provide year round food security. Further, Gram Vikas works to ensure that young people are able to access greater employment opportunities through the facilitation of a wide variety of courses in vocational trades and skills.

In the tribal pockets of Ganjam, Gajapati and Kalahandi districts, such activities are intensively undertaken by collaborating with government programmes such as Odisha Tribal Empowerment and Livelihood Programme (OTELP) and the Horticulture programme "WADI" of NABARD. In the year 2012-2013 we took up OTELP in two new locations within Gajapati and Kalahandi districts covering 47 new villages.

Fact file of OTELP projects	Thuamul Rampur	Thuamul Rampur	Thuamul Rampur	Lanjigarh	Koinpur	Mohana
	OTELP - Plus	OTELP Phase I Ext.	OTELP Phase II	OTELP Phase II	OTELP - Plus	OTELP Phase II
District	Kalahandi	Kalahandi	Kalahandi	Kalahandi	Gajapati	Gajapati
Block	Thuamul Rampur	Thuamul Rampur	Thuamul Rampur	Lanjigarh	Rayagada	Mohana
GPs (Nos.)	3	4	5	4	5	6
Villages (Nos.)	16	37	28	31	30	22
Households (Nos.)	1461	1560	1227	918	905	1256
Population (Nos.)	7372	7794	5093	4405	4390	6772
Total area (ha.)		5550	5469	4711		6475
Treatable area (ha.)	7785	5324	5230	4572	5083	5042
Institutional profiles						
Village development committees (Nos.)	0	31	11	12	30	10
Village Sub committees (Nos.)	0	37	21	30		18
SHGs (Nos.)	32	126	96	68	38	82
Van Surakshya Samities (Nos.)	0	14	0	3	7	11

LAND AND WATER MANAGEMENT

Tribal families have small land holdings in the middle and upper slopes that are susceptible to heavy soil erosion. Terrace farming is the common practice and periodic measures of improvising the field bunds, water channels need to be done. Wherever gullies are formed, appropriate loose boulder checks are made to reduce erosion of the soil. Leveling of the farm lands is another activity undertaken to prevent soil erosion and retain moisture in the farm.

In Thuamul Rampur area of Kalahandi district, 214 metres of guard walls were made that helped prevent 45 hectares of land from stone and sand casting.

In Lanjigarh over 40 hectares of land terracing was done that have helped 60 farmers to cultivate these lands.



Diversion based irrigation in Kalahandi

Diversion based irrigation in Sialipadar, Kalahandi

Sialipadar village in Thuamul Rampur block of Kalahandi district is a tribal village of 38 households. Farmers here practiced traditional modes of cultivation only in the Kharif season. Most of the families also practiced dongar (shifting cultivation) where they grew multiple crops on sloppy lands. The hard work never resulted in food security for the household because of the poor soil, crop loss due to erratic rain and low productivity. Gram Vikas took up various land and forestry based interventions in the upper catchment of the village which resulted on increase in flow of the village stream. While planning for the year 2012, the members of the Village Development Committee discussed about Diversion Based Irrigation (DBI) system which they had seen during one of their exposure to other OTELP villages. The technology is simple and primarily diverts stream water on upper contours through canals or pipes to irrigate fields located at a distance from the water source. The Village development Committee planned to implement such a system to irrigate more lands which could benefit many families in the village. Since there was a limited budget with the VDC under OTELP for this activity, they decided to contribute labour free of cost and only the cost of pipes and accessories was sources from the OTELP funds. The design of the system which was a network of pipes to fields 2-3 kilometres, away from the source was made by the local community. Now with this system in place, the agriculture pattern has undergone a dramatic change in Sialipadar. Over 20 hectares of land was cultivated under paddy during the Kharif season of 2012 and another 9 hectares during the rabi season. Farmers also cultivated tomato, cauliflower, cabbage, onion and oilseeds such as sunflower and mustard. Cultivation of vegetable and oilseed, especially, sunflower was possible due to the water available for irrigation through DBI. Around 25 families earned an income ranging from Rs. 5000- Rs. 10,000 during the year from improved agriculture. The lands that remained fallow previously are under green cover for 8 months. People in Sialipadar say, "The face of our village has changed, thanks to Gram Vikas and OTELP".

Water resource development was done under OTELP which includes farm ponds, check dams, masonry canals, diversion based irrigation systems and dug wells. All these have supported critical irrigation for the crops when there was a dry spell.

Diversion based irrigation systems in 4 villages of Thuamul Rampur have helped 96 farmers to irrigate 36 hectares of land during Kharif season and 7 hectares of land during Rabi season.

AGRICULTURE

Gram Vikas promotes diverse methods of cultivation that enable rural communities to maximise their agricultural productivity. During the year of 2012-13, Gram Vikas facilitated inter cropping, line sowing and SRI methods of paddy cultivation, improved variety of crops especially maize, introduction of new crops like sweet potato, groundnut and sunflower in the region. Backyard gardens have helped to meet the nutrition needs of the household.

As a result of these interventions, villages have benefited from positive results in agricultural productivity, total cultivation area and tree coverage. Increase in area under vegetable farming has resulted in stemming migration to cities and have increased family income.

In Patrapur block of Ganjam district, 315 farmers from 39 villages had a gross income of Rs.1.74 lakhs during one season of vegetable farming.

In Thuamul Rampur block, 115 farmers had income ranging from Rs. 1000 to Rs. 7000 from vegetable cultivation.

THE WADI (SMALL ORCHARD) PROJECT

Launched in 2011 in collaboration with

NABARD, the WADI (small orchard) project facilitates horticulture-based sustainable development. At its core, the WADI project focuses on the creation of sustainable, long-term income sources for rural communities through the development of horticultural gardens for individual households.

The project is implemented in the Rudhapadar area of Ganjam district supporting 575 tribal farmers to raise fruit gardens of cashew and mango in 429 acres of land.

Brinjals, pulses and other vegetables were grown as inter-crops in the WADI plots that have yielded income for the farmers. Care is taken to develop irrigation facilities in the WADI villages either through gravity fed systems or by pumping water from an open wells. This helped overcome the dry spell. Farmers in the WADI villages were oriented on proper planting and after care methods in the village meetings and periodic trainings conducted by the project staff. Even though efforts were there to reduce mortality of the planted saplings, in 6 villages there has been extensive damage caused by elephants that frequent these areas.

In other project locations of Thuamul Rampur, Mohana and Lanjigarh, orchard promotion through WADI approach was taken up in 314 acres of land for 300 farmers under the OTELP Programme.

HOLISTIC WATER AND FOOD SECURITY PROJECT

For the period of 2012 – 2015 and in partnership with KKS Germany, Gram Vikas is undertaking 'Holistic Water and Food Security Project' in 27 villages in the Thuamul Rampur block of Kalahandi district in Odisha. Aimed at improving the land productivity and livelihood potential of 1242 rural families in 27 villages in one of the remote locations in the district, the project will also use the MANTRA approach of water and sanitation as an entry point intervention in the villages. Of the 27 villages, 10

Fruits of development now reach the poor!

Bilumara is a remote tribal village in Jaganath Prasad block of Ganjam district. 31 families inhabit the village and for subsistence they practice traditional modes of cultivation. They grow paddy, green gram, black gram etc during Kharif season and as most of the land is rain fed, farmers were not able to undertake multiple cropping for supplementary income. So the land remains fallow during non-kharif season. The hard work during kharif never resulted in food security because of the poor soil, crop loss due to erratic rain and low productivity.

Gram Vikas introduced the integrated livelihood development programme (WADI) in Bilumara, in the year 2011 with financial assistance from NABARD. Maa Santhoshi Udyan Vikas Samiti (MSUVS) was formed to implement and monitor the programme. Gopinath Jani, a tribal farmer, was chosen as the president of Udyan Vikas Samiti. He saw and experienced WADI programme implemented by other NGOs on exposure to Keonjhar. Under his leadership farmers initiated land preparation activities for planting of mango and cashew saplings in 30 acres of land. Grafted varieties of mango and cashew saplings were procured and distributed for plantation and WADI patch was irrigated through pipeline from a gravity flow water source. During summer, when there is scarcity of water in the gravity source, a kerosene pump is used to lift water from the nearby river and supplied to the field. In regular WADI meetings, farmers were motivated to take up intercropping of vegetables for earning supplementary income. Introducing intercrops in the WADI fields was also a way to engage the farmers more closely with the land and the fruit trees planted in their fallow lands.

In the first year Gopinath Jani cultivated brinjal and tomato as intercrops in his 1 acre of WADI land. To protect the crops, he made a makeshift shelter in the field and used to stay there. He introduced more varieties of vegetables in the second year like cucumber, chilli and even cultivated water melons. He spent around Rs.1500/- for purchase of seeds and earned a profit of around Rs.45000/- from selling vegetables in the market. From the profit he had made, he was able to repay the loan taken for the marriage of his daughter and also saved some money in the bank. Gopinath's success has inspired other farmers in the village and they also initiated intercropping of vegetables in their WADI fields. The cropping intensity has changed and farmers now cultivate brinjal, beans, cucumber, water melon, tomato, cauliflower, cabbage, onion, chilly etc even during off season and are able to earn an additional income in the range of Rs. 5000- Rs. 25,000 a year. The farmers no longer have to find markets to sell their produce. Now traders come to the village and the vegetables are sold right from their fields. People of Bilumara say "we feel like we have become saukars!" The lands that remained fallow previously, are green with series of cashew and mango plants and vegetable crops thanks to the successful implementation of WADI project.

villages are displaced settlements of the Indravati reservoir that are quite inaccessible. The Government outreach is weak in this region. Erratic rainfall, heavy deforestation and alienation of land through a large hydro-electric project and mining activities have marginalised the tribal communities further more. In the past year, project staff have conducted periodic meetings and community mobilisation activities in the villages, organised the women into

Self-help groups, conducted baseline studies and have initiated activities on land improvement and horticulture. Young boys and girls were identified to be trained as masons under a residential masonry training programme. In the coming years Gram Vikas will strive to meet all of the projected targets of the project to promote sustainable livelihood opportunities and to ensure that all rural communities are secure in their access to food throughout the year.



G. HUMAN AND INSTITUTION DEVELOPMENT

Gram Vikas regularly conducts various kinds of trainings and awareness-raising activities as a way to empower communities whom we serve. Staff members also undergo exposure and trainings on various subjects related to the work. Trained staff become resources for the communities and support them in the process of implementation of the programmes and to dialogue with government officials.

CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT FOR LOCAL GOVERNANCE

Leadership training is one of the most important initiatives in building capabilities at the local level. Village Executive Committee members undergo leadership trainings aimed at community mobilisation, communication, team building and problem solving. They also undergo trainings on financial record keeping and maintenance. During the year of 2012-13, over 300 community members participated in seven leadership training sessions. Gram Vikas also provides trainings to elected members of Panchayat Raj Institutions (PRI) on the role and responsibilities of the members and the development programmes of the Government. Over 400 village leaders benefited from these trainings.

Project offices also celebrated World Toilet day, World Water day and International Women's Day in their respective villages which was an opportunity to share experiences from the villages, their challenges and their successes. Government officials are invited on these occasions, thus providing them an opportunity to know how people have taken action and also to hear about the problems faced by them.



Participants at RTI workshop in Ganjam

TRAININGS AND WORKSHOPS ON PUBLIC SCHEMES

Gram Vikas' training programmes also focus on enabling people's access to information on important public schemes and equip communities with tools to actively access their rights. Trainings on Government programmes and laws including Right to Information, Forest Rights Act, Janani Suraksha Yojana, Gaon Kalyan Samiti, Rashtriya Swastha Bima Yojana etc. were conducted in various project locations, informing staff and community members about these schemes. This has led to many positive outcomes, with more people accessing facilities using RSBY, people pursuing their claims over forest land under FRA and seeking information through RTI. Eleven such trainings on public schemes were conducted in the project locations. Gram Vikas also organised two workshops on the theme "Electricity for all" in Ganjam and Gajapati districts which had participation of 380 people. The purpose of these workshops was to facilitate a discussion between the communities and the electricity utility companies, the government electricity officials as well as officials from the Rural Water Supply and Sanitation (RWSS) department. The village representatives presented the problems they faced with regard to electricity, tariffs, delay in commissioning etc and the officials also informed the community members about their rights as well as their responsibilities as consumers. Thereafter the problems were noted and the officials assured the people of redressing their problems at the earliest.

TRAININGS FOR SHGS

During the year of 2012-13, Gram Vikas conducted 19 SHG management trainings which included record keeping, financial training, literacy training and training on the concept of SHGs. These training sessions helped SHG members acquire

self-management skills and gain self-confidence. There were trainings on gender which helped women to understand their role and potential and how they are limited because of gender bias in education and work opportunities. These sessions help women to analyse their potential and the role they can play within the community. Gram Vikas provides income generation/vocational trainings for SHG members. 12 income generation/vocational trainings were conducted in 2012-13. Women are trained to identify business opportunities, do a microplan for business development and undertake credit planning. Such trainings have helped women initiate new enterprises especially in local marketing and poultry farming.

GRAM VIKAS' STAFF DEVELOPMENT

Gram Vikas regularly provides training to the staff on relevant themes. Staff underwent training in health and hygiene education, water quality testing, malaria prevention and adolescent health and hygiene education. Staff working in OTELP areas received numerous trainings on soil and moisture conservation, water resource management, agriculture and horticulture as well as micro enterprises. Exposure to other organisations helped gain perspective and understanding of new techniques. Staff from Kalahandi project went to DRCSC (Development Research Communication and Services Centre) Purulia and PRADAN (Professional Assistance for Development Action) Balarampur to learn about the agriculture and other livelihood interventions.

SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

Gram Vikas has trained thousands of youth in vocational skills since its inception in 1979. This has enabled them to gain skills in areas that are increasingly in demand; vastly improving their income and employ-

ability. During the year 2012-2013, vocational training courses were conducted in a range of areas. Over 70 youth have received training as electrician, driving, mobile repairing, tailoring and service sector. This was facilitated under OTELP for the tribal youth and has resulted in over 80 percent of the trainees to have a constant source of income. Gram Vikas has also provided training in masonry to 90 youth in the year. Underscoring these benefits are the advantages that this training has for young people's self-esteem and sense of pride in their occupation and locality, and for women's empowerment as they enter employment in areas traditionally deemed to be only for men.



Woman with Chickens in KanthaBanji



H. OUTREACH AND NETWORKING

Gram Vikas recognises the importance of creating networks among development organisations sharing common goals. Collaborative action with development NGOs, coalitions, academic institutions and government agencies have resulted in replication and integration of the programme in mainstream development programmes.

MANTRA in The Gambia

Four years back, the Governing Board had indicated that Gram Vikas should look at the possibility of taking the MANTRA model of water and sanitation outside of India and especially in Africa.

Riders for Health, a UK based organisation, working in The Gambia and in several other countries in Africa was interested to pilot the project in The Gambia. We approached Skoll Foundation for funding a pilot project in The Gambia and another in Tanzania.

Two villages – Kangkurang and Kafenkeng - were chosen for the initial introduction of the MANTRA project in The Gambia. People of these villages agreed to the conditions laid down under MANTRA. Work started in May 2012. Most of the construction of the toilets and bathing rooms were completed by March 2013. It is hoped that the rest of the work will be completed within March 2014.

In The Gambia there is no electricity available in the project villages. We will have to install a solar pump, which can provide water to both villages.



In Odisha state, Gram Vikas actively partners with the Scheduled Tribes and Schedules caste department in the Odisha Tribal Empowerment and Livelihood Programme. Within this Water and Sanitation has been integrated as a component to facilitate effects of Livelihood Programmes amongst tribal communities.

Gram Vikas works in the states of Jharkhand, Andhra Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh in partnership with local organisations. An example of network is the initiation of MANTRA in the Gambia and Tanzania in Africa.

On the event of World Water Day in March 2013, Gram Vikas organised a National level Conference at Gopalpur-on-sea, Odisha on the theme “Scalability & Innovations in Water & Sanitation.” The aim was to engage with various stakeholders in the water and sanitation sector in various parts of the country to understand the issues of those regions and seek solutions that can be replicated at a scale. There was presence of a large group of organisations from the north east part of India who shared about the problems of those regions and what interventions are currently being made. This opportunity provided exposure to the organisations on the MANTRA model of Gram Vikas and there was interest shown by various organisations to learn and implement the programme in their locations.

Gram Vikas also facilitated a two day field visit and discussion session in February 2013 for engineers and State coordinators from DWSM (District Water Sanitation Mission), Jharkhand on the MANTRA model of water and sanitation. The 38 participants from various districts of Jharkhand interacted with the community and staff of Gram Vikas during the visit.

Recognising the importance of engaging with youth on development issues, Gram Vikas hosted the Odisha Yuva Jagran in August 2012 and Jagriti Yatra in January 2013. Both

these events had youth from various academic backgrounds interested in development work, who were keen to see the interventions of various organisations within the country. Field visits, extensive interactions and question answer sessions gave opportunities for meaningful deliberations on the fundamentals of development approach adopted by the organisation.

Gram Vikas provides opportunities for interns and volunteers from within Odisha, across India as well as across the globe to spend time and take up small projects as internship. During the year 2012-13, we had interns from TERI University, TISS (TATA Institute of Social Science), NMIMS (Narsee Monjee Institute of Management Studies), Jamia Millia Islamia and MIT (Madras Institute of Technology) as well as volunteers from UK, USA, Japan, Finland, Ghana, Canada, Sweden, Netherland, Columbia and Germany. Through internships, international volunteers get an exposure to development work in India and for Gram Vikas it is an opportunity for cultural exposure.

During the past year, senior members were invited to various international and national level forums and conferences to share good practices. Some of the events which we represented are:

- *Skoll World Forum in Oxford*
- *Global +5 Awards Ceremony in Geneva*
- *World Water Week, Stockholm*
- *ESADE Business School, in Barcelona*
- *GTF (Governance and Transparency Fund) meeting in Dhaka*
- *BSHF (The Building and Social Housing Foundation) in Nepal*



PROGRESS 2012-13

ENABLING INFRASTRUCTURE – RENEWABLE ENERGY

Micro-hydro power

Micro-hydro projects established by Gram Vikas are a model for low-cost, decentralised power generation that provides lighting for homes and streets as well as paddy and oil seed processing. The water after it generates electricity is used for irrigation. Gram Vikas has so far established five micro-hydro projects in Thuamul Rampur Block of Kalahandi District. The microhydro project in Bijapada could not be completed because of lack of technical persons. Government electrification in the adjoining hamlets has caused the community to lose motivation to contribute labour and material towards the micro hydro system.



Solar power

Given the long hours of power cuts and break downs and the high cost of electricity, Gram Vikas is in the process of setting up a solar photovoltaic power plant at its campus at Mohuda as well the four residential schools for tribal children, as well as the Bafla project office, which does not have grid electricity as yet.

Two installations completed so far - one in Mohuda head office (75 kw) and the other at Gram Vikas Residential School, Konkia (15 kw).



In villages, where there is no electricity, we are encouraging people to make small investments in solar LED lights. So far 3196 solar LED lights have been purchased by people.

Solar powered water pumping systems have been established in collaboration with Sunlit Future (Auroville), Pondicherry and the Government of Odisha, in twelve hamlets in Ganjam district, benefiting 227 families.

HEALTH

55 villages and 2908 families have completed the construction of their toilet and bathing room units.

147 villages have established their drinking water systems.

8419 people were treated in the health camps organised under National rural health mission.

2334 families have got the health smart cards under RSBY of which 74 families have received financial support to the extent of Rs. 3.34 lakhs for treatment.

Over 2000 children received health and hygiene education training through the School Sanitation and Hygiene education programme.

414 adolescent girls received training under SABALA programme.

INSTITUTIONS

98 villages received Rupees 74 lakhs under the Total Sanitation Campaign.

64 new village societies registered under Societies Registration Act, 1860.

Community corpus fund of Rupees 29.08 lakhs raised during the year making the cumulative corpus to Rupees 7.51 crores.

06 Leadership training organised for 275 participants.

Rupees 4.98 crores received from the Government towards Water supply projects and Rupees 7.75 lakhs was accessed for sanitation under MLA LAD funds.

20 RTI applications were filled after providing 2 trainings to Gram Vikas staff and 4 to the villagers.



LIVELIHOODS AND FOOD SECURITY

In Ganjam, Gajapati and Kalahandi districts, the progress are as follows:

446 gully plugs made in 20 hectares of land.

Land Levelling and terracing done in 113 hectare.

743 acres of individual WADI plots and another 477 acres of individual horticulture through mixed fruit trees developed.

540 acres of vegetable cultivation by 457 households.



20 farm ponds, seven check dams and 4 Diversion based irrigation systems constructed.

Crop demonstration especially of maize was done in 260 hectares.

160 youth underwent various skill and vocational training.

500 families made backyard gardens from the waste water from the bathing rooms.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION 2012 – 13

Gram Vikas was listed as 25th in Top 100 Best NGOs in 2013 by the Global Journal.

Mr. Joe Madiath received the Think Leadership Award 2012.

Gram Vikas received the Grand Prize for MANTRA by the Global +5 Grand Prize at Geneva.

Joe Madiath received the Corporate Odisha Award 2012.

FINANCIAL REPORT

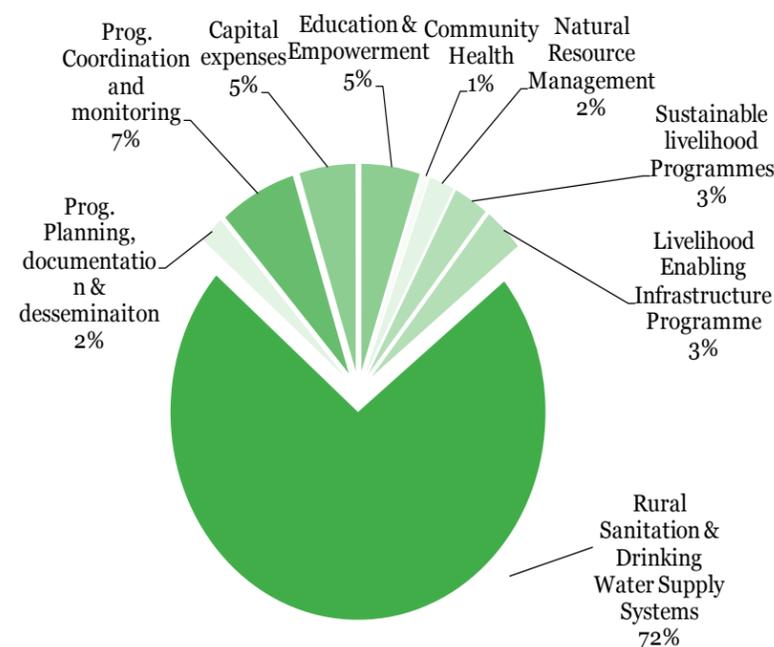
Treasurer's Report on the Financial Operations of 2012-13

I am happy to present the audited accounts of Gram Vikas for the year 2012-2013 certified by M/s Padhi & Co, Chartered Accountants.

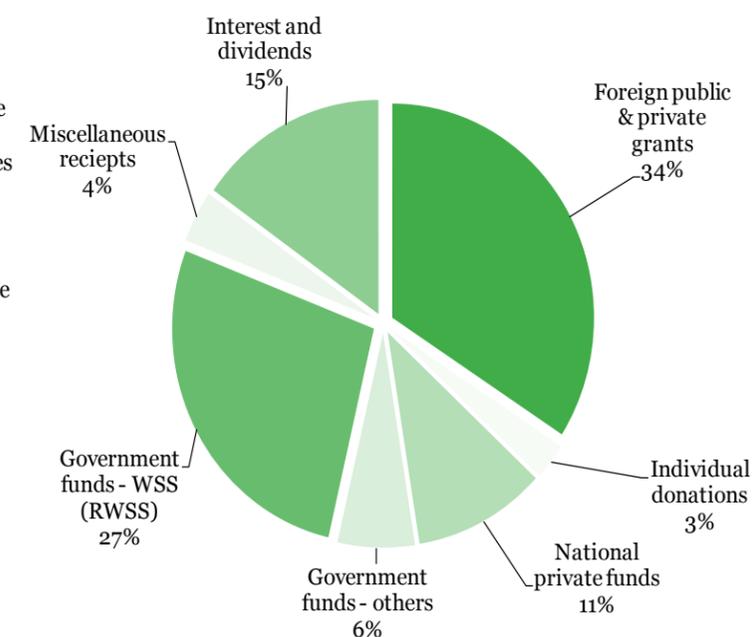
1. The financial discipline in Gram Vikas ensures high degree of transparency and the internal audit system in vogue reaffirms accounting compliance.
2. Gram Vikas has satisfactorily complied with all statutory requirements related to FCRA, Income Tax, Provident Fund and Gratuity.

Mr. Ram Sanker, Treasurer

Project wise expenditure 2012-2013



Sources of income



BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31ST MARCH 2013

Particulars	Sch.	As at 31.03.2013 (in Rupees)	As at 31.03.2012 (in Rupees)
LIABILITIES			
General Funds	I	368,432,815	337,609,194
Project Funds	I	33,449,471	21,114,769
Dairy Development Fund		34,259	33,927
Other Funds	II	138,708,283	140,172,380
Current Liabilities and Provisions	III	5,826,797	6,000,946
		546,451,625	504,931,216
ASSETS			
Fixed Assets	IV	35,379,297	31,076,112
Investments	V	236,060,965	245,368,103
Current Assets	VI	275,011,363	228,487,001
		546,451,625	504,931,216

As per report of even date
For Padhi & Co.
Chartered Accountants

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2013

Particulars	Year ending 31.03.2013 (in Rupees)	Year ending 31.03.2012 (in Rupees)
INCOME		
Grants in Aid	99,121,523	59,778,780
Award		5,000
Interest Income	9,127,904	3,976,243
Income from Investment	18,965,324	27,011,907
Profit on sale of Assets	11,021	307,728
Contributions & Reimbursements	5,235,344	8,013,481
Miscellaneous Income	134,376,006	1,255,426
Gross Income	134,376,006	100,348,565
EXPENDITURE		
Relief of the Poor, Education, Medical Relief & Preservation of Environment		
Education & Empowerment	7,730,451	8,686,683
Community Health	776,774	934,560
Rural Sanitation & Drinking Water Supply Systems	50,187,021	59,031,619
Natural Resources Management	3,274,455	5,486,741
Sustainable Livelihood Programmes	4,589,994	3,267,366
Livelihood Enabling Rural Infrastructure	5,248,235	3,878,972
Programme Planning, Documentation & Dissemination	3,277,041	3,551,859
Programme Coordination & Monitoring	10,125,935	10,879,959
Grants & Donations		1,202,845
Depreciation	3,334,601	3,023,066
Gross Expenditure	88,544,507	99,943,670
Surplus for the year	45,831,499	404,895

As per report of even date
For Padhi & Co.
Chartered Accountants

GOVERNING BOARD

The Governing Board comprises of distinguished members having rich experience in a variety of fields of expertise. The Board guides the Executive Director and the Management team in policy decisions and conducts periodic review. The Board members serve as honorary positions and no other remuneration except reimbursement of travel is provided to them.

Dr. Rajesh Tandon (Chairperson)

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.

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.

Sri. Basant Kumar Panigrahi

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

Mr. Ravi Narayanan

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

Ms. Soma Dutta

Regional coordinator of Energia South Asia, Ms. Dutta joined the Board as a member since 2008.

Mr. Ram Sanker (Treasurer)

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

Mr. Ashoke Chatterjee

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

Dr. Joe Madiath

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

General Body Members

Mr. S. N. Ghosh
Mr. D. Thankappan
Mr. Ananta Mahapatra
Mrs. Rita Bhatia
Mr. Vijay Mahajan
Prof. Debi Prasad Mishra
Dr. Saraswati Swain
Mr. G.C Mitra

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We would like to thank our donors and partners for their contribution and support for development of rural Odisha.

- Arghyam Trust , Bangalore,
- Blue Planet Run Foundation, USA
- B1G1 , Singapore
- Charity Water, USA
- Christian Aid, UK
- CTxGreen , Canada
- Interchurch Organisation for Development Cooperation, the Netherlands
- Jairah Funds, Scotland
- Karl Kubel Stiftung, Germany
- Ministry of Rural Development, Government of

- Odisha
- Ministry of Tribal Welfare, Government of Odisha
- NABARD, Bhubaneshwar
- Orissa Development Action Forum, (ODAF) , Bhubaneshwar
- One Drop, Canada
- Prayas, Pune
- Rourkela Steel Plant Ltd, Odisha
- Skoll Foundation, USA
- Sosense, USA
- Two Cents of Hope, USA
- Vitol, UK
- Water Aid, India
- Individual Donations

OFFICES

Head office

Mohuda Village, Berhampur, Ganjam District, Odisha- 760002, India

Phone: +91 680 2261866 – 69, Fax: +91 680 2261862

Email: info@gramvikas.org, gramvikas@gmail.com

Bafla

At. Adri,
P.O. Gopinathpur,
via Mukhiguda
Dist. Kalahandi – 766026
Tel. +91 934 933 7892

Bolangir

P.O/ Dist. Bolangir – 767001
Tel: + 91 943 933 6858

Dhenkanal

Kumbhar Sahi, Meena Bazar,
Gandhi Mandir Road
Dist. Dhenkanal – 759001
Tel. +91 943 933 7871

Gajapati

Purunapatna Road
P.O Parlakhemundi
Dist. Gajapati – 761014
Tel. +91 943 933 7881

Jharsuguda

At/P.O: Lakhanpur
Via Belpahada
Dist. Jharsuguoda – 768219
Tel: +91 933 943 7879

Kalahandi

At: Paradesipada,
P.O. Bhawanipatna
Dist, Kalahandi – 766001
Tel: +91 943 933 7883

Karadasing

P.O. Karadasing
Via: Rayagada,
Dist. Gajapati – 761213
Tel: +91 943 933 7886

Kandhamal

At Bandhasahi-2
P.O Baliguda
Dist- Kandhamal

Kerandimal

Mohuda village
Via: Berhampur
Dist. Ganjam – 760002
Tel. +91 943 933 7894

Keonjhar

Jogendra Behera,
At: Badahala
Dist. Keonjhar – 758074
Tel: +91 943 933 7872

Koinpur

P.O. Koinpur,
Via: Narayanpur
Dist. Gajapati – 761212
Tel. +91 943 933 7891

OTELP – Lanjigarh

P.O. K. Singpur, Dist. Rayagada
Tel. +91 943 933 7877

OTELP – Mohana

P.O. Chandragiri,
Dist. Gajapati
Tel. +91 943 933 7895

Rourkela

At. Chutiatola
P.O. Kuaramunda
Dist. Sundargarh – 770039
Tel. +91 943 933 7896

Rudhapadar

P.O. Gayaganda,
Via Kulada
Dist. Ganjam – 761131
Tel: +91 977 716 7502
+91 943 933 7893

Th. Rampur ITDP & OTELP

Kumudabahal village,
P.O. Sirimaska,
Via Thuamul Rampur
Dist. Kalahandi – 766037
Tel: +91 943 933 7884

Tumba

Puriasahi village
P.O. Tumba
Via: Jarada,
Dist. Ganjam – 761005
Tel: +91 943 933 7898
+91 680 211 406061



GRAM VIKAS
Mohuda Village
Berhampur, Ganjam District
Odisha-760002
Phone: +91 680 2261866 – 69, Fax: +91 680 2261862
www.gramvikas.org