

annual report

2011-2012



Gram
Vikas 

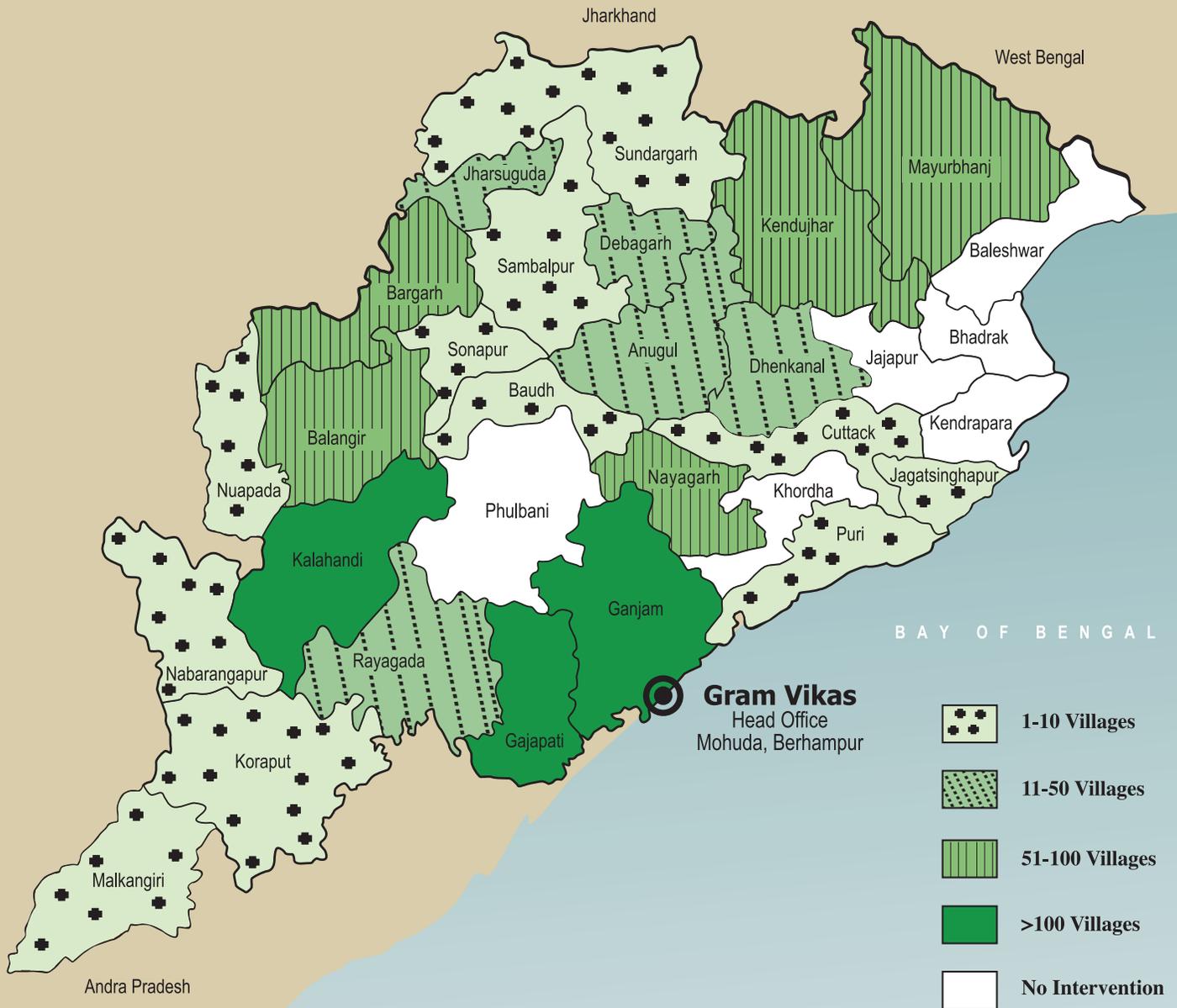
Annual Report

2011 -2012



**Gram
Vikas** 

Celebrating 33 years of Rural Development



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 casts (as of 2001)
- 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)



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 (formerly Orissa). Founded by a group of student volunteers from Chennai, under the umbrella of the Young Students Movement 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 16 field offices throughout Odisha. With 289 employees as of March 2012, Gram Vikas has been able to reach 1129 villages with a population of 366,999 in 24 districts in the state of Odisha, and has 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 or communities 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 involve the entire community in planning, implementation and monitoring. Gram Vikas recognises that it is essential to empower communities by strengthening Panchayati Raj Institutions and systems. These will become the main democratic means to deliver services, thus preserving or enhancing the quality of life of the people. The integrated approach to development includes:

Education	Village-based preschools 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-resistant housing, sanitation and water supply systems, and community infrastructure including schools, grain banks, roads, drainage, and alternative energy production
Health	Preventive and curative health services combining modern and traditional knowledge and practices

ABBREVIATION

AGM:	Annual General Meeting
BGS:	Bafla Ghana Sanghatan
BPL:	Below poverty line
FRA:	Forest Rights Act
IDEI:	International Development Enterprises-India
IMR:	Infant Mortality Rate
IRMA:	Institute of Rural Management Anand
ITDA:	Integrated Tribal Development Agency
KVK:	Krishi Vigyan Kendra
LWM:	Land and Water Management
LIC:	Life Insurance Corporation of India
MANTRA:	Movement and Action Network for the Transformation of Rural Areas
MGNREGS:	Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme
MLA LAD:	Members of Legislative Assembly Local Area Development
NABARD:	National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development
NFI:	National Foundation for India
OTELP:	Odisha Tribal Empowerment and Livelihood Programme
PRI:	Panchayati Raj Institutions (Local Self-Government institution)
RFS:	Rural Financial Services
RGVY:	Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana
RKVY:	Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana
RTI:	Right to Information
PDS:	Public Distribution System
SHG:	Self Help Group
TISS:	Tata Institute of Social Science
TSRDS:	Tata Steel Rural Development Society
VEC:	Village Executive Committee
WADI:	small orchard programme
WORLP:	Western Odisha Rural Livelihood Programme
XIMB:	Xavier Institute of Management Bhubaneswar
YSMD:	The Young Students Movement for Development

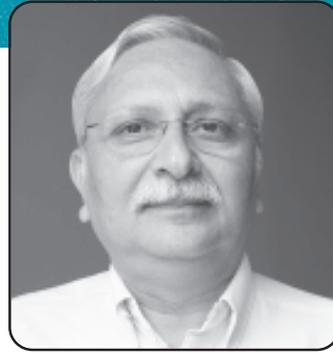


Many school children smiling

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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRPERSON



The year gone by has been remarkable in some particular ways. Gram Vikas has been accorded the honour of being in the list of world's Top 100 NGOs. Unsolicited, this must be based on somewhat rigorous assessments. Congratulations!

In addition, in preparation for the 12th Plan, the founder CEO of Gram Vikas, Shri Joe Madiath was asked to chair the sub-committee set-up to devise the strategy for drinking water and sanitation in rural areas. The MANTRA model of 100% coverage through participation of all households in the corpus has been accepted for nation-wide roll-out from next year. Irrespective of the quality and seriousness of government's implementation, policy adoption is a great achievement.

As you peruse this Annual Report, the reader may notice a somewhat slower expansion of the coverage of new families under the MANTRA approach; this has been deliberate. As I mentioned last year, and as it was discussed in the recent concluded AGM at Mohuda, Gram Vikas has been able to access crores of rupees of government funding for water and sanitation programmes because it has been able to leverage its own, independently raised funds from national and international sources. These funds are becoming scarce now; for accessing Rs 100 from government schemes, Gram Vikas has to contribute 20% of its own funds. This is because the design of all government schemes in the country is such that they do not fully cover staff and administrative expenses if an NGO does high quality and honest job on the ground.

Moreover, a lot of effort during this year has focused on improving the quality and rectifying any weaknesses (including electrification of all water towers) so that usage of all facilities approaches 100% in all areas. As per the suggestions of the Board last year, Gram Vikas team has also been trying to concentrate on its operations in 2-3 clusters of districts, primarily where tribal populations abound.

In so doing, it is also becoming obvious to Gram Vikas that its model, relevant as it is in many tribal villages of small populations, may require better communication, marketing and adaptation in other states of the country. It is towards this end that some part of Gram Vikas strategy may need to be focused upon in the coming years, now that a supportive policy is likely to be in place. The demand for Gram Vikas' support outside the country also requires focused response, if it intends to spread this message globally.

I want to thank various donors and supporters of Gram Vikas for continuing to repose their faith in its work and people. Congratulations to Joe Madiath, Executive Director, and his team for keeping the momentum going despite all odds; it is not easy to continue high quality efforts with sensitivity over a long period of time.

I am thankful to my fellow General Body and Governing Board members (specially the Treasurer Mr Shankar) who have given so much of their time and attention voluntarily to ensuring accountable governance in Gram Vikas.

May I invite readers of this Annual report to share their responses and comments with Gram Vikas such that it may continue to learn to improve itself? Thank you.

Rajesh Tandon
Chairperson

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Gram Vikas has completed 33 years of existence in Odisha. I am happy to present the 33rd annual report of the organisation.

As far as the flagship programme of Gram Vikas, MANTRA, is concerned, it was a year of consolidation rather than expansion. The Board of Gram Vikas as well as the senior management realised that we were present in far too many districts with inadequate spread to have a larger impact in the areas of intervention. Strategically, we contracted to concentrate in areas and districts with greater tribal population.

The 11th 5 year plan period ended on 31st March 2012. The 12th 5 year plan document is ready for the National Development Council to give its approval. Gram Vikas made quite some contribution to the plan document in the chapter on Water and Sanitation. The Gram Vikas model of 100% inclusive sanitation and 24 hour piped water supply through 3 taps to every house is accepted as the model for adoption.

It is a pity that the bathing room which is an integral part of the Gram Vikas model has not become part of the accepted mode for adoption throughout India. We in Gram Vikas, after seeing and experiencing the usefulness of the component of bathing room for every family, especially for women, are convinced that more advocacy and lobbying has to be undertaken for its acceptance and replication.

The Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC) in its new incarnation, Nirmal Bharat Abhiyan (NBA), has an outlay of far more budgetary provision for sanitation by linking sanitation under the MGNREGS. However, I dread to think of the turf war that will take place in every block and village to get the subsidy from two ministries and departments. No matter, how good the coordination at the central or at departmental levels at state capitals, the coordination at Block level and Gram Panchayat level by the functionaries of two different departments pose a lot of challenges. The year ahead will be one of coping with these issues to source funds on time to meet the needs of the people.

I would like to thank the Governing Board for all their guidance, support and time given. Their keen interest in all activities of Gram Vikas and critical inputs are significant in the development of the organisation. I am deeply grateful to all my colleagues without whom Gram Vikas would not have been able to accomplish what it has done in difficult circumstances.

I would like to thank the Department of Rural Development, Department of Panchayati Raj and and the Scheduled caste and Scheduled Tribe Department of Odisha as well as international and national donors whose financial and moral support have made it possible for Gram Vikas to work in areas and ways that we believe we should work in. Contributions of several national and international volunteers have added value to our ongoing efforts.

With a deep sense of gratitude I thank all who have been associated with us and have joined us in the journey.

Joe Madiath
Executive Director

GOVERNING BOARD OF GRAM VIKAS

The Governing Board of Gram Vikas counts 8 members, coming from a variety of fields of expertise. They constantly guide and motivate us to reach out to many more families. The Board plays a significant role in periodic review and policy guidance. Membership of the Governing Board is purely honorary in nature, and Board members receive no remuneration or sitting fees beyond reimbursement of travel expenditure.

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.

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. 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 the 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.

GRAM VIKAS HISTORY

Community Knowledge Leads Community Development

The Young Students Movement for Development (YSMD), a Madras University based students' organisation came to Odisha in response to the cyclone and tidal wave that ravaged coastal Odisha on 30th October 1971. In 1973, after relief work, YSMD took up Lift Irrigation activities in the affected area. In 1979, YSMD began an institutional transition from supporting disaster relief efforts in cyclone hit rural Odisha to full-time developmental assistance for indigenous tribal communities in Odisha's coastal Ganjam District. With a leadership team of YSMD alumni, the organisation began by assessing tribal livelihood issues at Mohuda, a village on the fringes of the Kerandimal hills.

Confronting the YSMD team was the sheer scale of rural indebtedness among tribal communities. Despite repeated calls for tenancy protection and subsequent nationally enacted land alienation acts, at the time of YSMD's initial interventions more than 95% of all tribal assets in Ganjam had been illegally or usuriously appropriated by liquor merchants, money lenders and landlords. The cycle of agrarian poverty, while rooted in infrastructural underdevelopment, was compounded by generational insolvency and a lack of access to regulated credit networks. Dependency and destitution worked to erode the social fabric of tribal communities, making many of them hostile to outsiders and distrustful of even the most well-intentioned programmes for social development.

YSMD was successful in gaining the trust of many of the tribal communities in Ganjam by recognising the importance of social networks as a determining factor for local and state-wide tribal impoverishment. A community's capacity to negotiate, as empowered partners, with government officials and non-tribal communities, was dependent upon the development of economic capacity in a wide-range of areas, including marketing, agricultural livelihoods, wage-labour, and access to natural resources and fair credit systems. While interventions in livelihood diversification, as well as health and environmental regeneration, were immediately necessary, YSMD understood that enacting real change meant helping tribal communities to strengthen themselves.

YSMD's transition from a relief organisation to Gram Vikas, which literally means *village development*, began with the implementation of the bio-gas programme. By using animal manure to generate methane gas for cooking and lighting, Gram Vikas was able to experiment with technologies that eventually gave way to new interventions in water and sanitation. These initial programmes served to clarify Gram Vikas' commitment to sustainable poverty solutions that are directed at environmental and health related concerns shared by entire communities. Gram Vikas began to address the challenges of poor water retention, contaminated water sources, environmental degradation and water-borne illness to enable each villager to act as a concerned stakeholder. Identifying these challenges, and the best practices for solving them, acts as an entry-point for Gram Vikas to fulfill its role as a facilitator in community-led development.

As Gram Vikas has grown into a fully fledged development organization, covering over 366,000 people in 1129 villages, we have sustained our vision of a just and equitable society. *Decentralisation* is the core component of this vision, allowing beneficiary communities to access technological know-how, as well as developing the capacity to organize themselves according to our principles of self-governance. Under our current umbrella programme, the 'Movement and Action Network for the Transformation of Rural Areas (MANTRA)', Gram Vikas is at a new stage of growth. While our focus remains on decreasing the prevalence of water-borne illness and sustainably raising the water retention capacities of rural watersheds, MANTRA gives us the flexibility to assist interventions in livelihood, prenatal and maternal health, credit networks and rights-based advocacy. These efforts allow us the resources to approach development holistically and to use our experience in the development sector to further link tribal communities with other non-governmental organisations, international aid projects and government development agencies. By extending these networks outwards, tribal communities are better able to access other development programmes, as well as leverage funding towards new areas of need. These new networks are the basis for the evolving potential for social integration that Gram Vikas envisioned for tribal communities some 34 years ago.

Movement and Action Network for the Transformation of Rural Areas (MANTRA) is a comprehensive habitat development and governance programme that uses the common concerns of clean water and community sanitation as a tool to unite and empower communities, to launch development initiatives and to improve quality of life through better health. MANTRA is based on the core 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 marginalised, benefit from MANTRA interventions equally.

Social Equity: All villagers, regardless of gender, caste or economic status, must be proportionally represented in the Village Executive Committee and there must be no hindrance for the participation of marginalised groups in the Village General Body. All villagers must have the opportunity to participate in MANTRA's 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 that all infrastructure is properly maintained. A corpus fund is generated at an average rate of Rs. 1000/- per family – the poorer families contributing less and the better off more. This fund is invested in a bank at the best interest rates. While the principal amount will remain intact, the interest can be used to subsidise new families that may come up in the village for meeting part of the cost of external materials.

Cost Sharing: Through monetary contributions and active participation in construction, communities contribute towards the cost of the development and maintenance of MANTRA facilities. However, certain social costs can, and must, be met by society.

MANTRA helps to unify villages by inspiring leadership, creating an environment that fosters community initiatives and by facilitating development projects that are community driven and directed. MANTRA programmes target health, education, livelihood, food security, self-governing people's institutions and livelihood-enabling infrastructure.

Coverage of MANTRA:

As of March 2012, Gram Vikas has completed water and sanitation coverage in 988 villages, encompassing 57,793 households and a total population of 314,764. Standards for project completion include: 24 hour potable, piped water supply and 1 separated toilet and bathing room facility for each family.

MANTRA: Water and Sanitation Programme Coverage

	Villages	Households	Population
2010 – 2011	943	55,422	299,815
2011 – 2012	988	57,793	314,764

New MANTRA Coverage for 2011 – 2012: 45 villages and 2371 households



Total Coverage:

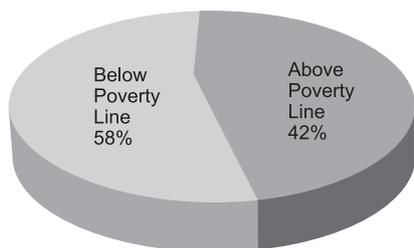
	Villages	Households	Population
2010 – 2011	1089	66,564	354,131
2011 – 2012	1129	68,521	366,999

Gram Vikas - MANTRA projects include partnerships with OTELP and other non-governmental organisations that operate in Odisha, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh and Jharkhand. They also include those project areas where we have extended our intervention from water and sanitation to work on livelihood development, education, health and land management. During the year we have also phased down our operations from Bargarh, Mayurbhanj, Deogarh, Sambalpur and Koraput districts of Odisha with a plan to reach into the tribal areas in Gajapati, Kalahandi, Kandhamal and Rayagada districts more intensely.

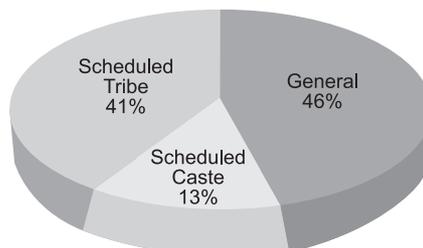
Gram Vikas has set an ambitious target: By 2015 we plan to cover 100,000 households comprising roughly of 500,000 individuals.

Coverage of MANTRA

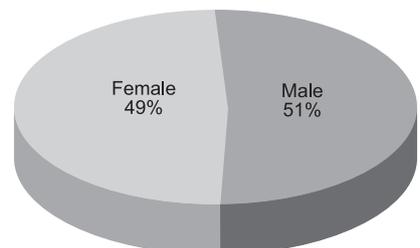
Economic Status of Households



Caste Status of Households



Gender Distribution



SELF-GOVERNING PEOPLE'S INSTITUTIONS

The goal of every successful development intervention is sustainability, by allowing communities to lead the process. Development professionals working with underserved rural communities must ask themselves: "How will this intervention live past my involvement?" Gram Vikas believes that people's participation is the most important tool for realising the goal of sustainability. Empowering local people to establish democratic institutions within their village helps to strengthen the community and to address the root causes which underpin development. Gram Vikas uses common concerns about sanitation, clean water and the natural environment to build self-governing people's institutions that help to manage resources, promote livelihoods and increase community access to basic health services.

Village Executive Committee (VEC)

For the MANTRA programme, the process of creating a self-governing institution begins with the formation of a Village General Body where every adult member of the village is represented. This body becomes the platform for community decision making. Once consensus is reached and the community agrees to be responsible for implementing the MANTRA programme, the members of the general body elect a Village Executive Committee, or VEC. Guidelines for VEC participation call for equal representation across gender and proportional representation across economic demographics and caste groups. The VEC then forms a registered Village Society, a legally recognised body that enables the village to undertake financial transactions, leverage development resources and enter into agreements. In 2011, Gram Vikas registered 36 new Village Societies which are actively receiving funding support from the State government.

Gender Equity and Women's Empowerment

Although women are traditionally under-represented in village decision making, Gram Vikas believes that promoting women's involvement in community institutions is essential for changing attitudes about health, education and household expenditure. Women's involvement also broadens the interest of community stake-holders by strengthening and enriching democratic dialogue of self-governing people's institutions. In villages where Gram



Community meeting in Kalahandi District

Vikas has worked, women have led the way in building local support for MANTRA, and have successfully used the Gram Vikas governance model to oversee the implementation of developmental interventions in education, immunisation, maternal and prenatal health and the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS). Gram Vikas has supported these and other efforts by helping women to establish Self-Help Groups (SHGs), which allow women to increase their savings and become micro-entrepreneurs by accessing credit networks through local branches of banks.

Building Institutional Capacities

Gram Vikas staff provide leadership training in participatory governance, communication, accounting, secretarial skills, public speaking and gender sensitisation. These types of trainings help Village General Bodies, Village Executive Committees and Self-Help Groups to lead the communities towards realising the equitable vision of *Panchayati Raj*. Well-built institutional capacities are the foundation for our MANTRA programme. In the long-term, these skills strengthen a community's ability to understand and obtain the framework of developmental entitlements promised to them by the government. Following intervention from Gram Vikas, villages have led efforts in collaboration with local government to secure and monitor the implementation of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers Act (Indian Forest Rights Act), the Right to Education (RTE), the Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC) and many others.

Power of the people

Salaptaila village in Kokoloba Grama Panchayat of Jaganath Prasad Block is home for 28 tribal families. Farming is their principal occupation which they did mostly on government land. Education standard is low which made the people unaware of their entitlements. They thought that they were at the mercy of government officials and therefore quietly accepted whatever was meted out to them. Until 2009 there was no electricity in Salaptaila village. At the end of 2009 it was selected for electrification under Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana. The people of the village collected Rs. 10,000 that had to be deposited for the connection and handed the money to the contractor. After bringing the poles to the village the contractor disappeared from the scene. They desperately tried to contact the contractor and other government officials, but each time they returned disappointed. In early 2011, Gram Vikas organized training on leadership for the village leaders in which Santosh Mallick from Salaptaila had participated. In the training the participants were informed on use of RTI for public work. Armed with the information Santosh returned to his village and discussed the use of RTI with the village president, Pandav Mallick and other committee members. They decided to use this right to get information of the status of electrification of their village. In March 2011 an RTI application was sent to the District Collector's office requesting information on status of RGGVY in their village. Initially the government officials gave a quiescent response which prompted the community to file a new application to the District Collector. It had an impact as they got a positive reply saying that the work would begin soon. After waiting for a few months and seeing no work being initiated, the villagers decided that they had enough. After a meeting in the village the men and women came together and staged a road block (raasta roko). This ensured the arrival of the BDO (Block Development Officer) to the village and he promised that the electric work would be started by the next day. The work did start day after and by June 2011, Salaptaila was electrified. The success gave a tremendous boost to the confidence of the people and now they have decided to be more proactive to receive patta (land records) for their agriculture lands.

While the men took proactive steps, the women were not mute onlookers. Jayanti Behera of Maa thakurani SHG in Salaptaila narrates an incidence where the women came together to warn the teacher to come regularly to the school. The teacher used to forge attendance sheets and send it to the higher authority while the school remained closed for most days and children were found playing in the village. On several occasions, and to no avail, the women under the leadership of Jayanti pleaded with the teacher to carry out his duties responsibly. One day when the teacher came to the school, the women rounded him up, locked him in a room and asked him to sign a declaration saying he would come to the school regularly. After this incident the teacher did not return, but the school got a new teacher who comes regularly and the children attend the school. The group members approached the BDO to take up the mid day meal for the school which was sanctioned. Jayanti says "Gram Vikas showed us a way, we have walked on it."

Mobilising Resources

The MANTRA approach emphasizes cost-sharing as a way to mobilise active stakeholder involvement. Households work collaboratively to leverage funding for the project while also applying for additional support from government schemes. An important part of strengthening a village's self-governing capacity is developing strategies to enable poorer households to contribute to the corpus fund. One way these families choose to contribute is by providing their labour. Wealthier members of the community may also choose to subsidise the contributions of poorer households. Once the corpus fund is collected, the Village Executive Committee will invest the money in a local bank. Interest from the fund will be used to subsidize the construction of future toilets and bathrooms as the community expands, ensuring ongoing 100% sanitation coverage at all times in the future also.

2011 – 2012 Highlights

1. 77 villages received Rs.45.10 lakhs under Total Sanitation campaign
2. 36 new Village Societies registered
3. 10 leadership trainings organized for a total number of 418 participants
4. Community corpus fund of Rs. 3.80 crores mobilised in villages
5. Government released Rs. 3.97 crores towards Water supply projects and Rs. 20.2 lakh was accessed for sanitation under MLA Local Area development fund.
6. Land record (patta) received by 1900 tribal families for 2700 acres of land under FRA.

Reconciling the Process of Democracy with the Demands of Development, Lanjigarh, Kalahandi

Lanjigarh block of Kalahandi is a Scheduled Area with dense forest growth and sloping dryland-cultivation fields that run along steep hills. The block is home for Scheduled Tribes, Scheduled Caste, Other Backward Caste and Protected Tribal Groups who share forest and water resources for their livelihood needs. Despite ample rain fall, and significant land acreage under cultivation, nearly 80% of all families in the block face food insecurity; having only 6 – 7 months of predictable household income. Many areas of the Lanjigarh block were not surveyed by the State government until the 1960s. This is symptomatic of the general developmental neglect this region has faced in post-independence India, and continues to represent a challenging infrastructural factor in present-day development interventions.

Gram Vikas began working in Lanjigarh in 2007 in partnership with the government funded Odisha Tribal Empowerment and Livelihood Programme (OTELP). Following from the targeted developmental relief programme for Kalahandi-Bolangir-Koraput (KBK) region, OTELP is a unique framework that matches participatory development methods with holistic and environmentally sustainable livelihood interventions. In line with MANTRA's network approach, Gram Vikas offers watershed technology to OTELP projects and helps to implement several phases of their watershed development programme in 2 districts of Odisha – Gajapati and Kalahandi.

In Lanjigarh, Gram Vikas project facilitators began the OTELP project by organising community meetings to discuss MANTRA's 100% inclusion and cost-sharing model. In a watershed moment shared by 5 villages, the facilitators were able to bring group consensus in 4 of them, while 1 village refused to cooperate with the principles of cost-sharing. This village, led by a strong village elder, argued that people living in urban areas are not required to pay for initial water and sanitation infrastructure as the facilities are considered preexisting. Paying the monthly water bill is the only necessary contribution a household gives to access the shared water resource. "Why," the villager asked, "should tribal people pay for something that is the responsibility of government?" As Gram Vikas is sympathetic to this line of reasoning, it was initially difficult for the project facilitators to offer a reasonable justification for their position. Nevertheless, these staff recognised that even when inequality persists, communities can still work together to solve many of the most pressing developmental concerns.

To begin construction on the intake well, Gram Vikas had to have agreements from all 5 villages that they would contribute equal amounts of labour and funding, since all of the villages would ultimately benefit from

drinking water from this single water source. With one village holding out, the work could not begin. Project staff continued to hold meetings with the dissenting village and over the course of 2 months were able to convince each household that MANTRA's benefits outweighed the costs. The staff demonstrated that the initial cost was minimal and that the long-term effects of recurrent water-borne illness were far more burdensome, particularly to young children. The community also noted that with the economic development programmes proposed under OTELP, the village would put itself in a better position to negotiate with local government offices for fair treatment and appropriate implementation of schemes like MGNREGS and the Indian Forest Rights Act. While the village shaped its identity as a community working towards justice, they were able to recognise that through self-governance they could independently realize their own developmental goals. Following their agreement, the water and sanitation project was successfully implemented in all 5 villages, bringing clean water and sanitation facilities to each individual household.



Community member digging pipeline at Lanjigarh

According to health indicators provided by UNICEF and the Government of India's Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Odisha has made substantial strides in recent years to improve key health indicators. However, substantial challenges remain. UNICEF estimates that 40% of all children under 3 years in Odisha are underweight, and 60% of all adolescent girls are anaemic. Infant and maternal mortality continue to be the second highest in the country. Although there have been efforts to increase the reach of village-level health infrastructure in the Scheduled Areas, through programmes like the National Rural Health Mission, the Government of Odisha estimates a shortfall of nearly 4,000 community health workers in 2012.

Following the World Health Organisation's assertion that "the combination of safe drinking water and hygienic sanitation facilities is a precondition for health¹," Gram Vikas has partnered with government and non-governmental organisations to ensure that the MANTRA programme addresses the primary health issues of beneficiary communities. As 80% of diseases in rural Odisha are water-borne, Gram Vikas is uniquely positioned to impact health and hygiene indicators for many of the state's most vulnerable groups.

Hygiene and Sanitation Education

While providing physical access to water and sanitation facilities is the key component of the MANTRA programme, the usefulness of these facilities depends on education modules that help communities to identify the social practices contributing to poor health and hygiene. The practice of open defecation, for instance, persists in many of Odisha's rural areas due to lack of awareness about its detrimental impact on community health. Gram Vikas works to promote the education for hygiene and sanitation that address these challenges. Through village-wide consensus, people's institutions enforce new health standards and develop systems to monitor the appropriate use and cleanliness of toilets and bathing rooms. Gram Vikas has also partnerships with government schools to teach children the importance of good hygiene practices. Under the MANTRA programme, villages that partner with Gram Vikas are 100% free of open defecation.



Household Toilet and Bathing room blocks

Water systems and sustainability

As part of Gram Vikas' continued commitment to sustainability and innovation, Gram Vikas only taps renewable sources of water. Gram Vikas' induced gravity-flow water system transports water from a higher elevation to village beneficiaries, requiring zero energy for the entire sourcing process. Independence from external energy sources allows Gram Vikas to reach more remote communities and gives villagers the know-how to repair and monitor their own water systems.

Water source sustainability is ensured by recharging the catchment area through water harvesting technologies and the strategic placement of intake wells. Our methods have raised soil retention capacities and raising of water tables in some of Odisha's most drought prone areas. We also encourage water recycling in order to help villages identify use-practices which contribute to water loss. In one example, waste recycling is achieved by encouraging families to plant soft-rooted plants, like banana, drumstick or papaya, around the soak pits of their household toilets. As the root systems take in the waste water and nutrients, the plants provide food and income for the family, thereby closing a cycle that began with unprotected water sources and ill health.

Gram Vikas protected water systems are monitored by local community members who are provided with easy-to-use test kits. Villagers are trained to identify changes in microbiological composition. These test kits are provided by private partnerships with international water organisations. This year, Gram Vikas has joined with the Canadian organisation 'One Drop' to install water purification systems in 48 villages.

Life Insurance

Gram Vikas enters its third year of partnership with the Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC). With support from LIC, Gram Vikas continues to help rural families in planning for unforeseen circumstances, such as the death or illness of a family member. In economically vulnerable households, the death of any family member can have a devastating impact on the surviving family members. LIC provides life insurance to rural populations at a low premium and offers substantial payouts to families that are required to claim their benefits. In the last year, 1212 policies were taken by rural families making a total of 4633 policy holders.

Two villages in Mohana block had 100 percent coverage of families under micro insurance and received Rs. 25,000 as incentive under Madhur Bima Gram. 27 death claims have been settled during the year.

In areas that were not covered by the local branch of LIC, Gram Vikas facilitated insurance under Janashree Bima Yojana in which another 1241 beneficiaries have been covered.

Sight Interventions

Astigmatism, presbyopia and other minor eye problems can prevent rural people from participating in livelihood activities that are essential to the income and well-being of their families. Activities like everyday farm work, milling, weeding, stitching sal leaf plates, cooking and reading are made far more difficult for individuals suffering from eye problems.

In partnership with, Vision Spring, Gram Vikas offers high-quality, low-cost eye glasses through an innovative social-entrepreneurship model. Local people are trained to organise eye testing and optical health camps that can assist in diagnosing vision problems. Individuals who are suffering from more serious eye issues, like cataracts or glaucoma, are referred to block or district level health professionals.

These social entrepreneurs are paid a proportion of the income generated from the glasses sales, and help to train members of other communities in appropriate techniques for optical diagnosis. As very few members of rural communities can afford to pay for eye glasses, Vision Spring's good quality, yet low cost eye glasses provide rural people a basic service that is often overlooked by epidemiological or illness based health interventions. This year, these sight entrepreneurs have provided spectacles to 1491 people who were screened and tested in the eye camps organised by Gram Vikas.

Other Health Interventions

Gram Vikas' health staffs continue to focus on Mother and Child health care – providing support to antenatal mothers, monitoring immunisation, screening TB patients, distribution of mosquito net under the malaria control

programme, health and hygiene education, and training for Gaon Kalyan Samiti members etc. Over the last year health staff have experimented with a plant called 'Artemisia annua anamed', thought to prevent malaria. 63 patients were provided with dosage of Artemisia for malaria and the feedback has been quite encouraging. The staff have also prepared ointments from Artemisia which have proved very effective for healing wounds, especially burns, scabies and piles.

In a government study to identify the cause of the minor dysentery outbreak in 2011, many health professionals pointed to the washing of soiled clothes in stagnant water sources that were used by both villagers and livestock. By identifying these practices as a cause of potentially life-threatening illnesses, communities were made acutely aware of how changes in their everyday behaviour could address the root causes of poor health.

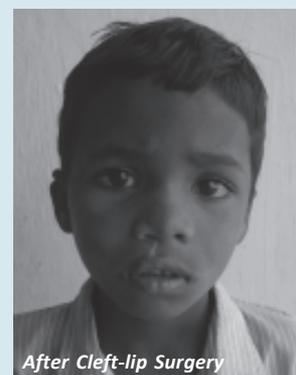
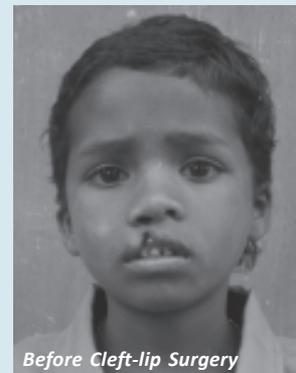
Cleft-lip Surgery Camp, Thuamul Rampur, Kalahandi

In the rush to meet funding deadlines for project growth, it is challenging for non-governmental organisations to retain the human touch which must be, of course, the basis for any altruistic sentiment. The construction of physical infrastructure — the most visible and highly touted sign of a development intervention — has become a far too privileged metric in our own calculations of what counts as growth. As Gram Vikas continues to emphasise in its own work, growth should be measured by how a society recognises the values of equity and dignity, not necessarily by how many buildings or bathrooms spring up across a rural landscape.

In the villages in Thuamul Rampur project area, Gram Vikas staff found that there were a number of persons living with cleft-lips and palates, a congenital deformity that unfortunately results in ostracism and ridicule for those who are born with it. While the World Health Organisation estimates that 1 in 700 children are born with the deformity, in villages of five Gram Panchayats in Thuamul rampur, our staff identified 12 persons with cleft palates. Normally, persons living below poverty line would never think of paying for a corrective surgery that is largely cosmetic. Tribal families living in Thuamul Rampur have hardly enough money for treating life threatening illnesses, and even then most hospital visits require families to borrow money to get any medical attention.

As Gram Vikas staff recognised the social burden of living with a cleft palate, particularly for children and women who are preparing to marry, they alerted the head office and provided support to Tata Steel Rural Development Society (TSRDS) to run a screening camp in Thuamul rampur. 12 patients were identified of which 8 patients underwent successful surgeries at the hospital run by TSRDS at Belpahar, Sundergarh district. The remaining 4 operations are scheduled at a later date. Villagers with clefts in their lip, nose and gums received state-of-the-art reconstructive surgery to set right the deformity.

Gram Vikas has a long history of running ad-hoc health programmes to meet community health needs and to assist those suffering from everyday ailments to achieve standards of dignity that the rest of society often takes for granted. Over the past 34 years we have run screening camps and treatment programmes, with the generous support of philanthropic organisations like TSRDS, to identify and treat diabetes, heart disease, broken bones, cerebral malaria and many other health related problems. One of the most exciting parts of implementing water and sanitation based programmes in remote tribal areas is being able to meet the unforeseen challenges that intimate connections with our beneficiary communities inevitably bring. The most powerful gift of all, of course, is the smiling face of 11 year old Parakhita Gouda of Thuamul Rampur who, after surgery, returns to his primary school with new confidence and self-respect.



EDUCATION

Education is a tool for development. The education programme of Gram Vikas aims at access to education for all children in the tribal regions. This began by establishing village education centres in the tribal villages where children in the age group of 6-14 are enrolled. These centres enable access to quality education in areas where most government schools remain defunct. Over the years, while focus on quality education has continued, we have also played a role in strengthening the mainstream government supported education system. This led to a shift in focus where communities were enabled to make the teachers in government schools accountable and to see that their children received quality education in government run schools. With the shift in focus we also downsized our own village schools and limited them to only such areas where government schools did not exist or where children found it difficult to go to the nearest school due to difficult geographical terrain.

Table of Village schools supported by Gram Vikas

District	No. of Village education centres	Students enrolled		
		Boys	Girls	Total
Ganjam	5	67	48	115
Gajapati	6	148	105	253

Curriculum development

Retention of children in schools is linked to encouraging learning and having a child centred approach to learning. There is a significant thrust on innovations in teaching-learning methods. "Joyful learning" has become a credo of all the staff associated with the education programme. This has involved a lot of efforts in lesson planning, innovating examination systems, and education materials. There is also an attempt to create a child friendly non threatening environment, with appropriate playing materials which are low cost and made from local resources.



Teacher training

Since most of the facilitators in the village schools are locally recruited people, training on imparting teaching methods and understanding child centred approach become essential. Regular trainings are held for the facilitators where they share their experiences and gain knowledge on new concepts.

Community contribution

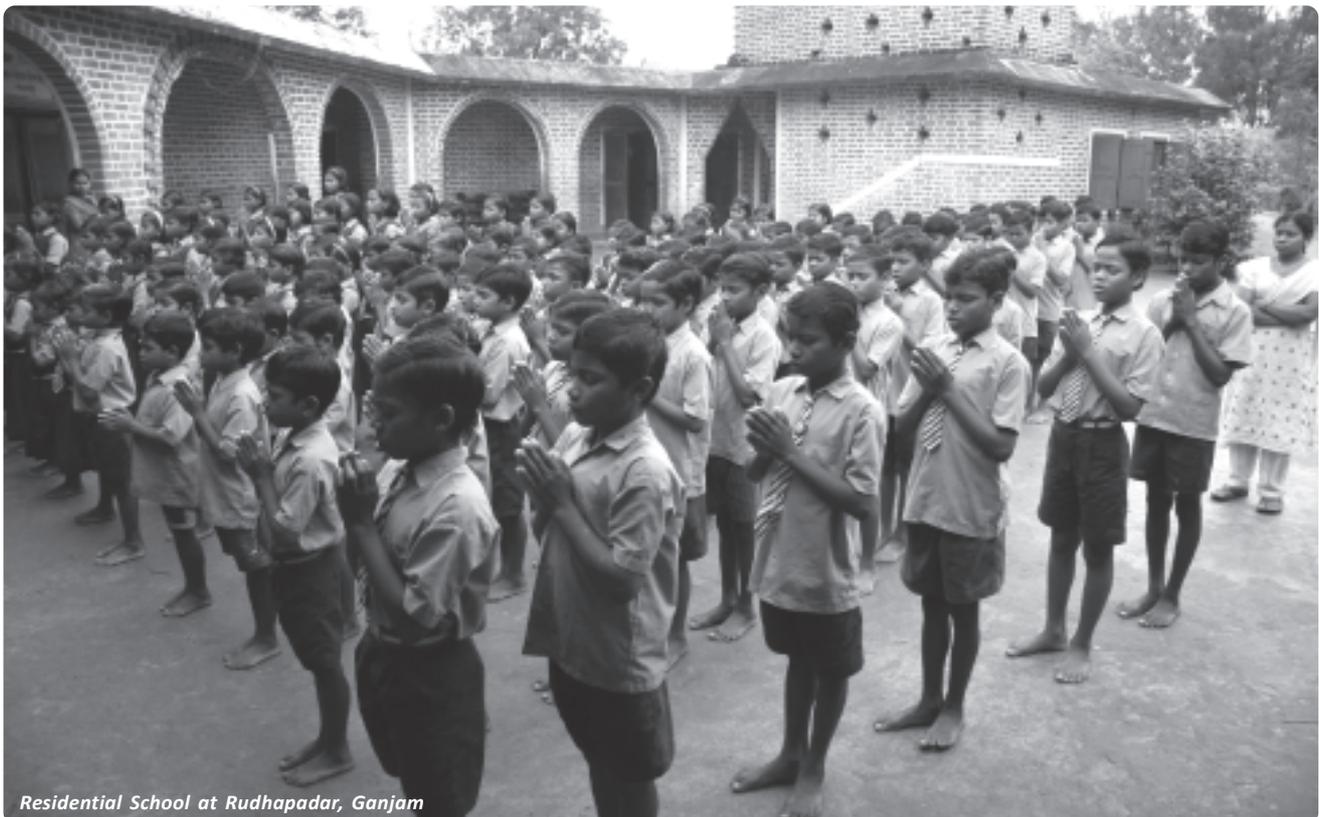
Education is seen as a process where the family members and community as a whole aspire for their future generation to be educated and internalise a value for education. This is done through regular interaction with parents on a monthly basis and imparting training to Village Education Committees from time to time. This process actively involves the family and community members. In all the village education centres, the stipend for the facilitator is paid through a community contribution.

Bridge course

In addition to the village schools, three month bridge courses are conducted for children who have dropped out of formal schooling. This year 221 students (62% boys and 38% girls) were coached through the bridge courses. The objective is to bring them back to formal schooling. Intensive coaching takes place during the bridge course where children are given special attention based on their level of understanding. Teachers also emphasise on joyful learning methods and use this to generate interest in learning amongst the children. All the bridge courses in the project locations were supported through parents' contribution. Following the bridge courses, the children who pass out are enrolled in Gram Vikas residential schools or government schools.

Residential Schools

There are four residential schools, of which Konkia School goes up to Class X. The schools cater to the higher education of tribal children in the southern and south western districts of Odisha and are operated under the Gram Vikas Rural development Trust, Gram Vikas Health and Education Trust, Gram Vikas trust and Kerandimal education Trust.



Residential School at Rudhapadar, Ganjam

Education brings power

Did Sibram Karjee, a 25 year old tribal boy think that his maiden opportunity in public position would be at the Zilla Parishad level? His village Khalasahi in Ankuli Gram Panchayat of Patrapur block in Ganjam district hardly has a functional primary school. Gram Vikas' early intervention in the village was through a day school where Sibram and other tribal children received formal education. Thereafter he was admitted to the residential school at Konkia where he studied till Class VII. His parents had six children and although they wanted all of them to receive formal education, Sibram could not continue his studies after Class VII. He came back to the village to help his family in their domestic chores and agriculture. Gram Vikas staff motivated him to learn masonry by joining the masonry training programme which is a 75 day course. He joined the training and after completion took up work available in the village and in the nearby villages where Gram Vikas was implementing its water and sanitation programme. He started earning Rs. 200 per day through masonry work. Sibram showed promising signs of leadership from the very beginning, always putting himself forward for any community work in the village, he was keen to learn new things and would attend different training sessions conducted by Gram Vikas.

He also took up the issues of people in his village and represented them at the Gram Panchayat level. In the last Panchayat elections in February 2012, the seat from the zone was reserved for Schedule Tribe candidate. Sibram was selected by the ruling Biju Janata Dal to stand for the Zilla Parishad election and he won the contest by a margin of 5000 votes. The people of his area believe that he will work for the development of the area. Sibram has all the enthusiasm to live up to the expectation of the people who put him to power. Apprehensively he adds "I need more training on government schemes and Acts to discharge my duty in a better way ". A new journey begins.

Some facts:

In Koinpur project of Gajapati district, of the 283 students who passed Class 10 in the last 15 years, 195 are pursuing higher education and 52 are in government jobs.

In Tumba project in Patrapur block of Ganjam district, there were only 6 students from 3 villages had passed their Class X examination before Gram Vikas' intervention. At the end of March 2012, 111 students have passed the examination from the 21 villages.



Children growing vegetables at school

LIVELIHOODS AND FOOD SECURITY



Promoting activities that sustain and improve livelihoods was part of the programme since inception of Gram Vikas. Measures to improve food security for the poor tribal households through agriculture and horticulture interventions proved successful. New initiatives were taken up to suit specific contexts which included non-farm activities like masonry , plumbing, para veterinary among many others. Presently holistic interventions in land and water management in specific watersheds are playing the role of torch bearer in this focus area.

After the successful completion of WORLP (Western Odisha Rural Livelihood Programme) project in 2011 in Bongamunda block of Bolangir district, the focus shifted to measure the impact of OTELP phase-1 in Thuamul Rampur block which is currently in the consolidation phase. An informal evaluation shows the results to be very similar to those found at the end of WORLP project. Positive outcomes, including regeneration of perennial streams, a rise in ground water level, accumulation of assets at household level, and raised awareness of natural resource management, are proof of the hard work done in the 7 years since the project began. There is a chance that the OTELP phase-1 to be extended for a further period of three years.

The three ongoing watershed activities in Thuamul Rampur and Lanjigarh blocks of Kalahandi and one in Mohana block of Ganjapati are at the peak of the implementation stage in the 4th year of the project.

Fact file of OTELP Projects

	Thuamul Rampur Phase I	Thuamul Rampur Phase II	Lanjigarh	Mohana
District	Kalahandi	Kalahandi	Kalahandi	Gajapati
Block	Thuamul Rampur	Thuamul Rampur	Lanjigarh	Mohana
GPs (Nos.)	4	5	4	6
Villages (Nos.)	37	28	31	22
Households (Nos.)	1480	1227	918	1256
Population (Nos.)	7259	5093	4405	6772
Total area (ha.)	5550	5469	4711	6475
Treatable area (ha.)	5324	5230	4572	5042
Institutional profiles				
Village development Committees (nos.)	12	11	12	10
Village Sub committees (Nos.)	37	21	30	18
SHGs (Nos.)	126	109	68	82
Van surakhya Samitis (Nos.)	14	0	3	11

Agriculture

One of the major improvements of land based interventions has been in the agriculture sector. The tribal farmers who hitherto did not cultivate vegetables on a large scale, have now taken up large scale off season vegetable cultivation. This year in the project locations of Bafla and Thuamul Rampur, 285 acres were brought under vegetable cultivation by 412 tribal farmers. This was possible because of piped irrigation provided by gravity fed systems as well as land development and water harvesting structures. Cultivation of new crops like groundnut and maize has been scaled up during the year. Drip irrigation was introduced in collaboration with IDEI for 650 farmers.



The role of women's self help groups

OTELP being the watershed PLUS project, the focus of development is not restricted to 'Land and Water Management (LWM)' alone. The Rural Financial Services (RFS) component of the programme has provided enough leverage for women to take up small scale enterprise development and other key activities. By facilitating seed funds (a one time grant) and loans to start businesses (through revolving fund) for the SHGs, the programme ensured active participation of women in community level decisions. The profits derived from the respective activities have boosted confidence among women and also the village level economies. Some of the groups have taken up income earning enterprises like petty businesses, poultry, goat rearing, aquaculture, raising nurseries, managing mother chick units, operating mid-day meal and PDS schemes. In areas that are outside the OTELP location, SHG members are linked to nationalised banks to access credit at differential rate of interest for income generating ventures. Periodic trainings have empowered women to handle records and minutes and conduct SHG activities in a smooth manner. This has also changed dynamics within the village and household level with men acknowledging women's role in the economic process and women gaining economic freedom to a greater extent.

The 'WADI' Project

The WADI project is another major programme taken up by Gram Vikas in 2011 for achieving food security of poor tribal households in Ganjam District.

"WADI" (small orchard) is an initiative of NABARD to improve the quality of life of tribal families through individual horticulture gardens and other allied activities at the community level. The programme was launched in Rudhapadar project area of Ganjam district in 2011 with implementation period of 6 years. 690 tribal families are part of the programme and 156 landless families will benefit through non-land based interventions like skill training, livestock rearing and enterprise development. The project focuses on developing horticultural gardens for individual tribal households by providing financial and technical assistance to help the beneficiaries gain sustainable incomes in long term. Grafted varieties of mango and cashew are planted in the plots as part of the projects that start yield from 3rd year. Intercropping, border plants and other programmatic interventions would provide the supplementary income in the initial years of the project. 175 families were supported during the year of 2011-12 to develop horticulture gardens of cashew and mango in 149 acres of land.

In OTELP project locations, WADI was also implemented in 123 acres involving 122 farmers. In Kalahandi district, mango and litchi cultivation were promoted under the WADI programme. This initiative is novel given the climatic conditions, and we are hopeful that this model will be successful for further replication.

An ideal leader- Shanti Jani



Caring for mango plant in wadi

Shanti Jani is an inspiring example. An ordinary tribal woman who is a school drop out has shown that change occurs when common people pursue with dedication every opportunity that comes their way. Shanti is an active member of the self help group in Gram Devati village of Jaganath Prasad block. She has taken initiative on many fronts and led the group to take up pisciculture which earned them reasonable profits, in turn earning respect of fellow villagers. The Wadi programme was introduced in Gram Devati village by Gram Vikas in 2011. Shanti was the natural choice of the people as President of Maa Bhagabati Udyan Vikas Samiti. When the preparatory activities for plantation were initiated, there was a conflict between individual farmers who were from different

habitations of the same village. This led to a halt in the activities as the Wadi norms required that the orchards be developed in a single patch. The planting season was arriving and everyone was concerned about the delay. Shanti rose to the occasion and used her negotiating skills in convincing the two parties to come together for mutual benefit. It worked and people geared up for the planting activity. During the whole planting period, she coordinated efficiently amongst the 19 farmers for planting, staking, fencing, weeding and watering. With her motivation, all the farmers also cultivated brinjal as an intercrop in the wadi patch. It is her diligence that resulted in 93 percent of survival of the plants in Gram Devati. Shanti has other feathers in her cap –her oratory skills won her kudos of officials in a meeting conducted by the Forest Department and in turn the village received a generator and Solar LED lights from the government fund. Other women in the village say "when she speaks, we all listen to her. People come to her for guidance." I feel blessed to be able to do some good", comes a humble acknowledgement.

Partnership with government programmes

While working with the disadvantaged sections of society to enhance their living standards, convergence with Government schemes has become an effective tool in permitting the benefits of these schemes to reach its beneficiaries without indulging in any corrupt practices. Gram Vikas enjoys credibility of both state and central governments because of the long term presence and work in Odisha.

- This year, Gram Vikas facilitated 1904 farmers to take up improved paddy cultivation practices, using the line sowing method in 2500 acres in two project areas within Ganjam district. This was supported by the Agriculture department under RKVY (Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana). An incentive of Rs 28,22,000 was received by the farmers for successfully demonstrating the initiative. Maize cultivation was done in 22 villages in an area of 360 acres benefiting 281 families. An amount of Rs.5,01,200 was received by the farmers for this initiative.
- Training on Yam & Pineapple cultivation was organised under RKVY in Kalahandi district for 90 people under OTELP phase-1.
- Backyard cultivation of yam was done by 948 households under agriculture component of OTELP phase-2 and 200 households with the assistance from RKVY in Thuamul Rampur of Kalahandi district. Pineapple cultivation was adapted by 142 beneficiaries under RKVY.
- As part of WADI project, collaborations are developed with organisations such as KVK (Krishi Vigyan Kendra), Agriculture department, Horticulture department etc.
- Convergence under National Horticulture Mission facilitated 629 farmers to take up horticulture plantation of cashew and mango in 618 acres of land.

Skill Development

With an ever-growing infrastructure sector in Odisha and elsewhere, the need for skilled workers has been increasing each year. Over the last three decades, Gram Vikas has trained thousands of people as masons, plumbers, bar benders etc. This has served to raise living standards, as well as avoid phenomenon such as increased migration, symptomatic of poverty. People who were trained in these skills could be employed in the nearby villages in construction work of buildings, toilets and bathrooms, water tanks etc. This has proved to be a remedy for distress migration, rampant in many of the villages. Trainings were conducted earlier for women SHGs in making leaflet plates, raising nursery beds etc. as part of OTELP and other projects. In 2011-12 there were 369 youth trained in masonry.

Convergence

The implementation of the long term projects needs to be planned well in order to achieve the expected results. Demonstration of vegetable cultivation at Bafla office has raised interest among the villages around the project location. In light of this, convergence and collaborations with Agriculture department, horticulture mission and ITDA (Integrated Tribal Development Agency) seem to be the appropriate options to take the development activities ahead. Besides ongoing watershed and horticulture based livelihood projects, there are some efforts in progress to initiate the natural resource management interventions in Bafla region of Kalahandi and villages near Karlapat wild life sanctuary.



After care of mango plants in wadi

LIVELIHOOD ENABLING INFRASTRUCTURE

Self-reliance is a core component of the Gram Vikas model villages. 34 years of working for India's poorest has shown us that development is only possible when communities begin to recognise and use the inherent strengths of their communities. Although interdependence is a significant aspect of MANTRA's network approach, all MANTRA projects begin with this ethos of *self-reliance*.

This belief in the inherent strengths of rural communities has led us to develop interventions for *livelihood enabling infrastructure*. This infrastructure – like water systems and renewable energy – helps to provide rural communities with facilities they need to diversify their livelihood, improve their health and increase their connectivity with the world beyond their village. As always, all of these facilities are measured by their environmental sustainability and the capacities of the people to implement and maintain these schemes.

Micro-hydro power

Our micro-hydro electricity programme is in a state of significant growth. In 2011, the Government of Odisha came out with a list of villages that were deemed too remote to be covered by the central grid. As a result, state agencies have renewed their call for decentralised energy sources that can be implemented by third party organisations. Gram Vikas' micro-hydro projects provide the state-wide model for low-cost, decentralised power generation that provides lighting for homes and streets as well as paddy and oil seed processing. Gram Vikas has so far established four micro-hydro projects in Thuamul Rampur Block of Kalahandi District and two more are in the making. The water after it generates electricity is used for irrigation.



Survey for micro-hydro

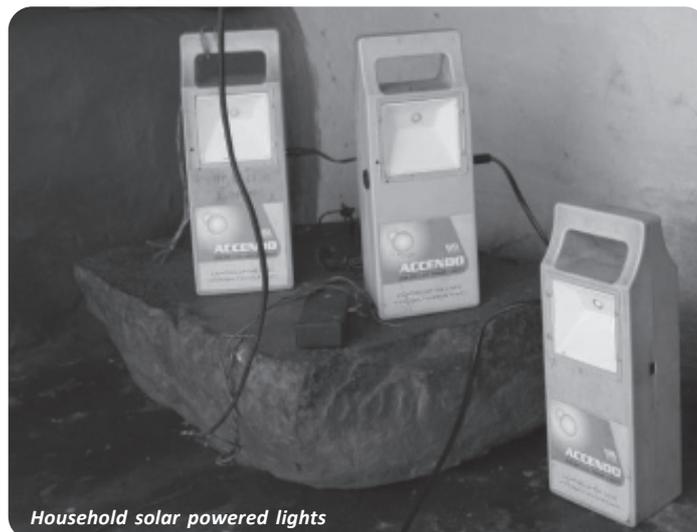
Women, Energy and Values

In 2008, Gram Vikas had set up the microhydro unit generating 10-13 Kw power in Purnaguma, a small habitation of 56 families in Thuamul Rampur block of Kalahandi district. The community enjoyed electricity generated from the micro hydro unit and have also set up other enterprises – mills, cycle repair shops etc. Most of the households had contributed their hard labour in the entire construction process and had generated cash contribution for maintenance of the system. Three local youth were trained as operators to run the system and take up local trouble shooting. Gram Vikas' staff had spent considerable time to strengthen the community's involvement in the decision process with regard to energy use, tariff plan, contribution of labour and cash etc. However the richest man in the village, Mr. Ashoke Singh opposed from the start and was not happy to see the community take initiative. It would undermine his position in the village. He refused to contribute in cash or labour and did not agree to the norms established by the community over several meetings. Finally a decision was taken to exclude him from the benefits of the project; he would not receive an electric connection.. The community went ahead and the system was commissioned in December 2008. Everyone was elated by the success. It went on for three years after which Ashoke Singh sought an opportunity to bribe the local operators and get an electricity connection in return. There was some minor uproar, but the men of the village did not take any strong action. Gram Vikas' staff stepped in to remind the committee on the norms that were established and the role of the local institution with regard to such misconduct. The women who were shunned off by the operators when they had questioned them for extending the connection illegally, now resolved to take action. In a quite show of determination, they organized themselves and went to Ashoke Singh's house and quietly disconnected the line. They even removed the pole that was put in front of his house. A request was made to Gram Vikas to train new people as operators as the current operators would be fired. The whole village witnessed the power of women. Ashoke Singh was informed that he would never receive any connection because of his corrupt practices. The system is running well ever since this incident. This experience was a learning to manage conflict situations and reaffirmed our value of strong local institutions and their ability to govern things in an equitable manner.

Solar Energy

Gram Vikas is in the process of setting up a 75 kw solar photovoltaic power plant at its campus at Mohuda. This had become necessary because of the long hours of power cuts and break downs. The cost of electricity from the grid has also become very high. We are also in the process of setting up small solar photovoltaic plants at all the four residential schools and at Bafla project, which does not have as yet grid electricity.

Villages, where there is no electricity available, we are encouraging people to make small investments in solar LED lights. So far 3196 solar LED lights were purchased by people.



Household solar powered lights

HUMAN AND INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Human and institutional development is one of the focus areas of Gram Vikas, a necessary component of MANTRA's commitment to sustainability. This aims to promote 'self governing people's institutions', which act as a foundation for bringing in sustainability, upgradation of skills and awareness of individuals. Existing institutions play a crucial role in sustaining the initial efforts of constituting the respective institutions. As part of this, training and capacity building of village level institutions and Gram Vikas staff are organised across the field locations that Gram Vikas works.

RTI and FRA campaigns especially occupy prominence in the operational villages of Gram Vikas under this intervention. 8 RTI trainings were conducted for staff and villagers during the period and 131 RTI applications were filed. Significant achievements through RTI have been electrification of villages, completion of FRA land survey post RTI application.

Different mediums are used in spreading messages to the communities effectively. Wall paintings in villages, campaigns and awareness rallies, village level meetings, organising social arts workshops are some of them. In Bafla, revival of existing BGS (Bafla Ghana Sanghatan) is being worked upon by interacting with the committee members and villagers at regular intervals.

New avenues are being explored to strengthen the understanding of communities on thematic issues like water and sanitation. With the aim of bringing about awareness about water, sanitation and hygiene, Gram Vikas partnered with 'One Drop' a Canada based NGO and organised workshops and street plays in about 45 villages. Educating and sensitising people about water and hygienic practices was tried out with the means of social art and some other creative activities. The workshops had clay moulding, community mural, a mobile library, storytelling, *Water Satsang*, movie screening, film making components etc. The workshops could capture the attention largely of school children and had positive impact. Documentaries made by the film making crew were appreciated by the villagers as they captured the perennial issues of the village in a short film. The follow-up sessions for workshops would be taken up to measure the impact and develop better strategies to spread the messages on social issues.

In 2011-12, trainings and workshops were conducted at village level covering a broad spectrum of topics such as PRI, village level leadership, health camp, school sanitation, SHG record keeping, better farming practices, masonry, smokeless chulha training etc.,



Water quality test training for staff



Community Training

OUTREACH AND NETWORKING

The dissemination of information of the work of Gram Vikas takes place through participation in various state and national level workshops and consultations organised by government, national and international organisations. Links forged by participation in conferences and meetings with other NGOs, government departments; visitors and volunteers often result in better networking and expansion of our mental horizons.

Senior staff of Gram Vikas took part in regular government meetings and various consultations regarding water and sanitation, livelihood and food security, disaster mitigation and renewable energy. With the visibility of MANTRA increasing, organisations and individuals within and outside the country are approaching us to facilitate implementation of the programme in their areas of operation. The Executive Director was the Chairman of the working group for Rural water supply and sanitation constituted by the Planning Commission to provide inputs and guidance on this aspect for the 12th Five year plan. This provided a great opportunity to push for effective sanitation and water supply plan for the country as a whole and give space to civil society initiatives to be recognised and experiences dovetailed in the plan. Gram Vikas was honoured by the visit of Honourable Minister for Rural Development, Shri. Jairam Ramesh to a few of the operational villages of Gram Vikas.

Senior staff members represented the organisation in national and international forums- ADB Partners meet at Manila, UNICEF, The Skoll World Forum etc.

Gram Vikas hosted the South Asian Regional Meeting of Global transparency Fund Project where the partners involved in this project came together for a mid term reflection of the project outputs vis-a-vis the overall project goal. The meeting brought forth diverse issues on governance faced by partners in Jharkhand, Andhra Pradesh and Odisha and helped to frame activities to address these in the specific context.

For the fourth consecutive year Gram Vikas hosted the Jagriti Yatra in December where young people from various parts of the country came to see the work of the organisation and understand development issues that are being dealt with by the organisation. Gram Vikas also hosted the IAS probationary officers who went to several villages and interacted with senior management.

Several other dignitaries from donor agencies and government officials and People's representatives visited Gram Vikas and its project areas to interact and see the work carried out by the organisation.

Students from TISS, XIMB, NFI, IRMA, Mahatma Gandhi University, Kerala, Youth development Foundation, Bhubaneshwar underwent their internships at Gram Vikas. Several international volunteers from Germany, Quebec, Ireland, UK and USA worked with Gram vikas for short and long periods and contributed in documentation, reporting, organisational development, teaching English in schools etc.



Participants of South Asian Regional Meeting

FINANCIAL REPORT

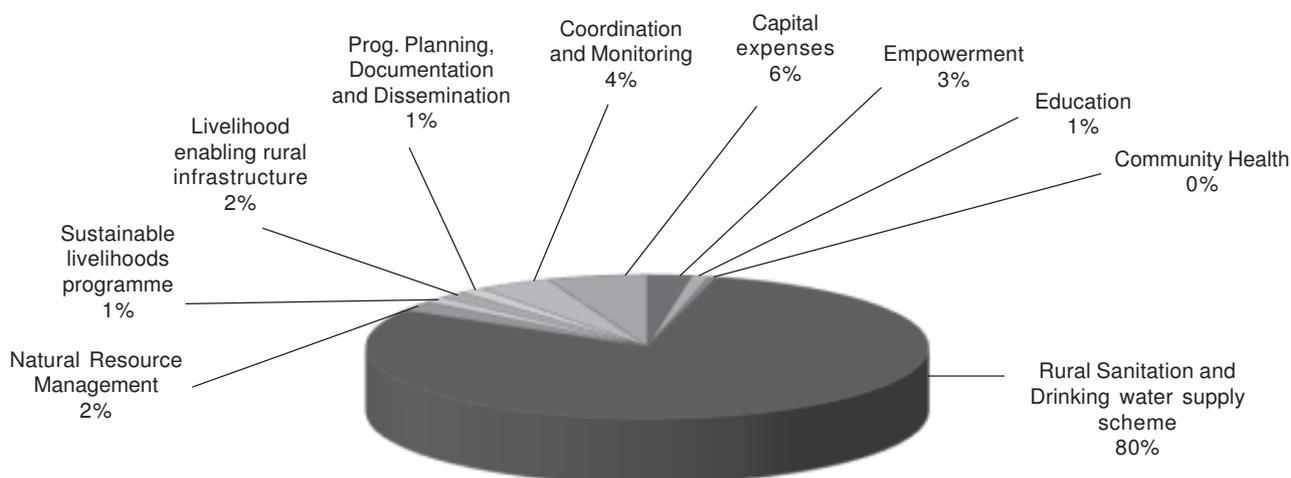
Treasurer's Report on the Financial Operations of 2011-12

I am happy to present the audited accounts of Gram Vikas for the year 2011-2012 certified by M/s Padhi & Co, Chartered Accountants.

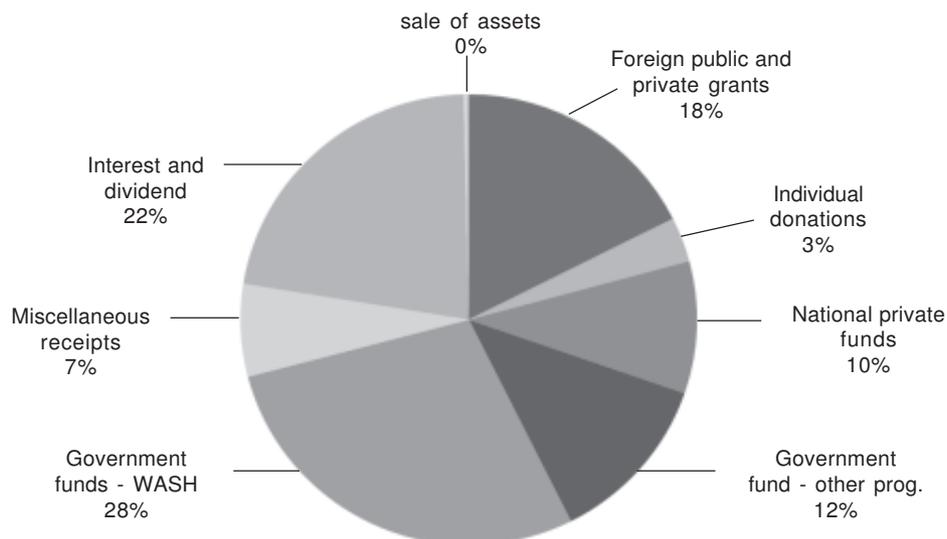
1. The financial discipline in Gram Vikas ensures high degree of transparency and the internal audit system in vogue reaffirms accounting compliance.
2. Gram Vikas has satisfactorily complied with all statutory requirements related to FCRA, Income Tax, Provident Fund and Gratuity.

Mr. Ram Sanker, Treasurer

Prog. wise expenditure 2011-2012



Sources of income 2011-2012



BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31ST MARCH 2012

Particulars	Sch.		As at 31.03.2012 (in Rupees)	As at 31.03.2011 (in Rupees)
LIABILITIES				
General Funds	I		337,609,194	315,306,594
Project Funds	I		21,114,769	43,012,474
Contingency Funds			134,449,468	127,342,578
Dairy Development Fund			33,927	27,500
Other Funds	II		5,722,912	5,423,761
			498,930,270	491,112,907
ASSETS				
Fixed Assets	III		31,076,112	31,388,025
Investments	IV		245,368,103	283,334,697
Current Assets	V	228,487,001		
Less: Current Liabilities and Provisions	VI	6,000,946		
Net Current Assets			222,486,055	176,390,185
			498,930,270	491,112,907

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

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2012

Particulars	Year ending 31.03.2012 (in Rupees)	Year ending 31.03.2011 (in Rupees)
INCOME		
Grants in Aid	59,778,780	96,709,278
Award	5,000	4,900
Interest Income	3,976,243	6,401,320
Income from Investment	27,011,907	23,924,772
Profit on sale of Assets	307,728	931,217
Contributions & Reimbursements	8,013,481	6,319,687
Miscellaneous Income	1,225,426	1,193,953
Gross Income	100,348,565	135,485,127
EXPENDITURE		
Relief of the Poor, Education, Medical Relief & Preservation of Environment		
Education & Empowerment	8,686,683	11,165,648
Community Health	934,560	1,199,406
Rural Sanitation & Drinking Water Supply Systems	59,031,619	63,559,361
Natural Resources Management	5,486,741	10,246,497
Sustainable Livelihood Programmes	3,267,366	1,293,080
Livelihood Enabling Rural Infrastructure	3,878,972	7,728,949
Programme Planning, Documentation & Dissemination	3,551,859	4,390,657
Programme Coordination & Monitoring	10,879,959	10,281,546
Grants & Donations	1,202,845	-
Depreciation	3,023,066	3,092,194
Gross Expenditure	99,943,670	112,957,338
Surplus for the year	404,895	22,527,789

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

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Acknowledgements

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

- Arghyam Trust, Bangalore
- Blue Planet Run Foundation, USA
- 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
- NABARD, Bhubaneswar
- Odisha Development Action Forum – ODAF, Bhubaneswar
- One Drop , Canada
- Prayas, Pune
- Rourkela Steel Plant Ltd., Odisha
- Schwab Foundation, Geneva
- Skoll Foundation, USA
- Sosense
- Vitol, UK
- Water Aid, India.
- Individual donations

Awards

Gram Vikas ranked No. 51 in the global top 100 NGO's listed by Global Journal;
<http://theglobaljournal.net/article/view/548/>

*"Life is not only
Years months and days
We live our lives through Karma
Karma measures our lives
and our destiny"*

ମାନବ ଜୀବନ ନୁହଁଇ କେବଳ
ବର୍ଷ ମାସ, ଦିନ ଦଣ୍ଡ
କର୍ମେ ଜୀବି ନର କର୍ମ ଏକ ତାର
ଜୀବନର ମାନଦଣ୍ଡ



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