

# annual report

2010 - 2011



Gram  
Vikas





## Area of operations



### Facts about Odisha

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

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



# Annual Report

## 2010-2011

গ্রাম বিকাশ হে গ্রাম বিকাশ  
আম গ্রামরে গঢ়ি তোলিবা স্বুদ্ধ পরিবেশ  
গ্রাম বিকাশ হে গ্রাম বিকাশ  
ঘরে ঘরে পাইখানা গাধুঁথা ঘর  
সমষ্টক মনরে ভরিদেব আনন্দ জুଆৰ  
পিলবানি আমে নদী নালৰ পাণি  
ঘরে ঘরে ভরিদেবা বিশুৰ পাইঘ পাণি  
আম গাজুয়ে কেহি রহিবেনি নিৰক্ষণ ও অনাহাৱ  
আম আমে সমষ্টে মিলিমিশি কৱিবা দূৰ  
সুস্থ পরিবেশ সুস্থ বাতাবৰণ  
প্ৰত্যেক গ্রামরে কৱিবা সামাজিক বনাকৰণ  
নাৰী পুৰুষৰ বিদেব কৱিবা দূৰ  
সমষ্টকু দেবা সমান অধুকাৰ  
কাৰ্য্য কৱিবা রঞ্জি হিসাব  
তেবে সমাজৰে হেব বিকাশ  
গ্রাম বিকাশ হে গ্রাম বিকাশ

Gram Vikas, Gram Vikas  
Let's make our village better  
Gram Vikas, Gram Vikas  
With a toilet &  
bathroom for each family  
Everyone will live happily

Let's not drink from  
rivers or streams  
Let's have running  
water in each house  
Here's to food and education  
Come, let's work together

Let's have a healthy environment  
Let's use our land well  
Here's to work and  
keeping our records  
Let us all be equal;  
men and women



Celebrating 32 years of Rural Development

# ABOUT GRAM VIKAS

Gram Vikas, literally meaning 'village development,' is a non-governmental organisation 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 km from Berhampur, as well as 25 field offices throughout Odisha. With 424 employees as of March 2011, Gram Vikas has been able to reach 1089 communities with a population of over 298,000 in 23 districts in the state of Odisha, and 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, and gender equitable; to enable critical masses of poor and marginalised rural people to achieve a dignified quality of life.

'Dignified quality of life' - whether for people or communities would include the following:

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

## Executive Summary

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:

<b>Education</b>	Village-based preschools and primary schools, residential schools for Adivasi children, and project-based education resource centres
<b>Livelihood and Food Security</b>	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
<b>Natural Resource Management</b>	Drought proofing of villages and watershed management, involving conservation and development of land, water and forests
<b>Infrastructure</b>	Disaster-resistant housing, sanitation and water supply systems, and community infrastructure including schools, grain banks, roads, drainage, and alternative energy production
<b>Health</b>	Preventive and curative health services combining modern and traditional knowledge and practices



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# MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRPERSON



In the race to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), India is a curious case: more Indians have mobile phone connectivity (nearly 500 million) than sewerage connectivity (less than 20%). Sanitation targets are unlikely to be achieved in the near future. In both urban and rural India, millions of women, men and children continue to defecate and urinate in the open, whether on railway tracks, on the sides of roads, or even near people's homes, including their own. This practice is not only humiliating and risky (women are often molested when going in the open), it is also the biggest source of illness, due to air and water pollution.

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

Despite all such odds, Gram Vikas has been at the forefront of promoting 'life with dignity' for thousands of households in rural Odisha, by enabling them to have water and sanitation facilities covering 100% of the village population. Over the past fifteen years, Gram Vikas has single-handedly served more than 66,000 families in more than a thousand villages covering 354,131 poor individuals in 27 districts of Odisha. During this past year, Gram Vikas has been the single largest user of government funding from the Government of Odisha's Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP) scheme. Gram Vikas has been able to leverage nearly Rs. 100 million during fiscal year 2010-2011 from the Government of Odisha's Rural Development department to provide safe drinking water and reliable sanitation to 7307 poor families, bringing the total of covered households to 55,422.

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

As the Governing Board and leadership of Gram Vikas is well aware, access to that flexible funding is rapidly declining, largely because India is now seen as a 'developed' country. In the future, even an organization like Gram



Vikas will be unable to effectively utilise government funding to finance water and sanitation programmes for the rural poor of Odisha, as these flexible international funds will gradually disappear. It will be a miracle indeed if existing patterns of funding through the Government of India's ARWSP scheme can be amended to enable NGOs like Gram Vikas to continue to serve the rural poor.

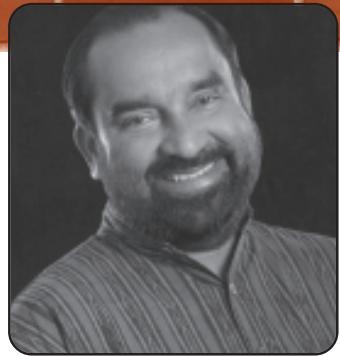
In light of these and other forces, the Governing Board of Gram Vikas has begun discussing a strategy for the next phase of its work. I am happy to note that there has been considerable progress towards consolidation of programme focus and geographical locations, to be finally achieved by the end of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

On behalf of the Governing Board and myself, I want to go on record and express our deep appreciation for the hard work and dedication of all colleagues at Gram Vikas, who work in such difficult circumstances with limited resources. We appreciate deeply the impacts that Joe's dynamic leadership is having far beyond Gram Vikas—in shaping future policy at the national level, and in extending Gram Vikas' reach to Africa.

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

**Rajesh Tandon**  
Chairperson

# MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



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

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

We still continue to work primarily in rural Odisha, with some projects initiated further afield in Madhya Pradesh, Jharkand and Andhra Pradesh in India, as well as in The Gambia and Tanzania in Africa. The tribal communities remain the focal point of our work, because we could go another 100 years and still justice would not be done in the hinterlands. Our *raison d'être* is to bring development and infrastructure to the marginalised and excluded, especially to alleviate the back-breaking work of water collection that continues to befall women and young girls. It is, of course, challenging for our staff to operate in these inaccessible areas where there are few facilities. Cerebral malaria poses a very real threat, and material transport, often by head load, is an enormous task. In addition to the increased financial cost of providing services in these areas, there is also a human cost: when staff live in such isolated areas, where communications are very poor, we are always anxious about their health and well-being.

Of course, our work takes some time to produce results. We have had experiences in villages, like Jhadabandh in Ganjam district, where the community expressed interest in sanitation and water supply, only to fail to reach 100% participation, forcing us to withdraw. But then, 10 years later, they have once again approached Gram Vikas, willing to fulfill all conditions laid down by the MANTRA programme. The moral of the story is that it is worth making the effort, even if you do not know when, or even if, the results will come.

So, what next for Gram Vikas? We will continue to penetrate deeper and deeper into the forest and remote areas to make the MANTRA programme available to new communities. There are new ways in which we can contribute to the sustainable livelihood of our constituents. The Forest Rights Act (FRA), for example, presents us with a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity: through this legislation, we can support tribal villagers in claiming their right to land. The



legislation has passed, but the process is far from simple; still, this year we have helped 2503 families successfully file claims. However, the average settlement of less than one acre was disappointing given the allowed eligibility of up to 4 hectares. Just as in the past with FRA, Right To Information (RTI), Right To Education (RTE) and MGNREGA (Mahatma Gandhi Employment Guarantee Act), as we see new legislation being enacted, we will continue to work with tribal communities, supporting them to access these rights.

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

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

**Joe Madiath**

Executive Director

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

## MANTRA APPROACH

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

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

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

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

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

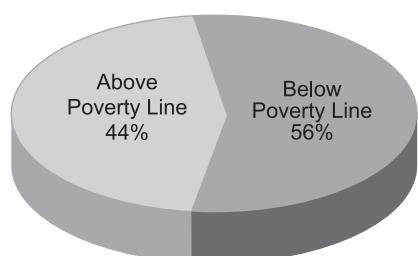
MANTRA creates unity in a village by inspiring the leadership, creating an environment that fosters community initiative for development work that is community driven, directed and managed. MANTRA programmes target health, education, livelihood and food security, self-governing people's institutions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

## Coverage of MANTRA

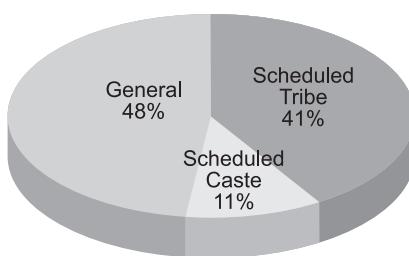
As of March 2011, Gram Vikas has reached out to 1089 villages, comprising 66,564 families (and a total population of 354,131) in Odisha, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh and Jharkhand. Of these, 943 villages, encompassing 55,422 families for a total population of 299,815, have access to sanitation and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

## COVERAGE OF MANTRA

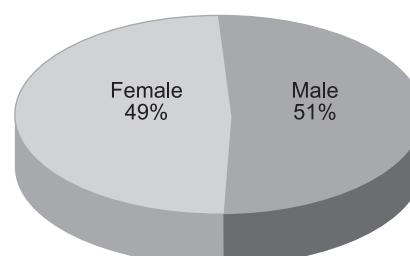
Economic Status of Households



Household Caste Status



Gender Distribution





## The Difference One Person Makes

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

More than 10 years ago, one man made a difference in Jhadabandh (Ganjam district): the village was ready to move forward on the water and sanitation project just like its neighbour, Samantrapur, 2 km away. The community had gone as far as raising a considerable corpus of Rs. 65,000, but this one man was against the project and the village leadership; by influencing 20-25 other families, he used his personal rivalry with the leader of the village to derail the whole process.

Just as one man can have a negative impact, so too can one man make a positive difference. Today, the great efforts of the community, particularly those motivated youngsters returning from working in Surat, have found the support of another man, Kora Bisoy, Secretary of Samantrapur. Thanks to him, Jhadabandh's water and sanitation project is finally underway. Kora is helping these youngsters not only to motivate their village, but also to convince Gram Vikas staff to invest time, energy and expertise in a community that has had 'cold feet' in the past.

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

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

# GOVERNING BOARD OF GRAM VIKAS

The Governing Board of Gram Vikas counts 13 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.

## **Prof. Debi Prasad Mishra**

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

## **Sri. Vijay Mahajan**

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

## **Sri. Basant Kumar Panigrahi**

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

## **Ms. Neelima Khetan**

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

## **Dr. Saraswati Swain**

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

## **Ms. Rita Bhatia**

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

## **Ms. Soma Dutta**

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

## **Mr. Ashoke Chatterjee**

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

## **Mr. Lalit Mansingh**

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

## **Mr. Ravi Narayanan**

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

## **Mr. Ram Sanker (Treasurer)**

A chartered accountant, businessman, and exporter, Mr. Sanker joined 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.

## Working with Tribal Communities: A Chapter from Gram Vikas' History

In 1976, the Young Students Movement for Development (YSMD) wrapped up their irrigation projects in the present-day Kendrapara district, and decided to work with tribal people. They moved to Mohuda, on the fringes of the Kerandimal hills, where they established contacts with the many tribal villages located there.

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

In 1975, during the emergency, the Government of India declared a moratorium on rural indebtedness and bonded labour. Using this act, gently wherever possible, with pressure and force of numbers when necessary, the tribal people could recover most of their land and properties, and free their fellow villagers enslaved in bonded labor.

This early work in the tribal communities helped the team identify the key challenges experienced by tribals. Because of their remoteness, tribal villages lacked access to government programmes because of negligence by the Government, or lack of information. In addition to learning about the challenges facing the tribal communities, the volunteers gained a considerable appreciation for their courage, simplicity and honesty. Over time it became clear that all tribal communities faced similar challenges; retaining their land, destructive liquor habits, disease (primarily malaria and TB) and education. By the time YSMD had evolved into Gram Vikas in 1979, the group focused their work in three key areas: rights issues (especially land rights), health, and education. Today, challenges in these three areas still remain.

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

Education plays an important role in developing the skills and confidence to seize opportunities, and Gram Vikas has spent much of its time and resources developing education amenities and infrastructure. The residential schools, for example, started as an informal solution to the challenge of providing education across a wide geographical area where access was difficult and there was little, if any, penetration by government agencies. In the early stages of the education programme, Gram Vikas staff selected young people





to act as tutors in their villages. They would come to Mohuda for 3-4 days every month for an intensive 'teacher training' session; during this session, they would learn the curriculum to be taught in the coming 3 weeks to their students in the village. As time passed, the communities looked for more advanced and broader education, so Kankia School was established. In those early days, it was a veranda school. Children would travel to the village to attend school and would be fed and sheltered by the villagers. In 1982, Gram Vikas built the first residential school in Kankia; what started with 30 kids learning on a veranda has now become 500 students on a large (though never large enough!) campus, and three more schools provide education for 1400 children.

Despite decades of development work, tribal areas remain underdeveloped when compared to other regions and so disillusionment, especially of the youth, has become a big issue. It is hard for them to see the value of staying back to work in their communities when they see so little progress. Livelihood, education and health interventions can bring about change, but there are larger influences at work where the government has not been able to stem the tide of alienation of land, mining interests, left-wing extremist activities, etc. This presents both a challenge and an opportunity for Gram Vikas and the communities it serves.

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

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

# SELF-GOVERNING PEOPLE'S INSTITUTIONS

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

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

## 2010-2011 Highlights

Rs. 63 million have been mobilised towards village corpus funds and used for the construction work

2503 claims over forest land by tribal families have been settled by the Government

33 training sessions on leadership development were conducted for 1028 participants

52 training sessions on SHG functioning and record keeping for 1304 participants were held

Rs. 4.70 million mobilised by village committees from MLA LAD funds for water and sanitation programmes

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

Filing of RTI applications continues, in order to address problems with the implementation of government schemes, Requests for information regarding villagers' rights to forest land, irrigation facilities, employment guarantee schemes, government-provided electricity supply, and access to home improvement grants, have lead to positive responses and ultimately renewed action to assert the right of villagers on these issues.

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

More and more communities are accessing public money for development work. Last year, communities accessed a grand total of Rs. 4,378,750 in subsidiesunder the Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC), benefitting 2015 families.



## Better Late than Never, Thanks to the RTI Act

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

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

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



According to the World Health Organisation “the combination of safe drinking water and hygienic sanitation facilities is a precondition for health<sup>1</sup>. ” Mainstream health interventions concerned with disease prevention or cure focus primarily on tertiary health care. The impact of bottlenecks such as lack of infrastructure—roads, water, sanitation, housing, etc., which have a significant bearing on accessing health care and overall quality of life are not addressed by such programmes.

Gram Vikas works with the premise that access to safe water and improved sanitation practices constitute the first step towards better health. From proportionate representation for all, to cost-sharing, to 100% inclusion, the water and sanitation programme is a powerful, value-led and health-focused entry point for community development. In a context where over 80% of diseases are water-borne, Gram Vikas chose to act through inclusive water and sanitation as an entry point intervention. This has developed into a powerful tool to tackle health issues—especially mother and child health—while also creating spinoff livelihood-related activities in the villages.

Traditionally, the communities with which Gram Vikas works have practiced open defecation, and therefore merely building water and sanitation infrastructure will do little to change the habits of generations of people defecating by river banks, by pond embankments, or by the roadside. For this reason, Gram Vikas’ programme includes a wide range of hygiene and sanitation education programmes, especially in schools and with adolescent girls. As children adopt more hygienic practices, they become ambassadors and even enforcers of hygiene rules in their communities. This, together with peer pressure, ensures villages that are 100% free of open defecation.

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

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



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

### Water & Sanitation as the Gram Vikas Entry Point

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

100% coverage, involvement of all families in the village habitation and raising a corpus fund with Rs. 1000 from each family on average, are non-negotiable conditions in Gram Vikas' approach. Adult men and women are motivated to come together at the start of the intervention as the village general body, and they elect a representative executive committee with equal numbers of men and women. The amount collected towards the corpus fund is placed in a fixed deposit, and the interest from the corpus fund is reserved for building toilets and bathrooms for new families joining the village in the future. The water and sanitation programme requires communities to bear 60% of the cost of bathing rooms and toilets, while the water supply systems are generally supported by government funds. These contributions can take the form of local materials, skilled or unskilled labor, and/or a financial contribution towards building the structures.

Work on the water supply system is done only once the toilets and bathing rooms of all families have been completed. Gram Vikas provides all the technical support required to establish water supply systems. Villagers arrange for electricity, and are responsible for operations and maintenance of the system. Gram Vikas trains them in performing minor repairs and general maintenance of the facilities, thus ensuring that local people are responsible for the management of the systems.

Together with toilets and bathing rooms, drainage systems are developed to prevent the accumulation of waste water. In several villages, banana and papaya trees, planted around the soak pits, have helped to absorb the water and nutrients from the soak pits. Thus, local families get good quality bananas and papayas in the bargain.

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

### Results for Sanitation Coverage 2010 (New Villages)

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

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

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

### Government Funds Channelled for WATSAN

Government Funds	2009-2010	2010-2011
TSC	Rs. 7.94 million	Rs. 4.38 million
MLA LAD	Rs. 2.61 million	Rs. 4.60 million
Swajaldhara/ ARWSP	Rs. 29.1 million	Rs. 99.2 million

## Community Health Management

Mother and child healthcare is a core component of community healthcare. The focus is put on training grassroots health workers and community members, so that they can identify potential problems, as well as provide prenatal and postnatal care. Women in the community are made aware of the need for immunisation, nutrition, safe delivery, and child care practices. Over the years, persistent communication on these issues has led to a decrease in mother and child mortality, in particular in the tribal areas where Gram Vikas operates.

The National Rural Health Mission has provided us with an opportunity to work in a more concerted manner at the village level, and has allowed us to inform communities of the healthcare services and provisions available to them. This year, Gram Vikas has worked to strengthen the role of the Gaon Kalyan Samitis (Village Health and Sanitation Committee), involving them in health planning, and in monitoring the use of funds. Expectant mothers have benefited from the Janani Suraksha Yojana scheme, through which they receive cash incentives to give birth in health facilities.

In the Thuamul Rampur block of Kalahandi district, a team of health workers endeavour to strengthen the health system, in order to provide better service, and monitor public health services through a clear health information system. These activities take place in one Gram Panchayat composed of 34 villages, where several activities have taken place, including mobile clinics, health camps, and training of ASHA workers in the use of rapid diagnostic kits for malaria. In other locations, staff efforts have focused on malaria prevention, monitoring of immunization and child care at the Anganwadis, as well as training of village health workers and traditional midwives.

## 2010-2011 Highlights

138 school sanitation and hygiene education sessions held for nearly 9000 children

20 reproductive and child health care trainings for 289 members. 987 adolescent girls trained on the topic of menstrual hygiene

85 cataract patients underwent operations at eye camps, and 559 reading glasses were sold to people with eyesight problems

107 tuberculosis patients were identified through health camps and are currently undergoing treatment



## Prevention and Cure of Malaria

Malaria is endemic to tribal areas to this day. Gram Vikas continues to work on prevention and early detection using rapid diagnostic tests. 95% of malaria today is of the PF+ type, which affects the brain. Unless it is treated early, the consequences of a cerebral attack of malaria can be very dangerous.

This year, Gram Vikas has begun malaria cure trials with the shrub *artemisia annua*. Processing of this plant can produce an effective cure for malaria. 175 plants have been harvested so far, and trials are being conducted at the Thuamul Rampur project, a region where malaria is endemic. The trial involves monitoring the frequency and severity of cases of malaria, in order to evaluate the efficacy of *artemisia annua* in curing and preventing malaria.

## Prevention and Cure of Tuberculosis

Under the Revised National Tuberculosis Control Programme (RNTCP), Gram Vikas has been designated the nodal agency to liaise between villages and the RNTCP in the Rayagada block of Gajapati district. Gram Vikas staff collect sputum samples from community members suspected of suffering from TB, and send them quickly for analysis. The Directly Observed Treatment (DOT) provider attends the patient daily, and administers the government-issued medication. Depending on the severity of the illness, this treatment can last from 15 days to 6 months. The patients are then tested again, and the treatment continues if they are not cured.

## **Life Insurance**

As a social security measure, life insurance provides some guarantee of stability to families in the event of a tragedy. Gram Vikas collaborates with the National Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) to provide life insurance to rural populations at a low premium, in order to ease the burden and worries of poor families. This initiative started gaining momentum in 2010; this year, 1587 households have opted for micro-insurance coverage through this partnership with LIC, thus providing insurance coverage to 1671 individuals.

## **Other Results for Health**

1671 policies and 1587 families were enrolled for micro-insurance through LIC, and two villages were declared "Bima Gram" in Gajapati district

Gram Vikas has actively promoted awareness within communities on the role of the Gaon Kalyan Samiti as part of the National Rural Health Mission

Other efforts included providing mosquito nets with permanent insecticide spray, chlorination of wells, immunisation camps, and tuberculosis treatment

## **A Remedy for Reduced Eyesight**

In many remote communities, since very few people can afford to make a trip and pay for eyeglasses, poor eyesight can be a severe limitation. When suffering from presbyopia, whereby ageing reduces the elasticity of the lens, older community members find it very difficult to carry out simple tasks such as removing stones from rice, stitching leaf plates, or reading.

Through a combined initiative, Gram Vikas and Vision Spring have brought relief for this problem. They trained local, young entrepreneurs in eye testing, and organized health camps where testing was provided free of charge. The entrepreneurs provided eyeglasses to those who needed them for the cost of Rs. 120. Those who suffered from more serious eye-related health issues, such as cataracts or glaucoma, were identified, and referred to a hospital for treatment.

Last year, these small, local interventions provided a new lease on life for 419 people suffering from poor eyesight. This year, an estimated 5000 people can benefit from this programme.

## **Mega Surgery Camp**

A mega surgery camp was organised in Berhampur from January 23<sup>rd</sup> to February 7<sup>th</sup> 2011, in collaboration with the Rotary Club of Berhampur. 40 doctors of various specialities ran the camp, performing critical operations on patients referred for surgery. In total, 1156 patients were treated, and 1110 surgeries were carried out. Of these interventions, 284 were major surgeries.

Gram Vikas provided the logistics support and the accommodation for doctors organizing the camp. In addition, Gram Vikas was instrumental in facilitating access to tribal communities in the remote locations of Ganjam and Gajapati districts. 24 patients from these areas received treatment at the camp, 6 of them for major surgery.

We are grateful for collaborations with civil society such as these; they help pave the way for future initiatives aimed at bringing specialized healthcare to hard-to-reach populations.

# EDUCATION

The values of MANTRA underline Gram Vikas' education programme, particularly when it comes to equity, sustainability and cost sharing. Following these values, we have developed a two-pronged approach to education: we support communities in reinforcing government facilities where they exist, and help local people establish local education centres where there was none before.

Traditionally, education is not seen as a priority by parents and children in many remote rural areas. Because of this, there are many challenges in providing education facilities to these communities. Not only must education programmes take on the burdens of sustaining the livelihood of tribal communities, but they must adapt to the work cycles of the parents, and help children get accustomed to attending school. After three decades of hard work, we're starting to see a significant change in the demand for education in remote areas. But two great challenges remain today: ensuring there is enough space for all students, and attracting and retaining talented, committed teachers to work in such remote communities.

A third challenge has arisen as well: the sourcing and costs of teaching materials. Recent changes in the government school curriculum means new textbooks and materials have to be purchased.

The challenges of finding competent teachers, and paying for textbooks, can be frustrating at times, but finding space for students has often been made possible through the sheer determination of staff and communities. For example, when Kankia school first began as a "veranda school", local tribal communities played a critical role in supporting their children's educations by providing classroom space, food, and sometimes even shelter.

In retrospect, it is heartening to witness the dedication of parents to their children's education. Initially, parents perceived a child graduating from class 7 as holding something akin to a degree. Over the last 5 years, 90% of children enrolled in the schools progressed to class X. Parents participate in feedback meetings about their wards on a monthly or quarterly basis. These interactions help them understand their child's capacities, and address any issue encountered.

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



## A Girl's Struggle for Education

The struggle of Baidehi Majhi illustrates the difficulty faced by girls, especially those from tribal communities, when it comes to education.

Born into a poor family in Bhatipas village, Baidehi lost her mother when she was a child. Her stepmother didn't see the need to take care of her, and left her wandering the village, or sharing household chores.

Staff from the village convinced her father to let her attend the day school run by Gram Vikas. Baidehi eventually completed grade 7 at the nearby Thuamul Rampur school. She then joined the Gram Vikas high school at Kankia, where her talents blossomed under the guidance and care of her teachers. She attended several competitions at the district, state and national levels, and became the state weightlifting champion.

After finishing school, Baidehi returned to her village, having no idea what awaited her. Her stepmother announced that she had arranged for her to marry an uneducated tribal boy. One day, when she was visiting relatives outside the village, two individuals approached her, and told her they had come to take her back to her sister, who had fallen gravely ill. Baidehi went along with them, only to realise that they had no intention of taking her home. The bus they were on was taking her somewhere different altogether. She realised the boys were from the tribal boy's family, and they had come to take her to his house by force.

Baidehi made the smart decision of not raising the alarm. Instead, without drawing attention to herself, she got off at the next stop. There, she got in touch with her teachers in Thuamul Rampur, who brought her to the school, and then later to Kankia School. The teachers of Kankia worked with her to secure her admission to intermediate school. She also attends bridge classes for dropout children at Kankia School.

Baidehi credits her education for giving her the ability to make her own decisions about her future. She is saddened that very few girls in her community get the opportunity to go to school, being forced instead into early marriage. Baidehi wants to become a teacher, so she can play an active role in encouraging young girls to get an education.

Initially, Gram Vikas would set up balwadis (nursery schools) and day schools in the communities where they wanted to implement the education programme. Nowadays, Gram Vikas does not run balwadis, and only manages a limited number of day schools. Instead, it focuses on making the existing government system more efficient, and on raising the awareness of parents regarding education. Gram Vikas operates day schools only in areas where there is an acute lack of government schools and teachers. Gram Vikas schools focus on engaging children in elementary education through "joyful learning". In 2010, a total of 387 children were enrolled throughout 16 day schools run by Gram Vikas.

### Day School Enrollment

District	Project	Number of Centres	Village Covered	Total Students		
				Boys	Girls	Total
Ganjam	Tumba	3	3	34	38	72
Gajapati	Koinpur	6	29	122	84	206
	Anandapur	4	4	23	28	51
	Karadasing	3	6	34	24	58
	<b>Total</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>213</b>	<b>174</b>	<b>387</b>

At the same time, given the high dropout rates in government primary schools, Gram Vikas has initiated bridge classes. This three-month course plays a key part in ensuring that vulnerable children are not abandoned by the education system. This year Gram Vikas has conducted six bridge centres, attended by 310 children. Of the 270 who passed, 159 children, including 58 girls, were admitted to the Gram Vikas residential schools. Parents of dropout children contributed their own money and time to run the bridge course.

### 2010-2011 Highlights

100 percent students passed Matriculation examination

11 students got admitted to Navodaya Vidyalaya

Rs. 3.23 million received as stipend



## Residential Schools

Gram Vikas runs four residential schools, where tribal children live and learn under the care of teachers residing at the schools. Because of the solid performance of the students in academic and co-curricular activities, demand for admission seats has increased. Unfortunately, space and teaching staff constraints have limited enrolment.

Besides education, children are exposed to various co-curricular and extra-curricular activities by participating in block, district and state-wide events, and by taking part in various forms of training. A variety of national and international volunteers come to the schools and conduct classes or extra-curricular activities, which facilitate exposure to other cultures.

The schools provide other essential supports, such as health checks by both government doctors and staff. In 2010, 18 check-ups were organised through Gram Vikas' residential schools.

## Residential School Enrollment

The following table shows the student strength in the four schools

District	Project	Name of the School	Total Students			
			Class	Boys	Girls	Total
Ganjam	Head Office	Gram Vikas Residential School, Kankia	III to VII	174	65	239
			VIII to X	136	113	249
	Rudhapadar	Gram Vikas Vidya Vihar, Rudhapadr	III to VII	125	80	205
Gajapati	Koinpur	Mahendra Tanaya Ashram School, Koinpur	III to VII	179	114	293
Kalahandi	Th. Rampur	Gram Vikas Sikshya Niketan, Kumudabahal	III to VII	143	132	275
<b>Total</b>				<b>757</b>	<b>504</b>	<b>1261</b>

The following tables show the details of academic performance:

## 7th Standard Examination

District	Name of the School	Number of Students Appeared			Number of Students Passed		
		Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total
Ganjam	Kerandimal U.P. School, Kankia	16	12	28	16	12	28
	Gram Vikas Vidya Vihar, Rudhapadar	8	15	23	8	15	23
Gajapati	Mahendra Tanaya Ashram School, Koinpur	20	19	39	20	19	39
Kalahandi	Gram Vikas Shikshyaniketan, Kumudabahal	9	16	25	9	16	25
	<b>Total</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>115</b>



## 10th Standard Examination

Year	Name of the School	Students Examined			Students Passed			
		Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total	%
2010-11	Gram Vikas High School, Kankia	50	35	85	50	35	85	100

2010 has been a great year for the students of Gram Vikas' schools not only for their academic achievement, but for their cultural and sporting achievements as well. Gram Vikas students have excelled in many events, sometimes even winning first place in the district.

## 2010-2011 Awards

### ***Shimadri Dharma Rao Memorial Award for Best Academic Performance, 2010-2011***

Mahendra Tanaya Ashram School, Koinpur, Gajapati district

### ***Best Athletic School in District, 2010-2011***

Gram Vikas High School, Kankia, Ganjam district

### ***First Prize, Sanskrit Language Competition***

Pintu Barik, Kankia School

### ***First Prize, IQ Test***

Balakrushna Mallik, Kankia School, for Divya Jyoti Gyan Pratiyogita in Ganjam District

### ***District Champion, Athletics***

Gangamani Sabar, Kankia School

Students from Mahendra Tanaya School, Koinpur also finished in first place in song, dance and painting competitions.

The success of Gram Vikas' education programme is not only measured by the achievements of its schools, but also by the empowerment of communities to demand the best possible education for their children. More and more communities challenge their local government schools to deliver the same standard of education they see at Gram Vikas schools.

It is through this sense of community ownership that true sustainability can be achieved. When communities mobilise to demand equity and education, the MANTRA programme comes alive. For example, last year, parents of Kankia students rallied to build a boundary wall because the school's right to its land was being threatened. This is a living example of MANTRA in action: Gram Vikas and community, men and women, young and old, all coming together to overcome their common challenges.

## **Student Learning Exchange**

In November 2010, Gram Vikas hosted children from the Vidhyaranya High School in Hyderabad, for a rural exposure visit. On the first day, the visiting students were given an introduction to Gram Vikas, followed by a tour of the head office and the campus. On the second day, they attended a presentation of Gram Vikas' residential schools, followed by a visit to Kankia School. There, the students from both schools mingled together, before breaking off into smaller groups. Each small group was given a topic to paint.

Together, the students of Vidhyaranya and Kankia schools demonstrated that language is never a barrier when you really want to communicate. Although the students spoke different languages (Telugu and English for Vidhyaranya, Odia for Kankia), they were very effective in their communications. One child who could speak both Telugu, English and Odia became the centre of attention, moving from group to group to translate!

The children were given a campus tour, followed by lunch, a sports break, and a cultural evening featuring music and dance. By the end of the day, despite their cultural and linguistic differences, the children had become fast friends.

On the third day, the Vidhyaranya students split into two groups, and visited the villages of Sarkat and Baniyamari. The children walked around the village and interacted with the villagers as they took notes on every aspect of village life. The villagers, for their part, were delighted to welcome the children; they even played Telugu music, much to the delight of the Hyderabad children.

The students once again split into small groups, and dug a compost pit for each household in the village. This gave them an appreciation of the hard work of villagers, and for the realities of village life.

This student exchange proved an enriching experience, not only for the two groups of students, but for the teachers, villagers and staff as well.



# LIVELIHOODS AND FOOD SECURITY

The MANTRA value of sustainability underlines every aspect of Gram Vikas' approach to livelihood and food security. Gram Vikas works to enable communities to enhance their food security by managing their natural resources. These initiatives aim to maximize the community's income from the natural assets available to them, while safeguarding the environment for future generations.

## Summary of Activities

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



In collaboration with the Government, Gram Vikas works on empowerment and livelihood programmes in Kalahandi, Gajapati, and Bolangir. These integrated projects incorporate watershed development through a range of activities to land, water and forest, as well as capacity building of the local communities to manage their own resources.

Gram Vikas is the Project Implementing Agency for the Western Orissa Rural Livelihood Project (WORLP) in the Bongamunda block of Bolangir district. Gram Vikas also implements the Odisha Tribal Empowerment and Livelihood Programme (OTELP) in Kalahandi and Gajapati districts. These are large-scale programmes that span 7 years, and have broad impacts, particularly in agriculture and horticulture practices. They also make an observable and quantifiable difference in terms of economic welfare.

For instance, in Prustiguda village, in the Thuamul Rampur block of Kalahandi district, a community distant from the road and where most of the tribals have very little land, the increased surface flow of the stream has enabled most farmers to take up three different crops. Balki Majhi, a small farmer, has managed to earn around Rs. 80,000 from his patch of sloping land that he developed under OTELP to grow onions!

Now that the Bongamunda project is coming to a close after 7 years, it is possible to observe significant change in the block's communities. There is evidence that assets are being created in the village: both groundwater and vegetative cover have increased due to the agricultural activity in the region. Dry lands have seen an increase in nuts and pulses, as well as more irrigated patches. Onion cultivation has also increased. Even families with very little land have supported non-farmed-based livelihood efforts, which have yielded positive results. Para-vets, trained as part of the project, have had a positive impact on the health of livestock in the region.

### Some Facts about Bongamunda Watershed Project under WORLP

Number of Gram Panchayats	14
Number of villages under watershed development	48
Total villages covered under watershed	20
Total treatable area	9866 ha

Land treated under watershed intervention	6866 ha
Land developed under individual horticulture	70 ha
Land developed under community horticulture	25 ha
Land covered under mixed plantation	324 ha
Land brought under terracing	622 ha
Dug wells excavated	691
Water harvesting structures constructed	133
Farm ponds constructed	243
Irrigation facility	650 ha
Number of Self-Help groups (SHGs)	180
Number of SHG members	2438
Total savings by SHGs	Rs. 4,055,875
Number of SHGs linked to Bank	95
Number of youth trained as para-veterinary workers	15
Number of youth trained in masonry	20

Obviously, such large-scale programmes pose their own challenges. It is critical for the implementing organisation to have the capacity and resilience to ensure that funds are balanced and channelled towards constructive community activities, sometimes in the face of opposing demands from opportunistic leaders seeking to hijack resources. This requires investing time in building and strengthening democratic institutions, and demands a great deal of vigilance to ensure that achievements are accomplished through integrity and transparency.

## Agriculture

The focus in agriculture has been on improving the yield of paddy, pulses, and oil seeds. An improved variety of paddy was sown on 44 hectares, using the SRI techniques of paddy cultivation that were taught to the farmers. Propagation of pulses, maize and oilseed was done in collaboration with the agriculture department under Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana; sunflower and maize were cultivated in most villages under OTELP. There are visible signs of land improvement in the Thuamul Rampur block of Kalahandi district, where ground nut, pigeon pea and black gram are cultivated.

Horticulture plants such as mango, *sapota* (sapodilla) and cashew were planted on 943 hectares. SHG members raised grafted mango nurseries, which they supplied to nearby villages. Gram Vikas also facilitated horticulture support under the National Horticulture Mission in Gajapati district, acting as intermediary to the Horticulture Department.

The number of acres being cultivated for vegetables has greatly increased in the operational villages of Thuamul Rampur block. In Lanjigarh block, farmers received support in vegetable cultivation in the form of improved seeds and training. 50 farmers have cultivated cabbage, cauliflower, radish and tomato in the winter season.

## 2010-2011 Highlights

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

## Skill Development

Gram Vikas has trained young people in masonry, plumbing and bar bending. These skills are in great demand, and Gram Vikas uses this opportunity to improve, in a short period of time, the capacity of unskilled young individuals to earn income. On average, trained men and women can double their wages or more within 6-8 months of training. Training programmes were organized in most project locations, under the supervision of master masons. After the training, the trainees get an opportunity to work right away in villages where construction of toilets and sanitation facilities is underway.



## Self-Help Groups and Savings

The main strategy to engage with women and work on their economic and social empowerment has been the creation of Self-Help Groups (SHGs). Many governmental and non-governmental organisations are also forming SHGs these days; to avoid overlap, Gram Vikas focuses on mobilising women who had not previously been included.

Gram Vikas arranges periodic training sessions on the roles and responsibilities of members, on bookkeeping, and on record maintenance. Gram Vikas' regular interactions with SHGs usually focus on linking them with banks, and in supporting livelihood-supporting enterprises. The enterprises undertaken by SHGs include raising horticulture nurseries, fish farming, vegetable cultivation, petty vending, collective marketing, management of the Public Distribution System, backyard poultry, goat rearing, and leaf-plate making.

### A Grocery Shop with the Support of Livelihood Grant Funds

Ganesh Bacha is a 30 year-old man from Putupara village in Bongomunda block. A school dropout, he used to make his living as a labourer. But at the age of 24, a disease left him paralysed, and he was forced to sell his land to pay for treatment.

Because of his economic background, the Adimata watershed committee selected him as a beneficiary for a livelihood grant. He received Rs. 5000 under the WORLP. He provided Rs. 3000 of his own, and started a grocery store.

Initially, the volume of business was not encouraging. But gradually, his business started to pick up. Nowadays, he earns Rs. 80 per day, for a monthly return of approximately Rs. 2500. He also earns Rs. 500 per month by repairing electronic goods such as TVs, VCRs, and radios. He works hard to develop his business, and to generate a better return on investment.

Ganesh is very grateful for the grant. Without it, he could not have started his own business, given his disability. Because of the grant, he is able to better meet the financial needs of his family, and he has begun saving a portion of his income to meet future needs.

# LIVELIHOOD-ENABLING INFRASTRUCTURE

The MANTRA values of sustainability and equity ensure that communities take ownership not only of their own development, but also of the infrastructure required to secure their own future. These livelihood-enabling programmes focus on energy, communication and security, and lead to the creation of solar power energy for individuals and communities, bio-diesel fuel, smokeless *chullahs*, and gravity flow water supply systems.

One example of Gram Vikas' commitment to developing infrastructure that supports livelihoods is micro hydro (MH). MH technology refers to the application of hydroelectric power to the scale of small communities, small families, or small enterprises. It uses downhill streams to produce 5-100 kW of power. Rajiv Gandhi Gramin Ydyut Yojana (RGGVY) policy guidelines rank MH as the best available option for decentralised electricity, based on capital cost, generation cost, manageability, as well as potential for enhancing rural livelihoods.

Gram Vikas has completed 4 MH projects in the Thuamul Rampur block of Kalahandi district. Two more projects are currently underway, one in Lanjigarh block, and one in Thuamul Rampur block. According to MANTRA values, Gram Vikas' approach to micro hydro emphasises the sustainability of the project in three areas:

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

**Financial sustainability** emphasises the need for a community-formed corpus savings fund, to ensure the financing of the project in the long run.

**Socio-institutional sustainability** is ensured through village-to-village mentoring, and community-led, demand-driven implementation.

Since Kalahandi lacks economic development, there is an opportunity to integrate livelihood activities with MH systems. Gram Vikas' MH systems have succeeded in large part due through local capacity building, design and fabrication of the schemes, as well as the active participation of the consumers. In its 6 years of implementing MH, Gram Vikas has gained invaluable, even groundbreaking insight. Gram Vikas is now ready to facilitate the replication of this approach, and can draw on past experience to improve innovation, functional longevity, productive use, and equitable outcome.



MHP VILLAGES IN KALAHANDI	Completed Project Details
Amthagouda	<b>Total households:</b> 258
Karlapat	<b>Power generation:</b> ranges from 5-25 kW
Purnaguma	<b>Loads:</b> 30 watts or 60 watts/household, between 10 and 20 streetlights
Karnivel	<p><b>First project in Amthagouda commissioned in January 2006</b></p> <p><b>Related Livelihoods and income generation activities:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oil expeller and rice huller installed: villagers are able to reap the district benefits by processing their own produce, and can generate an income by running the machines for people from outside the village.</li> <li>• Further electricity-based agro processing planned in conjunction with OTELP</li> <li>• With the water coming out the power house, villagers built a piped irrigation system in Kamivel under the supervision of OTELP, which now serves the fields of all the households. This has changed the cultivation patterns and has thus increased income levels.</li> </ul>

MHP VILLAGE IN KALAHANDI	Projects in Progress Details
Bijapada	Population: 50 households Power generation: 15 kW Loads: 30 watts/household, 19 streetlights
Punjam	Population: 110 households Power generation: 15 kW Loads: 30 watts/household, 12 streetlights

As an additional livelihood benefit, the district officials have now approved convergence with NREGA. Official approval constitutes a significant milestone in Gram Vikas' MH projects, taking them a step further in supporting livelihoods.

### Housing

After the cyclone of 1999, which destroyed most *kutcha* houses, Gram Vikas accessed loans from Housing Development Finance Corporation (HDFC), which were passed on to 3630 beneficiaries to build disaster-resistant houses with a minimum floor area of 450 sq. ft. The Government of Odisha also provided a subsidy of Rs. 10,000 for 2184 beneficiaries. Unfortunately, further subsidies were not made available, and Gram Vikas had to discontinue the programme.

But now, negotiations are taking place with the Government of Odisha to restart this programme with a view towards working with entire villages, especially tribal villages, to build disaster-resistant houses with enough space for 3 generations to sleep separately. Such villages would feature toilets and bathing rooms for every family, and a 24-hour potable water supply. This would be done under the credit-cum-subsidy scheme of Indira Awas Yojana.

This has been a good year for other infrastructure projects. As always, there is time to reflect and learn once projects are completed. When it comes to centralised lighting systems, for instance, communities find the high,

ongoing costs of maintenance hard to bear, and the challenges of accessing external maintenance technicians are frustrating. Decentralised systems, on the other hand, are easier and less costly to maintain, and provide each household with more control. For these reasons, decentralised approaches are becoming more attractive when trying to address the challenge of lighting remote rural areas.

## 2010-2011 Highlights

Two micro hydro plants under construction in Kalahandi

Solar powered electrification system set up in Maligaon in Kalahandi and four solar powered pumping and Lighting systems are functioning

Nearly 3500 solar powered LED lights procured by tribal families and 750 study lights supplied to school children

1003 smokeless cook stoves and 22 biogas plants were installed during the year

The participatory approach employed by Gram Vikas in its livelihood programmes perpetuates the story of MANTRA. Entire communities work and learn together, sharing efforts and costs of building sustainable infrastructure that serves everyone in the community. This infrastructure will go on to produce assets and income for the community. Thus, it forms the foundation of a virtuous cycle of community-led development.



# HUMAN AND INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The values of MANTRA also act as drivers when building the organisational capacity and capability of communities.

The entire community can benefit from building knowledge and awareness, while groups such as the rural youth can gain from skills and leadership training. This personal development builds not only skills, but also confidence, and often becomes the foundation for future community-led initiatives. Last year, 33 leadership training sessions were held, attended by 1028 participants. More than half of those attending were women.

Encouragement and support for development and growth also takes place within Gram Vikas. Gram Vikas provides opportunities for its employees to engage in formal training on work-related topics, and to network with peers and managers in order to share knowledge across the organisation. Last year, Gram Vikas has organised nearly 80 training sessions.

Often, these training sessions focus on current topics in an effort to keep the staff up-to-date. In the past year, for instance, Gram Vikas provided training on RTI and FRA to nearly all its staff. Newcomers to Gram Vikas receive formal induction training sessions, facilitated by senior staff members, followed by extensive, supervised field visits to current projects. Additionally, the managers and project coordinators meet every two months to share updates and key lessons learned. Twice a year, these meetings take the form of a progress review, followed by a planning session for the months ahead.

Following last year's strategic workshop, senior managers worked together throughout the year to formulate detailed strategic project plans, in order to ensure that experience and lessons learned were shared with less experienced managers. The 32<sup>nd</sup> Gram Vikas Day celebrations provided an additional opportunity for staff to share their views of the past, present, and future of Gram Vikas. Finally, the annual teacher training workshop, which took place in Mohuda during the school summer break, highlighted better teaching practices.

## 2010-2011 Highlights

Two RTI clinics were set up in two Gram Panchayats in Gajapati district.

Community and staff filed 217 RTI applications on various topics: IAY, electricity, social security, development work, NREGS; all with encouraging results.

80 training sessions on leadership, communications, bookkeeping, gender, RTI documentation, health awareness and water quality monitoring were organised for staff.

Staff and community used RTI to redress various issues at the village level: housing, electricity connection, social security benefits, development work, etc.

For the third consecutive year, Gram Vikas welcomed the Tata Jagriti Yatra group, on their tour of Indian NGOs. The group participated in discussions and debates during their visit of the campus and programme sites. This year, as always, Gram Vikas hosted several national and international volunteers and interns. Regardless of the duration of their stay, these future development professionals benefit greatly from the opportunity to observe and take part in complex, holistic rural development projects, and learn to appreciate both the challenges and the rewards of field work.

It's an ongoing challenge to build human and institutional capability and capacity, but Gram Vikas remains committed to the communities it serves, and to its staff. This means that reflection, learning, and development have to happen simultaneously. Planned interventions are a supplement to, but can never replace, learning through experience.

# OUTREACH AND NETWORKING

The values of MANTRA can also be found in the way Gram Vikas engages with other agencies outside the organisation. They serve as a motivation to learn and share sustainable practices, as well as inclusive approaches to development.

Gram Vikas' most important and productive relationships continue to be with the Government of Odisha's Department of Rural Development, and Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation, as well as with the Government of India's Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation.

Last April, Gram Vikas hosted the "Exchange Meet to Safeguard Future Rural Drinking Water Supply in Odisha", in partnership with UNICEF and Deltas (the Netherlands). The meeting was held in Bhubaneswar. Presentations by members of government, research institutions, donor agencies, as well as practitioners led to discussions on approaches to securing groundwater access and quality. In attendance were government officials from the Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation, civil society organisations, donor organisations ICCO and Arghyam, as well as researchers from the fields of groundwater and geohydrology.

With the support of the Tata Social Welfare Trust, Gram Vikas also held a national workshop in September. Titled "Inclusive Water Supply and Sanitation – Possibilities and Challenges", the workshop included civil society partners, and led to discussions on efforts towards inclusive sanitation models.

The Global Transparency Fund (GTF), in partnership with Freshwater Action Network, South Asia (FANSA), produced a documentary on Gram Vikas. The film highlights rights-based advocacy for water and sanitation. Another documentary, produced with the support of Water Aid, was created to highlight issues related to menstrual hygiene. It is titled *Wings of Change*.

Staff members participated in various workshops and seminars, both in India and abroad. Executive Director Joe Madiath represented Gram Vikas at several conferences, including the YES Summit (Sweden), the Planning Commission meeting on Water and Sanitation (New Delhi), and the Clinton Global Initiative (New York). He also attended the Skoll World Forum in Oxford with Ms. Urmila Senapati. In September, Gram Vikas was invited to Geneva to share best practices in drinking water and sanitation. Ms. Chitra Choudhury represented Gram Vikas for the occasion.

Executive Director Joe Madiath was appointed chairman of the working group on Sanitation and Water Supply for the development of the Government of India's 12<sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan. In a historical landmark for the sector as a whole, the Gram Vikas model was recognised as a good model to be deployed nationwide.

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



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

Even after more than 30 years, the hardest component of MANTRA remains the requirement for 100% coverage. Gram Vikas often manages to involve up to 95% of families in a community, but convincing the remaining 5% takes more time and energy than the rest of the community combined. This task is daunting, and the reason why so many other NGOs avoid the requirement of 100% inclusion. But in spite of repeated experiences of this nature, Gram Vikas persists in believing in total inclusion, and continues to expand this programme in collaboration with other civil society actors, panchayats, governments, donors, and well-wishers.

Treading these roads less travelled has been the history and strength of Gram Vikas. Gram Vikas will continue down this path onto future voyages, however difficult they may be.

Gram Vikas has deliberated, over the last two years, over its expansion strategy, in order to focus this strategy on tribal communities. A new consolidation plan has been put in place, which will allow for a more focused intervention in the more neglected tribal areas of the state of Odisha.

ଆସ ଭାଇ ଆସ ଭଉଣି  
କରିବା ମିଶି ଶପଥ  
ରଖିବା ନାହିଁ ନିରକ୍ଷର  
ମିଶାଇ ହାତରେ ହାତ  
ଅବାଳ ବୃଦ୍ଧ ବନିଟା  
ଯେତେ ସବୁ ନିରକ୍ଷର  
ରଖିବାନି ଗୋଟିଏ ଏଠି  
ଗ୍ରାମ ବିକାଶର ଏ ମନ୍ତ୍ର

Come, brother and sisters  
We will take an oath together  
For everyone to read & write  
Men and women,  
Young and old  
Our futures will be bright  
Everyone get involved-100% inclusion!  
That's the Gram Vikas MANTRA



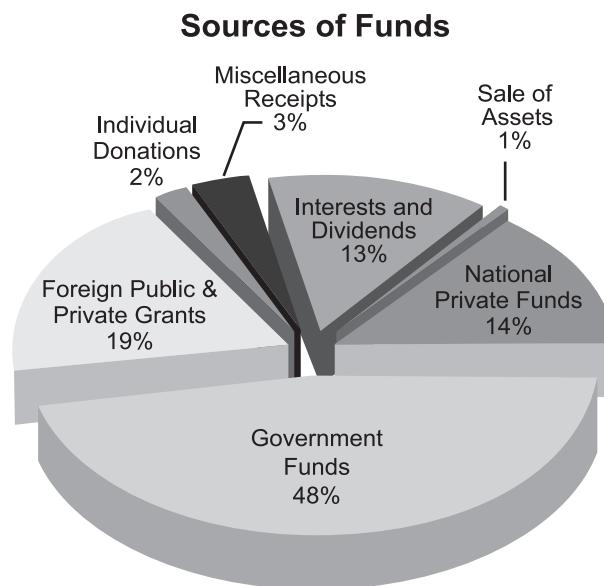
# FINANCIAL REPORT

## Treasurer's Report to the Members of Gram Vikas on the Financial Operations of 2010-11

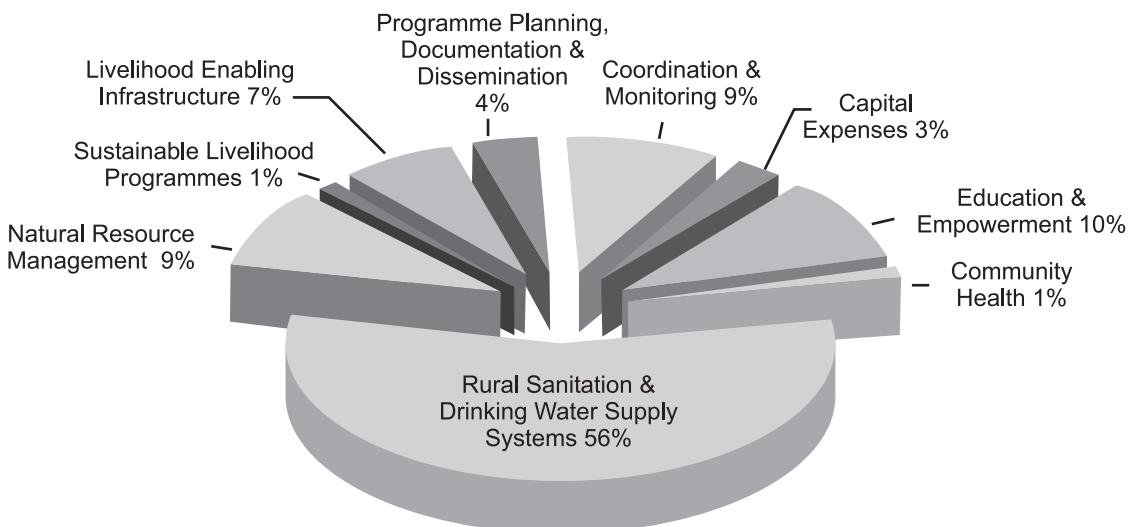
I am happy to present the audited accounts of Gram Vikas for the year 2010-2011 certified by M/s Padhi & Co, Chartered Accountants.

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

**Mr. Ram Sanker, Treasurer**



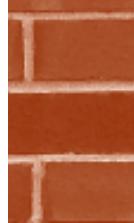
### Utilisation of Funds



# BALANCE SHEET

As at 31st MARCH 2011

<b>Particulars</b>	<b>Sch.</b>		<b>As at 31.03.2011 (in Rupees)</b>	<b>As at 31.03.2010 (in Rupees)</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>				
General Funds	I		315,306,594	278,594,333
Project Funds	I		43,012,474	57,196,946
Contingency Funds			127,342,578	142,331,303
Dairy Development Fund			27,500	27,500
Other Funds	II		5,423,761	5,240,899
			<b>491,112,907</b>	<b>483,390,981</b>
<b>ASSETS</b>				
Fixed Assets	III		31,388,025	33,854,161
Investments	IV		283,334,697	261,443,459
Current Assets	V	183,038,212		
Less: Current Liabilities and Provisions	VI	6,648,027		
Net Current Assets			176,390,185	1,880,93,361
			<b>491,112,907</b>	<b>483,390,981</b>



## INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2011**

<b>Particulars</b>	<b>Year ending 31.03.2011 (in Rupees)</b>	<b>Year ending 31.03.2010 (in Rupees)</b>
<b>INCOME</b>		
Grants in Aid	96,709,278	81,483,691
Award	4,900	25,000
Interest Income	6,401,320	6,881,561
Income from Investment	24,285,646	22,477,648
Income from sale of Assets	931,217	3,871,361
Contributions & Reimbursements	6,319,687	4,103,560
Liabilities written back	2,000	648,296
Miscellaneous Income	831,097	772,743
<b>Gross Income</b>	<b>135,485,127</b>	<b>120,263,860</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
<b>Relief of the Poor, Education, Medical Relief &amp; Preservation of Environment</b>		
Education & Empowerment	11,165,648	11,580,685
Community Health	1,199,406	768,270
Rural Sanitation & Drinking Water Supply Systems	63,559,361	51,006,421
Natural Resources Management	10,246,497	10,789,535
Sustainable Livelihood Programmes	1,293,080	1,230,517
Livelihood Enabling Rural Infrastructure	7,728,949	20,311,447
Programme Planning, Documentation & Dissemination	4,390,657	2,906,006
Programme Coordination & Monitoring	10,281,546	8,928,415
Depreciation	3,092,194	3,401,675
Gross Expenditure	112,957,338	110,922,971
<b>Surplus for the year</b>	<b>22,527,789</b>	<b>9,340,889</b>

## **Head Office**

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Email: info@gramvikas.org, Website: www.gramvikas.org

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### **OTELP – Mohana**

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### **Rourkela**

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### **Rudhapadar**

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### **Sundargarh**

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### **Thuamul Rampur**

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Via Thuamul Rampur  
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### **Tumba**

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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
- Bonita Trust, Gibraltar
- Charity Water, USA
- Christian Aid, UK
- CTxGreen, Canada
- Ekistica Pty Ltd. Australia
- French Environment and Energy Management Agency – ADEME
- Interchurch Organisation for Development Cooperation, The Netherlands
- Jeevan Dhara Foundation, USA
- KKS, Germany
- Korean Pioneers in Overseas NGOs – KOPION, South Korea
- Ministry of Rural Development, Government of Odisha
- Odisha Development Action Forum – ODAF, Bhubaneswar
- Prayas, Pune
- Rourkela Steel Plant Ltd., Odisha
- Schwab Foundation, Geneva
- Skoll Foundation, USA
- Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, Switzerland
- Sir Dorabji Tata Trust, Mumbai
- UN Millennium Campaign
- Water Aid, London
- Individual donations

## Gram Vikas Publications in 2010

Rural sanitation block construction manual; developed by Knowledge Works, supported by Tata Social Welfare Trust.

MANTRA; developed by Knowledge Works, supported by Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation.

Manual for simple water tanks for rural areas; developed by Knowledge Works, Tata Social Welfare Trust.

Documentary "Wings of Change" on the issue of Menstrual Hygiene.

*"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  
କର୍ମ ଜୀଏଁ ନର କର୍ମ ଏକ ତାର  
ଜୀବନର ମାନଦଣ୍ଡ



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