

2008

2009



## ANNUAL REPORT

This annual report is prepared by SPREAD for its stakeholders for the period of April 2008 through March 2009

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## PREFACE

“I will give you a talisman.  
Whenever you are in doubt or when  
the self becomes too much with you,  
apply the following test:

Recall the face of the poorest  
and the weakest man whom you may  
have seen and ask yourself if the step  
you contemplate is going to be of any  
use to him. Will he gain anything by  
it? Will it restore him to a control over  
his life and destiny? In other words,  
will it lead to Swaraj for the hungry  
and spiritually starving millions?

Then you will find your doubts  
and your self melting away.”

**Mahatma Gandhi**

## **KEYNOTE**

Days pass, weeks lapse, months fade, years vanish and thus centuries roll by. When one year of time vanishes from our life and daily schedule, we need to reflect on the appropriateness of the principles, values and processes, we have march ahead through, which will ultimately pave the way towards actualizing the future goal. And this is the reason why we have prepared this Annual Report of SPREAD.

This Report contains a brief description of the entire activities as well as of the process, SPREAD facilitated during the year 2008-2009 while adhering to the rights based approach and empowerment process.

We hope, the readers of this report will share their valuable remarks and feedback that will help us immensely to have an inward eye into our process, approach and direction and become our best in the ensuing days.

**Bimal Sundar Ray**  
**President**

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

It is needless to say that this Annual Report would not have been completed, had we not received the heartily acceptance of the community, we are working for.

Second, I owe my sincere gratitude towards all our team members, who have rendered their best efforts in facilitating the processes among the communities despite a lot of pressure, hardships, threats and hazardous working environments.

Third, we will never forget to thank the Animators and Activists - the real frontline brave soldiers - who, as the real change agents, have strived much in facilitating the development processes among the marginalized communities.

And last but not the least we are really very much thankful and obliged before our funding partners: Action Aid International India, Child Rights and You (CRY), CASA, PRIA, Danish Church Action (DCA) and Concern Worldwide, for their valuable support as well as for their critical opinions, feedback, timely follow up and evaluations. This, in fact, has infused indomitable spirit, courage and commitment in us to put our best efforts in making our work of the highest quality and bringing smiles to the lips of thousands of down-trodden marginalised tribes thereby empowering them to create a more dignified living.

At last, we express our gratitude to all our fellow sympathizers, who have directly or indirectly provided their helping hands towards our work, process and organization as a whole.

**Bidyut Mohanty,**  
**Secretary**

# CHAPTER 1: SPREAD

## 1.1: SPREAD: AN OVERVIEW

'Social Change is Possible' and it is required in a district like Koraput at the backdrop of its backwardness and the needy people. This notion triggered the Society for Promoting Rural Education And Development (SPREAD) to come into existence in 1989-90 by some young volunteers and enthusiastic social workers with a social science background having commitment to work for the betterment of the underprivileged of society. The volunteers realized that in order to make a difference in the lives of the poorest of the poor, there was a requirement of partnership with the marginalized tribes of Koraput district in south Orissa. During the early intervention phase in Koraput, the team focused on the problems of the displaced and affected tribal population, those who had been deprived of their homes and hearths due to the implementation of dam projects, industries and other developmental initiatives. With that experience, the organization could spread its philosophy, capacity and various activities to the displaced villages of Upper Kolab and Machhakund Dam Projects in Nandapur Block. Further, it concentrated on different issues of the tribal people in different areas like: Koraput, Boipariguda, Dasmantpur and Lamataput Block of Koraput district. In this process, SPREAD has developed partnership with the following funding agencies: Action Aid International India (AAII), Child Rights and You (CRY), Church's Auxiliary for Social Action (CASA), Participatory Research In Asia (PRIA), Danish Church Action (DCA) and Concern Worldwide.

PRIA has withdrawn its support as of December 2008 after four years of continuous support to the project run at Paika Phulabeda Panchayat of Dasmantpur Block as per the agreement. Action Aid India has fulfilled its funding agreement and has withdrawn its support after 11 years' of continuous support to the Jalaput Project.

### VISION

A region / society without any exploitation and discrimination with access to basic necessities of life and ability to assert their rights for dignified living

### MISSION

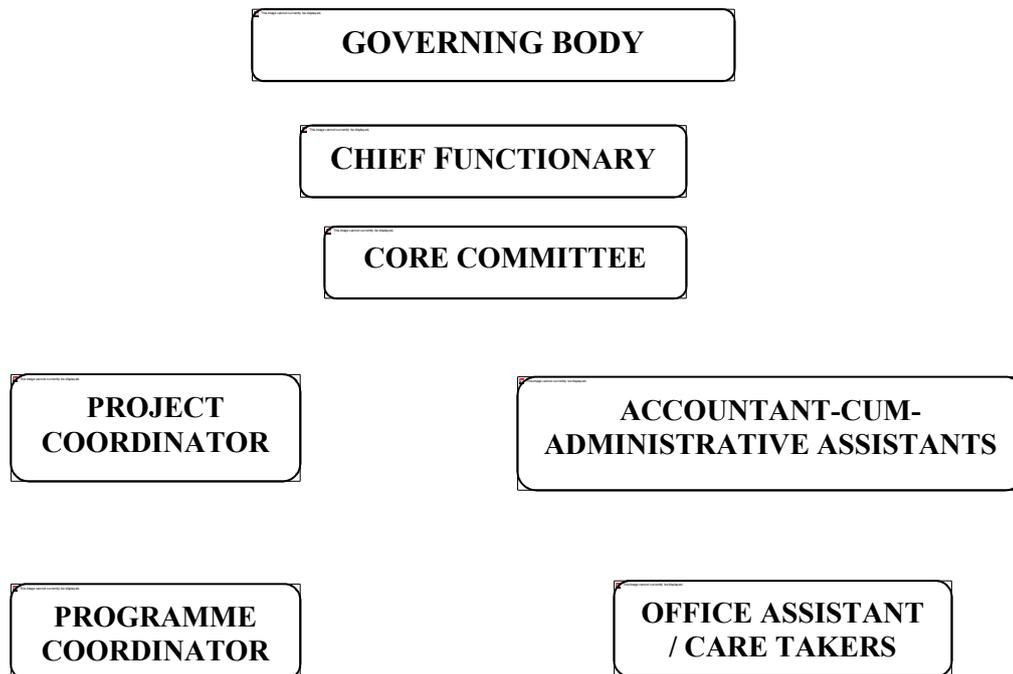
To work with the underprivileged class as a catalyst so as to build up their capacity and to facilitate the process of participatory development.

### GOAL

To make the most marginalized section of the society aware of their rights and duties and enable them to have access and control over socio-eco-political process for a dignified living.

## 1.2: THE ORGANIZATION

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### **Legal Status:**

SPREAD is registered under both Societies Registration Act 1860 vide Regd. No.:2445-200 of 1989-90 and Foreign Contribution Regulation Act bearing Regd. No.-105020098. Also, it is registered under Income Tax Act, No: 12 (A) – 42 / 93-94, Provident Fund having Code No- OR / 6143 and Group Gratuity of LIC having Master Policy No.: GG (CA) 31502.

### **General Body: (G. B.)**

The General Body of the Organization meets two times in a year. During General Body meetings, some important and sensitive issues /matters like: the area of operation, the target community, the follow up of the previous resolutions, the suspension, resignation of the Governing Body members, new recruitment of staffs, the dismissal / termination of staffs, new policies to adopt, new proposal for extending the operational area, liaison with Funding Agencies, fund raising mechanism for the growth and development of the organization, writ of assets, filing of income tax returns after it is passed by the G.B., different issues and challenges before the Organization are discussed, and appropriate and judicious decisions are taken unanimously.

### **Governing / Executive Body:**

At present, there are six members in the governing body, who meet two times a year.

### **About the Project Area:**

Koraput Region is the abode of pristine tribal communities of India situated between 20o3' and 17o50' North Latitude and 81o27' and 84o1' East longitude. With its vastness the variety of heights from the MSL (Mean Sea Level) makes it a land of typical geographical diversities.

Koraput is part of KBK district which accounts for 19.72% of the population over 30.59% of the geographical area of the State. Tribal communities (38.72%) dominate this region. 89.89% people of this region live in villages. Lower population density (152 persons / sq. km) in comparison to 236 for Orissa indicates difficult living conditions and an undeveloped economy. In addition, 16.63% of the population belongs to the Scheduled Castes (SC) communities as per 1991 Census. Literacy rates are also far below the State as well as National averages. Female literacy is only 24.72%. As per the 1997 census of BPL families, about 72% of families in this region live below the poverty line.

Koraput district has a geographical area of 8807 square kilometers with two sub divisions, 14 blocks, 226 GPs and 2008 villages. It is located in the southern part of the state of Orissa.

The district has 49.62 percent of Scheduled Tribes and 13.04 percent of Scheduled Castes population as per 2001 census. This district comes under the scheduled area and all the blocks are ITDA blocks. According to the 2001 census, the district has a population of 11, 80,637 comprising 590,743 males and 589,894 females. 80.1 percent of population is below poverty line, with a literacy rate of 35.72 percent. 69 districts were identified to see the interstate disparities, in Bihar, Orissa, Jharkhad, Arunanchal, UP, MP and in Karnataka, out of which 10 are in Orissa, and Korpaut is one of them.

The predominant tribes in the Koraput region are Kandhs, Sauras, Sabaras, Bhatodas, Bhumiya, Parajas, and Gadabas; tribes which have considerable populations are Mundas and tribes which have small populations are Kolahs, Kisan, Kharia and Saunti.

### 1.3: THE OPERATIONAL AREA by Project:

Name of the Projects	Supported By	Location of Project Office	No. of G.P. Covered	Name of the G.P.s	Name of the Block
Strengthening Socio Economic base of Displaced Tribal Community	Action Aid International India (AAIL)	Jalaput	8	Billaput Attanda P. Badapada Padwa Pantlung Golur Kulabir Kularsing	NANDAPUR
Campaign for Land Rights	Action Aid International India (AAIL)	Matamput			

Campaign on NREGA	Action Aid International India (AAIL)	Jalaput	16	Dabuguda, Peta, K. Gandana, Suku, Lamataput, Tikarpada, Umbel, Banamaliput, Dandabadi Chipakur Hatibari Chatwa Balda Bheja Nandigaon P. Phulabeda	LAMTAPUT BOIPARIGUDA NANDAPUR DASMANTAPUR
Tribal Self Rule by the Tribal Community in Ramagiri G.P. in Koraput District	Church's Auxiliary for Social Action (CASA)	Khajuripadar	1	Ramagiri	BOIPARIGUDA
Tribal Self Rule	Participatory Research In Asia (PRIA)	Badlimaliguda	1	P. Phulabeda	DASMANTAPUR
Community Mobilization for Ensuring the right of the Children among the tribal displaced population of the Koraput District of Orissa	Child Rights and You (CRY)	Mattamput	1	Godihanjar	LAMATAPUT
Ensuring Food and Livelihood Security of Tribal Communities in Koraput Dist.	Danish Church Action (DCA, India)	Mattamput	5	Chikenput Badigada Guneipada Ballel Anakadelli	LAMTAPUT
Campaigning for Right to Food, Work and Land	Concern Worldwide (C.W.)	Kaliajodi	2	Dandabadi Chipakur	BOIPARIGUDA
TOTAL			34		

By 2008-2009, the Organization has extended its operations to 34 Gram Panchayats of Nandapur, Koraput, Lamataput, Boipariguda and Dasmantpur Block. The field centres are located at G.P level whereas the project offices are located at Jalaput, Godihanjar, Ramagiri, Paika Phulabeda, and Kaliajodi which are at a distance of 15 kms to 90 kms from the district headquarter.

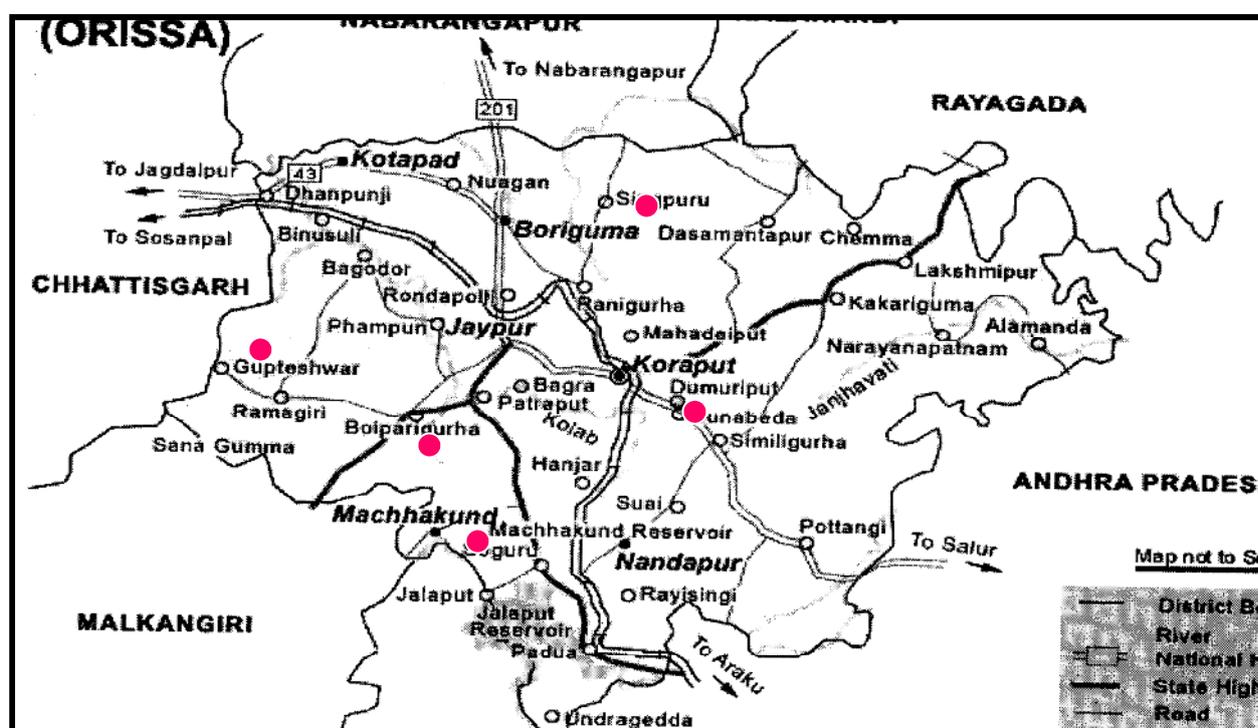
Jalaput and Godihanjar field centres are situated on the border of Orissa and Andhra Pradesh. Among the villages under Jalaput field centre, 24 villages are connected by Kachha roads and linked with tarred roads while the other 25 villages are cut-off from the main land and remain as islands surrounded by the Machhakund reservoir resulting in the alienation from the local administration as well as the mainstream population.

Similarly, the villages under Lamataput Project are situated in the interior areas of the Godihanjar and Mattamput G.P. and on the boarder of Andhra Pradesh and Orissa, where the people have very little access to government services.

The villages under the Paika Phulabeda G.P. have more or less the same situation with that of the other Project areas, where the people experience the stark realities of poverty and death due to diarrhoea every year.

The villages under Ramgiri and Kaliajodi field Centres are situated inside the Reserve Forests and are far from the reach of the District Administration and hence are deprived from the benefits of the developmental programmes of the government.

### Map showing our Operational Area in Koraput



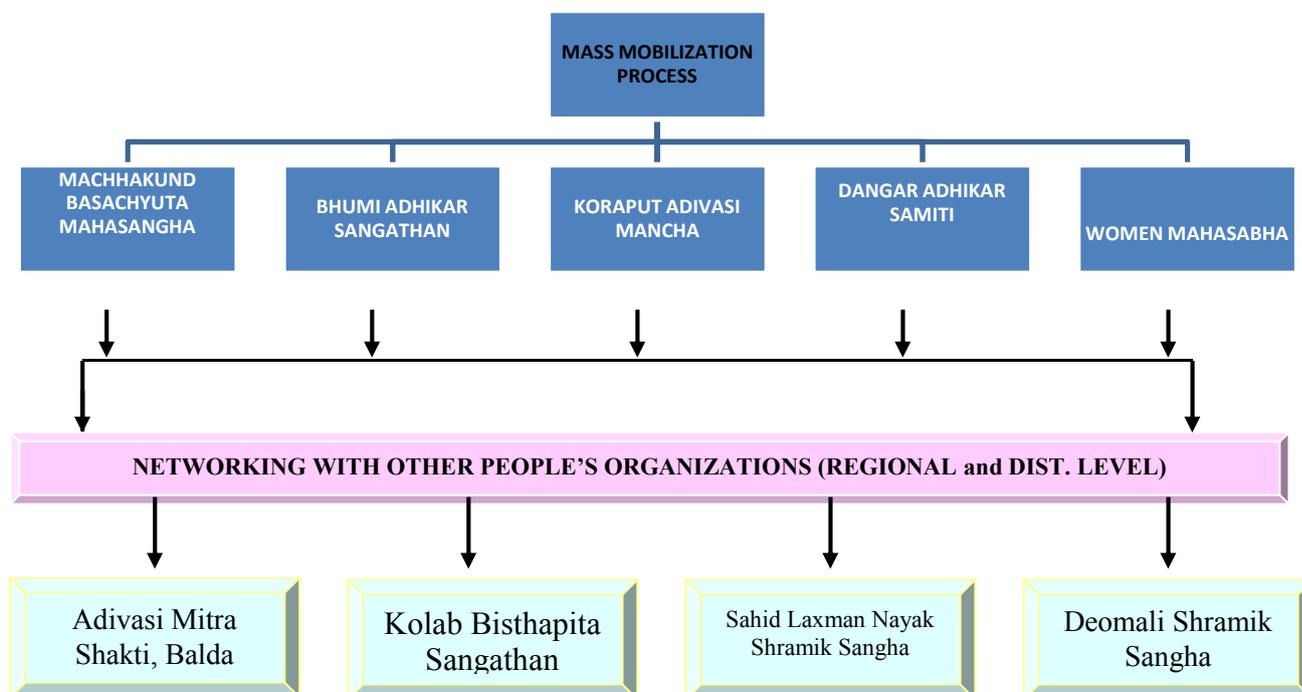
### 1.4: THE PARTNER COMMUNITY

The partner communities, with whom SPREAD is working, belong to the Paroja, Gadaba, Kondha, Bhumiya and Dorua tribes and other backward castes.

The partner community is comprised of the displaced population of Machhakund and Kolab dam Projects in Jalaput, the forest dwellers of Ramgiri and Kaliajodi G.P., the underprivileged tribes of Godihanjar, Mattamput and Paika Phulabeda G.P. The basic phenomenon that characterizes the situation of the tribal people of these areas is that of alienation. The partner communities of these areas have been systematically dispossessed of the ownership of their means of production of the products of labour and of the very means of the human existence. The

communities, being broken up in the name of development, are dispossessed of their humble rustic life style, their culture, their values, and their very identity.

### 1.5: THE MASS MOBILIZATION PROCESS



Since the beginning, it has been the thrust of SPREAD to facilitate the process of participatory development. In this context, SPREAD’s focus has been on building capacity and institutions of the people at the primary level and facilitating the emergence of community leadership and democratic institutions within the community.

The process of mass mobilization started with the formation of village level institutions like: Self Help Groups (SHG) and Village Development Committees (VDC), which are engaged in taking up various developmental activities, monitoring the effective implementation of government programmes, taking care of the village resources and resolving the village level disputes.

Again, to make the mass mobilization process larger, Women Federations and People’s Organizations (named after the issues of the Panchayat) have been formed at the G.P. level. The main focus of these G.P. level P.O.s is to resolve the G.P. level conflicts, look into the conflicts remaining unsolved at village level, monitor the effective implementation of the government programmes, do strategic planning to have access over the natural resources of the G.P., ensure accountability and transparency in the implementation of government programmes.

Moreover, to form a larger forum at the district / regional level, which will create pressure on the system and the government regarding their demands related to lives and livelihood, to make

strategic interventions to preserve, protect and promote the tribal culture, tradition and very identity, district/block/regional level People's Forums like: Machhakund Basachyuta Mahasangha, Dangar Adhikar Samiti, Bhumihina Sangathan, and Mahila Mahasabha were promoted. These Forums are comprised of the representatives of the P.O.s from G.P. level. These forums, at present, are working as the pressure groups in the area.

Regional Forums have developed networks with some State and National level Organizations and Campaigns like:

- Voice for Child Rights, Orissa (VCRO)  
Ekta Parishad
- National Campaign for Survival and Dignity (NCSD)
- SAMATA, Andhra Pradesh
- CCN, Andhra Pradesh
- NAFRE India
- Orissa Shrama Adhikar Abhiyan (OSAA)
- Adima Adhibasi Adhikar Mancha
- Jai Sangham, Lachmipur, A.P.
- Adivasi Mitra, Aruku, A.P.

At present, these P.O.s are playing the most vital role in safeguarding the lives, livelihoods, preserving and promoting the culture, tradition, values and the very identity of the tribes. Of course, SPREAD has helped these Organizations to critically analyze the systemic process and raise their voices against exploitation, corruption, and advocate their issues control of the outsiders over their resources in a democratic and peaceful way. In this process, these P.O.s have strived hard to have control over whatever local resources they have i.e. Land, Water, Forest etc.

While fighting back against the system, they also have to face numerous threats from some vested interest groups as well as from the system itself. However, these efforts have added new arena to the struggle of the people once called as the people belonging to the 'Culture of Silence'. However, marching ahead through the obstacles, these Organizations have envisioned their ultimate goal i.e. to have a dignified living.

In this connection, SPREAD has contributed in building up the capacities and making empowered the P.O.s by facilitating various trainings, exposures, workshops, interfaces, conventions, and establishing networks with other People's Organizations involved in the struggle for their rights and dignity.

Besides, while adhering to the Right Based Approach, SPREAD has been mobilizing these People's Organizations to fight for their different Rights like:

- Right to Food and Livelihood
- Right to Education
- Right to Health
- Right to Women and Girl Child
- Right to Dignity

During the year 2008-2009, the P.O.s engaged themselves in mass mobilization process and fought for the above Rights as follows:

## **CHAPTER 2: RIGHT TO FOOD AND LIVELIHOOD**

The right to livelihood of tribal people recognizes the symbiotic relationship between them and the natural resources, the centrality of natural resources for livelihood. It includes right to food, right to water, right to work, right to forest and right to land. The partner community is deprived of their human rights and fundamental freedoms through dispossession of their lands, habitats, territories and resources.

The marginalization of the partner community initiated and fuelled by their displacement which continues even today only because of their lacking in skill to negotiate, lack of infrastructure to improve their resource base, lack of knowledge on the provisions of the State. The subjugated attitude of the poor tribal coupled with the apathy of the government officials has kept the marginalization process on. Right to life and livelihood is denied to them in spite of positive provisions of the government.

The partner communities have also been deprived of the agricultural lands due to displacement, setting of habitations in the Reserve Forest areas, grabbing of their lands by the money lenders/middlemen and other vested interest groups through deceitful means. The indifference of the revenue dept. in settling whatever lands these poor communities have been utilizing, has added to the misery. Most of the families are landless as per the definition of the State as they have less than one standard acres of land.

To help the People's Organizations in ensuring the rights to food and livelihood, SPREAD facilitated the following programmes so as to add value to their efforts.

1. Training to Vigilance Committee members on RTI and Social Audit on NREGA
2. Training to Activists on Trading and Marketing
3. Interface with Panchayat Executive Officer and the B.D.O.
4. Interface with the Police Officer, B.D.O., Collector and the M.L.A. (Pottangi)
5. Interface with the Dist. Collector
6. Interface with the Tahasildar, Machhakund
7. Training to DAS members on the Welfare Schemes
8. Training to the members of VDC and FRC on Forest Rights Act (FRA)-2006
9. Public Hearing on Land Rights

With an aim to safeguard the lives and livelihoods of the marginalized communities, the People's Organizations have been playing a pro-active role in implementing different food schemes like: ICDS, MDM, Emergency Feeding, NREGA, Pension Schemes etc. These People's Organizations have extended their active cooperation in selecting the right beneficiaries for these schemes and monitoring the implementation of these Schemes.

During this monitoring process, whenever any vested interest has prevailed, these People's Organizations have taken immediate steps to suppress it. The following incident is an example.

### **The Outcomes:**

#### **CASE STUDY**

#### **The Growing Unity of Community: An Indicator of Fighting Against Exploitation**

The Attanda G.P. of Nandapur Block consists of 16 villages. The accessibility in terms of the road connectivity to the Panchayat stands as a major barrier in availing PDS items and health facilities. During 2003, the people of this Panchayat depended on the Mobile Van, which was engaged by the Block to distribute the PDS items. But through this Mobile Van, the people did not get the PDS items even once in three months. However, this problem got resolved when in 2004, the Women Federation of the Panchayat took up the responsibility to manage the distribution of PDS items by having the PDS license. Under the management of Women Federation, the people used to get the PDS items regularly up to 2007. But in 2008, the PEO and the Sarapanch, out of their vested interest, got the PDS license in the name of the Panchayat and continued distributing the PDS items. The distribution was being made in village Samili, some 5 kms away from the Panchayat headquarter Attanda, which was not accessible for the people of the remote and far off village. Besides, the people were not informed regarding the date of distribution and the Sarapanch and the PEO distributed the PDS items and cheated the people in weighing. Sometimes, the people made their way to the distribution point 2 to 3 times to get the items in vain. This mismanagement created discontent among the poor beneficiaries.

In September 2008, as per the decision by the people, the distribution was supposed to be made in the Panchayat headquarter on a specific date. When the people rushed to the spot, nobody else was present there and the same thing happened for another two days. On the fourth day, the people got the message that the Sarapanch and the PEO were distributing the items at village Samili. So, they went there and asked the latter why they were doing such mischief. But despite of admitting their fault, the Sarapanch and the PEO misbehaved and even threatened the people, which made the people furious.

Now some 100 people went to the Police Station at Padwa and lodged a F.I.R. in the name of the PEO, Secretary and the Sarapanch alleging the vested interest in PDS distribution

The next day, 260 persons (women -150, men -110) from Attanda G.P. went to meet with the B.D.O., Nandapur, Collector, Koraput, and M.L.A. (Pottangi) and shared their grievances regarding the irregular distribution, mismanagement and non-availability of PDS items at G.P. Headquarter.

Getting the information, the District Collector immediately instructed the D.S.W.O. to make an inquiry into the complaints of the people. After the inquiry, now the PDS items are being

distributed at the G.P. headquarter at Attanda through a Mobile PDS Van. As a result, the people are availing the rice and kerosene oil regularly with honest weights.

In addition, these P.O.s have been actively involved in making the 'NREGA Campaign' (initiated by SPREAD since 2007- 08) successful in 16 Gram Panchayats in four Blocks. During 2008-2009, under the active involvement of the P.O.s, the beneficiaries of NREGA have applied for jobs, opened bank accounts for disbursement of wages without any misappropriations, unemployment allowances (where jobs were not provided within the stipulated time period) in a massive scale. As a result, the P.O.s have been able to achieve the following progress:

### PROGRESS UNDER NREGA CAMPAIGN

LAMTAPUT BLOCK						
Sl. No	Name of the G.P.	No. of Registered Families	No. of Job Card Holders	Families Applied for Jobs	Families Availed Jobs	No. of Families Opened Pass Books
1.	DABUGUDA	752	652	620	563	359
2.	PETA	546	672	648	648	292
3.	K. GANDANA	748	533	470	455	380
4.	SUKU	383	381	277	270	156
5.	LAMATAPUT	983	898	799	759	600
6.	TIKARPADA	955	955	778	636	527
7.	UMBEL	727	727	465	420	345
8.	BANAMALIPUT	749	512	586	456	146
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5843</b>	<b>5330</b>	<b>4643</b>	<b>4207</b>	<b>2805</b>

BOIPARIGUDA BLOCK						
Sl. No	Name of the G.P.	No. of Registered Families	No. of Job Card Holders	Families Applied for Jobs	Families Availed Jobs	No. of Families Having Bank Pass Books
1.	DANDABADI	789	630	551	550	200
2.	CHIPAKUR	501	450	420	398	205
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1290</b>	<b>1080</b>	<b>971</b>	<b>948</b>	<b>405</b>

NANDAPUR BLOCK						
Sl. No	Name of the G.P.	No. of Registered Families	No. of Job Card Holders	Families Applied for Jobs	Families Availed Jobs	No. of Families Having Bank Pass Books
1.	HATIBARI	756	700	543	543	220
2.	CHATWA	698	543	543	523	223
3.	BALDA	942	840	800	756	433
4.	BHEJA	745	630	465	423	430

5.	BILLAPUT	1234	1050	1000	992	864
6.	ATTANDA	923	779	898	873	732
7.	P. BADAPADA	841	770	750	720	689
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5139</b>	<b>5312</b>	<b>4999</b>	<b>4810</b>	<b>3591</b>

<b>DASMANTPUR BLOCK</b>						
<b>Sl. No</b>	<b>Name of the G.P.</b>	<b>No. of Registered Families</b>	<b>No. of Job Card Holders</b>	<b>Families Applied for Jobs</b>	<b>Families Aailed Jobs</b>	<b>No. of Families Having Bank Pass Books</b>
1.	NANDIGAON	688	557	553	671	426
2.	P. PHULABEDA	1079	979	739	745	391
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1767</b>	<b>1536</b>	<b>1292</b>	<b>1416</b>	<b>817</b>

### **CAMPAIGN ON LAND: THE CORE SPIRIT OF THE STRUGGLE OF PEOPLE'S ORGANIZATIONS:**

Land is the source of sustainable livelihood, food security and poverty alleviation for almost half of the world's population. An estimated 45% of the world's population still makes their living from land. The ownership of land gives people social dignity, economic viability and a sense of security. Landlessness, on the other hand, erodes social status, and makes people economically vulnerable and mentally restless for not having any sense of security in life. And land, for tribal people, is the most valuable possession without which his identity, dignity and social position is lost as the much deprived and marginalized tribal communities completely depend upon the lands to get foods for their sustenance.

The people (especially the tribal people) of Koraput face numerous land related problems that ultimately affect their lives and livelihood.

The tribal families of the project area have no access to land and even if they access it, they lack in having the record of rights against the same. This results in acute impoverishment, hunger and malnutrition.

However, with an effort to find a way of solution to these land issues, SPREAD has come out with an innovative idea of facilitating a land campaign. Under this campaign, SPREAD, in collaboration with the People's Organizations, has extended its efforts in building cadres in the project areas. These young and local cadres have been imparted trainings exclusively on the land related laws and various mechanisms to sort out the land related problems with practical inputs by two retired Revenue and Settlement Officers. During the year, the following progress has been made by the land campaign:

#### **CAMPAIGN ON LAND**

Sl. No.	Activities Carried Out	Details of the Activities	Outcomes
1.	Land Resource Mapping	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Resource Mapping in 40 villages of 10 G.P.s has been finished.</li> <li>The people themselves of the concerned villages were directly involved in demarcating and categorizing different types of Lands like: Patta Land, Anabadi Land, Homestead Land, Forest Land and Common Property Land etc.</li> </ul>	
2.	Collection of Land Records	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Cadastral Maps of 70 villages of 15 G.P.s have been collected from the Revenue Office.</li> <li>The people of 31 villages have availed the Record of Rights (RoR) through downloading from the internet. Initially, they sought these RoR from the Tahasil Office under RTI. But, when the Tahasil Officials made unnecessary delay in providing the same, the people opted to have the same from the internet through the help of SPREAD people.</li> </ul>	
3.	Collection of Village Level Records (as part of the Land Resource Kit)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cadastral Maps in 70 villages</li> <li>RoR in 31 villages</li> <li>Land Law Books</li> <li>Different types of Application Forms required for Mutation, Lease Case, Homestead Patta, Partition, Certify Copy of RoR, Demarcation, Registration of Lands etc.</li> <li>Paper Cutting on different Land Issues, Fine Receipts, Case Notice etc.</li> </ul>	
4.	G.P. level Mass Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>12 nos. G.P. level Mass Meeting on the processes of land campaign have been organized</li> <li>Some 1500 people participated in these meetings.</li> <li>Through these meetings, the people were mainly oriented on the objectives of the movement for land rights.</li> <li>Besides, the focus of discussion was on the followings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Necessary Process to have the RoRs of the Homestead and agriculture Lands</li> <li>Process for mutation, partition and demarcation</li> <li>Legal procedures to prevent illegal transfer of lands</li> <li>Procedures of application for the Patta over the Forest Lands</li> <li>Strategic planning to have control over the Cashew Gardens</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>With growing awareness of the people, the revenue officials have become more accountable, transparent and sincere.</li> <li>2200 beneficiaries have applied for the Rights over Forest Lands.</li> <li>The people of Lamataput and Nandapur Block have been able to occupy and have control over the Cashew Gardens of the area, from which they have got some 1 crore of Rupees.</li> <li>The people have been aware on various land laws and procedures.</li> <li>The interaction of the people with the Revenue Dept. has increased.</li> </ul>
5.	Media Advocacy on Land Issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The problem in demarcation of the Homestead lands of 35 beneficiaries in Guneipada G.P. was highlighted through ETV Exclusive in March 2008.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>After the news coverage, the Sub-Collector and the Tahasildar visited from village to village and took immediate measures to complete the demarcation of the homestead lands of those 35 beneficiaries within 15 days.</li> </ul>

**CAMPAIGN ON LAND**

<b>Sl. No.</b>	<b>Activities Carried Out</b>	<b>Details of the Activities</b>	<b>Outcomes</b>
6.	Interface with the Revenue Officials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More than 500 people from 10 G.P.s interfaced the Tahasildar, Machhkund 25 times during the year.</li> <li>• The people of the area interfaced the District Collector, Koraput four times during October to December 2008. During these interfaces, they placed their demands to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Providing 2 acres of Lands to the landless poor of the area</li> <li>▪ Resolve the Cashew Garden Issue</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1500 people have availed the Copies of RoRs from the Revenue Office through due procedures.</li> </ul>
7.	Training to Team Leaders on Land Laws	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In order to build up the capacities of the team leaders on land laws, 163 team leaders (men-83, women-80) were imparted trainings on Land Laws in 6 phases (13th–15th March, 19th–21st March, 12th -14th May, 12th -13th September, 20th – 21st September, and 16th – 17th November) during the year</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The capacity of the team leaders have increased in the following aspects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Understanding the Lands Laws</li> <li>▪ Survey of the Lands</li> <li>▪ Filling up of the Application Forms</li> <li>▪ Identifying the lands according to the categories</li> <li>▪ Demarcating the Land surroundings</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
8.	Land Resource Kit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Resource Kits have been provided to 40 villages.</li> <li>• Tin Boxes, All kinds of Revenue Application Forms, and Books on Land Laws have been provided to each of these villages.</li> </ul>	
9.	Training to Activists on Land Laws	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 30 Activists were imparted training on Land laws in two phases i.e. from 6th – 8th February and 26th – 28th October 2008.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The capacities of the Activists on land related laws have been enhanced .</li> <li>• They are now able to fill up all the land related application forms neatly and without mistakes.</li> <li>• Now they can collect the Records from the Tahasil Office.</li> <li>• The communication of the Activists with that of the Tahasil Officials has been increased.</li> <li>• The Activists are playing an active role in clarifying the people on different types of land problems and their solutions.</li> </ul>
10.	Village Level Awareness Meeting on Land Issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 5 nos. Village level meetings were organized in 5 villages i.e. Bahiripada, Khajuriput, and Barlipada of Gumeipada G.P., Burdel of Badigada G.P., and Hantalput of Anakadeli G.P.</li> <li>• The people, who participated in these meetings were mainly oriented on the objectives of the movement for land rights.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Different types of beneficiaries have been identified in four villages and steps have been taken up to resolve some land related problems as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Applications submitted for land to Landless : 24 beneficiaries</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

CAMPAIGN ON LAND			
Sl. No.	Activities Carried Out	Details of the Activities	Outcomes
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Besides, the people were oriented on:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ the identification of village level issues as well as the land related issues</li> <li>▪ different land laws</li> <li>▪ formalities and processes filling up of various Application Forms</li> <li>▪ understanding of the RoR and the Cadastral Maps.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Applications submitted for Mutation of Land Records: 66 beneficiaries</li> <li>▪ Applications submitted for the Patta of Encroached lands: 75 beneficiaries</li> <li>▪ Applications submitted for Patta of Homestead Lands: 191 beneficiaries</li> <li>▪ 39 beneficiaries have availed Duplicate copy of the Pattas</li> <li>▪ The awareness and capacity of the people regarding the land laws and land survey process have been enhanced.</li> <li>▪ The people are able to fill up the Application Forms for different types of Land problems.</li> <li>▪ The people have grown confident enough to place / present their land related issues before the Tahasildar.</li> </ul>

## CASE STUDY

### **Light at the End of the Tunnel: The Victory of the Tribes of Koraput against Injustice**

DAS (Dangar Adhikar Samiti) members won a major struggle on the cashew land rights when on 31.07.2008, in a meeting chaired by Chief Minister, Orissa along with the Minister of Agriculture, Minister of Revenue and Disaster Management, the Chief Secretary and other high officials, took the decision to hand over the cashew plantations to the tribes in KBK region.



During 1950s onwards, there was massive plantation on the so-called government waste lands in Scheduled-V area. This cashew plantation was raised by the Soil Conservation Department. In all the cases such lands were under cultivation by the tribal but their rights were not recorded. When settlement took place, the tribal because of their ignorance, were not in a position to get their possessions recorded, and thus the lands under their possession got recorded as government wastelands and sometimes transferred to the Forest Department. Thus, the poor

tribes were regarded as encroachers even on lands, which were cultivated by their ancestors.

In Koraput district, the soil conservation department was established to take appropriate measures to check the soil erosion in Machhakund, Kolab, Chitrakonda and Indrabati Dam areas. The cashew plantation was taken up in massive scale in those areas under different government schemes like 'Economic Rehabilitation of the Rural Poor' (ERRP), Integrated Tribal Development Agency (ITDA), Employment Assurance Schemes (EAS), Jawahar Rojagar Yojana (JRY). At that time, the Soil Conservation Dept. made a mutual condition with the local community that the community would take responsibility of watch and ward and the same plantation would be distributed among the landless, marginal and small farmers.

But when the cashew trees reached the fruit bearing stage, the government of Orissa created the "Cashew Development Corporation" during 1979. Subsequently, the Soil Conservation Department was asked to hand over the entire plantation to the Corporation. Accordingly, from the year 1979, the Corporation had been giving tenders of the cashew gardens in open market every year. Such a willful business brought opportunities for many a non-tribal and non-Dalit people and even for some outsiders to take tenders and enjoy a good profit. There was a also nexus between the leaseholders and the Corporation people in the matter of manipulating the tender process and exploiting the benefits out of this.

In 1999, the government of Orissa even contemplated in giving long term leases to private parties for managing cashew plantations. One such advertisement appeared in the 'Economic Times' dated 20/4/99. According to the plan, an area of 2000 hectares was supposed to be given on lease for a minimum period of 35 years. But this plan failed to be materialized because of the protest by the local people.

Thus, the cashew plantations, raised on the lands supporting the livelihood bases of the tribal people, were handed over to the Orissa State Cashew Development Corporation for necessary management.

The lands that were once with the tribals now were handed over to private parties, without giving any compensation or rehabilitation. Hence many of them shifted and cultivated the hill slopes that caused more soil erosion,

It was ironic that the plantations that made the tribal people deprived of their possession of land were funded by schemes named as economic rehabilitation. In addition to cashew,



there are similar plantations of coffee and other commercial crops in the area and the tribal are deprived of their legitimate rights.

The tribal of Koraput in Machhakund Tahsil area under the banner of "DANGAR ADHIKAR SAMITI" (DAS) initiated the struggle to regain the control over these Cashew lands six years back in 2003. This struggle started in a single village, which got widespread 300 villages in Nanadapur and Lamataput Block of Koraput District.

The DAS members organized a number of rallies and dharnas at Tahsil, Block, District and even gheraoed the Police Station. Besides, it demonstrated in front of the office of Cashew Development Corporation at Jaypore and the State Assembly in Bhubaneswar. During this struggle, hundreds of people were sent to jail and many cases had been filed against the innocent people of the area, which are still pending in the local court at Koraput and Jeypore. Despite of all these oppressions and threats, the DAS had continued its struggle since last six years and did not allow the Corporation people and tender holders to enter into the cashew gardens of the area.

A team comprised of the members of DAS met the Chief Minister of Orissa on 11<sup>th</sup> June 2007, when the latter assured them that they would hand over the cashew gardens to the tribal people of the District. However, it took the government 18 months to have the final decision, when on 19<sup>th</sup> December 2008 the government took the decision to hand over 7,000 hectors of Cashew lands to the poor tribal and harijan people of Koraput district. During this period, the members of DAS received every pain and strain in using RTI and organizing public hearings so as to advocate their issues even at State level. And it was a matter of appreciation that the MLA of Koraput Sri. Tara Prasad Bahinipati helped the DAS members immensely in raising the issues of the people at State level during Assembly session.

SPREAD (Society for Promoting Rural Education And Development) facilitated the process and extended its helping hands thereby supporting and providing appropriate legal directions to DAS. As a result, a number of police cases have been filed against the team members of SPREAD. A number of People's Organizations also showed their solidarity to make the struggle a success

**THE HINDU, 19.12.2008.**

**CASHEW PLANTATION TO BE ALLOTTED TO SC/ST BENEFICIARIES**

KORAPUT: A long battle by the tribal people of Koraput district is hopefully won when Satyabrata Sahu, RDC, Southern Region, shared the decision of the Government to transfer at least 7,000 hectares of cashew plantation that was under the occupation of Cashew Corporation in different parts of Koraput district for a long time. Addressing district Collectors and other senior officials from eight districts in the KBK region here, Mr. Sahu said that leaving aside the plantation owned by the corporation, all that was grown with the assistance of ITDA and DRDA in the district would now be distributed among SC and ST beneficiaries by allotting patta for two acres of plantation area to each of them.

He directed the district authorities to expedite the process by conducting gram sabhas for the purpose and send recommendation to the tahsildars. He directed the Collectors to take up a drive to issue pattas to at least 25,000 beneficiaries in the KBK region by the end of the month after going through the applications.

While reviewing the progress of NREGA he expressed satisfaction over the opening of 30,549 passbooks in the post office in Koraput district.

The recent decision of the government will help the poor tribal people in their economic rehabilitation as some 7000 hectares of Cashew Gardens are to be distributed among the landless tribes and marginal farmers under Dafayati Rights, As per the decision of the government, each landless family, selected by the Palli Sabha would be provided with 2 acres of Cashew Gardens. And from now on, the OSCDC will only play a promotional role in the areas. At last a long battle was won by the DAS members though it took a long five years.

As a part of the fund raising mechanism, the DAS has been able to mobilize some **Rs. 11, 460** (Rupees Eleven Thousand Four Hundred Sixty only) as its own fund at the regional level. But to strengthen the initiative of People's Institution at the village and Panchayat level, the People have raised funds in each and every village in 7 G.P. i.e. Anakadelli, Badigada, Chikenput, Guneipada, Godihanjar, Ballel and Tushuba, which amounts more than **Rs. 3,00,000 (Rupees Three Lakhs)**.

Due to the ban of tender calling by the community people, the poor tribal families have had their control over the natural resources and hence have been greatly benefited / profited from the selling of the cashew nuts. The following table shows the collection of cashew nuts and profits availed from it village wise (during June and July 2008).

The DAS has emerged as a vibrant People's Organization and a pressure group at the Block level, which is actively involved in monitoring of the implementation of the Social security programmes of the government.

**DETAILS OF THE SELLING OF CASHEW NUTS AND PROFITS AVAILED  
(IN NANDAPUR AND LAMTAPUT BLOCKS)**

SI. NO	GP Name	Village Name	Collection of Cashew Nuts (in Quintals)	Total Amount (in Rs)
1	<b>ANKADELI</b>	Hanumal	60	3,30,000
2		Hantalput	20	1,10,000
3		Gutalpada	17	93,000
4		Kadambguda	30	1,65,000
5		Jodaamba	20	1,10,000
6		Mukhiput	10	55,000
7	<b>BADIGADA</b>	Ridal	25	1,37,500
8		Ganthiguda	2.5	13,750
9		Burdel	6	33,000
10		Godiput	7.5	41,250
11	<b>CHIKENPUT</b>	Gunnel	10.72	59,000
12		Mantriput	4	20,000
13		Kujambo	10	55,000
14		Dengsamili	17	93,500
15		Karsapada	10	55,000
16		Nuagaon	3	16,500
17		Barengabadi	1.5	8,250
18		Bahiripada	4	22,000
19		Dhobani Put	6	33,000
20		Mathikhal	3	16,500

**DETAILS OF THE SELLING OF CASHEW NUTS AND PROFITS AVAILED  
(IN NANDAPUR AND LAMTAPUT BLOCKS)**

<b>SI. NO</b>	<b>GP Name</b>	<b>Village Name</b>	<b>Collection of Cashew Nuts (in Quintals)</b>	<b>Total Amount (in Rs)</b>
21	<b>GUNEIPADA</b>	Ambapada	58.5	3,20,000
22		Mattamput	4	22,000
23		Bantalbir	5.5	28,000
24		Bayaput	10	55,000
25		Badliguda	8	44,000
26		Tikasamili	5	27,500
27		Bahiripada	6	33,000
28		Khajuriput	5	27,500
29		Litiput	20	1,10,000
30		Kantipada	10	55,000
31		Poibeda	12	66,000
32		Pangiput	9	49,500
33		Karaiput	10	55,000
34	<b>BALLEL</b>	Mahada	9	49,500
35		Lugum-B	5	27,500
36		Lugum-A	7	38,500
37		Ballel	7	38,500
38		Badaliput	5	27,500
39	<b>GODIHANJAR</b>	Bandhapada	2	11,000
40		Raipada	3	15,000
41		Enungu	8	44,000
42		Bangurpada	0.3	1,500
43		Godihanjar	1.2	6,000
44		Badakichab	1	5,000
45	<b>TUSUBA</b>	Tusuba	7	38,500
46		Kamel	20	11,000
47		Audi Pada	60	3,30,000
48		Jhodiaput	1	5,500
49		Sileiput	3	16,500
50	<b>BILLAPUT</b>	Kanta	2.4	12,000
51		Surumi	2	10,000
52		Khinmung	30	1,50,000
53		Godiput	3	12,000
54		Haraganda	30	1,50,000
55		Badput	1	3,000
56		Mariput	5.6	28,000
57		Tangulput	4.5	25,000
58		Nuaput	2	10,000
59	<b>ATTANDA</b>	Khilaput	12	60,000
60		Redeng	3.5	19,000
61		Banur	20	1,00,000
62		Bhadragarh	1.8	9,000
63		Samili	12	60,000
64	<b>BADEL</b>	Karaiput	10	50,000
65	<b>LAMTAPUT</b>	Kadri	40	2,20,000-
66		Malisahi(Lamtaput)	12	66,000
67		Kanagaon	10	55,000
68		Kangrapada	15	82,500
69		Sankei	20	1,10,000

<b>DETAILS OF THE SELLING OF CASHEW NUTS AND PROFITS AVAILED (IN NANDAPUR AND LAMTAPUT BLOCKS)</b>				
<b>SI. NO</b>	<b>GP Name</b>	<b>Village Name</b>	<b>Collection of Cashew Nuts (in Quintals)</b>	<b>Total Amount (in Rs)</b>
70		Kamarguda	12	66,000
71		Deulapada	15	82,500
72		Bamanput	8	44,000
62		Bhadragarh	1. 8	9,000
63		Samili	12	60,000
64	BADEL	Karaiput	10	50,000
65	LAMTAPUT	Kadri	40	2,20,000
66		Malisahi(Lamtaput)	12	66,000
67		Kanagaon	10	55,000
68		Kangrapada	15	82,500
69		Sankei	20	1,10,000
70		Kamarguda	12	66,000
71		Deulapada	15	82,500
72		Bamanput	8	44,000
73		Daliguda	6	33,000
74		Patenda	15	82,500
		<b>Total</b>	<b>Quintals 872. 52</b>	<b>46,15,250</b>

## **CHAPTER 3: RIGHT TO EDUCATION**

Among the causes that stand as the barriers on the path of education in the area are: the inaccessibility of the schools due to geographical problem (high lands, reservoirs, forests), lack of school infrastructure, administrative problems (negligence and irregularity of the school teachers) and lack of community cooperation in school management. And these barriers have put the future of the innocent children into the darkness leading to the violation of human rights. In order to bring some changes in the situation; the following activities were carried out during the year through the help of the People's Organizations:

1. G.P. level Workshop on Quality Primary Education (with Teachers, PRI Members and Displaced People's Forum)
2. Training to the members of VEC, PTA and MTA on Quality Primary Education
3. 'Pila Parab' (Children's Festival)
4. Observation of Children's Day
5. Enrollment Campaign
6. Support for Model Schools
7. Workshop with Teachers' Association
8. Pilla Panchayat Meeting
9. G. P. level Children Convention
10. Exposure of School Children

### **The Outcomes**

- The interest among the children to attend school and participate in extra-curricular activities has increased.
- The Pilla Panchayat has created opportunities for the children of different villages to interact among themselves that has helped them understand the problems in school management and get sensitized on the Panchayatraj System.
- The initiatives of Pilla Panchayat have encouraged 10 drop out students to continue their learning again and build the pillars of their future.

## **CASE STUDY**

### **Role of Pilla Panchayat in Mainstreaming Education**

Satodiput and Kandoragodiput are two among the 20 villages in Paraja Badapada G.P. 12 children (all boys) from these two villages were reading in the government U.G.M.E. School at village Paraja Badapada, 2 kilometers away from their villages. However, after passing Class-V, all these 12 children did not continue their schooling. Some of the children were engaged by their parents in different household works and watch and ward of the cattle, whereas others were reluctant to go to school as they didn't have school dresses and study materials.

This problem was discussed in the Pilla Panchayat meeting held in June and July 2008. After the meeting, ten members of the Pilla Panchayat went to the parents of those children. After talking to the parents, they counseled the latter and approached them to send the children to school by convincing them regarding the benefits the children would get if they complete the schooling, This was a very successful attempt to motivate the parents.

In August 2008, 10 children out of the 12 were admitted in schools. Eight of them were admitted in the Paraja Badapada U.G.M.E. School whereas another two enrolled in two different Residential Schools outside the Panchayat.

This effort of Pilla Panchayat has brought credibility for Pilla Panchayat and appreciation to the hearts of people of the Panchayat.

- The teachers have become sincere and regular in attending schools and contributing for quality teaching and learning process. Now, they are playing a pro-active role in managing the schools and encouraging the children to come to schools.
- The enrollment campaign by the children has infused interest among the parents to send their children to schools and help them enjoy schooling.
- The training inputs given to the members of the VEC, PTA and MTA have encouraged them to perform their responsibilities sincerely. At present, they are playing a pro-active role in school management thereby extending their cooperation to the teachers, self help groups and Pilla Panchayat for the smooth functioning of Schools.
- The rate of enrollment and retention has been increased by 90% and 80% respectively.

- The awareness of the parents especially of the mothers has paved the way towards promotion of girl child education.

## CHAPTER 4: RIGHT TO HEALTH

Lack of knowledge on basic health and sanitation, lack of adequate health personnel and inactive programme implementation by government were the main causes of ill health in all the project areas. The PHC, CHC, and DHH stand at distances of 10 kms to 90 kms from the project areas. So, only those patients who can afford it are accessing the PHC and CHC. In between, the traditional healers and the local quacks are the main beneficiaries who take advantage of the inadequate health facilities. In this context, SPREAD has engaged the People's Organizations to generate awareness among the people, activate the health system of the government and help the people avail the health services provided by the government. In some cases also SPREAD has extended its help to some extremely needy and critically ill people to avail referral health services by sending them to the District Headquarters Hospital. The following activities, during the year, were facilitated by SPREAD through the People's Organizations:

### 1. Interface with Health Department:

The members of Bhumi Adhikar Sangha (BAS) and Machhakund Basachyuta Mahasangha (MBM) interfaced the C.D.M.O., Koraput and Medical Officer, CHC-Nandapur and placed their demands to appoint a Doctor in the PHC-Ramagiri and to take appropriate measures to prevent the outbreak of Diarrhea in Paraja Badapada G.P.

### 2. Health Camps:

During the year, three Health Camps were organized by the Project on 28<sup>th</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup>, and 30<sup>th</sup> October 2008 in Bilaput, Attanda and Paraja Badapada G.P. respectively. During these health camps, Dr. Ranjit Kumar Nayak (M.B.B.S.), Medical Officer-CHC, Lamataput did health check-ups of **417 patients** and gave medicines for some common diseases like: cold, fever, malaria, scabies, cough, dysentery and worms. The details of the patients covered under treatment were as follows:

### 3. Referral

As in previous also SPREAD vulnerable and patients (Women-

NAME OF G.P.	NO. OF PATIENTS TREATED			
	Women	Men	Children	Total
Bilaput	38	31	28	97
Attanda	41	49	61	151
Paraja Badapada	64	47	58	169
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>143</b>	<b>127</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>417</b>

### Health Service:

years, this year identified **84** critically ill 33, Men-19,

Children- 32) from Jalaput and Ramagiri Project areas and sent them to District Headquarters Hospital, Koraput for detailed investigation and proper treatment. The project supported the expenses of travel, pathological investigations and in some cases medicines also. But it was the major thrust of SPREAD to establish linkage with the **District Red Cross Medicine Bank** to get

medicines for these poor patients. And this proved to be a very good initiative as during this year, medicines worth **Rs. 1, 53,000** was mobilized from Red Cross Medicine Bank, which saved the lives of these poor people.

## The Outcomes

- During the outbreak of Diarrhea in Paraja Badapada G.P., a medical team and the B.D.O. visited the G.P. and took immediate preventive measures by providing bleaching powder, halogen tablets, ORS Powder and other necessary medicines. Besides, the ANM was strictly instructed to stay in the G.P. headquarter till the severity slowed down. As a result, the outbreak of diarrhea was controlled.
- 417 patients, who could not go to hospital for necessary treatment, have benefited from the Health Camps.
- The support for referral health services were immensely helpful for the vulnerable patients, who are, at present, living healthy lives.

### CASE STUDY

#### **The Initiative of Referral Health: Saving the Lives of the Poor**

Kartik Sisa, a landless tribal of 28 years, is a native of village Khilaput of Attanda G.P. in Nandapur Block. His family consists of his wife Bimala, two daughters (one of 7 years and the other of 1 year) and widow mother Naina. The family lived on the daily wages and petty agricultural income from a patch of Dangar land, with difficulty.

While maintaining the family with difficulty and hardship, a mishap that happened during the mid of June brought endless suffering to Kartik's life. It was one day in the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of August 2008 that Kartik was cutting a branch of mango tree for fire wood purpose, when his feet slipped and he fell down from the tree and a sharp wooden piece got into the lower part of his left knee making a deep wound. To heal the wound and take the wooden piece out, Kartik used traditional treatment for one month, which did not help him in any way. Then, being helpless, he switched over to the local quacks, spending some three thousands of rupees in vain. For all these treatments, Kartik had to stretch his hands before some of his relatives and the village SHG. And, day by day, the wound in the knee got more infected and gangrenous attended by intolerable pain.

Kartik caught the sight of one of the team members of SPREAD on 21<sup>st</sup> October 2008, who immediately intervened to take Kartik to the District Headquarters Hospital (DHH), Koraput. On 22<sup>nd</sup> October, Kartik was shifted to DHH, where he has undergone several investigations as per the advice of Orthopedic Specialist. After observing the reports, the Doctor suggested immediate surgery with the warning that if surgery was not performed within a couple of weeks there would be no chance of recovery and the lower part of the knee would have to be amputated to save Kartik's life.

Accordingly, on 30<sup>th</sup> October, Kartik underwent a major surgery followed by 15 days for necessary follow-up treatments. With this he was completely cured and was discharged from the hospital on 16<sup>th</sup> November.

All the expenses for Kartik's treatment, were borne by SPREAD. And it was a matter of great pleasure and satisfaction that the support of the project saved poor Kartik from being disabled. Now, Kartik is leading a very happy and healthy life.

## CHAPTER 5: RIGHTS OF WOMEN AND FEMALE CHILDREN

In order to enable the women to participate in the economic, social, and political spheres this strategy was used. Through this strategy, efforts have been made to facilitate the process of positive discrimination for women, thereby organizing and building their capacities to assert their rights in VDC, PRI and in all other forums, in all dimensions of self, family, community and in society at large.



The Women's Organizations, during the year, have developed their alliances with other district level forums in the District. Also, they have joined different People's Organizations to make their movement (against displacement, lack of good governance, government's apathy to provide land rights) successful.

In this connection, the formation of Self Help Groups (SHGs) at village level and Women Federations at Panchayat level in each of the Project areas, have been proved to be very effective and powerful instruments in the context of self-reliance and empowerment of the women.

During the year 2008-2009, SPREAD encouraged the Women's Organizations to facilitate the following activities:

1. SHG Meetings
2. Women Federation Meeting
3. Training to Women Leaders on Present Structural Analysis
4. Women Core Committee Meeting
5. Interface with government Officials
6. District level Women Convention
7. O.D. Exercise of Women Forum

### **O.D. Exercise of Women Forum: An Initiative to Strengthen the Women's Organization**

The three Women's Federations promoted by SPREAD have emerged as a vibrant Women's Forum as well as a dynamic pressure group not only in different G.P.s but also in the entire area.

And as a civil society organization, it is believed that the viability and the sustainability of such forums highly depends upon the effectiveness of their internal systems, their structures and their work culture.

To develop a clear understanding of the system and structure of a People's Organization, the above training programme was organized in two phases at Jalaput Joga Kendra i.e. one from 12<sup>th</sup> –14<sup>th</sup> May 2008 and the other from 14<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> October 2008. During these two phase O.D. Exercises, 82 women leaders from 8 G.P.s participated. The resource persons Mr. Babaji Charan Parida and Mr. Ranjit Kumar Sahu from ANWESAN, BBSR facilitated these exercises. The focus of discussion, during these exercises, was on the following:

- The history of the origin and evolution of the Women's Federations in the area
- The basic objective behind the emergence of these forums
- The underlying aspects that has contributed for the structure of these forums
- The basic difference between the SHG and the Women's Federation
- The evolution and structure of the society, its transformation and trends it has passed through since the evolution
- The pattern of distribution of means of production or the Resources that has shaped the present society
- The role, responsibility and accountability of People's Organization in uplifting the marginalized and vulnerable sections of the society
- As an accountable and pro-people Organization, what should be the responsibility of its members?
- The process to transfer the knowledge gained by the members of the forums to the common masses
- Types of leadership
- The interventions taken up by the people's Organizations to date
- The success and failure as well as the strength and weaknesses of the People's Organizations
- The underlying causes and lacunas behind the failures
- The vision of the People's Organizations in the present situation

### **District Level Women Convention: A Platform that Paves the Way toward the Empowerment of Tribal Women**

With an aim to strengthen the district level forum of women so as to help them raise voices and fight against various issues of the area and build pressure for their resolution, SPREAD has been organizing a District level Women's Convention since 2004.

This Year, the Women Convention was organized at Gupteswar, Ramagiri from 22<sup>nd</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> November 2008. 504 people (women-400, men-104) from 21 G.P.s of Nandapur, Dasmantpur, Semiliguda, Lamataput and Boipariguda participated in this Convention.

The Convention was inaugurated with the traditional tribal worship and rituals by the women. The Convention proceeded with the discussion on the overall progress of the six resolutions taken in the previous year. From this discussion, the following progress was noticed:

- The preparation and sale of Bihari Liquor has been decreased by 30%.
- The movement for the record of rights (settlement of lands in possession) over the land possessed by the people of the region is on the way to progress.
- The process for the record of rights over the Reserve Forest Lands and Revenue Forest Lands has made a sweet progress as almost all the beneficiaries in the region have submitted their claim applications to FRC and SDLC after the recommendations in the Palli Sabha.
- The resolution for encouraging the girl child education has been very successful as almost all the girl children in the area have been enrolled in different village primary schools and other residential schools and now are enjoying their schooling.
- Different kinds of exploitation over women have been reduced as a result of the interventions by the SHGs and Women's Federations concerned in different G.P.s.
- The early girl child marriage as well as the forcible elopement, which were rampant in tribal society, has decreased to a considerable extent.

On the evening of the first day, the women of Ramagiri G.P. organized a street rally on violence against women. On the 2<sup>nd</sup> day, the women leaders from 21 G.P.s presented the progress of their respective G.P.s against the six resolutions. Besides, they shared the existing issues in their G.P.s. On the evening of the 2<sup>nd</sup> day, a 'Dhamsa' competition was organized by the Women Federations of Ramagiri G.P. In this competition, the Women Group of Attanda G.P. performed the best and won the medal. The 3<sup>rd</sup> day was devoted to finalizing the new resolutions keeping in mind the present situations of the region. Accordingly, the following seven resolutions were unanimously accepted for the year 2009.

1. To extend the anti-liquor movement
2. To accelerate the movement for the land rights
3. To encourage and ensure girl child education
4. To make effort to speed up the process and formalities for the records over the Reserve Forest Lands
5. To plan and intervene for ensuring equal wages and prevent wage discrimination
6. To plan and intervene for putting a halt to violence upon women
7. To take initiatives to preserve, protect and promote the culture, tradition, and the very identity of the tribal people

After this, the women's Core Committee was restructured, where 26 women from different G.P.s found places. Chandrama Hantal of Chikenput G.P. in Lamataput Block was selected as the President and Malati Nayak of Ramagiri G.P. in Boipariguda Block as the Secretary and Dasu Krisani of Bilaput G.P. in Nandapur Block as the Vice-President.

The Women Convention was brought to a close with an oath taken by all the participants to support the seven resolutions in the year 2008-2009.

### **The Outcomes:**

- As a result of the regular meetings of the SHG members, the members of almost all the SHGs have been able to manage the groups effectively. Besides, the dependency of the members on the Animators or Activists, during the bank transactions, planning and decision-making process, has almost been eliminated.
- The income generation programmes initiated by the SHGs since last 10 years, have helped strengthening the economic conditions as well as the standard of living of the partner families.
- The SHGs have been emerged as the powerful village institutions to resolve the village level disputes or conflicts and have paved the way towards peaceful and harmonious living.
- One remarkable sign of progress is that the women of the three Panchayats have been participating in the Palli Sabha, Grama Sabha and Nodal Meetings actively and are raising the village and Panchayat level problems in these common forums.
- The participation of the Women in Palli Sabha and Grama Sabha has increased.
- The members of the SHGs and the women Federations have been empowered enough to raise their voices against whatever shortcomings in the accountability of the government officials or corruption by any vested interest groups comes to notice.
- The District level Women Convention has helped the women of the Region to get united and fight for the empowerment and justice of women. This has brought recognition to the women forum as a pressure Group at the district level. As a result, the women forum has been proved to be an integral part of the all round development of the partner community.

## **CASE STUDY**

### **The Unity of the Women Federation: A Powerful Instrument to Prevent the Misuse of Power**

Bilaput is one of the tribal dominated Panchayats of Nandapur Block. In the Panchayat Election of 2007, a woman candidate named Gora Sisa, belonging to Scheduled Caste, was elected as the Sarapanch of the G.P. Though Gora was not a suitable candidate, her husband Narayan Musafaria manipulated the people into electing her.

After the oath taking ceremony, Gora, as the Sarapanch, used to come to the Panchayat office and sit in the chair. But after a couple of months, her husband Musafaria, who was a drunkard, did not allow her to come to the Panchayat office. Rather he himself started coming to office and sat in the chair meant for Sarapanch. Besides, he started using the stamp and put the signature of the Sarapanch on various documents. Musafaria recognized himself as the Sarapanch of the G.P. and whenever anybody interrupted him, Musafaria scolded him or her in filthy language and threatened to send them to jail. Day after day, Musafaria's activities and behavior became increasingly intolerable. This problem was discussed in the monthly meeting of Women Federation of Bilaput G.P. And the members of the Women Federation waited for an opportunity to give a lesson to Musafaria.

In the meantime, the members of the Women Federation called a meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> May 2008 at Bilaput Sadar, some 200 meters away from Panchayat office, when Musafaria was sitting in the Panchayat Office. When the meeting started, Musafaria started scolding the ward members loudly, which disturbed the discussion in the meeting. So, one of the Women Federation members came to him and asked him not to create disturbances. With this, Musafaria, got angry and started rebuking all the women members in filthy language. This made the women federation members extremely angry. In order to give Musafaria a lesson, all the members rushed the Panchayat office, where the former was sitting on the chair. The women dragged him out of the Panchayat Office and thrashed him to the fullest of their ability.

There was no scope for Musafaria to escape, who being helpless, touched the feet of some women leaders and requested them to leave him. At last, the women members left him with the warning "If furthermore, you enter into the Panchayat Office and behave like a Sarapanch, then you will be beaten by sandals and from that day the Panchayat Office will be locked." This action and threatening of the women was enough to stop the misdeeds of the dummy-Sarapanch because since then he has never come to the Panchayat Office. However, this was a glaring example of the empowerment of women forums in the area.

## **CHAPTER 6: RIGHT TO DIGNITY**

The tribal identity and culture is at a cross road and likely to face further crisis due to the increasing inroads made in tribal habitations in the name of globalization and so-called development. The tribals of Koraput are no exception to this. During the last four and a half decades, they have gone through the trauma of various domineering forces in the name of progress and development, which have brought turmoil to life of hundreds and thousands of families and pushed them to brink of destitution. In this process, the symbiotic living of tribes is pulverized under extractive use of nature, putting extreme tension on human / biotic life, land, water, forest and whole of biosphere.

In this context, the People's Institutions of the area have risen to take up the future challenges and safeguard lives, livelihoods, culture, tradition and the very identity of the tribal people thereby ensuring their rights of over the natural resources. In order to add value to the struggle of the tribals, SPREAD facilitated the following activities through the People's Organizations:

1. VDC Meetings
2. Half Yearly District level Meeting of Displaced People's Forum
3. Activists' Monthly Meeting
4. G.P. level Displaced People's Forum meeting
5. Regional level Displaced People's Forum meeting
6. Analysis of Present Power Structure with Community Leaders
7. G.P. level Tribal Convention
8. Interface with Tahasildar
9. Interface with B.D.O., Nandapur

## 10. Consultation on “Access of Poor to Land in KBK Region”

### **Analysis of Present Power Structure with Community Leaders:**

The development of a community highly depends upon its critical understanding of the societal transformation and the factors responsible for shaping the present imbalance / discrimination in the society. In this context, in order to equip the understanding of the Community leaders with the present power structure, the above training was organized by the Project in two phases i.e. from 15<sup>th</sup> -17<sup>th</sup> May and 14<sup>th</sup> -16<sup>th</sup> August 2008 at Yoga Kendra, Jalaput. During these analysis process, 104 community leaders (women-34, men-70) participated actively. Mr. Ranjit Kumar Sahu from ANWESAN, BBSR facilitated these exercises. The focus of discussion, during these exercises, was on the followings:

- The evolution of human civilization
- Gradual transformation of the society
- Formation of groups among the human beings
- Utilization of natural resources like: land, water and forest by different groups for their survival
- Role of women in utilization of resources
- Control over resources by different groups
- Development of civilization and the growing needs of resources
- Shaping of society in different stages
- Emergence and domination of influential groups over the weaker sections
- Dominance of the Influential groups in distribution of resources
- Growth of inequality in the society resulting in the social imbalances and disparities
- Changing / worsening situation during the British rule
- Impact of globalization on the life of the weaker sections
- The present disparity among the poor and the rich in every aspect of life
- The failure of policy makers in contributing a exploitation free society
- Necessity of equal distribution of resources in the present society
- Role of People’s Organizations and the community in making a just society

### **G.P. Level Tribal Convention:**

Now the tribal consciousness in relation to its own tradition and history and in relation to the outsiders is taking shape as an important part of the subaltern consciousness of the region. The tribals of Koraput region during the last four and a half decades have gone through the trauma of various domineering forces in the name of progress and development.

With an effort to sensitize the tribals to preserve, safeguard and promote their culture, tradition and meaningful value based life style; SPREAD has been organizing the Tribal Convention at District level since 2004. As its continuation, the Tribal Convention, this year was organized at Yoga Kendra, Jalaput held from 20<sup>th</sup> -22<sup>nd</sup> November 2008. 441 people (women-291, men-150) from different parts of the district participated in this Convention. Among the invitees, were Dr. Chandrasekhar Mohapatra, (Tahasildar, Machhakund), Mr. Lakhi Deori (Chief Functionary, CCN) and Udaya Singh Thakur (Social Activist, Bolangir) who shared their valuable experience and

comments on various factors responsible for the present measurable condition of tribal, degradation of tribal culture, traditions and the loss of the very Identity of the tribal.

Besides, the Women Leaders and Social Activists coming from different corners of the district presented the issues of their respective areas and the steps taken by the local People's Organizations to resolve the issues.

On the 3<sup>rd</sup> day, the participants reviewed the progress of the following 10 Resolutions taken the previous year on occasion of the previous year's Tribal Convention, meant to safeguard, preserve and develop their culture and traditions:

- "Proudly we will introduce ourselves as tribal."
- "We will try to enhance the culture and identity of the tribal."
- "We will preserve our rare, valuable tradition and language in written form."
- "Each of us will act as an ambassador of tribal culture."
- "We will publicize our culture."
- "We will be united not within a political boundary but within a cultural boundary."
- "We will protect our forests and lands."
- "We will make our traditional justice system."
- "We will continue our traditional food habit, cultivation and way of life."
- "We will make our traditional education system and institutions powerful and effective."

After this review, all the participants unanimously accepted the above 10 Resolutions to work on in the year 2009.

### **O.D. of People's Forum:**

The Machhkund Basachyut Mahasangha in the area has been emerged as a vibrant People's Forum as well as a dynamic pressure group not only in different G.P.s but also in the entire area. And as a civil society organization, it is believed that the viability and the sustainability of such forums highly depends upon the effectiveness of its internal system, structure and the work culture it moves through.

To develop a clear understanding of the system and structure of a People's Organization, the above training programme was organized in 2 phases at Jalaput Joga Kendra i.e. one from 2<sup>nd</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> May 2008 and the other from 14<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> October 2008. During these two phase O.D. Exercises, 103 members (women-33, men-70) Machhakund Basachyut Mahasangha leaders from 14 G.P.s of Nandapur and Lamataput Block participated actively. The resource persons Mr. Babaji Charan Parida and Mr. Ranjit Kumar Sahu from ANWESAN, BBSR facilitated these exercises. The focus of discussion, during these exercises, was on the following:

- The history of the origin and evolution of the Women's Federations in the area
- The basic objective behind the emergence of these forums
- The underlying aspects that have contributed to the structure of these forums
- The basic difference between the SHG and the Women's Federation
- The evolution and structure of society, its transformation and trends it has passed through during its evolution

- The pattern of distribution of means of production or the resources that has shaped the present society
- The role, responsibility and accountability of People's Organization in uplifting the marginalized and vulnerable sections of the society
- As an accountable and pro-people Organization, what should be the responsibility of its members?
- The process to transfer the knowledge gained by the members of the forums to the common masses
- Types of leadership
- The interventions taken up by the people's Organizations to date
- The success and failure as well as the strength and weaknesses of the People's Organizations
- The underlying causes and lacunas behind the failures
- The vision of the People's Organizations in the present situation

## The Outcomes

- Due to the intensive interventions of the People's Organizations in the area, the government employees have become more sincere than before.
- The People's Organizations have become sensitive towards their issues that are affecting the lives and livelihoods of the vulnerable group in the area.
- A collaborative effort by all the People's Organizations have been raised to preserve, protect and promote the rare and valuable culture, tradition and the very identity of the tribal people.
- The unity of the People's Organizations to safeguard the rights of the rural poor, have brought them the identity of a vibrant pressure group in the region.

### **CASE STUDY**

#### **When the People Get Empowered, Exploiters Surrender**

The Panchayat Bilaput is one of the backward and tribal dominated Panchayats of Nandapur Block consisting of 28 villages (including revenue villages and hamlets). Some 95% of the total population in this Panchayat belongs to BPL category. For these people, the PDS items i.e. rice and kerosene, available every month, were always of immense help to tide over the lean period. But up until 2003, the people faced a lot of difficulties in getting these items regularly as some vested interest people along with the Panchayat employees managed to misappropriate these items. However, during 2004, this problem got resolved when the Women Federation of the Panchayat came forward, got the license from the Block and started managing the distribution of PDS successfully. But this effort of the Women Federation was ruined when a man named Gagan Panigrahy succeeded in garnering the PDS license as the dealer in August 2007.

After a couple months again the people had to face the same problem in getting the PDS items, especially kerosene. It so happened that from December 2008 to March, the

people of 11 villages i.e. Bilaput, Sabun, Lamdur, Upper Sabun, Upper Haraganda, Sargiguda, Nuaput, Patraput, Godiput, Antabir, Tapaganda of the G.P. did not get the kerosene oil. On the other hand, Gagan Panigrahy took advantage of the situation by selling the kerosene oil on the black market to different places after withdrawing the kerosene quotas from the depot. Such type of mischief created strong discontent among the people of the area. However, this issue was focused in the meeting of G.P. level Displaced People's Forum, held on the week of March 1<sup>st</sup>. In the meeting, the members of the Forum decided to give a strong lesson to the dealer and prepared a strategic plan accordingly. In between, they got the information that the dealer was going to withdraw the kerosene oil from the depot on the night of 25<sup>th</sup> March 2008. Before that, some 70 members of the Forum, cut down a tree and placed it in front of village Bilaput and blocked the road over which the van carrying the kerosene oil was supposed to pass.

At 9 o' clock at night, when the van carrying the kerosene passed through the road, all the members rushed towards the van and as the road was blocked they were able to retrieve 20,000 liters of kerosene from the van. They shifted the barrels to the nearby school, where the people watched the barrels overnight. The next morning, they informed all the villagers of the G.P. by sending special messengers to each village. Accordingly, when the people of the Panchayat were gathered, the members of the Women Federation distributed all the kerosene oil among the people.

This bold action by the forum members created fear in Gagan Panigrahy, who did not dare to come before forum members. After this incident, the members of the Forum met with the B.D.O., Nandapur and demanded that the license of Gagan Panigraphy be rescinded given to another person. Accordingly, another man named Siba Panda was provided with the license in April 2008, who has been distributing the kerosene properly since then.

The above incident has added one page more to the victory of the empowerment of the Displaced People's Forum.

# AUDITOR'S REPORT



**D M ASSOCIATES**  
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

## AUDITOR'S REPORT

We have audited the attached Consolidated Balance Sheet of **SOCIETY FOR PROMOTING RURAL EDUCATION DEVELOPMENT SOCIETY**, L/3, Kalpana Square, Bhubaneswar as at 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2009 and the annexed Income & Expenditure and Receipts & Payments\* for the period ended on that date and report that:-

- a) We have obtained all the information and explanations, which to the best of our knowledge and belief were necessary for the purposes of our audit.
- b) In our opinion, proper books of account have been kept by the Society as required by law so far as it appears from our examination of the books and the above-mentioned accounts are in agreement therewith.
- c) The Balance Sheet, Income & Expenditure and Receipt & Payment Accounts referred to in this report, are in agreement with the books of account;
- d) In our opinion and to the best of our information and according to the explanations given to us the said accounts give a true and fair view.
  - (i) In case of the balance Sheet of the aforesaid project, the state of affairs of the Society as at 31.03.2009,
  - (ii) In case of the Income & Expenditure Account of the aforesaid project, the surplus for the year ended on that date.

Place: Bhubaneswar

Date:



For **D M ASSOCIATES**  
Chartered Accountants

  
**(CA. Anil Ku. Agarwal)**  
Partner  
Membership No. 055984

307, Block - A, 3rd Floor, Nirjala Plaza, Forest Park, Bhubaneswar - 751 009, Orissa, India  
Ph : +91 674 2595911, 2595913, Telefax : 91 674 2595912 E-mail : debasish13@yahoo.com

**SOCIETY FOR PROMOTING RURAL EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT (SPREAD)**  
**L/3, KALPANA SQUARE, BHUBANESWAR - 751014**  
**FIELD OFFICE : JANIGUDA, KORAPUT**

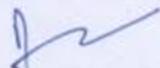
**CONSOLIDATED BALANCESHEET AS AT 31.03.2009**

<u>LIABILITIES</u>	Amount in Rs.	Amount in Rs.	<u>ASSETS</u>	Amount in Rs.
<b>Capital Fund</b>			<b>Fixed Assets</b>	
Opening Balance	898,526.25		As per Scheduled-19	1,248,624.52
Add: Surplus During the Year	<u>32,407.08</u>			
		930,933.33	<b>Loans &amp; Advances</b>	
Capital Reserve for non Recuring Grant	674,579.83		Grant in Aid Receivable	124,078.81
Add: Assets Purchased during the Year	<u>1,022,477.00</u>		<b>Current Assets</b>	
Less: Adjustment of Depreciation	<u>238,578.96</u>	1,458,477.87	Cash in Hand & Bank	1,137,764.63
			As per Scheduled - 16	
<b>Current Liabilities &amp; Provisions</b>			<b>Profit &amp; Loss Account</b>	
As per Scheduled -16		127,030.00	Opening Balance	5,973.24
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>2,516,441.20</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,516,441.20</b>

Place: Bhubaneswar  
 Date:

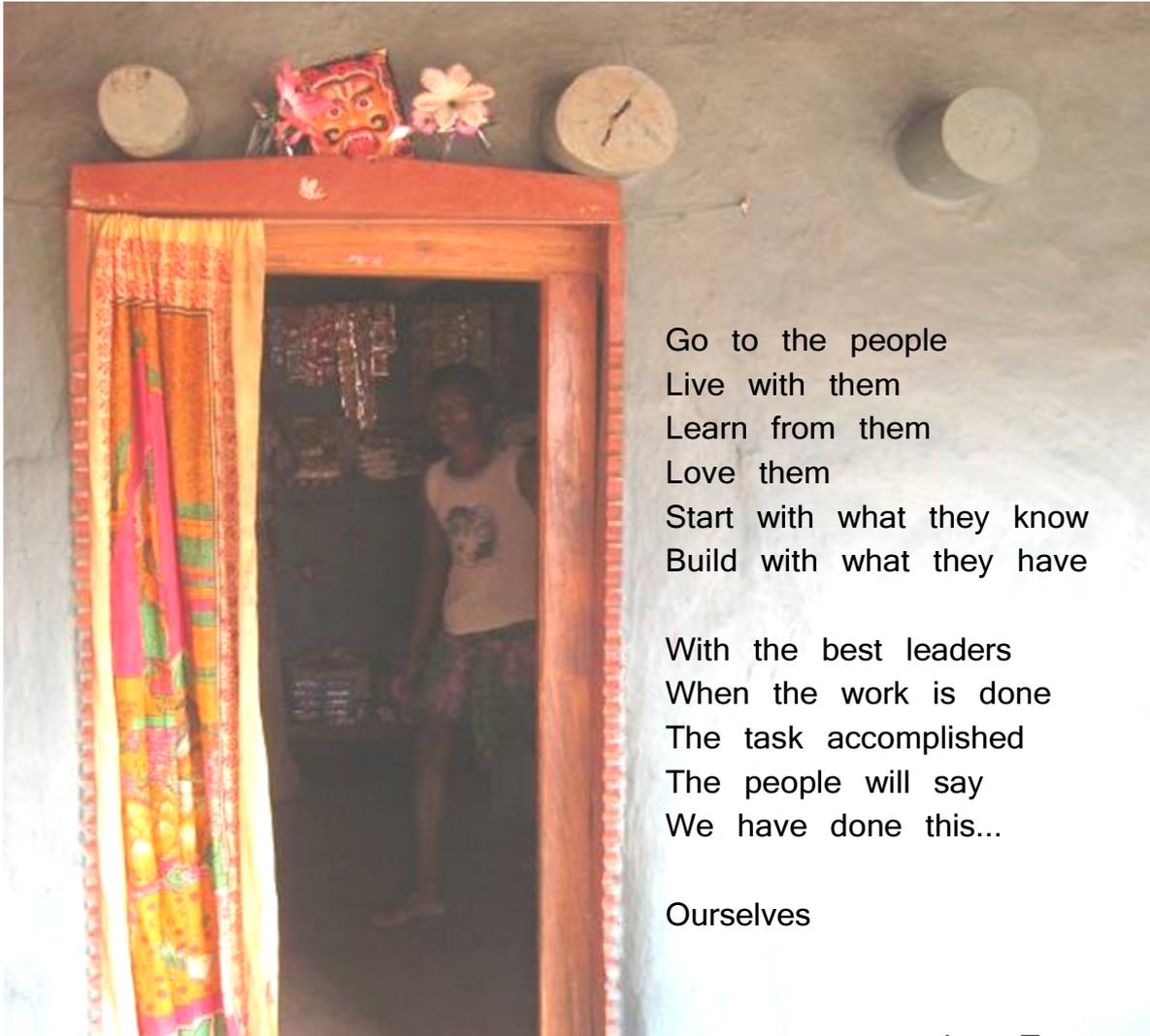


For D.M. ASSOCIATES  
 Chartered Accountants

  
 (C.A. Anil Kumar Agarwal)  
 Partner  
 Membership No. 055984

*Secretary*  
**SPREAD**

## AFTERWORD



Go to the people  
Live with them  
Learn from them  
Love them  
Start with what they know  
Build with what they have

With the best leaders  
When the work is done  
The task accomplished  
The people will say  
We have done this...

Ourselves

Lao Tsu