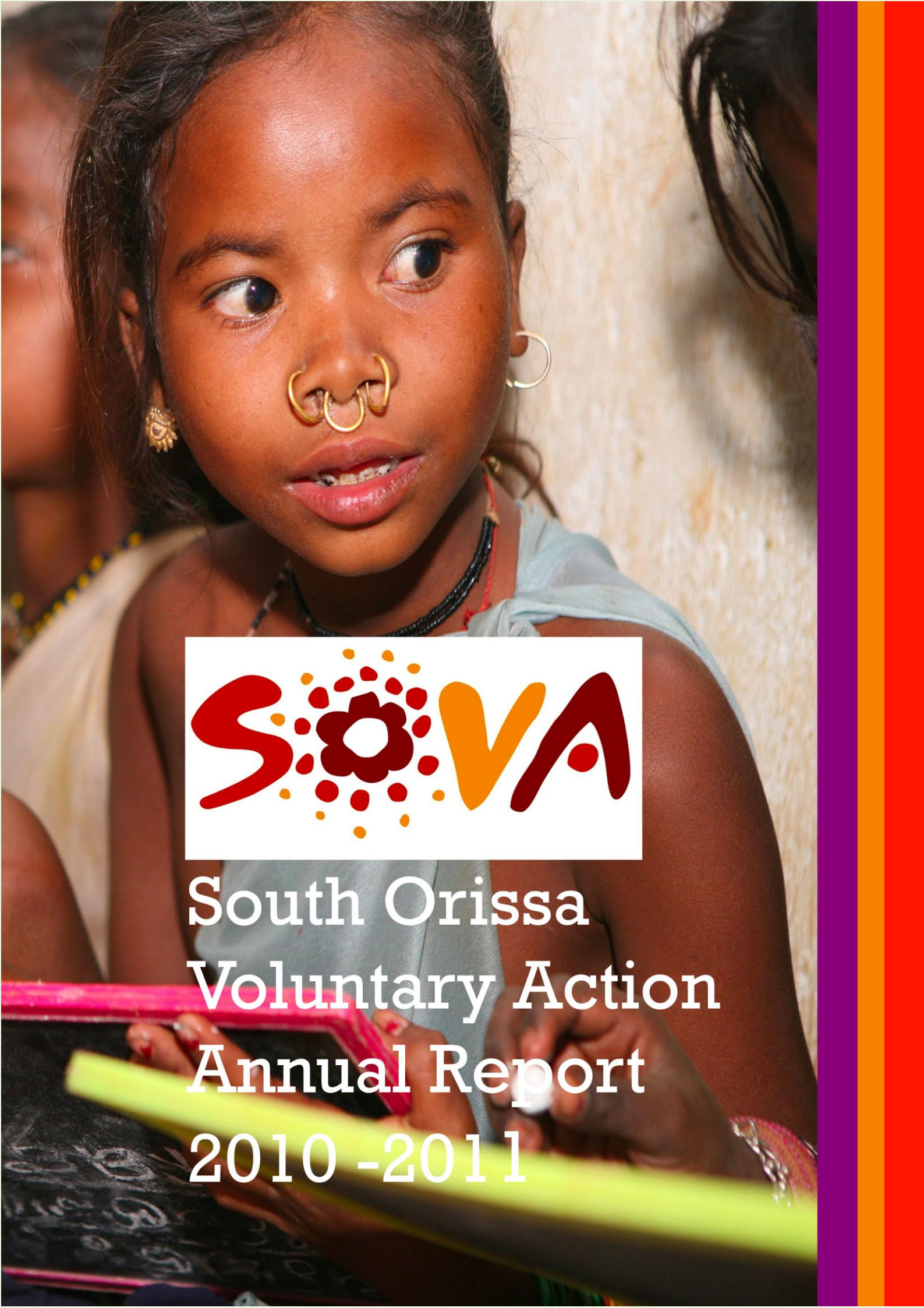




South Orissa  
Voluntary Action  
Annual Report  
2010 -2011



## CONTENTS PAGE

CONTENTS PAGE.....	2
MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY .....	3
INTRODUCTION.....	4
EDUCATION .....	6
LIVELIHOODS .....	10
GOVERNANCE .....	15
HEALTH .....	18
HIV.....	20
EYE CARE .....	23
COACHING FOR HOPE .....	26
SPONSORSHIP .....	28
COMMUNITY RADIO .....	29
WE CAN CAMPAIGN.....	30
ACRONYMs.....	31
FINANCIAL REPORT(Audit Repot & SOVA GB members) .....	32
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS .....	324

## MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY

Dear sir/madam

It is immense pleasure on my part to publish the annual report of SOVA, which is relentlessly working in the district of Koraput since 1993-94. Over a period of time we have faced many challenges but despite of these challenges we are moving forward to work for the community most of whom are tribal and marginalized.

The district of Koraput in which SOVA operates is culturally rich but is considered as one of the most economically and socially backward region of India, we have been able to contribute towards many positive changes in our operational area.

Our key area of approach is right based approach which stress on empowerment of community and enabling them to advocate for their own rights depicting our theme "we can progress together"

Year 2010 -2011 was very significant year for SOVA for more than one reason; this year we have expanded our activities to new areas in order to support those who need it most. Our approach is to empower the community and enable them to advocate for their rights. True to our theme "*We Can Progress together*", we closely collaborate with the communities in order to achieve their objectives and improve their lives.

SOVA has taken new initiatives to work with children that are visually challenged, orphans and vulnerable children affected by HIV/AIDS. Furthermore, we have developed new research programs to tackle migration in collaboration with the network of NGOs at the district level.

Our campaign for effective implementation of right to education act in the district of Koraput through creating awareness about the act and strengthening community level organization to create a demand is an initiative

I am thankful to staff of organization for working relentlessly on achieving SOVA's mission, to the community for believing in our organization and to all funding partners who have shown a great confidence in our work. I am also thankful to the district administration for cooperating with us in our efforts to work with the people of Koraput.

Sanjit Patnayak

Secretary

## INTRODUCTION

South Orissa Voluntary Action (SOVA) is non-profit, secular organisation that has been working for the past 15 years in Koraput, one of the poorest districts in Orissa, India. We empower the most disadvantaged members of society, particularly women and children, to better their lives through our healthcare, education, governance, livelihood and disaster relief work. Our participatory process motivates the tribal population to work together to fight poverty, exploitation and discrimination so they can one day become free and equal members of society.

Our journey began in 1993 when the tribal people of Koraput were displaced by the construction of the Upper Kolab Hydroelectric Dam. People who had been living for centuries along the reservoirs were forced to resettle further uphill, where the land was less suitable for agriculture and lacked other natural resources like forests. As a result, the infrastructure and institutions of the tribals fell apart.

The displaced people were grappling with the difficulties of starting over again when we stepped in. We motivated them to form groups to discuss issues, fight for their rights, plan for their future and regain their sense of community.

Over the years, we have continued to add programs and build strong, trusting relationships with the communities we serve. Starting in 13 villages with only a few staff members, today we work in 275 villages over seven blocks of Koraput District.

### SOVA'S Vision

"We will establish a healthy and self reliant society where community and children enjoy equal opportunities, rights, liberty, justice, participation, informed decision-making and ability to solve their issues. We believe in a society where people can live with dignity and without discrimination or exploitation on the basis of class, caste, creed, sex, race or religion."

### SOVA'S Mission

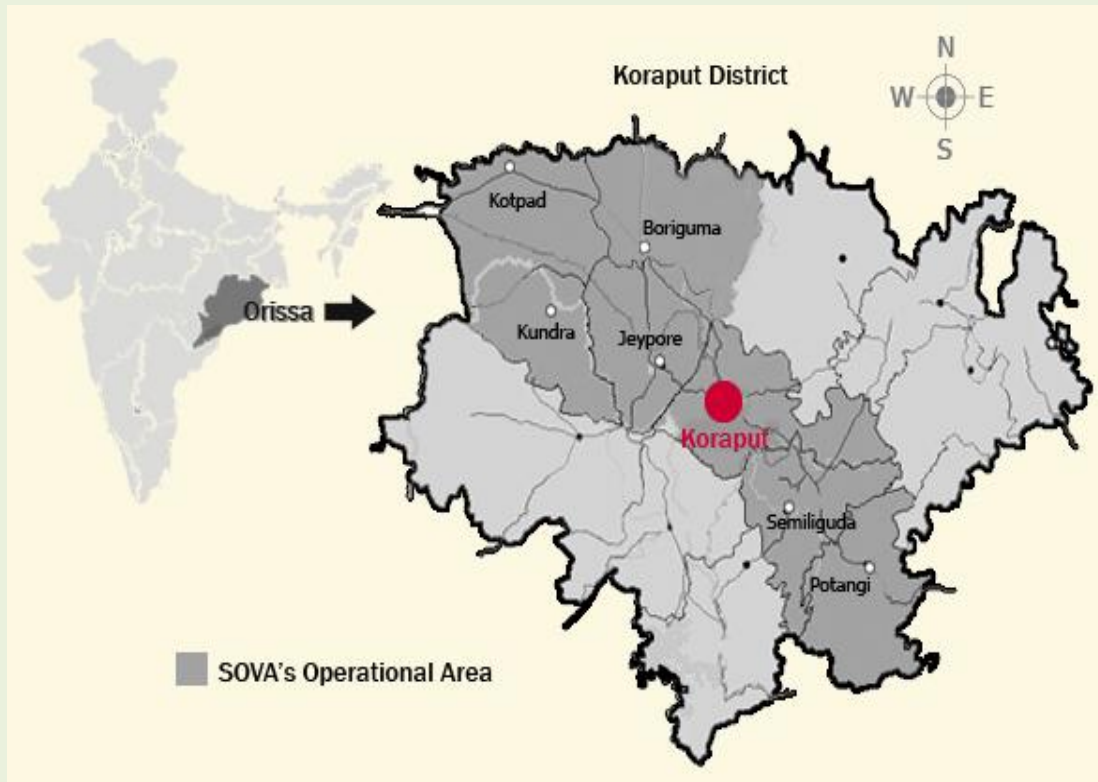
SOVA's mission is to ensure that its primary stakeholders - excluded communities especially tribal women and children - have equal and gender-balanced access to their rights in the spectrum of health, education livelihood and governance.

### Strategic Objectives

- ❖ To ensure enrollment and retention of children (especially girl child )in school and complete school education
- ❖ To promote, preventive promotive and curative health in operational area
- ❖ To increase income level of 50% of the community and bring them up the poverty line
- ❖ To increase participation of community at panchyat institution and make these institutions self reliant in true spirit
- ❖ To build the capacities of the tribals, and marginalised people of South Orissa on their rights and develop their skills through advocacy and lobby

### Where we work:

We work directly with tribal communities in the district of Koraput, located on the southern tip of Odisha, one of the most underdeveloped states in India. The population of Koraput is 1.3 million, 85% of which live in remote, rural areas. Koraput is the second poorest in over 500 districts of India. It is home to the most marginalized people in society; tribals make up over 50% of the population, and scheduled castes comprise close to 14%.





# Education

**Key Achievements:**

- Facilitated for enrollment of 163 boys & 134 girls in Govt. Residential School.
- Organized Right to Education Rally across 50 villages and approximate 2000 children participated in the campaign
- Celebrated Children's Day on 14<sup>th</sup> November approximately 300 children from Koraput, Kotpad, Pottangi block participant on this occasion.
- Orientation programme given to SMC members on RTE and Role and Responsibility of School Development plan. 230 SMC members participated in this programme.
- A District level workshop on Right to Education act was organized by SOVA. in the workshop the benefits enshrined in the act and gaps in the context of koraput and tribal area was discussed and a memorandum was submitted to the dist administration
- SOVA prepared 3 word Books (from tribal language to odiya) in Parja, Gadba, and Kuu language for the border area, this word book was a great help for school teacher and children of the border area.
- 63 physically challenged children were facilitated to get disabled certificate
- Teaching learning materials provided to 31 low vision children.
- With the support of SOVA 8 blind children received Braille kits and have learnt Braille
- To increase the knowledge level of student on science SOVA gave education through the 6 Science resources Center in 6 govt run school.
- 98 children clubs promoted and 2036 boys and 1688 girls are members of these clubs
- 300 children's club members were trained on child rights and four clubs have petitioned for providing quality education in the schools

**Campaign on Right to Education:**

Right of children to free and compulsory education act 2009 was passed by government in 2009 and subsequently a rule was framed by government of Orissa in 2010 ,key activities of SOVA was to create awareness among community and organize training program for different stakeholders on Right to education act . Campaign on RtE act was done in three blocks, block level training program was also organized in koraput, Patangi and Kundra Block and a district level workshop was also organized where district level functionaries concerned with Education Participated and an action plan was prepared for follow up.

**Campaign on Language issue:**

SOVA has taken an initiative to address the issues of local language as medium of instruction in pre primary and primary school education. Two panchyats of one block of the boarder district of Koraput Patangi was identified and 3 word books was developed in three primitive tribal language(Kuvi,Paraja and Godaba)and students were taught through a method of WRIP ( writing and reading improvement program) which was very successful and learning level and interest of children towards education increased .after successful implementation a district level work shop was conducted which focused on using local language as medium of instruction in all schools in general and boarder schools in particular .

**Managing Bal Badi preschool centers:**

Four no's of Bal Badi center's are being managed by SOVA in four remote villages. The center renders services to 137 children in the age group of 3 to 6 years providing them support to learn through joyful learning method. The center focuses on cognitive development by using

different play materials and songs in local language to create interest among children to come to Pre School.

### **Children clubs:**

Formation and strengthening of children's club is an important strategy of SOVA to provide them a space for expressing their views and Train them on different life skills, on child rights, on photography to write in wall magazines and ultimately becoming self reliant and meaningfully participated different activities where they are important stakeholders. Children get an opportunity to explore their hidden talents through different competitions and events. a federation of children have been formed to discuss issues affecting children at large .corporal punishment and distribution of books are some of these issues discussed at federation of children. This also helps them in increasing their skills in advocacy, identifying issues, skills of communication etc.

### **Observe children's day:**

Every year children day is being observed by children in the district and SOVA facilities the program. This year the program was organized and about 300 members of children club from four blocks participated in the children's day celebration. Theme of this year's children's club was "child rights and child protection" DPC, local MLA, president zilla parishad and other eminent personalities attended the celebration and address the gathering, debate, song ,drawing competitions were organized to expose hidden talents of children .

### **Science Resource Center:**

Science center is another new innovative initiative by SOVA providing opportunity to children to learn science by getting involved in science tools. SOVA has supported to set up 5 science resource centers in five primary schools with instrument to teach science and teachers from SOVA at initial stages involved children in learning schools and now respective schools teachers are teaching science through these science centers. This has led to increase understanding of science by students.

### **Inclusive education:**

right to education guarantees enrollment of all children between 6 to 14 years in neighbor schools which is located within a distance of 1 km but this remains a distance dreams for physically challenged children in general and children with visual impairments in particular, SOVA has taken the initiatives to ensure enrollment of children with visual impairments in normal school and not in special schools. Blind children have been identified and provided training on orientation and mobility to increase their accessibility to institutions. SOVA is implementing IE (inclusive education) activities for visually challenged children in seven blocks of koraput district.

Children with low vision and blinds from Semliguda and Koraput blocks were identified and they were enrolled in normal schools. 8 children with total blind were trained on Braille and now they are using Braille. low vision children were provided teaching learning materials and low vision devices have been provided to them to increase their visual equity.

## Promotion of WRIP (writing Reading Improvement Programme):

WRIP centers help dropout and non-regularized children to catch up to their peers. The WRIP system consists of 34 sets of word cards, 7 sentence cards, and seven story cards. The material is taught through repetition. Originally, SOVA invited children testing below a 60% level to the WRIP centers. However, the system is shown to be so effective that it now includes all children in the villages where a WRIP center exists. SOVA is running 19 WRIP centers covering 423 children (223 boys and 200 girls). 218 children are able to read and write words, 111 children are able to read and write sentences, and 94 children are able to read and write stories. Children are also given education on general knowledge and are taught songs and games that help children to better identify words and sentences. As a four-month pilot program, 9 WRIP centers covering 197 children have introduced math cards. Initial results found that 89 children have basic math knowledge. WRIP teachers and SOVA volunteers have made further progress by working with the child clubs to translate the Odiya learning materials into the local languages. The sets of 34 word cards translated into the Kuvi and Gadaba languages. Currently, the modules have been adopted in 8 of the 23 schools.

### Changes in a course of time.....

In a village named Ippavalsa of Sunki Gram Panchayat, SOVA in support of NEG-Fire has started intervention of development work since 2008. Major dominant communities are parajas using paraja language, one among the Govt. neglected villages, either not so aware of Govt. Programs or development activities. There SOVA has started promoting WRIP (Writing and Reading Improvement Plan) classes covering 20 slow learner children.

Raju Aabudu, a child who was identified as one among the slow learners, received zero marks in the test conducted by our staff before joining the WRIP class. Unfortunately, his parents didn't allow him to read at the WRIP center. Reasoning he was the only fellow left at home to look after the cattle and other works of home. Even after consultation with the WRIP teacher, Raju's parent couldn't help to motivate. Later we changed our strategy, invited all parents along with Raju's parent and discussed the benefits of attending at the WRIP center, but that too didn't work. Finally, friends of Raju along with other children together approached on a daily basis and have worked out.

Now Raju is able to read every word, sentences and stories in Odiya language without any hesitation and has even gained knowledge on numeric counts. This has really opened the eyes of Raju's parent. Community members and school teachers realized the importance of the WRIP center in the life of every slow learner child. Now this WRIP approach is being accepted in 12 schools of two Panchayats, i.e., Sunki & Ralegada.



# Livelihoods

## LIVILHOOD:

### Key Achievements

- 52 livelihood plans have been developed in partnership with local communities
- 56 no's of vermin compost unit was developed and 435no of family benefited
- 5no of mushroom unit was developed by 5 no of SHG and 68 no of family benefited
- 90 no's of low cost house was constructed for 69no's of poorest of the poor families with the support of VDC.
- 5no's of women group promoted vegetable cultivation in 5villages and 45nos of family benefited
- In two village 28 hector of land treated through land leveling, earthen bonding, stone bonding, golly control and digging of water preservation tank. Through the activities 57 farmers were directly benefited and 110 were benefited through indirectly in production of crops. 3565 Man days created through the activities.
- 145nos of street play was performed in 145 villages and the priority subject was on HIV and AIDS, malaria and diarrhea prevention NREGA and violence against women
- 18 grain banks operating in the area maintained by VDCs helping 378 families.

Every livelihood programme is supported through village level organisations and a focus has been made to include all community members, in particular women and children.

### MNREGA (Mahatma Ghandi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act)

NREGA is a scheme used to enable people living Below the Poverty Line (BPL) to access work opportunities for 100 days per year, guaranteed by the national government. A recent breakthrough now ensures women the right to work on the scheme too, whereas previously this was a preserve only for men. Access for women not only reduces the gender gap but increases the overall earning capacity for a family unit. SOVA works to increase awareness amongst communities on schemes like NREGA and assist individuals in getting BPL cards proving their right to work. SOVA also works with villages to develop work schemes that can be conducted in villages under NREGA. A recent land development scheme has benefited 57 farmers as well as creating 3565 man-days of work. This equated to 132 families receiving on average 27 days of work.

### Study on Migration:

With the support of TROCAIRE, SOVA developed a network of NGOs in Koraput District and the NGOs will work on Migration Issues. 14 Block level lead NGO identified and they are conducting the study on Study on Tribal vulnerability and migration in Koraput District. The technical support agency Aide et Action Bhubaneswar, the NGOs were trained on data collection method, different PRA tools also they have prepared the household questionnaires and orient to the NGOs representatives on the questionnaires, methods and developed plan of action. A sample study conducted with 1500 families including 1125 exclusive migrant families of the 70no of selected village of 14 blocks. Also 25no of case studies collected from the individual and group discussion.

### Vermi Compost:

Vermi has been developed in 6 villages with the hope to roll it out to further villages in the future. 25 compost pits have been constructed benefitting 25 farmers. Not only have yields increased by a third but the compost has reduced the need for fertilizer thus reducing costs.

Farmers have increased the amount of grain they have produced from 3 bags to 5, increasing their food security by 1 month. Another 110 people have benefitted increasing their productivity from 1 bag to 3.

#### **Promotion of Mushroom Cultivation:**

5 villages comprising 68 people have been orientated on mushroom cultivation, preparing 88 mushroom beds that in just 3 months have made profits of Rupees 2000-2500 per group. This is set to increase as cultivation continues. Another 4 groups from nearby villages have initiated the programme as a result of the successes. A 3 day refresher course for 20 SHG members who implemented the programme last year was also held. SOVA has supported one SHG group to manage one spawn production units to encourage group to engage in income generation activity as well as provide seeds in time to those who are willing to take up mushroom cultivation

#### **Promotion of SRI (System of Rice Intensification) Cultivation:**

SRI agriculture is one of the major sources of income for majority of the inhabitants of the area and most of them are engaged in paddy cultivation, over a period of time the soil fertility has declined leading to increase use of chemical fertilizers. To increase soil fertility through organic farming, decrease use of chemical fertilizers and use of traditional seeds SRI is being promoted in three panchayat of project area .this is being extended to other areas 30 farmers in three grampanchayat have been trained in SRI using organic compost on one hectare of land. These farmers have increased their yield from 2 to 3 sacks in one season. 11 more farmers from the village have now shown interest in using SRI in the next season.

#### **Shanti Kutira:**

In SOVAs operational area many poor households had no house or house in dilapidated condition and to support these deprived section a roof with the support of Trocaire 90 poorest of the poor have from 69 villages have benefitted from this programme that provides shelter.

#### **Skill development training for Rural Youth:**

To increase employment one month training program was organized for youths on employable skills. four trades were identified on the basis of need of the area there is a huge demand and potentiality for gainfully engaged in different trades for electrician, sanitary feting works, cycle repairing, file making .young male and female were identified and trained in the above trades and they are either engaged in the respective trades or are employed by different employers.

#### **Promotion of SHG's:**

SOVA has promoted this year another 32 SHGs and Rs.1, 72,788 saved in saving account at bank and out of this 32no of groups have uses internal landing of Rs.37, 600 for the agriculture and other health emergency need.7no of groups have linkages with bank and received loan of Rs.3, 70,000/- and enveloped in IGP (Goatry, Vegetable cultivation, and other small business) in a process 113 members were benefitted through IGP.

### Adopter of Bio- fertilizer

Bhagatram Bhatra is one of inhabitant of Mankidiguda of Kundra block, and the user of Vermi compost supported by TROCAIRE and SOVA. In the year 2009-10 the family selected by VDC to be a beneficiary of pit, and supported amount of Rs.1500/- to construction of the compost pit. After demonstration of preparation by SOVA staff Bhagatram and their family continuing the process. During the year their family have produced 3quental quintal of compost. The family tried to use the organic compost at their agriculture field. Bhagatram initiated to SRI cultivation in .05 Acer of land & .04 Acer of vegetable cultivation and from beginning they use Vermi compost.

Bhagatram have produce additional 2.5 bags of paddy from SRI cultivation and sold the vegetable worth of 2500/- apart from domestic use.

The additional production of paddy have ensuring one month of food security, and the sold amount from vegetable use to purchase a cycle for their son.

Bhagatram and their family motivated after impact of use organic compost. And now think to produce the Vermin compost regularly and more quantity. Bhagatram says that the test of production of crops is now changed and compost helps to produce more crops.

Other villagers have realized the impact of organic compost and interest to initiate the pit.

### Additional income through Mushroom cultivation

In Bada kerenga panchyat, Chakirlliguda is a village consists with 60 household, majority belongs from the tribal. In the village to empower women, two SHGs formed, out of this one SHG (Maa Ulibayani) supported for Mushroom cultivation in the year 2009-10. Phase wise provide technical and material support, and with demonstration developed capacity to the members.

In the year 2009-10 the groups have initiated the cultivation, and continued for 2months, where the groups prepared 80 bed and earned Rs.6700/- and saved in the group account. The group takes decision to make more in the year, and gradually prepared 160 bed where earned Rs.9200/-. From the income the groups have saved Rs.4000/- for purchase of raw materials and the benefits distributed among the 12 members.

Moti jani is one of the members of the group. Through the Mushroom she benefited Rs.1400/- with in the six months. The amount utilizes to make roof on her kitchen. She says that during the rain she faced problem to prepare food for her family. Now she secured. All the group members were utilized the benefit amount in their domestic use like purchase the assists, dress note book for children, and as a impact think to continue the production for ever.

### “Shanti Kutira” a shelter for poor

Drupati Bhatra is one of widow of village Tobhapadar of Kundra block. Before 3years her husband died due to old age. She has one son and two married daughter who have lives other village. After marriage of her son separated from the family. Widow Drupati spent days with support of pension amount, due to old age she unable to do hard work, she earning some of little amount from irregular labor work and selling of fire wood. Difficultly managed her life. The condition of Drupati makes distance from the other community members. Before she lives in a small cottage, which was not protected from rain water, the damaged wall, and roof was not safe for her life. During the year 2009-10 village committee selected her as “Shanti Kutira” Beneficiary. With support of VDC, SOVA, Trocaire she benefited shelter material and Rs.3500/- for construction of shelter. The committee members were contributes the labour, and guidance to make the shelter. Within 4months a strong and safe shelter prepared for Drupati.

Now the living condition was changed, Drupati fill safe her living in the house. She has not spent any single amount towards maintenance of shelter. She became closer to the VDC, and village women, fill secure that she have well wisher at their village. Now Drupati fill that she is socially acceptable. She became thankful to all stakeholders who have visualized a new dream of hope.



# Governance

### Key Achievements

- 21 widows, 43 elderly, 18 people with disabilities, 21 IAYs 51 land entitlement claimants have accessed benefits.
- 53 families have received BPL cards as a direct result of advocacy from VDCs
- 42 village leaders orientated on how to apply for jobs and job cards through MNREGA Pictorial and written information materials have been distributed to 2950 people.
- 312 new families have received MNREGA cards
- 2194 families out of 3568 have received on average 52 days of work
- 3 new schools built under VDC supervision
- 2 villages are receiving drinking water after village advocacy
- 4 schools repaired after advocacy by VDCs
- 172 households in 4 remote villages have benefitted from government health services after community leaders advocated for a mobile health van.
- SHGs have promoted government schemes available for pregnant mothers helping 58 women to access the scheme
- 28 farm ponds have been built in 23 villages
- An irrigation channel in 2 villages has directly benefitted 290 families
- 316 forest dwellers have applied for and received land entitlement under a government act FRA 479
- 80 youths received life skills and leadership training

A migration study has been conducted to find out the extent of migration in the Koraput area. The study involved 1500 families

### Village Development Committees

A core strategy for SOVA has been to help communities to empower themselves by providing guidance on self-governance and assisting villages to set up Village Development Committees (VDCs) and other Community Based Organisations (CBOs) like Self Help Groups (SHGs) and VDCs have been set up in all the programme villages and in the majority of villages monthly meetings have now been set up with only a minority receiving assistance from SOVA to strengthen the process. In over half the villages it has been mandated that unless 50% of households and 30% of females participate it is not recognized as a village meeting. It has become the responsibility of the meeting for the community to participate in the process. VDCs have succeeded in campaigning for access to basic necessities from local government as well as acting as conflict negotiators, settling village arguments such as land disputes without the need to use outside intervention. In 64 villages VDC have been developed their plans to implement NREGA schemes to improve their area.

In 71 villages social security mapping exercises were conducted with the support of VDC, through PRA tools. In the process the leaders identified eligible beneficiaries to include in social and food security scheme.

### Women's Self Help Groups

46 women's Self Help Groups have now been formed to deal directly with women specific issues and Income Generation Programmes (IGPs). All SHGs have opened savings accounts at banks and 7 groups have taken out loans to start or improve IGP such as goatery, vegetable

cultivation and other small businesses.113 members have benefitted through IGP.At federation level female leaders have called for FRA entitlements to be made In the name of both men and women and demanded that Palli and Gram Sabha meetings should have at least 35% female participation.

### **Moti Jani's Story**

Chakirliguda is a village consisting of 60 households, the majority belonging to people from tribal groups. In an effort to empower the women of the village, 2 SHGs were set up in 2009-10, one of which decided to support mushroom cultivation to help increase the income of women in the area. In 2009-10, 80no's of mushroom beds were created producing a turnover of 6700 Rs that was saved in a group account. This year 160 beds were made and Rs9200 were earned. The group saved Rs 4000 from the income to purchase raw materials.

One of the women involved was Moti Jani. She received 1400 Rs in 6 months. This was enough to make a roof to cover her kitchen, a God send during the monsoon season and she feels empowered, bringing in her own income. This has given her confidence now that she is earning her own living.





Health

**Key Achievements**

- 600 mothers have been trained in home-based child care
- 312nos of mosquito net distributed among the poorest of the poor community
- Monitoring of family cards by SOVA has ensured that 28 villages have had access to social security cards
- 14nos of Health camps was organized and 1097community member benefitted
- SOVA is managing 4 Balwadicentre in 4 villages of Koraput Block
- 32 street plays were performed in 28 villages, reaching 4210 men and women on the importance of ante and post natal care
- 218 Self Help Group women and healthcare workers including ASHA and AWC participated in health mela to learn about hygiene during child delivery, registration of newborns and collection of certificates and pre-school provision
- 32 birth registration awareness programmes reaching 4245 men and women
- 23 Child care and protection training sessions reaching 735 mothers discussing safe food and drinking water, hygiene of children and de-worming
- 4 mother and caregivers child protection sessions reaching 188 mothers were held. Immunization during pregnancy and infancy, weight checkup, hygiene and treatment of severe diarrhea was discussed
- Training on home based care management and counseling given to 20 staff to enable them to deliver ARI, ORT sanitation and nutrition training to local families
- Play materials support was supplied to 21 Anganwadi centre of Koraput Block

**Malaria Prevention**

45 awareness programmes through street play and audio CD was performed in 25villages of Koraput,Kundra block on malaria prevention and social security schemes reaching 2950 men and women. 321 Mosquito nets have been distributed in Koraput,Pottangi and Kotpad block through SHGs and there is a demand for more to be provided.

**Reproductive Care and Child Health**

SOVA's reproductive health and childcare programmes have organized awareness camps, which provide training on appropriate child care to mothers and care providers. They learnt about pre and postnatal care and institutional delivery was encouraged. In addition, SOVA managed training workshops for Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHAs) and AWWs (Anganwadi Workers) .Parents are also being encouraged to register their children when they are born as this means that they can access any benefits which they may be entitled to. Currently only 4% of rural children in the Koraput area have received birth certificates.

**Infant and Maternal Mortality**

Many mothers and infants are dying unnecessarily as a result of lack of immunization, home births rather than institutional births and lack of knowledge on safe food and drinking water among other things. SOVA has been working to increase education among mothers through street plays, ASHA and AWW melas.56 village meetings have been conducted educating mothers on detection and treatment of acute respiratory infections, dehydration, and other childhood illnesses.



HIV

### Key Achievements

- 403 no's of Peer Educators trained on HIV and life skill education
- 89nos of HIV+person received counseling support from SOVA on ART medicine
- 52no's of pregnant women received counseling from SOVA and motivated for HIV test
- 12 no's of HIV infected person received livelihood support from SOVA
- 600 peer educator kit and education materials distributed among the youth
- 32 no's of street play on HIV prevention and care and support was performed in 32nos of villages
- 621no's of wall writing on HIV prevention messages was displayed in 493 villages of Koraput District

There are many challenges faced in the battle against HIV and AIDS in the Koraput district, but SOVA, in conjunction with Concern World Wide and Child Fund India have been working to reduce the cases of infection and increase the number of people being tested.

### Peer Education

Male and female youth peer educators are being used to disseminate information regarding HIV/AIDS and sexual health. Currently there are 146 male and 257 female peer educators working in the Koraput area. Peer educators have been provided with education kits containing card games, snakes and ladders and ludo that all provide information on HIV. Peer educators talk to youths and play these games, disseminating information. They also distribute condoms to those that want them and many peer educators find that once they become know in the community they are approached for condoms or friends of people who need them will approach on their behalf, enabling them to retain their anonymity.

### PPTCT (Prevention of Parent to Child Transmission)

2010 has seen the launch of a new programme to combat HIV, the Prevention of Parent to Child Transmission (PPTCT).The PPTCT programme was launched on World AIDS Day with the aim to ensure that mothers are tested for HIV so that the risk that the HIV virus is passed on to the foetus is reduced. The programme also aims to ensure 100% access to medication to expectant mothers that require it.The PPTCT programme has been set up to being integrated with Reproductive and Child Health Programmes (RCH) such as Mamata Yojana (MY) a programme to reduce infant mortality rates and Janani Sisu Surakshya Yojana (JSSY) programme that encourages women to seek support throughout pregnancy and to give birth in hospitals rather than at home.

### Nutrition Garden for PLHIV

In an effort to provide income generation a source of nutrition for PLHIV as well as some of the poorest people living in communities nutritional gardens have been set up to provide PLHIV a source of food to help keep them healthy for longer.120 households in 6 villages have been trained in vermi compost production that provides rich bio-fertilizer to grow food with. In addition these households are supplied with the basic tools and seeds that they will need to

grow their plants. This project has proved very successful and families have also been able to sell excess produce for profit.

### **World AIDS day**

To commemorate solidarity SOVA is observing world AIDS day every year on 1<sup>st</sup> December, this year too world AIDS day was observed focus of this year was to create awareness through medium of sports and cultural. Football being the most popular sports among the youth we have organized football competition match and the competition was from block level to district level .Apart from this Dhemsa (a tribal dance form) which is popular among the Girls in Koraput SOVA has organized competition among female youth and this was an innovative way to spread the message of HIV and AIDS also SOVA organized mini marathon among youths to encourage young people to participate in the campaign and around 1123 youths participated in the programme .

### **Youth convention**

Two day youth convention was organized to sensitize youths on HIV and AIDS theme of the two days convention was "break the silence and talk about AIDS" a meeting was organized at koraput where political representative and youth icon and cine star and Loksobha MP Siddhartha Mohapatra and Jayram Pangi,Zillaparisad President and Collector Koraput had attended the meeting and speakers urged youths to develop a positive attitude towards PLHIV and talk about AIDS to spread infection. Essay ,debate, quiz competition was organized among students to create awareness and most attractive of hem was sharing of experience by PLHIV from different district of Orissa this created a lot of positive attitude among young towards PLHIV and they interacted with them .



# Blindness

### Key Achievements:

- 13 blind people given ADL training
- 44 people assisted to get disability certificates from the health department
- 5 people received JSSY training
- 8 people received MNREGA job cards
- 10 children with low vision enrolled in their village schools
- 203 teachers trained on primary eye care
- 59 outreach screening camps with 1271 patients
- 446 cataract operations provided
- Counseling and treatment for 455 people with RE
- 277 ASHA/AWW trained on primary eye care
- 107 eye care committees formed in villages orientating members on eye care and government facilities available to help socio-economic rehabilitation for blind or VI people
- CBR workers visited 1330 homes to raise awareness on prevention of eye disease and primary eye care

This is supported by Sightsavers International focusing on community based rehabilitation in the Koraput and Semiliguda block of Koraput district covering 339 villages and 20,582 families and 81,764 people.

### Key Statistics:

- 776 people have been categorized as disabled
- 496 people have cataracts
- 688 refractive errors
- 318 night blindness
- 114 totally blind
- 3,698 low vision

The project has two main components IE and Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR) strengthening CBOs and health care providers to ensure sustainability.

### Education and Schools:

A lot of work has been done to facilitate children with their education and to educate teachers on vision related issues.

10 children with low vision, 13 children with visual impairments (VI) and 31 children with refractive errors (RE) enrolled in their local schools after meetings between parents and teachers were organized and teachers were given advice on how to teach children with low vision.

203 teachers were orientated on how to identify Visually Impaired (VI) children and the government services that are available for those children. Screening charts ("C" charts) have been installed in their schools helping self-screening.

**Awareness Raising:**

1330 families have been counselled on eye care and they have increased their awareness on prevention of blindness. Behavioral Change Communication materials have been developed which have helped in increase awareness among the community and street plays have generated awareness that have encouraged many individuals to visit eye screening camps. There has been a sharp increase in attendance at screening camps and vision centres indicating that the level of awareness has increased.

AWW and ASHA have sensitised many villagers on the importance of vitamin A as a tool for preventing night blindness. Education to parents and in particular mothers to identify night blindness has taken place helping to ensure children are taken for medical examinations.

**Treatment:**

The government department for education (SSA) has ensured that they will provide financial support for children aged between 6-14 requiring surgical treatment for VIs.

All children in the 0 to 5 years age group have received vitamin A supplements awareness raising and individual counselling have led to complete Vitamin A immunization. ASH and AW workers are sensitized to ensure immunization, which led to decrease in prevalence rate of visual impairments.

Successful cataract operations have encouraged further community members to come forward for screening and local people have started demanding quality eye care services and operations.

**Chanchala's Story:**

Chanchala Basra is a child with low vision. Previously she was not attending school and her parents were reluctant to send her to school. With counselling from SOVA and IE staff her parents were encouraged to send her to school. Chanchala received a book for low vision children and she really enjoys this, and enjoys being back at school. Unfortunately there are at present no low vision school books available, but the District Project Coordinator (DPC) has agreed to provide books for her in the next session.

With the help of SOVA she has received a disability certificate entitling her to access other benefits from the government.

# Coaching for hope



## COACHING FOR HOPE

Coaching for Hope (CfH) is an education through sport programme raising awareness and create responsible behaviour around HIV and other developmental issues.

The CfH programme trains young people in the community in leadership and advocacy skills, building their confidence and providing them with a voice that they can use to help other youths in the area. The programme encourages people to look for barriers to their development and search for ways to overcome those barriers. By training youths in football skills they run week long coaching sessions with other young people incorporating discussion sessions on important issues as a way of reaching people on topics such as HIV. In the last year 18 youth clubs have been formed by SOVA and 5 more are seeking registration. So far 174 boys have been reached through football. More than half the clubs are promoting condom use.

Girls are beginning to participate too with the first girls team being formed at Umuri school and we hope to increase the number of girls teams in the coming year.

### Sanjib's Story

Sanjib Kumar Bankhiya from Umrei village is a boy studying +2 science. He is the only boy in his village to have continued his education to this level. When we first approached him to work on this project he was very shy and although he was interested in learning about football coaching he was embarrassed about the prospect of discussing issues of sex and HIV. After attending a weeks training programme on HIV/AIDS and life skills however, he really came out of his shell and had built a lot more confidence, becoming positive about the programme.



Sanjib is now one of Coaching for Hope's star educators, he has grown in confidence and is now comfortable talking about sex and health related issues, has set up a youth club in his village and distributes condoms to the local population.

'I have a dream to develop a new and best team and play for my country and make people aware about HIV'.

The youth club is now taking up other developmental issues such as school attendance, village cleanliness and road projects.



Sponsorship

## SPONSORSHIP

### Key Achievements:

- 436 children have received DFCs from their sponsors, enabling the children and their families to purchase rice, utensils, clothing and shoes, blankets and other items
- 69 children were provided with bicycles
- 28 child clubs received play materials reaching 623 children
- 154 children were enrolled in Anganwadi pre-school centres helping boost their cognitive development and prepare them for school

SOVA has been managing the care of children sponsored through the CFI sponsorship programme. This is a programme that links international sponsors to individual children across India. SOVA is responsible for 1000 children in the Koraput area. Sponsorship money is used for overall programme purposes to make improvements to the communities that the children are living in and in addition sponsors can provide additional money for the individual needs of the child they are sponsoring and their family. These come in the form of Designated Fund Certificates.

### Community Development

69 children living far from their schools have received bicycles. Previously they had to walk and this prevented them from regularly attending. Now that they have their bikes they are attending school and doing well in their exams. 7,098 families received information of nutrition, safe food and safe drinking water, hygiene and de-worming, reducing ill health and mortalities among these families. Skill training was received by 78 youths on bicycle repair, electrician training, plumbing and file-making. This has enabled them to earn a living and now they are independent and even able to provide financial support to meet the basic needs of their families. Peer educator training has been given to 102 children on life-skill education, enhancing their communication, negotiation and decision making abilities, enabling them to make measured decisions and assume adult responsibilities like marriage and parenting.

### Sukra's Story:

**Sukra Majhi** is a 16 year old boy from Koraput district belonging to a BPL family comprising of 4 members. His father is a labourer but the money he earns is not enough to provide his family with their basic needs. Prior to becoming a Child Fund Sponsored child Sukra had dropped out of school in class 5 because he was blind in one eye and found classes difficult. Upon his enrollment in the programme he gained admission to a blind school and soon showed positive signs of improvement in his studies and is now enjoying standard 9 at school. Sukra has become a popular member of the school, not least for his skills on the cricket pitch. **He was recently selected as one of India's cricket team for the blind and has taken part in international matches**, proving the amazing achievements that can be realised by children, given the right support and encouragement.



## COMMUNITY RADIO

Over the last 3 years SOVA has worked to train a 65 strong village volunteers to build their capacity for community radio programme known as Radio Dhimsa in Koraput district.

The radio works in cooperation with a number of community groups and organisations including SHGs and ASHA in collaboration and United Nations International Children's Fund (UNICEF).

The community radio team has worked with local communities to uncover the health, education and livelihood issues that are affecting people at the village level.

Radio intervention creates a platform for CBOs to discuss local issues and creates an expectation that village leaders can and should discuss issues such as children's rights, HIV & AIDS, breastfeeding, water & sanitation, promotion of girl's education and behavioral change aspects.

The community radio station is unique to the area and provides an important space for people in Koraput district to hear broadcasts in their own tribal languages rather than Odiya, Hindi or English. This will be a radio station that is truly accessible for all and is run by the people for the people.

### Achievements

The radio station has not yet gone live but a lot of has been achieved in terms of setting up the infrastructure of radio, making network with the local community and promoting the station.

Over the course of the year 145 programmes have been pre-recorded including radio jingles, announcements, awareness programs, interviews, vox-pops, songs, storytelling and radio dramas on various development related subjects.

Narrow casting is currently taking place at the village level with thrice weekly shows targeting listening clubs with attempts being made to boost listener levels.

On 30<sup>th</sup> November 2010 the new the Dhimsa community radio station building was officially opened and it was opened by the Dist Collector Mr Rajesh Prabhakar Patel, IAS in presence of UNICEF, Orissa Chief Ms Sairoj

### Case study

**My dream comes true...** I am happy that once again we can recall our past memories. We realize today that it is our fault that day to day we are losing our adivasi identity because of modernization. For example, steadily we are diminishing our culture and traditions and knowledge like agriculture practice, folk songs and stories. But now our voice, through our Dhimsa radio station, will help us to preserve our adivasi culture." *Mr Guru Nayak, 71, Chappar village, village Head*



## WE CAN CAMPAIGN

The We Can campaign is a programme that raises awareness amongst women and young people on the issue of female empowerment. It tackles the problem of domestic violence and looks at ways to combat against it. Volunteers work in villages and find people who can become 'change makers' within their communities. These change makers can help mediate in disputes and challenge traditional values that oppress women. Various methods are used to increase awareness of domestic violence and ways to combat it, for example role-plays, stories, songs and dances.

### **Achievements**

A multi-cluster level meeting was organized, reaching 550 women on International Women's Day that included talks on domestic violence and infanticide. A rally was organized and women walked through the streets chanting slogans and raising awareness. Discussions were also held to discuss how equality can be improved and how we can improve the lot of our children by treating sons and daughters equally and giving them equal opportunities.

47 teachers received training on what domestic violence is and what they can do to support children they suspect are being abused at home.

### **Namita's Story**

Namita, a young woman who had been working as a high school teacher, but when she married and entered into her new family, her in-laws and husband insisted that she leave her job to stay at home and do the housework. As her husband was not earning a sufficient income to support the family adequately she continued working, but this only succeeded in angering her in-laws even more.

Namita had heard about the We Can project and approached the volunteer as a last resort. She explained her situation and the volunteer promised to do their best to convince her new family to let her stay on at her job.

The volunteer discussed with the family how good jobs were difficult to come by and that Namita was not only earning for the family, but working in a respectable and respected job within the community that they should be proud of. The family could see that a lot of what the volunteer said was true, but were still not convinced that she should stay at work.

The volunteer managed to get them to come to a We Can event to find out more about the importance of female empowerment and after they had attended the meeting they came to realize that Namita should stay on in her job. Namita now lives happily with her family and husband and continues to work at the school thanks to the We Can project.

## ACRONYMS

- ARI: Acute Respiratory Infection
- ASHA: Accredited Social Health Activist
- AWC: Anganwadi Centre
- AWW: Anganwadi Worker
- BPL: Below Poverty Line
- CBO: Community Based Organisations
- CBR: Community Based Rehabilitation
- CfH: Coaching for Hope
- CFI: Child Fund India
- DPC: District Project Coordinator
- IAY: Indira Awas Yojana
- ICDC: Integrated Childcare Development Centre
- IE: Inclusive Education
- NEG Fire: New Education Group
- Non Forest Timber Products
- NREGA: National Rural Employment Guarantee Act
- ORT: Oral Rehydration Treatment
- PDC: Panchayat level Committee
- RtE: Right to Education
- SHG: Self Help Group
- SMCs: School Management Committees
- SSA: Sarva Siksha Abhiyan (Government Department for Education)
- VI: Visual Impairments
- VDC: Village Development Committee

**South Orissa Voluntary Action(SOVA)**

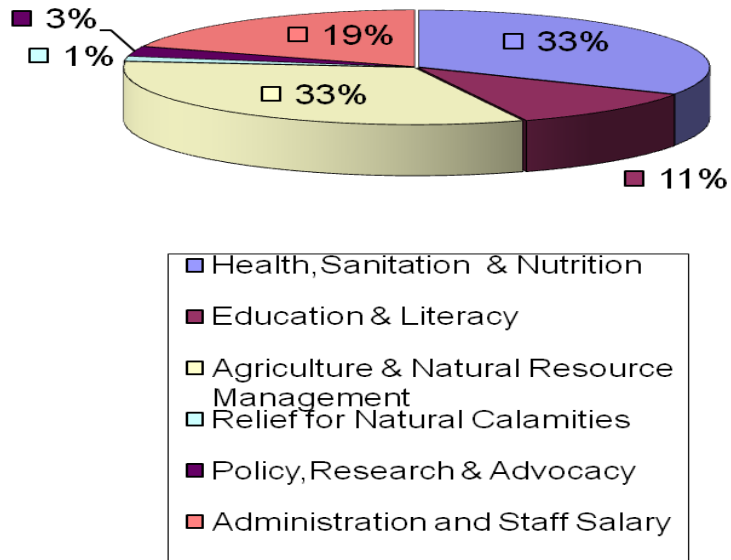
**Abridged Income and Expenditure Account  
for the Year ended 31st March 2011**

(Fig in Rs)					
<b>INCOME</b>	<b>2010-11</b>	<b>2009-10</b>	<b>EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>2010-11</b>	<b>2009-10</b>
Self Generated			<b>Programme Expenses</b>		
Membership Fees	22,000.00	15,800.00	Health, Sanitation & Nutrition	85,89,787.00	52,72,694.00
Donation	63,63,690.00	52,80,156.00	Education & Literacy Livelihood	42,42,752.00	56,39,184.00
Interest	77,713.00	62,207.00		94,79,159.25	39,92,603.88
Others	12,90,259.00	12,40,344.00	Relief for Natural Calamities	3,63,606.00	9,01,773.00
			Policy, Research & Advocacy	9,48,748.00	41,60,696.00
<b>Total Self Generated</b>	<b>77,53,662.00</b>	<b>65,98,507.00</b>	<b>Total Programme Expenses</b>	<b>2,36,24,052.25</b>	<b>1,99,66,950.88</b>
<b>Grant Foreign Source</b>			Administrative Expenses	54,64,318.00	61,67,364.00
Institutional Donor	2,33,07,894.16	2,14,61,724.10	Depreciation on Fixed Assets	648318.74	653038
Individual Donor	1,57,129.44	4,08,566.51			
Interest	1,78,162.00	1,26,003.00			
<b>Total Grant</b>	<b>2,36,43,185.60</b>	<b>2,19,96,293.61</b>	<b>Total Administrative Expenses</b>	<b>61,12,636.74</b>	<b>68,20,402.00</b>
			Excess of Income over Expenditure	1660158.61	1807447.73
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>3,13,96,847.60</b>	<b>2,85,94,800.61</b>	<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>3,13,96,847.60</b>	<b>2,85,94,800.61</b>

**Abridged Balance Sheet As on 31st March 2011**

(Fig in Rs)					
<b>LIABILITIES</b>	<b>2010-11</b>	<b>2009-10</b>	<b>ASSETS</b>	<b>2010-11</b>	<b>2009-10</b>
Capital Fund	69,51,109.68	52,90,951.07	Fixed Assets	40,60,923.21	44,30,717.95
Term Loan	12,24,243.00	18,29,182.00	<b>Current Assets/</b>		
Current Liabilities & Provision	4,13,893.00	5,03,610.00	<b>Loan &amp; Advances</b>		
			Loan & Advances	9,400.00	6,213.00
			Deposit	3,94,695.00	3,66,007.00
			Cash & Bank Balance	41,24,227.47	28,20,805.12
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>85,89,245.68</b>	<b>76,23,743.07</b>	<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>85,89,245.68</b>	<b>76,23,743.07</b>

### Breakdown of spending for the financial year 2010-2011



### SOVA BOARD MEMBERS

No.	NAME	DESIGNATION
01.	Mr. Madan Kirisani	President
02.	Mr. Sanjit Patnayak	Secretary
03.	Ms. Baby Rani Nanda	Treasurer
04.	Ms. Nabhi Ratna	Member
05.	Ms. Maadhusmita Mohanty	Member
06.	Mr. Baliram Prasad	Member
07.	Mr. Jacob Thundyil	Member
08.	Mr. Tripati Mishra	Member
09.	Mr. Tanka Chendia	Member
10.	Mr M. Mutyala Rao	Member
11.	Ms. Suprava Nisanka	Member

## Acknowledgements

SOVA is grateful to the wide variety of organisations we have had the opportunity to work with throughout 2011. For the knowledge, advice and support both financial and programme level.

Below is a list of the partners we have had the good fortune to work with.

Child Fund India	Concern World Wide
TROCAIRE	Save the Children(BRB)
Sight savers International	Skillshare International
NEG-Fire	UNICEF
VSO-India	Oxfam
CWS,Annie, PHFI,NEW Delhi, Avanta Foundation	Zilla Swastya Seva Samiti(ZSS),Koraput, UNFPA,Bhubaneswar