

South OrissaVoluntary Action (SOVA)

2023-24
ANNUAL
REPORT.



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SOUTH ORISSA VOLUNTARY ACTION

(Registered under Society Registration Act, XXI of 1860 & FCR Act)
Rangbalikumbha Road, Po/Dist. Koraput-764020, Odisha, India



FROM THE SECRETARY

Dear Friends, Partners, and Supporters,

It is with great pride and gratitude that I present to you the Annual Report of South Orissa Voluntary Action (SOVA) for the year 2023–24.

This year marked another tracfingisstep in our ongoing journey to empower marginalized communities across southern Odisha. Despite the multifaceted challenges posed by socio-economic disparities and environmental uncertainties, our team, partners, and community members have remained steadfast in their resolve to build a more just, inclusive, and sustainable future.

Through our integrated interventions in education, health, livelihoods, tribal rights, child protection, and women's empowerment, we were able to touch the lives of thousands across Koraput, Malkangiri, Rayagada, and beyond. Notable progress was made in advancing community-based natural resource management, promoting indigenous rights, and enhancing access to basic services in remote tribal regions.

The year also witnessed stronger collaboration with government bodies, civil society networks, and development partners, which yltnacfiingisenhanced the scale and sustainability of our initiatives. Our dlefi teams deserve special appreciation for their tireless work under often tlucfifidconditions, ensuring that our programs remain grounded, participatory, and impactful.

We have also taken steps to strengthen our institutional systems, improve transparency and accountability, and adopt digital tools for monitoring and evaluation. These efforts are part of our ongoing commitment to organizational excellence and effectiveness.

As we move forward, we remain guided by our founding values of equity, dignity, and grassroots empowerment. There is still much to be done, and we are inspired by the resilience of the communities we serve, whose courage and wisdom continue to guide our mission.

On behalf of the entire SOVA family, I extend heartfelt thanks to our donors, government partners, volunteers, board members, and well-wishers for their unwavering support. Together, we will continue striving for a future where every individual, regardless of background, has the opportunity to lead a life of dignity and opportunity.

In Solidarity,

Sanjit Patnayak Secretary, South Orissa Voluntary Action







OUR VISION

SOVA visualizes a healthy and self-reliant society, where excluded communities especially tribal women and children enjoy equal opportunities and rights with dignity and without any discrimination and exploitation.



OUR MISSION

To ensure that its primary stakeholders, excluded communities especially tribal women and children have equal and gender balance access to their rights and enjoy equal opportunities in the spectrum of health, education, livelihood and governance.



OUR GOAL

To ensure that its primary stakeholders, excluded communities especially tribal women and children have equal and gender balance access to their rights and enjoy equal opportunities in the spectrum of health, education, livelihood and governance.

WHO WE ARE

South Orissa Voluntary Action (SOVA) was born out of a need to stand with communities in crisis and since its inception in 1993, it has remained rooted in the belief that sustainable development must be community-driven and rights-based. It began as a response to the displacement of tribal families by the Upper Kolab Hydroelectric Dam; has grown into a vibrant and dynamic organisation working across 23 Blocks, 307 Gram Panchayats, 3163 villages and 139412 families and 41187 children in four aspirational districts of Odisha: Koraput, Rayagada, Malkangiri, and Nabarangpur. With women and children at the heart of its mission, SOVA has emerged as a trusted development partner in the region.

Community We Serve

SOVA works in the tribal heartland of southern Odisha, with the tribal and marginalised communities focusing on the wellbeing of women and children. The region marked by chronic poverty, low literacy, and persistent exclusion is home to diverse tribal groups and Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) like the Lanjia Soura and Dongaria Kondh. Across Koraput, Nabarangpur, Malkangiri, and Rayagada districts, where tribal

populations range from 47% to 57%, SOVA works to address systemic issues of malnutrition, illiteracy, and displacement. Through a participatory and integrated development approach, we work towards transforming these villages into self-reliant, inclusive communities.

SOVA's strategic intervention

focuses over five key thematic areas

- 1. Nutrition and Basic Health
- 2. Quality and Inclusive Education
- 3. Child Rights and Child Protection
- 4. Sustainable Livelihoods
- 5. Village Governance

influencing their social, economic and environmental factors for transformation of a village in real sense.

SOVA ensures and remains committed to transforming lives by strengthening communities and

improve systems so that excluded communities can thrive with dignity, rights and access the opportunities they deserve. By empowering communities to speak for themselves, it works with the belief that sustainable change can only happen when the most excluded are given the tools, the voice, and the opportunity to lead their own development journey with dignity, rights, and hope for a better tomorrow.



Nutrition and Basic Health



Quality and Inclusive Education



Child Rights and Child Protection



Sustainable Livelihood



Village Governance

OUR PROGRAM'S

VALUE PROPOSITION

QUALITY AND INCLUSIVE EDUCATION

Foundational Learning Outcomes

CHILD RIGHTS AND CHILD PROTECTION

Zero Tolerance to Child Exploitation and Abuse

NUTRITION AND BASIC HEALTH

U-5 Malnourishment, IMR, MMR, Women & Adolescent Health

SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOOD

Household Income, Economic Growth

VILLAGE TRANSFORMATION

Economic | Social | Environmental

VILLAGE
GOVERNANCE
Government
Effectiveness
Voice & Accountability











Nutrition and Basic Health

Strengthening Foundations for a Healthier Tomorrow



Preventing U5 Childhood **Malnutrition**

The Challenge We Addressed

SOVA (South Orissa Voluntary Action) strongly believes that a healthy community forms the cornerstone of a just and empowered society. In the tribal belts of southern Odisha, challenges like limited access to healthcare, poor nutrition, and inadequate sanitation continue to affect the well-being of women, children, and adolescents. To address these gaps, SOVA's Nutrition and Basic Health Program aims to build a supportive ecosystem that promotes not only survival but also holistic development. The initiative focuses on increasing awareness, enabling behavioral changes, and improving access to quality healthcare and nutrition services through community engagement and government convergence. The program is particularly focused on addressing high rates of underfive (U5) malnutrition, maternal anemia, and the lack of early health interventions for toddlers before preschool age.

The Approach We Took SOVA's approach is built on convergence with

government departments such as Health and ICDS, and support from donor agencies, to strengthen existing healthcare structures while filling critical service gaps. A key strategy is the establishment of crèche centers in underserved areas, particularly for toddlers who are often left unattended as their parents go to work. These crèches provide special nutritional care, monitor child growth, and ensure timely referrals to Primary Health Centers (PHCs), Community Health Centers (CHCs), and Nutritional Rehabilitation Centers (NRCs) when necessary. The strategy also includes community mobilization through culturally relevant tools like puppet shows, community radio broadcasts, and the use of IEC/BCC (Information, Education, and Communication / Behavior Change Communication) materials. Furthermore, the program strengthens capacity building for frontline workers such as Anganwadi Workers, ASHAs, ANMs, and Health Workers through training in counseling, immunization tracking, hygiene promotion, and disease prevention.



The Work on the Ground

Several integrated activities have been rolled out under the program. The crèche-based model ensures regular monitoring and care for children prone to malnutrition. SOVA has also facilitated health camps that provide immediate medical services and refer cases to the appropriate health institutions. Nutrition gardens are promoted to improve dietary diversity for households, while awareness campaigns educate communities on hygiene, sanitation, safe drinking water, and the importance of immunization. Structured training sessions and workshops are conducted for caregivers and health service providers on topics such as child growth monitoring, handwashing, anemia prevention, and referral mechanisms. SOVA also follows up on immunization dropouts, ensuring that every eligible child receives timely vaccinations. These coordinated efforts help create sustainable behavior change and improve health outcomes in the targeted communities.

The Change We Created

SOVA's Nutrition and Basic Health Program has delivered significant outcomes in improving community health indicators. 116 Severely Acute Malnourished (SAM) children have successfully recovered through structured care provided at crèche centers. 1,580 children were referred to PHCs, CHCs, and NRCs for clinical management. 90 caregivers were trained in child counseling, growth monitoring, and hygiene practices, while 150 frontline health workers received specialized training in nutrition care and health service delivery. All eligible children enrolled in 45 crèche centers achieved 100% immunization coverage, and 207 immunization dropouts were successfully

tracked and vaccinated within 20–30 days. Additionally, 100 health camps were conducted, providing timely treatment to 527 sick children, fur-



ther strengthening the community health system.

Adolescent **Health**

The Challenge We Addressed

Recognizing the critical importance of adolescence as a transformative phase in life, SOVA's Adolescent Health initiative aims to build a generation that is informed, confident, and capable of making healthy life decisions. In tribal and remote areas of southern Odisha, adolescents particularly girls often face challenges related to reproductive health, early marriage, menstrual hygiene, and limited access to accurate health information. SOVA's approach focuses on equipping adolescents with life skills, promoting public health education, and creating supportive environments both in schools and communities that foster open dialogue and informed decision-making.

The Approach We Took

SOVA strengthens the Advika program, a government initiative for adolescent health, through continuous engagement of healthcare providers and integration of behavior change communication. The strategy revolves around building adolescents' capacities on Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH), menstrual hygiene, Iron Folic Acid (IFA) supplementation, and nutrition education. Peer-led interventions,

collaboration with schools, family counseling, and village-level adolescent clubs form the backbone of the strategy. Village health volunteers, school teachers, and frontline workers are actively involved to ensure consistent messaging, tracking of health services, and support for vulnerable adolescents, especially in remote tribal areas.

The Work on the Ground

Under the initiative, adolescents are trained in life skills, SRH, hygiene, and decision-making. Special emphasis is placed on menstrual hygiene management, with girls provided education sessions and sanitary materials. Adolescent clubs have been formed across multiple villages, providing regular forums for health sessions, discussions on nutrition, and safe health practices. The program also actively works to prevent early marriage through peer counseling, family sensitization, and coordination with local government and district-level structures. Regular engagement of healthcare providers has strengthened adolescent participation under the Advika platform in underserved areas

The Change We Created

The program has significantly impacted adolescent health outcomes in the region. A total of 3,856 adolescents has been trained in life skills, sexual and reproductive health, and decisionmaking abilities. Through school- and communitybased interventions, 1,680 adolescent girls received menstrual hygiene education along with access to sanitary materials. Adolescent engagement saw a remarkable increase 80% across 288 villages as a result of sustained intervention under the Advika platform. The program was successfully expanded to 42 remote tribal villages, where regular health provider engagement ensured consistent adolescent participation. Moreover, 120 early marriage cases were prevented through peer-led outreach, family counseling, and coordination with local governance structures. In 75 villages, SOVA facilitated the formation of adolescent clubs, involving nearly 1,500 adolescents in regular sessions on hygienic practices, IFA supplementation, nutrition awareness, and access to healthcare services.

Healthy and

Safe Motherhood

The Challenge We Addressed

SOVA's Healthy and Safe Motherhood program is committed to ensuring that every pregnant and lactating woman in remote tribal regions has timely access to essential healthcare services. Maternal health in these areas is often compromised by limited awareness, cultural practices, and poor referral systems. Through close coordination with frontline health workers, community volunteers, and women's groups, the program enhances maternal care by promoting antenatal and postnatal services, institutional deliveries, and proper nutrition for mothers, ultimately contributing to safer pregnancies and healthier newborns.

The Approach We Took

SOVA adopts a community-based, service-linked approach that bridges the gap between rural mothers and healthcare facilities. The strategy includes building the capacity of frontline workers (ASHAs, AWWs, CRPs) on identifying high-risk pregnancies, enhancing counseling quality, and improving referrals. Collaboration with traditional healers, who are often the first point of contact in tribal areas, ensures early identification and referral of maternal and neonatal complications. The use of Positive Deviance (PD) Hearth sessions supports mothers in learning from local best practices in maternal nutrition and care.

The Work on the Ground

Training and orientation sessions were conducted for frontline workers and mothers' groups to improve counseling, tracking, and follow-up services. Sensitization programs for traditional healers ensured that cases were referred to formal health facilities instead of being treated locally. SOVA supported institutional deliveries, ensured IFA consumption, and promoted birth preparedness through family counseling and community engagement. Kitchen gardens and nutrition gardens were promoted for pregnant and lactating women to enhance dietary intake and reduce micronutrient deficiencies.

The Change We Created

The program has made measurable progress in improving maternal health indicators. A total of 407 frontline workers, including ASHAs, Anganwadi Workers, and Community Resource Persons, were trained in identifying high-risk pregnancies and providing maternal counseling. Through advocacy and capacity building, 200 traditional healers were sensitized to refer maternal and newborn cases to formal healthcare systems, which resulted in timely medical support for 57 mothers and newborns and 184 sick individuals. Importantly, 46 high-risk pregnancies were successfully identified and supported for safe institutional delivery. To strengthen maternal nutrition, PD Hearth sessions were conducted across 50 panchayats, reaching approximately 2,000 pregnant and lactating mothers with practical, nutrition-related knowledge. Additionally, over 300 mothers benefitted from kitchen and nutrition gardens, which have become reliable sources of fresh and diverse food to support maternal health and well-being.





Crèche Initiative

The Challenge We Addressed

SOVA's Rural Crèche program is designed to provide safe, nurturing, and development-oriented care specifically for children aged 6 months to 3 years in tribal and marginalized communities. With many parents, especially mothers, engaged in agricultural or daily wage work, infants and toddlers are often left vulnerable to neglect, malnutrition, and unsafe environments. The crèches act as protective spaces where young children receive supervised care, proper feeding, early stimulation, and health support. By addressing the developmental needs of this critical age group, the program not only promotes healthy growth but also prepares children to smoothly step into Anganwadi center after 3 years.

The Approach We Took To ensure sustainability and cultural accep-

To ensure sustainability and cultural acceptance, SOVA adopts a community-managed childcare model. Local women are identified and trained as crèche workers, with special emphasis on infant feeding, hygiene, and early childhood stimulation. The strategy includes providing nutritious, age-appropriate meals, regular growth monitoring, and structured play activities that enhance motor and cognitive development. Crèches are closely linked with ICDS and frontline health workers to ensure immunization, anemia management, and referrals for childhood illnesses. Parents and community leaders are engaged through meetings and awareness sessions, fostering ownership and reinforcing safe childcare practices.

The Work on the Ground

The crèches follow a structured daily routine tailored to infants and toddlers, including rest periods, feeding times, and play-based learning activities. Nutritious hot meals, semi-solid foods for younger infants, and snacks are provided to address malnutrition and deficiencies. Regular health check-ups and growth monitoring are conducted in collaboration with ASHAs and ANMs, ensuring timely identification of health risks. Training and capacity-building sessions were organized for crèche workers on child protection, responsive caregiving, and emergency care. Parent meet-

ings and community sensitization programs emphasized the importance of early childhood care, safe weaning practices, and hygiene habits such as handwashing and sanitation.

The Change We Created The program successfully established 45 crèches

in remote tribal villages, providing daily care and nutrition to over 1,800 children aged 6 months to 3 years. Through monthly health monitoring, 276 children showing signs of malnutrition were referred to government rehabilitation services. Caregivers reported visible improvements in communication skills, motor development, and social interaction among children, supporting their readiness for Anganwadi enrollment. Mothers expressed reduced stress and greater participation in income-generating activities, knowing their children were safe. The initiative also created 150 employment opportunities for local women, while reducing absenteeism in primary schools as older siblings were relieved from childcare responsibilities, indirectly supporting girls' education.









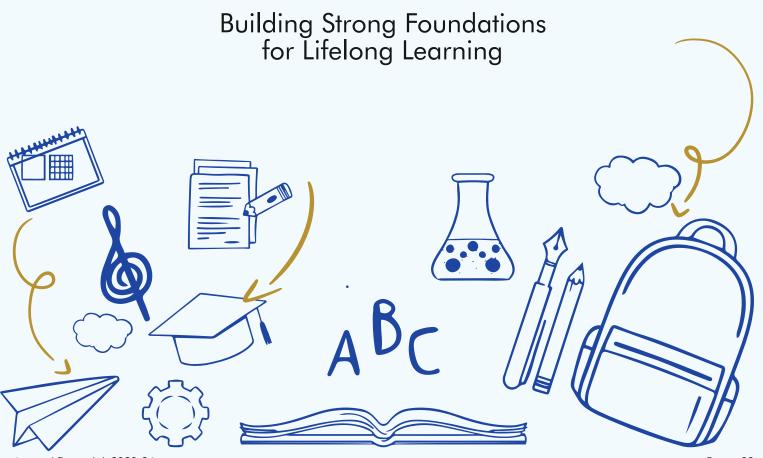
OUR PROGRAMME







Quality and Inclusive Education



Education

The Challenge We Addressed

SOVA (South Orissa Voluntary Action) envisions a world where every child, regardless of their geographical or social background, receives quality education that fosters curiosity and builds founda-tional learning. In the tribal regions of southern Odisha, where children face multiple barriers such as language gaps, poverty, and cultural discon-nect, SOVA's education program acts as a bridge to equity and lifelong learning. The organization fo-cuses on strengthening the public education sys-tem especially Anganwadi Centres and govern-ment primary schools to ensure inclusive, age-appropriate learning. With its interventions spread across 233 villages, SOVA addresses the linguistic and social challenges that tribal children face, and also includes children with visual impairments by providing devices and inclusive class-room assistive practices. SOVA's coordination with various government departments has helped bring children's education issues into policy-level discussions. Furthermore, digital adult literacy content de-veloped by SOVA has empowered over 3,000 youth and elders across 75 villages.

The Approach We Took A major strategy adopted by SOVA is the imple-

mentation of Mother Tongue-Based Multilingual Education (MTB-MLE), especially in 150 interstate border villages where linguistic diversity leads to poor comprehension of school curriculum. Extensive baseline studies revealed that the language gap yltnacfiingiscontributes to school drop-outs and early engagement in child labor or mar-riage. To address this, SOVA developed culturally and linguistically appropriate low-cost Teaching Learning Materials (TLMs) in tribal languages like Paraja, Kandha, and Gadaba. These included word books, sentence books, storybooks, riddles, songs, and WRIP tools. Teachers, Anganwadi work-ers, and community volunteers received training in using these tools effectively in classrooms and re-medial sessions. SOVA works in coordination with the District Education Department to assess chil-dren's learning outcomes regularly and shares -dnflings with the Block Education Department to en-sure need-based, grade-appropriate instruction.



The Work on the Ground

Key activities under the MTB-MLE initiative include the development and dissemination of multilingual books and audio-visual aids in tribal dialects to support early education. Trainings were conducted for over 500 teachers and 1,200 Anganwadi workers to integrate MLE tools into everyday teaching. Around 200 local youth volunteers were trained to deliver multilingual instruction, bridging the gap between home and school languages. SOVA facilitated remedial classes and community-based learning sessions through children's clubs and village-level education platforms. Additionally, educational support materials were distributed across schools to make learning more engaging and contextually relevant. The organization also played a crucial role in mainstreaming out-of-school children particularly those with language and disability barriers back into formal education.

The Change We Created The MTB-MLE program has led to significant

The MTB-MLE program has led to significant achievements in the targeted areas. Five multilingual books and 12 songs in four tribal languages were developed and implemented in 150 schools, positively impacting over 7,500 children. As a result, school retention rates improved, with around 1,652 tribal children continuing their education. Approximately 5,000 children enhanced their learning levels through regular use of the MLE tools. The training of 200 youth volunteers facilitated stronger community engagement in education. Furthermore, 378 school dropouts were successfully re-integrated into the education system. A wide array of MLE-based materials including storybooks, picture books, riddles, word cards, and

digital aids were developed and supplied to schools, while hundreds of educators and childcare workers gained critical skills in inclusive, language-sensitive pedagogy.



Learning Improvement **Program**

The Challenge We Addressed

SOVA's Learning Improvement Program (LIP) is aimed at ensuring that all children aged 6 to 14, including out-of-school and dropout children, attain foundational literacy and numeracy competencies. The program focuses on rapid learning gains through a targeted and timebound approach using innovative tools like WRIP (Writing-Reading-Instruction-Practice). By offering remedial classes, continuous assessments, and school re-entry support, SOVA helps children build academic confidence and bridge learning gaps. Beyond children, the program also empowers adults especially women with basic literacy and numeracy, enabling them to manage finances and make informed decisions through adult literacy initiatives.

The Approach We Took

The key strategy involves identifying slow and low learners and addressing their individual learning needs through structured remedial support in Language, Mathematics, and Science. WRIP tools are used to accelerate reading fluency and writing proficiency among primary school children. For older

students in Classes 9 and 10, special remedial sessions are designed to improve time management, subject clarity, and exam preparedness. The program also strengthens school governance by training School Management Committee (SMC) members to monitor academic progress and collaborate with local governance bodies. Teachers receive training and materials support to deliver interactive and curriculum-aligned lessons using Teaching Learning Materials (TLMs).

The Work on the Ground

SOVA's interventions include regular remedial classes, individual academic assessments, teacher capacity-building workshops, and distribution of subject-specific learning materials. Training was provided to 250 teachers on the use of practical learning equipment, while 752 SMC members were equipped with knowledge on school monitoring and development planning. Volunteer-led home-study sessions were organized to support students outside school hours. Additionally, bicycles were distributed to girls to encourage regular attendance, and village youth leaders facilitated digital learning sessions for adult learners. The program also supported 100 schools with practical science kits and TLMs aligned with grade-level curricula.

The Change We Created

The Learning Improvement Program has delivered measurable outcomes: 9.760 children in primary grades achieved reading fluency and writing skills in Odia; 2,984 students saw a 60% improvement in core subjects; and 204 Class 10 students scored above 75% through focused support. Additionally, 192 dropout and migrant children were successfully mainstreamed into schools. Adult literacy efforts reached 2,689 learners, while 1,752 gained functional literacy through digital tools facilitated by youth leaders. Furthermore, 75 girls overcame mobility challenges with bicycle support, enhancing school retention. The program's holistic and inclusive design continues to transform learning outcomes at the grassroots level.

Activity-Based

Learning (ABL)

The Challenge We Addressed

SOVA's Activity-Based Learning (ABL) program, particularly through its 11-Steps to School Readiness initiative, targets early childhood education (ECE) for children aged 3–6 years in tribal areas. The program promotes a joyful, play-based approach to early learning, focusing on language development, cognitive skills, motor abilities, and social-emotional growth. By integrating culturally relevant, play-oriented learning methods, the program eases the transition from preschool to primary school. SOVA's ABL initiative addresses systemic educational barriers and transforms Anganwadi Centres into dynamic, child-friendly learning spaces.

sessions designed to encourage daily participation.

The Change We Created

The ABL initiative has had significant impact: 8,863 preschool children benefitted from the 11-step readiness tools and play-based learning methods; 561 Anganwadi staff enhanced their skills in ECE practices; and 100 under-resourced Anganwadi centres received essential prelearning materials. Moreover, 188 irregular children were re-integrated into early education centers, and their retention improved through engaging and joyful learning techniques. The Anganwadi Melas strengthened community ownership and parental involvement, further supporting long-term child development and smoother school transitions.

The Approach We Took

The core strategy involves enhancing the skills of Anganwadi workers through regular training, onsite mentoring, and ongoing follow-ups to ensure consistent implementation of ABL methods. The 11-step School Readiness tool, developed by SOVA, is customized for tribal contexts and focuses on structured engagement through games, storytelling, and interactive learning. To retain children at Anganwadi Centres, digital content aligned with the "New Arunima" guidelines is developed and introduced with approval from the ICDS department. This not only improves learning but also attracts children and parents to stay committed to early education.

The Work on the Ground

SOVA conducted capacity-building sessions for Anganwadi workers, training 561 personnel on ECE methodologies and the use of innovative learning tools. Pre-learning kits and materials were distributed to 100 Anganwadi centres in remote villages to support structured learning. Community engagement was promoted through "Anganwadi Melas" in 20 centers, creating dialogue between parents and Anganwadi workers about the importance of early education. To address irregular attendance, children were engaged using audio-visual tools and activity-based







Adult Education (Vidya)

We Addressed

Rotary India Literacy Mission (RILM), in collaboration with South Orissa Voluntary Action (SOVA), is implementing the Vidya (Each One Teach Many) adult literacy program across 75 villages in Koraput and Pottangi Blocks. The program aims to make 3,000 adult non-literates (15+ years) functionally literate, equipping them with basic reading, writing, and arithmetic skills.

The Approach We Took

- Identification of non-literate adults for enrolment into Vidya session.
- 75 literacy centres functioning was managed through local volunteers 'Akshyar Sathi'.
- Capacity Building of Akshar Sathi in teaching methodology and use of the RILM portal.

The Change We Created

- 3000 non-literate adults were acquired basic knowledge on literacy and numeracy.
- 2912 regular non-literate adults certified for completion of the Vidya course

The Vidya (EOTM) program empowers adult learners with essential literacy and numeracy skills enabling them to read newspaper headlines, fill out banking forms, and manage household finances with confidence. By embedding innovation in its educational approach, SOVA not only supports adult literacy but also works towards unlocking the potential of every individual and child.





Sponsorship

A Joy of Giving

The Challenge We Addressed

Many children, adolescents, and families live in conditions of poverty without access to education, healthcare, nutritious food, or a safe home. Talented youth often drop out due to financial hardship, losing the chance to build a dignified and secure future.

The Approach We Took

Through our sponsorship programme, we connect compassionate sponsors with children, adolescents, and families in need. A monthly contribution supports their essential needs and education, helping them move toward self-reliance and restoring dignity.

The Work on the Ground

SOVA identifies vulnerable families through field visits, prepares their profiles, and matches them with sponsors. Each sponsor receives a personal story and photo of the child or youth they support. Continuous follow-up ensures that assistance reaches where it is needed most.

The Change We Created

Sponsorship has enabled children to stay in school, youth to pursue higher or vocational education, and families to access food, healthcare, and basic rights. More than support, it has given them hope, knowing someone cares has transformed their confidence, future, and sense of belonging.







OUR PROGRAMME

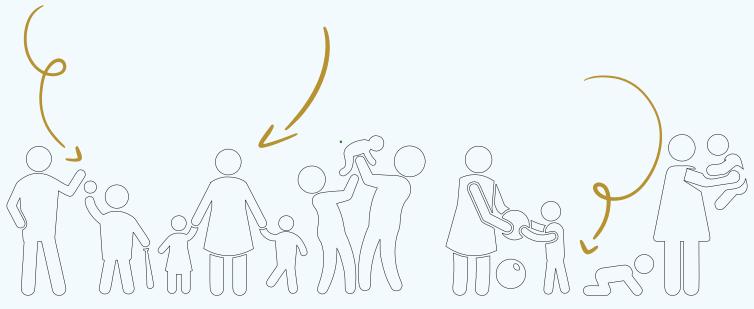






Child Rights and **Child Protection**

Ensuring Safety, Dignity and a Future for Every Child



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The Challenge We Addressed

Undivided Koraput in Odisha is marked by widespread poverty, with over 33.5% of the population living below the poverty line. This economic hardship contributes significantly to various forms of child exploitation, including child marriage, labour, and abuse. SOVA's Child Rights & Protection Program is a comprehensive initiative that works at both community and systemic levels to create safe, supportive, and child-friendly environments. The program prioritizes prevention through protection, engaging children, parents, schools, and local institutions to challenge harmful practices and safeguard childhood. Through child clubs, adolescent groups, and peer-led movements, children are empowered to understand their rights, participate in community decisions, and become advocates for their own protection and development.

The Approach We Took SOVA's strategy focuses on three core areas: end-

ing child marriage, eliminating child labour, and preventing all forms of child abuse. To address child marriage, the organization strengthens adolescent groups and builds awareness through puppet shows, community radio, and local campaigns. It works in convergence with statutory bodies such as CWC, DCPU, Police, and Childline, while also training and activating local protection committees (VLCPCs and PLCPCs) to monitor and respond to child rights violations. Child labour is tackled by early identification using child tracking tools and facilitating rescue and rehabilitation with support from frontline workers and community networks. To prevent child abuse, SOVA runs the "Child-Friendly Village" campaign, trains community leaders, and manages a Child Care Institution (CCI) that provides holistic support to children in need of care and protection. Across all fronts, children are positioned as central actors in monitoring and advocating for their own safety and rights.

The Work on the Ground

SOVA has formed and supported 1,252 child clubs and 708 adolescent groups to lead campaigns against child marriage. These groups organize awareness drives in schools, colleges, and religious institutions, while also working with 263 trained PRI members, teachers, and tribal leaders to address child abuse. Childline services, bridge courses, and educational rehabilitation are key



tools used to reintegrate child labourers back into school. Functional Village Child Protection Committees have been activated in over 1,250 locations to provide vigilance and early intervention. SOVA also organized workshops and meetings with government departments to align community-level actions with national policies and legal frameworks. Special attention is given to preventing corporal punishment and ensuring that children's voices are central in all decision-making processes.

The Change We Created

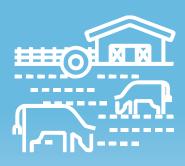
SOVA's child protection efforts have led to substantial outcomes. 281 child marriage attempts were prevented, and 4736 families pledged to delay marriage, resulting in 84 villages reporting zero child marriages over three consecutive years. 3,315 adolescents led anti-child marriage campaigns, and 1,936 vulnerable children received scholarship/sponsorship support to continue their education. In the fight against child labour, 614 children were identified and 558 rescued, with 189 enrolled in bridge programs 107 of whom passed Class 10. Furthermore, 157 children received shelter and care at SOVA's CCI, while 263 community influencers were trained to identify and prevent abuse. 11 cases under POCSO were advocated for compensation, with 2 successfully receiving support. Through consistent community engagement, child-led tracking, and multi-stakeholder collaboration, SOVA continues to build a grassroots movement for child safety, rights, and dignity.











OUR PROGRAMME







Sustainable Livelihood

Empowering Communities with Dignity and Sustainability



The Challenge We Addressed

In the remote tribal belts of southern Odisha, livelihood is more than just an economic concern it is about survival, dignity, and resilience. SOVA's Sustainable Livelihoods program empowers marginalized communities, particularly tribal families, landless labourers, women-headed households, and youth, to secure their present and shape their future through diverse, sustainable income sources. By integrating food security, skill development, natural resource management, and access to entitlements, SOVA fosters self-reliance and long-term economic stability. Our interventions span across farm-based, off-farm, and nonfarm sectors, designed to align with the sociocultural and environmental context of each community we serve.

The Approach We Took The program operates through three strategic pil-

lars: economic empowerment for landless families, agricultural enhancement for small and marginal farmers, and skill development for youth employability. For landless households, SOVA facilitates non-farm income generation through microenterprises, access to entitlements (like MGNREGA, PDS, pensions), and forest rights. For farmers, we promote agro-ecological practices, value chain development, and women-led production units to shift from subsistence farming to profitable agriculture. Skill development programs provide market-aligned vocational training for tribal youth, enabling them to access jobs or start their own ventures. Each strategy is backed by grassroots-level planning, capacity-building, collective mobilization, and convergence with government schemes.

The Work on the Ground

SOVA supported 920 landless families in shifting to non-farm livelihoods like goatery, tailoring, and food vending, and enabled over 850 families to start small-scale enterprises. It facilitated 862 individual forest rights claims and six community forest rights, benefiting 570 families. In agriculture, over 2,200 farmers adopted multi-crop and climate-resilient farming practices, with the support of women-led SHGs in vegetable, mushroom, and spice cultivation. Infrastructure such as rice mills, flour mills, sugarcane processing units, and grinding machines were installed across 30 villages, re-



ducing costs and increasing production. Youth were trained in trades like masonry, agroentrepreneurship, and mobile vending, while micro-planning activities across 410 villages helped align skills, interests, and opportunities for nearly 20,000 youth.

The Change We Created

The program has yielded strong results. 920 landless families now earn 18,000- 25,000 annually from dignified livelihoods, while 850 small enterprises generate stable incomes. 862 families secured ancestral land through individual forest rights, and six communities collectively claimed forest lands for sustainable use. 2,217 farmers from 72 villages saw income rises of 16,000-20,000 through diversified agriculture. 75 SHGs sustained profitable spice and mushroom units, and 306 sugarcane growers saved significantly through localized processing. 200 youth received short-term skills training, 207 were linked to formal training institutes, and 72 youth started their own microbusinesses. Through these combined efforts, SOVA continues to build resilient livelihoods and selfreliant communities in some of India's most underserved regions.













OUR PROGRAMME







Village Governance

Building Responsive and Inclusive Local Institutions



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The Challenge We Addressed

In the tribal heartlands of southern Odisha, where constitutional structures and traditional governance systems coexist, SOVA believes that strong, inclusive, and accountable local governance is the foundation for sustainable development. The Village Governance Program is designed to empower communities particularly marginalized groups to actively participate in shaping decisions that affect their lives. By bridging formal democratic institutions with tribal customs, SOVA works to make governance processes more participatory, transparent, and culturally rooted. This people-centered approach ensures that local voices are not only heard but also drive equitable development, entitlement access, and social justice.

The Approach We Took SOVA's village governance strategy is built on

three core pillars: strengthening elected representatives (especially women leaders), fostering youth engagement through Village Development Committees (VDCs), and integrating traditional tribal governance systems into modern development planning. Elected PRI members are trained and mentored to understand their roles and lead participatory development. Simultaneously, structured platforms like VDCs mobilize youth for civic engagement, rights awareness, and monitoring of schemes using digital tools like the Community Monitoring and Information System (CMIS). Tribal leaders and institutions are engaged in dialogue to blend indigenous decision-making with statutory frameworks, ensuring both cultural preservation and administrative accountability. Together, these strategies help create resilient governance ecosystems from the grassroots.

The Work on the Ground

SOVA conducted intensive training and capacity-building for 318 PRI members, including 136 women, to strengthen local leadership and service delivery. 12 Panchayat Resource Hubs were set up to address community grievances and link government schemes, resulting in 624 families accessing critical entitlements. Youth engagement was expanded through leadership camps reaching 8,436 youth, the formation of 64 new VDCs,



and their federation at the panchayat level. These platforms facilitated participatory planning, resulting in 672 updated community development plans and over 11,600 people (54% women) involved in village monitoring. Additionally, SOVA worked with 297 traditional leaders to secure 942 individual and 13 community forest rights, resolve inter-village disputes, and oversee joint monitoring of development funds alongside PRIs.

The Change We Created The program has delivered far-reaching out-

comes in governance transformation, 136 women PRI members now actively lead and mobilize their communities, while 42 community audits have increased transparency in schemes like MGNREGA. Youth-driven planning through 64 VDCs led to 913 families accessing government schemes, and 300 youth took leadership roles in sustaining governance initiatives. Traditional tribal councils played a crucial role in securing land rights and resolving 28 inter-village conflicts. The integration of traditional and statutory governance has resulted in a hybrid model that respects cultural identity while enhancing local accountability. Through federated structures and multi-level collaboration, SOVA's Village Governance Program continues to build empowered, self-reliant communities.





OUR RESPONSIBILITY







Community Radio

90.4 MHz

DHIMSA

Reaching the Unreached



The Challenge We Addressed

In the tribal hinterlands of Koraput and Lamtaput blocks in Odisha, where conventional media often fails to reach, DHIMSA Community Radio (90.4 MHz) stands as a trusted voice. Launched in 2008 by SOVA and named after the region's traditional folk dance, 'DHIMSA' has grown into a vibrant communication platform that reaches over 1.25 lakh people across 63 villages. By broadcasting in indigenous dialects and addressing local needs.

The Approach We Took The station is built on a bottom-up, inclusive com-

The station is built on a bottom-up, inclusive communication model. Local youth and children are trained to identify pressing community issues and develop radio content in formats such as songs, stories, jingles, and radio plays. With programming running for nine hours daily, the station strategically blends expert advice with community storytelling to promote behavior change and improve access to services. DHIMSA also supports listener clubs, narrowcasting sessions, and real-time emergency communication, ensuring that the station remains responsive to grassroots realities and culturally rooted in its approach.

The Work on the Ground

DHIMSA broadcasts cover themes like health, agriculture, child rights, nutrition, education, social entitlements, and more. Over time, 138 tribal youth and children have become active contributors, while 161 narrowcasting sessions were conducted in 68 remote villages, directly engaging 6,000+ listeners. The station produced 278 audio pieces from traditional and contemporary formats, grounded in 48 locally developed scripts. With 47





active listener clubs and 35 child contributors, the station has nurtured grassroots talent and expanded civic awareness. Expert-led shows, 53 in total, brought government officers and frontline workers to the airwaves, bridging the gap between policy and people.

The Change We Created

Over the years, DHIMSA Community Radio has emerged as a powerful medium for tribal expression, awareness, and communication. 138 tribal youth and children have been trained and empowered as community broadcasters, creating and presenting songs, stories, and public messages in their own dialects. This has ensured that the content resonates deeply with listeners and promotes local ownership of the messages.

Through 161 narrowcasting sessions conducted in 68 remote villages, DHIMSA has directly engaged more than 6,000 villagers, many of whom have limited or no access to traditional media. The station has produced an impressive 278 audio pieces, including 48 locally developed scripts, covering critical themes like child rights, health, agriculture, and social entitlements in formats that are both educational and entertaining.

Further enhancing its community engagement, 47 listener clubs have been formed. These clubs act as support base of the station at the grassroots level. 35 children have become regular contributors to programs that promote child rights, safety, education. DHIMSA has also hosted 53 expert-led broadcasts, bringing frontline workers, government officials, and service providers directly to the airwaves, improving community awareness.







OUR RESPONSIBILITY







ASTHA Child Care Institute and Open Shelter

We Care



The Challenge We Addressed

Koraput district in Odisha continues to face deep-rooted challenges affecting children's well-being, including poverty, migration, and nealect. These vulnerabilities often lead to children being abandoned, exploited, or deprived of their rights. In response to this critical situation, SOVA (South Orissa Voluntary Action) has been running the ASTHA Child Care Institute and Open Shelter with support from the Department of Women & Child Development and other partners. These initiatives aim to ensure the protection, rehabilitation, and holistic development of children in need, aligning with the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC).

The Approach We Took SOVA adopts a comprehensive, rights-based ap-

proach to child care through the ASTHA Child Care Institute and Open Shelter, focusing on a full continuum of care. From immediate rescue and short-term shelter to long-term rehabilitation and reintegration, the model ensures that children receive consistent, holistic support. The emphasis is on creating a safe, nurturing environment where children are not only protected but are also given opportunities to grow emotionally, academically, and socially. This includes access to education, vocational training, life skills development, and exposure to arts and sports. Legal assistance and psychosocial counselling are provided as needed, while efforts are also made to reunite children with their families or place them in suitable alternative care settings. The ultimate goal is to help each child achieve long-term stability and self-reliance.

The Work on the Ground

At the ASTHA Child Care Institute, 82 children received long-term care and protection in a structured, supportive environment. These children benefited from academic coaching, skill development programs, and active participation in extracurricular activities such as karate, music, dance, and painting. Alongside residential care, SOVA facilitated the reintegration of 55 children, either by reunifying them with their families or transferring them to other Child Care Institutions (CCIs) better suited to their needs. Of these, five



children were also linked to sponsorship programs to support their continued education and well-being after reintegration. Meanwhile, the Open Shelter served 82 vulnerable children through short-term interventions, providing food, emergency care, counselling, and access to basic education. A highlight of this work was the empowerment of 13 girls through karate training, with public demonstrations showcasing their confidence and skill.

The Change We Created Through its sustained efforts, SOVA has created

meaningful and lasting change in the lives of vulnerable children in Koraput. The ASTHA Child Care Institute has not only provided physical safety and emotional support to children but also fostered their academic and personal growth. The reintegration of 55 children demonstrates the success of SOVA's de-institutionalization strategy, which prioritizes family-based or alternative care solutions. Several reintegrated children have been further supported through sponsorships, ensuring their continued education and stability. Success stories include four youth who completed vocational training at ITIs, progressed to the prestigious World Skill Center, and are now employed in the corporate sector. Others have excelled in extracurricular fields seven children have won karate awards at district and state levels, while thirteen more have received recognition in arts and music. Academically, the support provided has yielded tangible results, with two out of three Class 10 students achieving first-class marks. These outcomes highlight the transformative impact of SOVA's child-centric, empowerment-driven approach.











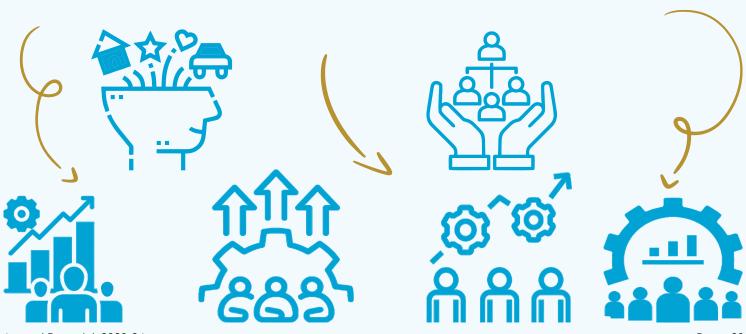
OUR RESPONSIBILITY







CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMME



Annual Report | 2023-24....

Educational Exposure Visit

SOVA organized an educational exposure visit to the state capital, Bhubaneswar, for 50 children from Pottangi block. During the visit, the children explored Odisha's rich cultural and educational landmarks. This enriching experience helped connect classroom learning with real-life observations, sparked curiosity, broadened their understanding, and created cherished memories for these young learners.



Training to Anganwadi Workers on Activity Based Learning & 11 Steps Tool

SOVA conducted a focused training programme for Anganwadi Workers in Pottangi on the "11 Steps to Child Engagement" tool aligned with Nua Arunima. The training strengthened their skills in preschool education, promoting holistic cognitive and emotional development and reinforcing school readiness in young children.



SOVA organized an awareness meeting with tribal leaders and PRI members in Potangi block, urging communities to shift focus from caste or religion to verifying the girl's age before marriage. This session marked a critical change in community perception, promoting legal age verification as an essential step to prevent child marriage and safeguard girls' rights and health.



CORDINATION AND INTERPACE WITH PRI UNIFIERS TITIBLE LIGHT SORT UNIFIER OF THE LIGHT SORT UNIFIER

Safeguarding the Girl Child – DLSA Jeypore

SOVA participated as a key resource in a district-level consultation organized by DLSA, Jeypore, to address safety concerns of girl children. The session emphasized legal protection, community vigilance, and stronger coordination between judiciary, government departments, and civil society to ensure girls' dignity and security.

Capacity Building on Ending Child Marriage

SOVA organized an intensive capacity-building workshop on child marriage prevention led by expert Ghasiram Panda. Through group reflections and role plays, staff enhanced their strategies on early intervention, stronger community engagement, and coordinated action to curb child marriage at the grassroots.



Kheli Kheli Sikhiba-Play-Based Learning Rollout in Anganwadi Centres

SOVA introduced the joyful learning tool "Kheli Kheli Sikhiba" across Pottangi Anganwadi centres, training 59 workers in play-based cognitive development methods. Government officials appreciated the initiative for strengthening ECCE practices and building the capacities of frontline workers.





Training on NEP, NIPUN Bharat & Pedagogy

A four-day residential training equipped village volunteers with knowledge on NEP, NIPUN Bharat, inclusive pedagogy, and local TLM use. The programme is building community-level education resource persons to bridge learning gaps between rural and urban children.



Creche Caregiver Training

SOVA, with support of Azim Premji Foundation and PHRS, conducted a three-day refresher training for crèche caregivers on nutrition, safety, IYCF, and documentation. Caregivers expressed renewed confidence in managing red-flag children and maintaining quality standards in rural crèches.

Emergency Preparedness Session at Astha Children's Home

With commitment to child safety and protection, SOVA conducted an emergency awareness and preparedness programme at Astha Children's Home, equipping children and staff with essential skills to respond safely and effectively. The session, facilitated by the Koraput Fire Department team.





State-Level Nutrition Workshop with UNICEF

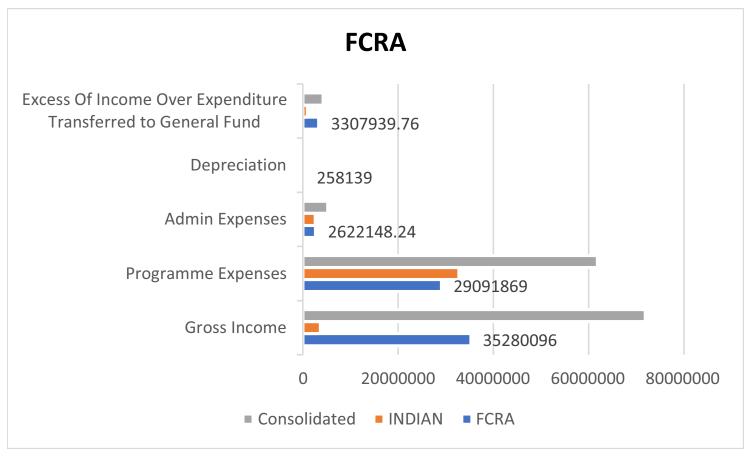
SOVA, in partnership with UNICEF and Ruchi Foods, organized a state-level nutrition workshop focusing on severe wasting and growth faltering. Key officials emphasized the need for ground-level execution, GO-NGO convergence, and mass community mobilisation for better nutrition outcomes in Koraput district.





Abridged Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 31st March 2024

Category	FCRA	Indian	Consolidated	
Gross Income	35280096	36585260.85	71865356.85	
Programme Expenses	29091869	32747153	61839022	
Admin Expenses	2622148.24	2603659.8	5225808.04	
Depreciation	258139	305896	564035	
Excess of Income Over	2207020 76	020552.05	4226404-04	
Expenditure	3307939.76	928552.05	4236491.81	





GENERAL & FC CONSOLIDATED AUDITED ACCOUNTS FOR 2023-24

Audited By NRSM&ASSOCIATES **Chartered Accounts**

Meria Bazar, Cuttack: 753001, Ph: 9861051246 / 2430605 • nrsmassociates.ho@gmail.com

SOUTH ORISSA VOLUNTARY ACTION

HO: Janiguda Street, Rangabalikumbha Road, Po/Dist: Koraput-764020, Odisha Regd. No GJM - 3293/1993-94 (CONSOLIDATED)

BALANCE SHEET AS ON 31st MARCH 2024

Amount in (Rs.)

Particulars	SCH No	FCRA	INDIAN	Consolidated
CAPITAL & LIABILITIES				
I. CAPITAL FUND B/f				
A. General Fund	1	54,07,759.59	96,89,353.20	1,50,97,112.79
		54,07,759.59	96,89,353.20	1,50,97,112.79
II. LIABILITIES				
A. Non Current Liabilities		-	-	
B. Current Liabilities	97			- (
Membership Fees	2	8=	1,10,400.00	1,10,400.00
Other Current Liabilities	3	67,479.00	18,01,771.85	18,69,250.85
		54,75,238.59	1,16,01,525.05	1,70,76,763.64
ASSETS AND PROPERTIES				
Non Current Assets				
Property & Equipment (Refer Schdule-A)		10,42,466.18	19,09,214.68	29,51,680.86
nvestment	4		51,01,872.00	51,01,872.00
. Current Assets				
Cash in hand	5		10,213.00	10,213.00
Bank Balance	6 7	44,32,772.41	43,92,097.37	88,24,869.78
Receivable	7	-	1,46,502.00	1,46,502.00
Other Current Assets	8	-	41,626.00	41,626.00
	-	54,75,238.59	1,16,01,525.05	1,70,76,763.64

IN TERMS OF OUR ATTACHED REPORT OF EVEN DATE.

FOR: SOUTH ORISSA VOLUNTARY ACTION (SOVA)

PLACE: KORAPUT DATE: 24.09.2024

> SANJIT PATNAYAR [SECRETARY]

FOR NRSM & ASSOCI CHARTERED ACCOUNT

[NALINI RANJAN RAY. PARTNER M. No: 055448

SOUTH ORISSA VOLUNTARY ACTION

HO: Janiguda Street, Rangabalikumbha Road, Po/Dist: Koraput-764020, Odisha Regd. No GJM - 3293/1993-94

(CONSOLIDATED)

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED ON 31ST MARCH 2024

				Amount in (Rs.)
Particulars	SCH No	FCRA	INDIAN	Consolidated
INCOME				
Gross Income	9	3,52,80,096.00	3,65,85,260.85	7,18,65,356.85
Total (A)	-	3,52,80,096.00	3,65,85,260.85	7,18,65,356.85
APPLICATION OF INCOME				
I. EXPENDITURE				
Programme Expenses	10	2,90,91,869.00	3,27,47,153.00	6,18,39,022.00
Admin Expenses Capital Application	11	26,22,148.24	26,03,659.80	52,25,808.04
Depreciation	Α	2,58,139.00	3,05,896.00	5,64,035.00
Total (B)		3,19,72,156.24	3,56,56,708.80	6,76,28,865.04
Excess Of Income Over Expenditure Transferred to General Fund	I	33,07,939.76	9,28,552.05	42,36,491.81
Total (C)	1.5	33,07,939.76	9,28,552.05	42,36,491.81

IN TERMS OF OUR ATTACHED REPORT OF EVEN DATE.

FOR: SOUTH ORISSA VOLUNTARY ACTION (SOVA)

PLACE: KORAPUT DATE: 24.09.2024

[SECRETARY]

FOR N R S M & ASSOCIATES CHARTERED ACCOUNT

PARTNER

M. No: 055448

SOUTH ORISSA VOLUNTARY ACTION

HO: Janiguda Street, Rangabalikumbha Road, Po/Dist: Koraput-764020, Odisha Regd. No GJM - 3293/1993-94

(CONSOLIDATED)

RECEIPT AND PAYMENT ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED ON 31ST MARCH 2024

				Amount in (Rs.)	
Particulars	SCH No	FCRA	INDIAN	Consolidated	
RECEIPTS					
Opening Balance					
Fixed Deposit	4	-	8,91,303.00	8,91,303.00	
Cash in Hand	5	-	10,213.00	10,213.00	
Bank Balance	5 6 7	9,36,170.65	74,96,667.67	84,32,838.32	
Receivable		-	88,173.00	88,173.00	
TDS & TCS Receivable	8,.	•	11,029.00	11,029.00	
Gross Receipts	9	3,52,80,096.00	3,88,95,517.85	7,41,75,613.85	
		3,62,16,266.65	4,73,92,903.52	8,36,09,170.17	
PAYMENTS					
Programme Expenses	10	2,90,24,390.00	3,26,44,851.00	6,16,69,241.00	
Admin Expenses	11	26,22,148.24	45,15,452.80	71,37,601.04	
Liabilities of 2021-22 paid during the	12	1,36,956.00	3,93,900.35	5,30,856.35	
Non Recurring Expenses					
Capital Application	13	-	1,46,389.00	1,46,389.00	
Closing Balance					
Fixed Deposit	4		51,01,872.00	51,01,872.00	
Cash in Hand	5	-	10,213.00	10,213.00	
Bank Balance	6	44,32,772.41	43,92,097.37	88,24,869.78	
Receivables	7	-	1,46,502.00	1,46,502.00	
TDS & TCS Receivable	8	-	41,626.00	41,626.00	
		3,62,16,266.65	4,73,92,903.52	8,36,09,170.17	

IN TERMS OF OUR ATTACHED REPORT OF EVEN DATE.

FOR: SOUTH ORISSA VOLUNTARY ACTION (SOVA)

PLACE: KORAPUT DATE: 24.09.2024

SANJIT PATNAYAK

[SECRETARY]

FOR N R S M & ASSOCIATES CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

[NALINI RANJAN RAY, FC PARTNER

M. No: 055448



Current Partners



Previous Partners





MORE WAYS TO CONNECT

sovakoraput









VISIT US www.sovakoraput.org



South Orissa Voluntary Action (SOVA)

(Registered under Society Registration Act, XXI of 1860 & FCR Act)