



South Orissa Voluntary Action

A Profile of South Orissa Voluntary Action

www.sovakoraput.org





About the Organization



South Orissa Voluntary Action (SOVA), a not-for-profit organization, has been working since 1993 in the undivided Koraput district to advance the interests of disadvantaged communities, with a focus on women and children. For three decades, SOVA has streamlined development through community-centered programs that enable access to nutrition, health, education, livelihoods, child rights, & protection, improving overall living conditions. In recent years, it has also integrated climate resilience and environmental sustainability into its core strategies, promoting awareness, capacity-building, and eco-friendly practices to foster a more equitable and sustainable future.



Our Vision

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



Our Mission

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



Operational Goals

- Ensure protection of those child rights guaranteed by the Indian Constitution.
- Guarantee gender equality across the programs.
- Improve human development indicators in the context of health & education.
- Facilitate economic and food security and access to entitlements.
- Ensure tribal participation, including self-governance.





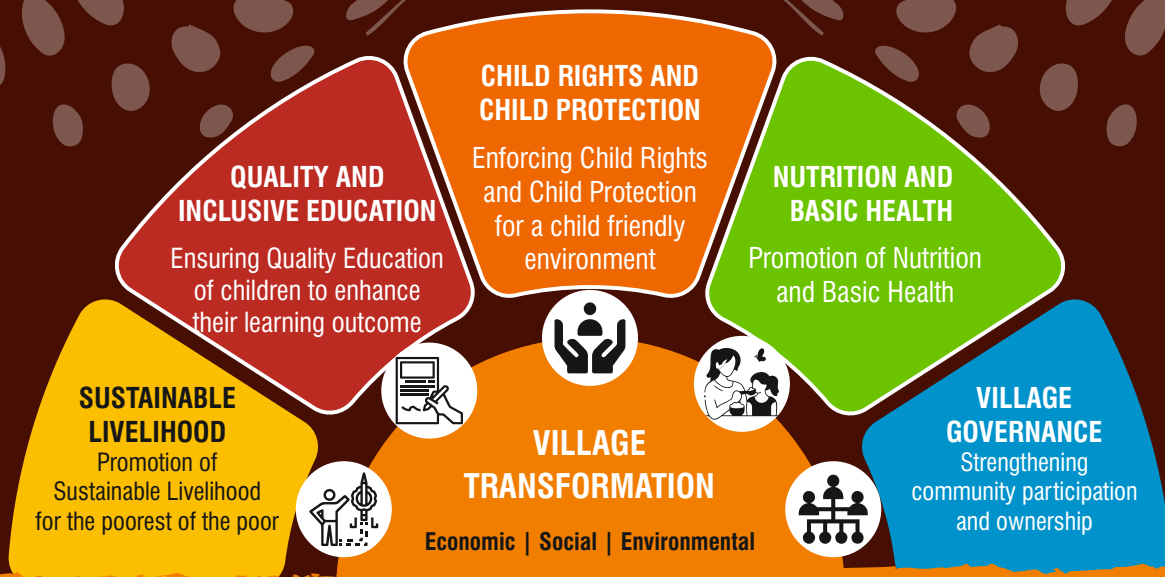
Our Thrust Areas

SOVA's approach to help communities to empower themselves and guiding them to lead a better dignified life focus on five thrust interventions.



Overall Strategy

Establish vibrant civil society organisation and enable them to have sustainable access and control over their resources.



Nutrition and Basic Health

Promoting Nutrition and Basic Health
for Community Well-being



Overview

The southern districts of Odisha—Koraput, Malkangiri, Nabarangpur, and Rayagada—continue to grapple with severe health and nutrition challenges, particularly among women and children. High rates of under-nutrition, anaemia, maternal and infant mortality, and poor sexual and reproductive health outcomes are exacerbated by limited access to healthcare, socio-cultural barriers, & economic vulnerabilities. Marginalized and tribal communities are disproportionately affected, further entrenching cycles of poor health and poverty. In response, SOVA, in active collaboration with local communities, health departments, and grassroots health workers, is implementing a holistic, community-driven approach to strengthen health and nutrition outcomes for all.



Combating U5 Malnutrition & Promoting Early Nutrition

Establishing Nutrition Gardens, conducting PD Hearth sessions, and operationalizing community-managed Crèche Centres to ensure nutritional security & care for U5 children, with active participation from caregivers & frontline health workers.

Advancing Adolescent Health and Well-being



Delivering age-appropriate, gender-sensitive sexual and reproductive health education, enhancing access to adolescent-friendly health services, and building awareness around nutrition, hygiene, and mental health to empower adolescents as informed, healthy individuals.



Strengthening Maternal Health and Safe Motherhood Practices

Promoting quality antenatal and postnatal care, supporting institutional deliveries, and engaging communities to challenge harmful myths and practices through counseling, home visits, and women's support groups.

These integrated strategies aim to foster a resilient, informed, and health-conscious population, enabling women, children, and adolescents across southern Odisha to thrive in a supportive and equitable health ecosystem.



Quality and Inclusive Education

Ensuring Quality Education for
Improved Learning Outcome



Overview

The southern districts of Odisha - Koraput, Malkangiri, Nabarangpur, and Rayagada continue to face significant educational challenges, including high dropout rates, poor foundational literacy and numeracy, language barriers, and lack of access to inclusive and child-friendly learning environments. Marginalized communities, particularly tribal populations, are disproportionately affected due to socio-economic constraints, infrastructural gaps, and limited awareness about the value of education. In response, SOVA, in close collaboration with community stakeholders, ICDS, and education departments at district and block levels, is implementing targeted interventions to enhance educational access, quality, and equity for all children.



Strengthening Early Childhood Education

SOVA introduced a 11-step **Activity-Based Learning** (ABL) approach in ICDS centres to promote school readiness, creativity, and critical thinking in children aged 3–6 years.

Enhancing Foundational Literacy and Numeracy



Implementing the **Learning Enhancement Program** (LEP) for children aged 6–14, using 'Aalok' and trained youth volunteers to deliver remedial support & bridge learning gaps.



Promoting Inclusive and Equitable Education

Using **Mother Tongue-Based Multi-Lingual Education** to overcome language barriers, supporting children with visual impairments, and providing adolescents with life & technical skills.

These integrated educational strategies are designed to foster a strong foundation for lifelong learning and empower children and adolescents across southern Odisha to reach their full potential in an inclusive, supportive, and equitable learning ecosystem.

Sustainable Livelihoods

Promoting Sustainable Livelihoods for
Resilient and Dignified Living



Overview

The southern districts of Odisha - Koraput, Malkangiri, Nabarangpur, and Rayagada face persistent livelihood challenges rooted in poverty, landlessness, climate vulnerability, and limited employment opportunities. Marginalized communities, especially tribal populations, often lack access to stable income sources, skill-building opportunities, and markets making them highly vulnerable to food insecurity and economic shocks. In response, SOVA is working closely with local communities, government departments, and civil society partners to strengthen sustainable livelihoods that are socially inclusive, economically viable, and environmentally resilient.



Empowering Youth Through Skill Development & Employment Linkages

Building life and vocational skills among rural youth to enhance employability in local and regional markets, while promoting safe and informed migration practices for better livelihood outcomes.

Strengthening Livelihoods Through Linkages and IGP

Supporting access to government entitlements, promoting social protection schemes such as PDS, MGNREGA, pensions, maternity benefits, also facilitating income generating opportunities through collective action.



Transforming Agriculture Through Climate Resilient Practices

Promoting sustainable, climate-resilient, and site-specific farming practices; encouraging diversification and value addition; and establishing producer collectives and market linkages to make agriculture a viable and dignified livelihood option.

These strategies aim to enhance food and income security, preserve natural resources, traditional seed promotion and foster self-reliance among communities.



Village Governance

Strengthening Village Governance for
Participatory and Accountable Local Development



Overview

In the southern districts of Odisha - Koraput, Malkangiri, Nabarangpur, and Rayagada village-level governance structures continue to face systemic challenges. Weak coordination between governance tiers, limited capacities of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs), and inadequate community participation have led to poor planning, lack of transparency, and low accountability in local development. Irregular gram sabhas and insufficient follow-through on village plans further hinder effective grassroots democracy.

In response, SOVA is working closely with elected representatives, youth, and traditional community structures to build a responsive, inclusive, and accountable local governance system.



Enhancing Capacities of Elected PRI Representatives

Strengthening skills in decentralized planning, budgeting, and monitoring, promoting inclusive decision-making processes and supporting regular & meaningful gram sabha engagement to ensure community-led development.

Fostering Youth Participation in Local Governance



Building civic awareness, digital literacy, and life skills among rural youths to promote their engagement in community-based monitoring of government schemes and encourage their role as change agents within their villages.



Engaging Traditional Governance Structures

Collaborating with customary leaders to promote collective action, conflict resolution, and reinforcing social cohesion by aligning traditional authority with constitutional governance mechanisms.

To ensure sustainability, SOVA supports the formation of village-level committees and promotes the use of digital tool - Community Monitoring & Information System (CMIS) for transparent data tracking, informed decision-making, and community accountability.

Child Rights and Child Protection

Enforcing Child Rights and Strengthening
Child Protection for a Safe and Nurturing Environment



Overview

Children in southern Odisha continue to face critical risks to their safety and development due to early marriage, trafficking, child labour, abuse, and neglect. Deep-rooted socio-cultural norms, poverty, and weak protection mechanisms contribute to the persistence of these issues. These violations not only harm children's well-being but also undermine their right to a safe, empowered, and dignified childhood.

SOVA adopts a comprehensive and child-centric approach, working with families, communities, and institutions to create a protective environment where all children can grow and thrive.



Preventing Child Marriage, Child Labour, and Child Trafficking

Establishing and strengthening village- and panchayat-level Child Protection Committees (CPCs), identifying and supporting at-risk children, linking families to social protection schemes, and facilitating community vigilance and response mechanisms.

Empowering Children and Adolescents as Rights Holders



Strengthening child and adolescent clubs to promote peer education, life skills, and awareness on child rights; nurturing youth leaders to advocate against child marriage and exploitation; and conducting outreach through puppet shows, street theatre, radio, and community campaigns.



Providing Protection, Care, and Reintegration

Operating Child Care Institutions (CCIs) that provide safe, temporary shelter and holistic support for children in distress, ensuring reintegration into education, counselling, skill development, and pathways to long-term self-reliance. Across all three intervention areas, SOVA works in collaboration with government departments, police, judiciary, and civil society partners to strengthen systems for prevention, protection, and redressal ensuring every child in southern Odisha grows up safe, valued, & empowered.



Innovations

For the Community



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SAHAJA

Engaging
Kids in
Play-way Learning



ସରଳ

SARALA

Building Learning
Opportunities for
Low Learners



ସୁଯୋଗ

SUJOG

Enhancing Foundational
Literacy and Numeracy
for Children



ସମାଧାନ

SAMADHAN

Promoting
Accountability and
Transparency



ସମ୍ପର୍କ

SAMPARK

DHIMSA
Community Radio
90.4 FM



SAHAJA ସହଜ

Engaging Kids in Play-way Learning

SOVA's innovative 'Sahaja' tool is a pictorial, specific and handy replication module of New Arunima - an Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) curriculum and program for Anganwadi centers. It uses a practical and mother-tongue approach by Anganwadi workers to ease regularization of all the components of child developmental activities on a daily basis to improve school readiness among Children.



SARALA ସରଳ

Building Learning Opportunities for Low Learners

'Sarala' is a simplified 25-week rapid learning tool designed by SOVA to improve children's reading and writing skills in 175 days. It involves early-grade dropout children to engage in the process so that they enhance their reading and writing skills before being enrolled in government schools or vocational education.



SAMADHAN ସମାଧାନ

Promoting Accountability and Transparency

'Samadhan' is a community-driven innovative tool of SOVA that helps people to assess government provisions and entitlements through self monitoring with transparency. More than just a data tool, 'Samadhan' fosters local engagement, encourages feedback, accountability and ownership enabling local development.



SAMPARK ସମ୍ପର୍କ

Reaching community through 'DHIMSA' Community Radio @ 90.4 FM

'DHIMSA' Community Radio, managed by SOVA has become one of the most accepted communication tools that disseminates informative in local tribal language Desiya within a range of 125 KM. 'DHIMSA' radio disseminates messages on government schemes for better health, education, agriculture, community issues and traditional best practices through youth participation.

SUJOG



ସୁଯୋଗ

Enhancing Foundational Literacy and Numeracy for Children

'Sujoga' is an education tool designed by SOVA that looks to address foundational literacy and numeracy of slow learner children in primary classes within a targeted 25 weeks. It uses multilingual, flexible learning approaches and innovative teaching methods to help children achieve skill in reading, writing and understanding basics to achieve competency.

SOVA as a Resource Centre offers training across areas like health, education, livelihoods, and service delivery. The center is staffed by expert trainers skilled in both internal sessions and Training of Trainers (ToT) programs.

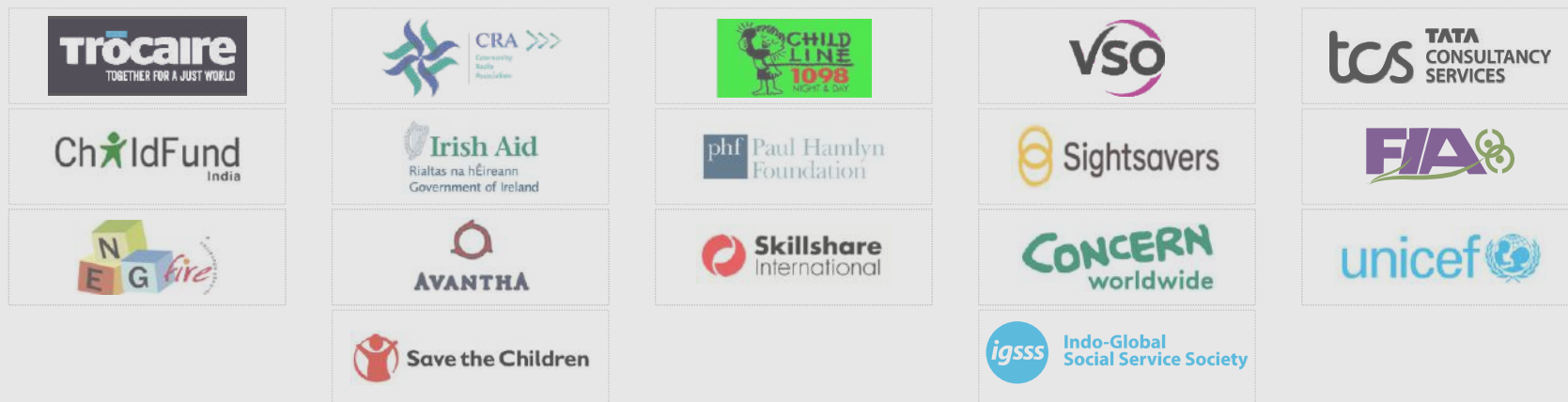
Regular training topics include community mobilization, PRA tools, SHG management, child protection, MIS, and key government schemes like MGNREGA, FRA, RTE, RTI, and NEP. It plays a key role in building local capacity for sustainable development.



Current Partners



Previous Partners





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**MORE WAYS TO
CONNECT**



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