

CHINMAYA ORGANISATION FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT
CHINMAYA SEVA PROJECT
LATHIKATA
Dist : Sundargarh, Orissa

ANNUAL REPORT OF ACTIVITIES 2007 - 2008

SELF HELP GROUP MOVEMENT

Self Help Group Movement of CORD, Lathikata forms the core activity where the women of the village have been organized to empower them by improving their financial status. Majority of the women who have joined the movement have been benefited big or small way. To meet their small needs for their education, medical, household expenses are no more a problem for the members. More over they have found a new avenue to meet their capital needs and are approaching the financial institutions with courage and optimism.

The present status of the SHG movement

1. Total number of SHGs	: 81
2. Total number of villages covered	: 25
3. Total number of Panchayats covered	: 10
4. Total Group Capital generated	: Rs 14 lakh
5. Total Bank Loan Received	: Rs 28 lakh
6. Balance of Bank Loan	: Rs 19 lakh
7. Total loan taken by the members	: Rs 24 lakh

Positive Changes Observed

1. The members of the SHGs have increasingly felt that the SHG can lead them to financial prosperity and it is their duty to sustain the group.
2. The members are now looking confident in case of difficulty as they have more financial strength than before.
3. The members of the SHGs are now gathering courage to step into the banks to negotiate their financial needs.
4. The SHGs are helping the CORD workers to organize programmes in their own village.
5. SHGs are now participating in discussions in various village level meetings and are sharing their opinions.
6. Some SHGs have come forward to cook and serve Mid Day Meal to the school children under Govt scheme.

Constraints in the Management of SHGs

1. Most of the members in the group are illiterate. They find it difficult to keep record of their financial transaction making us difficult to maintain up to date record of the financial status of the SHGs.
2. Monitoring of SHG programme needs trained field workers. The workers who have undergone training programmes at Sidhbari in 2006 have left. Absence of trained volunteers create problem in supervision and monitoring of SHGs.
3. Unavailability of grass root workers to look after the grass root work causing difficulty to sustain the programme.
4. The primitiveness of the local people and their addiction to local alcohol is a great hindrance to the development initiatives.

AWARENESS PROGRAMME

Better Execution of 'Janani Suraksha Yojana' Would Bring Down The Maternal & Infant Mortality Rate.



“Poverty and lack of adequate health service facilities in rural area are the cause of alarming maternal and infant mortality rate in India. Better execution of **‘Janani Suraksha Yojana’** in operation under the overall umbrella of National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) would bring down the Maternal and Infant Mortality Rate”. Addressing the participants on ‘Janani Suraksha Yojana’ during an awareness camp on ‘Safe Motherhood’ held at Chinmaya Seva Project on 28th April 2007, Lathikata, **Smt. Mamata Das, Auxiliary Nurse Midwife (ANM) of Lathikata Primary Health Center (PHC)** informed about provision of cash assistance with antenatal care during pregnancy, institutional care during delivery and immediate post-partum period in a health center by establishing a system of coordinated care by field level health workers.



Addressing sixty-four participants from thirty eight Self Help Groups of Nine Gram Panchayats participated in the programme Smt. Sunita Jena of Jan Shikshan, Rourkela explaining in details about ‘Safe

Motherhood”, advised the mother how to take care of the risk factors.

CORD-Lathikata organized the second awareness programme on ‘Safe Motherhood’ at Ganju Tolla in Sonaparvat village of Suidih Gram Panchayat on 29th October 2007. Inaugurating the programme **Swami Kevalanandajee, Project Director, CORD-Lathikata** commented that body-mind of the baby is characterized by the quality and texture of the body-mind of the mother. Citing the example of Prahallad of puranic fame, he advocated the need for right preparation and utmost care of the body and mind by the pregnant mother during pregnancy to bring forth a healthy child.

The third programme was held at Badmarin village on 24th September where the members Sankha, Nandini, Gouri and Santi participated. **Smt Suchismita Mahapatra** exhaustively discussing on Pre and Post natal care and advised the participants to consume sufficient vegetables grown in their garden to fulfill the nutritious needs.

Speaking on the occasion of fourth awareness programme on ‘Safe Motherhood’ at Kansar on 18th January 2008 Sri N.K.Samal, Programme Officer, Jan Shikshan Sansthan, Rourkela suggested that green vegetables available in village are the rich source of iron needed for the pregnant mother. He advocated that girl child should marry only at the age of 20 years when her body is prepared to bear the child.

Right To Information – A Boon For Rural Development



A One-day Workshop of ‘Right to Information Act-2005’ was held at Nigamananda Ashram at Birkera village of Lathikata Panchayat Samittee on 28th July’07. Project Director of Chinmaya Seva Project, Swami Kevalanandajee said, after being well informed about the ‘Right to Information Act’, we should come forward to use it in a right way and reap out its benefit. He inspired that it would bring self- confidence to act and achieve if

it were practically applied.

Discussing on different aspect of ‘Right to Information Act-2005’ Sri Balmukunda Sukla, a leading advocate of Rourkela explained, the various procedures being followed for obtaining relevant information under the act and trained the participants how to fill up the forms with various questionnaires. Participating on the discussion Sri Nirod Kumar Samal, Programme Officer, Jan Shikshan Sansthan, Advised the participants to use this act as a weapon in the development process of the village. Fifty-five participants from Birkera, Jodakudar, Jharabahal, Tainsore, Singer and Badmarin participated in the programme.

Workshop on ‘Lac Cultivation – Prospects for Tribal SHGs’



‘TRIFED’ is determined to improve the financial condition of Self Help Group through *Lac* cultivation. Speaking on the occasion of one-day workshop organized by CORD, Lathikata on 16th October on ‘*Lac* Cultivation – Prospects for Tribal SHGs’, the Regional Manager, Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation Limited (TRIFED), Bhubaneswar, **Sri P.K.Panda** said, that there is a potential for *lac* cultivation in Lathikata Block and TRIFED is planning train the SHG members.

Workshop on “Joint Forest Management”

Protection of Forest is not possible without active involvement of local tribal. Constituting ‘Van Sangrakshan Samittee (VSS) and participating in ‘Joint Forest Management’, the tribals living around the forest area can get 50% right on the forest yield”. Speaking on the occasion of workshop on ‘Joint Forest Management’ organized by CORD, Lathikata on 13th October 2007, **Senior Forester of Panposh Forest Range Sri P. C. Sahu** advocated that the government have full right over the reserve forest as per Orissa Forest Act 1972, but however the local people are free to collect 79 miner forest products for the forest.



Answering various questions of the one hundred fifty participants of fourteen villages, the local forester Sir Arakshit Behera stressed the need for awareness and constant vigilance by the inhabitants close to the forest to control the theft of wood. He clarified that there in no restriction for the women to collect firewood out side the reserve area.

The Team Leader of ‘Sevak’-a local NGO urged the participants to form ‘Van Sangrakshan Samittee’ to create and protect forest adjacent to their village and get the right of 50% yield of the forest product apart from various incentives for livelihood from government under Orissa Forestry Sector Development Project (OFSDP).

Awareness Programme on Goatery

Integrated Tribal Development Agency (ITDA), Panposh has extended subsidized loan to Saraswati SHG of Bolani & Jay Dharam and Jay Gurudev SHG of Nuagaon for goatery. Before release of the loan amount, an awareness programme on goatery was held on 21st March 2008



at Nuagaon Anganwadi Centre. Dr. B.N.Das Mahapatra, AVS, Lathikata addressed the members of SHGs on 'Goatery – An Income Generation Activity'. He explained about varieties of goats and their availability, construction of shed, vaccination, etc. He expressed his satisfaction for choosing goatery as group activity by SHG and assured full cooperation from veterinary department for availing goat to the groups and making insurance and timely supervision.

TRAINING PROGRAMME

Parbal Cultivation Training At Birkera

Rourkela market meets the high demand of parbal from out side the district. To introduce the production process to the local farmers, CORD, Lathikata had organized a training programme at Birkera between 2nd June and 18th June where the members of Kartik Oram SHG participated. The training programme trained the members on preparation of soil, planting of parbal roots, different phases of growth use of pesticide and fertilizer and harvesting of parbal.

Training Programme On Terracotta

Clay work has been a traditional profession of potter in Orissa. Terracotta is a form of clay work to produce items like idol, wall designs, and decorative materials from clay. The Deepti SHG of Bolani, the members of which are belonging to Potter community was given training on terracotta at their own village from 23rd May to 13th July 2007.



Sri Kailash Rana from Sundargarh trained the members on production of varieties clay models which could be sold in city market at a profitable price.

Training Programme in Sewing Machine Repairing

A 3- days training programme on 'Repairing of Sewing Machine' was organized between 18th June and 20th June 2007 where fifteen youths participated and learnt the basic repairing techniques.



Another programme on 'Sewing Machine Repairing' was held at Chinmaya Seva Project from 1st February 2008. Sri Preetpal Singh trained the girls of the sewing centre on "General Maintenance & repairing of the Sewing Machine". Inaugurating the training programme Swami Kevalanandajee advised the trainees to learn with outmost interest

This programme will help the trainees to repair the sewing machines at their own village

without carrying them to the nearby city.

Training Programme on Rakshi Making



Jay Maa Mangala SHG, Deogan participated in the 15-days training programme on Rakshi Making on 3rd August 2007. Miss Lily Das trained the participants on

making varieties of Rakshi. After completion of the training some of the members came forward and prepared Rakshi and sold them during Rakshi Poornima.

Training Programme on Agarvati Making



A 15-days training programme on 'Agarvati Making' was organized by CORD – Lathikata at Jalda in the month of September for the members of **Maa Sarala SHG** where they learned about making Scented, Jhuna and Chandan varieties of inscent sticks. Mrs Dolly Das trained the members about the various processes in making and packing of the inscent sticks.

Training Programme on Vermin Compost

As proposed by **Dr. Kshama Metre, National Director, CORD** during her last visit to Lathikata, a training programme on 'Vermin Compost' was organized for the members of **Kartik Oram SHG** at Birker. Sri Tridev Patnaik trained the members on various processes of preparation of compost from cow dung with the help of vermin. The training programme started on 6th August and continued till the end of August with interval in between. The group has started preparing the compost for their own agricultural land.



The SHG has also planted lemon saplings as advised by Kshama Didi in joint land

One-day On-farm Training on Scientific Cultivation of Lac

One-day On-farm Training on Scientific Cultivation of Lac was jointly organized by CORD –Lathikata and TRIFED on 18th November at Chinmaya Seva Project. **Sri Sidhartha Sankar Maity, Sr. Manager, TRIFED, New Delhi**, addressing the participants called integrated approach for tribal development through various welfare measures of government. ‘Capacity building of the people at the grass root and taking the govt. schemes to the door step of the people are the important aspects to be seriously taken care of’, he added.

Sri Prafulla Kumar Panda, regional Manager, TRIFED, Bhubaneswar advocated about scientific cultivation of Lac to raise the income of the tribals to many fold. He assured full full support for the marketing of Lac. The Technical Officer of Indian Lac Research Institute, Ranchi **Sri P.K.Patmajhi** explained in details about the various process of Lac Cultivation in selected varieties of trees abundantly available in



and around Lathikata.

Training Programme on Bambo Craft

Training Programme on bamboo Craft was held at Singer village when the members of Sri Ram SHG participated. They were trained about fifteen varieties of bamboo craft in one and half month's training programme in their village that started in 8th December 2007.

Training Programme on Poultry Farming

15-days training programme on poultry farming was held at Kansar village on 14th December. Sri Tridev Patnaik imparting training to the members of Radhakrishna SHG on Poultry Farming (Vanraj Varieties) explained about how to take care of the birds, diet and medications. After the training programme some of the members have come forward to start small poultry farm adjacent to their house.

Training course of Tailoring

The 14th batch of ‘Tailoring & embroidery Course’ was started at Chinmaya Seva Project on 5th July 2007. Inaugurating the training programme Swami Kevalandajee said, “Learn with great urge and interest, so that you can earn. With money in your pocket, you

can take independent decision and stand on your feet and empower yourself to face the challenges of life.” Thirty five local tribal girls have taken admission in six months course.

15th batch of tailoring Class was inaugurated by Swami Kevalanandajee on 5th January 2008. Twenty eight girls from nearby villages have taken admission into six month course on “Tailoring and Embroidery”. Addressing the trainees Swamijee explained about the discipline to be maintained and how to sustain the interest and enthusiasm during the course.

Adequate arrangements of sewing machine had been made to facilitate the large number of trainees. Apart from tailoring classes, these trainees will participate in the weekly spiritual classes being conducted by Swamijee and Brn. Muditajee.

INCOME GENRATION PROGRAMME

Kartik Oram SHG Took The Village Market On Lease

The multifold business venture of the Kartik Oram SHG added a new dimension when they took lease of the village weekly market from Gram Panchayat for the year 2007-2008 by paying Rs. 54,000/- on a competitive tender. The weekly market which sits on Tuesday has to be looked after by the group in exchange of small receipts collected from small business men and local sellers, selling their product in the market. The weekly income from the market varies between 1,200/- and Rs. 1,800/-.

Cultivation by Digging Borewell

Jhansirani SHG of Nuagaon after digging the bore well under SGSY programme, constructed a pump house at a cost of Rs. 30,000/-. The members in group went to the nearby forest and collected the fencing materials and fenced an area of 1 acre around the pump house. After discussion with the Assistant Agriculture Officer, Lathikata at the intervention of CORD started the cultivation of ladies finger, bitter gourd, ribbed gourd, maize, radish etc., which would be ready after one month for sale.

Mushroom Cultivation



Maa Mangala & Maa Sati SHG of Kansar village had started mushroom cultivation after they have received the training. As the members belong to very poor family and do not have adequate residential accommodation are struggling to get a piece of land in proximity to their house where they could start mushroom cultivation in large scale.

Rice Processing

Maa Ganaga SHG promoted by CORD and engaged in Rice Processing. Through interaction it was learnt that the SHG earns Rs 300/- per quintal of rice and on an average Rs 1000/- per month. They disclosed their plan to have their own mill with financial assistant from ITDA.

Jhansirani SHG Featured in Door Darshan

Jhansirani SHG featured in ‘**Ama Katha, Orissa Katha**’ – a serial on the success story of SGSY Programme, in Cuttack Door Darshan Kendra. On 3rd November, Saturday at 7.15 p.m. The camera team visited Nuagaon on 4th September for the shooting. Smt Mini Tirkey, Secretary of group had an interview with the Doordarshan Team. Video shooting of the Bore well that they have dug under SGSY with the intervention of CORD- Lathikata and the cultivation of vegetables was done.



CORD- Lathikata Participated in Gramshree Mela



Gramshree Mela is being organized annually at Rourkela to exhibit and promote the sale of products of SHGs by **Orissa Rural Development & Marketing Society (ORMAS)** - a unit of Ministry of Panchayati Raj, Government of Orissa in association with District Administration, Sundargarh. This year Gramshree Mela was organized between 2nd October and 11th October 2007 at Exhibition Ground, Sector – 5, Rourkela where more than 150 stalls were opened

for the participants from across the country.

CORD - Lathikata participated in the Mela with products from thirty SHGs amounting to Rs 34,000/-. During the 10-days of the exhibition-cum-sale, we could sell rural products like Vermi Compost, Leaf Plates, Black gram, Phenyl, Horse gram, Petty Coat, Candles, Masala Powder, Terracotta etc worth Rs 21,000/-. A leaflet describing the mission and objective of CORD and activities of CORD-Lathikata was circulated among the people visiting the CORD stall.

Constraints in Income Generation Programme

1. Even though the availability of finance is not a problem, the group members often find it difficult to have an alternative source of income by investing money taken on loan.

2. The skill development training imparted to the group is not converted into a income generating programme because of the reason that it does not fetch immediate income.
3. The success of the income generating programme depends on the marketability of the product and in rural area it is difficult to find market.
4. Packing and pricing of the product often poses problem for marketing of the product.
5. The low literate people find it difficult to keep record of the financial transaction when the activity is taken in group.
6. It has been observed that whenever income generation activity is jointly taken by the group, the conflict arises between the members needs to sorted out immediately.
7. Introduction of new income generation programme other than their traditional work is often difficult.

HEALTH CAMP



It is said, “Health is wealth”. It is also said through a healthy body and healthy mind one can achieve something impossible. With this precious and concerning understanding CORD, Lathikata, CSP has been time to time organizing various health related programmes in different tribal villages of Lathikata block.

1. Health camp at Sonaparvat was held on 7th May where Dr. Vishnupriya Dei of ESI Hospital examined the health of more than one hundred villagers including the children.
2. The health camp at Mundajore was held on 15th May where Dr. Kartik Chandra Pandav of PHC, Lathikata and Dr. B.B. Padhi of IDL Hospital. They examined 120 people suffering from different ailment to whom medicines were distributed freely.
3. Dr. Lingaraj Sarangi volunteered in examining the health of villagers most of whom are old and illiterate and had the rare opportunity to get their health checks up in their own village by a doctor in Monko village in 8th June 2007. Sri Sarat Kumar Swain, Ex-Secretary Chinmaya Mission, Rourkela assisted in the distribution of medicines.

4. CORD, Lathikata organized a medical camp at Kanarsuan village five kilometers from Lathikata on 24th October 2007.
5. On 13th March 2008 at Jangidiri village situated inside the forest of Ramjodi Gram Panchayat at a distance of 20 k.m. from Lathikata. Dr. Lingaraj Sarangi examined the health of the villagers and Sri Sarat Kumar Swain distributed medicine freely. It was found that majority of the people were suffering from malnutrition and malaria.

CHILDREN PROGRAMME

The fragrance of simple, sensitive, fresh and tender minds needs to be protected and sustained to live a life of fullness and creativity contributing substantially to our environment as a concerning and responsible human being is the objective behind the children programme being organized in village.

Swami Kevalanandajee in an amicable conversation with the young and innocent mind encourages the children to discover what is right and wrong independently without inducement, threat, fear, reward and punishment to lead a life full of initiative and energy to work together happily becoming a mature and productive human being pointing out the challenges before them calls for to revolt and explore inwardly precisely and intelligently to break the established evil and odd pattern of society without compromising and taking the society as it is for granted.



Accompanying Swamijee to the programmes Brn. Muditajee also address the children on the topic how right education transforms the life into goodness of living in every walk of life and how to constantly keep the body, dress, home etc. neat and clean so that there will be more energy and attention to come out from life of dullness, superstition etc. bringing about a change in lifestyle and rustic village environment.

More than twenty villages and ten odd schools have been covered and the children positively responded to all these programmes. The topic covered under the programme includes

1. Disciplined Life
2. Independent Thinking
3. Protection of Physical & Mental Environment
4. Holistic Growth of Children
5. Education of Life

Miscellaneous Programme

Sl. No	Programme	No.	Topics Covered
1.	Youth Meet	3	Empower Yourself, Religious mind, Spiritual Life etc.
2.	Village Satsang	26	Unit is strength, Patience, Health & Spirituality, Cleanliness etc.

3. School Talk 12 Holistic Growth of Children, Moral Life, Independent Thinking etc.

Above programmes are organized beautifully with seriousness during the year 2007 – 2008 through which we had good and great opportunity to inspire and motivate for their betterment and goodness of life. It is also making them aware on different vital issues of life as mentioned above with a hope to enrich their life and ensure their participation in the rural development work being done by CORD, Chinmaya Seva project, Lathikata.

CONCLUSION

We consider the mission's spiritual activities are life and heart of all other programmes like Chinmaya Vidyalaya, Social Work etc. So we give outmost important to this life giving perennial activities.

Lastly we seek Almighty Poojya Gurudev & Poojya Gurujee's blessings to take this noble work with new vigour and creative intelligence. We are ready to swallow the poison if it all comes on the way as Prasad.