



An Introduction



Two hands meet to form a heart

Overview of 42 years of working with rural communities

The beginning: 1976-1979

Volunteers from the **Young Students Movement for Development, Chennai**, came to Odisha after the 1971 cyclone to undertake relief and rehabilitation work in the affected areas. They worked in villages, in the then Cuttack district, developing lift irrigation projects. This helped increase agricultural productivity for the farmers but had little impact on the mostly landless poor.

Looking to do more work with the poor, they accepted an invitation from the Ganjam district administration to work with Adivasi communities in the district. The original plan was to develop a dairy cooperative. The team soon realised that working on dairy development will not benefit the tribal communities.

Gram Vikas was registered in 1979.



Mobilisation for rights & development: 1979 onwards

The Kondh tribe of the Kerandimal hills, in the Ganjam district, was suffering at the hands of liquor merchants and from land alienation. The **Kerandimal Gana Sangathan** was mobilised as a movement of the *Adivasi* community, to obtain their rights and address the development needs of the villages.



The **Adivasi Bhumi Adhikar Sangha**, a peoples' movement in Thuamul Rampur block of Kalahandi, successfully resisted the move to convert tribal agricultural lands into tea plantations and were able to retain control over their land.

Mobilization for rights & development: 1979 onwards

Work expanded to cover areas in Gajapati and Kalahandi districts working with Saura and Kondh tribes. The Integrated Tribal Development Programme supported village communities in community health, non-formal education, small savings, and forest protection.



Village Water & Sanitation Committees have been supported to anchor, own and, manage community access to safe sanitation and water. VWSCs have been the key community institution interface for Gram Vikas since 1995.

Education: 1982 onwards

In remote tribal villages, Government schools either did not exist or were not functioning. Education levels were dismal and the exploitation of people because of illiteracy was high. Gram Vikas started balwadis, non-formal education centres, and adult literacy programmes in the villages.



Soon it became clear that NFE would never allow tribal children the opportunity to join the mainstream education system and fully reach their potential. To meet this need, Gram Vikas established the Kerandimal Middle Education School, a residential school for tribal children in Konkia, Ganjam district, in 1982.

Education: 1982 onwards

The four residential schools, managed now by independent trusts, cater to more than 1400 boys and girls from remote tribal villages.



In 1995, the KME school was upgraded as the Gram Vikas Residential School.

Gram Vikas Shikhya Niketan, was established at Kumudabahal in Kalahandi district in 1998.



Mahendratanya Ashram School was established at Koinpur, Gajapati district in 1992.



Gram Vikas Vidya Vihar was started in Rudhapadar, Ganjam district in 1992.

Renewable Energy: 1982 onwards

Dwindling tree cover increased drudgery of women in collecting fuel for cooking. Biogas was identified as an appropriate technology alternative to address this. Between 1983 and 1993, Gram Vikas built 54,000 biogas plants across villages of Odisha.



Renewable Energy: 1982 onwards

Gram Vikas has continued to adapt, demystify and disseminate renewable energy technologies for rural development. Work in solar PV, micro-hydro, and bio-fuels for power generation and water pumping.



Natural Resource Management: 1985 onwards

To address challenges to livelihood security faced by the tribal communities, due to massive deforestation, the Social forestry Programme was initiated in 1985. About 10,000 hectares of private & community wasteland were brought under fruit, fuel & timber yielding species in Ganjam, Gajapati & Kalahandi districts.



The tribals of Odisha practice shifting or slash-burn cultivation on hill slopes. Reduced access to common land due to stringent laws resulted in reduced rotation cycles in this practice and degradation of land. We adopted horticulture interventions and integrated land and water management measures to address this.

Natural Resource Management: 1985 onwards

Recurring droughts in the region also prompted a focus on land and water management based on watershed principles. We took up water harvesting structures, soil conservation measures and drainage line treatment on a ridge-to-valley principle. Work on natural resource management also expanded to include the chronic drought-prone areas of Bolangir and Bargarh districts.



Habitat Development: 1995 onwards



Gram Vikas supports rural communities to build cost-effective, disaster proof houses, community buildings, and facilities such as schools, grain banks, roads, drainage, etc.

Enabling rural communities to lead a dignified life meant supporting improvements in the physical living environment. Regular natural hazards like cyclones affect lives in coastal Odisha, causing damage to homes and property.



Water & Sanitation: 1995 onwards

The high levels of morbidity caused by pollution of drinking water sources through improper disposal of human waste had to be addressed through a community-managed, all-inclusive mechanism. Gram Vikas developed the Rural Health & Environment Programme, in 1995, through wide consultations with village communities in different parts of Odisha.



Key achievements in four decades



- 68,391 households in 1185 villages have piped water supply at home
- 6399 persons, of which 582 women, trained as masons
- Productivity of 10,370 hectares of land improved in 420 villages
- 10,000 hectares of wasteland regenerated into fruit, fuel and fodder plantations
- 1312 villages are open defecation free
- 2,11,907 women in 1427 villages bathe in safe, private bathrooms with running water
- 54,000 families in 6000 villages in Odisha adopt renewable energy source for cooking
- 3505 tribal families in 185 villages have availed formal housing loans to build better and bigger houses
- 16,568 families in 175 villages have built disaster-proof houses
- 7311 active women leaders in village institutions across 1427 villages
- 10.80 Crore raised and managed by communities for sustaining WaSH infrastructure across
- 963 first-generation matriculates, including 399 girl students from tribal communities

Global and national recognition



2018	FICCI-India Sanitation Coalition Award 2018 for contributions in the field of sanitation
2010	Water Award 2009-2010 for outstanding contribution in the field of Water in India
2007	Skoll Award for Social Entrepreneurship
2006	Ashoka Changemakers Innovation Award for Affordable Housing and Health for All
2006	Kyoto World Water Grand Prize at the 4 th World Water Forum, Mexico
2004	World Bank Development Marketplace 2003 for delivery of energy services to remote, <i>adivasi</i> villages
2003	Tech Museum Awards 2003 by the Tech Museum of Innovation, San Jose, California, for community managed Vertical Shaft Brick Kilns
2003	World Habitat Award 2003, for the Rural Health and Environment Programme
2001	Most Innovative Project Award 2001, by the Global Development Network of the World Bank
2001	Outstanding Social Entrepreneur 2001 by the Schwab Foundation for Social Entrepreneurship, Geneva
1996	Allan Shawn Feinstein World Hunger Award from Brown University, USA for efforts towards prevention and reduction of world hunger

Gram Vikas in the fifth decade

Vision & Mission

The vision of Gram Vikas is ***an equitable and sustainable society where people live in peace with dignity.***



The Mission of Gram Vikas is ***“to promote processes which are sustainable, socially inclusive and gender equitable, to enable critical masses of poor and marginalised rural people and their communities to achieve a dignified quality of life”.***

The MANTRA Approach

1. "ALL OR NONE"

The 100% Inclusion process ensures that every single household, including the poorest and social excluded, in the village participate and contribute to the programme. besides serving equity, the all or none approach also creates a unique opportunity for the entire village to work together for a shared purpose.

5. FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY

The creation of a corpus fund and the maintenance fund ensure 'in-built financial sustainability', and that future generations continue to be served and there is the availability of resources for maintenance of infrastructure



2. SHARE COSTS

The community contributes significantly to the capital cost and bears the cost of running and maintaining facilities. this inclusive stake-building ensures that people continue to care for the results individually as well as by making demands on the village organization.

3. TAKE RESPONSIBILITY

People 'take responsibility' from an early stage to generate consensus, mobilize local contributions, manage construction and take charge of operations and maintenance. This is a sound way to ensure long-term sustainability.



4. EQUITABLE PARTICIPATION

The process promotes affirmative steps to ensure that women and poor people are included in the management of asset and processes. this enables their active participation in creating and sustaining solutions meant for them and equitable sharing.

Where we work

We work intensively in ten districts of Odisha and one district of Jharkhand.

Odisha

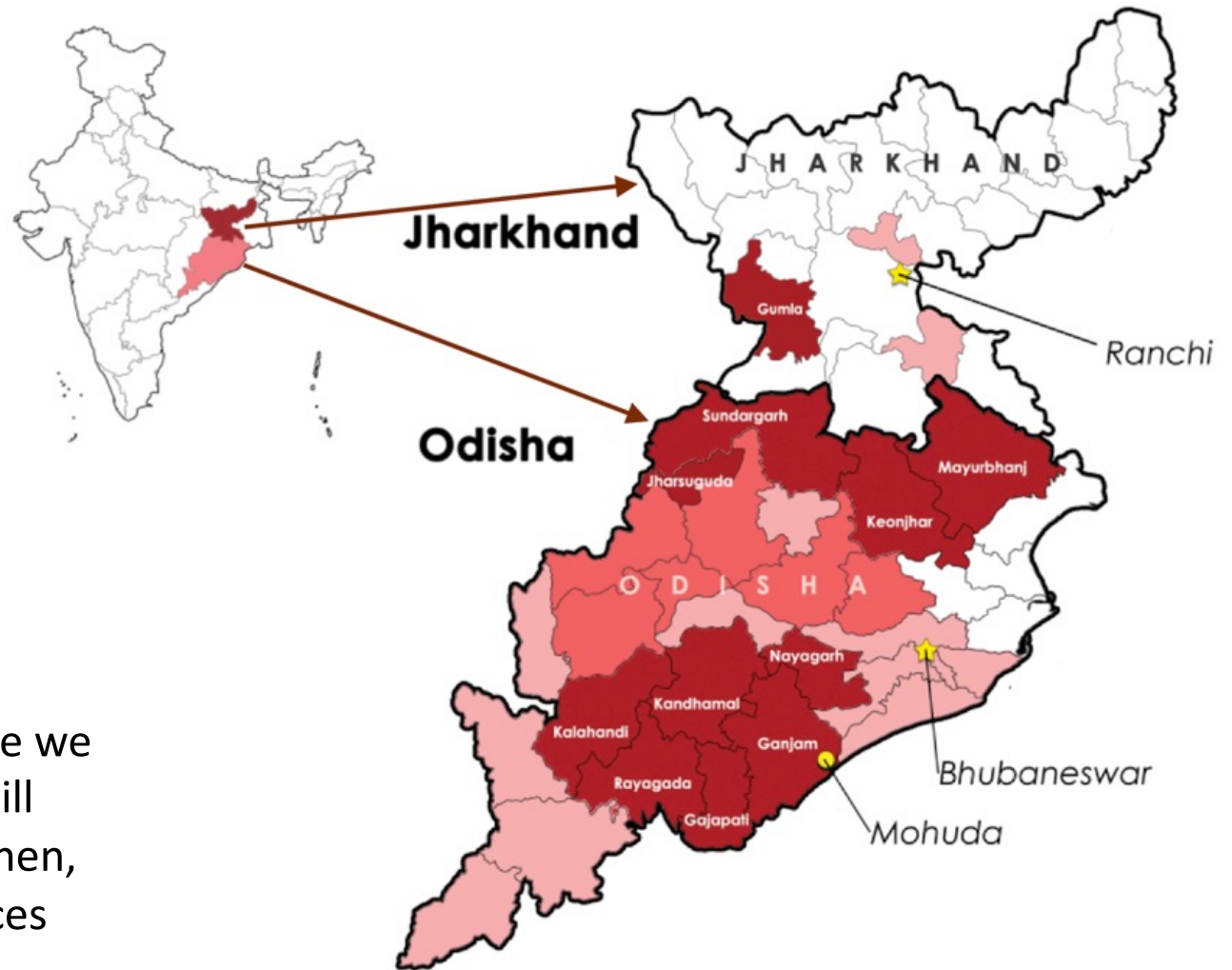
- Ganjam
- Gajapati
- Rayagada
- Kalahandi
- Kandhamal
- Nayagarh

- Jharsguda
- Sundargarh
- Keonjhar
- Mayurbhanj

Jharkhand

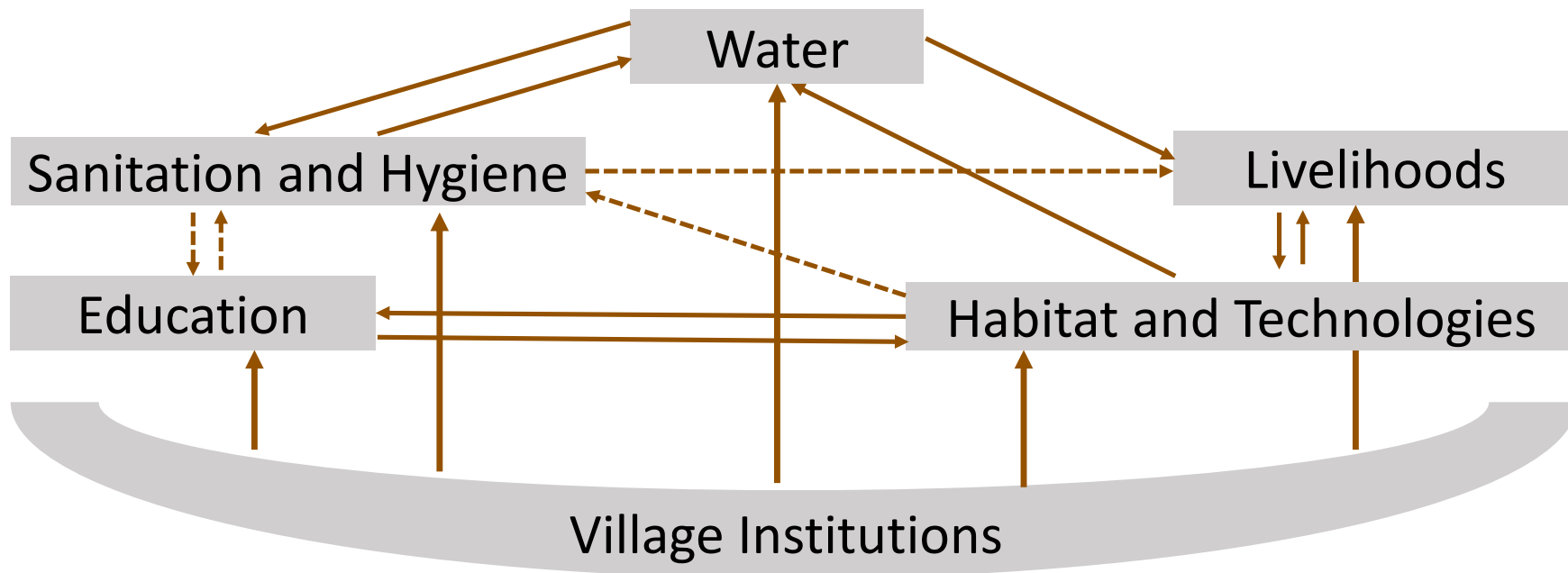
- Gumla

In other districts in these States, where we have had operations in the past, we will choose to intensify the work if, and when, sufficient human and financial resources become available.



Programmatic pillars

The work is organized in six programmatic pillars. We will build upon results already achieved, create new interventions in response to the needs, and help manage the inter-connectedness of development problems and their solutions.



Village Institutions

We will work to build village level capabilities, structures, and processes to enable stronger self-governance by the communities. We will ensure that village institutions operate on the principles of equity, justice, accountability, and transparency and will provide increasing opportunities for women to rise to leadership positions.

Programme	Purpose	Strategy
<i>Strengthening village institutions</i>	Build sustainable self-governing people's institutions at the habitation level	Institution development and capacity building; demonstration of best practices; continuous engagement with women and most vulnerable
<i>Convergence with PRI and Government</i>	Local governance becomes citizen-centric and resource deployment is made demand responsive	Build coordination mechanisms and capabilities at the habitation and Gram Panchayat levels; continuous capacity building
<i>Village Cadre Management</i>	Extend gains of good hygiene and sanitation for health and nutrition, particularly among children and adolescents	Demonstration of best practices; convergence with Government; building community capacities

Water

We will work towards ensuring the continuous availability of adequate water for drinking, domestic and productive uses and build sustainability of water resources.

Programme	Purpose	Strategy
<i>Community managed piped-water supply</i>	Piped water for drinking and domestic uses to 100% of households in the village	Convergence with Jal Jeevan Mission and Panchayati Raj Institutions. Direct efforts where necessary
<i>Water Source Sustainability</i>	Sources are strengthened to meet current and future demands	Watershed and springshed based activities, regenerating forests

Livelihoods

We will work towards ensuring secure and sustainable incomes for rural communities, the sustainability of land and forest resources, and help build the quality of human resources.

Programme	Purpose	Strategy
<i>Farm Livelihoods</i>	Reduce costs and uncertainties of production; strengthen collectives to engage with markets	Technology applications for weather information, water-use efficiency and market intelligence; institution and capacity building
<i>Safe and Dignified Migration</i>	Migration becomes an informed choice; community-level systems built to support migrants and staying behind families	Partnerships with government, industry and organisations to ensure occupational, emotional, financial and social security
<i>Access to entitlements</i>	Everyone, specially the most vulnerable, access social protection schemes and entitlements	Build community and PRI capabilities to continuously access schemes

Sanitation and Hygiene

We will work towards integrating and deepening water & sanitation interventions to ensure better health and nutrition outcomes.

Programme	Purpose	Strategy
<i>Safe Water</i>	Make drinking water safe at all times	Community systems for water quality management; enable appropriate behaviour for personal and home hygiene
<i>Safe Sanitation</i>	Make villages safe environments, 100% coverage of household sanitation infrastructure	Behaviour change and awareness building; convergence with Government and technology providers; direct support where necessary
<i>Health and Hygiene</i>	Extend gains of good hygiene and sanitation for health and nutrition, particularly among children and adolescents	Demonstration of best practices; convergence with Government; building community capacities

Habitat and Technologies

We will work towards creating sustainable and dignified habitats and physical quality of life for rural communities and continue to promote the use of renewable and appropriate technology options.

Programme	Purpose	Strategy
<i>Renewable Energy</i>	Energy security at the village level through access to renewable forms of energy	Building energy supply systems; industry collaboration; technical capacity building
<i>Smart Community Interface</i>	Develop/adapt information and communication technology applications to serve remote, rural communities	Continuous needs assessment; finding appropriate technology options; demystifying tools and processes for local use

Education

We will support the Gram Vikas residential schools and help them become centres of excellence, providing high quality and technologically up-to-date education to children from marginalized rural communities.

Programme	Purpose	Strategy
<i>Support to Gram Vikas Residential Schools</i>	Make the schools more efficient and responsive to community needs	Continued support for technology development and applications

Implementing the Decade V Framework

Two key programmes

Two specific programmes are being rolled out from 2021 onwards, within the Gram Vikas Decade V framework.

Water Secure Gram Panchayat Programme	1000 Gram Panchayats in Odisha and Jharkhand become water secure by the year 2030
Safe and Dignified Migration Programme	90,000 households from ~450 Gram Panchayats in Odisha strengthen their livelihoods through opportunistic migration by the year 2025

Water Secure Gram Panchayat Programme

Approach	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Gram Panchayat as the geographic unit• Gram Sabha as the key institutional platform• Convergence of community institutions with local governments• Leverage social capital and capabilities already created• Leveraging government programmes – Jal Jeevan Mission, SBM and MGNREGS• Data-based planning• Demystify technologies and scientific inputs for use at the community level• Build community-level technical capabilities
Results Expected	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Open defecation free villages, with full coverage of functional household tap connections with safe drinking water• Increased water availability to meet current and future demands for productive and commercial uses• Village level information management of water and other natural resources• Increased productivity and value realisation of agriculture crops• Increased participation in Gram Sabha and local government spending to meet water security needs• Increased involvement of women in community decision making• Reduced damages to livelihoods due to natural disasters

Safe and Dignified Migration Programme

Four aspects of safety and dignity

Occupational	Emotional	Financial	Social
<p>Ability to choose based on correct information</p> <p>Full knowledge of employment terms and conditions</p> <p>Freedom from exploitation at the workplace</p> <p>Appropriate skills for better jobs</p>	<p>Communication with the family staying behind</p> <p>Less uncertainties during travel</p>	<p>Ability to make remittances easily</p> <p>Lower transaction costs of banking</p> <p>Access to savings and insurance</p> <p>Easy access to credit</p>	<p>Access to social protection schemes for worker at destination</p> <p>Access to schemes for staying behind families</p> <p>Leveraging SHGs and similar platforms</p>

Approach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create community-level capabilities, institutional systems and processes • Establish a migrant support system at source and destination • Promote skill building of men and women for better employment opportunities • Create an interface mechanism between migrants and the administration • Build partnerships with specialised agencies and programmes at different migration destinations
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