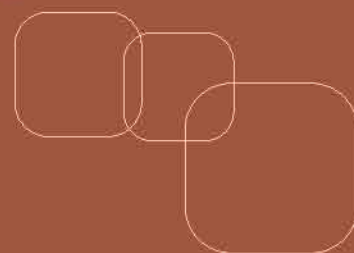




Transforming Lives



Orissa Tribal Empowerment & Livelihoods Programme(OTELP)
Orissa, India

Transforming Lives

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Gorimanees – the remonstrators of alcohol trading

In tribal society, the participation of women in decision making process is not well viewed or respected. The women in tribal and rural areas have remained isolated as a result, their voice are not well heard and issues are not properly addressed. But Indira Mahila Self Help Group led by Smt. Gorimanees Amanatya has disapproved this notion by participating in various developmental programmes of their village. The SHG that was formed in 2003 in Balegaon village of Kosgumuda block has 20 members at present. Apart from thrift and credit practices, this group has now ventured to establish their participation through different ways and means for the well being of the community.

But, these optimistic women were perturbed to know about the setting up of a liquor production centre by an outsider from Chhatisgarh in their village. They decided to raise their voice against it by creating an awareness drive against ill-effects of alcoholism and its socio-economic implications. Smt. Gorimanees led the agitation process and the women of four women self help groups also joined hands with Gorimanees.

When the producer (known as Biharibabu) of liquor unit got clearance from district administration to set up the unit, since then he has been facing protests from local communities. Although, Biharibabu was looking for a social approval, he was not extended any strong support except one miscreant of the village named Durjan Mirigan of Balegaon who allowed him to start the business. The villagers were deeply annoyed at Durjan for this nuisance act. The village leaders also came forward to prohibit this liquor production centre. They supported Gorimanees and the groups to uphold the agitation against this unscrupulous liquor manufacturer.

To stop the liquor manufacturing unit, Gorimanees with group members rushed to the District Collector and lodged a frenzied grievance and the district collector assured them to look into the matter and to deploy force protecting their rights in consequences of law and order.

The women and Gorimanees are also confronting the influential Biharibabu everyday but do not lose their heart even if they face stiff resistance from this illicit brewer. According to women, their effort will continue till their mission is achieved with intrepid fighter Gorimanees.

At the same time, certain questions are frequently disturbing - Will this endeavor of Gorimanees be supported at large to ban this trading? Will this step of Gorimanees motivate more and more women to raise their voice against alcoholism?

This audacious attempt of Gorimanees is admired by the local people and OTELP has been supporting the initiative of empowered Gorimanees and the group and encourages to reach the feat.



Nothing succeeds like success – The SRI farmer Jagannath

Paddy being the staple food needs special attention to increase the productivity. There is hardly any scope to increase the land to meet the demand of food grains unless an improved technology is adhered for the enhancement of food grains and paddy by the farmers especially tribals, illiterates and the farmers doing mono cropping. Therefore, the

technology called System of Rice Intensification (SRI) which is found to be an attractive alternative to improve productivity of paddy. It also brought improvements in land, water and capital. This technology was also experimented in the field of Jagannath Majhi of OTELP operational area of Baliguda.

Jagannath Majhi aged about 46 of village Palia in Alekha Mahima Village Development Committee has 2 acres of land which are of medium level and he depends on clemency of monsoon for cultivation. He was cultivating paddy with indigenous method and yielding about 6-7 quintals of food grains which does not meet

the requirement of six member family round the year.

When OTELP started its intervention through capacity building, it encouraged to adopt the SRI method in its programme villages. Like other villages, it organized capacity building activities in Palia of Jharigaon block in Nabarangpur district. OTELP also conducted several workshops, exposures & campaigns to create awareness on SRI technology. Jagannath also attended the training programmes along with other farmers and internalised the methods of SRI. Many farmers were in apprehension of adopting the method because the yielding rate was quite high which was beyond their imagination to believe. But the tribal farmer Jagannath was encouraged to practicing SRI for Kharif-2010. He built confidence for new crop & method. As per the principle, he used 2 kg of rice seed supplied by agriculture department in 1 acre land. OTELP also provided technical support and guidance to Jagannath to follow the right process. Jagannath took initiatives with all heart and he could visualise difference now by comparing the panicles of paddy he has cultivated adopting SRI method and traditional method. Jagannath expects that he would harvest four times from SRI method of cultivation as compared to traditional method. He would adopt this method in his 2 acres of land from next years as said by Jagannath. Now the farmers of his village and nearby villages are also inspired to see the expected yield and motivated to adopt this method in a large scale.

On being asked to Jagannath, what he would do with the increased yield, he told that, he would purchase a set of ear rings for his wife when he harvests more paddy. Now the jovial of Jagannath is visible and he is very much committed to spreading the message of SRI method.



Learning from Peer Groups Helps to Learn Faster

It is believed that as woman affinity groups- SHG by mobilizing women around thrift and credit activities have resulted in increasing women's economic self reliance thereby resulting in women's increasingly greater control over other spheres of life. The SHG is being increasingly viewed as an instrument of women's empowerment and incorporated as a key programmatic strategy in various women development initiative in OTELP operational area.

Therefore, when we think of women empowerment through self help group (SHG), suddenly, the Gupteswar SHG of Pindamali Village in Tentulipadar GP of Narayanpatna Block perturbs everyone. The indigenous women with their own effort and perseverance are reaching to the success of ladders day by day. This group of OTELP operational area plays a role of path finder for other women of Penubandha Watershed Programme.



Gupeteswar Self Help Group started with 12 members in the year 2005 as a thrift and credit group with an individual monthly saving of Rs.10. Apart from saving and credit, the group members with a mutual agreement decided to be involved in micro enterprise to enhance the active engagement of members as well as to increase the group fund. The members with unanimous decision, were engaged in hill broom making as the raw materials are easily available for which the inputs were provided by OTELP. The women not only prepared the brooms but tied up with local traders for easy marketing and better pricing. The group members were purchasing the raw material @ Rs.22.50 per k.g. and selling the product @ Rs25 per k.g. with a net profit of Rs.2.50 per k.g. The group has incurred the profit of Rs.18000 from this broom business this year from 72 quintals of raw brooms. The group has also experienced in doing business of drumstick and tamarind collectively and earned money for the group by exporting the product to nearby town Berhampur. The SHG also involved in taking lease of panchayat farm pond for pisciculture. The women have also built up linkages with government departments to stream line the old age pensions of their own village. Gupteswara SHG is in the process of strengthening other defunct groups by federating them which is a constructive step. Besides, the group is managing a grain bank which helps the farmers during lean period.





The group saving has now increased to Rs.29300 that helps the members to meet the emergency need. This act of SHG was a cynosure by the women of nearby self help groups and being influenced by the group activities, the other women groups have decided to follow the processes in their own groups and to involve them in other village development activities as well. The members of Gupteswar SHG are now confident to take up new business initiative collectively with new vigor and challenge. The women are also participating in solving other social issues relating to women. The group has also the plan to support the poor people by providing loans in distressed period. This group initiative is not only reflecting the women empowerment but it empowers other women of SHG to be the part of such great revolution.



Dream Came True

Dasa Meleka is a resident of Kupakhal village of OTELP operational area under Bandhugaon block. He is head of the family having nine members. Agriculture is the main occupation with mono crop practice threatening round the year food grains for Dasa. Apart from mono cropping (paddy), he was cultivating ragi, the minor millet, in 1.5 acres of land which was fetching very low level of income. After attending an agriculture training organised by FNGO RASS with the support of OTELP, Dasa was inspired to intensify the agricultural practice in 1.5 acres of land which can give better yield than before. Again, an exposure visit was organised by OTELP for the farmers to Parvatipuram, located in neighbouring Andharapradesh state to see a private farmer's banana field who has excelled in banana cultivation in the locality. Dasa also got the opportunity to be the part of the exposure visit. He was engraved with banana that was grown in the field of farmer in Parvatipuram and built confidence within him to replicate the erudition. After coming back from exposure, Dasa planted 5000 (Srikakulam-2 variety) banana plants in 1.5 hectares. Out of 5000 plants, he could be able to survive 4520 plants with due care. Gradually the plants started bearing fruits. According to the farmer Dasa, he has sold 160 bunches of banana & earned Rs. 54400 during the month of June 2011, which is quite astounding. Now the plants are bearing regular fruits & he is selling 10-15 bunches in a month & earning an amount of Rs. 3500.

Dasa has now expanded the plantation in rest 1 hectare of land after gaining profit. He believes that, it is one of the profitable businesses for him and other farmers should also cultivate banana in their unused land. Being motivated by Dasa's hard work and commitment, 200 farmers have purchased banana seedlings from him and started cultivating for better earning.

The profit that is incurred from banana cultivation has helped Dasa purchasing a mobile handset & repairing his house. He never thought of holding a mobile phone like others. This seems like a long cherished dream that comes true for Dasa. He is now able to lead a good life in society. He feels proud to be an established person in his village and the respect of the society has changed a lot towards him than before. Dasa is very thankful to OTELP programmes that paved his way to go ahead to live like a human being.



Shifting to a New Livelihood Avenue – a challenge

Agriculture has remained as an age old and traditional livelihood culture particularly in the tribal community besides NTFP collection. But as a result of various interventions under different programs both by Government and Non-Government Organisations, new

dimensions have been explored as alternative livelihood options in order to enhance their quality of life and living. Change in the avenues of alternative livelihoods not only encountered with initial resistance and reluctance by the community particularly women but also raised many ifs and buts in their minds. Women were traditionally involved in various agricultural operations as supplementary workforce without any reward and recognition. But the journey of change by tribal women from agriculture to Pisciculture as one alternative dimension of learning and earning involved strong motivation and orientation at



community level. This has been possible in OTELP watershed villages of Pottangi Block in Koraput District.

Mulasankar is one of the OTELP villages in Chapanjholla micro watershed of Pottangi Block where Maa Laxmi SHG formed in 2008 played a crucial role in the process of change through collective initiative and interventions under OTELP support. One day, the members of Laxmi SHG through group discussion and deliberation decided to take advantage of the Farm Pond created under NRM component of OTELP as a livelihood source. The WDT-Livestock of FNGO came forward to their help. Through an intensive round up of consultation, motivation and exposure visit of the group members, they resolved to go for fishery in the pond as a collective initiative for livelihoods. With a loan support of Rs.7000 from revolving fund of VDC against their Business Development Plan prepared for the purpose, they started fishery as a new micro enterprise with lot of hopes and probabilities in a 0.5 acre size of Farm Pond in the month of September 2010. Out of the total loan amount of Rs.7000, they invested only Rs.2000 towards fingerlings, feeds and other inputs and the rest amount was taken by five members as individual loan for consumption purpose. The members of Laxmi SHG were imparted training and inputs by FNGO with regard to proper pre and post harvest care and management.

Now, after a gap period of five months, the first phase of harvest fetched them 35k.g. of fish and sold at @100 per k.g. The total sale proceeds of the harvest amounted to Rs.3500 and the 2nd phase of harvest is expected to fetch further 25k.g. The members who collectively participated in the entire process expect a rich harvest in the coming year.



Knowledge is Power

Education is very important among all of us, the fact which is commonly nothing to deny among any. It's education which transforms a person to live a better life and more importantly in a social well being. It educates us with all needed attributes in leading our life in a proper lifestyle. Education is one which provides us thrust in getting ahead and doing something constructive. It plays a vital role in personal growth and the social development among all of us.

But once upon a time, the above notion was not true for the villagers of Telakonadi village of Dhadra Gram Panchayat located in Nawarangpur district. The village is inhabited by 155 tribal households and it is one of the operational areas of OTELP. The villagers were callous to the education of their children and also the village development process was in very slow pace. The attendance in schools and Angawadi (pre-school) was very low. The drop out rate is almost 60%. During the intervention of OTELP through IYSARA, it witnessed such problems and tried to address it through activating Village Education Committee, creating awareness and building capacities of teachers, VDC members and other stakeholders. Besides, OTELP has possessed the mandate to discuss this indispensable issue time and again in its different training programmes and meetings. As the step towards awareness, OTELP organized rallies involving school going children on retention and repressing drop outs in schools. Alike, the children between the age group of 3-6 years also do not attend pre school due to the negligence of parents. OTELP organized interface between parents, villagers, self help group members, pre school teachers, government officials, PRI members, ICDS and ITDA staff. A threadbare discussion was held and critical gaps were identified with participatory solutions. All stakeholders also fixed responsibility to ensure the pre school aged children to attend the centre and to strengthen the village education system.

This initiative impressed the villagers along with stakeholders. The parents of drop outs and non starters are sending their children and they are no more left out from school and the village pre school centre (Anganwadi) which are now running sleekly with the increase of 60% attendance. The VDC, VLSC & VECs have now jointly started campaigns to motivate other parents for retention of their children in school & Anganwadi centre.



Sudarshan Bhatra, the president of Trimurty Village Education Committee, Telkonadi, says:

“Our children are now going to school regularly. The village Anganwadi Centre is running properly. It has given us light in darkness. We have started to fight against our own ignorance.”



Unveiling Opportunity

Surrounded by green mountains and forest, the village, Luller is a home of 177 tribal households located in Mathli block of Malkangiri District. The inhabitants belong to Bhumia, Paraja and Halua tribes. Traditional agriculture practice is the major occupation of the villagers apart from daily wage earning and dependency on forest for

“I invest my leisure time in this activity. I enjoy the job as it has opened up an opportunity for me to have some additional income. I have planned to scale it up further”.

Muni Harijan



NTFP. Other than household chores, women are also engaged in daily wages and forestry activities to support the house hold income.

There was no such community organisations before to look after the village governance. The villagers were fragmenting in nature and rarely spending time for group cohesion and organisation building. Fortunately, 17 likeminded women formed an SHG in 2009. The group was hardly doing anything other than savings and credits. They were mostly confined to very limited activities and have no access to any funds. But in blessings in disguise, the

group started getting support from OTELP and ODC (FNGO) in the year 2010 during their interventions in the village through watershed approach. Gradually, OTELP through its empowerment approach imparted various trainings to group members to enhance their skill, leadership quality, group cohesion, knowledge on business enterprise and effective fund management. Through regular meetings and orientations with group, an alternative livelihood option was thought of and leaf plate stitching, a small micro enterprise was identified looking at its local viability as women were collecting Siali leaves before and preparing leaf plates in traditional manner which was being used for own consumption.

So to add value to this traditional leaf plate process and to give a shape to it through small business enterprise, OTELP organized training programmes on leaf plate stitching for these women. The women learnt the process of stitching and it proved to be productive for 4 women members mostly, as they gathered ample skill during the training programmes. Muni Harijan one of the group members, turned to play an active role involving her in leaf plate stitching to fetch some income. She became perfect to the job slowly and devoted herself for 2 to 3 hours in preparing leaf plates besides her regular work. After preparing the leaf plates, she also gets the opportunity to sell them in various occasions like meetings, training programmes, functions organized by OTELP along with her day to day sale which supported her to dispose of the products. She is now able to get Rs.500 to Rs 700 per month from this business which helps her to minimize financial scarcity.

Looking at the success of Muni, the other women of the group have started this business in full fledged manner to add some more income for better livelihood.



OTELP – a ray of hope

Now I could think of a better life for my children and can secure my livelihood only because of OTELP.

Dhana

Dahana Hantals, a landless widow lives in Mangarjodi village of Kudumuluguma block in Malkangir district. Dhana became distressed after the death of her husband who was the bread earner. She has now four children and she is the source of livelihood for the family.

Dhana works as a daily wage earner and maintains the livelihood of family. She finds very difficult to meet the square meals of the day. But she has no alternative. She was struggling to have a piece of land which can be used for cultivable purpose.



Meanwhile Orissa Tribal Empowerment & Livelihoods Programme (OTELP) started to work in the village. OTELP is associated with Rural Development Institute—Odisha Chapter which facilitates land entitlement to the landless poor under forest right act (FRA).

Under this component and with the consensus of the villagers and village development committee president, 22 members were identified as landless and Dhana was one of them. 19 landless villagers were eligible and conferred land entitlements under FRA as per provision and Dhana found her place among them. She is now very happy to get a piece of land and her ever pinching agony would reduce to a greater extent.

“Now I could think of a better life for my children and can secure my livelihood only because of OTELP” that she expresses with tearful eyes.

Dhana has done 50 cashew plantations with black gram as inter cropping in her entitled land with the support of OTELP which is going to secure her livelihood in the long run. She is also obliged to OTELP for food security measures under World Food Programme and constructive structures which provide employment and livelihood securities to her family to meet the short term need.



A Real Platform

The tribals hardly believe the strangers when they meet at once. Once they start believing, they accept as one of the community members and come closure to share their issues and problems instead of becoming churlish. They are very community minded and some one's affair becomes community affair. The similar situation occurred with Maa Mangala SHG. Maa Mangala SHG, one of the Self Help Groups of Kalakupa Village is situated in Lanjigarh block of Kalahandi district. It was formed in 2005 with 11 tribal women. Before its

formation, the members were reluctant to form the group apprehending that their saving might be taken away by the person who motivates them to form group. Visualizing such dynamics, OTELP and the FNGO Gram Vikas Trust put their efforts to bring back the women into the process and make them understand about the group. Having been convinced, the women formed the group and started regular saving. But it did not last long and became defunct soon after its formation.

OTELP and Gram Vikas Trust took various steps to revive the group. Several training programmes on SHG concept, group

building, leadership, income generating activities etc. were organized by OTELP for group members. Internalizing the concept of self help group, the women members again started regular saving and credit activities. They also selected functionaries from them and managed the fund.

Apart from internal saving and lending, the self help group members gradually entered to income generating activities to increase group saving and individual income. The women members first tried to manage the mid day meal of village school and succeeded. Till now they are continuing successfully. Looking at their initiative and interest, OTELP supported Rs.5000 as seed money to the group to start the group as well as individual venture. The individual group members first started goat



rearing business through internal lending process. Now the group being united with the principle of mutual trust and belief have cultivated sunflower in 4 acres, onion in half acre, chick pea in 0.8 acre and maize in 0.8 acre of land collectively.

The group members are now feeling ease due to their unremitting efforts for upward mobility of group and individual members. Now they are marching towards ensuring sustainable livelihoods there in the village and enlightening other groups to take up new initiatives of their own.



Bana Dei & Jana Dei of Maa Mangala SHG

"It is really a great achievement for us and we are confident enough to up scale such activity and diversify our activities also. Maa Mangala Self Help Group provided us a bigger platform to express ourselves."



Jai Hanuman SHG – a Male Self Help Group

Mirialpadu was one of the program villages in Baghjolla micro watershed area. There was off-season migration to the neighboring Andrapradesh state for about 4 months in a year. Both men and women from 20 households out of total 61 households used to migrate in quest of wage employment. After OTELP intervention at the initial stage, community

people were mobilized, motivated and educated about the scope, opportunities and availability of fund for creating avenues of livelihoods for all sections of the community. Having understood the OTELP basically as a community empowering and livelihood program, the members of the migrated households came forward to form a male Self Help Group. The basic idea was not to function as a mere thrift and saving group, but to emerge as an enterprising unit to ensure income to every member households staying within the resident village.



Jai Hanuman male SHG was thus appeared in the OTELP livelihood map in the year 2008 as an entity with 12 likeminded members. Sri Kata Sukra as President and Sri. Bhagaban Kata as Secretary of the SHG contemplated deeply to initiate such group activity which can ensure them some income within a short span of time. The WDT members of FNGO-LAVS sat with the SHG members to deliberate and discuss with them on the issue and shared with them the idea of raising a Nursery at the community level. After having understood the details of the plan of earning by working together, the members expressed their total willingness to start a nursery.

Jai Hanuman SHG prepared the Business Development Plan with the active guidance and support of WDT member – Micro Finance and availed a loan amount of Rs. 31000 only from VDC- RFS account with a commitment to make repayment within six months.

Now, the SHG with Rs. 31000 as capital raised Nursery on 0.5 acre of land in Mirialpadu Village. All the members on a rotational basis worked hard to see the Nursery a dream plan to make their living. The technical support and regular monitoring by the WDT members and SMS from OTELP enabled them to make the unit stand as an enterprise to support the members in future. The Nursery has 20 beds with 40 thousand seedling capacity covering all species. During the plantation period, the Nursery has been able produce and sell 22 thousand seedlings to different VDCs and has earned Rs. 64000 as sale proceeds. Out of 31000 loan taken, the SHG has invested an amount of Rs.26000 has thus earned a net profit of Rs.38000 with a span of 6 months period. The members of the SHG are happy with their efforts and subsequent outcome which has enhanced their hope and aspiration to make their living and livelihoods happen at one place.



Magic of Magic Pot and Tonic

Mardiguda, a small village, is located in Thuamul Rampur of Kalahandi district. Mariguda village is one of the operational areas of OTELP. This village consists of 45 heterogeneous households. Agriculture, wage labour under NREGA and dependency on forest are sources of livelihood for the inhabitants.

The village has witnessed a lot of developmental programmes with the support of OTELP and Facilitating NGO Gram Vikas. The programmes include right from empowering people to implementation of various welfare activities like village sanitation, health check up camps, campaigns, support to farmers in the form of seeds, modern agricultural technologies, land and water management activities, magic tonic and magic yellow pot.

Basically, the farmers in this village use chemical fertilizer and pesticides to enhance the production which costs to the farmers. Magic Yellow pot is a concept that is conceived by IDE India and is now implemented in all OTELP operational areas for better yield. Magic yellow pot is used for killing pests and insects in farm fields. One



earthen pot is coloured yellow and is kept on various parts of the field with a stand. The pests and insects instead of attacking the plants, they are attracted to yellow colour and when they struck to the yellow pot, the pests and insects die there. These died insects and pests are used as fertilizers for the same field and the production is increased twice than the production happens using of chemical fertilizer.

Niranjan Nayak is a farmer who cultivated vegetables like cabbage, cauliflower and tomato using chemical fertilizer last year. He got the benefit of Rs.8000 from selling these vegetables. This year, Niranjan after being understood the concept of magic pot, benefited with Rs.12000 applying the same in his vegetable field. He used less fertilizer this year compared to last year application. He is extremely happy with this low cost technology that fetches good yield. Like Niranjan, many other farmers are now benefitted by this method and they are very much affirmative to apply the same in next year hoping for better production.

**Magic tonic is very good. I have got maximum profit out of this.
I shall use this technology always and
motivate other farmers to use it as well.**

Niranjan Nayak



Our Children now got their Basic Right - Right to Education

Migration is a regular phenomenon in Bandhugaon block of Koraput. The women of Nukulama Self help Group and Paradeshi Self Help Group that are located in Katlupeta of Bandhugaon situated in Koraput district were migrating to work as daily wage earner in nearby lemon field and earning Rs.50 per day. Their children were also remaining away from

home and supporting their parents in fetching food and taking care of siblings thereby affecting their study and health. The FNGO RASS and OTELP while working in the village witness such vulnerable situations and tried to retain them in village building coherence and forming groups among them as one of the mainstreaming activities of the project.

With their regular saving, these groups have gathered total amount of Rs.31390 and Rs.27145 respectively in their groups and revolve the fund among them to meet the emergency requirement. Apart from saving and credit practices, the members decided to

be involved in small business enterprises to increase their group saving and to stop going outside to work which was very hazardous. OTELP and RASS together built the capacities of women by imparting trainings on leadership, group management, record keeping and small enterprise. To take up small business enterprise, Nukulam Self Help Group and Pardesi Self Help Group borrowed Rs.62000 and Rs.60000 respectively from concerned village development committee and started taking a land on lease basis and planned for developing lemon grass cultivation from which lemon oil could be extracted. The women had also prior experience doing such business and realized the profit from it. The women tried to manage the entire operation of the process from grass plantation to extracting oil. They also involved themselves to sell their products having proper bargaining with the traders in Andhara Pradesh, the neighbouring state and they are earning Rs.60000 per annum which is a very sound income by the group.

These women did not look back and put their collective effort to earn profit by up scaling the activity. These two groups have gained the profit of Rs.10000 within two years after repaying their loan. The saving of these groups has also increased to Rs.37892 and Rs.30000 within these periods respectively and the women have also enhanced their individual fortnight contribution from Rs.40 to Rs.80.

The women are now happy and they have become the path finder for others showing their group bindingness and effort. The women are now able to take care of their children properly providing nutritious food and sending them to school with their increased income. The children are no more engaged as sibling care taker and they are very happy that they are in school and enjoying their basic rights like other children.



Fortune favours the brave

Smt. Saraga Nayak, 65 years, has age old husband, four sons and one daughter. She lives in Padiapanka village of Kandhamal district. All her sons and daughter are married and living separately. No one takes care of old parents. She is not even allowed to stay at home. Saraga is therefore staying with her husband in Panthasala, a public rest house. She earns her livelihood by doing daily wage labour and she is the only earning member since her husband is very weak and frail to work. As Saraga was separated from her sons, she is treated as a separate family and she was eligible to get a house under Indira Awas Yojana (IAY) of Govt. but she could not get it because she does not possess any home stead land to construct the house. She is therefore deprived of availing the IAY facility.

But, as the days passed, Saraga became fatigue to work as a labourer and then she decided to open a shop but she was not allowed by her son to open the same in front of her son's house. Ultimately she became an unproductive consumer and she had to manage with her husband's old age pension staying at Panthasala with her husband. She has no other livelihood option to live. In this



gloomy condition, FNGO-JAGRUTI identified Saraga and inclined to support her and provided Rs.5000 from DIF component of OTELP to start a small business enterprise. Then she started a small confectionary shop with her own preparation without any training at Padipanka village. The villagers also supported her and provided space to open her shop. She sold sweets and other food items of Rs.500 every day and got the profit of Rs.100 per day. Saraga is overwhelmed to earning Rs.100 every day. It is a great brace for her and her husband. This small effort would bring a big change in their life in the long run as she says.

**Where my blood relations kept aside from them,
OTELP rescued us from this agony any stood as a back up support
stepping forward to survive. I am now able to earn
from the shop and would live happily with my husband.
Now I am strong enough to live without my sons' support.**

Saraga Nayak



Community Action for better Sanitation

Janijanglo is one of the remote tribal villages in Gumma block of Gajapati district. The village is situated 8 k.m. away from block and 30 k.m. away from district head quarters. There are 38 tribal households in the village with minimum infrastructure facility. The village is not connected with all weather roads and electricity is a dream to the village. Prevalence of



diarrhea, dysentery, cholera, malaria, skin diseases are very common in the village. People also suffer from common water borne and water related diseases due to open defecation, using of unsafe water and adopting unhygienic practices Govt. services do not reach due to remote area. After the effort of FNGO CCD, they could realize the problem of unhygienic and unhealthy practices that are causing for the prevalence of many diseases. Children and women were major victims in this village. It is very often noticed that the women are attacked by snakes due to open defecation and children fear to go outside due to darkness. Realizing the above problems, the villages prioritized it and collectively

decided to take up sanitation project (construction of toilet) in village. But the villagers could not fulfill Govt. norms for toilet construction. The villagers therefore sought the support of OTELP for total sanitation of the village.

Looking at the need and interest of the villagers, OTELP also ventured to promote the sanitation facility for each household with the participation of community. OTELP constructed 36 individual latrine cum bath room which costs Rs. 10190 (per latrine and bathroom) of which an individual family contributed labour, brick, and sand which costs Rs.5690. OTELP also made the provision of water facility for all these households under Rastriya Shram Vikas Yojana(RSVY). After completion of latrine and bath rooms with water facility in all households, the people especially the women are relaxed from open defecation and bathing. They are no more going outside for defecation. The individual households are maintaining the latrines and bathroom of their own. OTELP also organized training programmes for the villagers on cleanliness of toilets.

The villagers are now adopting good sanitation practices and they are also managing the waste water effectively. They are encouraging the nearby villages for good sanitation practices. Apart from this, the villagers are using garbage pit and smokeless chula which are the good signs better sanitation and this is also being wide spread in other villages.

**We and our children are no more going outside for defecation.
We are not suffering from any skin disease, diarrhea or dysentery.
Because of better sanitation we are not spending money
unnecessarily due to illness of our family members.**

Rukmini Gamango



Basanti Chula(Hearth) – Less Hazardous

Women in tribal areas use fire wood as fuel for the preparation of food. They do not have alternative source of fuel. They cannot afford for kerosene stove or LPG for preparing food items which cost them. Using fire wood as fuel is the major solution which on the other hand, it is very hazardous to health. Heavy generation of smoke from fire wood deteriorates the health affecting lungs directly, creating eye problem, allergies, asthma and many other skin diseases particularly of women. Their social status is also determined by this severe health deterioration when women fall sick.

To have control over health and social status, Gram Vikas, the facilitating NGO in OTELP operational areas, has implemented the Basanti model smoke less Chula in all 31 households of Chachikana village of Thuamula Rampur block of Kalahandi district. The objectives of implementation of this model are to better utilization of time and engage women in earnable works, to control their health hazards, to be less dependent on firewood and to spend less time on collection of firewood as this model consumes less and less wood for cooking and erupting very low smoke which passes through a pipe over the roof of the house.

The women are the prime beneficiaries out of this Chula. They are able to spend more time with their belongingness now. Basanti Chula has been helpful in food preparation within very few time and the women are getting more time for other earning sources like leaf plate making and selling, bamboo products making, involving them in group income generating activities etc. Besides, the villagers instead of going regularly to forest to collect fire wood, they go twice which saves a lot of time.

Now the women of this village are feeling better using this model for cooking .They are remaining healthy now a days and they spend less money on their health. The women are consuming maximum two hours in a day for cooking and the rest of their leisure time are being used for SHG activities, leaf plates making, and vegetable cultivation.



**"Now I feel better to cook food.
I do not spend much time in collecting firewood from forest."**
Huna Dei

**"I do not feel any problem to cook food anymore and
less firewood is use in this model."**
Kanchan Dei



A new hope of livelihood – Vanaraja Poultry Rearing

Nageswari Self Help Group (SHG) was formed in the year 2008 by twelve nos. of tribal women of Khamara village located in Paninala watershed of OTELP, TSRD at Nandapur. The women started saving with Rs.30 per month for two years and availed seed capital of

Rs.5000 from RFS fund as a grant from OTELP.

The women started revolving the fund among them to take up small business initiatives in order to add some income to their daily household income.

The women individually started doing vegetable cultivation by taking loan from the group but this was not enough for them to maintain their households. Looking at the local business practices, OTELP inculcated the idea of backyard poultry rearing in the group which was very feasible and acceptable by the women of SHG. The women were trained on this trade i.e. on backyard poultry rearing and went on an

exposure visit to KVK at Semiliguda on the upgraded variety of poultry rearing i.e. Vanaraja which is slightly different from their indigenous rearing practice. Vanaraja poultry is very profitable business in comparison to indigenous (Desi) birds. These birds produce more eggs and they are less threat to predators. Besides, the mortality rate is very low and it can be reared in backyard.

The SHG received a loan amount of Rs.30000 from RFS fund to start vanaraja unit. The SHG purchased 543 nos. of one day old chicks from the state poultry farm at Semiliguda and put them in a newly semi constructed unit that was built spending Rs.25000 by the SHG itself. Initially, the group spent Rs.14000 (Rs.8500 for purchasing chicks, Rs.2000 for vaccination, and Rs. 3500 for feeds) to start the unit apart from regular services extended by women. After 21 days of survival of chicks, their number reduced to 520 from 543 due to adverse climatic condition but it was insignificant. The SHG sold all these 520 chicks @ Rs.45 gaining a net profit of Rs 9400. The women with this profitable amount, completed their semi finished poultry unit and the women are now being motivated enough have decided to take up this venture in a large scale rearing 10000 chicks in a unit. According to women, henceforth, by this group venture, they would be able to earn Rs.15000 per month per cycle (there are 9 cycles in a year) which would certainly help them to have a better livelihood repairing their fractured lifestyles.



Vocational Training – an alternative employment opportunity

The rural youths of OTELP operational area either employed or not in labour force, They invariably migrate to urban areas in search of employment due to lack of employment opportunities. Even if they go outside, they are either not paid regular remuneration or humiliated by the employer and again come back to the village. Since most of them are school drop outs, non starters, the pure academic qualification provides limited employment opportunity. Majority of rural youths are therefore unemployed and they are engaged in shifting cultivation and daily wage earning which is not enough to maintain their livelihood. OTELP and SEAM, the FNGO together created avenues for these unemployed youths through vocational training programmes converging with District Rural Development Agency, Rayagada. The unemployed youths were first identified in different operational villages of OTELP. Initially when discussed with the interested youths regarding vocational training, they showed their resistance to participate lest the training would not provide them good income in later period. The issue was also raised in community meetings and the community motivated the youths and eight unemployed youths of BPL family agreed and participated in one month employability of skill development programme of DRDA with the support of OTELP.

With the related tailoring training course, the participants are also given trainings on personality development. The participants have received a fundamental Hindi language course for better communication. This would help them to be employed comfortably in different service provider companies which are well equipped with modern facilities. The participants have been provided uniforms, identity cards and certificates by DRDA.

After successful completion of the training programmes, the participants would be employed through campus selection as sales executives and master tailor in a telecom company with monthly honorarium of Rs 3500 . Seeing the achievements of these youths, more and more youths have changed their mind set and now been interested to be included in vocational training programmes relating to tailoring and other trades as well.

Teresa Majhi

**"I will be no more a burden on my family rather
I will be a bread winner and earning member of my family".**



Where there is a will, there is a way

Dumuni Bingodia is a landless tribal farmer. He lives in Pipalpadar village of Penubandha of Narayanpatna Block of Koraput. This is also one of the micro watershed areas of OTELP. Dumuni's family consists of 4 members. The occupation of the family is daily wage earning and dependency on forest. The meager income from these sources becomes insufficient to maintain the livelihood of Dumuni. As suggested by OTELP through its different training programme, Dumuni attended the nursery raising training organized by forest department and acquired the skill of nursery raising.



It is said that where there is a will, there is a way which came true in case of Dumuni Bingodia. Therefore, looking at the interest and skill of Dumuni, FNGO-RASS with the support of OTELP encouraged him to raise a nursery although he does not possess any land. The village development committee donated a piece of land to Dumuni to start the nursery. During 2009-2010, he was also granted a loan amount of Rs.20000 from RFS as input for nursery. He started raising with 20000 saplings of different species with proper care in that land having water facility nearby. OTELP staff also provided guidance

to Dumuni from time to time.

Dumuni sold 16000 seedlings @ Rs 2.50 to four VSSs of the block as second year maintenance and earned Rs.40000 out of which he repaid the loan of Rs.20000 earning a net profit of Rs.20000 out of which he kept Rs.5000 as fixed deposit and he repaid Rs. 5000 to the village money lenders which he borrowed earlier. Apart from VSS, he sold 1000 nos. of papaya, guava and drumstick seedlings to the villagers of RASS, OTELP operational area and earned Rs.15000. He has now 4000 mango plants in his nursery which he would graft next year and expects to get a profit of Rs.60000 out of it.

Dumuni is now an established nursery grower in the eyes of all the villagers and he feels to be proud to have the skill and the recognition for the same. He has applied for one acre of non arable land to the department of Rural Development(RD) to set up a permanent nursery site near his village. The village development committee is also happy to see the progress of Dumuni and every one encourages him to keep up this activity to support them when they are in need of seedlings.



True Leadership

Ushaballi is a small village surrounded by mountains and sanctuary located in Tumudibandha block. The village has 35 households. The inhabitants belong to Kutia Kandha tribe. The primary occupation of the villagers is shifting (podu) cultivation. They usually produce minor millets like jawar, ragi, niger, pulses like red gram, horse gram, etc. Along with these products, they also depend upon wild yams, mango, mahua flower, etc. which are the major food habits of the villagers. They hardly have any low lands to cultivate paddy. So they are not habituated with rice as their principal food item. They have domestic animals like cow, bullock, hen, goats and pigs. But they do not take the milk as food intake. Pigs are kept only for sacrifice in their festivals.


Most of the time, the people of the village spend in forest area for collection of siali leaf, fire wood, wild yams, mahua flower and mangos and the rest of times, they are engaged in shifting cultivation. The food stuff lasts for 6 to 7 months. During food scarcity and lean period, they usually go to money lenders (shop keepers) of Tumudibandha for loan and repay during harvesting season and are exploited in weight and price. The people of the villagers mainly suffer from malaria, diarrhoea etc. but the people do not attend hospital during illness rather they depend on herbal doctors of the village. It is because, the villagers are afraid of outsiders and whenever any officials visit to the village, they rush to the forest area.

After intervention of OTELP in the year 2006 in this village, the FNGO PRDATA and OTELP tried to establish relationship and win their heart through meetings, orientations, family visits and different entry point programmes. After frequent visits, the villagers were organized and understood about the programme.

Gradually, the villagers participated in programmes and they formed Village Development Committee with functionaries to monitor the progress of different programmes. Not only that, the women are also organized in 2 Self Help Groups (SHG) to help each other during emergency. The group members apart from thrift and credit, they were also involved in small business enterprise.

Rashmita Majhi, a 25 years girl who is the secretary of Beta Sauta SHG also lives in this village. She has lost her father few years back. She has mother, one brother and one sister at home. Her mother does shifting cultivation and Rashmita also helps her. Besides, Rashmita is also engaged as daily wage earner to support the family but it becomes insufficient. She was maintaining a very miserable life. Her brother was very lazy and supports the family sporadically. But misfortune never comes alone what was true in case of Rashmita when she lost her mother after some years. She became very abject with this loss. Now she has shouldered the whole responsibility of her family.





When the works started under Land and Water component of OTELP, she engaged herself regularly in the work and able to earn money along with rice. She is able to manage the family and SHG, being an active member.

The SHG was selling the products like tamarind and mahua flower through middle men as a result the real price is not obtained by the group. When MART with the support of OTELP introduced the system of collective marketing, the group realized the real price and decided not to sell any group product through middlemen. Rashmita took the responsibility of the group to collect various products from adjacent villages of Non-OTELP area in the prevailed market price by taking loan under RFS fund of VDC. She sent those products to the Adibasi Bazar Committee (ABC), Tumudibandha in which she is also an active member and sold the products at a higher market price and the group incurred more profit. This leadership quality of Rashmita was admired not only by the villagers but by other stakeholders.

In the mean time, the district administration selected the village of Rashmita to provide the village grain bank support from the district administration to meet the food scarcity of people. The management of this grain bank was thrown on Beta Sauta SHG headed by Rashmita looking at her good managerial capacity. Now the group is managing the grain bank with the leadership of Rashmita in such a way that group has been able to save Rs.12000 by multiplying the existing grains. The self help group members have increased their savings and they have built a strong resource base in the village through their group. Rashmita by dint of her hard labour saved Rs.15000 which she spent for her brother's marriage. She has decided to remain as single all along and if at all she gets married, she would be supporting her family for better livelihood.

She has now more than one livelihood option like shifting cultivation, seasonal business, siali leaf business and NREGS work. She has also developed kitchen garden in her backyard and habituated with nutritious vegetables in her food habits. She has realized that the productivity of the shifting area has reduced but the introduction of the other programmes like NREGS and regular PDS provision and the village grain bank will provide food security to the villagers round the year.

"She is an asset of our village. As a leader, she has created opportunities for us for better livelihood source.

We shall keep on following Rashmita and protect her always."

Villagers



Vision Changed the Livelihoods

Many changes are noticed around us do not just happen for sake of change and many changes are voluntary in nature. Changes are also often caused by virtue of planned and well designed interventions and participation. This has been true with regard to significant changes that happened in the lives of people of Gugaguda village within BaghJholla MWS in Pottangi Block of Koraput District. Gugaguda is one of the remote programme villages of OTELP inhabited with 100 tribal households. The prime occupation of the villagers is agriculture and they also work as daily labourers with minimal wages. They are also forced to be in the cage of money lenders at the time of need.

The women in this village were very conservative and never allowed to be exposed to outside world due to dominating nature of male counter parts. They never get opportunity to sit together and to discuss their development. They were only engaged in day to day household chores and extending their support in traditional agricultural practices. They were hardly doing any additional agricultural cultivation except little vegetable cultivation in backyard



rather depending on mono cropping pattern, forest and daily wage earning. After the intervention of OTELP in Pattangi, it tried to bring these scattered women under one umbrella by forming groups. Gradually, Deomali Self Help Group was evolved in 2008 with the participation of 13 tribal women symbolizing the community cohesion. OTELP organized different training programs on concept of SHG, capacity building of the members, leadership, book keeping, fund management, small enterprise, community health and sanitation etc. for group members in every month. The group members stealthily coping with groups managed the internal group saving and lending activity. To enter to the individual entrepreneurial activity, the group members tapped the revolving loan an amount of Rs.1200 each through Village Development Committee as the component of Rural Financial Services. The individual group members invested the amount in vegetable (cabbage) cultivation in their own land as they had knowledge on such cultivation. OTELP also provided technical support to individual beneficiaries during cultivation and the members were able to reap the benefit within a period of three months. One individual beneficiary benefitted Rs.6000 on an average from this vegetable cultivation and the group as a whole benefitted of Rs.82000 and made the repayment of Rs. 16692 as their loan with interest.

The profit from this vegetable cultivation has strengthened household income of the family. The women are now able to take proper care of their children by providing good food and education with their enhanced income. The women further resolved to cultivate ginger in coming days to add more income by gaining more profit and reducing their dependency on forest and working as daily wage earner.



Acronyms

FNGO	:	Facilitating Non-Government Organisation
NTFP	:	Non Timber Forest Produce
OTELP	:	Orissa Tribal Empowerment and Livelihoods Programme
WDT	:	Watershed Development Team
VDC	:	Village Development Committee
SHG	:	Self Help Group
RFS	:	Rural Financial Services
KVK	:	Krishi Vigyan Kendra
PRI	:	Panchayati Raj Institution
ITDA	:	Integrated Tribal Development Agency
VEC	:	Village Education Committee
VLSC	:	Village Level Sub-Committee
FRA	:	Forest Right Act
HH	:	Household
BDP	:	Business Development Plan
IAY	:	Indira Awas Yojana
ICDS	:	Integrated Child Development Scheme
RSVY	:	Rastriya Shrama Vikash Yojana
LPG	:	Liquefied Petroleum Gas
VSS	:	Vana Sangrakhyana Samiti
RD	:	Rural Development
NREGS	:	National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme
PDS	:	Public Distribution System





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