



ANNUAL REPORT 2017

**Sustainability through  
Collective Actions**



## About this Report

In 2017 AJSA worked with 1.2 lakhs of People of Odisha in 2017, to deliver a society that is self-resilient, hunger free, having no poverty and all the children have the right to education and every woman is empowered and live a dignified life.

**AJSA (Anchalika Jana Seva Anusthan)**

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# About AJSA



AJSA is a grassroots level rights-based non-government and not-for-profit organisation based in the state of Odisha in India. Facilitating community development initiatives since 1989, working towards the root-cause of poverty and eliminating social injustice for the down-trodden and under-privileged section in the remotest part of the country. It is a non-political, community based social development organization involved in sustainable development initiatives since its inception.

AJSA was formed by local poor people of Bangomnuda block in the Balangir district, to work for the socio-economic development of small and marginal farmers, landless labour, agricultural labour, bonded labour as well as women, children and other weaker deprived sections of the society. The spheres of its work are governed by issues related to livelihood security, health, education, natural resource management and disaster risk reduction, etc.

AJSA has been working in some of the poorest parts of Odisha for about two decades to promote community-based solutions to issues around the empowerment & mainstreaming of deprived village people of Western Odisha with emphasis on landless, small & marginal farmer, backward rural women, children, STs, SCs & Dalit communities.

# Vision

A society free from hunger, poverty, exclusion and discrimination where all people have the opportunity to exercise their right to a self-determined life with dignity and justice.

# Mission

Improving the quality of life of the most marginalized and vulnerable sections of the society.





AJSA IN ITS ENDEAVOURS TO BUILD **SELF-RELIANT COMMUNITIES** HAS IMPACTED OVER

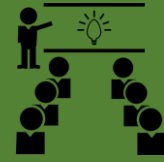
**240000+**

LIVES POSITIVELY



**PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN** IN VILLAGE DEVELOPMENT PROCESS HAS BEEN INCREASED TO

**58%**



IN TRIBAL AREAS **GIRL CHILDREN'S ENROLLMENT** IN SCHOOLS INCREASED TO

**60%**



AJSA WORKS WITH OVER 30,000 SMALL & MARGINAL PRODUCERS THROUGH IT'S INNOVATIVE APPROCHES UNDERTAKEN BY AGGA INITIATIVE, & HELPS THEM TOWARDS ESTABLISHING SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOOD SYSTEMS



## 2017 Year in Review

**16224**

HECTERS OF **FOREST LAND** HAS BEEN PROTECTED BY **64 FOREST PROTECTION COMMITTEES**



**2000+**

**WOMEN LEADERS & VOLUNTEERS TRAINED**



**152**

**SHGs, & 1 SHG FEDRATION FORMED, MOBILISED OVER 1, 00,000,00 FUNDS FOR RURAL WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS**

FORMED **33** DISASTER MANAGEMENT COMMITTEES, **64** FOREST PROTECTION COMMITTEES, **2** WATER USER ASSOCIATIONS, **155** VLCs, **46** YOUTH CLUBS and **22** FARMER CLUBS



We live a dream every day. Lifting millions out of poverty with an extensive and sustained effort to bring access to food, water, sanitation, health & education, train and increase the capacities of farmers and create self-sustained communities who will take charge of their own lives.



# This Year's Major Areas of Interventions

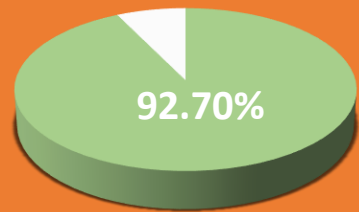
- Sustainable Livelihood
- Food sec and Nutrition
- Gender Equity
- Climate change and DRR
- WASH
- Education







Population of Balangir  
1337194



Population Living in Rural  
Area



Over 70% depend upon  
Agriculture

# MGNREGA-NRLM-CFT Convergence Programme

## Programme Overview



9, 910

### LIVES TRANSFORMED

Secured sustainable livelihood and food & nutrition security of **4955** Households and 9910 population of 24 villages through 100 days of employment

Agriculture provides livelihood support to about two third of India's population and employment to 58.4% of country's workforce which is the single largest private sector occupation. Above all, agriculture is the only source of food security for the nation. However, food security in the poorest parts of India is getting acute by the day with increasing rapid environmental degradation and frequent natural calamities.

The KBK districts of Odisha is one of the poorest and backward regions of the country. Balangir is one amongst them in combating with drought. And the situation is particularly serious in the block of Bangomunda. Due to the nature of draught its population suffers chronic hunger and experience of seasonal food insecurity for which they got migrated to the other parts of the state or country to survive with their families.

To minimize the rate of migration and to create employment opportunities in Balangir, AJSA has started its action in 6 GPs of Bangomunda in collaboration with the Panchayati Raj Department, Government of Odisha with the support of Ford Foundation.

### Activities & Accomplishments

#### Formation & Strengthening the JSC

18 Job Seekers Committee (JSC) has been working at village level and job seeker federations in panchayat level and at block level. This year 6 more JSCs has been formed and strengthened. For this a village level awareness meeting was organised with the involvement of focus group and JSC members to involve the new JSCs in NREGS. The JSC successfully ensure the implementation of MGNREGA programme at the grass root level.



38% less rainfall in 2017



More than 1 lakh  
migrated due to loss of livelihood



Many cases of Trafficking &  
Migration among women & children

### Community Awareness Programme

Creating awareness is a stronger element for self-reliance of the community. AJSA has always been trying to sensitize the community on different aspects by organising village level meetings, street plays, awareness rallies and campaigns. This year 24 community awareness programmes were organised by AJSA at GP level and block level to aware the poor and migrant people of the villages on the positive aspects of MGNREGA. This awareness created the impact of increase in job demand and large-scale participation of women, scheduled castes and scheduled tribes in the workflow of MGNREGA.

*Since 2013, I have been working regularly in MGNREGA and worked for 100 days each year. Working in MGNREGA has brought about many changes in my life. I have become financially independent and I use my income to finance my children's education and other household expenses. Other than buying groceries for the house, I have also used my income for savings and also contributed for the construction of my house. I could never imagine any of this before I started working for MGNREGA. And it is only possible because of the guidance of AJSA.*

Name: Anami Bhoi

Age: 52 years

Village - Barthala

*"I use my income to finance my children's education and other household expenses too"*

### Capacity Building of Job Seekers

Wage seekers need to be made aware of details of MGNREGA in order to enable them access their entitlements. To attain this, the village level cadre have been developed and trained for successful achievement of the objective of MGNREGA.





This year AJSA has organised one village level training and one GP level training where the village cadre were trained on different aspects of MGNREGA. It included everything starting from job application to wage payment at grassroot level. The GP level training was attended by the PRI functionaries like Sarpanch, PEO, ward members and Gram sathis. In this training programme, the PRI members oriented on the issues of MGNREGA and how MGNREGA has brought significant changes to the work culture and resource development scenario in the rural area of Balangir district.



## DURABLE ASSETS CREATED

**33** Farm Pond & Land Development has been completed through the Convergence of MGNREGA-NRLM-CFT



Participation of Women, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the workflow of MGNREGA increased to

**58%**

## WAY FORWARDS.....

- Empowered the community of 6 Gram Panchayats to bring sustainable livelihood for rural communities.
- Sensitized the communities on the importance of MGNREGA.
- Strengthened PRIs by providing exposure visits and involving them in the planning and monitoring of the scheme.
- Increased the income by availing 100 days of work in rural areas and strengthened the rural economy through creating durable assets.
- Brought community together by involving large numbers of Women, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (SCs/STs) and other traditionally marginalised sections of society to access the schemes of MGNREGA and build the community self-resilient.

# People's Action in Development (PAID)



## Programme Overview



### REVENUE INCREASED

Income of **7162** people of 18 villages has been increased to three times

Due to the heavy drought nature of the Balangir, scale of rural poverty in the area remains daunting. Most rural villagers are landless labourers; they are dependent on selling their labour during seasonal peaks where rewards are minimal and opportunities are few; the rest of the year they have no regular income for which they got migrated for other places

As agriculture is one of the main livelihood activities for most of the tribes in the district, and the peoples of the tribe suffers from dry land AJSA has commenced an initiative of People's Action in Development (PAID) with an objective of ensuring sustainable agriculture, farmer profitability and ensure safety of food and water sources supported by BRLF.

## Activities & Accomplishments

### Identification of House Hold

The PRI members identified the household's needs after visiting their door step and interacting with the family members. The members make the community aware that how they can make their livelihood sustainable through the convergence of MGNREGA.

### Social & Resource Mapping

Village level mapping has been prepared for **1800 families** to enhance their livelihood with the intervention of staffs of AJSA in the evening hours as per the availability of the members of the family. Here, the staffs of AJSA depicted the information relating to the MGNREGS registration of individual of the family, employment and individual asset creation status to reduce short term as well as long term vulnerability through employment and asset creation.

### Preparation of Seasonal matrices

During the preparation of seasonal matrices, the staffs of AJSA find out the seasonality of livelihoods and employment. During the period it was found, employment was varied between different communities and between women and men.

Ascertain the availability of seasonal labour the staffs of AJSA planned for work of agriculture, increase wage employment, reduce the percentage of migration by associating the community with MGNREGA work and conservation of forest resources.

### Awareness campaign at village level

To generate awareness and maintain the sustainable livelihood of the draught prone community, **AJSA has organised awareness programme at 24 villages** of Bongomunda block with the participation of **648 farmers** and **480 JSC members** during the year. The village community awaked on the different schemes and facilities of the govt facilitated during drought by organising village level meetings. The inhabitants of the villages were also informed about the importance of MGNREGA and how the work of MGNREGA impact their livelihood in a distinct way by organising street plays and dance by the community members. AJSA also arranged one mega awareness meetings at village level at Gandarla by **associating 400 participants** from Barkani, Batharla, Jhinkipada and Danijhar GPs.



**SHG WITH  
4.6 MILLION  
ASSETS**

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**40 SHG has  
raised their  
savings to  
Rs.40,67,200/-**

### Strengthening of SHG Federation

Empowerment of community for the livelihood of the individual basically at the tribe and SC & SC communal areas. AJSA has been striving for the empowerment of the women Self Help Groups in its operational area since its inception. With a view to empower the community & strengthen the federation AJSA has formed **70 SHG in 18 villages of Bongomunda block** of Bolangir district. And the effort of 40 SHGs by farming of vegetables, onion, cotton, goat and poultry have made them self-determining for their livelihood during the year. The SHG has raised their savings to Rs.40,67,200/- and this makes them self-reliant.

### Enhancing capacity of Job Seekers Committee

Mobilizing the community households for job demand, getting job cards & timely wage payment to the worker is the prime objective of AJSA. For this AJSA has formed and enhanced the capacity of **120 Job Seekers Committee Members** to look out the issues in operational area at GP level. During the year AJSA worked at Gandarla, Bhursaguda, Chandotara, and Alanda GP of Bongomunda block and mobilised the households for the work registration and helped the job seekers for applying job card with the support of JSC by involving the JSC leaders, JRS and junior engineers.

*"I am Hruga Nag leaving with two family members at Gandarla Village of Bongamunda Block, Bolangir district. Despite being the owner of 2 acres of land, I have to work as a daily agronomy wage worker to meet the daily needs of my family. But this year with the help of Horticulture department and support of AJSA I got a K.B. Pump. By using which I had lifted the water to the barren & upland and cultivated vegetables and crops. It's only the efforts of staff of AJSA from whom I got the knowledge and purchased 2 kg tomato seeds from horticulture department and harvested the land with tomato where I have earned more than Rs.1,00,000/-. Now I can think to use the money for repairing of my house and make a small savings for my future"*

*-Hruga Nag*



### Capacity Building of PRI members



*Strengthening the capacity of PRIs on the convergence & implementation of MGNREGA*

AJSA supports the community to make them aware regarding their rights and responsibility in the society by organizing gram sabha meetings. To reiterate the activities of local authorities in govt. provided schemes at village level, AJSA has organized meetings at block level with the participation of PRI members consisting of Sarpanch, BDO, Ward member, GRS, EOs. In the meetings the role and responsibility of local govt. authorities, working strategy of NREGS and impact of palli sabha and gram sabhas discussed. The plan for convergence and its implementation are too the topics covered in the training session of PRIs.



## PROTECTION AGAINST DEFORESTATION

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Created forest by  
planting trees in  
**10 hectares** of land

### Strengthening Forest Management Committee

Forests are the most efficient climate mitigation tools of the country. With the aim of conservation of forests and to empower villagers, AJSA works tirelessly to improve relationships and communication between the forest department and local communities living outside protected areas with the help of forest management committee. **3 meeting were organized to strengthen the forest management committee** at Gandarla, Chandotara, Bhursaguda GP where the members were awaked regarding the forest management and forest conservation and the members became the initiators of forest protector at village level.

### Production of Vermin compost

To enhance the organic firming at village level AJSA has created **awareness at 4 villages** regarding the importance of organic firming and drawbacks of chemical fertilizers for the crops. As a result, **220 households have prepared vermin compost** for their land and used it in during the farming.

### Land Intensification by SRI method

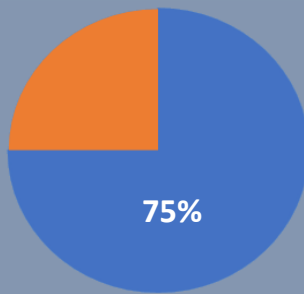
The rural community of the Bongomuda is underprivileged and mostly tribe. Due to the poor percentage of literacy, inhabitants of the community do not have the adequate knowledge on crop intensification. As a result, they starve after the season of agronomy goes by. With the aim to increase the yield of rice production AJSA has identified 1000 farmers to train them the SRI technic which can be helpful during cultivation. Initially AJSA has organized the training programme on SRI technic and built the capacity of 300 farmers. This **time, 300 farmers have increased their yield of rice by 80%** that flourishes the objective of AJSA for strengthening the livelihood of 300 families.

## WAY FORWARD.....

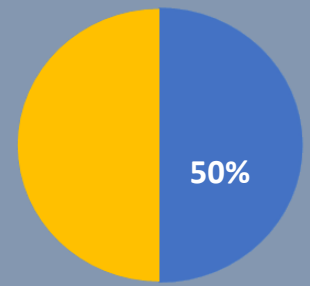
- Reduced the vulnerability of water scarcity at village level.
- Intensified the concept of Organic Farming and vermin compost in the rural communities
- Created awareness for planting trees under MGNREGA schemes and strengthen the volume of forest in rural communities.
- Generated awareness and helped the community to avail Social securities.
- Involved the households in MGNREGA for 100 days of work and sustain the livelihood of deprived communities.
- Minimized the migration ratio in the operational areas of Balangir district



Total population of 95,376



Agriculture risk during flood



Marginal farmers



# Enhancing Resilient Livelihoods to Reduce Disaster Risk in Odisha

## Programme Overview

Since June 2017, AJSA has been implementing the disaster risk reduction through livelihood intervention project in Subalaya, Jatesingha and Bagbar G.P of Birmaharajpur block in Sonepur district under the aegis of Caritas India. The GPs are based in Mahanadi Basin and it has been frequently affected by floods in each and every alternate year. In Subalaya GP 50% of people are dependent on weaving clothes, fishing, daily labour and share cropper and other 50% people are small and marginal farmers who have been affected by the frequent floods. Thus, 70 % people in Jatesingha GP and 80% people in Baghbar GP are dependent on agriculture that is risky during flood.

The target group comprises 500 farmers and 448 landless and marginal farmers and the strategy for the project is to build the capacity of the target communities for achieving additional 20-30% increased income for their livelihood like agriculture, fishing, livestock rearing and from other resource-based incomes. Emphasize has been given continuously to mobilize and linkage of the community with various sources of Govt. schemes such as MGNREGA, agriculture, horticulture, KVK, NRLM etc.

## Activities & Accomplishment

### Community Mobilization

Established the linkages with local communities, PRI members and key stakeholders including SHG members, Aanganwadi workers, ASHA, village volunteers and GRS by organizing village level meetings and one-to-one discussion at village and panchayat level in the project areas.

### Capacity Building of SHG

20 SHGs have been oriented about the project objectives which makes them able to broadcast the ideas of the project with other women and now the members of SHGs have taken lead in off farm livelihood works for the beneficiaries.

  
**DISASTER  
RESILIENT  
LIVELIHOOD FOR  
3625 FAMILIES**

**Ensured livelihood  
security of 948  
households  
through  
Sustainable eco-  
system, disaster  
resilient livelihood  
and climate smart  
agriculture**



Suratha Badhia, 58 years is a resident of Nuapada village of Subalaya G.P. is a farmer and farming is the main source of income for his livelihood. During one home visit, it was found by our staff, Surath was quite interested to learn different techniques of cultivation and organic farming. He learned about the resilient crop and organic cultivation while he was in Farmers Club.

"I brought watermelon seed and sown in my one acre of land. As I am member of Farmers club and learnt the technics, I have taken care of my land with watering and watching at night time."

**"These days watermelons at my farm are growing and I am waiting for a good income."**



### Capacity Building of Staffs

The capacity of staffs of AJSA have been strengthened with skills such as: the training on NPM organized by Samaj Pragati Shayog (SPS) Madhya Pradesh, training on Disaster Management organized by Biswa Yubak Kendra, integrating plan to reduce Disaster Risk organised by Oxfam India. Besides the 2<sup>nd</sup> river conference was also attended by the staffs of AJSA at Sambalpur.

### Formation & Strengthening of farmers club

Eight numbers of farmers clubs have been formed in Kelgaon, Govind Pur, Keuti Pali, Nuapada, Godhaneswar, Phulchara, Kumarsingha and Nuagarh villages that has created some exemplary demonstrations of resilient crops and vegetables and became the showcase for other farmers to learn from. The members of farmers clubs have also been oriented regarding its function and various govt. schemes of agriculture.



*Demonstrations of resilient crops and vegetables*

## Vision building exercise

A vision building exercise program was organised at Subalya with the participation of 50 members of 9 villages of three GPs with an objective to increase income and sustainable development of the off-farm beneficiaries.

## PRA executed in villages

PRA has been conducted in 9 villages to make the HVRC assessments that we can assess the actual issues and the gaps of the villagers. The villagers were seen very active when the PRAs were made for their villages. Social, resource and sessional mapping has been drawn by the communities with the facilitation of AJSA staffs



*Execution of PRA in 9 villages*



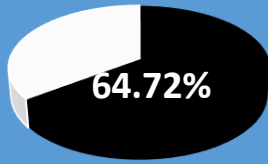
*Farmers trained on Resilient crop cultivation*

## Training on resilient crop cultivation

A training was organised by AJSA on 30<sup>th</sup> January 2018 at Kelgaon with the participation of 50 farmers including 13 females. The farmers took care of training on indigenous seed, the organic method and the resilient seed of mainly paddy, pulses, vegetables and the process of the cultivation system which becomes the best practices for other farmers of the operational areas.

## WAY FORWARDS.....

- Sensitization program for families on the need of identifying appropriate crops and vegetables and on soil testing
- Formation of farmers club and strengthening of farmers club
- Training on resilient crop cultivation for families
- Exposure visits of the farmer to successful areas and different models
- Vision building exercise with the selected members



Literacy rate in the working GP



Nearly 10,000 Children Migrate every year



More than 12,000 children suffer from child labour in Balangir

## EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMME



### Programme Overview



### SHAPING FUTURES of

More than **1500** students including **235** migrant children, **187** school drop outs and **224** non-school going children

Education is not preparation for life; education is life itself. At AJSA, we believe that education is the keystone of success and is the most important solution to break the vicious cycle of poverty. With a family income of less than 2000 the rural poor often struggle to meet basic needs. They are the absolute bottom of the pyramid. The lower the household income level, the more desperate is the condition for the children. In such situations, education becomes the first thing to be dispensable. Every such drop-out is an opportunity lost. Even if they were to complete schooling, they would be completely unprepared for any kind for subsequent career opportunities due to the poor quality of education and they can only work somewhere with meagre pay. Without education, a labourer's child will grow up to be a labourer only.

AJSA's Bridge School cum Children's Learning and Development Center (CLDC) programme attempts to break this cycle and it is designed to transform the lives of the underprivileged children by providing them access to high quality education through academic sponsorships. The Bridge School Programme is a hands-on programme and adopts holistic approach with regard to the development of these children by providing them with education, healthcare and counselling support for better education. Even the parents of the children are counselled about the importance of education.

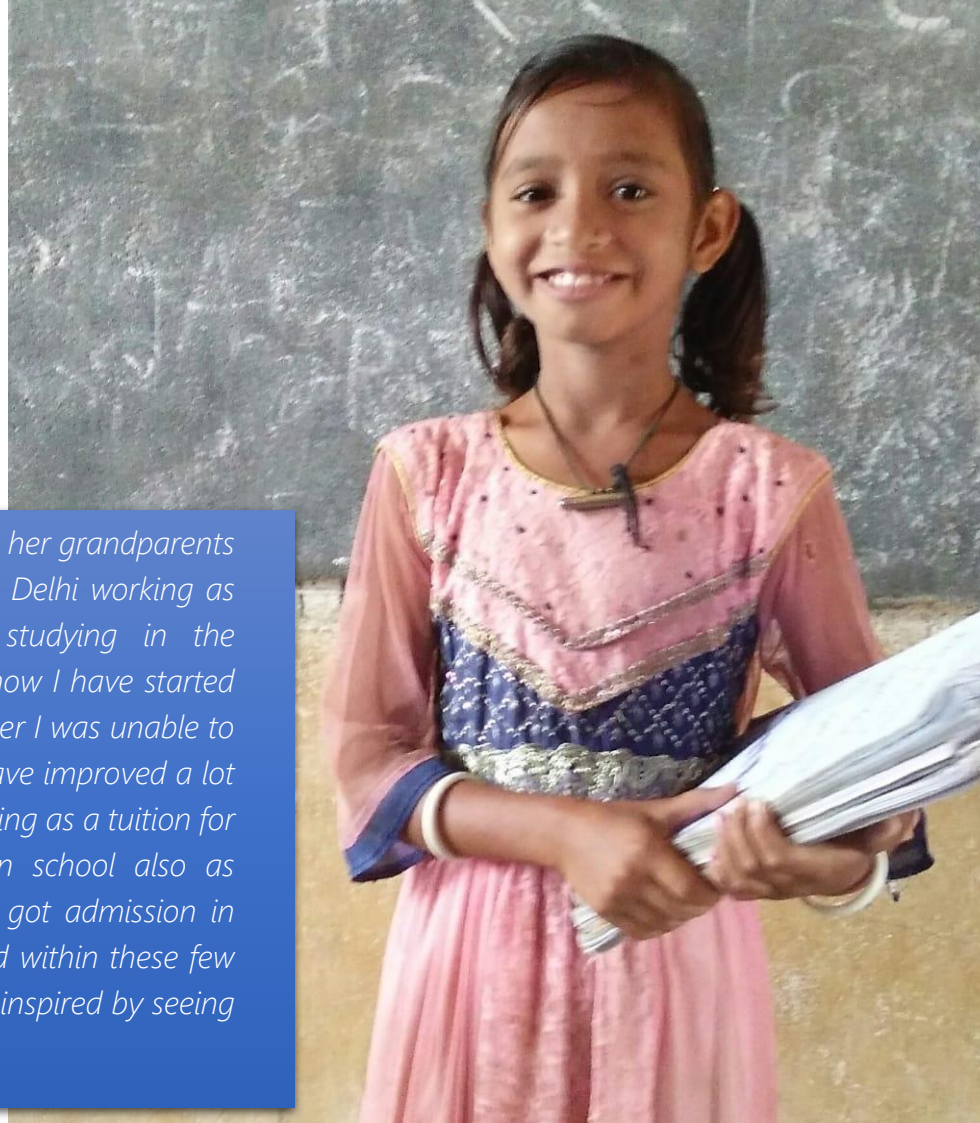


Total No. of Children 2,16,320



40% Of Children Going to School between the age of 6 to 14

AJSA works with a network of 27 schools, with the support of SCHIL located in close to the communities. Children are monitored at home and at school by its barefoot teachers through regular meetings with parents and the school regarding attendance, performance and health of the children.



*Jyoti Jani is a 10 years old girl living with her grandparents in Barthala village. Her parents stay in Delhi working as daily labourers. Jyoti says, "I am studying in the government school in our village and now I have started going to the nearest Bridge school. Earlier I was unable to read even the Odia letters but now, I have improved a lot in my study as the bridge school is working as a tuition for me and I have started doing well in school also as comparison to my other classmates. I got admission in Bridge School on December month and within these few months I have learnt many things I get inspired by seeing the staffs of AJSA here who teaches us."*

***"I can teach my youngsters too."***

This motivates us for the change that it has brightened the perception and the commitment to education that has created in the poor and migrant families. Most of their children performs well in school and utilize the opportunities that come their way. In the year 2017-18, 73% of the students scored above 80% in their overall assessment. Average attendance was increased by 89% across all school which can be consider as the achievement of Bridge schools.

## Activities & Accomplishments

### Awareness Programme on Education

Most of the people in rural areas of our targeted blocks are daily labourers and having poor knowledge about education. With a view to bring awareness about Right to Education (RTE) Act, AJSA has organised an awareness programme on education at AJSA Sundhimunda office. The students of Bridge School generated awareness on the importance of education and its impact by raising slogans and holding placards and banners in these campaigns in nearby villages. More than 150 children along with their teachers participated in this programme. The students raised the voice for girl child education by saying "Educate the girls and empower the nation" and "Every girl has rights to learn! Educate girls" on this occasion. Counselling programme to the parents about the importance of the education was also conducted during the day.

### Capacity Building of Barefoot Teachers

Training is essential for the teachers with not so high qualifications. The teachers who were selected for the Bridge School are mostly school dropouts, who need constant training to improve the quality of teaching and upgrade the knowledge base. To build their capacity AJSA has organized training programme at Sundhimunda office of AJSA. The teachers were instructed about many useful elements of the bridge school programme including the teaching techniques, proper management, conducting classes using appropriate teaching aids, meeting parents individually and in groups, arranging study tours and outings and creating awareness about the importance of education etc.

### Health Check-up Camp at Bridge School

Healthy mind lives in healthy body. To improve the health of children and awareness of parents, AJSA has organised **health camps in a gap of 2 months in each Bridge school**. In the Health Camps the health screening of all the children were conducted. The children were informed about the **importance of hand washing before and after eating to maintain hygiene**, performing yoga daily and the importance of playing sports and inculcating other healthy habits to avoid falling sick.



Learning & Sports materials provided by AJSA to the students of Bridge School

### Supporting of Educational & Sports Aids

Most of the children learned at Bridge School are from nearby areas and living in a below poverty line. Though the government provides necessary infrastructure to inspire the students to come to school regularly, most of them were off from school because of lack of necessary learning materials. To encourage their learning interest, AJSA provided those study materials such as note books, writing materials and sports material and helped them to continue their schooling.

### Children's festival at Block level

A block level children's festival was organized at AJSA Sundhimunda office with objective to nurture their childhood and comprehend them that they are the future of our nation.

More than 300 children of 27 CLDCs along with Bridge school teachers participated in the programme including PRI members, SHG Leaders, Govt. school teachers who have been inspiring the community to educate their child and stop child labour in every day communication. During the programme several competitions like drawing, debate and singing was organised to make the children more enthusiastic for education and to build their self-reliance for prosperous future. At the end of the programme prizes were distributed by the guests to the winners of different competitions.

Children participated in different activities on Children's festival





### Observance of Environment Day

To generate awareness and action for the protection of our environment our Bridge School children came together at AJSA Sundhimunda office and observed the world environment day on 5th June 2017. **More than 200 students participated in the programme** and realized that it is our responsibility to care of the earth and to become agents in developing environmental and safety measures.

### Observance of Independence Day

Independence day was observed on 15<sup>th</sup> August 2017 in all 27 Bridge School Centers of Bolangir where children, teachers along with the villagers actively took part. On this occasion, the children shared the aim and objective of the day. Other than this they organized awareness campaign for Swachh Bharat among the community people in each Bridge School area. On this occasion children planted sapling to make our environment healthy and green.



### Strengthening of VEC & PTA

To strengthen the communication and bridge gap between the VEC, PTA and community, AJSA has organised numbers of Village Education Committee (VEC) and Parents Teacher Association (PTA) meetings during the period. There the members discussed about the development of Bridge School Programme and how their children progressing in the Bridge School by involvement of the whole community in the activity of Bridge School.



Besides, during the meetings, AJSA staff along with the barefoot teachers, have been engaged with the communities to seek their support and participation in the bridge school programme.

### Monthly Review Meeting



*Secretary taking the review of activities in a monthly meeting*

To review the current progress against ideal progress of the Bridge School, every month a review meeting has been organised by AJSA throughout the year. All meetings were attended by the Secretary of AJSA, Programme Manager of AJSA, respective Bridge School teachers and the programme officer of the Bridge School programme. The meeting includes reviews and discussion of all initiatives taken at Bridge School for student education and on the loopholes that can be eliminated in future for the children's better education.

In addition, more focus was given on the attendance of the student and plan of action has been prepared for the next month for Bridge School.

### WAY FORWARDS....

- The Bridge School programme for unreached tribal areas other than the operating Gram Panchayats.
- Value addition to the programme with the support of nutritional support other than the education.
- Children become the Agents of Change in their communities.



## Some Other Activities

### Inaugural of State Coordination Office at Bhubaneswar

Since last 24 years AJSA has been working for the empowerment & mainstreaming of deprived village people of western Odisha by giving emphasis on landless, small & marginal farmer, backward rural women, children, ST, SC & Dalit communities where we strive to establish an alternative and prosperous rural social order. With an aim of taking the matter to frontline and bringing the deprived to the mainstream. The state coordination office of AJSA (Anchalika Jana Seva Anusthan) has opened in the state capital, Bhubaneswar on 4th February, 2018.

Sri Pravat Ranjan Mohapatra, Deputy Relief Commissioner, Odisha; Ms. Abha Mishra, State Head UNDP, Odisha and Sri Akshya Biswal, Regional Head, OXFAM-India inaugurated the office along the participation of 30 delegates from different organisations of Govt., INGOs, and Corporates.



Secretary, AJSA Mr. Banshidhar Behera coordinated the programme and demonstrated the participants about how AJSA has performed as one of the catalyst at grassroots for liberty and empowerment of western Odisha for last one decade. Besides, he expressed his pleasure for opening of state office and wished for better coordination with the stakeholders at state level.

# “AGGA MOVEMENT”

## ADARSH GRAM GATHAN ABHIYAN

*"AJSa improves lives, expands opportunities, and helps societies flourish across a dynamic and developing Odisha in India. We work with innovative leaders and communities to build effective institutions and advance path breaking reforms. With our innovative approaches of AGGA initiative, we are committed to build a peaceful, just, and thriving communities in our operational areas."*





## SUMMARY OF

# DIFFERENT INTERVENTION'S UNDERTAKEN

## BY AJSA IN AGGA MOVEMENT

In order to reduce the vulnerability of rural downtrodden communities, it is vital that people should be capable of taking up occupations that provide sufficient income, create proper resources at village level and lead to self-reliant & dignified life for them. By realizing this few initiatives and interventions were organized to improve the quality of lives by enhancing livelihood opportunities and by addressing food security, social injustice to ensure a self-reliant mechanism at the village level ,through “**Adarsh Gram Gathan Abhiyan (AGAA)**” that is driven by 3 core principles, “MADA MUKTI,THANA MUKTI,MAHAJAN MUKTI VILLAGES (Liquor Free ,Police Station Free and Money Lender’s Exploitation Free Villages)”.Through this concept and with Gandhian ideology we continued our work from one village to another village. By our relentless efforts, and through 3 core founding principles, at present many villages are liquor free, police station free and money lender free. Now problems are solved in villages itself. There is no need to go to police station. By the help of grain banks and Gram panthis, the villages are now-money lender (Local Mahajan) free and their exploitation is minimized.

The mission was begun in 1989 by AJSA, and is continuing independently without any funding support. Every year we are creating new milestones through our interventions undertaken by AGGA initiative. These interventions are rooted in social and gender equity, economic and environmental sustainability, and strong people’s institutions. We strive to realize, through our work, accountability, transparency and inclusion. Through our constant efforts, we have addressed the problems of high indebtedness, scanty and unequal land distribution, tribal land alienation, high rates of illiteracy, starvation deaths, the regular occurrence of drought, issues related to migration, food scarcity, lack of essential health services and minimum education facilities in our operational areas. The following pages will illustrate the activities under taken by AJSA under AGAA Movement, along with the major achievements of the year.

Through our efforts, we aim to broaden the opportunities available to the poor by strengthening their ability to create for themselves and their families, in one of the most poverty-stricken yet resourceful regions in India. The organization currently serves a population of over 1.24 Lakh people across 224 villages in three districts of Odisha.

# Programme Highlights

## Livelihood Security



AJSA works with over **30,000** small and marginal producers and helps them towards establishing sustainable livelihoods systems. Promotion and working with self-help groups, skill building, community enterprise for livelihood diversification are some of the areas of intervention of AJSA.

## Education



In our operational areas Tribal Girl Children's Enrolment in School increased

to **60%**.

**4 Night schools** has been ongoing by Volunteers of AJSA, where elder women, men and children are getting basic Education in Bongomunda block of Balangir.

## Health



People's access to primary health services has been increased to about

**50%**.

AJSA is regularly checking the representation of PRI members, by making provision of training and orientation programmes for Health workers, ANMs, Aanganwadis and PRIs for the effective implementation of various Government health schemes.

## Gender Equality



**1035**

Women leaders of **152** SHG groups mobilizing thousands of others.

**200**

Trained Volunteers/SHG leaders exercising for their civil & human rights

Participation of women in village development processes has increased to **50%**.

## Water & Sanitation



**2** Water User

Associations formed in Kalahandi.

AJSA motivates and mobilizes communities to build their own water and sanitation systems, by mobilizing different Govt. programmes.

## Environment



**16,224**

hectares of forest land has been protected by communities, protected

by **64** Forest

Protection Committees.

To revitalize the pesticide free movement, AJSA has been promoting Organic Farming widely in all operational areas.

## Disaster Risk Management



**54** Disaster

Management Committees have been actively involved in the promotion of different disaster risk reduction and Disaster preparedness activities.

**850**

Quintals of Paddy Stored in Grain banks

## Governance



PDS Distribution is regularizing in **44** villages through the collective effort of the VDC members and community leaders.

AJSA works to strengthen community members by providing them with training, workshops, practical support & through various capacity building initiatives.

## Focal Area 1- Livelihood Security



- Facilitate processes for enhancing capacity of natural and human resources to enable livelihood security
- Promote appropriate & ecologically conducive mechanisms for increasing food production to promote household level food security.

### 1- Livelihood Promotion

Livelihood diversification linked with increased incomes and savings are critical for reducing vulnerability of rural communities, especially in times of disasters. In the non-farm livelihoods sector, AJSA's efforts are focused on promotion of self-help groups, skill building, community enterprise in processing of agricultural and minor forest produces and technological application for livelihood promotion.

### 2- Entrepreneurship Development

AJSA works towards the promotion of women groups and federations by empowering them through the integration of various self-income generation programs and leadership building programs to fortify and cater the needs of rural women to make them self-reliant. To build up these processes in a proper way a federation has been functioning by the members of SHG groups in Bongomunda block under co-operative society act., in collaboration with AJSA named as **"Bharat Janani Swayan Shayak Limited"**. The members of the cooperatives were trained and as a result of that they are able to run fair price shops, collection and marketing NTFPs, linking with banks, developing micro-enterprises and also internal money lending like a loan.

During the last few years, the SHGs and the cooperative society have successfully raised their own funds, without any outside funding support other than bank.

### 3- Food Security



**87 Tonnes of paddy stored in 34 villages**

Before Creation of Sashya panthis (Grain and seed banks), people were living with dire poverty and semi starvation. They were being pauperized by money lenders. AJSA started formation of grain banks & seed banks, to address these problems. In every village farmer had deposited 3 manns (15 kgs) of grain and seed after harvesting. Gradually the amount of seed and grain started increasing day by day and year by year. The stock in the grain banks provides food security for a period of two to four months in years of crop failure. **Presently 870 quintals (87.0 Tonnes) of paddy has been stored in 34 villages of Balangir.** Now the scenario has changed. There is no need to take loan from outside. Villagers take loan from their own bank in lean periods and in the time of drought.

## Focal Area II - EDUCATION



- Enable and promote people's access to basic education.
- Provide opportunities for education up to high school level for tribal children from remote and isolated habitations.

Access to education for all eligible children is a prime focus area of AJSA. To ensure all children receive primary education, AJSA emphasizes on the importance of education to communities. Village committees, with support from AJSA staff, ensure proper functioning of existing government schools and enrolment of all eligible boys and girls. Special emphasis is given to motivate dropouts to re-enroll.

### Education for All Campaign



Mobile library  
with near about  
**60,000**  
books

As an intellectual organization AJSA has been working on RTE issues from the very beginning in remotest parts of Odisha. AJSA has undertaken various Education awareness programs and campaigns in the remotest parts of Odisha. The campaign is popularly known as "Sampurna Sakhyrata- Gram Swaraj Aabhiyan" – Padhi Padhaiba Karjyakrama. It's supporting the development of vocational education and training programs. In cooperation with public authorities, development agencies and Govt. lined departments, AJSA has been actively promoting education programs like Sarba Sikhya Abhiyan and Education for All programmes to spread the message in every corner of its operational areas. Beside this, **4 Night schools** have been ongoing by volunteers of AJSA, where elder women, men and children are getting basic education in Bongomunda block of Balangir. To provide basic knowledge to the rural communities relating health, education, science, history, culture, current affairs and general knowledge etc. AJSA has also opened a library named as **Mobile Mibrary for Rural People (M.L.R.P.)**, where **nearly 60,000 books** are available on above mentioned Topics.

## Focal Area III- HEALTH



- Enable and promote people's access to primary health services
- Promote community-based mechanisms for maternal and child health care

AJSA motivates and enables communities to access government health services for basic medicines, immunization of eligible children and maternal health care etc. Timely detection and treatment of malaria, diehheria, tuberculosis and HIV-AIDS and control form another part of the intervention. To achieve the objective of creating a healthier society through improved preventive measures, AJSA organizes awareness programs on different health and hygiene related issues.

Aiming at achieving behavioural change, AJSA uses different innovative methods to pass the message by organizing awareness campaigns, street plays, puppet shows etc. to take various health issues to the community. Involving children and youth in awareness programmes like rallies, debates etc. are another strategy. Through these activities, AJSA ensures maximum number of people including PRI members, ICDC & Anganwadi workers, benefit from such programmes.

## Focal Area IV- Gender Equality



AJSA has been at the forefront of efforts to support women's rights, empowerment, and gender equality by mainstreaming gender through the integration of gender equality perspective in all its programs and interventions. Few of the same are working around self-help groups, women federations, leadership development, entrepreneurship building, and education in its innovative movement "Adarsh Gram Gathan Abhiyan.

### 1 - Enhancing Women's Participation

From the very beginning, AJSA has persistently working with women groups and committees at the village, Panchayat and block levels to help them address issues of denial of rights and privileges by organizing them into self-help groups and cooperative societies to gain a stronger voice. This space enables women to develop the confidence that they need to be able to speak out even when men are there. In a village council meeting, this allows women to play a greater role in the decision-making process.

The objective behind formation of self-help groups is to help women increase their savings and access small credits. But gradually this turned into a platform that enhanced the capacities, where women speak out and gain confidence by enabling them to voice their opinions in village meetings (Gram Sabhas) and become active participants in the village development process.

### 2- Mobilizing Women at the Grassroots Level to Build Self-reliant Actions through Self Help Groups

Formation and strengthening of SHGs have been one of the focused programs of AJSA since its inception. These SHGs are making use of their saving for starting income generating activities such as agriculture, livestock rearing, horticulture, raising nurseries, pisciculture, vegetable cultivation, collective marketing, managing of public distribution system, goat rearing and leaf-plate making form some of the enterprises taken up by members of SHGs. etc. Generally self-help group unites 10 to 15 members of the community, who commit to jointly make savings every month. As the fund grows, the members may borrow money from the fund. To support these self-help groups AJSA provides support and capacity building, including basic record keeping, financial training and supports groups to undertake income-generating activities.

These small informal women groups provide working capital loans to their members and encourage improved savings habits. They also address the issue of women's marginalization; being disproportionately under privileged in income generation and other economic activities, such as money management. SHGs offers a unique opportunity to empower women within the household and the community. The initiative undertaken by the SHGs has enabled the women and their families to reduce their dependence on money-lenders and has given them a greater financial security.

## Focal Area V- WATER & SANITATION



While examining the root cause of poverty and backwardness, it was found that lack of access to safe drinking water is a major cause of ill health and loss of productivity. It is also perhaps the principal cause of life-threatening diseases among infants and children. Access to safe drinking water and securing a healthy living environment are therefore key aspects of AJSA's approach to community health.

The intervention in sanitation and protected water supply is one of the core activities in community health. Over 80% of instances of morbidity in rural areas can be traced to water-borne diseases. AJSA motivates and mobilizes communities to build their own water and sanitation systems, by availing different schemes like RWSS and MGNREGA etc. The unique AGGA approach ensures that all households in the habitation are covered and everyone benefits equally from the development process.

## Focal Area VI- ENVIRONMENT

### 1-Management of natural resources



Land, water and forests are the three most important resources for the people living in rural areas. Intensive work is carried out by AJSA in enhancing food security and improving environmental resistance to drought through effective land, water and forest management practices. Communities recognize the fact that sustainability of natural resources will also determine food security and sustainable livelihoods for themselves. AJSA supports village communities in undertaking sustainable management of natural resources through a variety of interventions in promoting community forestry, horticulture, land and water conservation and development.

### 2- Community forestry in 64 villages

AJSA has a firm belief that conserving forests are absolutely necessary for the long-term survival. For livelihood option for the rural communities, forestry is an environmentally friendly method of forest management that involves the local community as part of the management process.



The communities recognize the fact that sustainability of the natural resources will also determine food security and sustainable livelihoods for themselves. From the beginning AJSA promotes social forestry because it supports sustainable livelihoods and recognizes the rights of individuals to forest resources.



Protecting  
**16,224**  
hectares of  
forests

AJSA motivates communities to collectively manage their social forestry plantations. These activities raised the income of the community and community-management and sharing of the benefits gradually developed community unity. Today there are about 64 village level FPCs covering and protecting around 16,224 hectares of forests in Bongomunda and Beguniapada block of Balangir and Ganjam district of Odisha. Now these forests are totally in community control. Each family used to contribute some amount of food grain every month to meet the expenses of the protection work. These strategies not only raised community income, but also increased the sense of community ownership of resources through the cooperative management of land. This has now become one of the best success stories regarding safeguarding a forest through community participation.

### 3-Organic Farming

Only organic methods can help small family farms survive, increase farm productivity, repair decades of environmental damage. It is a holistic production management system which promotes and enhances agro-ecosystem health, including biodiversity, biological cycles, and soil biological activity. In addition to revitalize pesticide free movement through AGGA and by recognizing the importance of organic farming in western Odisha, AJSA has taken various initiatives to promote and support organic production and SRI Paddy cultivation. These initiatives include building capacities in farmers, land labourers through training programmes, exposure visits etc.

## Focal Area VII- DISASTER PREVENTION AND PREPAREDNESS



AJSA contributes to the assessment and mitigation of natural hazards. Mainly to draught, flood, cyclone etc. We work to ensure that vulnerable communities are ready to face the effects of disasters & climate change and adapt accordingly. By this the negative impacts are reduced. Using traditional systems of knowledge sharing, we take advantage of existing community structures and leaders to channel information and learning down to every member of the communities we work with.

Especially in western Odisha, few activities have been initiated to help the communities in mean time and to reduce the risks of disaster.

In order to ensure the affected communities maintain a sustainable income, our work on climate change also focuses on livelihood security. For which AJSA has adopted and integrate disaster resilience by forming disaster management committees (DMCs) in its operational areas.



## 54 Disaster Management Committees are active

Now **54 Disaster Management Committees** are active in Balangir and Ganjam district. The Disaster Management committees are the team of elected bodies of in each Gram panchyats, promoted by AJSA. They have been actively involved in the promotion of different disaster risk reduction activities. Some are the formation and maintenance of grain bank seed banks, forest protection, organic farming and awareness creation activities.

## Focal Area VIII – GOVERNANCE

### 1-Self-Governing People's institutions



Capacity building of village institutions is an ongoing process and happens through workshops and discussions in structured training sessions as well as by practical handholding and support. AJSA works to strengthen community members by providing them with training, workshops, and practical support.

We strive to enable communities to develop and manage their resources and assets effectively and generate adequate livelihoods locally. We help create a common ground for villagers to come together to sow the seeds of "a village republic". Gradually increase of confidence, villager's influence to the systems of management and democratic governance of Panchayati Raj Institutions through the Panchayats and Gramsabhas are visible. Capacity building includes gender sensitization, education on health issues, and training on Right to Information (RTI) Act., public speaking, leadership development and skills development etc. Various SHG group members are elected by community members to support the Gaon Committees (Village Committee) to manage particular developmental activities such as agriculture, water, health, education, fish farming, forestry, etc.

### 2-Effective Implementation of Social Security Schemes

The people were informed and oriented on the various social security schemes of the government through VDC. In our project area the community organizations checked out strategy to ensure access of the vulnerable people to the food entitlements provided by the government under Antyoday Anna Yojana, Annapurna Yojana, Mid-Day Meal, ICDS, PDS, BPL rice and the support by the Anganwadis on a regular basis. The functioning of schools and Anganwadi centers were also regularly monitored, through the help women leader of SHG Groups.



- AJSA is Registered under Society registration Act of 1860, Registration No-1315-131 of 1990-91.
- Registered under Foreign Contribution Regulations Act. In the Ministry of Home Affairs Govt. Of India  
Registration No-104840090
- Registered under Income tax Act. U/s 12A& 80G
- Bearing PAN No- AAAAAA5545M



AJSA is headquartered in Bolangir District of Odisha In India, Operating Since 1989.

**Registered Address-**

**AJSA (Anchalika Jana Seva Anusthan)**  
**AT-Sundhimunda, Po-Chandoatara**  
**Via-Sindhekela, Dist-Bolangir (Odisha)**  
**PIN-767035, India**

**List of Governing Board Members**

Mr. Ashtami Tandi	Male	President
Mrs. Purnami Bhoi	Female	Vice- President
Mr. Banshidhar Behera	Male	Secretary
Mr. Phulchan Bag	Male	Vice-Secretary
Mr. Tirtha Bag	Male	Treasurer
Mrs. Dashmi Tandi	Female	Member
Mrs. Sukun Bhoi	Female	Member



**Notes on Governing Boards**

- No remuneration, sitting fees or any other form of composition was paid to any board members.
- No travel reimbursements were made to the board members attending board meetings and other office meetings.
- No board members are relative to another.
- Board rotation Policy is available, the board changes in every 5 year. The current governing board is effective from 03.09.2012.

The accounting period followed is from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2017 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018. Books of accounts are recorded manually. The entire accounting system is maintained on an accrual basis in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. Separate Books of accounts are maintained project-wise through an integrated accounting system. The depreciation on fixed assets is provided through the written-down value method in accordance with Income Tax Act, 1961.



#### **Our Auditors**

Jitendra Prusty & Associates, Bhubaneswar  
Odisha, India

#### **Our Bankers**

State Bank of India, Chandotara Branch,  
At/Po Chandotara, District Bolangir  
Pin- 767035, Odisha,  
India



All projects are managed by program co-coordinators of specific projects, who also reports chief-programme manager and management committee. All projects are centrally managed from the headquarters by the Secretary of organization. In addition to the above, there are specialist teams at the headquarters who provide need-based support to all ongoing projects: the Training and Education Research team, communication wing and the Project Monitoring team. Staff meetings are held at different project locations each month, after which all project coordinators come to the head office for sharing progress of work, problems faced and where additional support is needed.

Besides this, as an organisation, AJSA takes particular interest in enhancing the capacity of its personnel and encourages staff to undergo special training through various training and capacity building activities. Trainings & Capacity building of staff is an ongoing activity, which takes place through accompaniment in the field and periodic training programmes.



*“Facilitating Community Development Initiatives Since 1989”*



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Regd.No.1315-131 of 1990-91,  
Regd. Under FCRA Act in Ministry of Home Affairs,  
Regd. Under I.T. Act. 12 Av & 80 G

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