



ANNUAL REPORT

2018

anchalika jana seva anusthan
we learn | grow | achieve



Annual Report 2018



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Secretary's Note

The year 2017-18, was a year of reviews, reflections and evolution for AJSA to move forward and scale up. This has been a remarkable year for AJSA, as AJSA was bestowed by the prestigious Sprit of Humanity award (regional winner) of Amricares India Foundation for the contribution in the field of education in tribal areas. We are thankful to eNGO for giving us the opportunity for making AJSA on board as its out-reach partner for eNGO Challenge 2019. AJSA is also grateful to India Volunteer Network for its partnership in IVN Awards 2019 for promoting and showcasing the voluntary contributions made by diversified volunteers of India for building a resilient India. Since its inception, AJSA has taken up a number of activities to develop the livelihood and food security of tribal communities. Especially women and children who have been most vulnerable due to their poor socio-economic status and changing climatic conditions.

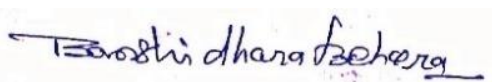
This year we have adopted 5 year community development approach and taken a target of 3000 families for making them self-reliant by 2023. For this, we have targeted 600 villages in 30 Gram Panchayats of 10 blocks from 6 districts of Odisha. Our approach is integrated, holistic and community-centred where community manages their own activities. This approach is a social development process through which the community will progress and it will be implemented through cluster of rural villages where women and men are mobilized to create and run their own programmes to meet their basic needs. Through this approach, the programme builds the capacity of rural women and men so that they can successfully achieve a self-reliant life with dignity.

During this year, the organization took various initiatives towards capacity building of the team through trainings which was organized internally as well as externally. We also tried to build an image of AJSA for the outside world by associating with other networks and continued our accreditation at GuideStar India platform with the transparency key for accountability.

Looking back, I feel proud that we have been able to come this far and to have changed the lives of primitive tribal groups. I have been fortunate to have people standing by my side who share the same passion of working towards bridging the huge gap between migration and employment. I, on behalf of staff, share my gratitude to the governing body members, community leaders, line department officials for their continuous support and trust.

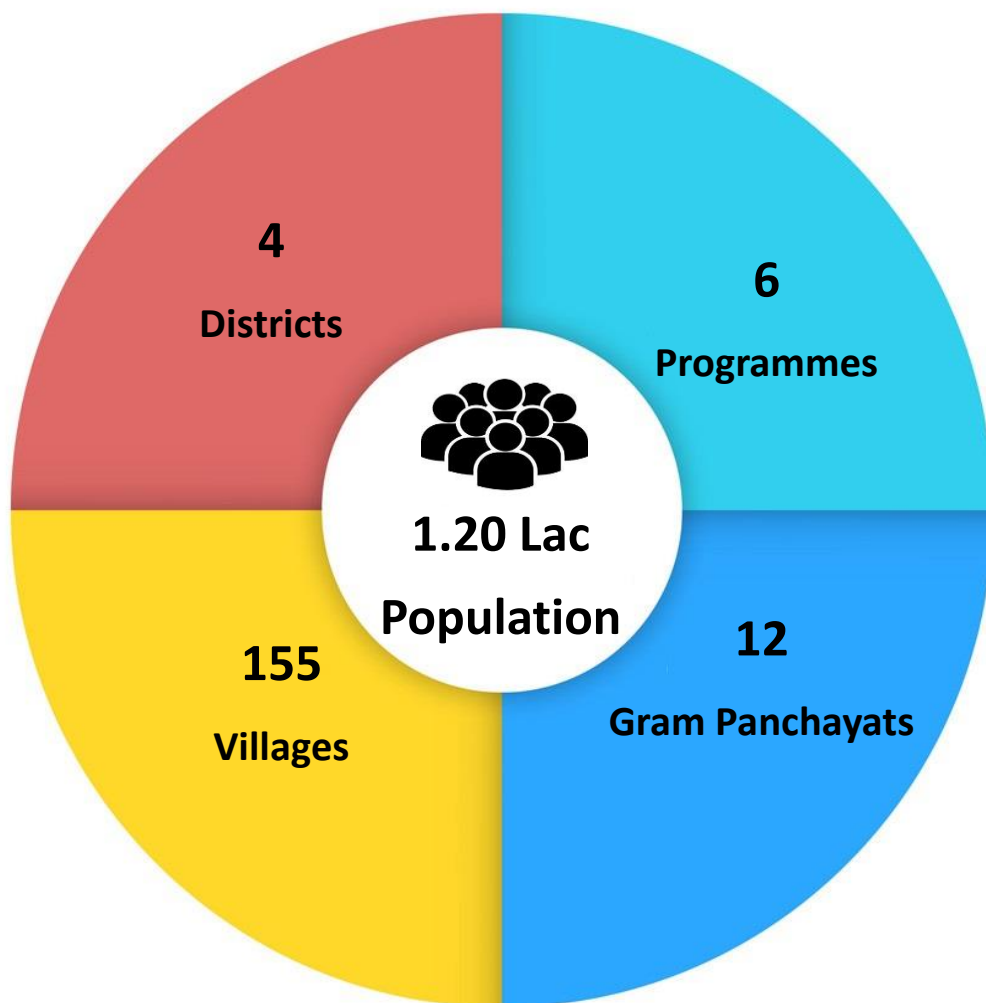
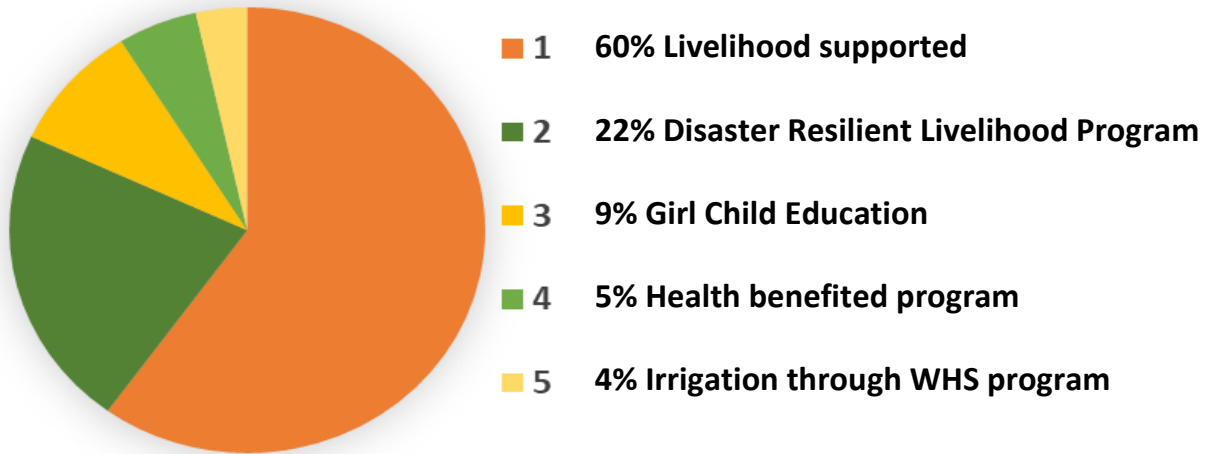
We are grateful to our donors, community members, well-wishers, friends and volunteers. As we look towards the current fiscal year, we are glad that we have so many committed donors who have supported us to build a society living with freedom and dignity.

Glimpses of our work are shared in the report. Read, reflect, join us. Looking forward for togetherness to achieve AJSA goal.



Secretary
AJSA

Our Activities at a Glance



About Us

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 downtrodden and under-privileged section in the remotest part of the country. It is a non-political, community based social development organisation involved in sustainable development initiatives since inception.

AJSA was formed by local poor people of Bongomnuda 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 vision of the organization is to draw upon grassroots level workers, volunteers, and suppressed people of the society and work with them to create awareness for sustainable development through constructive work and struggles. The spheres of its works 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 land less, small & marginal farmer, backward rural women, children, STs, SCs & dalit communities. Striving to establish an alternative and prosperous rural social order; this mercurial organisation has projected itself as the harbinger of grassroots liberty and empowerment of western Odisha for last three decades.



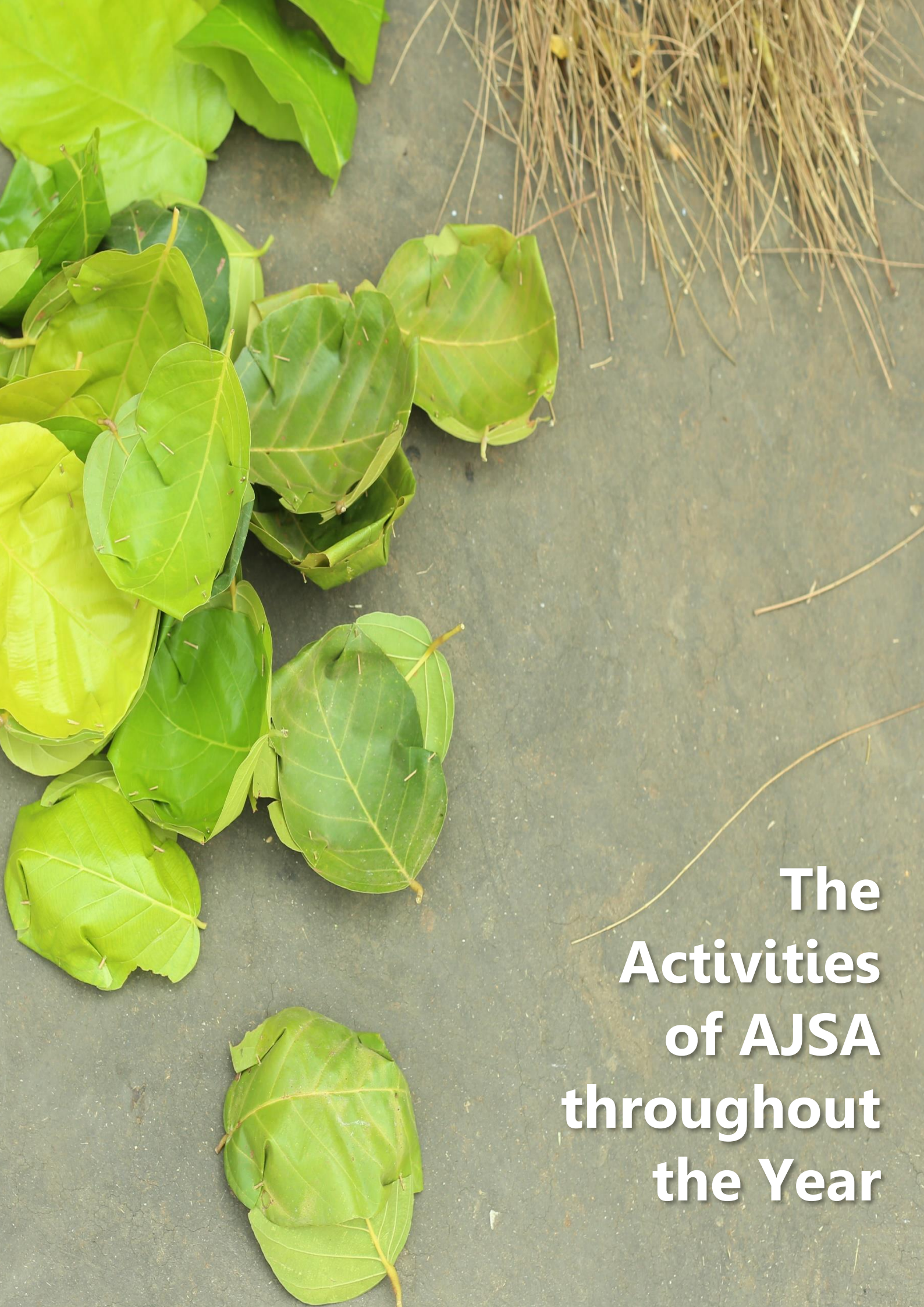
A photograph of two young children, a boy and a girl, smiling and looking towards the camera. They are standing in a rustic, possibly rural, environment. The boy is wearing a yellow t-shirt and the girl is wearing a blue t-shirt. They are both holding onto a wooden post. The background is dark and appears to be the interior of a simple structure. The overall tone is warm and positive.

Our Vision

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

Our Mission

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

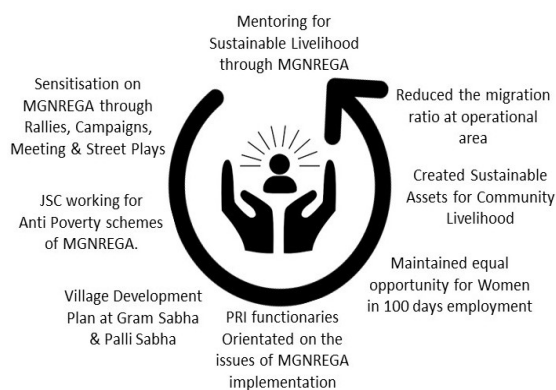


**The
Activities
of AJSA
throughout
the Year**

Sustainable Livelihood Through MGNREGA



“In this programme, we have involved 4955 households which includes landless, small and marginal farmers, migrant families, indebted families who live below poverty line and belongs from SC, ST and Other Backward Castes (OBCs) communities. With the successive implementation of MGNREGA, the beneficiaries have created sustainable livelihood and 33 durable assets in 24 villages of Bongomunda block of Balangir district”.



New Initiatives

- Supported the beneficiaries to add them in old age pension scheme.
- Created awareness about the schemes of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojna, Indira Awas Yojana and Nirman Sramik Pucca Ghar Yojana in the community to get the support to build their home.
- Liaison for SHGs to avail the subsidised loans under NRLM schemes.
- Motivated the community women to spare their time for livelihood activity and making them the part of Pradhan Mantri Ujjwal Yojana for cooking gas connection.
- Helped the farmers for making their crop insurance at Common Service Center.
- Assisted the community groups for linking them with Joint Liability Group Loan for making their business successful.

PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

In the context of Balangir, both socio-political structure and geography play a major role in shaping the distress migration. Geographical factors of semi-arid and drought-prone lead to labour migration in a mass level while the high rate of migration among SCs, STs and OBCs could be related to high level of poverty, unemployment, illiteracy, landlessness and poor access to basic facilities. Moreover, drought is a recurring phenomenon in the district of Balangir since last 3 decades.

In rural livelihood systems, infrastructure like soil, water, nutrients must be understood as these are the essential viability of farming. Leverage of Govt. programmes can add values to farm based activities without gender biased and strengthen the economy of rural livelihood. Right to Employment and creation of livelihood asset can be imagined with the successful implementation of MGNREGA. This ultimately triggers to reduce the situation of migration. With the support of WONC and Ford Foundation, AJSA has involved 5000 poor and marginalized families of 24 villages from 6 Gram Panchayats of Balangir district with MGNREGA activities. Under this programme 9910 beneficiaries, including 5069 women have created sustainable livelihood and maintain their food & nutrition security through assured 100 days employment and sustainable agriculture.

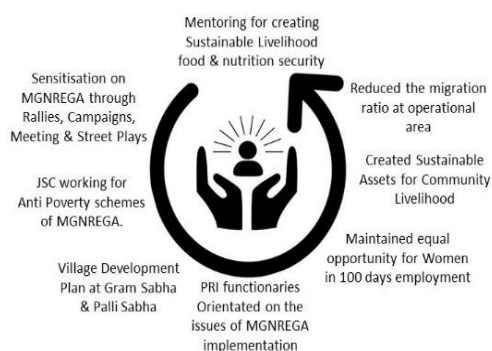
YEAR IN REVIEW

- 24 Village level awareness cum sensitization camps has been organized in 6 GP through village level meetings, street plays, awareness rallies, campaign etc. to sensitize the whole community on the issue of different developmental schemes like MGNREGA.
- In addition to 18, 6 new Job seekers committee have been formed in 2 Gram Panchayats to acted upon anti-poverty programmes and schemes.
- In operational panchayats village level Job seeker committees has been trained on different aspects of MGNREGS to carry forward its implementation process starting from job application to wage payment at grassroots level.
- Prepared the micro plan after social mapping which was approved in Pallisabha & Gram Sabhas in 6 GPs of targeted villages.
- Orientation programme for PRI functionaries on the issues of MGNREGA.
- 24 Job seekers committee with 6 JS union at village level to worked as a pressure group at GP & Block level for better implementation of MGNREGA like job demand, wage payment, regularize the Rozgar Divas.
- MGNREGA Block level rallies have been organized with the active involvement of Job Seekers and Job Seekers Union from G.P. level.

People's Action in Development



“In this programme we have involved vulnerable farm and non-farm families from 18 villages. We reduced their poverty and food insecurity by adopting natural resource management, sustainable agricultural practices and involved them in off-farm income generation activities through convergence of MGNREGS & NRLM. Also, provided sustainable income through creating NRM based durable assets at community level and individual level”



New Initiatives

- Sensitize the marginal and small farmers to examine the health of soil to know the suitability of any crop cultivation and coordinated with soil testing labs for testing of soil before cultivation.
- Mobilized the community to collect and deposit the seeds and grain in the grain bank to ensure food and seed security in disaster.
- Promoted quality and low-cost manures for small and marginal farmers. Created NADEF, Vermin and Azola compost for their crop cultivation.
- Enabling the beneficiaries for micro enterprise and independent business. Linkages has been built with NABARD.

PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

Balangir district is one of the hottest districts in Odisha. The average normal rainfall of the district is 1376mm but due to prolong dry spells in the rainy season causes drought situation. Recurring drought manifested in a cycle of almost alternative year diminishes the opportunities of agriculture and employment in agriculture sector forcing people to migrate in large numbers.

With the support of BRLF, Peoples Action in Development, AJSA has reduced the distress migration in 4 GPs of Balangir district by involving 1800 poor and under-privileged families in different initiatives of sustainable livelihood and food & nutrition security through convergence of different programmes of govt.

YEAR IN REVIEW

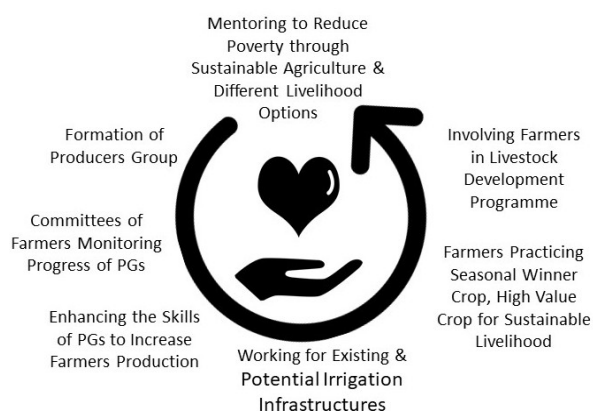
4 coordination meeting has been organized at Gram Panchayat level by involving SHG members, JSC members & PRI members where village development plan has been finalized with the convergence of MGNREGA work.

- Block level interface meetings with Keyline departments in 3 GPs of 18 villages for the successful implementation of planned activities in identified villages finalized during village development plan.
- 18 Job Seekers Committee (JSC) at village level and 3 JSC at GP level has been strengthened to streamline the MGNREGA in targeted villages.
- Capacity building of 82 SHG members with the training of NRLM and SHG Management.
- In addition to existing 17 farmer clubs, 7 new has been formed & clubbed together. Involved them in MGNREGA & others anti-poverty programmes and schemes of govt.
- To protect the forest and empower the forest-based livelihood 6 forest committee has been formed and strengthen in 6 GPs including 24 villages.
- With the support of horticulture department, 13 families have planted mango trees in their non-farming land under the provisions of MGNREGA.
- Constructed water harvesting structures and farm ponds at village level through the leverage of fund from MGNREGA scheme resulting sustainable livelihood in 18 villages.
- Conducted tank renovation work by involving 10 job seekers group and ensured their 100 days labours work of MGNREGA scheme.
- 10 families created kitchen garden with the supplies of horticulture department and increased their profit by doing different vegetables in agri-field during non-crop season.
- Organized non-pesticide management training for 50 farmers of 18 villages of targeted block during the year.

**Promotion of
Agriculture Production Clusters (APC)
in Tribal regions of Odisha**



“In this Programme we have created 3 micro-agriculture production cluster/ producers’ group (PG) by involving 390 small and marginal farmers from 5 villages. This PGs will trigger the growth in farm sector as well as strengthen their economy through varied livelihood options. This year 220 household save their livestock from deworming by vaccination and 50 households increased their income by 40% after practicing seasonal winner crop & seasonal high value crop during winter season.”



The climate of Balangir is tropical with hot and dry in summer. 70% of the population dependent on agriculture for their livelihood are mostly marginal, small & landless farmers. Majority of the population depend on farming for family income and few of them depend on forest product, dairy animals, goat and sheep.

Under the supported programme of BRLF, “Promotion of Agriculture Production Clusters (APC) in tribal regions of Odisha”, this year 400 small and marginal farmers of Golamunda block of Kalahandi district have been involved to reduce their poverty by improving their livelihood condition through sustainable agriculture growth and diversified livelihood options. This APC is a self-regulated farmers producers organisation consisting 400 small holder farmers of Golamunda block which synchronizes production of a common basket of commodities/crops to create a marketable surplus and build eco system to provide various services required for the farmers in a sustained manner.

YEAR IN REVIEW

- 3 producer groups (PG) have been formed by involving 390 small & marginal farmers from 5 villages.
- Different committees have been formed to look after the overall activities of PGs, i.e., executive committee, sub-committee for procurement and marketing and sub-committee for planning and monitoring.
- Organized orientation programme for committee members and sensitized on their role & responsibility for increasing the farmer’s production and manage the PGs efficiently & effectively.
- Initial status survey around existing and potential irrigation infrastructures (CRLP, MRLP, bore well, dug well, farm pond) has been completed in two villages of one PG.
- Under livestock development, 200 HHs got benefitted through the deworming and vaccination programme where 350 small chicks have been vaccinated by the Pranimitra.
- Seasonal winner crops (tomato, bitter guard, chilli, pumpkin, ladies finger, green peas, onion, brinjal) has been selected for 390 farmers from which 50 families have cultivated chilly, tomato, onion, brinjal and increased their income during the period.
- 75 farming household practiced seasonal high value crop in 75 acres of land in targeted villages of Golamunda Block of Kalahandi districts.

New initiatives

- Conducted poultry vaccination programme at village level and prevented 200 chicks from fowl pox.
- Sensitized the community not to use the pesticides in their cultivating land.
- Sensitized the community to adopt the seasonal winner crop cultivation to increase their income.
- Promoted the action related to livestock development in the targeted community.
- Encouraged the community to send their child to school for their better future.

A man in a light blue shirt and dark pants is crouching in a field, watering a dense patch of red-leafed plants. He is holding a green plastic bottle and pouring water onto the plants. The background shows a line of trees and a utility pole.

**Disaster Risk Reduction
through Livelihood Intervention
in Odisha**

PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

"In this programme we have involved 948 families whose livelihoods were dependent on weaving clothes, fishing, daily labour, share cropper, small and marginal farming who have been affected by the frequent flood. We have built their capacities for which they have achieved additional increased income from their existing practice of livelihood like agriculture, fishing, livestock rearing and from other resource-based incomes"



Sonepur district comes under the eastern region of Odisha and most part of the district is covered with river basin of Mahanadi, the largest river system of the East coast Indian state of Odisha. The major livelihood of the locality depends upon agriculture which is highly dependent on the flow of water in the river. The excess flow of water causes devastations in the form flood and in the lower minimum flow causes drought and water scarcity. It has been seen from over the last decade, the periodicity of occurrence of drought and flood is indeed alarming. Many of the families left their village and primary occupations and migrated (seasonal) to urban areas/ cities in search of income.

Keeping in view and as per the need of the intervention, AJSA has been implementing the disaster risk reduction through livelihood intervention programme in three blocks of Sonepur district under the aegis of Caritas India.

YEAR IN REVIEW

- Created resilient livelihood for 3625 peoples of Subalaya, Jatesingha and Babar by giving emphasis on mobilisation and linkages of the community with various Govt. sources such as MGNREGA, agriculture, horticulture, KVK, NRLM etc.
- Organised 9 nos. of trainings on business/ enterprise management in 9 villages of GPs by involving SHG members who are non-farm livelihood bearers.
- 500 farmers sensitized and practiced the appropriate crop & vegetables for different type of lands and seasons like moong, arhar and vegetables like pumpkin, watermelon, brinjal, tomato, ladyfinger, cabbage, cauliflower cultivation in Rabi season.
- Supported 560 off farm beneficiaries by providing them kitchen garden seeds and increased their income by 57%.
- Generated awareness and give assistant to the beneficiaries for creating linkages with family welfare scheme, PWD pension and assistance scheme, agriculture assistance, other livelihood assistance for disaster losses, Insurance claiming, Orissa livelihood Mission scheme, KALIA, PMJVVY etc.
- Vision building exercise on the concept of demand and supply of product in the market and future plan for income generation from non-farm activities with 50 selected members of 9 villages including 30 female members.
- Exposure visit of farmers to Krishi Vigyan Kendra where they learnt sustainable agriculture practices.

New Initiatives

- Promoted to adopt alternative livelihood by making of Incense stick, paper pocket making and weaving and created their market linkages for secured income by involving SHG and off farm beneficiaries.
- Planted trees in 20 acres of land of targeted villages by involving non-farm families under MGNREGA scheme.
- Street plays in different occasions and aware the peoples of 9 villages about the cause of pollution, disaster and its remedies and conservation of forest to save the environment.
- Involved the school children in awareness activities on Raksha Bandhan where children tied Rakhi to the plants and planted mango trees to protect the environment and protect the life.



**Promotion of
Girl Child Primary Education
of Primitive Tribal Groups,
through Children's Learning &
Development Centers (CLDC)
cum Bridge Schools**

PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

In the working area of AJSA, the Bangomunda Block of Balangir district, total literacy rate is 56.34% where male literacy rate is 60.11% and the female literacy rate is 36.77%. There are many reasons for which a girl child is forced to drop out from school, which range from migration of families, child marriage, child labour to lack of economic sustainability. It has been seen that when a family is not financially secure, prioritising a child's education takes a backseat especially for a girl child. Social and cultural factors also play a major role in school retention in these tribal communities.

Supported programme of SHCIL Foundation, Promotion of Girl Child Primary Education of Primitive Tribal groups, through CLDC Cum Bridge Schools is creating a positive culture and environment of quality education for education deprived girl children in Bangomunda block of Balangir district.

“This programme involved the children, who are basically belongs from migrant families, BPL, school drop-out and other backward group tribal children, who were deprived from basic education due to migration, child labour and other problems. This programme works by nurturing children throughout their education and reducing the school dropouts, child labours in Bangomunda Block of Balangir Odisha. Presently AJSA is educating 1520 children from 40 tribal and migration prone communities, in 27 schools spread across the block “



YEAR IN REVIEW

- Delivered quality education to 1520 children of tribal and migration prone communities through Bridge school and prevented 269 children from dropping out and 341 from migration and child labour.
- Organised Right to Education awareness programme in 21 Villages and made the community aware on fundamental and legal rights on education. Counselling the parents about the importance of education for girl child.
- Trained the barefoot teachers and improved their quality of teaching and upgrade their knowledge on teaching technics.
- Conducted 27 parent teacher meeting, 12 programme review meetings & 9 teachers review meetings where found the positive progress of a child as well as program. Observed few practices that will be adopted for improvement of the program in coming years.
- Provided study & sports material to 525 needy students like 6500 notebooks, 525 school bags, 5 pens for each student and sports items like cricket balls, bat, football, and other teaching and learning games. Helped them to continue their education, school retention and fostered their physical, social & emotional health.
- Conducted 4 quarterly assessment tests in all 27 bridge schools and assessed the real progress and development standard of students.
- Celebrated Independence Day, Republic Day, World Environment day, students' birthdays, etc. with a learning and joyful environment that increased their moral and cultural values and contributed towards the conservation of environment by planting trees.
- Organised VEC & PTA meetings and finalized the development of Bridge School Programme and value addition for the sustainability of the programme in the tribal community.

New Initiatives

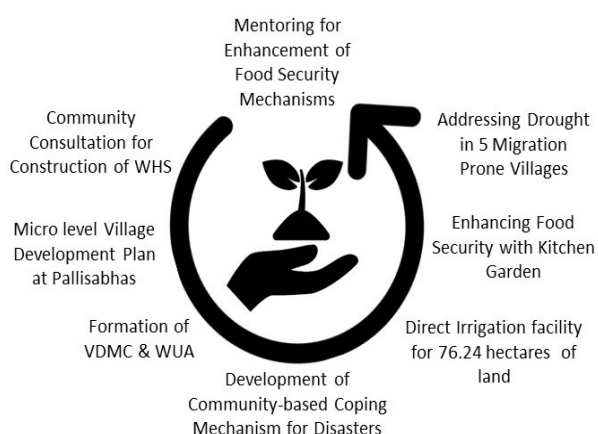
- Sensitized the VEC & PTA on Child Protection issues & early girl child marriage with an aim to create 40 child protected model village in the state.
- Distributed nutrient dense seedings to ensure home based nutrition of 124 families in 9 villages.
- 27 child cabinets or 'Bal Sansad' have been established in existing bridge schools to ensure healthy and hygienic practice of a child at school as well as at home. Now, the students are becoming the agent for social change in their community.
- Students of Bridge school are keeping their school clean & green and making their community aware on the mission of Swachha Bharat Swachha Vidyalaya.

**Construction of
Rain Water Harvesting Systems &
Enhancement of Food Security Mechanisms
to address Drought in Migration Prone Villages**



PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

“This programme will not only address the water scarcity problems of 115 farmers’ household but also help local women and villagers. It will be a source of water for all time including summer session, when the area faces most water scarcity related problems. The entire process has been done in equal participation of the local community members. They have contributed the programme by donating labour, during excavation of soil from the water harvesting structure and cleaning and dressing of the WHS. AJSA has created transparency boards in each WHS site for proper communication and transparency for the implementation of programme.”



New Initiatives:

- Initiative on drinking water and sanitation led to reduction in drudgery for women that gave a life of dignity.
- Ensure the on-farm farmers to practice the cash crops due to assurance of water availability which will ultimately increases their agricultural income.
- Involved mothers to spend more time and energy in their health and child development.
- Promoted women group and created small kitchen garden and fulfilled their daily cooking needs.
- Leveraging funds from govt. for its maintenance through MGNREGA work.

Balangir is one of the economically backward districts of western Odisha. More than 66% people of the district depends upon agriculture and belongs to SC & ST communities. Agriculture is mostly rainfed and due to lack of adequate irrigation facilities and recurring severe drought conditions in the district, the agricultural production is very often curtailed. The landless agriculture workers and the marginal farmers are affected the most in a drought situation and got migrated to other states in search of work opportunities to fulfil their daily need. If we look into the subsequent elements for a better agriculture, it has been found that, the required elements are inadequacy in nature like, deficit rainfall, less irrigation facility and lower economic status.

By looking forward these problems with the support of IGSSS, AJSA came forward to address the challenges related to water scarcity in Bangomunda and the rain WHS management was initiated. This programme directly provided irrigation to 76.24 hectare of land and 575 peoples were benefitted in crop seasons.

YEAR IN REVIEW

- Under this programme 5 rain water harvesting structures has been renovated in pilot basis in 5 GPs i.e. Jhinkipada, Kurluvata Sundhimunda, Gandarla and Titigaon of Bangomunda block of Balangir district where the scarcity of water is huge.
- Community consultation in 5 villages of Bangomunda Block for the renovation of water harvesting structures.
- All WHS has been constructed in a 100x150 ft. approx. area land with water reserving capacity 19,15,33,000 ltr.
- Organised workshop on CBDM & disaster preparedness and developed especially for slow-onset disasters like drought with the involvement of community leaders from GPs.
- WUA & VDMC were formed in 5 village and adopted the responsibility to take-care of the renovated WHS.
- Approved the micro level plan of villages in Pallisabhasa to mobilize the resources from ongoing government programmes like MGNREGA. Constructed the guard walls, stairs for WHS and planted some mango trees in the banks of WHS.
- Ensured to facilitate the overall activities for convergence with govt. programmes for the maintenance of WHS with the involvement of community members.

Lifesaving Vitamins
for Women and
Children



PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

“In this programme we covered mothers/pregnant women and children who were under the age of five. Provided lifesaving vitamins, minerals who are at the risk of malnutrition. Till date our trained barefoot teachers distributed vitamin-A and Albendazole tablets to 683 students 213 women.”



New Initiatives

- Ensuring community participation in planning, implementation and monitoring of convergence of nutrition with health and other social welfare programmes among migrant population through ration card portability.
- Coordinated with ASHA workers for home visits to all new-borns to check health status of both child & mother.
- Regular follow-up done to ensure routine immunization given to all children under the age of five against the vaccine preventable diseases such as diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus, hepatitis B, poliomyelitis, childhood tuberculosis and measles.
- Promoted for extra nutritional diet to women during pregnancy and post pregnancy.
- Encouraged to avoid delivery at home and adopt institutional delivery of the new-born to avoid any kind of complications.

In our working area 80% of tribal are staying in remote inaccessible villages where there is least access of basic services like pure drinking water, health services and education facilities. The smaller income of tribal families keeps the new-born, women and children far away from essential nutrition. In Balangir, 51.2% children are stunted due to mal-nutrition (Source: IFPRI). In the remote villages of Bangomunda block of Balangir district, malnutrition death, NMR and MMR are quite high. This ultimately decreased the attendance in school as well as created a gap in learning process.

With the supported programme of Vitamin Angels, AJSA is preventing new mother and children of our education project and women empowerment project from malnourishment and building healthy communities in 27 villages of Bangomunda block in Balangir district.

YEAR IN REVIEW

- Ensuring the health and wellbeing of 5000 mothers and children by eliminating malnutrition in 27 villages
- Skill enhancement programme for Barefoot teachers on nutritional support with the support of Vitamin Angels.
- Distributed lifesaving vitamin-A and Albendazole-deworming tablets to the children under the age of 5 and prenatal multivitamins to mother who are under risk of malnutrition.
- Organised 5 meeting on nutritional benefits at community level with the involvement of VEC members, SHG members and women community leaders.
- Organised awareness rallies and disseminated information on the benefits of nutrition at targeted villages and communities with the involvement of bridge school students.
- Regular follow-up and home visits to the pregnant women and counselled for eating a healthy diet especially during pregnancy and to take prenatal vitamins to ensure the healthy growth of their babies during pregnancy.
- Conducted 5 number of medicine distribution camps in 15 schools and provided Vitamin A and deworming tablets to the bridge school students

OUR NON-FUNDING ACTIVITIES

“Adarsha Gram Gathan Abhiyan” - AGGA

“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. “



BASIC SUMMARY OF AGGA MOVEMENT & INTERVENTIONS

In order to reduce the vulnerability of rural downtrodden communities, it is vital that people should be capable of taking up occupations which will provide sufficient income, which will also create proper resources at village level, and which will lead to a self-reliant & dignified life for them. After realizing this, few initiatives and interventions are undertaken by AJSA 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. For this AJSA started the movement called, “Adarsh Gram Gathan Abhiyan (AGAA)” which 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, now many villages are liquor free, police station free and money lender free. Now problems are getting solved in villages and no one is going to police station for solving their problem. By the help of grain banks and Gram panthis, the villages are now money lender (local *mahajan*) free and their exploitation is not seen. The mission started in 1989 by AJSA, and continuing independently without any funding support. Every year we are able to create 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, with 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. Through our efforts, we aim to broaden the opportunities available to the poor by strengthening their ability to provide for themselves and their families, in one of the most poverty-stricken yet resourceful regions in India. Under this movement 8 programmes have been involved which are illustrated below:



Programme Highlights

Livelihood Security



AJSA works with over **35,000** small and marginal producers and helps them towards establishing sustainable livelihood systems. Promotion and work with self-help groups, skill building, community enterprise establishment 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 **67%**
4 Night schools have been ongoing by Volunteers of AJSA, where elder women, men and children are getting basic Education in Bangomunda block of Balangir.

Health



Peoples access to primary health services has been increased to about **55%**
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



1635 Women Leaders of **165** SHG Groups mobilizing thousands of others
300 Trained Volunteers/SHG Leaders Exercising for their Civil & Human Rights. Participation of women in village development processes has been increased to **50%**

Water & Sanitation



4 Water User Associations formed in Kalahandi & Balangir. AJSA motivates and mobilizes communities to build their own water and sanitation systems, by mobilising different govt. programmes.

Environment



16,824 Hectares of Forest Land has been protected by **69** Forest Protection Committees. To revitalize the pesticide free movement AJSA has been promoting organic farming widely in all operational areas.

Disaster Risk Management



59 Disaster Management Committees have been actively involved in the promotion of different disaster risk reduction and disaster preparedness activities.
950 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 trainings, workshops, practical support & various capacity building initiatives.

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 to reduce 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 agriculture and minor forest produce 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 and to make them self-reliant. To build up these process in a proper way a federation has been functioning by the members of SHG groups in Bangomunda block under co-operative society act., in collaboration with AJSA named as "Bharat Janani Swayan Shayak Limited". The members of the cooperatives were trained in similar manner, as a result of which they are able to run fair price shops by collecting and marketing NTFPs, linking with banks, developing micro-enterprises and also undertaking internal lending.

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

Before creation of Sashya panthis (grain and seed banks), people 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 farmers had deposited 3 *mans*(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 950 quintals of paddy is stored in 32 villages of Balangir. Now the farmers are not taking any loan from outside. Villagers take loan from their own bank in lean periods and in the time of draught.

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 focused 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 existing government schools function fully and all eligible boys and girls enrol. Special emphasis is given to motivate dropouts to re-enrol.

- **Education for All Campaign**

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 Sakhyata-Gram Swaraj Aabhiyan” – *Padhi Padhaiba Karjyakrama*. The development of vocational education and training programs is supported. In cooperation with public authorities, development agencies and govt. line departments, AJSA has been actively promoting education programs like Sarba Sikhya Abhiyan and Education for All to spread the message in every corner of its operational areas. Beside these things 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. 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 Library for Rural People (M.L.R.P), where near about 60,000 books are available on above mentioned Topics.

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, immunisation of eligible children and maternal health care etc. Timely detection and treatment of malaria, diphtheria tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS control from 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 changes, AJSA uses different innovative methods to pass the message on various health issues to the community by organizing awareness campaigns, street plays, puppet shows etc. Involving children and youth in awareness programs 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 programs.

Gender Equality

AJSA has been at the forefront of efforts to support women’s rights, their empowerment and gender equality by mainstreaming gender through the integration of gender equality perspective in all its programs and interventions like promoting SHGs, 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 worked with women groups and committees at the village, Panchayat and block levels to help them address issues of denial of rights and privileges by organising 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 SHGs is to help women increase their savings and access small credits, but gradually this turns into a platform that enhance the capacities. There women speak out, gain confidence and are enabled to voice their opinions in village meetings (Gram Sabhas) resulting their active participation in the village development process.

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

Formation and strengthening of SHGs has been one of the focused programs of AJSA since its inception. These SHGs are making use of their savings 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, etc. Generally, SHGs 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 and financial training. We support groups to undertake income-generating activities. These small informal women groups provide working capital loans to their members and encourage saving 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 offer 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.

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 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 AGGA approach ensures that all households in the habitation are covered an everyone benefits equally from the development process.

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 and horticulture, land and water conservation and development.

2- Community forestry in 69 villages

AJSA has a firm belief that conserving forests are absolutely necessary for the long-term survival; livelihood option for the rural communities. Forestry is an environment 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. AJSA motivates communities to collectively manage their social forestry plantations. These activities raised the income of the community and the community-management. Sharing the benefits gradually developed unity in community. Today, there are about 64 village level FPCs covering and protecting around 16,824 hectares of forests in Bongomunda and Beguniapada block of Bolangir and Ganjam district of Odisha. Now these forests are totally under 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 raise community income, but also increase the sense of community ownership of resources through the cooperative management of land. This is now become the 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 laborers through training programmes, exposure visits, etc.

Disaster Prevention and Preparedness

AJSA contributes to the assessment and mitigation of natural hazards; especially draught, flood, cyclone etc. We work to ensure that vulnerable communities are ready to face the effects of disasters & climate change and adapt accordingly, so that 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 affected communities maintain a sustainable income, our work on climate change also focuses on livelihood security. For that AJSA has adopted an integrate disaster resilience by forming disaster management committees (DMCs) in its operational areas. Now 59 disaster management committees are active in Balangir and Ganjam district.

The disaster management committees are the team of elected bodies in each Gram Panchyat, promoted by AJSA. They have been actively involved in promotion of different disaster risk reduction activities; formation and maintenance of grain banks/seed banks, forest protection, organic farming and awareness creation activities.

Governance

Capacity building of village institutions is an ongoing process and happens through workshops and discussions in structured training sessions as well as 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 in confidence, villagers influence the systems of management and democratic governance of Panchayati Raj Institutions through the Pallisabhas 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 (Vilage Committee) to manage particular developmental activities such as agriculture, water, health, education, fish farming, forestry, etc.

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 Antyodaya 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.

Legal Status



- 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- AAAAA5545M

Establishment

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)



Governance

List of Governing Board Members



Mr. Jugaraj Dharua	Male	President
Mrs. Purnami Majhi	Female	Vice- President
Mr. Banshidhar Behera	Male	Secretary
Mr. Raibarta Gahir	Male	Joint-Secretary
Ms. Kalpana Mahananda	Female	Treasurer
Mrs. Panchali Bag	Female	Member
MRs. Dashmi Tandi	Female	Member

Notes on Governing Boards

1. No remuneration, sitting fees or any other form of composition was paid to any board members.
2. No travel reimbursements were made to the board members attending board meetings and other office meetings.
3. No board members is related to another.
4. Board Rotation is Policy is available, The Board changes in every 5 year. The current governing board is Effective from 15.03.2018.

Accountability



The accounting period followed is from 1st April 2017 to 31st 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

S Panda & Co, Bhubaneswar
Odisha, India

Our Bankers

State Bank of India, Sailashree Vihar Branch,
At/Po Chandrasekharpur, Bhubaneswar, Dist.Khurda
Pin- 751021, Odisha,
India

Project Management

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



AJSA (Anchalika Jana Seva Anusthan)

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**Designed & Edited by
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