



Transforming Rural Livelihoods in Bolangir (Odisha) India



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A Annual Overview report on implementation of MGNREGA Entitlements, In Bongomunda Block Bolangir

Documented By AJSA Bolangir



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ACRONYMS

AJSA – Anchalika Jana seva Anusthan

AZM- Azad Shramik Mahansangh

BDO- Block Development Officer

CBO- Community Based Organisations

EO – Executive Officer

JSC- Job Seeker Committees

MGNREGA – Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Act.

MLP – Micro Level Plannin

MORD – Ministry Of Rural Development

NGO – Non Government Organisation

NTFP- Non Timber Forest Product

GP- Gram Panchayat

SPS- Samaj Pragati Sahayog

SHG- Self Help Group

KBK- Kalhandi,Bolangir and Koraput

S.L& MGNREGA – Sustainable Livelihood and MGNREGA

WONC – Western Odisha NREGA Consortium

Evolving the design of the wage employment programs to more effectively fight poverty, the Federal Government formulated the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act. (NREGA) in 2005, a paradigm shift from earlier wage employment programs. With its legal framework and rights-based approach, NREGA provides employment to those who demands it. This is the largest ever public employment program visualized in human history. The scheme is not merely a wage employment programme. But it is focused on the regeneration of village economy in the long term. Independent India has to acknowledge the critical role the NREGA has played in providing a measure of inclusive growth. It has given people a right to work, to re-establish the dignity of labour, to ensure people's economic and democratic rights and entitlements, to create labour intensive infrastructure and assets, and to build the human resource base of our country. For the first time, the power elite recognises the people's right to fight endemic hunger and poverty with dignity, accepting that their labour will be the foundation for infrastructure and economic growth. The Act's success or failure will have an impact on the entire rural development scenario in India. There is excitement as well as disappointment over its state of implementation. The scheme has huge potential for regenerating village economy in India, but only if it ensures to avoid the loopholes for corruption.

At a time when the world is facing one of the worst food crises ever witnessed, it becomes extremely pertinent to look at the effectiveness of the NREGA in providing both short and long term food security through work on improvement of agriculture and provision of water. Even the origins of the NREGA lie in the drought relief programmes of the 19th century

which helped provide purchasing power to agricultural workers in drought stricken areas. The problem today is much different. The shortage is no longer localized and therefore a mere transfer of purchasing power would not lead to a solution. Moreover, with an ever increasing strain on our meager resources, we need to take measures that will empower people to take care of their own needs rather than depend on external agencies. NREGA has the potential to do just that by providing people what they most need/desire at the village level. In such a situation, it becomes extremely crucial to assess the impact of the NREGA, both in providing short and long term relief.

Now NREGA is going through a crucial phase. It is a bit early to quantify its impacts definitively given that people are still grappling with implementation hitches. The institutional mechanism required for implementation of such a massive scheme have still not been completely set up in some extent. Because since last many we have seen many such initiatives have brought to light several short comings/ discrepancies/ irregularities in the implementation of the scheme which primarily indicate that benefits are not reaching the intended beneficiaries, the guarantee component is missing and planning has been inadequate to provide succor to the poor. We have practically seen it during our interaction with the communities in Bolangir.

As we know NREGA can never meet its objectives without the active participation of people in its implementation by looking forward this thing AJSA has given its level best efforts by forming jobseeker committees and federations, to ensure maximum participation in MGNREGA work. As per

our limitation man power we are trying to give the utmost efforts to make the NREGA entitlements more meaningful and successful in bongomunda block of Bolangir district. And in many extents we are able to make it happen; the results can be seen by anyone if we will focus on migration ratio- it has been reduced to near about 30% in comparison to other GP's of bolangir. We have seen the success and impact of our approach on thousands of job seekers, families, communities and other stakeholders over 5 years of operation on successful implementation NREGA Particularly. May be this a small impact of our work, still we have a long way to go. In this regard, as we move on the path towards implementation of NREGA it becomes imperative that we take stock of the experience so far in order to learn from the successes as well as failures.

On behalf of AJSA Family i am thankful to Ford Foundation, Samaj Pragati Sahayog (SPS), Lokadrusti, Chetna Organic for providing programmatic and financial support to AJSA. And I am also grateful to the supportive government officials, Network partners of WONC and several individuals for their significant contribution, guidance and cooperation, which have made our team work enjoyable and effective.

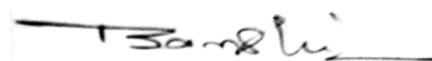
I extend my gratitude to the thousands of people of Bongomunda block of Bolangir district, who have contributed to the progression of sustainable development initiatives in their own areas, including our

elected members of Job seeker committees in GP and Block level. You are a constant source of inspiration and invigoration. i think, all our efforts would have remained incomplete without your active participation in our programs and activities.

I am also grateful to Mr. Pramathesh Ambasta national coordinator NREGA Consortium for giving us the support & hope and showing us the way, as a mentor in adverse situations of AJSA. The perceptive guidance and timely assistance provided by Mr. Sarat Ku. Rath, Senior Programme Oficer- Samaj Pragati Sahayog (SPS).Special thanks must go to Lokadrusti Khariar and Western Orissa NREGA Consortium officials. Our work has been enriched by their support and guidance. We are also thankful Ms. Chhandamitra Mishra, Network coordinator-WONC for providing programmatic and technical support and guidance to the team members of AJSA. It would be too much to name all of Them but we would like to thank all stake holders, advisors,mentors and experts who have helped us, particularly Mr. Abani Mohan Panigrahi Chief Executive Officer Lokadrusti Khariar, who has given his valuable time and advice in our work.

On behalf of the Governing Board, and my own, I want to place on record our deep appreciation of the hard and dedicated work of all colleagues in AJSA, who work in such difficult circumstances with the limited resources.

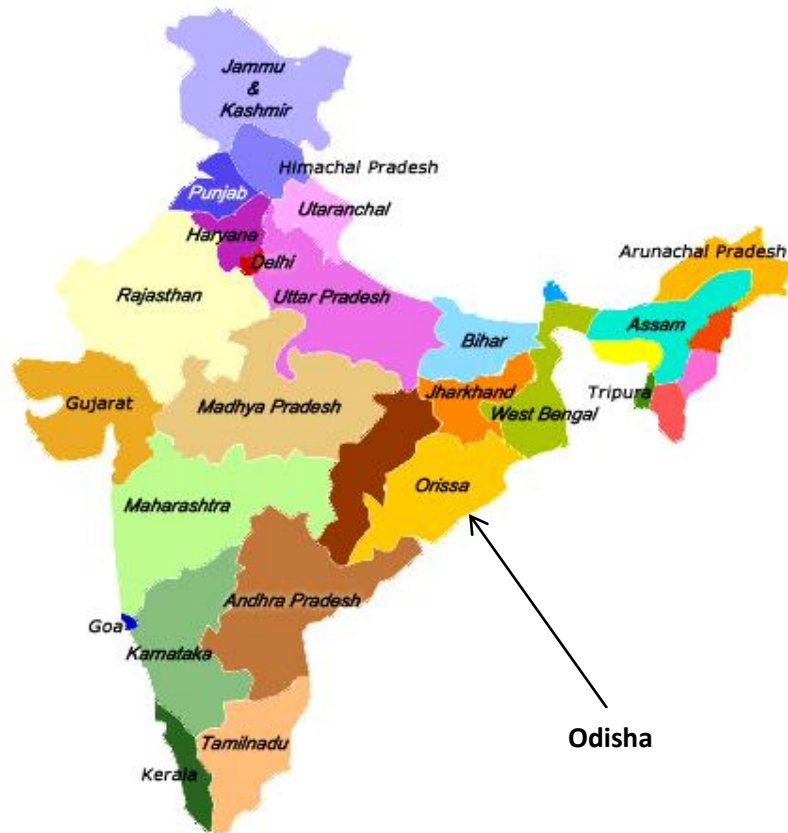
Banshidhar Behera
Founder & Secretary
AJSA Bolangir, Odisha-India



Introduction

The state of Odisha is situated on the eastern coast of India. It is surrounded by West Bengal to the northeast, Chhattisgarh to the west, Jharkhand to the northeast and Andhra Pradesh to the southeast. The state has 30 districts, 58 sub divisions, 171 tahsils and 314 blocks. There are 3 revenue divisions and 6,234 gram panchayats with approximately 1,02,698 inhabited and uninhabited villages.

The population of Odisha constitutes 3.6% of the population of the country. As per the census of 2001, the total population of the state is 3,68,04,660 with 1,86,60,570 males and 1,81,44,090 females. Orissa is one of the low-literacy states, ranking 13th among the 16 major states in the country. 63.08% of the people of the state are literate as per the data provided by the 2001 census.



The state of Odisha has a relatively large component of tribal population, 22.13% as per the 2001 census. Similarly, Scheduled Castes constitute 16.53% of the state. The state has remained one of the poorest in the country in terms of social and economic aspects. The 2001 census also reveals alarming facts about the people in the state. It says that in the state only 25.46% of the total residential census houses are good, 64.41% are just live blend 9.95% are dilapidated. More than 47% of the state's population lives below the official poverty line; this is particularly true among the tribal and dalit populations mainly residing in the western and southern districts of the state.

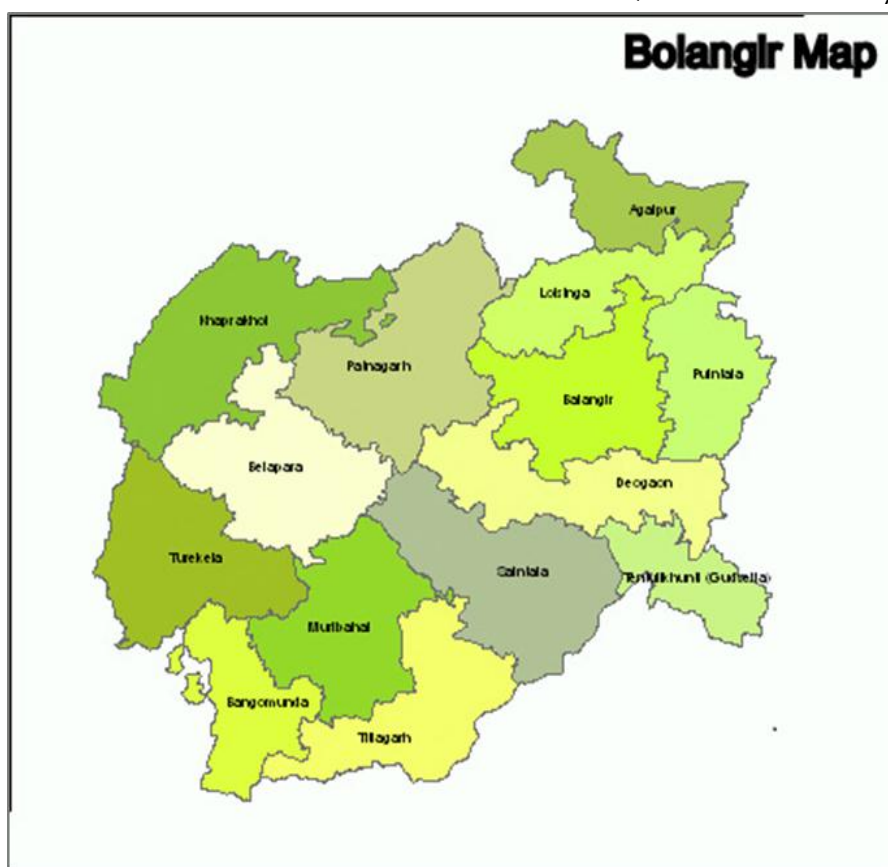
Out of the total rural poor families in Odisha, 87.36% families are agricultural labour, marginal and small farmers. Odisha is one of the Poorest state in India, And in Odisha KBK(Kalahandi,Bolangir,Koraput)Regions are famous for massive poverty and hunger for last many Years.

Introduction to Bolangir

Bolangir is drought-prone and one of the poorest districts of Odisha in India. 61% of its population lives Below Poverty Line (BPL) and about 30% of its population is undernourished. The district lies between 20° 9' and 21° 11' north latitude and 82° 4' and 83° 9' East longitude. The district is surrounded by Bargarh, Boudh and Sonepur, Nuapada and Kalahandi districts on the north, east, west, south respectively. Originally the abode of indigenous tribes like Kutia Kondhs, Binjhals and Gonds, it was later inhabited by other castes including the Bhulias and Kosthas, who are master craftsmen in cotton and tassar fabrics.

The entire district has been divided into three sub divisions, 14 Community Development blocks and 285 Gram Panchayats (GP) and has 1792 villages out of which 31 villages are uninhabited.

The district population is constituted by 20.63 percent of Scheduled Tribes and 16.92 percent of Scheduled Castes. The major tribes enumerated in the districts are Gond etc. (30.35%) Khond etc. (29.25 %) and Saora etc. (14.05%) among the total tribal population of the district. Similarly, the castes having highest population are Ganda (66.02 percent), Dewar (10.06 percent) and Dhoba etc. (5.48) considering the total Scheduled Caste population.



Bolangir At a Glance

Description	2011	2001
Actual Population	1,648,574	1,337,194
Male	831,349	673,985
Female	817,225	663,209
Population Growth	23.29%	8.63%
Area Sq. Km	6,575	6,575
Density/km ²	251	203
Proportion to Orissa Population	3.93%	3.63%
Sex Ratio (Per 1000)	983	984
Child Sex Ratio (0-6 Age)	951	967
Average Literacy	65.50	55.70
Male Literacy	77.08	71.67
Female Literacy	53.77	39.51
Total Child Population (0-6 Age)	206,964	191,674
Male Population (0-6 Age)	106,090	97,431
Female Population (0-6 Age)	100,874	94,243
Literates	944,254	638,048
Male Literates	559,065	413,224
Female Literates	385,189	224,824
Child Proportion (0-6 Age)	12.55%	14.33%
Boys Proportion (0-6 Age)	12.76%	14.46%
Girls Proportion (0-6 Age)	12.34%	14.21%

*Source – Census Data of 2001 and 2011 conducted by GOI

Agriculture Scenario Of Bolangir

Agriculture is the primary occupation source of the people living in Bolangir district and plays a very vital role in its economic scenario. It is the primary occupation for more than 66% of people who belong to the Scheduled Tribe and Scheduled Caste communities. Rice is the major crop of the district; it occupies more than 50% of cropped area during Kharif (the summer harvest) and 14% during Rabi, the winter harvest. Agricultural production in the district depends completely on the amount and timing of rainfall.

The situation in Bolangir district is particularly bad. The district is one of the most drought-prone regions in the country, with hardly any irrigation infrastructure in place. The landless agriculture workers and the marginal farmers are affected the most in a drought situation. Incessant drought damages land and other assets in the village and render them unproductive for many years. Damage due to drought occurs to the agricultural land, grazing or rangeland, and forest land, thereby affecting the resources flow, loss of topsoil, loss of soil nutrients by leaching, decrease in water holding capacity of the soil etc.

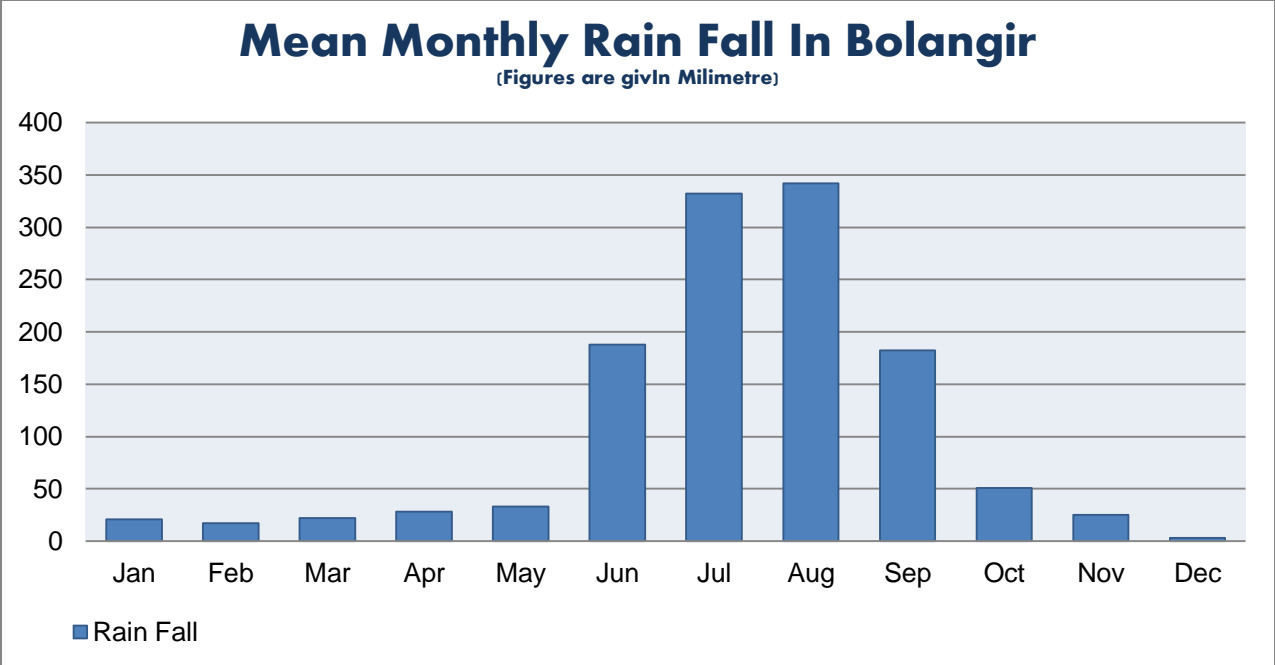
i. Irrigation

Bolangir, located in western Orissa has a geographical area of 6,552 sq km was once an agriculturally rich district, is a haven of disasters now with hardly any irrigation infrastructure in place. Over 75% of the sown area is dependent on rainfall that too only for a single crop. Although the average rainfall is about 1382 mm, the rains are erratic. Deficit rainfall and a variation of its distribution in time and space frequently result in crop loss. There has been a reduction in the total amount rainfall in this district over a period of time.

The district has a long history of water scarcity. In the past 100 years, there have been four backbone-breaking droughts in the year 1900, 1965, 1996 and 2000. The frequency of drought has increased to a cycle of almost alternative year since the 80s. Recurring drought has led to large-scale distress migration in which poor and vulnerable people, mainly from the 'lower' castes meet exploitation and injustice for the arduous work that they do for survival.

ii. Rainfall

The economy of Bolangir district is basically agrarian. However, agriculture in about 75% of the sown area is dependent on rainfall. Nearly 80% of Bolangir's rainfall comes from the southwest Monsoon between the months of June and September. In the post Monsoon period i.e. October and November some showers occur.



From the above it can be seen that the rainfall is significantly low during June and October when the long duration paddy crop requires critical watering. The rain in October at the time of grain formation of the crop is a critical factor-affecting crop substantially.

iii. Socio-Economic Analysis

The situation in Bolangir district is particularly bad. The district is one of the most drought-prone regions in the country, with hardly any irrigation infrastructure in place. The landless agriculture workers and the marginal farmers are affected the most in a drought situation. The latter resort to distress mortgaging or selling of their little yet precious land (also other household articles) to none other than the big farmers who are also labour contractors and migrate out along with their families (including school going children, especially girls) to far off places like the brick Kilns in Andhra Pradesh, construction sites in Maharashtra and for riskshaw pulling in Chattisgarh in search of wage employment.

While the elders migrate out due to poverty and debt, they drag along their school going children, forcing them to drop out of education. About 45% of the total enrolled children drop out to join their parents in their economic pursuit to far off places. Though villages in Bolangir still practice caste-based community living, when it comes to depleting sources of livelihood, there is no sharing and caring. Families, which barely manage to access food for eight months a year and cannot afford to feed even a single extra mouth. So, the migrating parents cannot even think of leaving their children and infants behind with relatives and neighbors. Incessant drought damages land and other assets in the village and

render them unproductive for many years. Damage due to drought occur to the agricultural land, grazing or rangeland, and forest land, thereby affecting the resources flow, loss of topsoil, loss of soil nutrients by leaching, decrease in water holding capacity of the soil etc. In villages labor is pooled in order to carryout agricultural activities. Labour is exchanged in various other activities such as construction of houses, thatching the house etc, however drought leads to loss of such a system. Also they maintain traditional grain banks from where a member in need can take grain loans at the time of need and can return in easy installment. Also many traditional practices lead to the conservation of natural resources. Social sanctions and traditional conventions regulate use natural resources in a village. However due to drought the consequent food insecurity problems these social sanctions and traditional conventions are over ruled.

Drought thus causes economic, social, psychological and political misery to the poor. Working under unhygienic conditions results in health degeneration, forced separation from family members which causes mental stress and remaining away from the villages for a fairly long time excludes the poor people from the decision making process and political participation in the village. Here agriculture continues to remain as the primary source of livelihood in the district. But since agriculture is dependent on the vagaries of rainfall, and due to inadequate irrigation facilities leads to crop loss resulting in large scale unemployment and distress migration. So in the absence of any alternative means of livelihood, hundreds of people from this region have been migrating to urban areas and neighboring Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra and Chandigarh in search of work and food. So Migration remains and considered as the major problem for Bolangir. There is no alternative, because of unavailability of water resources and rain, after harvesting their crops in 6 months, basically villagers became jobless for another 6 months. That's why hundreds of peoples are migrating every year for to full-fill the needs of their family and Hunger. There is no alternate, either they have to choose migration to metro's with their family and childrens or they have to face poverty and hunger for the next year.

Migration Scenario In Odisha and In KBK Region

Migration has taken a pivotal place in the present development discourse especially in the poverty ridden eastern Indian part of Odisha. Migration has different dimensions and these dimensions could be analysed in terms of “WHO” migrates and “WHY”. Migration can be defined as the movement of a group of people from one place to other. It can be permanent or semi-permanent. Sometimes migration is voluntary, but many times people are forced to migrate because they do not have any other choices. Labour migration is a part of semi-permanent migration also called seasonal migration. Migration in Orissa is deep rooted, because the state of Orissa stands on the lowest rung of the poverty ladder among other Indian states, despite its rich natural endowments. The census of 2001 indicates that 47.15% of the rural population (or 17.35 million people) are living below the poverty line. This situation is most prevalent in the western and southern districts of the state. There are various factors playing pivotal roles in creating this impoverished state of affairs among the rural and tribal populations. The draft report of the “People’s Commission on Hunger and Public Policy in Orissa” (2008) which was coordinated by the Supreme Courts Commissioners on Right to Food states that, “Rural Orissa (particularly the southern part) is largely underdeveloped and has limited livelihood opportunities. Villages have limited labour absorption capacity, especially during the lean agricultural season, and therefore large numbers of households rely on temporary migration outside the districts to access employment opportunities. The most common destinations are brick kilns in Andhra Pradesh and the coastal districts of Orissa, irrigated areas within the state where a second crop (winter) is grown, and large cities across the country where migrants can access a number of employment opportunities in activities such as construction, manufacturing, transport and services.

Since last many years Bolangir district remains on the top of the list as far as its dubious reputation being heart of the migrating labourers is concerned. Specially, Bolangir has been brought to the center of discourse on hunger, poverty and migration by media reports in last many years. Thousands of workers from Bolangir district have been working away from their home chasing better prospects. Migration is the only way out for many impoverished families in the rural and tribal pockets of Orissa especially in western Odisha. It has a strong relationship with desperate poverty, landlessness, unavailability of work and timely wage payment from government sources.

i. Distressed Migration in KBK Region and in Bolangir

With the coming of winter (harvesting of paddy), the state of Orissa and especially its underdeveloped KBK region (Koraput-Bolangir-Kalahandi) starts sending thousands of migrants to different cities including Delhi, Chandigarh, Hyderabad, Bangalore and the urban areas within the state. Thousands of family migrate in search of wage employment to distant places during this non-agricultural season because of non-availability of work in the villages. And the labour contractors, who take them illegally and exploit them at every stage of their migration period (which ranges between 6 and 8 months a year). When they return home, many are left with no savings, making them depend for survival on credit from the local moneylenders who charge high rate of interest. In order to repay the loan and for survival, they migrate again and again. In spite of the resources and infrastructure described above, a large number of poor people migrate out from the Bolangir district in search of wage employment. This way, migration in Bolangir has almost been institutionalized because of the lure of so called 'big money', which instead of helping the poor is in fact aggravating their poverty situation..Other backward districts have their share but the incidence of migration is highest from the eight undivided KBK districts. The workforce who migrates from these areas is mainly made up of tribals and dalits living in poverty because of landlessness, low agricultural productivity, indebtedness and other factors.

In Orissa, the districts of Nuapada, Kalahandi, Koraput, Bolangir and Ganjam are famous for distressed seasonal migration. Especially labor sending ratio of Bolangir is really high than the other districts.

ii. Reasons and factors behind Migration

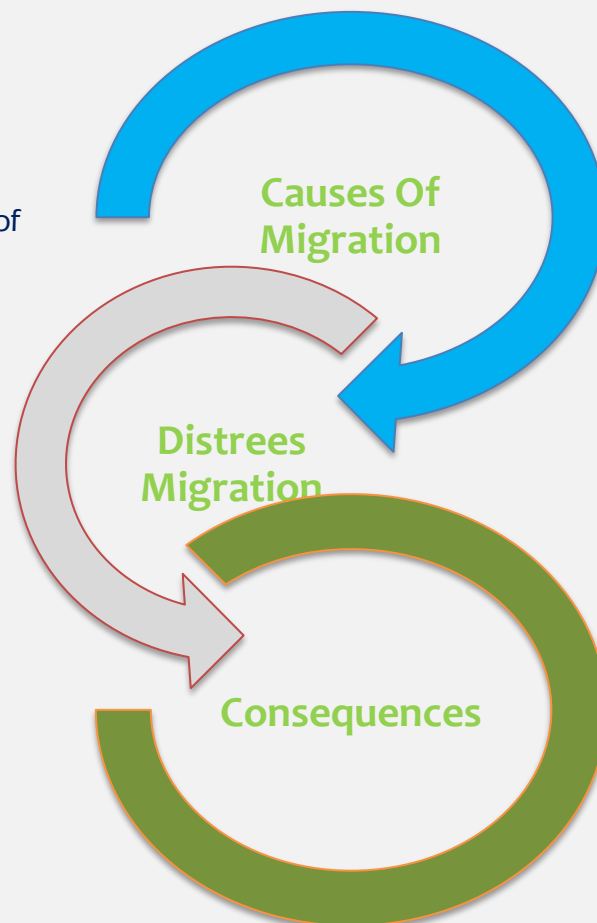
Labourers migrate for various reasons, which vary from region to region. In the state of Orissa and especially in the Koraput-Bolangir-Kalahandi (KBK) region, migration is frequent and involves millions of families and individuals. This is because of underdevelopment and the degree of poverty. The area is mostly rain-fed and villagers have very limited sources of income and employment during the lean season. Without alternate sources of local employment the impoverished villagers are left with two options: migrate or starve. Some villagers migrate in order to supplement income during seasons when local work is unavailable. However, among the landless, small and marginal farmers belonging to Scheduled Tribe, Scheduled Caste and Other Backward Communities, migration as a survival strategy is far more common. Migration occurs because of multiple causes. Landlessness, low productivity, unavailability of work at the villages and repayment of loans are major causes. These causes are not unrelated, but rather inter-connected.

Migration is driven by a number of factors. The National Commission on Rural Labor (1991) indicates that the most significant driver of seasonal migration is uneven development, along with interregional disparity, disparity between different socio-economic classes and the development policy adopted since independence. In the tribal regions, intrusion of outsiders, the pattern of settlement, displacement and deforestation have all played significant roles.

Factors behind distressed seasonal migration can be classified under two broad categories: push and pull factors. The push factors include lack of income and employment, natural calamities, indebtedness, and loss of agriculture at the native places. Pull factors include availability of high income opportunities, better facilities and the urge to see new places.

Thousands of workers from KBK districts have been working away from their home chasing better prospects. Since last many years Bolangir district remains on the top of the list as far as its dubious reputation being heart of the migrating laborers is concerned.

- Landlessness
- Unemployment
- Drought/Crop Loss
- Food In security
- Improper Implementation of Govt. Schemes
- Indebtedness
- Health Expenditures
- Displacement



- Physical & Mental exploitation by Contractors ("Thikadards")
- Children's of migrant families have to leave their education.
- Indebtedness
- Non-participation in Local Governance
- Change In Cultural Practices
- Loss of Family Bond
- Health Hazards

Who Suffers in the Cycle of Migration?

“Migration” the alternate survival strategy of western Orissa has not only risked the basic education of children who migrate with their parents every year for six to eight months, but also results in them getting exploited as child laborers in the brick kilns. And In Western Orissa children’s vulnerability and exposure to violation of their protection rights are multiple in nature .The manifestation of these violation are various ranging from child labour , child trafficking and many other forms of violation and abuse .Migration and trafficking of children continues to be a serious problem in this region. Acute poverty compels community to migrate.

Children of migrant workers are the silent sufferers and they Caught in the cycle of splitting their lives for equal periods in two different locations each year, children of school-going age are deprived of their rights to education. Children of migrant workers are regularly missing school for six to seven months of the year and as a result are struck off school registers.In addition they turn as child laborers in the harsh working conditions of brick kilns. Nearly 10,000 children migrate from Bolangir every year; at least one third of them have never been to school (Source-Action Aid, India). Most parents are aware of the advantages of ensuring education to their wards including girls, but the existing conditions do not permit them to do so. Children are tortured mentally and physically and starts their life as a child labor from very childhood,in short,their childhood are lost . In effect they become full-time child labourers



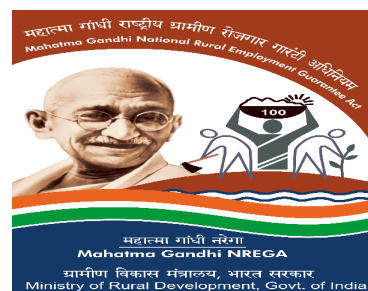
(Children’s of migrant families playing near a worksite during School Hours)

Learning only the trade of brick making, passed on by their parents. The cycle of poverty turns smoothly to the next generation

This year out of 1205 children (6-14 years) of 5 GP's of Bongomunda Block of bolangir ,598 children has migrated to brick kiln with their parents, relatives. Some migrant families children are staying at villages with their relatives(According To MLP Conducted By AJSA In September 2012) . The children of migrant workers are the silent sufferers. Caught in the cycle of splitting their lives for equal periods in two different locations each year, children of school-going age are deprived of their rights to education. In addition they turn as child laborers in the harsh working conditions of brick kilns. Children are tortured mentally and physically and starts their life as a child labor from very childhood,in short,their childhood are lost . They hardly expects that they will get an opportunity to live a decent life.In effect they become full-time child labourers learning only the trade of brick making, passed on by their parents. The cycle of poverty turns smoothly to the next generation.

The MGNREGA Initiative

The National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, (NREGA) was notified on September 7 in the year of 2005. National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS) was launched in February 2005 to cover 200 districts in the country. In the second year, the scheme was extended to additional 150 districts. Since April 2008, the scheme stands extended to cover all the districts in the country. The NREGS is hailed as an historic achievement and therefore has attracted wide attention across the country and across a cross sections of society, particularly, the activists, NGOs, Civil society organization, academics, development worker/ thinkers etc.



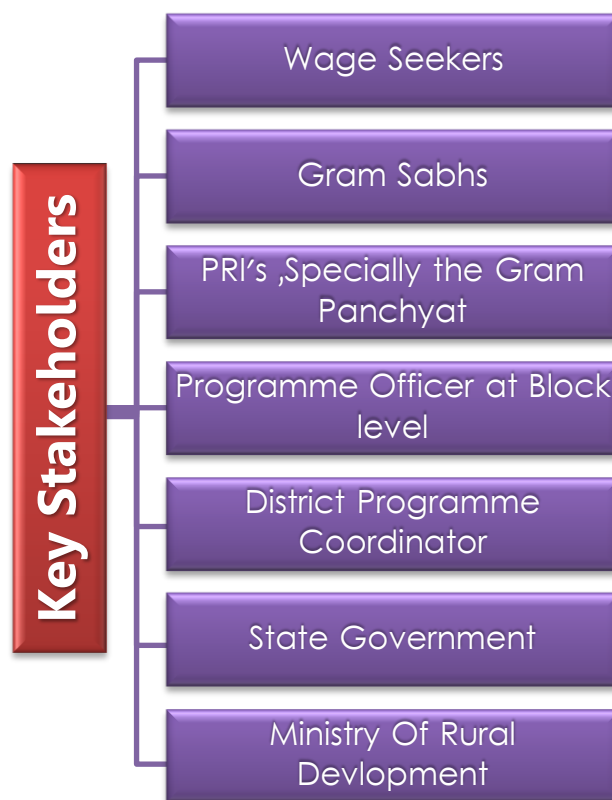
Through the process of providing employment on works that address causes of chronic poverty such as drought, deforestation and soil erosion, the Act seeks to strengthen the natural resource base of rural livelihood and create durable assets in rural areas. NREGA has the potential to transform the geography of poverty. Thus, MGNREGA is a powerful instrument for ensuring inclusive growth in rural India through its impact on social protection, livelihood security and democratic empowerment.

i. GOALS

- i. Livelihood security for the poor through creation of durable assets, improved water security, soil conservation and higher land productivity.
- ii. Social protection for the most vulnerable people living in rural India by providing employment opportunities
- iii. Drought-proofing and flood management in rural India.
- iv. Empowerment of the socially disadvantaged, especially women, Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Schedules Tribes (STs), through the processes of a rights-based legislation.
- v. Strengthening decentralized, participatory planning through convergence of various anti-poverty and livelihoods initiatives.
- vi. Deepening democracy at the grass-roots by strengthening Panchayati Raj Institutions
- vii. Effecting greater transparency and accountability in governance

ii. COVERAGE

The Act was notified in 200 districts in the first phase with effect from February 2nd 2006 and then extended to an additional 130 districts in the financial year 2007-2008 (113 districts were notified with effect from April 1st 2007, and 17 districts in Uttar Pradesh (UP) were notified with effect from May 15th 2007). The remaining districts have been notified under MGNREGA with effect from April 1, 2008. Thus, Thus, NREGA fosters conditions for inclusive growth ranging from basic wage security and recharging rural economy to a transformative empowerment process of democracy.



(A diagram showing major stakeholders of MGNREGA)

Salient Features of The Act.

- i) Adult members of a rural household, willing to do unskilled manual work, may apply for registration in writing or orally to the local Gram Panchayat.
- ii) The Gram Panchayat after due verification will issue a Job Card. The Job Card will bear the photograph of all adult members of the household willing to work under NREGA and is free of cost.
- iii) The Job Card should be issued within 15 days of application.
- iv) A Job Card holder may submit a written application for employment to the Gram Panchayat, stating the time and duration for which work is sought. The minimum days of employment have to be at least fourteen.
- v) The Gram Panchayat will issue a dated receipt of the written application for Employment, against which the guarantee of providing employment within 15 days operates.
- vi) Employment will be given within 15 days of application for work, if it is not then daily unemployment allowance as per the Act, has to be paid liability of payment of unemployment allowance is of the States.
- vii) Work should ordinarily be provided within 5 km radius of the village. In case work is provided beyond 5 km, extra wages of 10% are payable to meet additional transportation and living expenses .
- viii) Wages are to be paid according to the Minimum Wages Act 1948 for agricultural laborers in the State, unless the Centre notifies a wage rate which will not be less than Rs. 60/ per day. Equal wages will be provided to both men and women.
- ix) Wages are to be paid according to piece rate or daily rate. Disbursement of wages has to be done on weekly basis and not beyond a fortnight in any case.
- x) At least one-third beneficiaries shall be women who have registered and requested work under the scheme.
- xi) Work site facilities such as crèche, drinking water, shade have to be provided
- xii) The shelf of projects for a village will be recommended by the gram sabha and approved by the zilla panchayat.
- xiii) At least 50% of works will be allotted to Gram Panchayats for execution.
- xiv) Permissible works predominantly include water and soil conservation, afforestation and land development works
- xv) A 60:40 wage and material ratio has to be maintained. No contractors and machinery is allowed.
- xvi) The Central Government bears the 100 percent wage cost of unskilled manual labour and 75 percent of the material cost including the wages of skilled and semi-skilled workers.
- xvii) Social Audit has to be done by the Gram Sabha.
- xviii) Grievance redressal mechanisms have to be put in place for ensuring a responsive implementation process.
- xix) All accounts and records relating to the Scheme should be available for public scrutiny.

ii. Nature Of Work

The NREGA has given a legal instrument in the hands of the poor based on the demand of the worker .The obligation to respond to demand is a legal compulsion NREGA has a universal reach in all the areas. Where this law applies India is the first country to offer a legal guarantee like this on such an unprecedented scale and it hopes to empower the poor to fight poverty disease and indebtedness.

Ecological assets like land and forests are the key employment sources for rural people in India. Any attempt to create employment must focus on these sectors. The NREGA, with focus on assets creation, attempts to be relevant to local needs. But it does not do enough to address the institutional and management gaps that exist in the programs of soil water and forest conservation. These are fragile assets they require management and maintenance. This is where the NREGA must be worked on.The challenge is to use the Act to solve the problem of creating sustainable livelihoods through asset creation—facilitate the use of ecology for economy.

Nature of Physical asset Creation

Under NREGA there is a list of preferred works that must be undertaken using the employment opportunity. The table below details exact works to be undertaken in each of the preferred works.

Type Of Work	Nature Of Work
Water conservation and harvesting	Digging new tanks/ponds,small check dams others etc.
Drought Proofing and Plantatin	Afforestation and tree plantation and others
Rural Connectivity	Construction of roads and others
Micro irrigation Works	Micro irrigation and canals
Renovation of tradional water bodies	Desilting tanks/ponds,desilting of old canals, Desilting of tradional open well,others
Provision of irrigation facility land owned by	Scheduled caste and scheduled tribes, beneficiaries of land reform and others
Flood Control and protection	Drainage in water logged areas, construction and repair of embarkment others
Land development	Plantation ,Land leveling others
Any other activity approved by Ministry of Rural devlopement	Other works etc.

*Source – Union Ministry of Rural Development

NREGA'S Impact on Migration, in Bolangir

In odisha Bolangir is considered as a highly drought prone area. It has suffered repeated droughts in the eighties every alternate year and for 3 years consecutively from 1987 to 1989. The nineties and the new millennium have fared better with reduced intensity of droughts, only the year 2002 registering a severe drought. With an agrarian economy and high incidence of poverty, poor rains disrupt the entire yearly cycle in agriculture. A majority of the population in the district is landless earning their livelihood as agricultural labourers. Accumulatively, including the tillers who are unable to till land, droughts spell a decline in the employment opportunities for nearly 85% of the population. All this has forced several families in bolangir, especially in rural areas, to migrate to urban areas in search of employment opportunities.

In such a situation, an act like the NREGA has the potential to transform the face of the rural economy in otherwords it is just like a alternative

MGNREGA Statistics of Bolangir District	
Emplyment Provided to households	0.60712 Lakhs
Persondays (in lakh)	27.87
SC's	4.86 (17.45%)
ST's	7.65 (27.44%)
Women	10.47 (37.45)%
Others	15.36 (55.11)%
Total works taken Up	11926
Works Completed	2769
Works In Progress	9157

*Source – www.nrega.nic.in (May – 2013)

solution for problems like migration. The availability of such a large amount of resources presents a massive opportunity for the creation of productive assets such as water conservation structures. As the problem in bolangir is not one of less rainfall but irregular rainfall, creation of proper water conservation structures through the NREGA is now impacting thousands of lives practically and the migration is ratio is also minimized near about 20 to 25%. We hope it would have immense potential to boost agriculture and rural livelihoods in the coming years.

In a smaller area of operation in bongomunda we strive to monitor and assess the potential impact of NREGA on the creation of natural resource asset base and the resultant impact of rural livelihood, food security, lifestyle changes, economic regeneration and impact on migration in bolangir.

About AJSA

AJSA is a grass root level Community Based organization (CBO) based in bolangir district, a part of poverty ridden and draught prone KBK region of the eastern Indian state of Orissa., Facilitating community development initiatives since 1989, working towards the root cause of Poverty and eliminating social injustice and for the down trodden and under privileged section in the remotest part of the country. It is a nonpolitical, non-profit motive social development organization involved in sustainable development initiatives since inception.



AJSA was formed by local poor people of bongomnuda block in the bolangir district, to work for the socio-economic development of small and marginal farmers, landless labor, agricultural labor, bonded labor as well as women, children and other weaker deprived sections of the society. The vision of the organization is to draw upon grass root 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 work are governed by issues related to agriculture, livelihood, health, education, environment and Disaster Risk Reduction etc. AJSA has been working for the empowerment & mainstreaming of deprived village people of Western Orissa with emphasis on Land less, small & marginal farmer, backward rural Women, children, ST's, SC's & Dalit communities since last 24 years. Striving to establish an alternative and prosperous rural social order; this mercurial organization has projected itself as the harbinger of grassroots liberty and empowerment of western Orissa for last two decade.

Sustainable Livelihood and MGNREGA

A initiative Undertaken By AJSA with WONC In Bongomunda For Successful Implementation Of NREGA Entitlements

The **SL& MGNREGA** Initiative aims to enhance the livelihood security in all 5 gram panchyats of bongomunda in bolangir district by ensuring effective implementation of NREGA and thereby 100 days of guaranteed wage employment to every household in a financial year.

to create employment opportunities, check migration and develop rural asset base by ensuring maximum participation under MGNREGA activities by reforming the rural livelihoods options in operational village of bongomunda .

SL&MGNREGA Project Dimension

Operational District – Bolangir

Operational Block – Bongomunda

G.P's covered – 11

Villages Covered- 63

Household Covered – 14193

Population Covered – 54444



Sustainable Livelihood and MGNREGA (S.L&MGNREGA) Initiative in Bongomunda

MGNREGA is one of the revolutionary and advance schemes in today's time. First time it gives legal guarantee of 100 days work in rural area . The NREGA that aims to cover all of rural India within five years, But As reported by media NREGA is still going through a crucial phase. It is a bit early to quantify its impacts definitively given that people are still grappling with implementation hitches with problems like corruption, participation in work and other implementation challenges.

In bolangir massive poverty, backwardness, under development and migration these are still considered as common issues and could not have made any considerable improvement in the quality of lives and livelihoods of the people even after nearly six decades of Indian independence , in spite of several poverty alleviation programmes implemented by successive governments for amelioration of poor . And in areas like bolangir we need to take measures that will empower people to take care of their own needs rather than depend on external agencies. NREGA has the potential to do just that by providing people what they most need/desire at the village level. In such a situation, it becomes extremely crucial to assess the impact and successful implementation of the NREGA, both in providing short and long term relief. As It is in this context AJSA came forward in collaboration with Ford Foundation and WONC (Western Odisha NREGA Consortium), WONC is a consortium of NGOs and CBO's; who are jointly working to strengthen NREGA in the drought and migration-prone Gram Panchayats and villages of Bolangir and Nuapada.

This initiative is supported by Ford Foundation since 2007, with a working domain comprised of **11** GP"s including **63** Villages. The villages selected were the most backward of villages from 5 GP's (Alunda, Chandotara, Dedgaon, Gandharla, Jamkhunta, of bongomunda block located in Bolangir district, all tribal dominated villages facing acute livelihood insecurities, low incomes and water scarcity. The major objective of this initiative is to successful implementation of MGNREGA entitlements in above mentioned GP's of bongomunda and show and fortify the working mechanism to other 6 nearby GP's as a model .The project aims to build a participatory and transparent planning process and implementation systems at village, Panchayat and block level as well as to create employment opportunities, check migration and develop rural asset base by ensuring maximum participation under MGNREGA activities by reforming the rural livelihoods options in operational village of bongomunda.

General objective of the SL&MGNREGA

To enhance the livelihood security in all 5 gram panchyats of bongomunda by ensuring effective implementation of NREGA and thereby 100 days of guaranteed wage employment to every household in a financial year. In turn, NREGA generated labor will be utilized to undertake watershed based soil and water conservation works, with the objectives of enhancing the natural resource base within the area of operation. This improved natural resource base is expected to improve agricultural productivity, thereby building long-term individual and community based assets, and reducing vulnerability that stems from the distress migration that these groups undertake.

Specific objectives

- Enhance livelihood security in the project area by ensuring
- Effective implementation of MGNREGA.
- Improve land and water resource by leveraging MGNREGA funds .
- Ensuring job opportunity for vulnerable families and stem distress migration.
- Livelihood enhancement through the Land and water management.
- Cater to and strengthen the demand side in a supply dominant context.
- Check the corrupt practice in payment disturbance.
- Promotion of low input organic agriculture.
- To check distress in migration to create job opportunity at village Level.

Demography Data of Operational Villages

SL.NO	Name of G.P	Total Village	Total Household				TOTAL POPULATION				TOTAL BPL	TOTAL APL
			ST	SC	OBC	TOTAL	ST	SC	OBC	TOTAL		
01	Gandharla	08	502	326	500	1328	2104	1517	2149	5382	1077	179
02	Jamkhunta	06	303	258	736	1297	1135	879	2853	4726	921	269
03	Chandotara	06	280	393	1624	2297	1119	1269	4660	7039	1803	392
04	Alanda	09	181	261	951	1393	803	1116	4052	5934	1299	97
05	Dedgaon	04	103	232	487	791	397	1155	2292	3842	652	170
06	Jhalap	04	145	331	599	1075	509	1158	2098	3765	2810	555
07	Bhuslad	04	118	102	558	778	414	359	2515	3288	2692	496
08	Kunabutla	04	196	363	373	932	689	1272	1682	3643	2728	500
09	Sindhekela	07	345	316	1083	1642	1208	1423	4874	7505	10002	3000
10	Arsatula	04	259	200	684	1143	908	702	2396	4006	20670	300
11	Themra	07	203	300	1014	1517	712	1053	3549	5314	2000	1000
	Total-	63	2635	3082	8609	14193	9998	11903	33120	54444	46654	6958

Figures are showing direct operational GP's of SL&MGNREGA

Major Activities Undertaken By AJSA

I. Understanding the Operational Areas Through Baseline survey

Before initiation of the project a base line survey was conducted by AJSA, to know the present ground status and to analyse the stakeholders scenario at village level. The survey has conducted in 33 operational villages consisting 7106 households and over 26000 populations. Village mobilizers of AJSA have moved one village to another village and every households of its operational villages to collect base line data to identify un-registered workers, job card distribution status, opening of pass book either in post office or in bank, Demographic Details and for identification of distress migrant laborer etc. After getting the data's from primary level they have collected also collected secondary data's from the panchayats and block office to compare the data's with the actual data's collected from baseline survey and to know the present status of MGNREGA and its implementation. During the base line survey and focus group discussion with different stake holders like job card holder, ward member, Sarapanch, gaon sathi, gram rojgar sevak, panchayat samity members and PRIs Govt. officials many hidden facts comes to forefront with many operational problems, solutions and the reasons behind it. The entire process has revealed that household registration was not as per norms the registration of workers was either improper or incomplete or both and the awareness level about NREGA among the people was very minimal. And there is huge irregularities while implementing the programmes under MGNREGA.

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Base line survey conducted By AJSA

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VILLAGE WISE BASE LINE SURVEY DATA

Block Name	G.P Name	Village Name	S l o	Total Household					Population Details										Total Job Card Holder			Total A/C Holder			Total Mirgants					
									ST		SC		O B C	O C		TOTA L		TOTA L		As ON 1st JUNE-20011										
				ST	SC	O B C	O C	Tot al	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	TOTA L	M	F	TOTA L	Ban k	P O	Tot al	TOTAL H/H	M	D
Bangomunda	1-Dedgoan	Bagbahal	1	1	20	71	0	111	62	68	49	51	165	171	0	0	276	290	566	88	7	95	34	0	34	27	46	6	4	56
		Dedgoan	2	27	108	269	0	404	59	63	244	243	611	601	0	0	914	907	1821	298	18	316	94	0	94	89	109	86	22	217
		Pudapali	3	25	84	64	0	173	70	75	240	202	160	155	0	0	470	430	900	130	10	140	64	0	64	52	113	104	13	230
		Purniapali	4	0	20	80	3	103	0	0	62	64	205	209	6	9	273	282	555	90	9	99	56	0	56	29	51	42	9	102
		2- Alanda	Alanda	5	22	83	198	3	306	49	48	191	184	448	444	7	5	695	681	1376	260	21	281	181	0	181	145	219	147	33
		Bagartipada	6	0	11	56	0	67	0	0	24	22	131	121	0	0	155	143	298	75	5	80	61	0	61	46	62	51	8	121
		Bahalgubha	7	22	0	52	35	109	51	47	0	0	103	103	82	74	236	222	458	104	8	112	58	0	58	23	29	22	10	61
		Bakaguda	8	0	32	121	0	153	0	0	72	73	274	270	0	0	246	343	689	120	12	132	28	0	28	85	160	55	22	237
		Banjupadar	9	3	54	40	0	97	16	0	128	118	888	86	0	0	232	121	444	74	7	81	66	0	66	49	62	23	7	92
		Pandripani	10	31	46	89	0	166	70	69	106	101	201	197	0	0	377	367	744	113	12	125	87	0	87	58	69	54	10	133
		Pitamahul	11	42	6	149	0	197	72	75	5	7	261	260	0	0	338	342	680	76	9	85	99	0	99	44	54	25	8	87
		Putalatali	12	64	25	144	0	230	147	141	56	57	321	313	0	0	524	511	1035	170	15	185	113	0	113	55	91	42	12	145
		Tentulipada	13	0	4	64	0	68	0	0	12	10	143	145	0	0	155	155	310	60	4	64	52	0	52	18	26	12	5	43

*Table Hints- M-Male,F-Female, Other Caste,SC- Scheduled Caste,ST- Scheduled Tribe,OBC- Other Backward Caste,PO- Post Office

	3- Jamakhunta	Gharla	14	57	40	62	7	166	126	131	93	89	142	167	1	93	374	366	732	601	71	63	0	63	38	42	17	8	67	
		Jamkhunbta	15	109	99	217	2	237	264	163	149	148	327	324	43	3	644	638	1282	192	206	135	0	135	52	88	48	11	147	
		Jampada	16	20	30	90	1	141	50	32	12	18	231	200	3	2	296	242	538	997	116	53	0	53	53	54	75	0	129	
		Kalkut	17	30	15	50	0	95	65	56	33	37	110	90	0	0	208	182	390	705	75	64	0	64	15	11	18	4	33	
		Turkela	18	57	30	114	5	223	118	110	64	56	256	200	12	8	950	374	824	190	198	68	0	68	43	48	0	0	48	
		Sriram	19	30	44	188	0	262	66	54	100	80	392	360	0	0	558	394	952	240	255	98	0	98	18	30	30	12	72	
	4- Chandotara	Bhursaguda	20	23	66	328	0	417	45	47	117	109	676	671	0	0	838	827	1665	200	212	51	0	51	35	40	3	0	44	
		Chandotra	21	33	83	874	19	609	62	70	170	159	753	743	44	32	1029	1004	2033	240	254	63	0	63	11	11	27	0	45	
		Chindaguda	22	7	31	79	0	117	11	13	66	58	162	154	0	0	239	225	464	695	74	46	0	46	28	19	26	0	45	
		Ganjipada	23	59	21	128	0	208	118	120	44	41	255	257	0	0	417	418	435	770	87	48	0	48	53	9	48	0	57	
		Kurlubhata	24	64	96	98	0	258	130	128	191	190	200	196	0	0	521	514	1035	140	153	71	0	71	42	40	40	5	85	
		Titiuslet	25	94	96	98	0	254	187	188	63	61	259	258	0	0	509	507	1016	150	155	60	0	60	38	80	70	2	152	
	5- Gandharala	Badpara	26	44	66	62	0	172	101	103	153	150	125	121	0	0	379	374	753	140	160	39	0	39	17	29	25	3	57	
		Barkani	27	13	0	5	0	141	394	328	0	0	1311	110	0	0	337	339	676	115	125	33	0	33	28	30	17	2	49	
		Batharla	28	95	26	41	0	162	204	208	68	66	9995	95	0	0	371	369	740	122	140	66	0	66	40	45	71	5	67	
		Dabjhar	29	51	0	0	0	51	111	112	0	0	0	0	0	0	111	112	223	302	42	15	0	15	9	17	6	0	23	
		Gandharla	30	45	129	238	4	416	97	101	290	282	531	521	10	11	928	915	1842	330	360	103	0	103	75	110	70	16	196	

Village level meeting with Job seekers and community leaders

After getting the basic raw data conducted from Base line surveys of 5 GP, The villagers mobilisers and the core operational team have moved to every operational village organized village level meetings, the meetings were organised through the VLC's, and community leaders. The main objectives of the meeting was to know the status awareness level, opinions, mindset of people, on the issues and entitlements of MGNREGA. During the village meetings the team has share the provisions of the MGNREGA Act. and the rights of the job card holders. During the meeting sessions the present job seeker committee have played a very vital role to convince the people and the new job card holders. Between the meeting hours the teams have also tried to identify the problems, faced by the job seekers exist job card holders to compile and document the problems faced by them. After interacting with villagers of each G.Ps the team moved the grampanchayats to know the present ground status at panchayat level And during the interaction with village communities and identification of the problems it was revealed that neither the job card holders nor the implementing authorities e.g-PRI members have any basic knowledge about MGNREGA and even they don't know MGNREGA is Act properly, and they don't know if the authority violate the act than they will be punished in the court of law. Many things were come to the forefront, which has given a new shape and direction towards the program, and also it has given a inspiration to the team members of AJSA to build a proper mechanism by involving the job seekers.

During the year 3rd phase over 90 Village level awareness meeting were organized by AJSA in all operational areas. From the GP authorities we got positive responded and they offered our organisation to work jointly and to make effective of MGNREGA.

Village level meetings organized By AJSA





Micro Level Planning In Bongomunda

Micro Level Planning in Bongomunda Block

In a state like odisha where majority of rural population belongs to socially and economically disadvantaged groups, it is difficult to ensure participation without effective intervention of community organizations. Even though the people register for works under NREGA, they are unaware of the provisions, norms and rights of



MLP Conducted By AJSA In Alunda GP.

NREGA. Micro level impact studies show that the districts where civil society is active in implementation and monitoring process do better than other areas where societal interference is minimum. With a view to invest NREGA fund for durable assets creation and ensure people's participation in planning process AJSA has conducted village level micro plan villages with the village volunteers, PRI members community leaders in all operational villages of 5 GPs. As water scarcity is considered as the major problem of bongomunda block, The main of this strategy was, to leverage MGNREGA/S to create basic water infrastructure in the operational gram panchayats through NRM micro plans. The purpose of the micro plan was to mobilize the gram panchayats to implement NRM focused plan using the funds coming under MGNREGA/S. This survey was carried out before the gram sabha's and pallisabha taken palce in all GP's of bongomunda and further the reports were presented for appraisal in the Palli Sabha/Gram Sabha. The Data's were collected from primary and secondary sources to the know present scenario of MGNREGA in all operational GP's. Sampling was purposive and included all gender, classes, castes and communities. Mapping process has been adopted by organisation for easily access of all other information collectively where all community people were gave their suggestion on basic improvement in the community in planning. Individual interviews and group discussions with Gram Sabha members, Elected Representatives, State Government official were carried out to get their perceptions on the implementation of NREGS vis a vis the role of panchayats.

During the survey (2012-13) the entire process revealed that the NREGA has led to substantial rise in their daily income as well as standard of living. The regular efforts given by JSC's and AJSA now impacting thousand lives. About 50% of the household has at least one member employed in NREGA in all operational GP's.

Cadre Development

The cadres are playing an essential role in the entire process, as volunteers/interlocutors. The major objective behind cadre development is to create a platform of resource persons and groups at village level to fight against the irregularities at village, panchayat and block level and to assist the jobseekers and to organise the job seeker through proper awareness on the provision and rights of the Act. But practically to sustain the entire system in self-reliant actions cadre development is necessary. By looking forward the need, AJSA has identified 3 to 4 volunteers from each village and trained them, who are helping the illiterate and new job seekers and helping them to get the job opportunity through filling C -1 form and implement the Act in right direction.

Beside of all of the things the volunteers are now probing on behalf of the jobseekers for their rights at GP and Block level, as well as they are also helping the panchayats in developing Micro Level Plan which indirectly address the need of their villages for creation of permanent assets for their villagers for the sustainability. In addition to these volunteers help the panchayat to identify distress migrant families and extremely needy person to get the job on priority basis. Now 228 no. of job seekers are exercising for the rights of their community to make MGNREGA More effective in their respective villages.

Cadre development training organized by AJSA



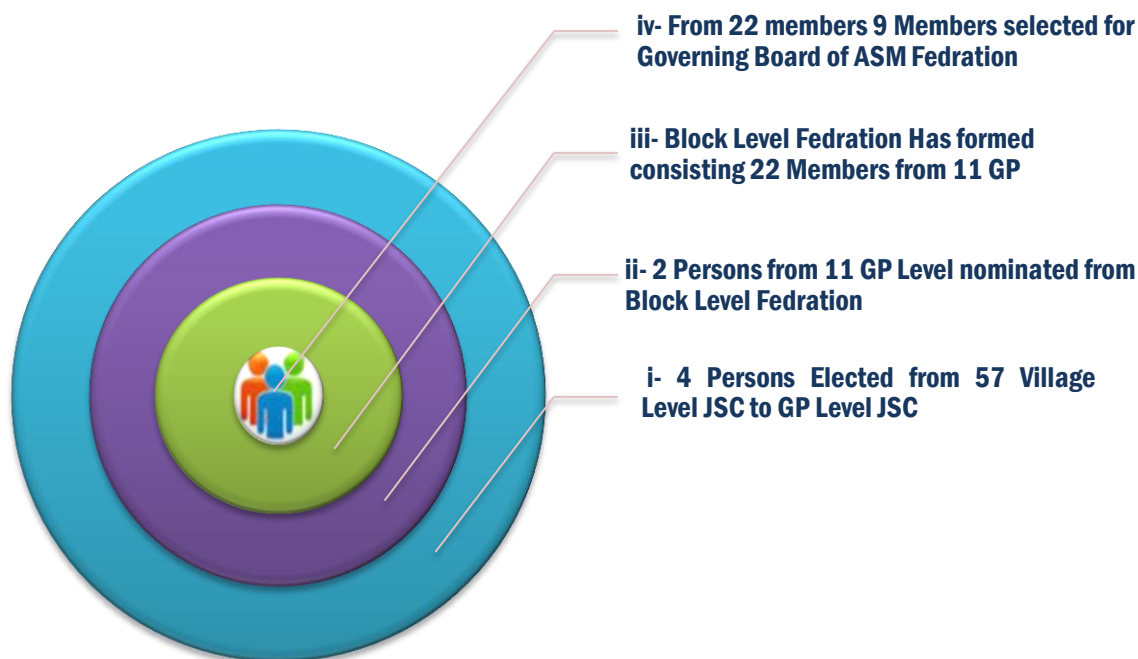
Formation of Job seeker committee to streamline MGNREGA

The key strategy adopted by AJSA is to ensure mass participation in MGNREGA in different levels. The Job seeker's committee (JSC) at village level and job seeker federation's in panchayat and block level are organised in order to speed up the MGNREGA implementation and also to address issues related to implementation of work as demanded by the job seekers timely measurement and payment, ensuring quality of work and social audit processes at panchayat level. The JSC's and panchayat and block federations are actively involved in awareness and campaigning programme organize in village, panchayat and block level's.

The job seeker committee usually to meets once in a month to review the NREGA progress at village level and they try to finalize the micro project to be implemented in the village on priority basis they also enlisted the needy job seeker to perform the work. The core committee at village level monitors the implementation of MGNREGA activities ensure quality, timely measurement of the work and wage payment, worksite facilities. The job seeker committee is also collecting the grievances of the job card holders and communicates to the panchayat and federation level committee for better advocacy and implementation and for a transparent mechanism of the programme.

Village level and GP Level JSC formation meeting





i. Village level JSC's

This is the first phase of Job seeker committee, formed by the job seekers in their own respective villages. From the total population 15 to 20 members elected for village in their own village for village level job seeker committee. Till now around 14000 job seekers were organized into 57 groups in 11 GP's of bongomunda. The main activity of the executive committee is to organise regular NREGA activities at village level and help the member job seeker at the time of their difficulties There after village level JSC elects its 4 No. of member to GP Level Job seeker committees.

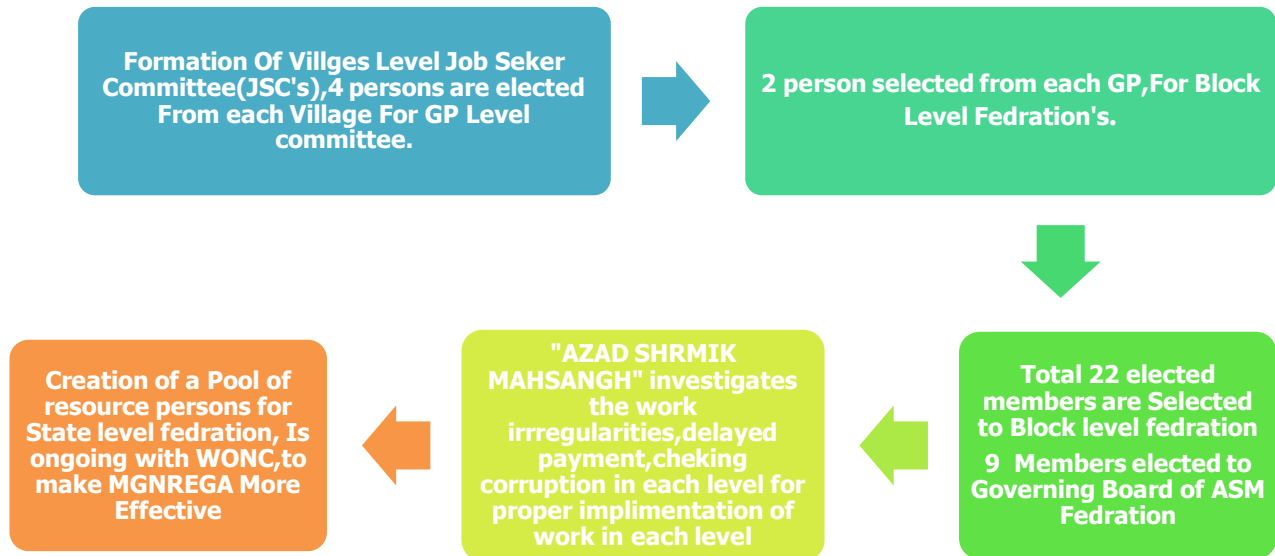
ii. GP level JSC's

Grampanchayat level JSC has been formed by the elected representative of the Village JSCs. Then GP Level job seeker committees elects its 2 persons from 11 GP's for block level Job seeker committees.

iii. Block level JSC federation

The block level or apex level JSC was formed by the 22 elected members of 11 GP level JSC representatives. From 22 members ,9 members elected to the governing body of block level federation. The block level federation of AJSA's operational area is Presently named as "Azad Shramik Mahasangh (ASM)" The main objective of this federation is to leverage the fund flow and check irregularities under the MGNREGA programme.

The JSC Mechanism



The efforts now is to strenthen the institution framework at the habitation level so as to fortify the panchayat ensuring effective governance at panchayat and



Block Level JSC Formation Meeting

village level for effective and efficient implimentation of MGNREGA work. Around **14,000** registered NREGS workers were organized into around **57** groups at village level, 11 group's at GP level, 1 Block level federation's in operational area's respectively which acted as platforms for collective action. To Cater to the need of the job seekers, "Azad Shramik

Mahasangh(AZM)"(Block level Federation) further integrated with the 11 Groups of GP Level. and they developed their strategy according to the Guidelines of MGNREGA, For proper implementation for proper advocacy and Lobby in every level.

Gram Panchayat	Total Villages	Nos of villages	Village List	MLP Status	Estimate amount of MLP	Utilized amount of MLP	Social audit status	Total HH	Migration (before intervention)	Migration (after intervention)	Migration checked	Name of the Job Seekers Committee	Name of the Job Seekers Committee Leader	CadreName of the Job Seekers Committee
CHANDTORA	1	1	CHANDTORA	1	500000	30000	2	400	35	30	5	Maa Duarsani Job Seeker Committee (JSC)	Gurucharan Behera	Kalam Jani
	2	2	BHURSAPGUDA	1	500000	500000		255	45	69	0	Dakhinkali JSC	Rudra Sahu	Bhajaram Sahu
	3	3	KURLUBHATA	1	50000	50000		286	28	40	0	Janibudha JSC	Tila Bhoi	Surendra Bhoi
	4	4	TITIGAON	1	600000	600000		227	53	80	0	Maa Bhairabi JSC	Rupadhar Sahu	Saheba Sahu
	5	5	CHINDAGUDA	1	500000	500000		136	42	40	2	Maa Birala JSC	Raghunath Bhoi	Hareram Behera
	6	6	GANJIAPADA	1	500000	300000		208	138	69	69	Maa Mangala JSC	Gajendra Bag	Dolamani Sabar
JAMKHUNTA	7	7	JAMKHUNTA	1	450000	450000	2	337	52	36	16	Maa Gujen JSC	Sushil Ku Rana	Pandav Rana
	8	8	GHARLA	1	300000	300000		166	38	40	0	Maa Batren JSC	Nirakar Jhankar	Rajaram Tandi
	9	9	SRIRAM	1	300000	70000		141	18	40	0	Maa Gangadei	Bipin Mahanand	Chudeswar Behera
	10	10	TUREKELA	1	300000	N/A		223	43	35	8	Maa Jadeibuda JSC	Kamal Majhi	Sita Mangaraj
	11	11	JAMPADA	1	N/A	N/A		262	53	37	26	Maa Mauli JSC	Ganesh Nag	Jaydev Bachha
	12	12	KALKUT	1	N/A	N/A		95	15	10	5	Dangarbudha JSC	Pareswar Nag	Chandramani Hans
ALANDA	13	13	ALANDA	0	500000	500000	3	306	145	108	37	Maa Bhabnai JSC	Hira Majhi	Barun Chhura
	14	14	TENTULIPADA	1	300000	300000		71	18	37	N/A	Maa Gangadei JSC	Dharani Kanda	Kandarpa Kanda
	15	15	BANJUPADAR	1	500000	N/A		117	49	43	6	Maa Bahirabi JSC	Rikha Mahanand	Gokul Mhanand
	16	16	BAGARTIPADA	1	N/A	N/A		83	46	36	10	Maa Dakhinkali JSC	Dharmu Bgarti	Uma Bagarti
	17	17	BAKAGUDA	1	1000000	1000000		201	85	81	4	Maa Tarni JSC	Sachita Bagarti	Balanand Bgarti
	18	18	PANDRIPANI	1	500000	320000		124	58	34	24	Maa Samalei JSC	Karunakar Bgarti	Abhi Bag
	19	19	PITAMAHUL	1	500000	500000		89	44	41	3	Maa Samleswari JSC	Paramanand Kharsel	Bhubaneswar Bag
	20	20	PUTLATALEI	1	300000	300000		145	56	12	43	Maa Tahkurani JSC	Anil Ku. Majhi	Akhanda Majhi
	21	21	NUAPADA	1	N/A	N/A		97	11	5	6	Maa Banadurga JSC	Deba Dundi	Chandrachuda Bag
	22	22	BAHALGUBA	1	N/A	N/A		109	23	17	6	Maa Mauli JSC	Baishanaba Bagart	Labanya Bagarti
DEDGAON	23	23	DEDGAON	1	2050000	1641000	3	589	89	51	38	Maa Duarsani JSC	Lakhan Thapa	Lakhan Thapa
	24	24	BAGBAHAL	1	500000	50000		156	27	14	13	Dangarbudha JSC	Parmananad Chinagun	Parmanand Chingun
	25	25	PURNIPALI	1	500000	500000		138	29	25	4	Swami Bibekanand JSC	Heram Jal	Heram Jal
	26	26	PUDAPALI	1	770000	670000		198	52	35	17	Maa Jagadamba JSC	Mahendra Bag	Panchali Bag
GANDHARLA	27	27	GANDHARLA	1	300000	35000	2	416	175	170	5	Maa Ganjahuli JSC	Biranchi Jal	Dura Pujhari
	28	28	SUNDHIMUNDA	1	300000	40000		102	34	24	10	Maa Budi maa JSC	Khyama Chandan	Ramdash Bag
	29	29	BADAPARA	1	300000	300000		172	17	16	1	Maa Gujen JSC	Tapi Pujhari	Khirsindhu Rana
	30	30	SALEMUDGA	1	100000	100000		52	3	3	0	Maa Mauli JSC	Nilambar Hans	Chitra Hans
	31	31	DABJHAR	1	100000	N/A		51	9	8	1	Maa Tarni JSC	Hajari Bhoi	Keshab Bhoi
	32	32	JHINKIPADA	1	1100000	1100000		202	15	9	7	Maa Duarsani JSC	Nilakantha Bhoi	Mahendra Kharsel
	33	33	BATHARLA	1	300000	300000		162	40	30	10	Maa Jadenbuda JSC	Sagar Bhoi	Bipra Bhoi
	34	34	BARKANI	1	2100000	1800000		141	28	20	8	Maa Kamala	Hiradhar Majhi	Nakul Majhi
	35	35	MALPADA	1	100000	100000		30	8	5	3	Maa Gajabahini JSC	Prithwi Majhi	Digsan Majhi
Total					16120000	12356000		6487	1621	1350	387			

Capacity building of community leaders for micro planning

During the year AJSA has trained 184 local volunteers to handholding support to job seekers at ground level and for making micro level planning at village level for creating of durable assets and to present the problems and issues in Pallisabha's and gram sabha's.



Capacity Building Training of community leaders on Micro Level Planning

The main objective behind the training is to enhance the leadership qualities of the JSC Leaders. So that they too can fight for their rights and irregularities under the MGNREGA programme in their areas.

During the capacity building trainings, experts and facilitators have trained the community leaders to enhance their capacities to share the knowledge about their rights and provisions under MGNREGA. These trainings enable the job seekers in mobilizing their gram panchayat and gram sabha members about registration process, placing the demand for job, mobilizing gram panchayat and gram sabha members to prepare perspective plan under NREGA.

By the continuous efforts of given by AJSA, the entire process has gained momentum. The job seeker committees have resulted more, and they have achieved their goal phase by phase, through facilitating preparation of perspective plans, improvements in worksite facilities and following up proper procedure as delineated in the Operational Guidelines issued by MORD.



Creating job Opportunities

Issuing job cards and lobby& advocacy with Govt. To create job Opportunities at village level

After the involvement of AJSA in its operational Panchayat since 2007, it has transformed into a campaign mode to ensure that MGNREGA is implemented as a demand driven programme. Now the wage seekers are organised into Job seekers Committee at village and panchayat level and job seekers Federations at block level in order to speed up the MGNREGA implementation and also to address issues related to implementations of work as demanded by the job seekers timely measurement and payment, ensuring quality of work and social audit processes at panchayat level. AJSA is now playing a very vital role in mobilizing households for registrations, getting job cards, providing motivation to submit work demand applications in groups, providing assistance in getting receipts for work applications, and getting minimum wages and equal wages to all. During the time, when job seeker leaders demanded for their job in some GP's. It became apparent that the in some operational village *sarpanches* did not like people putting their demand for work in writing.

By looking forward these things and to make the Job seeker federation more vibrant and transparent AJSA has adopted few Strategies to address these issues which are given below

Azad Shramik Mahasangha (ASM) established two objectives for its interventions related to NREGA implementation: 1) to increase access to NREGA, and 2) to improve the implementation of NREGA so that workers get paid in a timely manner. The ASM strategy for pursuing these goals consisted of four elements:

(i) Building capacities of communities to demand for work

The main vision of the Act is to reduce Migration and provides job opportunity for the distress migration families but unfortunately such type of families have been not getting Job card under the Act. During the baseline survey we found such type of families and did advocacy at the GP and Block office to provide job card and job for the Migration returned families in priority basis. Therefore, it was necessary to make people aware of the concept of demand-based provision of employment. It was also necessary to mobilize the people to make sure that they made use of the provision for social audits. Moving from house to house, village youth groups mobilized by ASM distributed the application forms necessary for demanding work under NREGA. ASM emphasized the importance of people filing demand applications in order to establish the practice of demanding work. It also emphasized that the applicants should get a dated

receipt for their application from the Panchayat, which would enable them to ask for an unemployment allowance if they did not get work within the stipulated period of 15 days.

(ii) Budget tracking

Budget expenditure tracking tools helped ASM to understand the flow of documents from the village upwards and the flow of funds from the district level to the workers' hands. Through such analyses, ASM was able to pinpoint gaps and bottlenecks at various levels in the system. The analyses also provided a strong basis from which to engage with government officials. ASM carried out detailed analyses of NREGA records accessed during the social audit process that it facilitated with the panchayats in Bongomunda. The data revealed realities in the field, which helped ASM and AJSA to plan its interventions. AJSA's expenditure tracking analyses investigated the following key issues:

Analysis of online MIS data for different panchayats : MIS data presented online includes village-level records of the number of persons given work, wages paid, delays in payment and unemployment allowance or (if relevant) compensation for delays in payment. This data enables groups like ASM to monitor the state of NREGA implementation. Rigorous analysis and the depth of information and knowledge it produced helped AJSA & ASM to earn respect in the eyes of government officials (from village to district level), as well as with the people in the village. This respect played an important role in bringing about change in budget processes and allocations.

(iii) Advocacy with government officers

Although the *gram panchayat* is officially the primary agency for the implementation of NREGA, in reality the executive officers in panchayat level still work under the instructions of the block and the district level administrations. The village-level planning process has therefore remained weak, despite the official powers granted to the *gram panchayat* by NREGA.

AJSA kept all concerned officials informed about what it was going in the field and shared its findings with them. By looking forward to the responses given by AJSA in the field level, all govt. officials were ready for cooperation to provide handhold support to PRI members for successful implementation of MGNREGA. AJSA's staff often visited block and district offices to collect data or to follow up on matters related to NREGA implementation in the project villages. These opportunities were used to share the work being done with the BDO, PO, and EOs. The BDO of Bonogomunda in Bolangir appreciated the efforts of AJSA &

ASM to disseminate information about NREGA through a house-to-house campaign and wanted to replicate the approach in the entire block.

(iv) Putting pressure on the gram panchayat's to respond to the demands for work

The next step in the process was to put pressure on the *gram panchayat* to respond to demands for work by reminding them that they would be answerable if the people did not get work within 15 days. The individuals who had filed demand applications started making repeated enquiries with the *sarpanch* and village secretary about the date on which the work would commence. After the organization's interventions all the relevant registers were updated and the registration of fresh workers accelerated.

SL. No	Achievement's(Till March 2012)	Before Initiation Of Project	After Initiation Of the Project
1	Total no. Of Job card holders	4554	6642
2	Total No. Of Job Card Issued	6354	6642
3	Total A/C opened For Job card holders in bank	2169	4491
4	Total A/C opened for Job card holders in post office	0	959
5	Total Migration Household Covered	1367	2054
6	Total Migration Population Covered	2776	3075
7	Total job demanded through JSC's	800	1980

S.L NO	Achievemnts (Till Mar 2013)	Before Initiation Of the Project	After Initiation Of the Project
1	Total no. Of Job card holders	5597	7610
2	Total No. Of Job Card Issued	3907	4804
3	Total A/C opened For Job card holders in bank	2291	3159
4	Total A/C opened for Job card holders in post office	1021	2102
5	Total Migration Household Covered	1621	1350
6	Total Migration Population Covered	3645	2230
7	Total job demanded through JSC's	970	1215

Migration Data of Bongomunda, Dist- Bolangir (Odisha)

Sl no	Name of the GP	Name of the village	Total house hold in the village	Total job card holder	Total house hold migrated in 2009	Total house hold migration in 2012	Household s Engaged In NREGA Work		
1	Dedgaon	1-Bagbahal	111	76	52	35	15		
		2-Dedgoan	404	219	162	117	34		
		3-Pudapali	173	86	84	82	22		
		4-Purniapali	103	65	32	57	14		
Total			491	446	330	291	85		
2	Alanda	5-Alanda	277	145	175	103	20		
		6-Bagartipada	67	34	47	38	10		
		7-Banjupadar	97	43	62	48	16		
		8-Bakaguda	153	76	30	64	22		
		9-Pandripani	166	120	120	83	17		
		10-Pitamahul	197	112	48	63	21		
		11-Putulatalai	230	123	145	85	24		
		12-Tentulipada	68	38	44	22	17		
		13-Bahalguba	109	65	36	58	18		
		Total			1364	756	665	564	165
		3	Jamkhunta	14-Gharla	166	65	87	46	23
				15-Jamkhunta	237	74	104	99	31
				16-Jampada	141	63	70	103	26
18-Kalkut	95			37	38	42	22		

		19-Turekela	223	125	97	105	28
		20-Sriram	262	119	122	98	21
Total			1124	483	518	493	151
4	Chandotara	21-Bhursaguda	217	122	177	120	19
		22-Chandotara	509	135	208	166	35
		23-Chindaguda	117	70	77	82	34
		24-Ganjipada	208	122	66	98	17
		25-Kurlubhata	258	98	139	68	27
		26-Titilate	254	122	75	83	16
Total			1563	669	742	617	158
5	Gandharla	27-Badapara	172	68	105	95	23
		28-Barkini	141	55	88	42	12
		29-Batharla	162	62	105	40	25
		30-Dabjhar	51	36	27	21	10
		31-Gandharla	476	167	270	156	20
		32-Jhinkipada	202	150	81	101	24
		33-Salemudga	52	25	17	12	13
		34-Sundhimunda	105	75	43	35	18
Total			1361	638	736	502	145
Grand Total			5903	2992	2991	2467	704

Works Covered By Job Seeker Committee

S.L NO.	Gram Panchyat (G.P) Name	Village Name	Type Of Work Covered BY MGNREGA	No Of Persons Demanded Jobs	No. Of Persons Provided Employment	Total Budget
1	Dedgaon	Dedgaon	Check Dam	54	72	5,00,000
2		Purniapali	Construction of Road	70	70	5,00,000
3		Dengpadar	Construction Of Road	50	45	5,00,000
4		Dedgaon	Construction Of Road	106	87	5,00,000
5		Pudapali	Tank Renovation	54	54	5,00,000
6		Bagbahal	Construction Of Road	69	52	5,00,000
7		Pudapali	Farm Pond	34	24	1,00,000
8		Dedgaon	Farm Pond	22	22	50,000
						31,50,000
9	Alunda	Alunda	Tank Renovation	56	40	5,00,000
10		Pitamahul	Construction Of Road	62	50	5,00,000
11		Putlatalei	Tank Renovation	48	53	3,00,000
12			Farm Pond	34	34	3,00,000
13		Bakaguda	Checkdam	78	53	7,00,000
14			Tank Renovation	46	40	5,00,000
15		Tetelpada	Tank Renovation	36	27	3,00,000
16		Pandripani	Tank Renovation	35	35	5,00,000
						36,00,000
17	Jamkhunta	Jamkhunta	Construction Of Road	25	35	3,00,000
18		Sriram	Construction Of Road	65	45	3,00,000
19		Turekela	Tank Renovation	65	52	3,00,000
20		Gharla	Construction Of Road	26	26	3,00,000
21		Jamkhunta	Mango Plantation	30	30	1,50,000

						13,50,000
22	Chandotara	Ganjia Pada	Tank Renovation	57	30	5,00,000
23		Chindaguda	Tank Renovation	70	70	5,00,000
24			Farm Pond	25	15	1,00,000
25		Chandotara	Farmpond	30		15,00,000
26		Titisiliet	Farmpond	12		6,00,000
27		Bhursaguda	Tank Renovation	50	57	5,00,000
						37,00,000
28	Gandharla	Barkani	Land Labeling	54	14	8,00,000
			Construction Of Road	104	62	8,00,000
29		Jhinkipada	Mango Plantation	15	15	18,00,000
30		Batharla	-----	-----	-----	
31		Dabjagar	-----	-----	-----	
32		Salemudga	-----	-----	-----	
33		Badpara	Construction Of Road	45	36	3,00,000
34		Barkani	Farm Pond	22	24	50,000
			Land Labeling	25	28	5,00,000
						42,50,000

(Works Covered By Job Seeker Committees Village Wise,Period 2012-13)



Strengthening Job Seeker Committees

Strengthening the Job seeker committees

From the very beginning, the JSC' have taken up some pilot initiatives under the guidance of AJSA to move beyond wage income and build on the gains secured by NREGS entitlements. The interventions include initiating discussions among the wage labor groups for adapting sustainable agriculture practices, non-pesticide management, mixed cropping, composting, kitchen gardens, vegetable cultivation etc. Such interventions are towards securing maximum wages and investments for development of land and water resources from NREGS and supporting the job card holding families to capitalize on those benefits. At the village level, effort has led to increasing people's confidence in checking cheating and misappropriation in the NREGA, Corruption ratio and payment disturbance is minimised. In every operational village, people were able to demand for payment jobs as well as for their rights. Through giving constant effort in work and by persistent follow-up's with PRI's ,Government official's,job seeker committee and Fedration's.

At the block level, members of JSC's organised a rally to demand work, and proper payment of wages, in Bongomunda Block.The leadership was provided by the federation 'Azad Shramik Mahasangh'. Subsequently, the access to basic entitlements of NREGA has improved a lot, in comparison to other villages due to proper advocacy and Lobby by the JSC's in all levels's.The Organisation also has plans to devlope a pool of resource persons(Federation) in District and state level for effective implimentaion Of MGNREGA.

i. Training Programme for JSC leaders

To fulfill the objective of the program AJSA has organised 64 No. of training camps in 5 operational GPs for Skill development and communication of JSC leaders. The objectives of the trainings are

- *To equip the leaders with the norm and provisions of NREGA*
- *To enhance their leadership qualities for demand job at panchyat level and to fight for their rights.*
- *Trained to JSC leaders on how they will help to labourers during the time of job demand, work plan, prioritization of works and to bridge the gap between Government administration and Azad Shramik Mahansangh.*
- *They also trained on basic technical knowledge to assist on collect baseline data at their village level.*



Trainina Proaramme for JSC Leaders

ii- Community mobilization

Through its intensive work in 63 operational villages in the bongomunda block, AJSA trained youth groups, VLC's, community leaders and women from self-help groups, who in turn created wider awareness about the rules of NREGA among the people who needed work. Such mobilization was essential to any campaign around NREGA, which depends heavily on an active response by work seekers.



GP Level Job seeker leadership training

This mobilization put pressure on government officials to take to Azad shramik mahasangh's (ASM) work more seriously because it worked closely with the people. Mobilizing and educating the people also increases the demand for changes from the ground and that puts pressure on the government to take remedial action. During the whole process the participants found that in almost every village people were aware of their entitlement to 100 days of work a year although many were not aware of the specific details of the entitlement.

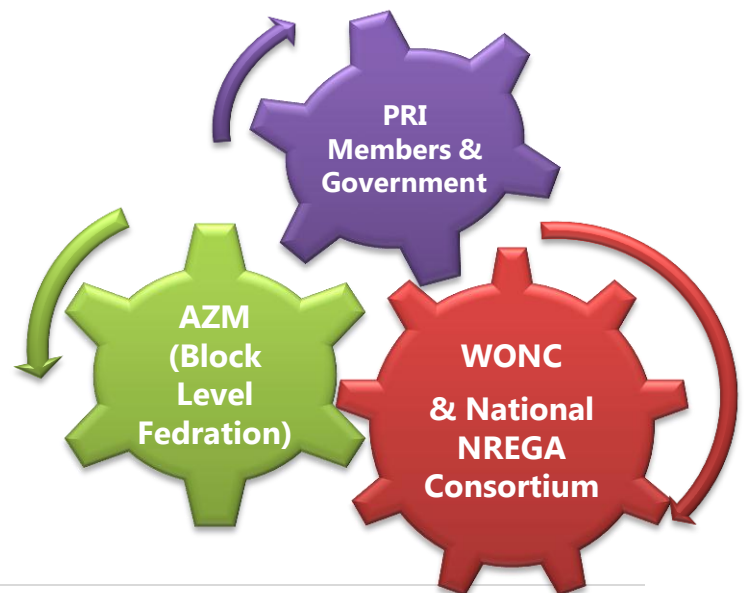
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The Number Of Trained Job Seeker Leaders, volunteers and community Leaders are now mobilizing thousands of others to take self-reliant actions through MGNREGA in 11 GP's Of Bonogomunda.

iii. Building a participatory Mechanism

During the year AJSA has played a key role in social audit process to help the Government indirectly, the leadership was provided by the job seeker leaders of ASM during the time of social audit.

The participants were given questionnaires to administer on villagers, panchayat officials and workers at the site. The information



collected through this massive interview schedules were discussed and analyzed by the JSC' federation s itself. Then AJSA raised a series of issues reflected in this social audit. While there exists some problems in the implementation process including low wages, during the study AJSA found that there is a significant leap in forward in employment and the local administration is giving the issue highest priority. The social audit further found that all the work was organized by gram sabhas, and the sense of legal entitlement shored up by the significant impact of the ASM has led to a culture of transparency and accountability in this district. For example muster rolls were found in almost all worksites without any evidence of having been tampered with. Another positive outcome is that close to **55%** of the laborers in this area were women and therefore the NREGA is making an impact on the earning capacity of women as well which will positively affect gender equations in the community¹. From the audit it was clear that worksite facilities were not provided properly. So the workers were able to demand for basic facilities when they came to know that the Act entitles not only wages but also certain minimum facilities at the worksites.

The experience of Dedgaon social audit helped to rectify some of existing problems of implementation of NREGA. It has created a strong feeling among officials of other districts in the state that social audit can make them accountable to the people and can check leakage of funds and corruption. Thus the entire experiment created a wave across the block and ultimately led to sharp decrease in false muster rolls and registration. The campaign further proved that NREGA could be implemented effectively if there is a strong commitment and involvement from various stakeholders involved in local governance. It clearly demonstrates that with public monitoring, transparency and administrative functioning and an empowered population, not only is corruption minimized, but also development that transforms the lives of the poor is an attainable reality.

During the entire process AJSA has done these positive achievements with the technical guidance key facilitating agencies of WONC, National Nrega Consortium including PRI members and Government.

iii. Role Of AJSA in Public hearing programmes at block level

As per the Block level resolution, BDO formed a committee and involved us to make GP level social audit and Block level Public hearing meeting to get reformation on MGNREGA, as the point of view of transparency and accountability. By looking forward this, the JSC leaders and the team members of AJSA have visited the operational areas and they have presented their

observation report at GP and Block level Public hearing meeting which was organised by the block level administration. In the public hearing AJSA and Azad sharamik Mahasangh played a very role as facilitating agency. Jobseekers got chances to present their problems in work sites and suggested to take proactive steps as per the findings. During the reporting Period 10 Block level Public hearing meeting were organized by AJSA's active and positive involvement with block level govt. officials.

Block level interface meeting

AJSA has been adopted an approach of systemic and routine meetings between block level functionaries and wage-seekers through block level interface meeting. This interface served as an effective platform for wage seekers for bringing the problems and issues in implementation to the notice of block and district officials. This built confidence among them and also helped in



speeding up the processes like showing work, payments, provision of work site facilities etc. The 13 Nos of Block level interface workshops had been organised in different zone of our project area. With a proper strategy the workshops are organised by the block level Sramik Sanghathan. The Block development officer, Executive officers of operational GPs, ASM members and leaders, Gram-Sathi, GRS, Sarapanch, Ward members, women leaders, activists, and media persons were attended in the workshops.

Through Block level interface meetings, between the job seekers and the department officials, following issues were raised and most of them are solved:

- Delays in payments for more than one month
- Non availability of job demand form, Delay measurement
- Bank authority are not issuing pass book to the labourers working under MGNREGA

- Work site facilities especially not appointing separate person for drinking water provision, lack of shades, medical kits etc.,
- Tools are not provided on worksite
- Field assistant not taking proper measurements
- Job cards not updated
- Names of those who have not worked in the field entered in the muster rolls and those
- who have worked not entered

Through giving constant efforts in work and by persistent follow-up's with PRI's , Government official's, job seeker committee and Federation's. we are able to make MGNREGA more effective by assuring that, the implementation will be true to the spirit and will be done as per the objectives of the action in our operational areas. As well as, As a facilitator- AJSA has empowered thousands of community leaders, PRI members and other stakeholders so that they could stand for their rights and entitlements enshrined in the Act.

i. Helping gram panchayats to respond

According to a research conducted by PRIA a national level NGO state that- "Panchayats have not been able to perform to their full potential due to lack of functionaries. They have become paralyzed and are not able to perform their roles and responsibilities". During the interaction with the PRI Members AJSA has discovered the same thing that village-level sarpanches and other PRI members did not have the capacity to plan the necessary works projects or to budget for the demands for work. The government had not taken any steps to build this capacity, and, as a result, labor budgets were prepared at the district level by the APO and the PO.



PRI Members Training Organised By WONC

AJSA decided to help the village-level functionaries with proper planning in order to improve the execution of NREGA. This process equipped the village-

level functionaries with a ready list of public works projects, which could generate employment when demands for work were filed. AJSA then trained the PRI members to prepare labor budgets for the village by estimating the demand for work based on the number of people holding job cards and the average number of people reporting for work during the previous year. In these intensive gram panchayats, communities were motivated to apply for work as a result the administration had to open work in panchayats and villages to save themselves from giving unemployment allowance.

Handholding support to community and Elected Representatives were extended, This year PRI members of AJSA's operational area have got the opportunity to get the training organized By WONC In kantabanji. The traing has become a credible platform for them where the PRI members are able to share their field level problems and solutions with the experts and other stakeholders. From the training they came to know about some new revised policies adopted by the Govt. and also they get the information about the implementation of new policies.

ii. Streamlining Gramsabha's

Grama Sabha, the ideal of direct democracy, is an element of Grama Panchayat, the lowest tier of Panchayati Raj Institution. As each of the Indian state has legislated its own Panchayat Act. Orissa Grama Panchayat Act, 1964 provides constitution of Palli Sabha where the area constitutes a Ward of the Grama i.e. when multiple contiguous villages constitute one Grama, the neighbouring villages will have Palli Sabha. Each Palli Sabha shall consist of all persons registered in the electoral roll for Assembly Constituency for the time being in force as it relates to the area in respect of the Palli Sabha.

The members present at any Palli Sabha will form the quorum of the meeting and the

Proceedings of the meeting shall be recorded and authenticated by its President. It is the duty of the Palli Sabha at its annual meeting in February each year to give its recommendations to the Grama Panchayats sabha's (Gram sabha's) in respect of the matters like:

- (a) Development works and programmes that may be taken up during the ensuing year.
- (b) annual budget estimate submitted by the Grama Panchayat

Ground Realities in Grama Sabha

In the previous year's The functioning of Grama Sabha and Palli Sabha / Gram Sabha in Orissa reveal a dismal figure of attendance, lack of leadership and decision, lack of vision and activity mostly due to want of attendance. India is exemplary in its democratic trend despite its very strong history of aristocracy. Present democracy of India can be viewed as centrifugal trend as it had spread from Delhi to its Periphery.

What is needed is demand based democracy, from periphery to centre, the centripetal way of democratic functioning. It is Gandhian oceanic circle of villages constituting India. We, the citizens have certain obligations of attending the Grama Sabha in large numbers spontaneously and fulfilling the democratic ideology. But surprisingly, this is vitally lacking everywhere.

iii. Role of AJSA in Gram sabha's for Planning and Execution of tasks

It is absolutely essential for the success of the NREGA that the local community be involved in the planning and implementation of the works. The local community must make it a part of the village long term development plan. Further, it is only the local community which best knows its own needs and which has to reap the benefits of the productive assets. They have the maximum incentive to make it work. In this context, our survey reveals a poor picture of the part played by Panchayat's in these villages. The main reason behind the attendance, participation and frequency of gram sabha meetings standing low was cited as a lack of information about the programme. Most of the villagers did not know about the clauses of the scheme and thought it to be another employment scheme where the government tells people what work is to be done. By looking forward these problems, village volunteers, Job seeker leaders and Village mobilisers of AJSA have



AJSA's Presence on Gramsabha's

moved each and every village before Gramsabha's to ensure maximum participation including male and female. They have also helped the villagers and job seekers to identify their needs and their villages for sustainable livelihood options. And the effort has shown a huge positive impact in AJSA's operational areas by 60% community participation in comparison to previous years. Surprisingly participation female job seekers was highly increased. With a special request of Sarpanchs and EO's, the core team of AJSA has joined in the Gramsabha of 5 Gp's to streamline the entire process. AJSA has provided a report on "Roles and responsibilities of PRIs in NREGS" which was prepared by AJSA especially for Gram Sabha's. The report was played key reference material with the provisions of NREG Act, Central Operational Guidelines, State Schemes and Guidelines with the perspective of Panchayats. This has also given the idea to Gram Sabha members to identify the needs and priorities according to the criteria given in the act and prepare a shelf of work for five years. It also focuses on deviations and implication of such deviations on the effectiveness of Panchayats in the implementation of NREGA. This report outlines the provisions of NREGA and corresponding provisions in the Operational Guidelines with regard to the role assigned to PRIs. Emerging issues in the implementation of NREGA and recommendations were also dealt with in the report. AJSA efforts and job seeker leaders hard work has seen in the face of Thousands of job seekers who have put their demand in their respective Gramsabha. By looking forward the key role of AJSA in the entire process present panelist, job seekers, Sarpanchs members were very keen to get the support for successful implementation of NREGA in their Panchayat's. Therefore special resolutions were made for AJSA a major facilitator and to provide the technical support on NREGA Program.



Awareness camps at GPs

During the year AJSA have Organised 11 GP level awareness camps in 5 GP's. This is also an interaction between the PRI members and GP federation leaders to address the job seekers problems. The method of these camps was very innovative; volunteers of AJSA have shared their messages



GP Level Awareness Camp at Kurlubhata Village

through traditional street play, folk dance and folk song instead of teaching method. As this methodology has gained the maximum positive result with a mix of entertainment and teachings and messages of MGNREGA, The team members have passed their message through the action, song and instruments to the community people about the MGNREGA Act and its benefits. The momentum has gained more popularity in peoples mind and all age groups. In pachayt's like Alunda, Dedgaon and chandotara the Sarpachs, ward members have discussed and specific issues of MGNREGA according to the issues raised by the JSC's leaders.

Through the continuous efforts given By AJSA and Azad sharamik Mahasangh, Now the Public awareness level is high in all operational GP's of AJSA in comparison to other GP's. And almost workers are now familiar with the muster roll system, job cards, and various entitlements under NREGA etc.

Community Mobilisation and Public awareness Campaign on MGNREGA

Awareness Campaign was carried out in intervening all 5 operational GP's of bongomunda for wide scale dissemination of information about the main provisions of the Act especially those related to guarantee of work, process of getting work and provisions at the work sites. JSC leaders and elected representatives were oriented about the provisions of NREGA and the role that they could take up in monitoring of implementation on a regular basis as well as in helping people acquire work in a proper and dignified manner. For mass level information dissemination has under taken many awareness generation methods which are given below.

i) Leaflet Distribution and Wall writings – Several leaflets were developed by AJSA on provisions, guidelines and rights of job seekers of MGNREGA, which has been printed in local oriya language to spread the message easily. Similarly wall writings were done by AJSA in every villages to have an visible impact in peoples mind. And by looking forward for the demand and need a hoarding has also constructed by AJSA to serve the need by providing maximum informations and MGNREGA guidelines in oriya language.



Leaflet Distribution and wall writing by AJSA

ii- Street Plays

To create awareness among the people on MGNREGA Guidelines, AJSA Has chosen some traditional methods and technique to reach more people in the operational areas, "Street Play" is one of It. By this volunteers of AJSA have shared their messages through traditional street play, folk dance and folk song instead of teaching method. As this methodology has gained the maximum positive result with a mix of entertainment and positive learning messages of MGNREGA, The team members have shared their message through the action, song and instruments to the community people about the MGNREGA Act and its benefits.



Street Plays on MGNREGA

iii. Film show

To make more peoples aware about MGNREGA, this year AJSA has shown a documentary film show in the all operational villages and GP's named "The Road Back to Home". The Film is produced by "Samaj Pragati sahayog (SPS)" and Directed by Mr. Pramathesh ambasta. The film has shown how migrant workers



Film Show – "The Road Back To Home"

basically suffered in metro's and brick kiln areas, and how their family members suffered and caught in the cycles of migration. Positive impacts created by WONC and its partner organisations also showed in that film, as well as it has beautifully demonstrated that how a common can avail the benefit of MGNREGA as an alternative source of livelihood generation and how NREGA is having the potential liberation from these hardships. The film has created a good impression on peoples mind, when they saw "a

common man's daily life as migrant laborers".Some peoples were aghast after seen the real scenario of brick kiln and construction areas ,from the own words of the sufferers who have lost their life in the darkness of metro's.

After seen the good impact, of Film show AJSA has conducted a feedback survey to know the responses of the community leaders and viewers , especially from the parents /guardians and family members of migrant workers.

In their survey responses, few people have denied to migrate further after listening the emotional comments from their family members. Some are assured their family that if they got work in the village, then they will never go for migration. Some Migrant workers also spoke about the hardships associated with migration. In the cities, they live in deplorable conditions, with no access to basic facilities such as shelter, sanitation or even safe drinking water. In the case of men-only migration, women and children face material and psychological insecurity, and family relations often suffer.

Dekhanu Bua ,Kam hat hata hauchan kaen e lok mane? Bachithile sina kamamu bua,he bidesh ke kaen marbar bar lagi jiba kaen... Mui amr babu manke ithara mana karmi..Bhuti kari,dui mutha dukhe kaste ene khai kari chalmu pache enta gulgula hebar lagi nei jaa balmi.....

Debaki Tandi - A 65 years old lady, has given her comments very Emotionally to a surveyor after seen the film "The Road Back to Home"



- See... son, how peoples are tortured and facing difficulties over there, shall we migrate to kill our self? This time I will d'nt allow my sons to go over there. I will say them-We can work here as laborers, we can feed our family two times from that in any way ,and we can live our life with dignity,but we shall never go for migration to live a life like hell for money.

iii. Stop Corruption Campaign

During this reporting period 50 educated JSC leaders were identified from the 550 members of ASM, AJSA motivated them to create awareness among people in their localities, and further they formed 5 different groups and they to various villages where work under NREGA is going on in their localities. The groups created awareness among villagers about different provisions of NREGA, mechanisms to check corruptions and need for public vigilance. They have also verified whether the entitlements promised under the Act are reached at the bottom level or not. The team carried with them checklists about NREGA entitlements and verified the implementation status with officials.

Exposure Visits

To enhance the working strategy and mechanism and to build the capacities of staff members in strategic manner, 2 exposure visits have organized by AJSA In collaboration with WONC. The first visit was carried out in Rajasthan on GPS/GIS technology along with the Consortium Partners, to Jagaran Jana Bikash Samiti of Udaipur (Rajasthan), Hanuman Vana Bikash Samiti and Gram Sandarv Kendra And the second one was made to keonjhar OSKA to learn the process of mobilizing gram panchayats to implement micro plan and advocacy actions of the community and its adaptability in own field area.

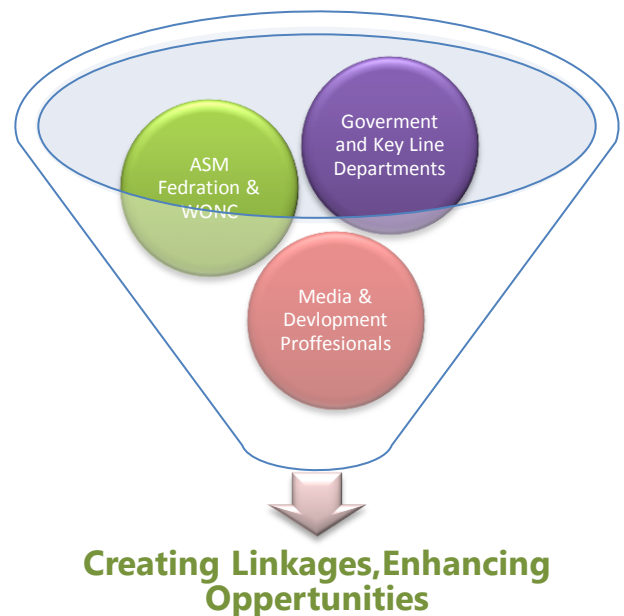
During the interaction with the communities and staff members of above mentioned organization our staff members came to know about the solution of few existing problems related to job demand and grievance system. The exposure has enriched the working strategy of AJSA's team members. Lesson learnt from both the area were applied in AJSA's field area and working mechanism, which has resulted better than the older working mechanism's and strategies.

Networking and Alliance Building

WONC is jointly working with National NREGA Consortium a coalition of civil society organisations(CSOs) that have come together to try and make NREGA a success. The Consortium seeks to move beyond the more traditional civil society role of acting as a watchdog for NREGA.WONC works closely with National NREGA Consortium, and as a partner of organization of WONC,AJSA support the mission and vision of the consortium with a commitment to make NREGA successful in its area of operation.

Though the regular inputs of National NREGA Consortium and on successful implementation of MGNREGA entitlements has able to create a positive impact on state and central Govt. This year Shri. Jairam Ramesh,Union honorable Minister for Rural Development, Government of India has visited Nuapada, In his visit he has given special attention on WONC and National NREGA Consortium's and appreciated its work, In between a sharing session WONC and its partners organization presented their working strategy adopted in all operational villages and its impacts in the lives of people.During the session AJSA has places a brief note of activity and achievement report to Sri Vineel R. Krishnan (IAS) Ministry of RD,Govt. Of India.

To create pool of resource persons,Now AJSA is working collectively with National NREGA Consortium,WONC, Government,Media and development professionals to enrich its work by making NREGA More Effective.



Job Seeker Annual Meet

This year a job seekers annual meet has organized by WONC and facilitated by AJSA in joint collaboration with SPS and Ford foundation to discuss & debate and to share the findings issues of NREGA. Where 186 participants from Nuapada and Bolangir have participated including JSC Leaders, Govt. officials, PRI members, media. Welcome address was provided by Mr. Banshidhar Behera Chief executive - AJSA, then he briefly mentioned about the objectives and spirit of the event. In his inaugural speech Mr. Behera opined the why Bolangir and Nuapada's people need to avail the benefits of MGNREGA need and urgency.

In the beginning of the session Ms. Chhandamitra Mishra briefly mentioned the spirit and purpose of the workshop and expressed concerns over the absence of holistic approach communities on MGNREGA. Then she lucidly described the importance formation of job seeker committees for the successful implementation of MGNREGA entitlements. During her presentation she mentioned the key strategy adopted by WONC to tackle the challenges and for successful implementation of MGNREGA in Bolangir and Nuapada.



JSC Annual Meet

During his speech Mr. Manoj Mohanty- BDO Bongomunda mentioned that Most of the community members were unaware of the eligibility to avail benefits of the NREGA. Women panchayat members and villagers had no information about various government schemes and programs. He opined that The NREGA can never meet its objectives without the active participation of people in its implementation. Since NGOs are emphasizing people's participation in all levels of government schemes 'implementation, we feel NGOs have a crucial role to play. In this context, we are bringing this issue with some of the pioneering endeavors and perspectives of WONC and its partner organizations who have hands on experience in the area of NREGS and its implementation.

Mr. Sarat Ku. Rath urged that NREGA is a unique and unprecedented effort in strengthening grass-root democracy in India. For the first time, right to work has been made a legal compulsion and entitlement for unemployment allowances in case of

non-allotment of employment assured through this act. What is considered to be crucial is the empowerment of the poor through the provision of a right-based law, which would act as a strong safety net in the lack of alternative employment opportunities for poor people. He encouraged all JSC leaders and PRI members and to avail the benefits of MGNREGA and to work together to achieve goal and the adequate result .

Between the second session Mr. Abani Mohan Panigrahi –Director Lokadrusti has mentioned that this scheme was introduced with an aim of improving the livelihood security of unemployed rural poor, primarily semi or un-skilled workers living below poverty line. It attempts to bridge the gap between the rich and poor in the country. Also it ensures that one-third of the beneficiaries must be women who have registered and requested work under the scheme. He urged NREGS is in implementation for the past three years. The scheme is not merely a wage employment programme. But it is focused on the regeneration of village economy in the long term. The Act's success or failure will have an impact on the entire rural development scenario in India.

He urged that, there is excitement as well as disappointment over its state of implementation. The scheme has huge potential for regenerating village economy in India, but only if it ensures to avoid the loopholes for corruption. So we have to bridge the gap between job seekers and the Govt. mechanism.

During the question and answer round and the open session some JSC leaders and PRI Members and have raised some issues and problems to the panel members, and they got their answers and solutions from the BDO and WONC officials.

The event ended with a hope that WONC will be the credible platform western Orissa. According to the discussion with the job seekers and guests and key panel members a action plan was made to reach more communities in western odisha. At last AJSA placed a suggestion and recommendation note to BDO and Govt. officials on how to carry forward these initiatives with clear cut actions and link with other mainstream Govt. funds towards collective action on livelihood generation for the rural poor to reduce migration ratio in bongomunda.

The last session ended with the vote of thanks by Mr. Banshidhar Behera on behalf of the organizing committee to all participants and guests.



Works Done & Impact

ROLE OF AJSA In effective implementation of MGNREGA In Bongomunda

In Alunda, Gandharla, Jamkhunta, Chandotara, Dedgaon GP's, now there is new perspective in the quality of life's of hundreds of families, due to the continuous inputs and interventions of AJSA, under the guidance WONC khariar (Western Odisha NREGA Consortium), MGNREGA has brought some relief to a miniscule numbers of families. For example, in Jhinkipada village in Bongomunda block of Bolangir district, about 25 habitually migrant families stayed back as they availed work under the scheme. Now many families are have stopped to migrate, after getting the job and work in their own village. Similarly more than 300 such families opted out to stay back in village and work under MGNREGA in alunda GP under bongomunda block. Several children who used to migrate with their parents and lose their education also stayed back and continued their study in their respective villages. Some people have also made capital investment from income generated MGNREGA to make capital investment. For example, Narayan Majhi in Barkani village who has completed 100 days of work under MGNREGA in 2010-11 financial year, has got about 15,000 rupees and purchased gold for his daughter's marriage and got bullocks for his agriculture. Similarly, Kanti bhoi has able to full fill his family's need, after he got a farm pond under MGNREGA. About 17 families in the Barkani village have completed 100 days of work quota. It has helped reducing migration in this Panchayat. But these are very rare instances.

The better access to NREGS entitlements has resulted into better livelihood options with increased cash income, increased investments in lands and decrease in distress migration in the project villages. In the non-project villages, this percentage of application based provision of work is negligible. The improvement is also visible with regard to the work site facilities and the relevant awareness levels among the workers.

Whatever programs AJSA implements, it implements with partnership. It never kept the people as mere recipient of the program but active participant of the program. It gained the credibility of the program. It tries to do justice to the assignment even if with the adverse situation.

We as donors have watched AJSA closely, during our project Sustainable livelihood and MGNREGA. AJSA has a very good understanding on local issues and their hard work and sincere efforts, has made possible in bringing visible changes among community and job seekers of bongomunda block.

Sarat Ku. Rath
Senior Program Officer

Samaj Pragati Sahayog
(SPS)

i. Effect of MGNREGA On Migration in AJSA's Operational Areas

More than half (57 per cent) of the sample workers stated that the NREGA “helped them avoid migration. The responses were similar in Purniapali (Dedgaon GP), where some people had even returned from Mumbai ,Delhi and Chandigarh on hearing that NREGA work was available in their villages.

AJSA is having a excellent rapport with the communities, JSC's they are working with on SLMGNREGA Program. Being a lead partner of WONC, we have seen that despite of several challenges and socio political barriers they have persistently continued their work,for successful implementation of MGNREGA and to make MGNREGA as a demand driven programme in Bongomunda block of bolangir and making it happen in comparison to other GP's.

Lokadrusti is very pleased to be working with AJSA on the SL&MGNREGA Initiative.

Abani Mohan Panigrahi
Director



One possible explanation is that a few days of assured employment in the lean season is enough to persuade some workers to “stay back” for the entire period. However, it is also possible that the promise of local employment is luring workers to stay back and that if these hopes are dashed migration will resume. Delays in wage payments could intensify this potential “discouragement effect” and push people back into the web of migration. If this setback is to be averted, NREGA employment must be expanded and made more predictable.

Most people said that the incomes of the families were more predictable and stable after the Act. Previously an income graph would have resembled a spiky pattern where income would be earned in spurts, and not regular spurts, and even dip really low at points, so families would have to migrate to find work to put food on the table, borrow money to migrate from the contractors and get caught in a cycle. Whereas after the NREGA was implemented the income graph would be smoother with more regular inflows of cash and also the levels wouldn't sink below a particular point because 8000 rupees per family was guaranteed under the Act as long as the families were ready to work at unskilled labour jobs for 100 days of the year.

The women in particular kept saying that nothing could be better than working in your native land, people would care for you if you were sick, and it was your home, and they wanted the period of 100 days of work to be extended to more. Most of the women were part of self-help groups, but except for 2 women none of the others were in debt.

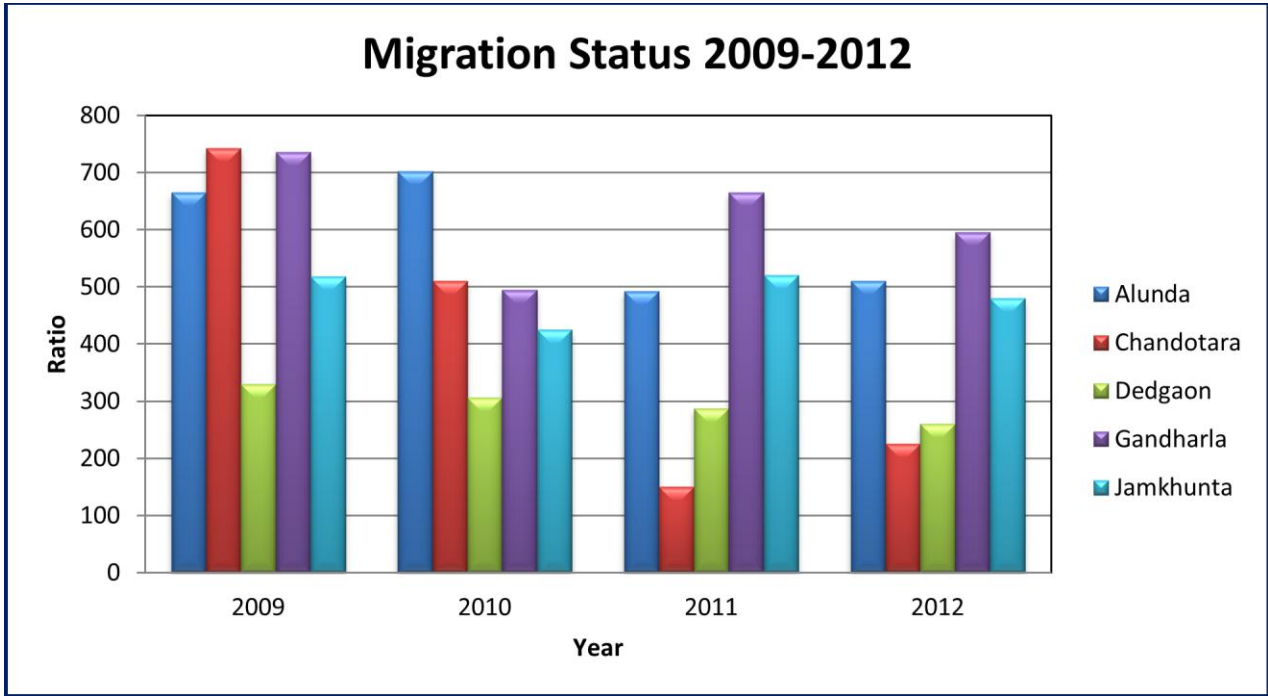
The efforts Of AJSA on “SL MGNREGA ”programme, Is highly appreciable. They have created a landmark through different activities like job seeker committee formation, issuing job cards, job demand etc.. The organization every activity which is based on sustainability is now reflecting in quality of lives and In the targeted villages of Bolangir Disrict of Odisha,India.

We have seen AJSA is having an extra-ordinary ability to contribute to society in general regarding the imperatives of sustainable development and community mobilization.

Chhandamitra Mishra
Network Coordinator



The roads built by the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme workers have helped the people immensely and will probably contribute the most to the development of the region. Whereas people once had to carry baskets of their produce from the villages and make their way through to the main road to catch some transport to the markets, today they are hiring lorries and trucks to transport themselves and their goods, increasing the quantity they are able to sell and their profits. It is also an enormous source of pride for them that they themselves were able to contribute to the betterment of their village, that they created the roads. From the survey it was clear that the government had been doing a fairly decent job in firstly selecting useful projects that would lead to rural development, secondly, in providing the workers with their wages on time and finally, that the people needed the NREGA, it was the only thing that stood between them and 6 months of migration away from their home and loved ones, at the mercy of the contractors.



ii. Role and Impact of AJSA, on NREGA entitlements in Bongomunda, Bolangir

As the operational guidelines of NREGA say the main objective of the programme is to eradicate rural poverty, create employment opportunities, check migration and develop rural asset base. While analyzing the success of the programme in AJSA operational GP's, it is clear that in comparison to other GP's of Bolangir is far ahead in implementing NREGA. All jobseeker committees are now have their strong presence in their villages and GP's through the continuous efforts of AJSA. Regular meeting, trainings and interaction with PRI members and Govt. officials at block level contributed a lot to take this movement more forward in operational villages and community awareness level is also increased on employment generation in comparison to other GP's of Bongomunda.

Positive impact of NREGA can be seen especially on the following aspects.

1. Increased participation of women workforce
2. Impact of land productivity
3. Increase in workforce awareness about the basic entitlements
4. Wage negotiation capacity
5. Increase in bargaining power of the working class in private sector
6. Sharp decline in migration
7. Creation of rural assets
8. Development of rural infrastructure
9. Gender and Social inclusion

AJSA has a dedicated group of committed development workers who are fueling the JSC's. Which has bring a lot of visible changes in reforming rural infrastructure of bongomunda block. Recently I have seen their positive impact of their work in the GP's they are working with

If we will look deeper of the entire system of Job seeker federations, we will know their innovative methodology, whatever the JSC's are doing for successful implementation of MGNREGA in their operational area is praiseworthy.

I do believe that AJSA is having an extra-ordinary ability to contribute to society in general regarding the imperatives of sustainable development and community mobilization.

Manoj Mohanty

Block Development Officer, Govt. Of Odisha

Boangomunda, Dist-Bolangir (Odisha)





Now through the continuous efforts of AZM the participation of women in NREGA accounted about 40% .The works selected under NREGA were mainly focused on deepening of TWT's and constructing water-harvesting systems. Since Bolangir is a dry region, top priority was given to water conservation and related works.

Issues Addressed

- Degraded land and water resources
- Recurring of Drought
- Large scale distress Migration
- Food insecurity
- Distress sale of Land ,labor and produces
- Negation of labor Entitlement under MGNREGA
- Lack of job opportunity

Migration Ratio Minimized To

30%

(# Baseline survey - 2012-13)

Programme Highlights and Key Achievements 2012-13

- ❑ Baseline survey and MLP's were conducted in 33 operational villages.
- ❑ Total Household Covered- 6972
- ❑ Total population covered under project- 32405
- ❑ Across 41 villages in Bolangir, MGNREGA laborers demanded jobs, and received job demand slips with the advocacy of AJSA
- ❑ 33 Village Level, 22 GP Level, 04 Block level meetings were organized. Where 2278 participants have participated.
- ❑ Members of Azad Shramik Mahasangh (ASM) have been nominated in 2 National and state level consortium conferences to lobby on behalf of the job seekers and to discuss the problems and solution of Bolangir with policy makers.
- ❑ During the year, 24 capacity-building training programs and 10 cadre development training were organized by AJSA In its operational GP'
- ❑ In our operational areas, every job seeker is now having their own job card and 100 Days work, out of 1621 families 387 families stopped Migration.
- ❑ 5 GP Level Awareness camps were organized In Dengaon, Gandhrla, Chandotara, Jamkhunta and Alunda GP, where 410 persons participated including 280 Male and 120 Female Participants.
- ❑ For proper awareness and for Program visibility Wall writing, Street plays, leaflet distribution and rallies were organized in 33 Villages and a block level hoarding has constructed in front of block office.
- ❑ 05 Block level interface meeting and 04 Trainings were arranged.

Programme Highlights and Key Achievements 2011-12

- ❑ Baseline survey and MLP's were conducted in 33 operational villages.
- ❑ Total Household Covered- 6469
- ❑ Total population covered during the year- 27103
- ❑ Job seekers demanded job in 33 operational areas and received job demand slips with the advocacy of AJSA and ASM
- ❑ 33 Village Level,18 GP Level,05 Block level meetings were organized. Where 1854 participants have participated.
- ❑ A JOB SEEKER Federation (Azad Shramik Mahasangh (ASM)) has been formed For the job seekers, for proper lobby and advocacy for GP, Block and District Level.
- ❑ During the year, 60 capacity-building training programs were arranged for village communities, run either by project staff or by external resource specialists.
- ❑ In our operational areas, every job seeker is now having their own job card and 100 Days work, Migration ratio has minimized to 30% because job opportunities are created at village level.
- ❑ 6 GP Level Awareness camps were organized In Dengaon, Gandhrla, Chandotara GP, where 208 persons participated including 150 Male and 58 Female Participants.
- ❑ Field bundling and plantations and compost pits are done 12 villages through the continuous efforts of Azad Shramik Mahasangh (AZM).
- ❑ For proper awareness and for Program visibility Wall writing, Street plays, leaflet distribution and rallies were organized in 33 Villages.
- ❑ 07 Block level interface meeting and 05 Trainings were arranged.

Mahendra Shows The Way

Anything new is not readily accepted. Moreover it is taunted and ridiculed. The experience of Mahendra is not different from this. But the way he stood on his ground has finally won him applause. Mahendra Kharsel S/O Agnidhar Kharsel belongs from Jhinkipada village of Bongomunda Block, In Bolangir district. Mahendra was the typical migrant before last 1 year. Usually he migrates for 4/5 year with his family to Raipur to full fill the basic needs his family. There was no alternate for him, either he has to choose migration, or he has to face hunger. The life was very different in Raipur, sometimes people were exploited there by

Contractors (Thikadars) but Mahendra did not mind the kind of work that he was doing as at that point of time it was important for him to earn enough so that he could feed his family members on same occasion his wife also accompany him for in order to enough for the family. Thus life was a desperate struggle for Mahendra.

When he came to his village last year he came to know about the facilities provided by Govt. By seeing & hearing regular inputs of AJSA on NREGA in his village. Mahendra participated in a training programme of job seekers. After that he inspired by the complete thing he got himself and his wife enrolled in the scheme, and after two months a farm pond was constructed on his own land. And he along with his wife and 15 other worked on that. The equal and sufficient wages have brought a ray of hope in his life. Their homestead land was lying fallow when the project team motivated him to undertake homestead farming. After he prepared the land and fenced the area, he planted papaya and ground peanut with support and guidance from the project. He was supplied with adequate fertilizers and pesticides. The papaya plants started fruiting and he was able to supplement her household food basket as well as have marketable surplus to add to the household income. The visible change came in the form of good Cash income, which he never expect. This year he has earned 48000 Rupees as profit. Now he started growing vegetables like tomato, onion, lady finger, cabbage, culliflower in his own land, to increase financial capacity and to full fill the basic needs of the family. Beside of these things he is doing a small fishery in his farm pond and he is also having few Ducks also from where he is able get fresh fish and eggs for his family and children's at free of cost. Now he is planning to utilise this two resources for the source of his income.

With this experience, Mahendra encouraged other farmers. Now he is a resource person to other farmers. He would tell them how to go about it and clarify in the field with practical demonstrations. He has taken the path in his villages that no one has taken until then so that others can follow him with confidence.





How Rathi Become Self-reliant

The village Batharla is situated in 20 kilometers away from Bongomunda block of Bolangir district. Most of the people are basically farmer. With the Scarcity Of Potable water as well as water for agriculture is the major issue of this area. The people of Batharla Were facing many hurdles in their day to day life. Rathi Bhoi is an marginal farmer in Batharla. Whose land was barren and served for no purpose and considered as waste lands. He has

4 children's who are studying. As he was the sole breadwinner in his family it was with great difficulty that he was able to sustain his family.

He works as a daily wage laborer on other peoples land and elsewhere in his village. Rathi bhoi did not mind the kind of work that he was doing as that point of time it was important for his to earn enough so that he could feed his family members on same occasion his wife also accompany him for in order to enough for the family. Thus life was a desperate struggle for Rathi. He has regularly attended grama sabha meeting, and through such meeting he got himself and his wife enrolled in the scheme, and after two years a farm pond was constructed on his own land. And he along with his wife and 15 other worked on that. The equal and sufficient waged have brought a ray of hope in his live. Their homestead land was lying fallow when the project team motivated him to undertake homestead farming. After he prepared the land and fenced the area, he planted papaya and ground peanut with support and guidance from the project. He was supplied with adequate fertilizers and pesticides. The papaya plants started fruiting and he was able to supplement her household food basket as well as have marketable surplus to add to the household income. This year he has earned 45000 Rupees as profit. Now he started growing vegetables like tomato, onion, lady finger, cauliflower in his own land, to increase financial capacity and to full fill the basic needs of the family.



A Way Forward

A Way Forward

In Bongomunda there have been numerous success stories of economic and environmental regeneration where year-round productive employment has been generated as a result of job seeker committee's efforts. Yet, the potential of NREGA in reaching the rural poor is unsurpassed as it is now being implemented in all the districts of India. AJSA is trying to access the impact that how such success stories can be made part of the employment guarantee schemes, what are the lacunae and drawbacks and how they can be addressed.

AJSA is trying to focus on the following things to make the entire mechanism more vibrant and successful.

- **Recognition of Job Seekers' Committees and their work by the Govt.**
- **Creating more space for JSC to play major role in village level under MGNREGA Programme.**
- **More Media coverage of the works and impacts created By JSC's.**
- **Creation of link with other mainstream Govt. funds towards collective action on livelihood generation for the rural poor to reduce migration ratio in bongomunda.**
- **Timely acceptance of Job demand by JSC**

Setting Up Digital Panchayats



To show the impacts done by JSC's, PRI's and communities, AJSA is planning to digitalise all panchayat's of its operational area. Through this they will have their identity around the globe through internet. They can present their village details, history, historical places all govt. schemes facilities provided by the govt. including medical, schooling, anganwadis etc in their own website. As well as all job seekers committees are also interested to put works covered by them on that, so that their effort can become a role model for everyone with a visible impact.

To make this entire process into a sustainable platform AJSA is planning to provide training all Executive officers of all operational panchayats, so that they too can update their panchayat details on their websites. In this context district administration has also come forward to undertake this initiative with AJSA.

Conclusion and challenges

This is one of the revolutionary and advance schemes in today's time. First time it gives legal guarantee of 100 days work in rural area. Though there are many limitations, it is necessary that such schemes are introduced. In a vast country like India, it becomes difficult to make uniform policies. One needs to have political will to look at the problem of poverty and unemployment. The enactment of rural employment guarantee indeed is a significant development in Indian polity. In other words it symbolizes the triumph of civil society and people's struggle for right to food. Though the Act is regarded as a silver line in our long history of social security legislation, it is not free from criticism. There is an equally strong perspective that since Indian social structure is too weak to provide an effective participatory linkage in terms of civil society engagement, NREGA will lead to wide spread corruption and enormous wastage of public investment. However, the experience of odisha shows that many of the challenges associated with NREGA implementation can be effectively tackled if there is a vigilant civil society to monitor the programme. Further the experience reveals that NREGA cannot be treated as an isolated piece of legislation. It is a guarantee, which has to be demanded with the proper support of right to information. Here lies the role of grass root level organizations and PRIs- to develop awareness and capacity among local people to realize the importance of both legislations and their complimentary role in making it successful.

Through our studies in bongomunda we are trying to bridge the lacuna by attempting to study the effectiveness of the assets created under the act. Keeping in mind the immense potential of the act and the findings from our study, below are mentioned some suggestions that could help improve the functioning of the NREGA.

Need to reframe evaluation parameters:

NREGA must aim at creation of productive employment. To make this happen it has to focus more on the creation of productive assets at the village level. From the point of view of gauging the development effectiveness of the act the first area that comes to the fore is the evaluation and monitoring of the act. Instead of the simple calculations on jobs demanded and provided, the NREGA needs to be evaluated and monitored on its impact on livelihood security. Currently,

the act is monitored by the majority on the number of jobs created and number of assets created under preferred works category. The real effectiveness of the scheme though may be measured using three parameters:

1. Increase in average annual income of households
2. Increase in the productivity of small and marginal land holdings
3. Quality and contribution of productive assets like water tanks

By changing the evaluation parameters, the scheme will assume the character of a rural development scheme in the true sense, instead of a run-of-the-mill wage-earning programme. This will also help the government to ensure that most of the works taken up remain within the preferred works category, that is, productive assets.

Works taken up should improve total village ecology

Under the NREGA, as our experience shows, water conservation works are being taken up as stand-alone activities. Village ecology is a fragile combination of soil, water and forests. A water harvesting structure, for instance, is rendered useless if its catchments areas are left unprotected. Works under the scheme need to be planned in totality — to succeed, water conservation needs to take into account plantation works and drought proofing. Even the Second Administrative Reforms Commission has recommended that all works under the Act must be undertaken keeping in mind the overall improvement in total ecology. This needs to be implemented thoroughly.

Use of a perspective plan prepared by village panchayats

Village-level resource planning and designing ought to be strengthened further. As our data shows, there is a strong co-relation between people planning their works and the success of these works. With two years behind the act planning is yet to reach a large number of villages and gram sabhas. Without a village

plan, developed by the villagers themselves the development impact of the NREGA will be poor.

To make local planning integrated, NREGA works must be allowed in all lands i.e. private, forest and revenue based on Gram Sabha approval. This requires administrative order from the forest department. This is crucial as catchments of water structures are invariably in forest areas.

Setting up institutional mechanism for maintenance of assets.

Setting up of strong institutional mechanisms to manage and distribute the resources generated must follow the creation of assets. Poor maintenance and weak institutions are already rendering productive assets useless. Under the current implementation regime, maintenance is not covered. While assets are created in large number, the Panchayats are being told to maintain it. The problem is that Panchayats don't have the money to undertake such large-scale maintenance works. Our studies pointed out that due to this most of the assets are going to be put into disuse.

Also, there should be a binding work completion plan for each asset created. This must also include the maintenance plan. Further, given the unequal priority given to productive assets amongst states, NREGA should make provision to fix percentage of works in sector like water conservation. This should be done changing the NREGA.

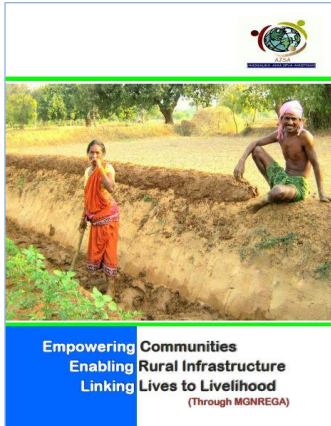
Capacity Building of the elected Panchayat Members

Right capacity building of the elected Panchayat members must follow devolution. Training of government officials on the NREGA should be accorded priority. At the same time, Panchayat members must be included in the process so that they know the scheme well and can exercise rights effectively. Local experiences point at government officials dictating Panchayat members on the

nature of works, citing vague government orders. This takes away the Panchayats' powers under the Act, and has to be rectified immediately.

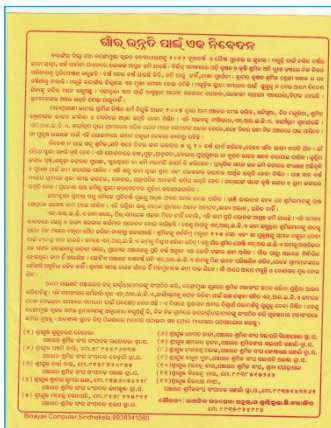
Devolution of functions, funds and functionaries to Panchayats must be a condition for states to implement the NREGA. Though it is difficult given that the programme is demand driven, but Union government can offer fiscal incentive to states with such devolutions.

PUBLICATIONS



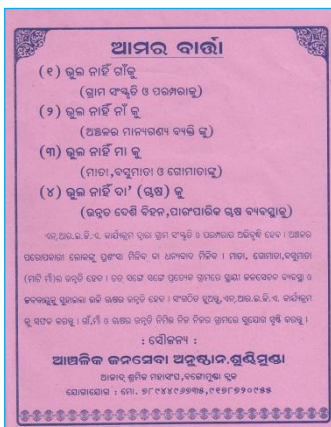
Empowering Communities Enabling Rural Infrastructure Linking Lives To livelihood

A Report on Effect of MGNREGA On Migration and work covered
By JSC's with Case studies
Language - English



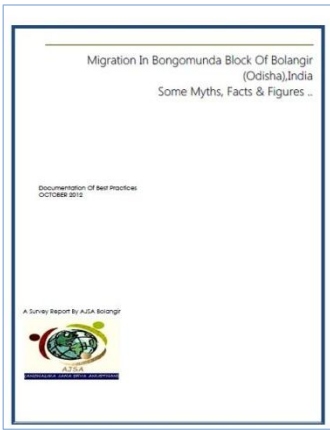
Gaon Ra Urnati Pain eka Nibedena

A leaflet based on NREGA Guidelines, present scenario of migration and Action plan of ASM for successful implementation of MGNREGA
Language- Oriya



Amara Barta

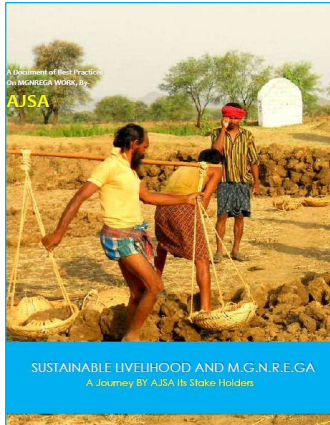
A leaflet based on foundation message of AJSA in local language with the request for active participation on NREGA
Language- Oriya



Migration In Bongomunda Block of Bolangir (Odisha), India-Some Myths, Facts and Figures.

A Report on migration scenario of Bongomunda Block, in Bolangir district and the effect of MGNREGA on migration ratio.

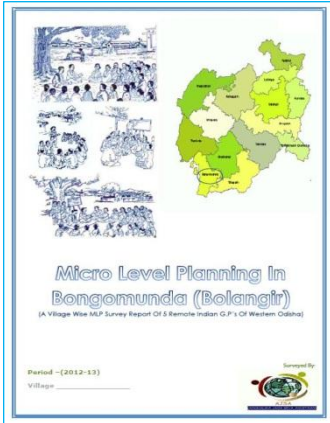
Language- English



Sustainable Livelihood and MGNREGA

A Report on AJSA's intervention, achievements and role of AJSA on Successful implementation of MGNREGA ,with photo gallery

Language - English



Micro Level Planning in Bongomunda Block of Bolangir

A Report on MLP and base line Survey conducted By AJSA

Language – English and Oriya

*Int. Purpose only



Ama Paribara, Sukhi paribara

A leaflet based on a request to citizens for active participation and to avail the benefits of MGNREGA


Language - Oriya

Acknowledgements

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We also acknowledge with gratitude the financial support provided by the  FORD FOUNDATION to work for the successful implementation of MGNREGA the remotest Region of the Country.

Development Partners

WONC

WONC is a consortium of eight NGOs; one from Nuapada and seven from Bolangir district working to strengthen NREGA in the drought and migration-prone Gram Panchayats from six Blocks of these districts. The total number of villages covered is 266. WONC is coordinating between partner organization and creating linkages between i.e- Government, media, politicians etc. for successful implementation of MGNREGA programme in Bolangir and Nuapada district of odisha.

The logo for WONC, consisting of the letters 'WONC' in a bold, blue, sans-serif font.

FORD FOUNDATION

Ford Foundation is one of the largest, independent grantmaking organizations in the world, with an extensive presence in many countries of the world. The Foundation has been involved in mostly providing grants and scholarships to organizations, institutions and individuals undertaking developmental interventions, research studies in different countries. The mission of the Foundation is defined by its four main goals: 1- Strengthen democratic values, 2- Reduce poverty and injustice, 3- Promote international cooperation, 4- Advance human achievement.



FORDFOUNDATION

The worldwide projects and programmes funded by the Foundation have worked towards reducing poverty, increasing economic opportunities, strengthening democracy, improving social justice and peace and advancing human knowledge.

Samaj Pragati Sahayog

Over the last two decades, Samaj Pragati Sahayog (SPS) has grown to be one of India's largest grass-roots initiatives for water and livelihood security, working with its partners on a million acres of land across 72 of India's most backward districts, mainly in the central Indian Adivasi belt. It takes inspiration from the life and work of Baba Amte who rejected charity and successfully empowered even the most challenged. SPS is headquartered in a drought-prone, tribal area in the Dewas district of Madhya Pradesh, which typifies the most difficult problems of the country. It concentrates all its direct interventions in about 220 villages and towns of this area. SPS is providing programmatic and technical support to WONC and its partner organisations since 2007.

Samaj Pragati Sahayog

Lokadrusti

Lokadrusti aims at sustainable development, overall growth in education, health, art and culture. Its area of operation is Nuapada district in Western Orissa. Women's empowerment is one of its prime areas of work. Lokadrusti aims at creating a developed region with the best blend of local resources, traditional methods and modern outlook. It attempts to achieve this with the maximum involvement of youth of the region. The organization's main areas of work have been strengthening of people's organization through social mobilization, NRM, rights of tribals, education and child labour, food security and health. From 2nd phase of the programme is coordinated by Lokadrusti as the lead partner organization of WONC under SLMGNREGA Programme.



AJSA

AJSA is a grass root level Community Based organization (CBO) based in bolangir district, a part of poverty ridden and draught prone KBK region of the eastern Indian state of Orissa., Facilitating community development initiatives since 1989, working towards the root cause of Poverty and eliminating social injustice and for the down trodden and under privileged section in the remotest part of the country. It is a nonpolitical, non-profit motive social development organization involved in sustainable development initiatives since inception. AJSA is one of the partner organization of WONC involved in sustainable development practices in bongomunda block, under SLMGNREGA Programme since 2007.



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