HATOPOTHA, MATHALPUT – 763 008, KORAPUT DISTRICT, ODISHA , INDIA

#

**ACHIEVEMENT REPORT 2011-2012**

**WORD: Women’s Organisation for Rural Development**

**Hatopotha, Mathalput – 763 008, Koraput District,**

**Odisha, India.**

# ORGANISATION PROFILE:

**Introduction:**

WORD(Women’s Organisation for Rural Development) was started by a group of local women in Koraput district with an objective of facilitating the most vulnerable in the community towards self and community development. It continues a long journey of 15 years in the empowerment of the dalit and tribal communities with emphasis on the women and children.

WORD visualizes itself as a People’s Initiative for addressing these issues without discriminating on the basis of caste, colour, creed, gender, religion or region and ensuring Justice, peace, equality and fraternity.

The guiding principle of WORD is community empowerment by the people for their own development with gender as the transversal through all its process and projects.

WORD is a registered organization under Societies Registration Act in Koraput , FCRA and Income Tax 12 A and satisfies all the legal provisions of running a society.

WORD has good rapport with the community, other civil societies and government institutions and converges and synergize for the overall development of the communities in Koraput District.

**Vision of WORD**: To Strive for a Just and equitable society

**WORD visualizes a Just and self reliant society where all the members enjoy equal opportunities, rights, justice and participate for democratic decision making to resolve the issues of the society. A society in which the people can live with dignity challenging discrimination and exploitation and exercise their rights for the development of self and the society at large.**

**Mission Statement:**

* Empowering people to assert their rights and fulfill their responsibilities.
* Enable the people irrespective of their caste, creed or religion in marching towards better standard of living through identification of their problem, causes ,needs and developing plan of action.
* To ensure fullest participation of the people by getting opportunities for education, human resource development, better living environments and democratic approaches.
* To create behavioral changes in the community to mainstream women in the development process.

**GOAL:**

Empowering the communities to facilitate socio, economic, political and cultural development of vulnerable sections of the society.

**POLITICAL GOAL:**

Grass root governance by strengthening of Panchayat Raj Institutions.

**Strategic Objectives of WORD**:

* To empower the community based organizations for village sustainability
* To evolving measures for food/water security
* To develop skills of the target groups for increased production/income
* To conscientize the community on environment/ecological sustainability
* To bring about economic empowerment through collective action
* To Network with organisations at local, national and international level to promote human development with equity

**Approaches:**

WORD believes in Right based multi disciplinary approach followed by community education towards empowerment for sustainability of the villages/projects. It is living in the community it is working with and is a grass root organisation.

**Thrust Areas: Human Rights**

**Issues on which WORD works are:**

* Food insecurity
* Illiteracy
* Gender discrimination
* Disability
* Reproductive Child Health issues
* Environment & Ecology

**Target Area:**

WORD works in Koraput District in 200 villages of 15 Gram Panchayats of LAXMIPUR, SEMILIGUDA AND KORAPUT BLOCKS.

**Target Group:**

The target groups are the rural and marginalized tribals and dalits of which the most vulnerable being the women, children, People with disability and marginal farmers.

**ACTIVITIES REPORT FOR THE PERIOD APRIL 2011 TO MARCH 2012**

**1. Capacity building of Community Based Organisations:**

WORD believes that development starts from the self and through the community. The Community level organizations like the Village Development Committee (VDCs), Regional federation, Women federation (Mathru Sakti federation), Disability Peoples Organisations(DPOs), farmers council, women Self Help Groups(SHGs) are the CBOs promoted by WORD. While the VDC and Regional federation focus on the major issues of the area/region, the other CBOs are thematic specific groups working for the Rights of the respective focus groups.

There are 60 VDCs, 125 SHGs, 20 farmers council and three Regional federation, one women federation and 30 DPOs which are at present strengthened in the target villages of WORD while the others are in progress.

The issues taken up by the CBOs at various forums and solved are on:

* Delay in payment of NREGA wages
* Advocacy for FRA land patta – Both individual and community patta
* Amicably solving issues of women harassment, child marriage, family disputes, alcoholism etc.,
* Sorting out issues of school drop outs, teacher absenteeism, accessibility to health services, in-effective functioning of services by different stakeholders etc.,
* Effective functioning of the Panchayats through micro level planning and integration of the same in block level plans
* Advocating on reach of food security schemes and social security schemes and supporting the most vulnerable
* Participation in census and awareness to include PWDs in the family census
* Advocating for ID cards, special provisions for PWDs for bus passes, NREGA, accessibility in schools and public places for PWDs
* Protection of forests by the youth in the community
* Experimentation of innovative organic measures for storage and preservation of indigenous varieties of seeds in the area.
* SHGs facilitating economic and social changes in the villages/community through its various interventions.
* Awareness creation among the community on issues of epidemic, disaster mitigation and management.
* Participation in various forums and networks working on related thematic issues and sharing of field innovations and experiences.

The details of the achievements by the CBOs are given as attachment.

**2.** **Enhancement of Food Security:**

Food insecurity is one of the major issues of the district especially during the lean months of June to September. Although 80% of the people practice agriculture as their major occupation, various reasons ranging from distress selling to lack to storage space in the family leads to shortage of food. This coupled with changes in the climate and natural disasters like flood and drought lead to low productivity.

WORD focus on five aspects of food security: Availability, Accessibility, Affordability, Storage and Intra familial distribution.

On the production side, WORD facilitates the farmers to take up organic farming techniques, SRI paddy cultivation, line sowing of paddy and ragi, use of organic manure for fertility, organic pesticides, inter cropping, land development initiatives for soil and water management, setting up irrigation points etc.,

People were supported with indigenous seeds for cultivation, vegetable seeds for kitchen gardening, back yard fruit gardens etc., Household organic nutrition garden was also promoted on an experimental basis in 10 villages to make the community aware on how to generate food throughout the year from a small patch of land.

Support was also given for purchase of back yard poultry, goat rearing and facilitation of loans for cattle rearing etc., through which also the families could get good nutrition and surplus for sales.

Various food security programmes promoted by the Government starting from Supplementary nutrition for pregnant women and children, kishori balikas, ICDS nutrition support in early child hood, Mid day Meal for school children, PDS, Anthodya, Annapurna, Old age feeding etc., were mobilized for the most vulnerable persons. Issues related to quality and quantity of food supplied, distribution issues of PDS, ICDS, MDM etc., were also highlighted to the concerned department and corrected amicably.

The surplus of food production were marketed either individually or through collective marketing so that the farmers got their fair share of prices and with this they could afford to purchase the food items and other provisions related to food and nutrition.

Storage is a big issue especially in the flimsy huts the people reside. They have their conventional methods of storage which is often broken by rodents and affected by insects. Families were facilitated to create indigenous storage units with bamboo(dudi), seed storage in mud pots with natural insecticides like neem and tulsi leaves. They were also provided with Tin boxes for storage of their produce.

WORD emphasis on equal distribution of food among the family members and advocates on the same. The women are made to understand the food needs of the body for both women and men and not to create disparity among the boy or girl, man or women in the families.

Farmers council formed in the villages address the farming needs of the community/region and support one another and as well has good relationship with the different stakeholders to mobilize the agriculture interventions in the region.

**3. Functional Literacy:**

Koraput being one of the districts having low literacy of 49% only and female literacy of 39% lags behind the Human Development Index of Odisha.

Koraput landscape, habitation pattern, remoteness and inaccessibility coupled with lack of awareness lead to this plight. WORD in its small way is taking up interventions for reducing the illiteracy in the target villages it is working with.

WORD along with the District and Block education units takes up massive enrolment campaigns during the start of the academic year and mobilize 100% children into schools. Families of school drop outs are contacted specifically to send their children back to school.

Special attention is also given to see that the children retain in school after the enrolment. Issues related to teachers absenteeism, provision of MDM and teaching materials are also ensured through the VDCs.

For over age school dropout children, non formal classes are conducted in the villages by WORD. 100 child labour children were also given schooling for two and half years and in June 2011, they were all mainstreamed into school.

WORD runs a school “Adarsh Vidhyalaya” in Kudipodar village in which 100 children are given education until Std.V after which they are mainstreamed into regular school. Last year 18 children were enrolled into other schools. Children in this school apart from education get wholistic development through mental, physical and spiritual development. Regular health checkups, extracurricular activities, picnic etc., make the education enjoyable for the children.

Apart from children education, emphasis is given on functional literacy of women in the villages. Apart from the 3R’s, they are given life skill education. They are given special trainings on legal literacy, Panchayat raj, leadership skills, Reproductive child health, disaster management, Behaviour Change Communication, Gender, schemes and provisions, first aid, conservation of bio diversity etc.,

Vocational education is another major area in which WORD is focusing on. The community especially the land less, single and destitute women and as well as members of the SHGs, farmers groups etc., are given training on various skills. The skills so conducted keep in mind the availability of the raw materials and marketing feasibility.

Some of the trainings conducted last year which are worth mentioning are mushroom cultivation, apiculture, vermin composting, backyard poultry rearing, leaf plate stitching, tamarind processing, nutrition mix making, spices preparation, bamboo products training, brooms making, electrical training, food preservation etc.,

As the follow up of this training, the people set up individual production units and made reasonable income.

Steps were taken for collective marketing of some products like brooms making, spices making etc., and these skills in return gave them some additional income.

4. **Women Development:**

WORD is a gender based organization and from its inception is focused on improving the lives of the women in the target region. As one is aware, the Human Development Index in relation to women and children is in a sorry plight and hence WORD focus on the socio economic, political and cultural development of the women.

In the socio context, the women are organized into groups as Mahila mandals and form the regional federation namely “Mathru Sakti” . The Mathru Sakti looks into the aspects of girl child education, curbing of illicit alcohol in the area, mobilization of women development initiatives into the villages, protection of forests, monitoring of schemes in the villages etc.,

They also took up legal literacy trainings and try to solve issues of sexual harassment, family abuse, issues of single headed women etc., with the support from the Legal Aid Cell.

On the economic front, the women grouped themselves as Self Help Groups taking up thrift and credit. There are around 180 Women SHGs in the target area facilitated by WORD.

There is around Rs.21,00,000 savings by different SHGs with loan linkages of more than Rs.50,00,000. Around 162 SHGs are already in the process of linkages and are functioning independently. The women take up vocational training in different skills like mushroom, leaf plate making, brooms making, tamarind de-seedling, poultry farming, goat rearing etc., and take up individual/collective production and marketing. Some SHGs are involved in the business activities like tent house, generator renting, utensil renting, provision selling, fish selling, paddy selling etc., Some of them utilize the SHG credits in their agriculture interventions. On the whole, the women are becoming more economically self dependent. This has helped a lot in the overall economic development of the family as well. Parents are now spending more on nutrition for the children and family, buying of assets and involved in insurance schemes and savings for the future.

On the political front, the women are given orientation on participating in panchayat bodies like palli Sabha and gram Sabha, contesting in elections of Panchayat and managing Panchayat responsibilities. During this year election in our target area, there were 32 women members elected to the various posts starting from Sarpanch to Ward member. After being elected also, they were given orientation by WORD on their Roles and Responsibilities and effective implementation of the different schemes of the panchayat. Due to this process, the different issues in the panchayat level could be amicably solved by the people.

On the cultural front, the tribals have very good cultural values of cohesiveness, patience, love for their traditional dance and music etc., WORD promotes their traditional culture starting from dance and music to preservation of grains and seeds and indigenous varieties of cereals and crops. WORD gives orientation to women on how to strengthen and preserve their traditional methods of farming, seeds, food and culture which are being diluted by the present social system. The rich knowledge of medicines are also being preserved by the women.

On the whole, the women are the pivotal of the different initiatives that WORD takes up in the villages and through this there is good success in the programmes. The end result not only liberates the women but the whole family and this can be attributed to the success of the WORD interventions as well.

5. **Community Health Initiatives:**

Another thematic area of intervention of WORD is the Community Health Initiatives. As Koraput district is prone to epidemics, high IMR and MMR, malnutrition and ill health, WORD address health issues in a promotive, preventive and curative strategy. WORD has trained ANMs in the field and they look into the preventive and curative aspects. The following interventions are carried out by WORD;

WORD focuses on Reproductive Child Health of the families. Right from the stage of conceiving, the women is monitored towards safe pregnancy, institutional delivery, PNC care, care of infant, , exclusive breast feeding, immunization, supplementary nutrition, etc., It also monitors children to the ICDS and later into the schools.

On the preventive mode, WORD advocates on hand washing practices, use of toilets, personal hygiene, safe sex, village cleanliness, safe drinking water etc.,

WORD in collaboration with district health departments, other institutions has conducted health camps, screening camps, etc., and more than 5200 people were benefitted last year due to various interventions.

Adolescent health was also given due attention and Kishori balika Manch were formed in 20 villages to advocate of adolescent health with focus on personal hygiene, prevention of early marriage, sex education, vocational training on sanitary napkins etc.,

WORD took up social audit of ICDS programmes in Selimiguda Block last year along with the district administration and also undertook malnutrition survey in the block to identify the lacunae in the functioning of the ICDS and the community level.

Another area of focus was on the Disability issues. About 2% of the target community is consisting of People with Disability(PWDs) and for the past four years WORD is committed to address the issues of the PWDs.

The interventions taken up in this regard is to mobilize identity cards to the disabled, assist them in getting bus pass, disability pension, aids and appliances etc.,

However the major role was in facilitating of the PWDs to form DPOs(Disable Peoples Organisations) at the village level and integrate them as Block level DPOs. It is the argument of WORD that the platform should exist for the PWDs to voice their rights and addressing disability should not be a welfare approach. Through the DPOs various success could be seen like enrollment of Children with Disability (CWDs) in schools, accessibility issues to class rooms, toilets, getting of reservation in loans and subsidies, etc., could be got. During the recent Census, it was seen that all the PWDs were counted in their respective family census. Special trainings were also given to PWDs to address their issues and networked with special PWD groups like Network of the Hearing Impaired, Handicap International etc., so that the PWDs will have more confidence in addressing their issues.

WORD through this project is networking with seven different partners in Koraput district to address the issue at a district level and also networks with other organizations at State level.

It also collaborates with the district administration in conducting Samartha Sivir to address the rights of the disabled. One child this year was supported in getting the polio legs operated at Olatpur, Cuttack and now she is able to walk independently.

The team of staff working under the project for the PWDs are well trained to taking up home based interventions for the multiple disabled and also on advocating for the issues of the PWDs.

**6. Environment & Ecology:**

Climate change is one of the major issues that Koraput district is starting to face and the vast stretch of denuded land mass is a live example of the effects of illegal cutting of timber in the area both for industrial and consumption purposes.

WORD in its target area is focusing on regeneration of the forest lands and protection of community lands through the Village Forest Committees. The VFCs are given orientation on the importance of restoration of forest lands and with the support from the forest department and other agri and horti culture department’s fruit, fuel and fodder trees are planted every year in the community lands and forest lands. The existing forest is kept out of free grazing and illegal cutting by posing fines on the defaulters.

During this year, around 25,000 nurseries have been planted by WORD in the various villages.

WORD also trained the youth on fruit nursery grafting, vermin composting, organic pesticide making, vermin wash etc., by which the fertility of the land is maintained.

WORD observes the “Van Mahotsava” every year and all the team members of WORD, stakeholders, school children plant trees on denudated lands in their respective villages/community lands.

With regard to sanitation, compost pits are facilitated in the villages for keeping the environment clean, soak pits and toilets are constructed to make the people aware on waste management.

Land development initiatives, gully plugging, stone bunding initiatives are taken up by WORD for soil and water conservation and management.

Training on watershed management, natural resource management etc., are also given to the community to safe guard their environment.

As Koraput is prone to natural disasters, youth are trained on disaster mitigation and management, first aid, emergency etc.,

7**. Networking & Collaboration:**

WORD although a grass root organization working at the local level has good networking with different district, state, national and international agencies as well to contribute to the cause of the wider public. At the district level it networks with disable peoples organizations with other NGOs, with UNICEF and NGO partners on Behaviour Change Communication, with state NGOs on network for Hearing Impaired, White Ribbon Alliance, NAWO, Child Rights & Child Protection network, Global Alternatives, Dalit Rights Network at National level etc., WORD is part of the District coordination Committee of Koraput and well recognized by the district administration.

WORD collaborates with other NGOs in the following thematic issues of disability, mother and child health, dalit and tribal issues and prevention of use of chemical pesticides and fertilizers etc., and restoration of traditional systems and culture.

**8. Organisation & Management:**

WORD is a grass root organization consisting of a team of women members in the Governing Body and Executive Committee. It is a gender based organization working both for men and women.

WORD has a team of 42 full time staff of which 35 are women and rest are men. There are 15 professional staff in expertise of administration, accounts, computer, social development, health, natural resource management, disability, women development, rural development etc.,

WORD has good infrastructure and base in the district. WORD has underwent the System Audit this year along with project evaluations of two long term projects and the final reports give good rapport about the organization. WORD complies to all the administrative and legal requirements of a society.

There are periodic meetings of the management, staff team and the project teams and WORD has a good MIS system in place.

WORD has good reputation among the stakeholders, community and public at large and has been awarded and facilitated in forums.

The Audit Report is enclosed.

**9. Conclusion:**

The year that has been completed though hectic was full of success and achievements. This has been possible through the mutual trust and confidence that WORD and community have for each other along with the magnanimous support of the different donor agencies, the support and enthusiasm from the different stakeholders and the seemingly untiring efforts of the team of WORD.

The journey is long ahead and with the learning of the previous years and the multitude of challenges in Koraput district, WORD looks forward for another challenging year ahead with great enthusiasm.

At this juncture, WORD would like to thank one and all who have been directly or indirectly supportive to the cause of addressing the issues of the most vulnerable through our small interventions . We look forward for similar support and guidance in future as well!!

 Dr.(Mrs.) Racheal Raykumari

 Executive Secretary.