

WORD: Women's Organisation for Rural Development

Koraput District, Odisha, India



ANNUAL REPORT – 2017-2018



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ABOUT US:

WORD (Women's Organisation for Rural Development) is women initiated and managed organisation working in Koraput District of Odisha since 1991. WORD visualizes itself as a People's Initiative striving towards 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 converge 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:

OUR MISSION IS TO EMPOWER TRIBAL AND DALIT PEOPLE TO ASSERT THEIR RIGHTS AND FULFILL THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES

by

enabling all vulnerable sections of the society, service providers, stakeholders and policy makers to recognize and respond to the needs of the women, children, farmers, adolescent and youth to ensure better standard of living

Target Area:

AREA OF OPERATION: ORISSA – KORAPUT DISTRICT- LAXMIPUR, NARAYANPATNA, SEMILIGUDA AND KORAPUT BLOCKS

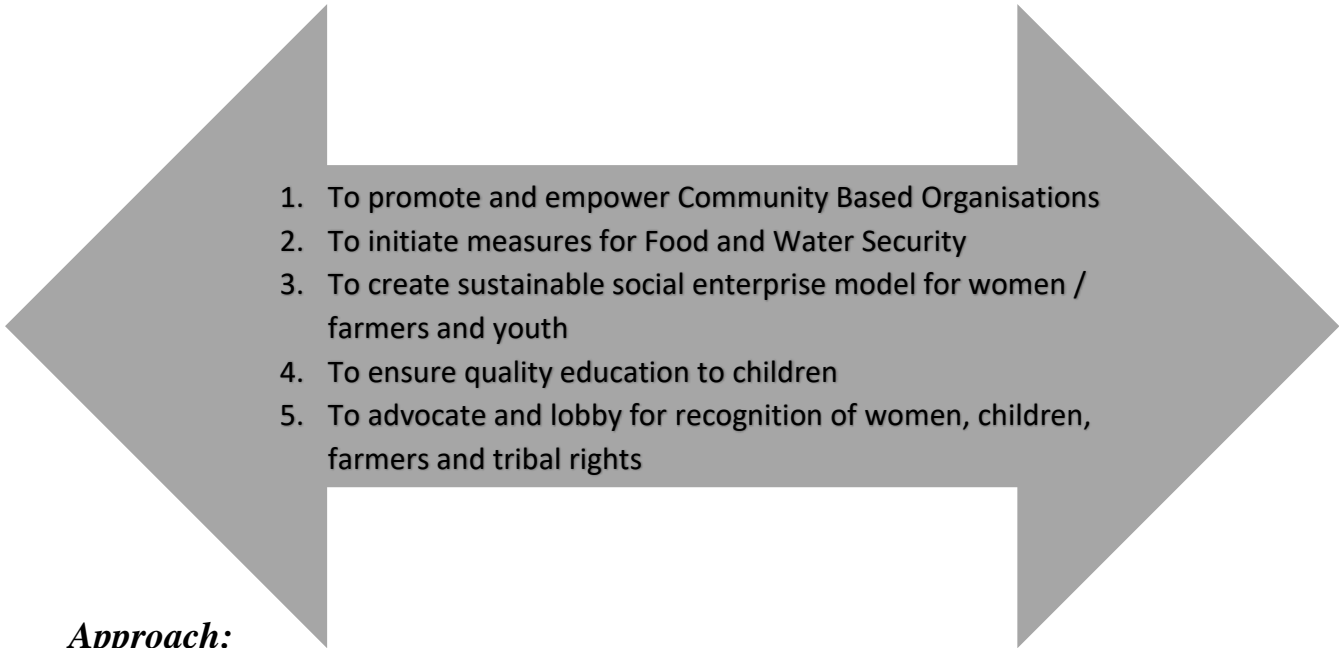


Target group:

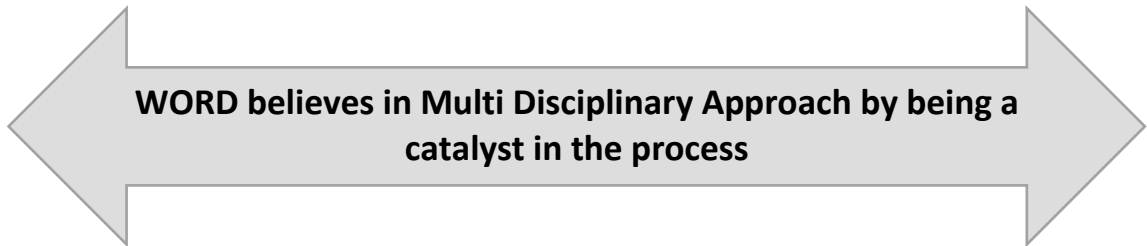


The target groups are the rural and marginalized tribal and dalits of which the most vulnerable being the women, children and marginal farmers. At present WORD is covering about 200 villages consisting of around 30,000 families.

Strategic Objectives: 2015-2020



Approach:



Thrust Areas:



PROJECT INTERVENTIONS:

1. Food and Nutrition Security:

WORD has taken up two projects under the thrust area of Food and Nutrition Security namely “ Household Food Security and Livelihood” for 1780 households in two Grampanchayats of Laxmipur Block and “ Mother, Infant and Young Child Feeding Practices” (MIYCF) in 13 Grampanchayats of Laxmipur Block and six Panchayats of Narayanpatna Block of Koraput District covering 7500 pregnant and lactating mother and their care givers.

a. Household Food security and Livelihood:

Under this project major focus was given on optimum use of land and water resources through blending traditional wisdom with scientific knowledge to ensure food through out the year in the targeted households. Major interventions included zero tilling, inter cropping, mixed cropping, crop rotation, promoting Systemic Rice Intensification(SRI) among paddy growers, line sowing with intercropping for millet growers, use of organic manure, tuber cultivation, traditional seeds conservation and management, promoting seed banks, management of bio diversity, value addition and marketing of produce, linkages with markets and consumption of balanced diet in families with gender equality.

Major stakeholders apart from farmers included agriculture and horticulture departments, block officials, scientist from CTCRI, agriculture experts from OUAT and marketeers.

Major achievements in this year include:

- 254 farmers from 16 villages newly adopted SRI paddy cultivation this year in 92 acres.
- 80 farmers from five villages took up organic nutrition gardening in five acres of land and after consumption sold the remaining produce for more than Rs.1,00,000/-
- 322 farmers took up mixed cropping in 188 acres of land and there has been good yield. The amount earned is yet to be ascertained and is in process.
- 1182 farmers accessed inputs like agriculture equipment, traditional seeds, vermi compost beds, ginger and turmeric roots, onion seeds, organic pesticides, potato tubers and many other inputs to a tune of Rs.2,66,140/-
- Six irrigation points mobilized in the target area through which 72 more acres of land could be brought under cultivation
- 40 farmers tried floriculture for the first time in 3 acres of land and made an income of Rs.1,50,000/-
- 12 types of indigenous seeds procured and regenerated along with formation of 15 seed bank in villages
- 698 crop insurance and 378 cattle insurance was done
- 1226 farmers got the Kisan card to avail the benefits from time to time
- Through strengthening of Village Development Committee and participation and lobbying in Palli Sabha and Gram Sabha, government schemes like culvert, irrigation dams, concrete roads, school building, school boundary, tube wells, toilets, Anganwadi centres and village roads to a tune of Rs.28,440,201 could be mobilized to the villages.
- Under MGNREGA, 7020 man days was generated to a tune of Rs.12,82,480/- paid
- 470 numbers of beneficiaries completed 100 days of work under MGNREGA.

Many more village level achievements also contributed to brining about household food security.

Taking up SRI Paddy cultivation has increased my harvest by more than three times- says Damadar Jani of Chelibeda village



b. Communication for Change- Usage of innovative tools to bring behavior change in Mother, Infant and Young Child Feeding practices:

This project emphasized on the behavior change in feeding practices of mother and child for nutritional security by roping in different stakeholders of ICDS department, health department, PRIs and community members. Innovative tools like piko projector, mobisodes were used to disseminate the message in the hard to reach areas of 250 villages in Laxmipur and Narayanpatna blocks.

The major results are worth mentioning:

- 88% of the target children were exclusively breastfed in their first six months of life
- 73% of the children in the age group of 06 months to 23 months followed all the three recommended IYCF practices
- 86% of breast fed children from age group of 06 months to 23 months are getting adequate diet.
- 60% of legislative and PRI members in the two Blocks are able to recall key IYCF messages.
- 60% of PRI members are initiating dialogue on MIYCF in their respective meetings.
- 40% of tribal leaders able to recall at least two key IYCF messages and assured to stop superstitious practices like not feeding colostrum to new born infant, stamping of children, girl child marriage, drop out from school ,not attending VHND and immunization sessions etc.,
- 281 front line workers(AWW and ASHA) trained on using FFL video through piko projector and mobisodes in VHND, Routine immunization and counselling sessions.
- 55% of 281 front line workers use some tools during their counselling session during their village visits
- 9900 mothers and care givers had opportunity to see the FFL video and the message disseminated in them.
- 60% of mothers and care givers out of 9900 could recall at least two key IYCF messages
- 1941 mothers out of 2359 mothers could tell the colour code and weight status of their children

- 79% increased participation of pregnant and lactating mothers to VHND and RI sessions.
- 400 adolescents (349 girls and 50 boys) were trained as torch bearers to disseminate, monitor and follow up key messages of IYCF in their respective villages.



Viewing of IYCF message in the Mobisodes

Using Piko projectors and Mobisodes in VHND and Immunisation session has helped us immensely in disseminating the messages to the pregnant and lactating mothers and their care givers- says AWW Rajeswari Turuk of Ranjiguda village, Laxmipur Panchayat

2. Child Protection:

Children are more vulnerable than adults by the mere facts of being children, dependent on others for the realization of their rights. They are critically affected by the actions or inactions of the Government and society at large.

WORD adopts the rights based approach based on the core principles underlying the Constitution of India and UNCRC with focus on 1. Child survival, 2. Child Protection, 3. Child education, 4. Child Participation and

Under Child Protection WORD in Collaboration with Childline India Foundation is implementing the Child Protection project under the Integrated Child Protection Scheme from Ministry of Women and Children Development, Govt. of India.

CHILDLINE- 1098:

WORD is working a sub centre for four blocks of Koraput district namely- Laxmipur, Dasmanthpur, Narayanpatna and Banduguan.

The major activities include

- making people aware of the toll free number of childline - 1098
- formation/strengthening of Block level Child Protection Committee, Panchayat level Child Protection Committee and Village level Child Protection committees;
- Trainings with allied systems like Block offices, education department, health department, ICDS, Shop keepers, Truck/Bus/Hotel Owners and their associations on child protection
- Meetings/trainings with Resource organisations
- Meetings with District Magistrate, Police, Labour department, RTO, banks, WCD department, Education department, etc.,
- Formation and strengthening of Child Clubs
- Conducting of Open House
- Enrollment of children and drop outs in schools
- Out reach services
- Press meet and publicity of Childline
- Child engagement activities
- Organising special events like Dosti Campaign, participating in District Mela and Utsav to highlight Childline and
- Case Intervention

Remarkable achievements have been made during this year some of them to be highlighted are:

- Totally 182 cases were intervened this year through calls from 1098 and also outreach services with more than 30% of them being core cases like child marriage, child abuse, child labour, shelter, child lost etc., other cases included medical help, education support, counselling etc.,

- 220 numbers of awareness programmes conducted in community, SHGs, panchayats, CBOs, hotel and bus/truck owners etc., reaching to more than 3000 people in the four Blocks
- 395 Numbers of out reach interventions conducted among schools, shelter children, railway station, slums, villages etc., where more than 4200 teachers, students, employees, community members reached.
- 12 Numbers of Open house programme conducted in schools and villages and issues related to safe drinking water, toilets of girls, issues related to quality education in schools discussed and issues sorted out with Block/District administration.
- 10 Children clubs formed in the target area and strengthened
- Special events like sit and draw competition, Yoga day, Dosti campaign, tree plantation programme, participation in parab, Measles- Rubella Vaccine in schools etc., highlighting child protection.



- Media highlights on issues identified and tackled in relation to children by joint collaboration of WORD with District Child Protection Unit, CWC, Police, CDPO and other stakeholders.

I am very thankful to WORD for stopping the marriage and now I am continuing my studies – a girl child from Ponchada GP of Laxmipur Block

3. Local Governance:

Koraput, the land of the tribals comes under the PESA and hence great emphasis is placed on strengthening the panchayat system. Odisha underwent Panchayat elections in February 2017 and this is a great opportunity for strengthening the newly elected members. Koraput is also covered under the FRA and WORD focused on facilitating entitlements for the tribal and other communities.

a. Integral Human Development of Tribal and Dalits through SATHEE COALITION:

WORD along with five other NGO partners in the SATHEE COALITION namely Accord, Ekta, HELP, PRASTUTEE and NIRMAN covered six blocks namely Laxmipur, Koraput, Nandapur, Dasmanthpur, Pottangi and Semilgidua in creating model panchayat in each one of them. The main objective of the project is to show case how effectively a panchayat can function to meet to meet needs of the tribals, Dalits and other communities in the villages and hamlets.

The project capacitated the Village Development Committees, Block level committees, newly elected panchayat members and village cadres to conduct palli sabha and Gram sabha, submit action plan for their villages, attend nodal meeting and demand for their entitlements and benefits. Various Standing committees like Gram kalyan Samiti, Mathru Committee, Janch committee, School Development Committee, Forest Rights Committee and panchayat Development Committees were trained and strengthened.

The communities were facilitated to apply for IFR and CFR in their respective village boundaries and also demand for MGNREGA works.

IEC materials were developed and distributed among the panchayat members to understand their role and responsibilities for establishing a model panchayat. Many of the members elected in the post of Sarpanch, Samiti Sabya, Ward members were from the village cadres and hence good liaisoning could be done with the panchayat leaders.

Some of the achievements during this year are:

- 9 CFR has been applied in A.Malkangiri panchayat of Dasmanthpur Block this year.
- 348 IFR has been sanctioned this year but the area is yet to be demarcated.
- 65 types of works has been mobilized in different Gram Panchayats generating 38,372 mandays and amount of Rs. 66,00,000/- deposited in different pass books of beneficiaries. More than 450 people completed 100 days of work.
- More than 1500 beneficiaries covered under various social security schemes like IAY, toilet construction, OAP, widow pension, NFBS, disable pension, JSY, Mamata scheme and many others.
- Social Audits were conducted and 132 members participated and grievances were sorted out.
- All committees are working properly and nodal meetings are conducted regularly
- There is an increased participation of villagers in the Gram sabha and especially women participation has increased.

In conclusion, the project has created a model for scaling up in other panchayats of the district.

4. Accessible and Affordable health care:

Major factor attributing to the low Human Development Index of Koraput is the issues of ill health, infant and mother mortality and morbidity rates. Contributing factors are the superstitious beliefs, inaccessibility to health services and low demand for health services. Situation has improved a lot with the support of health administration and constant monitoring by the district administration. Various programme and schemes are implemented in the district for promotive, preventive and curative health care. WORD is also focusing on the health aspects of the community it is working with by implementing two projects namely:

a. Maa Gruha(Maternity Waiting Home):

Inaccessibility to health services during delivery results in high number of home delivery especially in the remote villages of Laxmipur Block. Lots of complication arise during home delivery and women and infant are at stake. To combat this issue, Maa Gruha has been established in Laxmipur which is within 0.5km radius to the CHC, Laxmipur. Pregnant women having less than 10 days due for EDD are counselled and brought to Maa Gruha and given good nutrition, health checkup, exercise, counselling and recreation to led them into motherhood. As a result institutional delivery increases and also complications during delivery are avoided. In case of emergency, they are referred to the District hospital using the ambulance facilities from the Government and hence the lives of the infant and mother is saved.

During the year 2017-18,

- 276 women from remote villages of Laxmipur block availed this facility of which 250 women had safe delivery in Laxmipur CHC. 26 women were referred to Koraput DHH or left due against medical advice
- The average Bed occupancy was about six per day through out the year
- The Average distance from Laxmipur CHC to the villagers was around 17kms.
- More than 60% of the women were from the inaccessible villages.
- One case of Infant Mortality has been reported.

b. Urban Primary Health Centre – Jeypore – LR:

With the support of National Urban Health Mission(NUHM), a UPHC is functioning in Jeypore Sub division of Koraput District catering to the needs of around 50000 urban slum population. The UPHC is manned with one General physician, two specialist one for Gynecology and one Medicine specialist, one pharmacist, one lab technician, two staff nurse, one data entry operator/accountant and two support staff. All the facilities are available free of charge to the target population.

Apart from this UHND sessions, immunization sessions, participation in health camps like Measles-Rubella campaign, mosquito nets distribution and usage campaign, health surveys are done by the team of UPHC. Different IEC materials, counselling session are done to create health awareness among the public.



Patient treatment by Dr. P. C. Behera, MO(i/c) , UPHC, Jeypore

In the year 2017-18, 10,053 patients were treated for various ailments and 1590 pathology test conducted. Total women supported under PMSMA from Dec 17 to March 18 was 69.

5. Quality Education:

Right to Education is the universal Right of every child and WORD's main focus is on ensuring quality education to the children in and out of school. ICDS and education department are the main stakeholders in grooming the early life of the child and his/her education. Accordingly WORD has taken up two projects to ensure quality education to the children.

a. Education to Empowerment – Pillars of Learning:

The major objective of the project is to “improve learning outcome of children through strengthening early childhood care and education component in 50 Anganwadi centres and ensuring children access quality education in 50 schools of Semiliguda Block by enhancing capacities of principals, teachers, Anganwadi workers and other duty bearers.

Major strategies involved in the Pillars of learning are:

- Strengthening school- community relationship
- Improving teaching-learning process
- On site and off site support to children and school
- Enhancing the school/class room physical and educational environment
- Research, Documentation and Advocacy.

The project has just completed nine months and major activities undertaken include capacity building of teachers and AWWs, awareness to parents and community on RtE, training to SMCs, support in developing School Development Plans, organising school enrolment and retention drives, experimenting cooperative learning in class rooms, strengthening Child cabinets, providing library books, facilitating School Code of Conduct, organizing Reading buddies, celebrating different days like ECCE, developing ECCE corner, exploring creativity among children and teachers and felicitating their works, liaisoning between ICDS and education department for smooth migration of children from pre school to primary school and advocacy on quality education in schools with respective authorities etc.,

Changes are slowly visible and some of them worth mentioning are:

- 39 children are back to school/AWC after counselling to parents and community
- 33 schools have included Library period into their school time table and following it up vigorously
- Child Cabinets in 50 schools has been strengthened and more than 50% of the members have adequate knowledge on their role and responsibilities
- 892 children are tagged as Reading buddies to improve their performance level
- 50 teachers now aware on cooperative learning and other teaching metholdgies
- 54 AWWs trained on Early childhood stimulation games and toys and apply the same in their AWCs and regularly conduct ECCE Days
- SMCs are slowly recognizing their role and responsibilities and work in close coordination with the teachers.

The project has been recently started and the outcomes are yet to be ascertained and we are very positive that with the synergized efforts of ICDS, Education department, WORD and the community we can look forward for quality education for children in AWCs and schools.



Morning Assembly in a Primary school



Adarsh Vidyalaya-classroom session

b. Adarsh Vidyalaya – Kudipodar Model School:

WORD has been catering to the education needs of poor children through the school Adarsh Vidyalaya for the past seven years. This year 153 children got an opportunity to study in the

school of which 103 children were residential scholars. The children are studying from Kindergarten to Std.VI. There is both Oriya and English medium of instruction in the school. This year 15 children have been mainstreamed in the month of March/April.

The school has been granted permission for conducting classes until St VIII and is in the process of application for Secondary school to the Government to continue until Std. X.

The children are taught in the play way method. Apart from regular education, they are given training on music and dance, cultivating flowers and vegetables, drawing and painting etc., so that they have a wholistic education.

The children have fared well in the academic years. The children have participated in the Block and district level sports and recreation activities and bagged prizes. They have also formed a child club through which they motivate the parents who do not send their children to school to send them back to school.

6. Social Inclusion – People with Disability and their Care givers:

Disability (both physical and mental) is considered a curse in the family and they are often excluded not only in the village but in the society at large. This combined with lack of or less support from the Government and other stakeholders often result in exclusion of the disabled and their family. While Government is slowly recognizing the inclusion of People with Disability into the main stream, the care givers are invisible and their efforts are unrecognized. Accordingly WORD for the first time initiated a project for the people with chronic disability and their care givers.

a. A Voice for the Disabled and their Carers:

WORD identified 500 chronic ill people mainly mentally ill, mental retarded, people suffering from chronic epilepsy, patients who became paralysed and bed ridden patients and their carers and initiated a project for the disabled and their care givers in Laxmipur Block of Koraput district.

This is a new initiative started in September 2017 in line with the Carers Worldwide model comprising of five core elements namely:

- Initiating Carers support groups
- Health services -Creating access to physical and mental health services
- Employment, education and training – both for disabled and their carers
- Respite and short breaks from caring responsibilities and
- Advocacy.

Preliminary activities taken up include creation of data base of 500 disabled people and their carers and analysis, organizing community meetings to highlight carers issues and the need for their support, induction to team members on dealing with mental ill people, formation of 30 carers support groups, networking with health/social security and other stakeholders for social/medical support to the mental ill people and the carers etc.,

Some achievements during this period include:

- 460 people with disability(385 existing and 75 identified newly) were covered under the disability camp and they could avail the certificate/renew their certificates

- 182 stakeholders from various departments of ICDS, health and social security could get knowledge on carers and the approach of the Carers World wide model.
- 25 carers group formed and others in the process of formation.
- Detailed Baseline and analysis of the people with disability and their carer in place.

WORD envisage a change in the lives of the carers and the people cared for through this initiative.

Gender Mainstreaming:

WORD emphasis on gender mainstreaming in all its activities and projects in true letter and spirit. The composition of General Body and Executive Body is 100% women and most of the projects are managed by women. 90% of WORD staff comprise of women members. In the projects, it is ensured that the women and children are covered and their vulnerabilities are addressed. Projects related to nutrition, health care, carers, livelihood, panchayat raj etc., emphasis for more participation and decision making by the village women. WORD firmly believes that only if men and women are in an equitable position real development can take place in the village or in the society at large.



Women Carers Meeting in Progress

Visits of Dignitaries:

WORD witnessed support and guidance from many dignitaries who visited the organization this year. Some of the visitors include:

- Dr. Yasmin Ali Haque, Country Director, UNICEF along with State Director Ms. Umi Bae, chief of Field office, Odisha, Dr. Lopamudra Tripathy, C4D Specialist, Mr. Saurav

Bhattacharya and other team members from Delhi and Odisha UNICEF office visited villages of Laxmipur Block where IYCF practices has led to concrete results



- Shri. Pramod Kumar Meherda, Health Secretary, NHM, Govt. of Odisha, visited UPHC, Jeypore to monitor the activities of the UPHC
- Shri. Mahadev Hansda, General Manager, State programme, Save the Children visited schools and Anganwadi centres in Semiliguda Block along with Shri Avijeet Bhadra, Assistant manager and other team members of State office.
- Ms. Nichola Mary Bullard , Head of Asia Desk along with Ms. Juliette Segard, Programme officer, South Asia Desk, visited villages where Sathee Coalition-Model panchayats and livelihood programmes were initiated.
- Mr. Anil Patil, Executive Director, Carers Worldwide along with Team member, Mr. Natesh visited WORD to see the interventions with people with disability and their carers.
- Ms. Nisreen Ebrahim Rangoonwala Foundation(I) Trust along with her team members visited WORD to oversee the initiatives with People with Disability and their carers.
- Ms. Atashi Dutta, Regional office, Kolkatta Childline India Foundation visited villages where Childline-1098 was initiated
- Shri. Samuel Behara, Regional Director, SMILE FOUNDATION-India visited Adarsh Vidyalaya school to interact with the children.
- Shri. Jina Hikaka, Member of Parliament, visited Maa Gruha and Adrash Vidyalaya to participate in the events of children and also discuss with pregnant women on the functioning of Maa Gruha, Laxmipur.
- Shri. KailashChandra Kulesika, MLA, Laxmipur participated in many programmes organized by WORD on Childline, meeting of tribal leaders etc.,
- District Collector, Sub Collector, Jeypore, MLA Jeypore, CDM&PHO and other health dignitaries visited UPHC, Jeypore to oversee the services in UPHC.
- Shri. Prabhu Jani, Chairman, Zilla Parishad, Koraput visited WORD intervention areas to see the impact of the different projects

Apart from them many other stakeholders and staff of various department both at the district and state level visited to monitor, to learn and to participate in the initiatives taken up by WORD.

Students from SYMBIOSIS, Christ University, Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs etc., also underwent internship in the different projects of WORD.

Conclusion:

The year that passed was rich with learning, sharing and supporting communities and partners in development. We thank one and all who have been part of this process. We look forward to a great year ahead to bring change in the lives of people we are working around.

Thank You!!

Dr. Racheal Raykumari
Executive Secretary