

Women's Organisation for Rural Development(WORD)



Annual report – 2016-17

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ORGANISATION PROFILE:

PHYLOSOPHY:

Every human being living in this Universe has unassailable rights, guaranteed by the Constitution of India and International Covenants. However due to variety of reasons, women, children, elderly, disabled,, casteist and other vulnerable sections are denied opportunities for growth and social advancement.

WORD was initiated by a group of grass root women from Koraput district in 1991 with a purpose of building a collective of women to address the issue of poverty and discrimination in Laxmipur Block.

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 organisation address the most vulnerable population in the district with special emphasis on women and children.

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.

Target group:

The target groups are the rural and marginalized tribals and dalits of which the most vulnerable being the women, children and marginal farmers. At present WORD is covering about 150 villages consisting of around 30,000 families.

Situation Analysis:

The core problem of the target area/group is deterioration/decrease of resources of the target communities in terms of food, fuel, fodder, forest, water, traditional administration, culture, customs and knowledge which led to indebtedness, migration, lack of perennial employment/income, attitudinal change, ill health, low production etc., etc., in short the socio, economic, political and cultural aspects of the target groups were affected.

Target Area:

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

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
- Gender discrimination
- Illiteracy
- Reproductive Child Health issues
- Local Governance

1. ESTABLISHMENT OF FOOD SECURITY and LIVELIHOOD:

Food insecurity is an acute problem of tribal households of Koraput District. Although 80% of the people depend on agriculture the paradox is that the people who cultivate ultimately remain hungry. There are many reasons attributed to this situation and WORD at a localized level address the issue of food insecurity at the household level.

The focus areas covered under the food security and livelihood project:

- a. Capacity building of farmers on new and scientific methodologies in farming
- b. Motivation to change over to organic farming
- c. Access to quality inputs like seeds, package of practices and management
- d. Knowledge building on proper storage, value addition and marketing
- e. Mobilising and accessing all food security programmes in the District for different age groups and vulnerable population
- f. Collective marketing, setting up of production units and value addition of produce

WORD believes that the community is the main resource to bring about change in their own lives as well as of the others. WORD motivated the farmers to integrate into farmers clubs at the village level and they federated to one farmer's council. These

farmers groups were capacitated to take up market feasibility analysis and do collective marketing. Capacity building was the main objective of WORD to create scientific awareness towards farming along with knowledge on Government resources and marketing feasibilities. Main actors in the field of food security like ICDS, MDM, Kishori Balika , PDS, Emergency feeding etc., were demanded by the community and the food security schemes were availed. Experimentation sites were created at the field level and on the field trainings were imparted to farmers. Field exposures to model sites were also done to get the feel of the impacts of the new technologies. Interface with different stakeholders like farming institutions, agriculture and horticulture departments, business units etc., were also done for learning and coordination with each other. The women were given training on skills like mushrooms, goat rearing, organic farming, value addition of NTFP produce so that they could make a reasonable income for their families.



Some of the achievements in this area of work are:

- 2050 farmers given on field training/exposure and in-service training on new farming methodologies like SRI paddy cultivation, hill slope farming, SALT technology, hybrid nursery raising, green house cultivation, vermin composting, techniques of hybrid maize, ginger, turmeric cultivation, use of fallow lands for tuber cultivation etc.,
- Establishing 12 vermi compost production units and 210 low cost vermicompost and 12 vermin wash units by the farmers themselves through practical training and follow up
- Mobilising subsidized rates of quality inputs like seeds of paddy, maize, ginger etc., and also agriculture implements like sprayers, SRI marker, paddy thresher etc.,
- Mobilizing government/bank loans for tiller, tractor etc., by SHG groups

- Creating model sites for hybrid maize cultivation, SRI paddy cultivation etc., at the village level and income level increased by 30%
- Establishing model units for onion storage, seed storage , cereal storage at local level
- Creating marketing linkages with whole sale buyers for niger, brooms, ginger, cashew etc., for collective marketing worth Rs.12,00,000/-
- Mobilising fruit nurseries like cashew, mango, papaya and other fodder and fuel trees like acacia, eucalyptus, neem etc., in different villages
- 70% of the families covered under PDS, around 17,000 people availed NREGS for approximately 46 days each and 56 old age people newly enrolled under emergency feeding scheme. Children motivated to go to anganwadi/ school and demand Supplementary Nutrition (pre school) and quality Mid Day Meal by parents.
- 20 farmers groups and one farmer' council formed and strengthened to address the issue of food security and livelihood.
- 3 Production units set up by women for hill brooms, leaf plates making, ginger processing etc.,
- Seed banks of native seeds promoted in 30 villages and regenerated.
- Around 200 women supported in livestock rearing and back yard poultry to increase their income.

2. GENDER MAINSTREAMING IN ORGANISATION AND COMMUNITY:

WORD being a gender sensitive organization covers gender as a transversal in all its interventions. In Koraput district among the tribal household there is good status for the women in the household level and both men and women share the productive and reproductive roles. However women's acceptance in community roles is very less. Women are not part of the community decision making process. Girl children seldom go to school and are drop outs mostly at the primary level. However with the upspring of the Self Help Group(SHG) movement, women power is becoming increasingly visible in economic spheres. WORD is focusing on bringing about social, economical and political mainstreaming of women in the community.

WORD is in the process of strengthening the "Mathru Sakti Federation", the federation of women from the target area of WORD. Capacity building is the main strategy involved along with behaviour change among men and women. WORD SHG as the unit to bring about catalytic change in the community through support in economic interventions and also social interventions. Interface with different stakeholders, participation in panchayat meetings, advocating at the Block and district level are some of the mechanism for bringing about change in women as well as the community.



Some remarkable achievements in this area are:

- More than Rs.25,00,000/- mobilized from banks and financial institutions by different SHGs for different economic ventures
- 8 cases of sexual harassment, eloping, torture by in laws solved amicably by women federation.
- 80% participation of women in palli Sabha meetings and 60% in Gram Sabha meetings in WORD target villages
- Mathru Sakti Federation taking up village issues like education, village sanitation, water issues, PDS distribution, MGNREGA issues etc., and solving them amicably
- 24 girl children who were school drop out were mainstreamed into regular school this year
- Capacity building of all staff on gender mainstreaming at the family and community level.
- All the members of WORD Governing Body are women
- 70% of the organization staff of WORD are women
- Gender Policy detailed and incorporated into the Organisation Policy of WORD
- Networking with like minded NGOs on gender mainstreaming

3. LITERACY FOR LIFE SKILLS & KNOWLEDGE BUILDING:

Koraput District is very low in relation to the literacy levels comparing to the national averages. There is only 25% literacy although district statistics states it to 45%.

Female literacy is as low as 25% in rural households. WORD believes that literacy does not end with the 3R's and involves life skill education, livelihood skills and knowledge building and has been striving hard to address this issue.

Given the mandate of making people literate under the Sakshar Bharat Mission, WORD promotes functional literacy for the women in the villages. Apart from this WORD runs a model school for 100 children especially the tribal and dalits to give quality education and mainstream them into regular schools at STd VII. Behaviour change among the parents on sending girl children to school is also in process through peer motivation and education, child clubs etc.,

Some achievements in this regard are:

- 26 children mainstreamed into regular school this year and 320 new children admitted in various schools.
- 32 girl children who were drop out were back to school in this year
- 160 people completed vocational education and self employed
- Collaboration with UNICEF, DPEP, CHILDLINE for Behaviour Change Communication among parents on girl child education, child marriage, child labour etc.,
- Conducting thematic trainings on education, girl child enrollment and retention etc.,
- 87 children continuing education in Kudipodar model school



4. DISTRICT LEVEL ACTION FOR CHILD PROTECTION:

WORD continues its effort for children through CHILDLINE-1098 supporting children in distress. 120 child cases ranging from Child marriage, abuse of children, child labour, sponsorship, health needs, etc., were taken up in this year.

WORD is working as a sub centre for Childline 1098 in the Blocks of Laxmipur, Dasmanthpur and Narayanpatna. Children in distress or their parents/relatives, neighbours call up to child line and information is passed on to the Childline team. The team visits the family, gets the support of the CDPO, police etc., as per the need and escort the child to the CWC and gives the necessary support to the child.

5. REPRODUCTIVE CHILD HEALTH:

Koraput has very poor HDI as regards IMR and MMR. IMR is around 120/1000 and MMR at 230/100000 population. The main reasons for the ill health of mothers and children range from early marriage and pregnancy, malnutrition, lack of exclusive breast feeding, lack of full immunization for mother and child, high percentage of home delivery, lack of institutional support and facilities, superstitious beliefs and various other factors. There is a great need to work around the Reproductive Health issues in the area.



WORD with the support of National Health Mission has established Maa Gruha(maternity waiting home) in Laxmipur Block. It is operational from October 2016. Laxmipur Block is on the hill slopes and many of the villages are inaccessible. When the expectant women gets her labor pain, in many cases, the vehicle could not reach the home to bring her to hospital, resulting in home delivery. As home delivery is conducted by untrained women at village, there are post-delivery complications resulting in Infant and Mother death or morbidity.

Apart from RCH WORD also concentrates on preventive, promotive and curative health of the community through health education on various illness like diarrhea, malaria, sunstroke, anthrax, tuberculosis, etc., It assisted the community during the summer months in keeping Jalachatras in places for people to get clean drinking water to prevent sunstroke. WORD also in collaboration with RWSS and other departments took up drinking water points along with irrigation points for safe drinking water, construction of wells and tube wells , sanitization of the water bodies to prevent diarrhea and cholera.

WORD has taken up community process initiatives in the two Municipalities namely Sunabeda and Koraput covering 48 slums. Slum Mahila Arogiya Samiti(MAS) in each slums were trained on their roles and responsibilities and Annual Health plan, resource mapping, health mapping, training of ASHA etc., were done in the slums to address the health issues. Ward Kalyan Samitis (WKS) were also strengthened.

WORD also took up a new intervention of establishing one Primary Health Centre(UPHC) in Jeypore-LR to cater to the needs of the slums in and around jeypore municipality.

WORD also assisted the community in putting up low cost infrastructure for composting, management of waste, cattle shed cementing, drainage etc., for improving the sanitation in the villages.

6. LOCAL GOVERNANCE:

WORD firmly believes in the power of the panchayat raj institutions and this year Odisha underwent the Panchayat elections. WORD being the lead partner for SATHEE COALITION, took great effort in electoral education. All the families who did not have voter ID were identified and steps were taken to make them get their ID cards and participate in the elections. Around 84% turn out was there in the model panchayats of the SATHEE COALITION Blocks. Steps are also taken for getting land entitlements under FRA and also to get all security schemes through the panchayat.





II. HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT OF ORGANISATION:

The team of WORD are the backbone of the organization and more emphasis was given on the capacity building of the team to undertake the projects effectively in the field. Accordingly many inservice and outside training and exposure were organized for the team members. WORD underwent an Organisation Development Exercise where the whole team had time to reflect on the past and work out strategies for the future of the community and the organization. Apart from this staff underwent various trainings on micro finance, producer company, communication skills, management of UPHC, health trainings, quality management training etc.,



The staff also undergo every month in service training on various topics like Result Based management, Acts and policies, Planning and monitoring tools, documentation, , SHG and micro enterprising and various topics in relation to their action plan. The staff themselves or outside resource person gave useful inputs during the session.

III. NETWORKING AND COLLABORATION:

WORD believes in synergizing of efforts for collective action and impact and networks with like minded local, national and international NGOs and Government departments for the development of the rural poor. It is an active member of the National Alliance for Women(NAWO). It also is a network member of White Ribbon Alliance, Global Movement for Children(GMFC), Child Rights and Child Protection Network(CRCP), Global alternatives Dalit Solidarity Movement etc., Apart from this the federation of WORD target communities is also networking with the Koraput Adivasi Manch and Orissa Adivasi Manch.

WORD collaborates with different international agencies like CCFD, France, European Third World Association, Germany, Trocaire, Irish Embassy etc., It also partnership with UNICEF for the behavior change communication and IYCF. At the central government level, it partnership with Ministry of Human Resource Development(MHRD) and is a parent organization of Jan Shikshan Sansthan, Koraput. It is also part of the Childline Foundation supported by Ministry of Women and Child. At State level it collaborates with NHM, and at District level with Block and various other stakeholders.

WORD has good rapport with the district administration, the panchayats and legislative bodies.

IV. FINANCIAL REPORT: ENCLOSED

V. CONCLUSION:

WORD in this year has been working very actively in the target villages and there has been considerable impact in the lives of the communities. WORD thanks all the donors, stakeholders, friends and families who have been supportive to this cause and looks forward the future with much enthusiasm and commitment.

Dr.(Mrs.) Racheal Raykumari
Executive Secretary.

