

Gram Vikas





Two hands meet to form a heart

**Overview of 39 years of
working with rural
communities**

The beginning: 1976-1979

Volunteers from the **Young Students Movement for Development, Chennai** came to Odisha after the 1971 cyclone to undertake relief and rehabilitation work in the affected areas. They worked in villages in the then Cuttack district developing lift irrigation projects. This helped increase agricultural productivity for the farmers, but had little impact on the poor, who were mostly landless.

Looking to do more work with the poor, they accepted an invitation from the Ganjam district administration to work with adivasi communities in the district. The original plan was to develop a dairy cooperative. The team soon realized that working on dairy development will not benefit the tribal communities.

Gram Vikas was registered in 1979



Mobilization for rights & development: 1979 onwards

The Kondh tribe of the Kerandimal hills in Ganjam district were suffering at the hands of liquor merchants and from land alienation. The **Kerandimal Gana Sangathan** was mobilized as a movement of the *adivasi* community to obtain their rights address the development needs of the villages



The **Adivasi Bhumi Adhikar Sangha**, a peoples' movement in Thuamul Rampur block of Kalahandi, successfully resisted the move to convert tribal agricultural lands into tea plantations and were able to retain control over their land.

Mobilization for rights & development: 1979 onwards

Work expanded to cover areas in Gajapati and Kalahandi districts working with Saura and Kondh tribes. The Integrated Tribal Development Programme supported village communities in community health, non-formal education, small savings and forest protection.



Village Water & Sanitation Committees have been supported, to anchor, own and, manage community access to safe sanitation and water. VWSCs have been the key community institution interface for Gram Vikas since 1998

Education: 1982 onwards

In remote tribal villages, Government schools either did not exist or were not functioning. Education levels were very poor and the exploitation of people because illiteracy was high. Gram Vikas started balwadis, non-formal education centres and adult literacy programme in the villages.



Soon it became clear that NFE would never give tribal children the opportunity to join the mainstream education system and fully reach their potential. To meet this need, Kerandimal Middle Education School, a residential school for tribal children was established at Konkia, Ganjam district in 1982.

Education: 1982 onwards

The four residential schools, managed now by independent trusts, cater to more than 1200 boys and girls from remote tribal villages.



In 1995, the KME school was upgraded as the Gram Vikas Residential School.

Gram Vikas Shikhya Niketan, was established at Kumudabahal in Kalahandi district in 1998



Mahendratanya Ashram School was established at Koinpur, Gajapati district in 1992.



Gram Vikas Vidya Vihar was started in Rudhapadar, Ganjam district in 1992

Renewable Energy: 1982 onwards

Dwindling tree cover increased drudgery of women in collecting fuel for cooking. Biogas was identified as an appropriate technology alternative to address this. Between 1983 and 1993, Gram Vikas built 54,000 biogas plants across villages of Odisha



Renewable Energy: 1982 onwards

Gram Vikas has continued to adapt, demystify and disseminate renewable energy technologies for rural development. Work in solar PV, micro-hydro and bio-fuels for power generation and water pumping.



Natural Resource Management: 1985 onwards

To address challenges to livelihood security faced by the tribal communities, due to massive deforestation the Social forestry Programme was initiated in 1985.

About 10,000 acres of private & community wasteland were brought under fruit, fuel & timber yielding species in Ganjam, Gajapati & Kalahandi districts.



The tribals of Odisha practice shifting or slash-burn cultivation on hill slopes. Reduced access to common land due to stringent laws resulted in reduced rotation cycles in this practice and degradation of land. Horticulture interventions and integrated land and water management measures were adopted to address this.

Natural Resource Management: 1985 onwards

Recurring droughts in the region also prompted focus on land and water management based on watershed principles. Water harvesting structures, soil conservation measures and drainage line treatment were taken up on a ridge-to-valley principle. Work on natural resource management also expanded to include the chronic drought-prone areas of Bolangir and Bargarh districts.



Habitat Development: 1995 onwards



Gram Vikas supports rural communities build cost-effective, disaster proof houses; household sanitation facilities, community-owned piped water supply systems; community buildings and facilities such as schools, grain banks, roads, drainage etc.



Habitat Development: 1995 onwards

Enabling rural communities to lead a dignified life meant supporting improvements in the physical living environment. Regular natural hazards like cyclone affect lives in coastal Odisha, causing damage to homes and property



Water & Sanitation: 1994 - ongoing

The high levels of morbidity caused by pollution of drinking water sources through improper disposal of human waste needed to be addressed through a community managed, all-inclusive mechanism. The Rural Health & Environment Programme was developed by Gram Vikas in 1995 through wide consultations with village communities in different parts of Odisha



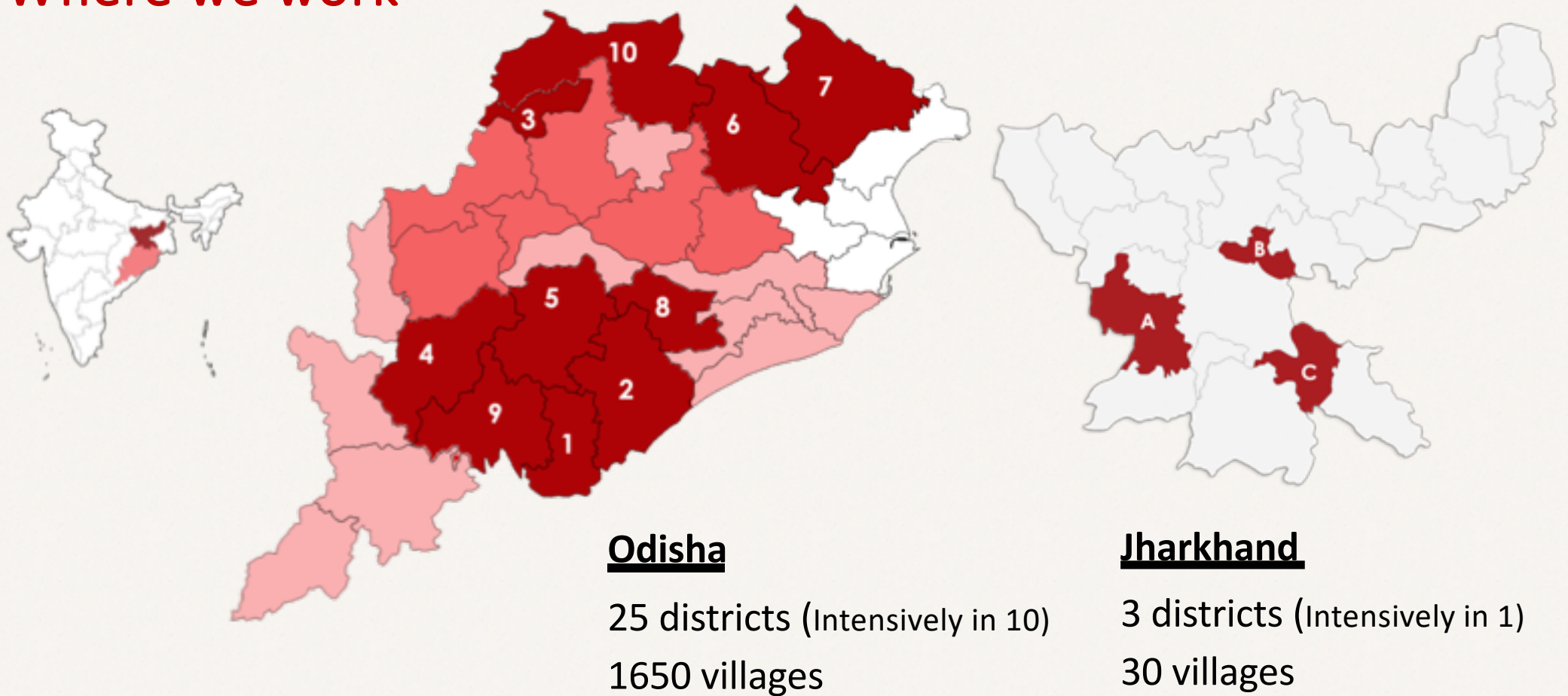
Gram Vikas today

Vision & Mission

An equitable and sustainable society where people live in peace with dignity

To promote processes which are sustainable, socially inclusive and gender equitable, to enable critical masses of poor and marginalised rural people and their communities to achieve a dignified quality of life

Where we work



Cumulative coverage:

110,000 families, 565,000 persons

Gram Vikas MANTRA

Movement & Action Network for Transformation of Rural Areas

Build critical masses of village communities with institutional and financial strength to engage with the State and markets

Government / Corporate Sector collaboration with communities facilitated by NGOs

Safe Sanitation and piped water supply as entry point to build a new development process in the villages



MANTRA - Principles

Inclusion

All take part, irrespective of social or financial status

Cost Sharing

Everyone pays:

Community contribution in labour and materials

Social costs paid by Government/ Private Sector

Equity

Poorer pay less, better off pay more

Women and men have equal say

Sustainability

Community ownership of processes and facilities

Financial instruments for continued use and expansion

Household toilets & bathing rooms



Village piped water supply system



Healthier, sustainable habitats



Ongoing Partnerships

Gram Vikas works with the Government, at local, State and central levels



Corporate Social Responsibility partnerships with leading corporates



Ongoing Partnerships

Partnership with national and international foundations , organisations & networks



Contact Us:

Plot No. 72/B, Forest Park Bhubaneswar - 751009 Odisha, India



+91-674-2596366



info@gramvikas.org



www.gramvikas.org



@GramVikasIN



gramvikasodisha



gramvikasodisha



Gram Vikas

Registered Office: Mohuda Village, Berhampur, 760002, Ganjam District, Odisha