

Annual Report for the Year 2017-2018

Visionaries of Creative Action for Liberation and Progress

VICALP

VICALP is a registered NGO with its head office at Gopalpur on sea, Ganjam and have been operating in districts of Gajapati, Ganjam and Kandhamala since 1995. The inception of VICALP steps back to the pan India tribal self-rule movement in the 1990s when a handful of local enlightened tribal and dalit leaders from the interior areas of Gajapati came together to form a platform to strengthen the movement. In the process, this peoples' platform felt the necessity of a legal entity and thus VICALP was registered under SR Act 1860 as well as FCRA and tax exemption under 12A of the Income Tax Act. VICALP has got its vision and mission statements and the set of objectives to guide it in the process of community centric development and the vision, mission, and objectives of the organization are as follows:

VISION:

The Visionaries of Creative Action for Liberation & Progress (VICALP) seeks for the all round and sustainable development of Adivasis, Dalits and the poor people by addressing poverty, and inequality thereby promoting social justice, equality, cooperation, human rights and communal harmony. VICALP recognizes and affirms a commitment to non-violent action and the possibility for social change through activation of our constitutional rights, freedoms and responsibilities.

MISSION:

Our mission is to partner with the poor, marginalized and excluded communities in Odisha to promote and facilitate collective and creative actions towards ensuring their rights and entitlements, generation of sustainable inclusive development and growth of communal harmony; and collaborate with civil society organizations for working together towards socio-economic empowerment of partner communities.

OBJECTIVES:

- 1) Promoting socio-cultural education, which seeks to uncover the societal structural basis of the continued marginalization of adivasi, dalit and poor communities;
- 2) Promoting the development of adivasi, dalit and poor people's organized positive activism and collective assertion of equal rights to land, water, forest and livelihoods in the scheduled areas as per constitutional guarantees enshrined in the fifth schedule;
- 3) Promoting the development of coalitions between community organizations, other marginalized social groups (landless and fishing/coastal communities), civil society, and NGOs in the interests of protecting and promoting constitutional rights and safeguards for rural marginalized communities in relation to land, forest and water resources and livelihoods;

- 4) Providing facilitative support for local livelihood based development activities and entrepreneurs that are consistent with the communities' conceptions of culture, economy, and progress;
- 5) Promoting land claim, land associated activities such as agriculture based livelihood promotion, organic and eco-friendly agriculture promotion, and promotion of horticultural activities among the excluded communities;
- 6) Promoting children's education in relation to child attendance, retention, completion of high school, and linking with need based vocational trainings;
- 7) Activating mother and child health services and promoting sanitation, health and hygiene with special attention to the adolescents' health needs;
- 8) Encouraging active participation and citizenship of adivasis, dalits, and poor people in the democratic process of the Nation;

PARTNER COMMUNITIES:

VICALP's target communities are drawn from the socio-economically excluded groups especially the Adivasis, Dalits, OBCs and other marginalized communities living in abject poverty in the State. Historically, these people live together and are inter-dependent in terms of their day-to-day life and livelihood systems particularly in the inaccessible hilly region and rural areas of the districts in Odisha. More often than not, they find themselves at the same lower spectrum of the socio-economic ladder of the society, being subjected to socio-economic deprivation and ignominy. It is therefore an existential reality of the communities that they are together and always be together with a practical motto of live and let live. VICALP has realized this fact and have been facilitating the process of their development through collaboration and social integration.

In 2017-18, VICALP has engaged women, men, and youth from 115 village from 12 gram Panchayats in 2 blocks in the districts of Gajapati and Kandhamal and have mobilized a population of approximately 70000 people as direct beneficiaries of its various development interventions. However, these people in the program villages are part of numerous development programs that were undertaken in the previous years right from 1995.

Program History

Ekta Abhiyan

VICALP founded Ekta Abhiyan people's campaign with the help of HELP-Canada which has become the cornerstone in the entire activities of the organization. Ekta Abhiyan was promoted on the plunks of protecting people's rights and thereby promoting communal harmony. Along with peace and livelihood restoration in the districts of Kandhamal and Gajapati riot during 2007 - 2008,



Ekta Abhiyan actively got involved in ensuring rights, entitlements and basic services to the marginalized and socially excluded communities. Ekta Abhiyan have been a collective journey

of the socially excluded communities with equal participation and ownership of the process by women and men till date.

Land Rights and Food Security Supported by HELP-Canada-1997 to 2018

- **Vegetable cultivation by individual families:** With the 10 varieties of vegetable seeds to 151 villages of both Mohana and Daringbadi blocks comprised of 6011 households, all the farmers successfully produced around 692412 KGs of vegetable in Kharif and Rabi seasons every year. Each Dalit and Tribal household produced approximately 145 KGs of vegetable in an average and used for self-consumption and local market sale. Around 35% of the total households could sell the surplus vegetable and earned an extra income Rs. 1200/- to 2500/- approximately.
- **Community fruit orchard plantation:** The existing fruit orchard were groomed for better production. The orchards were with the fruit trees of cashew, guava, jackfruit, papaya, pineapple, pomegranate, mango and banana. However, initiatives were taken to expand the orchards with proper marketing of the produce to city vendors and markets. The government horticulture department has asked VICALP to promote the fruit orchards in Daringbadi and Mohana blocks through MGNREGS.
- **Promotion of millet cultivation:** The program aimed at strengthening people's claims over forest land. During 2017-18, technical (SRI) and financial (Manure) support for millet cultivation was provided to 151 villages for 6011 farmers. The farmers cultivated millet from 32421 acres of fallow/hilly/sloppy land. This activity is linked to occupied land under FRA by which the millet cultivated fallow land was used as agricultural land under FRA.
The millet cultivation program included elements of organic farming, mixed/multiple/inter cropping, etc. In 2013 and 2014, the Government of Odisha declared Mohana block as a millet/maize producing cluster and recognized VICALP as one of the major contributors in promoting millet cultivation. As a result, VICALP has been accepted as a pioneer and lead NGO for promoting traditional and organic crops by the adoption of scientific method of cultivation.
- **Community grain bank:** In 2017-2018, VICALP provided 13401 KGs of grain to the Dalit and tribal communities. The communities have mostly used the grains for cultivation as well as consumption purposes during the lean seasons and collected them during harvest. The value of the grain from the grain banks distributed in monetary terms is estimated to be about Rs. 502217.
- **Continuation of village level people's organizations in and strengthening by collective decision and actions:** This is an ongoing activity of the organization where the CBOs get refreshed in terms of election of executive committees and inclusion of new youth members into the village organizations and involve them in the village decision making process. The village organization functions as the highest policy and decision-making body in the village. The chief/head of the village organization along with a group of office bearers (nominated by the villagers), function as a team to oversee and supervise day-to-day programs. Besides, the women organizations and WSHGs also follow the same process and update their various books and records.
There are also special groups evolved in the Daringbadi block of Kandhmal district promoted by VICALP. These groups are formed basically to organize the small holding farmers as producers' associations. They are known as Common Interest Groups (CIGs)

consisting of +5000 small holding farmers in 51 CIGs. The aim of these groups is to promote organic agriculture, vegetable and rice cultivation.

- **Continuation of Panchayat/ Regional organizations with village men and women's representatives:** Panchayat Level and Central Level people's organisations have been formed and strengthened to make them function as people's forces vis-à-vis the government. There are regular Panchayat and central level meetings organized. The central organization, i. e. Ekta Abhiyan have been functioning regularly in the field level offices. These activities were initiated in the district of Gajapati and later VICALP expanded and replicated the Ekta Abhiyan experience in Kandhmal and Jharsuguda districts with active membership in 500 plus villages, covering 23,000 plus households with a population base of more than one lakh. The process also has created 3 district level and 7 block level Ekta Abhiyan federations, which are active on various rights issues.
- **Advocacy and lobby:** The block level EA committees which meet every month in the 8 block headquarters have bi-monthly district level central EA meetings at district headquarters followed by one day of interactive meetings with government officials presenting before grievances and issues in relation to rights and entitlements. Besides this, the Panchayat level task force from regions/panchayats also meet the government and elected representatives to press on their grievances. The EA people's representatives go to the district headquarters several times to present their demands and grievances to the government authorities on the issues of FRA, land, education, MGNREGS, health facilities etc.
- **PDS centers:** VICALP has promoted eleven village Public Distribution Centers (PDS) managed by Women Self Help Groups (WSHG) covering 18 Panchayats. These PDSs continue to supply Kerosene, rice, dal and essential commodities to more than 6011 households in the program Panchayats. The monthly turnover is around 1 Lakhs rupees in an average of all PDSs. People get regular supply of ration on monthly basis. PDSs appoint a point person by paying Rs. 1500/- per month from the PDS profit to manage the outlet.
- **People's constructive engagement with Government institutions:** Regular Gram Panchayat and block collective visits of leaders are organized by Ekta Abhiyan on various issues regarding FRA, LRA and MGNREGS. FRA, LRA and MGNREGA are the three important Acts/schemes enacted by the government of India to eradicate poverty in the country basically by providing land and land entitlements by FRA and LRA, and 100 days employment to the people. Ekta Abhiyan ensures that maximum people get benefits out of these provisions through collective action.

Human Rights Project supported by EU/EIDHR-2007-09

The EU/EIDHR project, supported through CA was a part of a national level coalition program that focused on protecting human right. The main work was monitoring atrocities committed on SC and ST communities in the country. The Project aimed to use the judiciary and the legal remedies to address atrocities and activate atrocity monitoring through human rights defenders. VICALP implemented this project four districts in Ganjam, Gajapati, Kandhmal, and Rayagada districts. The project was able to pick up 77 atrocity cases and took it to the court. It supported the victims in claiming compensation and justice with a higher conviction ratio.

Inclusive Economic Development with support from Scottish Govt./CA 2010-2017

VICALP in collaboration with Christian Aid, New Delhi and Scottish Govt. International Development Fund, UK, implemented a project titled 'Inclusive Economic Development (IED) through integrated Food Production and Income Security' involving 1568 smallholding turmeric farmers from 29 tribal and Dalit villages of Daringibadi block in Kandhamal-Odisha. The beneficiary farmers were organized into Common Interest Groups (CIGs) leading towards



registered farmers producers' company named as "Jaiva Jeevan Producer Company Ltd. (JJPCL)", along with a small-scale industry named "Jaiva Jeevan Agri-Enterprise".

Vocational Skill Development for Tribal-Dalit Youth

VICALP initiated market relevant employment oriented skills training in 2014 at Mohana in the district of Gajapati-Odisha. To begin with 75 youth (both male and female) were enrolled from excluded and marginalized tribal and dalit communities, and were facilitated to undergo placement guaranteed vocational skill training on masonry, electronics and electrician trades. After the training the trainees were assisted in placement in appropriate industries and private organizations.



System of Rice Intensification (SRI)-Supported by SDTT-2008-2018

In collaboration with Sir Dorabji TATA Trust (SDTT), VICALP has taken up System of Rice Intensification (SRI) among the vulnerable tribal and dalit communities in the operational area with a view to replace traditional method of less-productive cultivation.

Poorest Area Civil Society (PACS) program-supported by DFID/CA-2011-2018

VICALP with the support of DFID/Christian Aid initiated PACS program from September-2011, through a 4 member NGO network process implementing this program covering 23000 rural poor households in 394 villages in 6 blocks in Kandhmal and in Jharsuguda districts-Orissa as beneficiaries of the project ensuring basic rights, entitlements and livelihood. The basic thrust of PACS program was to achieve MDG in its operational villages ensuring

livelihood rights: LRA, FRA, MGNREGA, Skill Development, and basic services: Health, Nutrition and Education.

The PACS program also implemented the RSBY and Dalit Open Budgeting as add on activities in its operational areas in the district of Kandhamal and Jharsuguda. The RSBY intervention aimed at addressing the health issues of the people through health insurance by effectively utilizing the benefit of Rastriya Swasthya Bima Yojana (RSBY). Similarly, the Dalit Open Budgeting sensitized the communities on the processes and procedures of State budgeting, and mobilized the communities to collectively put pressure and impact the annual budget of the government budget and make it a Dalit and tribal pro budget.

Shakti Varta supported by DFID in collaboration with WCD/H &FW dept. Government of Odisha-2014-2017



VICALP mobilized a project from IPE Global titled as Shakti Varta for its two operational area 1) Gajapati and 2) Jharsuguda in 2014 which was launched in August 2014. The project was implemented in 12 blocks in Gajapati (7 blocks) and Jharsuguda (5 blocks). It is a DFID aided Government of Odisha convergence program, which is being led by VICALP and was implemented in collaboration with Government of Odisha department of

Women and Child development, Health and Family Welfare, and Rural Development. The project focused around Mission Shakti/ICDS and WSHGs and aimed at the drastic reduction of IMR, NMR, MMR and malnutrition in its operational area. VICALP facilitated the process as trainer and facilitating organization and in reporting and documentation, staff, and on monitoring in the community processes at the field level.

Post-PACS Intervention on Village Health and Nutrition Day (VHND) Monitoring and Strengthening in Gajapati District (2016-17)

The success of Shakti Varta project had a spillover effect as the collector of Gajapati district requested VICALP and its funding partner to help the district administration in monitoring the VHND activities in the district. The involvement requested was in the backdrop of non-improvement in the indicators which VHND program was aiming at. The collector, with the help of a technical team from VICALP streamlined the community level data collection, compilation and analysis process at the district office. The team also provided regular field visits and on site assistance/guidance to the field level health staff on the effective implantation of VHND in the villages. The program provided technical and monitoring guidance to the district health department for a little over six months.

Conclusion:

It is VICALP's belief that the people are the masters of their destiny, and capable of bringing about positive changes in their lives if appropriate facilities and timely opportunities are provided to them. They have been the centre of our thought and action and at the heart of all

our development initiatives. Therefore VICALP always strives to develop the capabilities, leadership and skills of the community leaders and members. It seeks cooperation and collaboration from civil society groups, like minded NGOs, INGOs, and funding agencies for strengthening its development work as well as scale up for maximization of impact and benefit. We are therefore never a competitor but always a collaborator in the process of empowering the rural poor for their emancipation and development. VICALP has adequate human resource with required qualifications, expertise and experience to initiate, carry out and manage development related tasks at any point of time in any part of the State of Odisha. VICALP has got adequate infra-structure at its central level at Gopalpur on sea in Ganjam-Odisha, and 3 regional offices at Mohana-Gajapati, Daringbadi-Kandhmal and Jharsuguda. and Routsahi-Jajpur in Odisha. We seek and solicit the support of donors and technical institutions to reach out to the sections of the communities who are still excluded, marginalized and unreached.

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