

ANNUAL ACHIVEMENT REPORT

2023-24



Association for Social and Humanitarian Action (ASHA)

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AT: LALSAHEB PADA (W.NO.-7), PO: KHARIAR,

DIST: NUAPADA (ODISHA) PIN: 766107

INTRODUCTION:

Association for Social and Humanitarian Action (ASHA) is a leading state level voluntary organisation formed in 2002. The operational area of the organization consists of 140 villages of Khariar, Sinapali and Komna blocks of Nuapada districts of Odisha state. These Blocks belong to the KBK (Kalahandi, Balangir, Koraput) districts of Odisha which are notoriously famous for their endemic poverty, food insecurity, hunger, malnutrition and starvation death.

ASHA, which literally means 'hope', is a voluntary organisation based in Odisha, India. Disability, Children and Women's rights are **ASHA's** core focus areas. The organisation was founded in 2002. With a backdrop of thirteen successful years of operation, **ASHA** is today recognized as one of the front ranking NGOs of Odisha working in the field of disability.

VISION:

ASHA strives to see a world of identity, dignity and equal opportunities for underprivileged people, especially women, children and persons with disabilities, adopting a creative approach and need based strategies.

MISSION:

To dedicate itself as a facilitator of social development through a participatory process of awareness generation, advocacy and need based intervention with due emphasis on the vulnerability of persons with disabilities, persons in special difficulty due to natural and/or man made calamity, women and children subjected to discrimination and neglect, people deprived of social justice and human rights and those living under abject poverty.

LEGAL ENTITY:

- Registered under Societies Registration Act of 1860.
- Registered under Foreign Contribution Regulation Act of 1976.
- Registered under section 12A of Income Tax Act having permanent account number.
- Registered under 80G of Income Tax Act.

WHERE WE WORK:

- 05 Blocks of Nuapada District and Khariar NAC area.
- 02 Blocks of Kalahandi District.
- 02 Blocks of Balangir District.
- 02 Blocks of Balasore District.
- 01 Block of Mayurbhanj District.
- 01 Block of Cuttack District.
- 01 Block of Puri District.

EDUCATION AND AWARENESS DEVELOPMENT:

Education helps the people, analyze and reflect their problems and act for development. Thus it is not the literacy but the organizational value of education that is more important for the people. Education should help people articulate their own views and visions, consolidate local experiences and give creative forms to local aspirations. **ASHA** being sensitive to this aspect of education organized all its programmes and activities.



THE SETTING:

The present situation in Nuapada is not a sudden aberration. It has a long gestation period. The problems of this area could be visualized as follows.

In terms of economics; agriculture and the forest are the main sectors which provide both employment and income to the people in this area. Land quality & ownership, cropping pattern, input supply, marketing and above all rainfall determines the level of income and standard of living. More than 60% of the total farmers are either small or marginal farmers who either own Aat (up land) or Bahali (Medium land). These are lands characterized by qualities like less water & moisture retaining capacity and are susceptible to erosion.

The crop condition in this area depend more upon the number of days of rainfall equally distributed over the season and not on its totality. A little irregularity causes failure of crops. Erratic rainfall and partial crop failure are very regular phenomena. Records of last one hundred year show that a severe drought has invaded this area every 10 year. Over the years land alienation from the agriculturists to non-agriculturists has grown. Agriculture gradually being non-viable, the pressure on forest has increased. Availability of non-timber forest products (NTFP) like Mahua, Char, Harida, Kusum etc. gradually are on the decrease leading to pressure on timber products for sale. Whatever non timber forest products available are sold in a cheaper rate for there is no effective market control mechanism to regulate the same.

The scarcity due to crop loss and , corrupt practices in the trade of agricultural products and NTFP on the one hand and non-availability of other sources of income on the other has resulted in hunger, low health quality and increasing number of labour exodus.

THE CONCEPT:

Giving a conceptual frame work we can visualize the above situation as follows.

Drought in itself can be seen as an evolving phenomenon starting from meteorological condition to hydrological to actual agricultural, though the socio political balances are built into its occurrences and management. A distortion in the seasonal precipitation lead to moisture stress which



in turn causes a fall in the crop yields. Incidentally, agricultural drought occurs due to lack of soil moisture particularly during critical period of crop growth. Thus even normal and adequate annual rainfalls are un-useful when the rains are not timely.

During droughts and particularly famines, a person or household can sink into starvation if his endowment collapses either due to a fall in the value of the endowment bundle or due to an unfavourable shift in the entitlement mapping.

Famine and starvation is caused not due to any absolute decline in food commodity availability but rather by the collapse of entitlement of certain sections of society which badly curtails their access to the available supplies”.

Such a phenomenon in the operational area of **ASHA** has set off a process of change which has permeated through the Socio-economy effecting and distorting the configuration of the social milieu in its entirety in a fundamental way.

Any step to bring a change in the above mentioned situation needs systematic approach/intervention.

ACTIVITIES:

The activities of **ASHA** could be discussed under the following heads;

1. Education and Awareness Development.
2. Training, Consultancy and Documentation.
3. Institution Building and People's Organization.
4. Child Rights.
5. Consumer Protection and Awareness.
6. Health and Sanitation.
7. Sustainable Agriculture.
8. Legal Awareness and Human Rights.
9. Training, Meeting, Seminar workshop.

TRAINING, CONSULTANCY AND DOCUMENTATION:

ASHA promote to different NGOs, CBOs and youth clubs for their development in welfare sector. In this connection, **ASHA** organized different type of training programme and give consultancy to different sector for their development.

VOCATIONAL TRAINING:

Unit A training unit has been started under the vocational programme. A professional trainer gives practical training to the young people on repairing mobile phones. 12 young persons with disabilities were involved in the programmes, who are now seeking funding to set up businesses. There are plans to contact banks, Government and financial institutions for financial support for the sustainability of the programme.

LIVELIHOOD:

31 SHGs are operating in our project areas (19 in Nuapada, 12 in Balangir). Links with SHGs and banks were set up to supply financial support to the groups. As a result, 2 SHGs have been linked with the local bank and are running their own businesses, reducing the dependency on their parents and increasing their independence. On top of that, 10 PwDs are now running their own businesses – including rice and mushroom cultivation, producing leaf plates, tailoring, and grocery shops.

LEGAL AWARENESS AND HUMAN RIGHTS:

During the year **ASHA** organized 2 nos. of L.A.P. in Komna and Boden Block under the Nuapada District with the financial support of National Commission of Women, New-Delhi. The main objectives were aware about different laws and its implementation.



SCHOOL:

Non-formal school: The people in the operational area of **ASHA** are very poor. Most children in the school going age work in the agriculture and other allied sectors like pottery and weaving etc. The children of the migrant labourers who migrate to places like Hyderabad to work in the brick kiln also discontinue their study. Taking this situation into consideration **ASHA** has opened Non-formal night Schools in different villages of Komna Block.

CONSUMER PROTECTION AND AWARENESS:

The **ASHA** work on consumer protection and awareness programme in our operational area. More than 13 Nos. of consumer club formed in different school levels and observe consumer week.

CHILD RIGHTS:

Children of tender age working in dhabas, garages, construction sites, bidi rolling units are common both in rural and urban areas. Sometimes these children are engaged in hazardous activities like garage and motor repairing work. There are legal provisions against employing child labours in hazardous activities nobody seems to bother about it. The main reason behind employing child labour is lack of sensitivity among the employers. **ASHA** launched a sustained campaign on Prevention of Employing Child labour in Khariar and Komna Block of Nuapada district. In order to achieve the objectives we organized rallies, workshop and seminars in the entire operational area. In addition to making awareness campaign **ASHA** is running child labour school by the collaboration with NCLP.

TRAINING, MEETING, SEMINAR WORKSHOP:

With the objective to develop potentialities among the leaders and we are organized different type of skill development training programme for the youth and women. During the year deliver on rule and responsibilities of a leader, group, management etc. Also we are conducted different type of seminar on migration and legal rights.



FUNDS AND INFRASTRUCTURE:

Organization is a development stage it is not self-sufficient in their matter of funds. It does not possess its own source of income. We are always depending on public donation and govt. and which is not sufficient also do not have our own in fractures facilities.

OTHER ACTIVITIES:

The **ASHA** has always trying to meet the social economic needs of the people of the area through its various activities over and above the activities mentioned in pervious paragraphs. We undertakes several others activities as per the need of time.

WORKSHOP ON WOMEN RIGHT:

1. Formal and-formal school as for the children of 6-14 age groups.
2. Awareness Camps, Meetings and Workshops.

FUTURE PLANS:

Through we are trying to conduct to all those programmes which will help to build a better society & a complete society still we are limited in our actions due to several reasons that might be lack of main power, lack of money & lack of sufficient infrastructure. Still we are hoping for the best with our abilities & capabilities. We had never forgotten our neglected disabled society. As far possible we are trying to meet their necessary requirements of Education, Training, Health, Employment, Self employment and other related aspects of rehabilitation.

HEALTH AND SANITATION:

In the State of Odisha 96 infants die in every 1,000 that are born before they can even complete their first birthday. Similarly a little over 360 mothers in every 1,00,000 die while giving birth their babies. This is an alarming situation as material and infant deaths in the state are higher even in some sub-saharan Republics. The main reason that can be attributed to such a high number of deaths are poor infrastructures facilities, low status of women, low a priority to women's health, low priority to immunization, low level of institutional and assisted delivery etc. The Government has been implementing several programmes to provide the best possible health Service implementing several programmes to provide the best possible health services to the mothers and the children through the integrate Child Development service (ICDS). Medicines, immunization, nutritious food supplement is given through numerous Anganwadi centers spread across the villages. But, due to ignorance the women do not avail of these services. In this connection **ASHA** always try to implement the the programme on NRHM by the collaboration with health department.

**Secretary,
ASHA**