



ANNUAL REPORT 2016-17



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Activity of 2016-17
AJSA, Odisha

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Secretary's Note

27 years ago, AJSA was started at Balangir with a determination to make a sustainable society for all where no one is left behind under socio-economic development or a landless marginal labour or a bonded labour whether a man or women isn't forced to migrate leaving the education & future of their children.

From the very beginning, we at AJSA believe that development has to be holistic. Livelihood support, natural resource management, disaster management, child education, women empowerment and community development are the prime areas of our work. The path for this work has never been smooth, and we have learned, unlearned, relearned and evolved into being more rooted and compassionate.

The year 2016-17 for AJSA has been a year of experimentation, learning and evolving. We have tried & wish to bring a substantial change on the ground by focusing our energy in these sectors as well as building our understanding about related issues. We at AJSA firmly believe that a conducive and productive environment cannot be achieved unless all these parameters of the development equation are suitably answered. This year we were fortunate enough to see many moments, and we would like to give you a glimpse of these through this annual report.

We are fortunate to have donors who have given us their unstinting support and all our co-travellers, advisors, board members and well-wishers for traversing a path with faith and conviction to see a better tomorrow.

Biswajit dhara Behera

**In Solidarity,
Secretary
AJSA, Odisha**



About AJSA

AJSA is a grass root level rights-based non-government and not-for-profit organisation based in the state of Odisha in India. It is facilitating community development initiatives since 1989, working towards the root cause of poverty and eliminating social injustice for the downtrodden and under privileged section in the remotest part of the country. It is a non-political, community based social development organization involved in sustainable development initiatives since inception.

AJSA was formed by local poor people of Bangomnuda block in the Balangir district, to work for the socio-economic development of small and marginal farmers, landless labour, agricultural labour, bonded labour as well as women, children and other weaker deprived sections of the society. The spheres of its work are governed by issues related to livelihood security, health, education, natural resource management and disaster risk reduction, etc.

AJSA has been working in some of the poorest parts of Odisha for about two decades to promote community-based solutions to issues around the empowerment & mainstreaming of deprived village people of western-Odisha with emphasis on landless-small & marginal farmer, backward rural women, children, STs, SCs & Dalit communities.





Vision

A society free from hunger, poverty, exclusion and discrimination where all people will have the opportunity to exercise their right to a self-determined life with dignity and justice.

Mission

Improving the quality of life of the most marginalized and vulnerable sections of the society.

Our Interventions in 2016-17

brought



with an engagement over **millions** of lives



Our action
in glimpses



Peoples Action in
Development
(PAID)

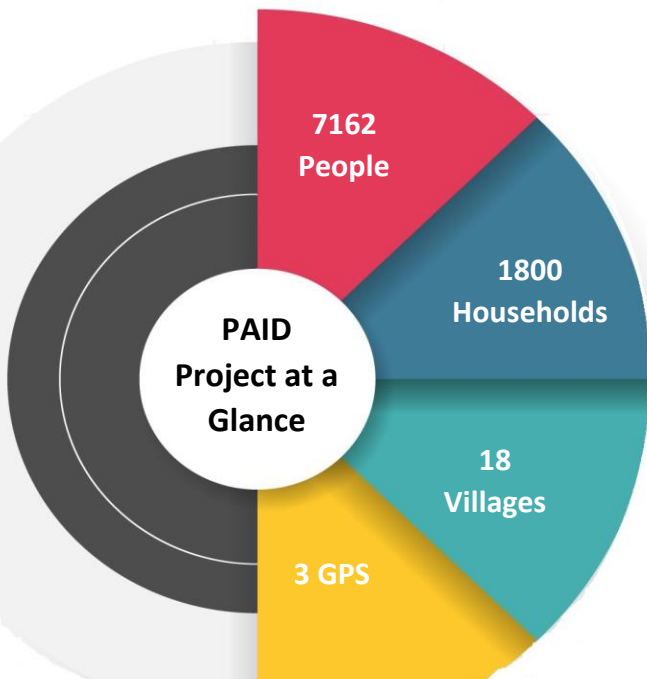
Peoples Action in Development (PAID)

In Balangir, massive poverty, backwardness, under-development and migration are still considered as common issues and no considerable improvement in the quality of lives and livelihoods of the people is seen even after nearly six decades of Indian independence, in spite of several poverty alleviation programmes implemented by successive governments for amelioration of poor.

A majority of the population in the district is landless and are earning their livelihood as agricultural labourers. Accumulatively, including the tillers who are unable to till land, droughts spell a decline in the employment opportunities for nearly 85% of the population. All this has forced several families in Balangir, especially in rural areas, to migrate to urban areas in search of employment opportunities.

To tackle this situation the Govt. intervention programme NREGA have been playing a very crucial role for minimising the problem of migration in the village community. In other words, NREGA has the potential to transform the face of the rural economy.

Due to the high illiteracy rate in these areas, it becomes extremely crucial to assess the impact and successful implementation of the NREGA, both in providing short and long-term relief.



Demographic Details

To alleviate these situations in Balangir, AJSA with the support of Bharat Rural Livelihoods Foundation (BRLF) has come forward and empowered the village community who have been taking care of their own needs rather than depending on external agencies.

Utilizing the large number of resources and the massive opportunities provided by NREGA for the creation of productive assets such as water conservation structures in drought-prone area like Balangir is a milestone for AJSA. Not the problem of less rainfall in Balangir but irregular rainfall in the area is the main cause of loss of livelihood of the agriculture-based community.

Creation of proper water conservation structures through the NREGA is now impacting thousands of lives with visible outcomes and the migration rate reduced around 35 to 40%. Currently, NREGA is going through a crucial phase & it is a bit early to quantify its impacts.



Migration ratio has been
Reduced to 40%
in comparison to other GP's of Balangir

- Generated awareness, linked with MGNREGA & strengthened livelihood of the community.
- Labor benefit to NIRMAN SRAMIK by linking labor cards in 18 villages.
- Facilitated opening Bank Account and strengthened savings of the individual of the community.
- Entitled the Social security of the community by linking Bank Account with Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana & Pradhan Mantri Surakhya Bima Yojana.

The institutional mechanism required for the implementation of such a massive scheme has still not been completely set up in some aspects. Because, since last few years we have seen many such initiatives with shortcomings/ discrepancies/ irregularities in the implementation of the scheme which primarily indicate that benefits are not reaching the intended beneficiaries, the guarantee component is missing and planning has been inadequate to provide succor to the poor. We have seen it during our interaction with the communities in Balangir.

Identification of Households

AJSA has identified 1800 households for implementation of the project. The HHs were identified through the door-to-door visit & after analyzing their livelihood standards. Those data were also verified by AWWs, PRI Members & GPs to ensure the accuracy of the same.



Preparation of Resource Maps and Social Maps

During the initial phase resource maps were prepared for all the villages in the operational areas. As mentioned above, the process was also hampered due to villagers' unavailability because of time constrain. So AJSA staff decided to visit the villages as per the suitable schedules grappling with the implementation hitches.

Creation of Seasonality Matrices

The seasonality matrices were prepared for all the villages of the selected areas. As the process required attendance of the HH heads it was too difficult for staff for the preparation. Again, as this is a migration-prone area it is too difficult to analyze the period for planning. So, AJSA decides to organize awareness generation meetings at the village level & influence the community on the benefits of seasonality matrices & after that the villagers agreed to give their time for creating the seasonal matrices. To complete the process of **categorization of households based on wealth ranking**, AJSA has faced a lot of problems in the field as the data provided by the households were lacking accuracy. As well as the rich people from many villages tried to dominate the other people & demotivated them to provide any data.

Preparation of Seasonality Matrices



After looking forward to these problems, AJSA staff visited door to door. And after the collection of data, the same data was also verified by the AWC & GPs.

Household-level livelihood plans created

Household-level livelihood plan has been completed in 10 Villages on a priority basis (based on wealth ranking data which was collected from the operational villages). In this process, the neediest HHs were given priority by AJSA, which was highly appreciated by the communities.



Village plans created

The Village level plans were created for the 10 villages from the operational area by using PRA method & the same will be presented shortly at Gram Sava by AJSA.

New SHGs formed

2 New SHGs have been formed. Similarly, 13 SHGs have been renovated by AJSA, which were existing but not functioning properly. The members of these SHGs were sensitized by the staff of AJSA & provided technical supports for maintaining records & sources of income to enhance the group.



Job Seekers Committees formed

During these periods 10 JSC has been formed by AJSA. The key strategy adopted by AJSA is to ensure mass participation in MGNREGA at different levels. The Job seekers committee (JSC) at village level and job seeker federations in panchayat and block level are organized to speed up the MGNREGA implementation and also to address issues related to the implementation of work as demanded by the job seekers, timely measurement and payment, ensuring the quality of work and social audit processes at panchayat level.



The JSCs are actively involved in awareness and campaigning programmes that are organized at the village and panchayat levels. The job seekers committee usually meets once every month to review the NREGA progress at the village level and they try to finalize the micro project to be implemented in the village on a priority basis. They also enlisted the needy job seeker to perform the work. The core committee at the village level monitors the implementation of MGNREGA activities to ensure quality, worksite facilities, timely measurement of the work and wage payment. The job seeker committee is also collecting the grievances of the job card holders and communicates to the panchayat for advocating and implementation of a transparent mechanism of the programme. To many extents we are able to make it happen; the results can be seen by anyone if we will focus on migration ratio- it has been reduced to about 30% in comparison to other GPs of Balangir.

Farmer's Club formed

As we know NREGA can never meet its objectives without the active participation of people in its implementation. Looking forward to it AJSA has given its best efforts by forming farmers club to ensure maximum participation in MGNREGA work. As per our limitation of manpower we have tried to give the utmost efforts to make the NREGA entitlements more meaningful and successful in Bangomunda block of Balangir district. Farmer club has been formed in our operation area to identify and resolve the issues of farmers.



Achievements in the Year 2016-17

- 1706** persons were linked to MGNREGA with the support of AJSA.
- 79** persons has been linked to labour cards, labour benefit to NIRMAL SRAMIK
- 49** Bank Account have been opened with the support of AJSA.
- 100** Bank Account holder have been linked to PMJJBY.
- 95** Bank Account holder have been linked to PMSBY.



**Sustainable
Livelihood and
MGNREGA**

An initiative was undertaken by AJSA in collaboration with WONC & Ford Foundation in Bangomunda for successful implementation of NREGA entitlements, the sustainable livelihood & MGNREGA initiative that aims to enhance the livelihood security in all 7 gram-panchayats of Bangomunda in Balangir district by ensuring effective implementation of NREGA by providing 100 days of guaranteed wage employment to every household in a financial year.

MGNREGA-NRLM-CFT Convergence Programme

The impending drought every year has triggered distress migration from Balangir district. People from different blocks moved out to other parts of the district and the state in search of livelihood. Despite several initiatives, distress migration from Balangir continues unabated. As per an estimate, more than one lakh people are migrating from Balangir to work in brick kilns across the country.

- Operational District – **Balangir**
- Operational Block – **Bangomunda**
- G.Ps covered – **07**
- Villages Covered- **44**
- Household Covered – **10, 206**
- Population Covered – **39, 571**
- Total JSCs Formed – **33**

Since 2014, AJSA has been implementing the MGNREGA-NRLM-CFT Convergence Programme, in collaboration with the Panchayati Raj Department, Government of Odisha. Meanwhile, AJSA is continuously giving its best effort to minimize the migration of distressed people of 7 GPs (Alanda, Arsatula, Chandotara, Dedgaon, Gandharla, Jamkhunta & Sindhekela) of Bangomunda. The main objective of the programme is to increase the practical aspects in the implementation of programme at the block and gram panchayat levels and thereby increase the proportion of MGNREGA works, reduce delays in wage payments to workers and improve the quality of assets constructed under the programme.



**Created 103 rural assets
by ensuring equal
participation of women
in MGNREGA activity**

OUR ROLE

- Developing employment opportunities
- Initiated different livelihood security opportunity to address distress migration
- Ensuring max participation of jobseeker under MGNREGA seekers
- Reforming rural livelihoods through different schemes of govt.

Community Mobilization

AJSA is ensuring mass participation in MGNREGA in different levels through the formation of job seekers committees. 18 job seekers committees have been working in 7 operational areas. The job seeker committee usually meets once a month to review the MGNREGA progress at the village level and they try to finalize the micro project to be implemented in the village on a priority basis. They also enlisted the needy job seeker to perform the work.

The JSC meeting includes discussions among the wage labor groups for adapting sustainable agriculture practices, non-pesticide management, mixed cropping, composting, kitchen gardens, vegetable cultivation, etc.

Such interventions are towards securing maximum wages and investments for the development of land and water resources from NREGS and supporting the job card holding families to capitalize on those benefits. At the village level, the effort has led to increasing people's confidence in checking cheating and misappropriation in the NREGA that resulted in reducing corruption rate and payment disturbances.



In every operational village, people were able to demand for the payment, jobs as well as for their rights through giving constant effort in work and by persistent follow-ups with PRIs, Government officials, Job Seeker Committee and Federation.

Capacity Building of Job Seekers

AJSA has been playing a very crucial role in skill-building, orientation & training for mates and Jobseekers leaders for measurement and worksite management with the help of line departments. During the year, AJSA has organized many training programmes for its workforces to enhance their skills and share the knowledge about their rights and provisions under MGNREGA such as: 2 trainings on demanding job, worksite management and maintenance, 2 field level training of GP functionaries' mates, GRS, PRIs members and 2 capacity building training of all MGNREGA and NRLM stake holders. These trainings enable the job seekers in mobilizing their gram-



panchayat and gram-sabha members about the registration process, placing the job demand, mobilizing gram panchayat and gram Sabha members to prepare perspective plan under NREGA. This year around 51% of mates and job seeker leaders are capacitated on measurement and 44 Barefoot engineers were trained.

Awareness Campaigns

During the year AJSA has Organised 14 GP level awareness camps in 7 GPs. This is also an interaction between the PRI members and GP federation leaders to address the problems of job seekers.



The method of these camps were very innovative; volunteers of AJSA have shared their messages through traditional street play, folk dance, wall writing and folk song instead of teaching methods.

Besides the awareness camps, 42 SHGs are trained on NRLM and Livelihood and SHG Management. Several leaflets were developed by AJSA on provisions, guidelines and rights of job seekers of MGNREGA, which has been printed in local language to spread the message easily. Similarly, wall writings were done by AJSA in every village to have a visible impact in people's minds. Through the continuous efforts of AJSA, the public awareness level is high in all operational GPs of AJSA in comparison to other GPs. Almost all workers are now familiar with the muster roll system, job cards, and various entitlements.



- The Job Card Problem has been solved in the operational villages
- Community awareness and access to different govt. programs has increased in 44 operational villages.
- Working domain comprised of 7 GPs including 44 villages.
- The participation of women in MGNREGA increased to **40%**



WHS Programme
IGSSS

- Operational District – **Balangir**
- Operational Block – **Bangomunda**
- G.P's covered – **Gandharla**
- Villages Covered- **Gandharla, Batharla, Sundhimunda**
- Household Covered – **1078**
- Population Covered – **2896**

IGSSS (WHS Programme)

The western-Odisha is experiencing one of the severest drought conditions in the last 100 years. Although, drought is a common phenomenon in western-Odisha due to its soil conditions and non-availability of water for less rainfall during the year. The land of Balangir has been severely affected which affects the livelihood of peoples living below the poverty line of Bangomunda block. They did not have enough food stock for severe drought for the consecutive years in the district. As a result, a situation of large-scale migration has been created and the men and women of the community become the sufferers.

The spectre of drought is strikingly visible in the non-irrigated high land areas of the tribal-dominated western Odisha districts along with severe damage to Kharif crop due to highly deficient rainfall. With the chances of zero harvest, paddy fields in the worst-hit areas have been thrown open for cattle grazing.

By looking forward these problems AJSA along IGSSS came forward to address the challenges related to water scarcity in Bangomunda and the WHS management was initiated.

Community Meeting

Before starting the work of WHS in the draught-prone villages, community consultation meetings were organized by AJSA in Batharla, Gandharla and Sundhimunda villages with the objective to seek the villagers' view and opinion on the WHS renovation work and ensure the community members participate in the

entire process of WHS renovation. During the WHS renovation work, the community members participated and helped AJSA team members during the demarcation process and renovation work.

Construction of Water Harvesting Structures

Under this project 3 water harvesting structures have been created and renovation of 3 drought-prone villages of Bangomunda block in Balangir District was done. In the operational villages, the water sank to a low level at an earlier date in 2016 and the tube wells became non-usable with water flowing only occasionally. It is learned that the water level in the area has sunk to at least 50 feet lower in the last five years. There are 5 ponds in Gandharla, Sundhimunda and Batharla villages (where the project has been implemented), but the water is unsuitable for drinking, more so following the drought. So, to fetch water, the women folk needs to walk to

MAJOR OBJECTIVES OF THE PROJECT

- Addressing the livelihood support systems of 1078 families in order to restore their livelihood.
- Harvesting and storing rainwater for summer use (for irrigation and livestock consumption). As well as increasing the productivity in warm and dry seasons.
- Combating drought prevalence in the area by creating awareness among the communities and developing preparedness in the community about drought management

river at least 4 times a day, even in scorching sun. But with the drought even the river dries, compelling them to collect water by digging ditches in the sand in the dry bed of the river. There is a pond 4 to 5 kms away where clean water is available. But that would mean too much physical labor for women. Moreover, they also go to the forest to collect edible roots as there is a shortage of food grains to consume. Men from these families have migrated in search of work opportunities.

Every year all ponds, rivers and wells dries during the summer, sometimes even before that. It leads to various



Before Work

141.04 acres of land

harvested with this WHS system



After Work

problems for people and livestock. It was not just about the situation of drinking water or household needs, but in the prevailing situation, no rain was going to give rise to a very pathetic condition for the crop in the high land areas.

There was a long felt need to renovate the water harvesting structures which will not only address the above-mentioned problems but will also create a positive visible impact in the livelihood scenario of the migrant communities of the villages. And now the need has been fulfilled through the emergency drought response programme of AJSA and IGSSS. Now 3 WHSs of Gandharla, Sundhimunda and Batharla have been constructed and renovated. All three WHS have been constructed in an approximate 100x150 ft. area of land. The excavation of soil and excavation of rocks and was done till 10 to 15 feet in each tank, depending upon the water source and soil type from the areas mentioned above. This will not only provide irrigation but also help the entire villagers from severe water scarcity of these 3 drought-prone villages of Bangomunda, which has

always been a center of debate for development discourse and problems like drought and migration. Now, the farmers and villagers of the said villages got relief because there will be no water scarcity in the upcoming years.

Capacity Building

As we know it is not possible to prevent the occurrence of disasters influenced by natural causes, proper plan and management such as disaster risk reduction may minimize the damage caused by natural disasters. The occurrences of disaster often call for the support of both government and non-government organizations. Consequently, disaster relief remains extremely important in disaster management. Disaster preparedness is a key success factor for any effective disaster management practices. Based on community awareness and education in disaster risk management we can help society to become disaster risk-free. With intend to reduce the disaster risk for the community, AJSA has organized the following training programmes for the community with the support of IGSSS.

Panchayat Level Disaster Preparedness and Drought Management workshop



To evolve a long-term strategy and develop a community-based coping mechanism for the disasters, especially for slow-onset disasters like drought, a Community Based Disaster Preparedness and Drought

Management workshop was organized by AJSA on 30th March 2017 at AJSA Sundhimunda office. The workshop was attended by more than 80 community leaders of 3 panchayats. The training was inaugurated by Sri. Sudarshan Chotroy, eminent journalist & expert of DRR; Sri Sushant Ku Dash, Block Development Officer of Bangomunda and Sri Bhutesh Meher, Programme Officer of Lokadrusti.

During the workshop, the emerging problems of drought and migration were discussed and debated. Participants were guided on Planning and developing effective strategies and systems for disaster risk reduction especially for disasters like drought. The workshop also highlighted existing creative practices and coping mechanisms which is being used by the communities, during the time of drought. Open house discussions on drought management were also organized. The intent was also to spell out the possible ways by which community members could use the WHS and the locally available resources to address the problems of drought.

Training Programme on CBDRM, Humanitarian Logistics & Supply Chain Management

A Community Based Disaster Risk Management (CBDRM) Humanitarian Logistics and Supply Chain Management training programme was organized by AJSA from 24th June to 26th June 2016 at Red Cross Bhavan, Bhubaneswar in joint collaboration with IAG Odisha and IGSS. The main objective of the training was to train the disaster managers and volunteers/community level first responders of IGSSS who have been involved in the field of disaster risk reduction since many years in past and to enhance their knowledge base on DRR and CBDRM activities.



The training was also aimed to strengthen the working mechanism of participants during pre and post disaster situation. It also addressed the gaps needs to be bridged, the emerging issues, challenges and uncovered areas for further intervention at community level.

The training was inaugurated by Sri. Pravat Ranjan Mohapatra, Deputy SRC, GoO; Sri. Subrat Dash, Director, School of Disaster Management, Centurion University; Sri. Tushar Bhattacharya Senior DRR Professional and Ms. Sukanya Chatterji-Manager East of IGSSS.

During his address, Sri. Pravat Mohapatra drew the attention of the participants by highlighting some examples of pre-1999 and post 1999 super cyclone and

expressed how Odisha has learned from its past and created a milestone in Cyclone Phailin in 2013. He also opined that- we have achieved a lot in Disaster Risk Management hence more things need to be done i.e., focusing on Capacity building and Preparedness

measures. Ms. Seema Mohanty, State Programme Officer- UNDP has taken another session on Disaster Risk Identification and Assessment. Sri. Tushar Bhattacharya has taken a session on Implementation of Community Based Disaster Risk Management Programmes. Dr. Kamal

Lochan Mishra, Chief General Manager, OSDMA delivered a session on Disaster Preparedness Planning Process.

Sri. Sailendra Pattnaik, Programme Officer CRS has presented a session on Emergency Response / Managing



Projects in Emergencies. Dr. Bikash Prasad, Senior First Aid partner took a session on First-Aid. Sri. Susant Pattnaik, Trainer-Civil Defence & St. John Ambulance has taken a session on Search & Rescue.

The last day of training was devoted to the Sphere Humanitarian Standard. Mr. Sailendra Pattnaik made a presentation on Sphere Humanitarian Standard and its implementation and challenges at the grass-root level.

Formation of WUA and VDMC

3 water user associations and disaster management committees have been formed by AJSA, in Sundhimunda, Gnadharla and Batharla village. In each village, separate resolutions were made in the presence of committee members and the roles and responsibilities of the WUA and VDMC were discussed with them.



The WUA members mutually agreed to take care of the newly constructed WHS and also agreed to leverage funds for its maintenance through MGNREGA work.



- Created a positive impact on water availability for **141.04 acres of land** in 3 villages
- Created positive impact on agriculture and animal husbandry of **1078 households**
- Reduction in drudgery of 1323 **women** in fetching water, fuel wood and fodder in operational villages of Bangomunda Block

Shaping Future Through Education



- Operational District – **Balangir**
- Operational Block – **Bangomunda**
- G.Ps covered – **6**
- Villages Covered- **27**

The educational programmes in India have focused on elementary education since independence. However, Odisha has somehow failed to provide free and compulsory education to the children in different districts to a large extent. If we will talk about Balangir district's case- at present the educational scenario of Balangir is very poor, which needs a lot of improvement. A survey made by the Govt. of Odisha states that there are 12.3% of the total schools running with a single teacher and 10.7% of schools are being run in a single classroom. 84% of the schools do not have electricity connection and 82%

and 40% of schools do not have a playground and boundary wall respectively. 33% of schools are having a strength of less than 50 students and SC & ST students enrolment is 19.5% and 20% respectively. 25% of schools do not have School Management Committees (SMCs) and 18.3% of children drop out between the age of 6-17. The average literacy rate of Balangir in 2011 was 64.72 compared to 55.70 in 2001. If things are looked according to gender, male and female literacy rates were 75.85 and 53.50 respectively. In the 2001 census, the same stood at 71.67 and 39.51 in Balangir district.

The Bridge School Initiative

In Bangomunda, 40% of tribal are staying in remote and inaccessible villages where there is least access to all regular services like pure drinking water health services and basic education facilities. Despite the establishment of Govt. school buildings & temporary huts where schools run in verandahs of households. The teachers are

not regular due to the lack of proper monitoring. Girls' education is in a dilapidated stage due to existing issues related to migration, child labor, etc. The education standard was pathetic in Bangomunda. In this context, AJSA Odisha under the aegis of SHCIL Foundation came forward to tackle the challenges related to basic education and to increase the literacy rate in Bangomunda and to provide health and education facilities to the tribal children who are deprived of the said facilities, by establishing bridge schools cum Children's Learning and Development Center, in 27 Villages on a pilot basis in 2016.

Selection of the Project Areas

The project is being implemented in 27 villages of 5 gram-panchayats of Bangomunda block in Balangir district of Odisha. The project area (Gram-panchayats and villages) were selected by the GB members of AJSA, after having a consultation with the villagers. The Villages are

- Increasing the literacy rate of SC, ST, Migrant & tribal girls
- Empowering the tribal women for their basic rights
- Sharing the government accountability for the education of the girl children
- Increasing the attendance of students in government schools and helping them for better functioning

the majority of the population belonging to the Schedule Tribes and Schedule Castes.

What we do at Bridge School

The CLDC initiative, is an effort where the existing schools have been strengthened, as the principal portal of learning- with the provision of the necessary information and institutional support as well as a positive culture and environment of quality education has been promoted by AJSA, in an area where the literacy ratio and standard were too low. No doubt the effort is small in front of huge problems related to migration and child labor, still it means a lot to the children and their families of these 27 villages.



Currently, 27 Bridge Schools are running with new learning aids at 27 villages of Jhalap, Dedgaon, Alunda, Chandotara, Bhursaguda and Gandharla gram-panchayats of Bolagir, where AJSA is fortifying the prime education of a child and providing quality education to 816 students including 104 migrant children & 65 child laborers and 47 children from poor tribal families. Other than these educational facilities, AJSA has also taken care of the health of school children by arranging different health check-ups on different occasions.

Various programmes were also organized by AJSA throughout the year for the children of Bridge school to entertain them and to teach them social ethics for their better future. The timing of every Bridge School is 6:00 to 9:00 in the morning and 5:00 to 7:00 in the evening. All bridge schools are following the formal state-approved curriculum.



The content has been modified to enable children to learn concepts through familiar examples. It also enables children who lag in school to catch up with the school curriculum. Teaching aids and methods are also designed to make the learning joyful, creativity-inducing and relevant. Games, puppetry, model making, singing, experiments, drama are widely used. All the children are supported with the teaching and learning materials like slates, pencils, pens, exercise books, drawing materials, slate pencils, textbooks, etc.

Bal Mela at Block level

A block-level children's festival cum Balmela was held on 25th March 2017 at AJSA Sundhimunda office. The children's Festival was probably the first of its kind in Bangomunda block of Balangir, where more than 230 persons came together and participated including PRI members, SHG leaders, govt. school teachers, Bridge school teachers and students of 27 CLDCs.



The entire environment and its surroundings reverberated in AJSA premises on 25th March morning with the Education oath and the slogans, which followed, 'Education is Our Right, Say No to Child Labour, Stop Child Labour and Start Education, etc. The programme was inaugurated with formal lighting of the lamp by Mr. Banshidhar Behera, Secretary of AJSA; Mr. Baikuntha Sabar- Block Education Officer, Bangomunda; Sri.

Arjun Yadav Sarpanch- Alund; Sri. Dulamani Nag-Sarpanch- Gandharla; Smt. Sasmita Behera- Sarpanch- Chandotara; Sri. Dandasi Behera- Sarpanch-Jhalap; Ms. Sunita Sahu- Sarpanch-Dedgaon; Ms. Bhanu Bhoi Sarpanch-Bhursaguda. In the inaugural session Mr. Banshidhar Behera, Secretary and Chief Executive of AJSA briefly described the objectives of Bridge Schools cum CLDC and also mentioned the different activities undertaken by AJSA under the CLDC programme and its future plans. Drawing, debate and song competitions were held on this occasion where all the students took part with lots of excitement and enthusiasm. All competitions were organized under the supervision of the respective bridge school's teachers of 27 centers and were judged by the guests and the jury members. At the end of the competitions, prizes were distributed to the 9 winners of different completions. At the end of the event mementos were presented to the guests as a token of appreciation, on behalf of Bridge School teachers and students. The meeting was ended with a vote of thanks

by Mr. Balakrishna Baitharu, Programme Manager of AJSA.

Bal Mela at Cluster level

On 23rd March 2017 a cluster level balmela was organised at Dedgaon village, by involving more than 120 students of Bridge schools. The workshop was inaugurated by Ms. Sunita Sahu, Sarpanch of Dedgaon as the chief guest and Mr. Jayantilal Sahu, President of all Odisha Teachers Association and Mr. Balakrishna Baitharu.



Programme Manager of AJSA was present as the guest of Honor. During the event, along praising the efforts of AJSA and SHCIL foundation, Sri. Sahu said– the Bridge School programme is a very innovative initiative and 1st of its kind in drought and migration-prone region like Balangir, where the school drop-out, child laborers are not only getting free education but also, learning values and discipline. By this effort, we are not only providing education but also, we are building 816 good citizens for the country he added.

During the programme, drawing, debate and song competitions were organized, where 43 students took part and 9 students were selected as the winners. At the end of the programme prizes were distributed by the guests to the winner of different competitions. The programme was ended with a vote of thanks by Sri. Purna Ch. Majhi, Coordinator of Bridge School Programme.



Quarterly Interface Meeting with Govt. Teachers

A quarterly interface meeting was organized on 5th April, 2017 at AJSA, Sundhimunda Office. The meeting was attended by all bridge school teachers, the local primary and high school headmasters. During the meeting, the current problems and their solutions were widely discussed and debated by the participants.

During the meeting, the following points were discussed and debated by the then present members,

- To improve the friendly teaching standard.
- To ensure the maximum and regular presence of all students.

Monthly Review Meetings



To ensure the quality of the education through the programme and to take a stock of monthly activities of

27 Bridge School centers, AJSA has been organizing monthly review meetings by involving all bridge school teachers. In between January to April 2017, 4 review meetings were organized by AJSA. And All meetings were attended by the Secretary of AJSA, Programme Manager of AJSA, Respective Bridge School Teachers and the programme officer of the Bridge School programme. During the meetings, different topics were discussed i.e – different methodologies of teaching, discipline maintaining, knowledge building of students, etc.

Strengthening of VEC, PTA & SHG's

During the period from January to April, more than 50 Village Education Committee, Parents Teacher Association Meetings and SHG meetings were organized by AJSA. During all the meetings community member's participation was very good. Since the inception of the programme AJSA has been organizing Village Education Committee(VEC) meetings and Parent Teacher

Association (PTA) meetings frequently, to ensure the participation and engagement of the communities in the bridge school programme.

During the meetings, AJSA staff along with the barefoot teachers, have been engaged with the communities to seek their support and participation in the bridge school programme. Self-help groups are also now engaged with the bridge school initiative, they are also now monitoring the functioning of schools.



Meeting of VEC, PTA & SHGs



- Currently running **27 bridge schools/CLDC** for dropout and Non-school going children
- Enrolled **816 drop-out and non-school going girl children** in the schools
- Improved the status of girl children in the area of **27 villages**
- Provided health and education facilities to **216 tribal girl children** who are deprived child labour and are from migrant families
- Provided and encouraged joyful learning in the **27 CLDC** cum Bridge School

Our Non-Funding Activities



Adarsh Gram Gathan Abhiyan (AGAA)”

Eight Focal Areas of AGGA

- 1 Livelihood Security 
- 2 Education 
- 3 Health 
- 4 Gender Equality 
- 5 Water and Sanitation 
- 6 Natural Resource 
- 7 Disaster Risk Management 
- 8 Governance 

“AJSA improves lives, expands opportunities, and helps societies flourish across dynamic and developing Odisha in India. We work with innovative leaders and communities to build effective institutions and advance path breaking reforms. With our innovative approaches of AGGA initiative, we are committed to build a peaceful, just, and thriving communities in our operational areas.”

Programme Highlights



Livelihood Security

AJSA works with over **30,000** small and marginal producers and helps them towards establishing sustainable livelihood systems. Promotion and work with self-help groups, skill building, community enterprise establishment for livelihood diversification are some of the areas of intervention of AJSA

See Pages - 16



Education

In Tribal Areas Girl Children's Enrolment in School increased to

60%

4 Night schools have been ongoing by Volunteers of AJSA, where elder women, men and children are getting basic Education in Bangomunda block of Balangir.

See Pages - 30



Health

People's access to primary health services has been increased to about

50%

AJSA is regularly checking the representation of PRI members, by making provision of training and orientation programmes for Health workers, ANM's, Aanganwadi's and PRIs for the effective implementation of various Government health schemes.

See Pages - 47



Gender Equality

1035

Women Leaders of **152** SHG Groups mobilizing thousand

200

Trained Volunteers/SHG Leaders Exercising for Their Civil & Human Rights Participation of women in village development processes has been increased to **50%**

See Pages - 18



Water & Sanitation

2 Water User Associations formed in Kalahandi.

AJSA motivates and mobilizes communities to build their own water and sanitation systems, by mobilising different Govt. Programmes.

See Page - 24



Environment

16,224

Hectares of Forest Land has been protected by Communities protected by

64 Forest Protection Committees

To revitalize pesticide Free movement AJSA has been promoting Organic Farming widely in all operational areas

See Pages - 49



Disaster Risk Management

33 Disaster Management Committees have been actively involved in the promotion of different disaster risk reduction activities.

710

Quintals of Paddy Stored in Grain banks

See Pages - 27



Governance

PDS Distribution is Regularizing in **24** villages through the Collective effort of the VDC members And Community leaders.

AJSA works to strengthen community members by providing them with training, workshops, practical support & through Various capacity building initiatives.

See Pages - 40

- Through the innovative approaches of AGGA initiative, AJSA works with over 32,000 small and marginal producers and helps them towards establishing sustainable livelihoods systems.
- The organisation currently serves a population of over 1.24 Lakh people across 224 villages in three districts Odisha.

To reduce the vulnerability of rural downtrodden communities, people must be capable of taking up occupations that will provide sufficient income and also create proper resources at the village level. That will also bring sustainable livelihood opportunities.

By realizing this, few initiatives and interventions are undertaken by AJSA to improve the quality of lives, by enhancing livelihood opportunities and by addressing food security, social injustice to ensure a self-reliant mechanism at the village level, through **“Adarsh Gram Gathan Abhiyan (AGAA)” that is driven by 3 Core Principles, “MADA MUKTI, THANA MUKTI & MAHAJAN MUKTI VILLAGES (Liquor Free , Police**

Station Free and Money Lender’s Exploitation Free Villages).

Through this concept and with Gandhian ideology AJSA continued its work from one village to another village.

By its relentless efforts and through 3 core founding principles, now many villages are liquor-free, police station free and money-lender-free. Now problems are solved within villages and no need is seen to go to the police station. With the help of grain banks and Gram panthis, the villages are now-Money lenders (Local Mahajans) free and their exploitation is minimized to a greater extent. The mission was begun in 1989, and continuing independently by AJSA, without any funding support. Every year we are able to create new milestones through our interventions undertaken by AGGA Initiative.

- Broadening the opportunities available to the poor by strengthening their ability to earn for themselves and their families, in one of the most poverty-stricken yet resourceful regions in India.
- Ensuring that all households in the habitation are covered and that everyone benefits equally from the development process.

What we do.....

These interventions are rooted in social and gender equity, economic and environmental sustainability, and strong people's institutions. We strive to realize, through our work, accountability, transparency and inclusion. Through our constant efforts, we have addressed the problems of high indebtedness, scanty and unequal land distribution, tribal land alienation, high rates of illiteracy, death due to starvation, the regular occurrence of drought, issues related to migration, food scarcity, lack of essential health services and minimum

education facilities in our operational areas. The following pages will illustrate the activities undertaken by AJSA under AGAA Movement, along with the major achievements of the year.



Livelihood Security

Agriculture based livelihood

Drought thus cause economic, social, psychological and political misery to the poor. Living in drought areas forced separation from family members which causes mental stress and remaining away from the villages for a fairly long time excludes the poor people from the decision-making process and political participation in the village. Here, agriculture continues to remain the primary source of livelihood in the district. But agriculture is dependent on the vagaries of rainfall, and inadequate irrigation facilities lead to crop loss resulting in large-scale unemployment and distress migration.



To mitigate the situation of migration AJSA is continuously giving its efforts on the promotion of self-help groups, skill-building, community enterprise in the processing of agriculture and minor forest produce and technological application for livelihood promotion.

Food Security

Starvation death, money lenders exploitation and draught are considered as the major problems of western Odisha. AJSA always tried to determine the problem through different activities and interventions. AJSA has

created grain banks and seed banks in 42 villages including 10 G.P. where paddy has been collected from every villager after harvesting of crop and stored in grain banks.



About 940 quintals of paddy were stored in these villages. It comes to be useful in case of emergency and drought situations. The grain bank now became a pivot of food security. Farmers have since then deposited their

surplus grains with the bank after each paddy harvest. They withdraw an equal quantity of paddy at the time of need without having to pay any interest. AJSA has provided trainings to community members for keeping seeds and paddy in the traditional way for seed collection and preservation.

Water Resource Development

The situation in Balangir district is particularly bad. The district is one of the most drought-prone regions in the country, with hardly any irrigation infrastructure in place.



The landless agriculture workers and the marginal farmers are affected the most in a drought situation. The farmers who are also labor contractors and migrate out along with their families (including school-going children, especially girls) to far-off places in search of wage employment. To minimize these situations AJSA has been giving its continuous effort to maintain the water resources which was developed during the MGNREGA activity with the involvement of village inhabitants.



Education

The villages in Balangir still practice caste-based community living practices. Due to it and increasing migration children leave their education at the age of 4 to 5 years. Even at the age of 16 a student studying in class 9th does not possess adequate knowledge of primary classes. To reduce the marginal ratio of education & to alleviate the value of education AJSA has started

various educational awareness programs and campaigns in the remotest parts of Odisha. The campaign is popularly known as “Sampurna Sakhyrata-Gram Swaraj Aabhiyan” – Padhi Padhaiba Karjyakrama. Support is provided to the development of vocational education and training programs. In cooperation with public authorities, development agencies and Govt. line departments, AJSA has been actively promoting educational programs like Sarva Siksha Abhiyan and Education for All to spread the message in every corner of its operational areas. Besides these things, 4 Night schools have been ongoing by volunteers of AJSA, where elder women, men and children are getting basic education in Bongomunda block of Balangir. To provide basic knowledge to the rural communities relating to health, education, science, history, culture, current affairs and general knowledge, etc. AJSA has also opened a library named Mobile Library for Rural People (M.L.R.P), where nearly 60,000 books are available in the above-mentioned areas.



Health

Health is defined as a state of complete physical, mental and social being and not merely an absence of disease or infirmity.

A healthy human being has generally have/follow the following features:

- Good and balanced diet habits
- Hygienic practices
- Clean Water intaking
- Mental peace

To maintain the health standard of the communities AJSA continuously motivates and enables communities to access government health services for basic medicines, immunization of eligible children and maternal health care, etc. AJSA organizes awareness programs on different health and hygiene-related issues like malaria, diarrhoea, tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS by involving PRI members, ICDC & Anganwadi workers.

Gender Equality

To empower the women and progressing them in the field of income for making them self-reliant AJSA started self-income generation programs and leadership building programs by associating with SHG groups in Bangomunda block under the co-operative society act. "Bharat Janani Swayan Shayak Limited". As a result, the

members of SHG established a fair price shop by collecting and marketing NTFPs, linking with banks, developing micro-enterprises and also undertaking internal lending and increasing their funds without any funding support of other banks.



Water & Sanitation

Adequate drinking water, sanitation, and hygiene are all essential ingredients to ensure human health. While communities have access to communal water ponds or well, access to water is still a daily struggle in many areas of Balangir. Not only does lack of adequate services have a negative impact on the overall quality of life, but also poses a major health challenge. To minimize the issues relating to water & sanitation, AJSA motivates and mobilizes communities to build their own water and sanitation systems, by availing different schemes like RWSS and MGNREGA, etc.

Natural Resources

An environment is gifted by the nature to nourish life on the earth. Environment means all the natural surroundings such as land, air, water, plants, animals, solid material, wastes, sunlight, forests and other things. A healthy environment maintains nature's balance and

natural growth. To maintain the healthy environment AJSA supports village communities in undertaking sustainable management of natural resources through a variety of interventions in promoting community forestry and horticulture, land and water conservation and development.



From the beginning, AJSA promotes Social Forestry because it supports sustainable livelihoods and recognizes the rights of individuals to forest resources. AJSA motivates communities to collectively manage their

social forestry plantations. These activities raised the income of the community and the community management. Due to the sharing of the benefits, a sense of unity in the community was developed. And in the year 2016-17 with this movement of AJSA many villages protected hectares of land in Bangomunda and Beguniapada block of Balangir and Ganjam District of Odisha.

Disaster Risk Management

Natural Disasters are the consequences or effects of natural hazards. They represent human, property and economic losses and they signify a serious breakdown in sustainability and disruption of economic and social progress. But it needs much more sustained efforts to come out with a well-thought-out strategy and response to minimize the colossal damage caused by disasters whenever a calamity strike. For confronting the issues relating to disaster the AJSA has formed disaster



management committees (DMCs) who can exercise their effort in its operational areas. As of now, 33 Disaster Management Committees are active in Balangir and Ganjam district and playing their role during disaster.

AJSA IN ITS ENDEAVOURS TO BUILD SELF-RELIANT COMMUNITIES HAS IMPACTED

OVER **240000+**

LIVES POSITIVELY

4 NIGHT SCHOOLS

ARE ONGOING BY VOLUNTEERS OF AJSA, WHERE ELDER WOMEN, MEN AND CHILDREN'S ARE GETTING BASIC EDUCATION

THROUGH AGGA ACTIVITIES

14

VILLAGES

ARE MONEY LENDER FREE, LIQUOR FREE & POLICE STATION FREE AS OF NOW

PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN IN VILLAGE DEVELOPMENT PROCESS HAS BEEN INCREASED TO

50%

16224

HECTERS OF FOREST LAND HAS BEEN PROTECTED BY 64 FOREST PROTECTION COMMITTEES

FORMED **33 DISASTER MANAGEMENT COMMITTEES, 64 FOREST PROTECTION COMMITTEES, 2 WATER USER ASSOCIATIONS, 155 VLC'S, 46 YOUTH CLUB'S and 22 FARMER CLUBS**

IN TRIBAL AREAS GIRL CHILDREN'S ENROLLMENT IN SCHOOLS INCREASED TO

60%

AJSA WORKS WITH

OVER 30,000 SMALL & MARGINAL PRODUCERS

THROUGH IT'S INNOVATIVE APPROCHES UNDERTAKEN BY AGGA INITIATIVES, & HELPS THEM TOWARDS

152

SHG'S, & 1 SHG FEDRATION FORMED, MOBILISED OVER 1,00,000,00 FUNDS FOR RURAL

2000+

WOMEN LEADERS & VOLUNTEERS TRAINED

LEGAL STATUS



1. **AJSA Is Registered under Society registration Act of 1860, Registration No-1315-131 of 1990-91**
2. **Registered under Foreign Contribution Regulations Act. In the Ministry of Home Affairs Govt. Of India Registration No-104840090**
3. **Registered under Income tax Act. U/s 12A& 80G**
4. **Bearing PAN No- AAAAAA5545M**



ESTABLISHMENT

AJSA is headquartered in Bolangir District of Odisha In India, Operating Since 1989.

Registered Address-

AJSA (Anchalika Jana Seva Anusthan)

AT-Sundhimunda, Po-Chandoatara

Via-Sindhekela, Dist-Bolangir (Odisha)

PIN-767035, India

GOVERNANCE

List of Governing Board Members

Mr. Ashtami Tandi	Male	President
Mrs. Purnami Bhoi	Female	Vice- President
Mr. Banshidhar Behera	Male	Secretary
Mr. Phulchan Bag	Male	Vice-Secretary
Mr. Tirtha Bag	Male	Treasurer
Mrs. Dashmi Tandi	Female	Member
Mrs. Sukun Bhoi	Female	Member

Notes on Governing Boards

1. No remuneration, sitting fees or any other form of composition was paid to any Board Members.
2. No travel reimbursements were made to the Board Members attending Board Meetings and other office meetings.
3. No Board Members are related to another.
4. Board Rotation Policy is available, The Board changes in every 5 year. The current Governing Board is Effective From 03.09.2012





The accounting period is followed from 1st April, 2014 to 31st March, 2015. Books of accounts are recorded manually. The entire accounting system is maintained on an accrual basis in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. Separate Books of accounts are maintained project-wise with through an integrated accounting system. The depreciation on fixed assets is provided through the written-down value method in accordance with Income Tax Act, 1961

Our Auditors

Jitendra Prusty & Associates, Bhubaneswar
Odisha, India

Our Bankers

State Bank of India, Chandotara Branch, At/Po Chandotara, District, Balangir

PROJECT MANAGEMENT

All projects are managed by program co-coordinators of specific projects, who also reports chief-programme manager and management committee. All projects are centrally managed from the headquarters by the Secretary of organization. In addition to the above, there are specialist teams at the headquarters who provide need-based support to all ongoing projects: the Training and Education Research team, communication wing and the Project Monitoring team. Staff meetings are held at different project locations each month, after which all project coordinators come to the head office for sharing progress of work, problems faced and where additional support is needed.

Besides this, as an organization, AJSA takes particular interest in enhancing the capacity of its personnel and encourages staff to undergo special training through various training and capacity building activities. Trainings & Capacity building of staff is an ongoing activity, which takes place through accompaniment in the field and periodic training programmes.

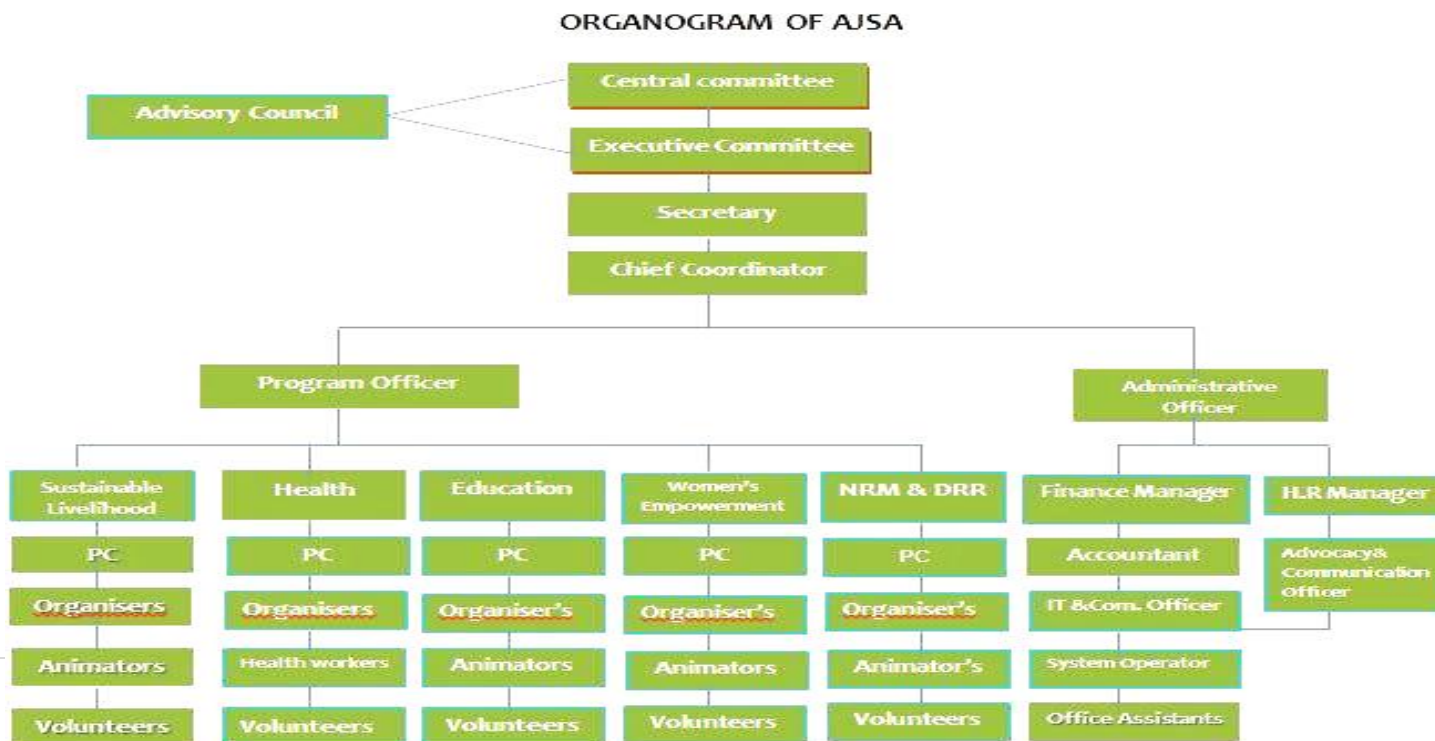


ACCOUNTABILITY

Our Management System

There is a central committee consisting of 70 members as an apex body being responsible for overall management and policy decision of the organization. For day-to-day functioning and conception and implementation of programs and policies, Central committee has authorized an executive committee. The executive committee delegates its power to the secretary as the chief functionary to liaison on behalf the society reporting to funding partners, co-coordinating implementation of its program activities, mobilization of resources and Acts as the spokesperson of the organization. The present Executive Committee consists of 7 members including 3 women. It normally sits 12 times in a year to have an overview of project activities and review performance of the organization based on the vision and mission of the organisation.

There is a program management team headed by the secretary. Each Programme is headed by respective Programme coordinators. Who also looks after accounts, administration, for their respective programs, who also reports the executive committee in every month. The team seats in each month to review the program and to take corrective measures & actions to expedite the programmes and activities.



*PC – Program Coordinators

Acknowledgement

AJSA is grateful to the many individuals, organizations and institutions who have been associated with us in our all Initiative. We are grateful to SHCIL foundation, without their unwavering support, it would not have been possible- to implement this life-changing programme. This is a life-changing programme- because through this initiative, we are not only providing quality education, not only addressing problems related to illiteracy & child labor but we are also creating “816 Good Citizens” for the country and the society.

We express our appreciation and thank each of our associate of Ford Foundation, DFID, IGSSS especially the Government of Odisha for their support which helps us to provide livelihood support to the communities, strengthen women empowerment in different ways, and minimize the migration of the people due to drought in the concerned areas.

We are also thankful to all the teachers of Bangomunda block and the community leaders for their continued support towards this effort.

Acknowledgment is also given to the hundreds of school’s children of our operational area. The perceptive guidance and timely assistance provided by the authorities, officials of lined departments are highly acknowledged. We are also grateful to the Board of Directors of SHCIL Foundation, IGSS, Ford Foundation for their support towards achieving the progress path of Sustainable Goals. Special thanks must go to the entire team of AJSA, this programme has been enriched by their continuous engagement.



Facilitating Community Development Initiatives Since 1989



AJSA (Anchalika Jana Seva Anusthan)

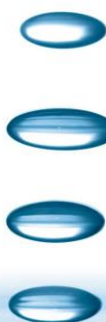
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