

Progress Report

April 2020 – March 2021

Activities undertaken under Grant Agreement 8.17.20

**Submitted to
Gram Vikas USA**



**Plot 72/B, Forest Park
Bhubaneswar, Odisha**

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Introduction

The grant support from Gram Vikas USA enabled us to take up a range of activities planned under the Annual Plan for the year 2020-21. This report provides an overall update on the work that was undertaken during April 2020 to March 2021. All activities were not supported by the grant, but the support enabled us to continue with planned activities without being affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and lockdown.

The year 2020-21 was a difficult one due to the COVID-19 pandemic and consequent lockdowns affecting Gram Vikas' work in many ways. The Annual Plan could be finalised only in June 2020, and it was effectively an 8-month working year that we had. The Gram Vikas team across the board worked together to ensure that the challenges were faced head on, and the work with the community partners continued without many hitches.

Our efforts to develop the two key programmes (i) Water Secure Gram Panchayat programme (WSGP) and the (ii) Safe and Dignified Migration programme (SDMP) – were quite successful and received support from donors such as Azim Premji Philanthropic Initiatives (APPI) and Arghyam respectively. Progress achieved against the Annual Plan 2020-21 is presented in this report, followed by a brief report on the Gram Vikas COVID-19 response, taken up during the year.

Besides initiatives on the regular programs and Covid-19 response, focus also was given on staff capacity building and improvement of internal systems. The Performance Management System has matured and staff members have become more comfortable with the accountability mechanisms that have been put in place. The automation of the accounting system, with the Tally software output being seamlessly integrated into a functional information system has started showing results.

Focus Area - Village Institutions

We made good progress in our work to strengthen village institutions, especially ensuring that the Village Development Committees become more effective and accountable. The work with children, building institutional platforms such as Child Clubs also did well, despite the challenges posed by non-functioning of the village schools. Introduction of the Village Lekha Mitra – an entrepreneurial approach to developing accounting and auditing skills and service providers in the rural areas – is among the notable achievements of the year.

Program 1 - Strengthening Village Institutions

Within the Gram Vikas programme implementation structure, every village has Village Development Committees (referred to as Village Water and Sanitation Committee-VWSC in some cases) to plan, implement and monitor activities implemented in the villages. Separate and concerted emphasis on strengthening of VDCs was the priority during the year. This includes regular formal interaction with the village institutions and their leadership, reformation of VDC leadership wherever necessary, regular interaction with existing SHGs to understand and explore the core concept of self-help behind its existence, and, reconnecting and rebuilding relationship with the partner communities. As part of the effort to reconnect with the communities, the process for development of Village Poverty Reduction Plan (VPRP) was rolled out.

Key Activities Undertaken

- 397 existing and potential VDC leaders from 98 VDCs were trained on Leadership Development. The activity helped the VDCs in preparing themselves with second line leadership for change of leadership and inclusion of women and youth in village development committees.
- 90 youth nominated by Village Development Committees from 44 villages were trained on use of smart phone. These participants were also supported to open their email account and use it. It is expected that this will smoothen the process of communication with the villages in future.
- 28 community leaders including SHG leaders from 5 villages were trained on VPRP development. The participants were expected to lead the process at their respective communities for preparation of village development plans.
- 1106 women SHG leaders from 236 SHGs were on leadership development. The training aimed at strengthening SHG leadership in relation to its participation in comprehensive village development process.
- 193 sessions on different social and life-skill issues were organized for members of children's institutions. In addition, 72 child parliaments facilitated to establish subscription practices. Interventions related to strengthening of children's institutions focused on building children leadership within the groups to lead their concerns and build habit of savings and self-help.

Program 2 - Convergence with Panchayats

Interventions under the programme had promoted sensitization among the communities, VDP leaders and elected PRI members to enable them with required information to demand their rights and include Village Poverty Reduction Plan in Gram Panchayat Development Plan. Villages and VDCs were encouraged to participate Grama Sabha and Palli Sabha to share their demands on Village Development.

Key Activities Undertaken

- Awareness Sessions conducted for Villagers and VDC leaders on functioning of PRI and importance of Gram Sabha and Palli Sabha in 119 villages.
- 17 nos. sensitization sessions conducted for elected PRI members covering 281 elected PRI leaders from 34 Gram Panchayats across project operational areas.

Program 3 - Development of Community Cadres

To ensure financial and technical sustainability of the community level interventions and to reduce dependency on Gram Vikas it was envisaged that village level cadre system would be the long term solution. A specialised cadre called Village Lekha Mitra (community-based accounting and auditing cadre) was created for supporting the village institutions with their accounts related tasks. A comprehensive management plan bringing all community cadres together has been developed to enable VDCs in better monitoring and management of community cadres.

Key Activities Undertaken

- A comprehensive protocol on Cadre Management was developed to elaborate the entire process of selection, capacity building, monitoring framework for VDCs etc.
- 39 Village Lekha Mitra (VLM) identified and 7 were trained. The VLMs were identified and trained for supporting Village Development Committees to maintain their records and

registers and also reconcile VDC book of accounts. The VLMs expected to function in entrepreneur model and will receive their payments from the VDCs on their services. Gram Vikas team supported for training of the VLMs and also providing handholding support to carry out their assignments in initial days.

Coverage achieved during 2020-21

Number of Districts	12
Number of Blocks	41
Number of GPs	169
Number of Habitations	523
Households benefitting	27,388

Focus Area - Water

Our work in providing assured access to safe drinking water continued during the year. Lessons learnt from past experiences have helped us approach the piped water supply programme in a better manner. The instances of source failures, at the time of building them were fewer during the year. The speed of completion of Piped Water Supply projects also improved substantially. The focus on water source sustainability continued during the year, with much greater village level capabilities being built and more successful demonstrations of managing springs as sustainable water sources. Introduction of the Jal Bandhu – a cadre of entrepreneurially minded sustainability service providers, on an experimental basis in Thuamul Rampur block is an initiative that holds great promise for the future. The Water Resources Technology Group, set up tentatively in early 2020 is developing into a strong technical support arm for our work in ensuring water resource sustainability and security.

Program 1 - Piped Water Supply

Under the programme, every family in the village builds its own toilet and bathing room and a common piped water supply system (PWS) where water is supplied from an overhead water tank constructed on the basis of estimates of per capita consumption of water (of 70 litres per capita per day), projected for the population twenty years hence. This is done so that every household can have 24-hour running water supply from their taps. The water is pumped up using electric pumps where available, and in the hilly areas the water is sourced from perennial springs using the gravity flow system. People contribute at least 10% of the cost of establishing water supply system in form of labour and local materials. The idea is to ensure that the benefitting community has a substantial stake, as that is critical in bringing a strong sense of ownership for the assets created.

Key Activities undertaken

- Out of the 87 ongoing piped water supply schemes under construction, 44 were completed and commissioned covering 2,566 households
- Remote monitoring and data logging system for tracking the functionality of Piped water supply systems piloted in two habitations.
- Water meters installed across all Charity: Water programme funded villages.
- Pilot project initiated on decentralized water storage and distribution piloted in one village under the HRDP project in Nayagarh.

Coverage achieved during 2020-21

Number of Districts	11
Number of Blocks	33
Number of GPs	67
Number of Habitations	87
Households benefitting	4952

Program 2 - Water Source Sustainability

Over the years, owing to variations in rainfall patterns, changes in land use and reduction in forest cover some of the water sources dry up, while some become seasonal with low discharge. About 30% of the sources are estimated to be functioning without any apparent decrease in water availability. Substantial flow reduction has been noticed in the natural springs. Gram Vikas' work in natural resource management and strengthening income earning opportunities for rural communities has focused mostly on remote tribal areas in the Eastern Ghats areas. The focus has been on interrelated yet different aspects including watershed development, agriculture, horticulture, animal husbandry and minor forest produce. We will build upon this experience as well as build new capacities to understand both spring and ground water aquifers and devise steps for protection, research and sustenance.

Key Activities undertaken

- Central Nurseries – Under the IGF project, two central nurseries were setup by Gram Vikas in Th. Rampur block to cater to the year round requirement of saplings for the afforestation works in the district of Kalahandi.
- Jal Bandhu – A Springs Stewardship fellows programme was launched by Gram Vikas to support young youths in the Thuamul Rampur block to get trained on aspects related watershed, springsheds and nursery management. 8 fellows have been selected this year.
- Quadrant based mapping of bio-diversity and mortality of plantations was undertaken with the support of the cadres and watershed committees across 7 villages in Thuamul Rampur block.

Coverage achieved during 2020-21

Number of Districts	6
Number of Blocks	20
Number of GPs	51
Number of Habitations	108
Households benefitting	4974

Program 3 - Water Quality Management

Changes brought about in the natural environment due to climate change, increased/different farming practices, new kinds of environmental sanitation challenges etc. are leading to marked decline in the quality of water that is supplied through the community-owned and managed piped water supply system set up with the help of Gram Vikas. The purpose of this programme is to enable partner communities to have access to safe drinking water at all times. Based on the recent surveys and studies carried out as part of the ongoing Charity: water programme, it was

found water quality issues were more linked to kitchen sanitation and personal hygiene (anthropogenic) rather than source related issues (geogenic).

Activities undertaken

- Staff capacity building was undertaken through a series of trainings and sharing sessions to understand the implementation shortcoming for the current year.
- Water quality testing in the villages were carried out by community cadres.
- Repair works were conducted in some villages to resolve/mitigate the issue of water quality by the VDCs, with technical support from Gram Vikas staff.
- Site selection, design and material procurement for the Hydrodoser installation completed.
- Exposure visit to Dhan Foundation was arranged for 4 staffs in order to understand the operational and technical modalities in running a water quality lab setup in Odisha.
- Procurement of equipment's for the central water quality lab was completed.

Coverage achieved during 2020-21

Number of Districts	9
Number of Blocks	39
Number of GPs	149
Number of Habitations	422
Households benefitting	17,838

Water Resources Technology Group

The Water Resources Technology Group was set up in January 2020, with the objective to provide technology and knowledge support to programme teams in the area of water resource management. The team aims to provide inputs for preparation of water security plans at Gram Panchayat level, combining scientific knowledge and indigenous knowledge on natural resources.

Activities taken up

- Collection of available maps and vector files for rendering of required maps using GIS tools.
- Collection and interpretation of secondary data (Rainfall, agriculture, livestock, weather etc) to help define the groundwater scenarios.
- Document indigenous knowledge and practices prevalent in the community around water resources.
- Groundwater resources mapping in operational villages where the Piped-water supply system is to be set up.
- Prepare groundwater potential maps of Ganjam, Gajapati and Kalahandi districts.
- Prepare habitation-level Water Security Plans for operational habitations in 3 GPs each in Ganjam, Gajapati and Kalahandi districts.

Focus Area - Livelihoods

Developing the Safe and Dignified Migration programme into a full-fledged intervention counts among the key achievements in our work in the Livelihoods area. Work in the area of Farm Livelihoods is also evolving into a comprehensive intervention, with the use of technology tools such as the micro automatic weather stations contributing to better farming decisions by farmers

in the villages and consequent financial gains. Together with the work in water source sustainability, these interventions are likely to form the core of our approach to building water secure Gram Panchayats.

Program 1 - Farm Livelihoods

The Farm Livelihood programme represents all the work in farm sector under a common approach. It has been formulated building upon the work in the water sector. This aims to ensure economic benefits from judicious use of water and land and to make farming an attractive option for the younger generation.

Key Activities Undertaken

The activities that were done are as follows:

Automatic Weather Station

- Partner selected who can provide Weather Forecast and Crop advisory
- System put in place by which Crop advisory reaches the villages
- Training Cadres on how to facilitate crop advisory services based farming at village level

ICT for information dissemination

- Training of cadre on using mobile phone to capture and edit videos on best practices
- Capturing videos of best practices which are happening on the field
- Screening of these videos in other villages for adoption of best practices

Coverage achieved during 2020-21

Number of Districts	3
Number of Blocks	3
Number of GPs	12
Number of Habitations	28
Households benefitting	1052

Program 2 - Masons' Training

Based on the previous experience, Gram Vikas has continued its effort to build more skilled resources in civil construction. The focus has been on skilling rural male and female in masonry as a mechanism for improving income-earning abilities.

Key Activities Undertaken

The 60-day programme was divided into two phases, with each of 20 persons.

- Participatory selection of village youth (male and female) through VDC
- 60-day's training on masonry

Coverage Achieved during 2020-21

Number of Districts	1
Number of Blocks	1
Number of GPs	3
Number of Habitations	2
Households benefitting	40

Program 3 - Safe Migration

COVID brought much higher focus to the migration issue. In Gram Vikas project areas, there were a large number of return migrants who came as a result of lockdown. There was also a subset of migrants who were stuck either in transit or at source.

Though the plight of migrants was tragic, it allowed Gram Vikas to reflect on the system that needs to be put into place at different points of the migrant value-chain.

Key Activities Undertaken

The key activities that were done last year are as follows-

- As part of UNDP project, around 2501 persons were linked up to different social security schemes
- Three Block Profile studies being completed with support of CMID as part of the UNDP project– at Rayagada, Jagannathprasad and Baliguda
- Migrant Resource Centre has been set up at Thuamul Rampur with financial support from ESAF
- Bandhu app is being developed as a one-stop solution for different needs in the migrant life-cycle
- Once COVID situation improved, Geriatric training has restarted from February at Mohuda in partnership with Life Circle
- Source and destination level community orientation and information sharing on migration related matters with financial support from Arghyam has been initiated in Thuamul Rampur block from March
- Community level orientation for Safe Migration in Ganjam district for Surat migrants and their dependents with financial support of UMC, Ahmedabad

Coverage achieved during 2020-21

Number of Districts	6
Number of Blocks	7
Persons benefitting	121 (98 migrants from Thuamul Rampur Corridor and 23 candidates for Geriatrics)

Program 4 - Farmer Producer Company in Rudhapadar

Gram Vikas mentors the Prakruti Bandhu Farmer Producer Company operational in Ghumusur special cluster in Jagannath Prasad block, Ganjam district. There are 483 farmers collectivised adjoining the 22 nos. of Udyan Vikas Samiti (UVS) in the WADI project. Since May 2016, the FPO has been active in addressing issues related to farm livelihoods and empowering small holders to deal with challenges.

During 2020-21, Gram Vikas extended handholding support to address the limited access to good quality agriculture inputs and timely technical support for crop specific issues. Partnering with Rang De through RCRC coalition, Gram Vikas and the FCO jointly facilitated nearly ₹15 lakhs interest-free loans for the farmer who didn't have enough alternative sources of investment options during COVID-19 pandemic.

Key Activities Undertaken

The following activities are executed jointly with the FPC:

- Organising regular meeting of the Board of Directors (BoD)
- Preparation of Annual Plan for FPC
- Initiating a Cadre support system for the FPC
- Inclusion of farmers in FPC
- Facilitating better backward and forward linkages
- Mobilization of working capital

Coverage Achieved during 2020-21

Number of Districts	1
Number of Blocks	1
Number of GPs	7
Number of Habitations	26
Households benefitting	583

Project 5 – Livelihoods Development in HRDP, Nayagarh

Gram Vikas is facilitating Holistic Rural Development Programme (HRDP) with support from HDFC PARIVARTAN, a CSR support flagship initiative of HDFC Bank Ltd. in Nayagarh, Odisha. This is the 3rd phase of the project that supports 17 villages in 4 blocks (Nayagarh, Nuagaon, Odagaon and Khandapada) covering nearly 3,605 families with around 17,000 population. During this phase, HRDP has mainstreamed its focuses on formation of farm collectives and collective livelihoods. The project facilitated socio-technical measures for community level input systems to improve the farming practices and coverage.

Key Activities Undertaken

During this phase, most of the activities are designed to supplement agriculture based livelihoods while creating social and economic capital.

- Pond periphery development
- Improved package of practice in Rice
- Formation of farmer producer collectives
- Community fisheries
- Irrigation support structures
- Support for the poorest families

Coverage Achieved during 2020-21

Number of Districts	1
Number of Blocks	4
Number of GPs	15
Number of Habitations	17
Households benefitting	3605

Project 6 – Livelihoods Development in UDAN, Chandaka

Gram Vikas facilitates Urban Development Action in Neighbourhood (Project UDAN) with communities of seven habitation in Chandaka location, Odisha. Project UDAN aims to support Cyclone Fani affected habitations to build back their livelihoods. Considering the socio-economic and political situations, the livelihoods programmes have been formulated around skilling the youth (mentioned under Mason's Training section), enabling the women SHGs to initiate their aspired enterprises and horticulture plantation for long-term economic benefits. Communities participation was prioritised during each phases of the programme.

Key Activities Undertaken

- Horticulture plantation
- Off-farm income generation through women collectives through
 - Training and Capacity building on the following:
 - Leadership training for women SHG's
 - Enterprise development programme for potential entrepreneurs
- Session on social inclusiveness for project area potential leaders
- Education
 - Increasing greenery of School premises
 - Wall painting and IEC development

Coverage achieved during 2020-21

Number of Districts	1
Number of Blocks	1
Number of GPs	3
Number of Habitations	7
Households benefitting	714

Focus Area - Sanitation and Hygiene

The groundwork done in areas related to Sanitation and Hygiene behaviour in the past years came in very handy when responding to the health crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. The capacities built among staff as well as at the community level helped in spreading the message of Covid-appropriate behaviours across our operational villages. The focus of work in solid and liquid waste management was substantially on household level behaviours and practices, rather than creating village level mechanisms for waste management. Our experience suggests that this focus is well-placed and greater understanding at the household level issues such as waste reduction and source-level segregation will form strong foundation for scaling up and deepening the intervention.

Program 1 - Sanitation Hardware

Gram Vikas is committed to ensuring better health and hygiene practices across the operational villages. Gram Vikas had conducted a household level survey to assess the status of WASH structure in about 800 villages. The need of going back to these villages is evident. Hence, this year we initiated

- the repairing of the existing TBR units (as a part of SnS)

- the construction of the new infrastructure to ensure availability and use of sanitation infrastructure by all the members of community irrespective of age and gender.

Key Activities undertaken

- Construction of TBR- This year we could complete construction of 534 new TBR units.
- The retrofitting work is initiated in 2 villages in Ganjam and Gajapati

Coverage achieved during 2020-21

Number of Districts	3
Number of Blocks	5
Number of GPs	6
Number of Habitations	14
Households benefiting	534

Program 2 - WASH Behaviour

During 2020-21, WaSH Behaviour programme aimed at enabling the community to achieve improved health through hygienic practices. It has facilitated the behavioural changes within the community with regards to the following three components:

- Personal Hygiene
- Kitchen sanitation
- Safe child faeces management

Key Activities undertaken

- Developed, translated and shared session plans for Personal hygiene, Kitchen sanitation and safe disposal of excreta- Child faeces management
- Awareness generation sessions on personal hygiene, preventive measures for COVID-19 and kitchen sanitation conducted in 229 villages.

Coverage achieved during 2020-21

Number of Districts	11
Number of Blocks	39
Number of GPs	80
Number of Habitations	229*
Households benefiting	9660

**The work initiated in 229 villages. Significant part of which is awareness sessions on personal hygiene as a preventive measure against COVID-19*

Program 3 - Solid Waste Management

After the pilot in collaboration with SAAHAS- knowledge partner organisation in solid waste management, this year the programme took a step further in HRDP project locations of Nayagarh district. The scaling up efforts were around bringing the clarity of actions and to minimise the amount of solid waste output of each family and village through behavioural change. GP level mobilisation was done for setting up common waste sorting centre. The household level sorting of

dry and wet waste were the highlights. Some villages started conducting regular village cleaning events.

Key Activities undertaken

- Awareness generation on need of solid waste management followed by village level resolution making.
- Monthly village cleanliness drive is being conducted in the villages. Almost 100% HH from 10 villages have started segregating waste at HH level.

Coverage achieved during 2020-21

	Achieved
Number of Districts	9
Number of Blocks	23
Number of GPs	57
Number of Habitations	108
Households benefiting	7498

Program 4 - Grey Water Management

We focused exclusively on management of grey water to make the environment visibly clean and dry. The objective was to utilize the household level grey water-coming out of bathroom and kitchen, for growing vegetables and fruits in the backyard. Emphasis was given to sustain the practice round the year.

Key Activities undertaken

- Awareness generation done on need of liquid waste management, means of greywater management, nutrition and health needs.
- In Chandaka, grey water management was done by raising backyard gardens. Following the model of 'Mo Upakari bagicha' programme by WCD dept we distributed 15 types of seeds to 714 families.

Coverage achieved during 2020-21

Number of Districts	9
Number of Blocks	38
Number of GPs	73
Number of villages	168
Number of households benefited	7773

Program 5 - School Health and Hygiene

Government has put restrictions in opening the elementary and higher secondary education institution due to the pandemic. This regulation restricted us working with the schools and school management committees. However, we look forward the same programmatic approach in 2021-22 considering the regularisation of school hour.

Program 6 - Adolescent health

We planned to engage the adolescents for self-development to improve their nutrition and health status, promote awareness about health, hygiene, and reproductive/sexual health. The approach was planned to address the issues around:

- Understanding the concept of gender and sex, and to become familiar with various dimensions of rights entitled to them.
- Understanding various aspects of their physiology and biology to lead a more appreciative, responsible and safe life.
- Engaging them on their right to sexual reproductive health, hygiene and nutrition in & out education with a focus on menstrual hygiene management with adequate understanding on various myths, misinformation, offences and violation of rights.

Key Activities Undertaken

- Formation of group of adolescent girls and boys took place. These groups were oriented on need of such platform and healthy adulthood.
- This year we could engage some adolescents, mostly girls. The groups are formed and discussion around changes in the age initiated. In the upcoming year we will strengthen the existing groups, increase the involvement of boys and bring relevant topics to platform.

Coverage achieved during 2020-21

Number of Districts	11	9
Number of Blocks	20	18
Number of GPs	35	31
Number of Habitations	48	34
Households benefitting	3,892	2397

Project 7 - Action Research-Child Faeces Management

Gram Vikas and Emory team came together to select the behaviour change technique and design the programme to involve context-specific behaviour change strategies. The activities aimed at addressing the specific RANAS factors to promote the safe CFM practices for the households and the villages.

Key activities undertaken

- Designed the intervention based on the findings of formative research and baseline survey
- Tested and Piloted the user centric designed intervention
- Implemented the final intervention in 37 villages
- Evaluating the process of implementation with PE team of 5 members

Coverage during 2020-21

Number of Districts	2
Number of Blocks	20
Number of GPs	29
Number of Habitations	37
Households benefitting	957

Focus Area - Habitat and Technology

Work on promotion of renewable energy continued. The solar power project in Maligaon stabilised its operations during the year and has given us the confidence to look at reviving the micro-hydro projects in Kalahandi district. Technology development for the Smart Community Interface intervention also reached a critical stage and we should be able to implement them in many villages in the next year.

Program 1 - Smart Community Interface

The project puts together the hardware architecture, content and software applications and management mechanisms for village-level information-communication systems in remote villages without regular internet/mobile access.

Key Activities Undertaken

- Farmers
 - Farmers receiving market price of nearby mandi for locally relevant crops over SMS
 - Farmers using Weather Forecast and Crop advisory while making farming decisions
- Health & Hygiene
 - COVID related awareness with Audio Visual aids
- Migration
 - Developing and pilot testing App which allows migrant dependents in low network areas to communicate with migrant in cities
- Education
 - Providing learning support through COVID education centres in the villages with or without Audio Visual aids

Coverage achieved during 2020-21

Number of Districts	3
Number of Blocks	3
Number of GPs	5
Number of Habitations	14
Households benefitting	430

Program 2 - Renewable Energy

The program aims to establish and introduce community-based energy efficient technologies to improve rural infrastructure and harness energy to supplement the livelihoods of the rural community. Energy for cooking, lighting, and water pumping have been identified as high priority for the communities where Gram Vikas operates. A large number of Gram Vikas' operational villages are unelectrified and still use kerosene for lighting and wood for cooking.

Key Activities undertaken

- Training for Local cadre of technician and operators to ensure preventive & general maintenance is carried out to ensure sustainability of the system - Solar pumping systems and Mini-grids.
- Resource and funds mobilized for Karnibel MHP project.

- Augmentation and revival of piped water supply system projects with an alternate source and Solar water pumping solution across 68 locations.
- Identification of Households to be covered under the de centralized home lighting initiative funded by the SBI Foundation.

Coverage achieved during 2020-21

Number of Districts	7
Number of Blocks	21
Number of GPs	32
Number of Habitations	68
Households benefitting	3446

Focus Area - Education

This focus area supports the four residential schools to enable them become centre of excellence by providing the best possible education, exposure to global platforms and opportunities to apply advanced technologies for enhancement of scientific knowledge in learning and allied areas.

Program - Support to Gram Vikas Residential Schools

The program promotes digital learning in Gram Vikas schools and helps in advancing scientific and technical literacy among both students and teachers. With support from Oracle, Gram Vikas has been successfully implementing “Oracle Virtual Classrooms” project since the last six years. But things were starkly different this year because of indefinite closure of schools due to Covid-19 pandemic.

Key Achievements -2020-21

- A Science Studio has been set up in Gram Vikas High School, Kankia, to facilitate experiential and interactive way of learning science for high school students.
- Gram Vikas High School, Kankia was selected as the ATL (Atal Tinkering Lab) School of the Month for seven times in this academic year.
- Students received INSPIRE Awards from the Department of Science & Technology for preparation of innovative science models.
- 23 students qualified for admission into quality schools set up by Ministries of State and Central Government. This has been possible because of online coaching and mock sessions conducted earlier.
- 12 Students qualified for Pathani Samanta Mathematics Scholarship test, 2 students qualified for National Rural Talent Scholarship examination and other 23 students won scholarships conducted by Odisha State Government for the primary students.
- Gram Vikas Vidya Vihar School was the only school from Odisha to have selected amongst the “30 most inspiring ideas of change” in the DFC-UNICEF YuWaah Youth Challenge.

Coverage achieved during 2020-21

School	Teachers	Students
Gram Vikas High School, Kankia	27	500
Gram Vikas Vidya Vihar, Gayaganda	10	230

Mahedra Tanaya Ashram School, Koinpur	14	284
Gram Vikas Shiksha Niketan, Kumudabahal	18	321
TOTAL	69	1335

COVID-19 response

The COVID-19 response covered all our operational areas. We ensured that we reached out to every one of the villages that have partnered with us. Among the notable initiatives were support provided to migrant workers stranded in different States, provision of food support to needy households, both in the early stages of the lockdown and later, mobilising support for local governments to plan and execute immediate activities for income support under MGNREGS and the village level education centres that supported school children who could not access online learning options. The project taken up for ensuring access to social protection schemes in 18 Blocks of six districts has paved the way for a much stronger programme intervention on Access to Entitlements being taken up from April 2021 onwards.

Summary of results achieved

Creating awareness	25,000 households in 750 villages
Well-being of migrant workers	15,696 migrant households in 857 villages
Enabling income earning opportunities through MGNREGS	8368 households in 227 villages
Securing social entitlements	80,488 households made aware 21,914 linked with relevant schemes
Mitigating food insecurity	5734 families in 154 villages
Providing access to education	306 children through 20 Learning Centres

Geographic Coverage

Gram Vikas' COVID-19 response covered nearly 90,000 households in 263 Gram Panchayats and 47 blocks of 13 districts in Odisha and one in Jharkhand. Of this, work in three blocks of Bolangir one block of Nuapada and two blocks of Kalahandi district were outside the regular operational work areas.