



annual report 2023



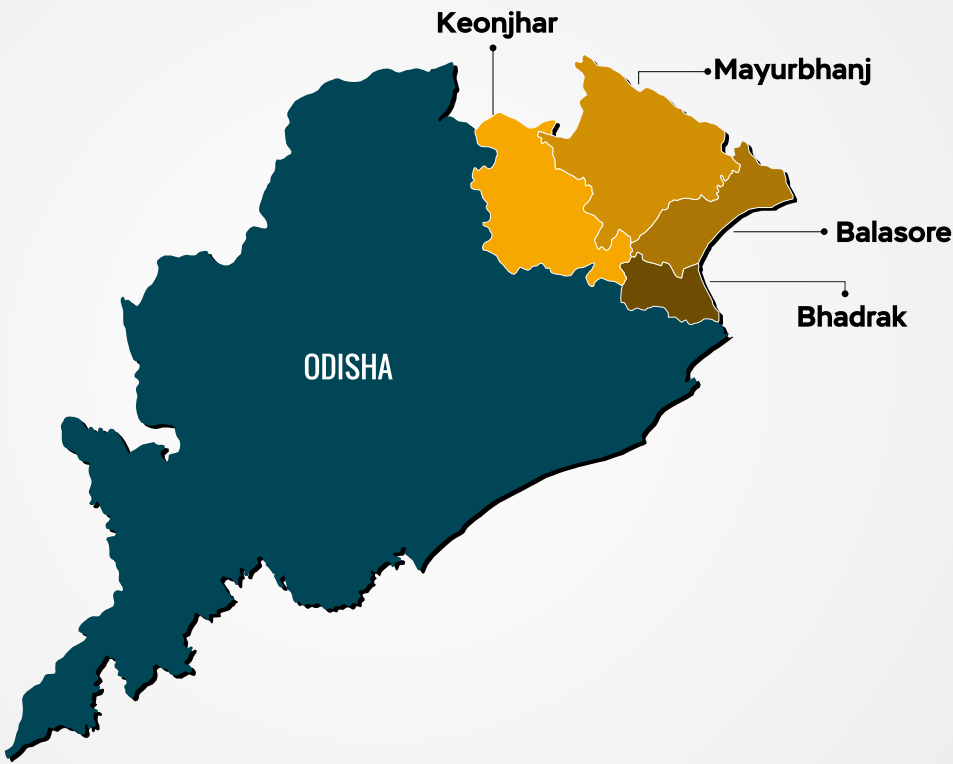
BALASORE SOCIAL SERVICE SOCIETY
An Organization for the Development of the People

vision

We envisage a transformed society where love, peace and justice prevail

mission

We undertake the mandate of promoting, facilitating and enabling sustainable human development of all, especially the poor and the marginalised by fighting poverty, diseases, enhancing quality education, ensuring livelihood, food security and addressing emergencies.



Balasore Social Service Society is the social service wing of Balasore Diocese. It primarily works in the four districts of Odisha, namely; Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj, Balasore and Bhadrak. Between 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023, it has touched the lives of 176,796 people in 42,072 households across these four districts.

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Message From The President



Balasore Social Service Society has been rendering commendable service in the area of Education, Health, Disaster Management and Livelihood. Various developmental and empowerment programs are being implemented in different areas of the four districts of Balasore, Bhadrak, Mayurbhanj and Keonjhar of Odisha, India, especially among the Poor, and marginalised.

I am glad to present the annual report of FY 2022 -23 and take this moment to express my gratitude to the management, staff and volunteers who are truly committed to the vision and mission of BSSS. The strength of the institute lies in the sapiens and prudence that the BSSS family possesses by their rich and diverse experience.

BSSS has planned meticulously and implemented all the programs to reduce social inequities and bring about social changes among the most underprivileged communities. Every activity focused on sustainable transformation in education, health, skill training, livelihood, disaster management and food security.

I wish to convey my sincere regards and deep gratitude to the funding agencies, government officials, and partners for your continued support and trust. You always have been the motivational force and have facilitated us to move ahead and achieve the desired change despite the numerous challenges. I am glad that BSSS has reached more than 50,000 people this year intervening in their lives and bringing changes towards sustainable progress.

I hereby place on record my sincere thanks to the board members, leadership team, staff, and volunteers for their dedicated efforts and unstinted support for the growth of the organisation.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Fr. Isaac Puthenangady". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Fr. Isaac Puthenangady
Administrator, Diocese of Balasore

Message From The Director



Growth and development of the society by creating an economy that is sustainable, protecting and enhancing the natural environment and social inclusion of all people are paramount objectives of BSSS. We are creating another milestone in making a more humane, sustainable, and resilient future for the people of 4 districts of Odisha- Balasore, Bhadrak, Keonjhar and Mayurbhanj. All the activities and programs of BSSS ensure economic equality and sustainable development, transformational change and improvement in the lives of poor peasants, indigenous people, women and children.

In the year 2022-23, BSSS has transformed the lives of hundreds of people with activities of enhancing quality education, sustainable livelihood practices on farm and off-farm, ensuring the protection rights of women and children, preparing the community to face emergencies and disasters, protecting the environment and empowering vulnerable communities for a dignified life.

The year has been a momentous year for BSSS as we have reached out to the people in every possible way through the programs like Bridge up Centers (BuC), SWAAD (Social Welfare through Agricultural & Allied Development), STEER (Sustainable Transformation of Tribals through

Empowerment, Education & Economic Reform), PEACE (Promoting Sustainable Economic Wellbeing and Creating Access to Quality Education), SURAKYA- A Joint Venture to Safeguard the Right and Dignity of Children in Mayurbhanj, BMZ, NABARD, TPNODL- Women Literacy Centers and different Disaster management and relief programs. I am grateful to the Government of India and Odisha through their representatives in the four districts of Odisha, funding agencies, Corporates, the Board of Management, the BSSS Family, all the volunteers, well-wishers and all the people of our project area for their trust and confidence in BSSS.

Fr. Lijo George
Director

Message From The Assistant Director



Balasore Social Service Society (BSSS) enhances human well-being and helps meet the basic and complex needs of the people of four districts, particularly focusing on those who are vulnerable, oppressed, and living in poverty. All the programs aim at alleviating people from their struggles for a decent living and ensuring that all have a say in the decisions made for their growth. I am happy for being a part of this family and extend my service to the most oppressed people.

BSSS never compromises on the quality of the service it renders to the poor and always stands for its values. Creating a just world through all its programs and taking people of all walks together is what makes BSSS unique from all the others. Hundreds of people have learned to cultivate their land not only for their food but as a means of livelihood. Children in the villages are aware of their rights, women in the society are ascertaining their rightful place in making decisions, and there are so much of activities in the communities intervened by

BSSS.

The support of government officials, timely assistance of the funding agencies, meticulous planning, execution and monitoring of the activities by the BSSS staff and the interest shown by the grassroots-level CBOs is praiseworthy. It was wonderful working together for a meaningful cause of the development of the people.

My best wishes to all those who are concerned with the programs of BSSS and work for the sustainable development of all the people.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Fr. Sunil Minz'.

Fr. Sunil Minz
Assistant Director

BSSS

Promoter of
Sustainable Development
of the People
and the
Planet





BSSS to reduce poverty, hunger, and disease in society, provide access to quality education and social protection, ensure respect for human rights and human dignity, growth of children free from violence and exploitation, and promote inclusive economic growth implemented various programs in partnership with the CBOs, other Non-Profit Organisations, Corporates and the Government.

Some of the major programs that were implemented in the 4 districts of Odisha, namely Balasore, Bhadrak, Keonjhar, and Mayurbhanj are listed below:

- BuC - Mainstreaming the low-performing Tribal Students through Bridge up Center
- BMZ Global Programme - Poverty Reduction and Food Security, Promoting Social Inclusion of Particularly Marginalized Groups and Increasing Resilience to Disasters in High-Risk Areas
- DREAM - Development of Real Empowerment through Agricultural Mission
- ECRICC - Enhancing Climate Resilience of India's Coastal Communities
- Education of Tribal Girls for a Sustainable Tomorrow
- Emergency Relief Support to the Flood-Affected People/Households
- NABARD Interventions for WSHGs
- PEACE- Promoting Sustainable Economic Well-being and Creating Access to Quality Education
- SPREAD - Sustainable and Participatory Rural Empowerment through Agri-based Livelihood Development
- START FUND – Odisha flood Response
- UNICEF – Odisha flood Response
- STEER -Sustainable Transformation of Tribals through Empowerment, Education and Economic Reforms
- SURAKHYA-A joint Venture to Safeguard the Rights and Dignity of the Children of Mayurbhanj
- SWAAD - Social Welfare through Agricultural and Allied Development
- WLC-Women Literacy Centres
- WrDP – Women-Led Disaster Recovery and Disaster Preparedness

SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOOD OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE FARMERS



BSSS, to help the people living in rural areas who are mainly dependent on agriculture and livestock for their living implemented programs to educate the masses on improved and resilient agricultural practices. The marginal farmers are united under the umbrella of the Farmers' Club and Farmers' Federation and are accompanied by training, models and quality seed support. The programs implemented are SWAAD - Social Welfare through Agriculture and Allied Development, funded by Secours Catholique Caritas France, DREAM -Development of Real Empowerment through Agricultural Mission funded by Secours Catholique Caritas France, France, SPREAD - Sustainable and Participatory Rural Empowerment through Agri – based Livelihood Development, Funded by Manos Unidas, Spain, PEACE- Promoting Sustainable Economic Well-being and Creating Access to Quality Education, Funded by Manos Unidas, Spain and STEER -Sustainable Transformation of Tribals through Empowerment, Education and Economic Reforms funded by Frères de nos Frères (FdnF) Switzerland. BSSS expresses its gratitude to all the funding partners.

Adoption of Improved Agriculture Practices

BSSS encourages most farmers to adopt Improved Agriculture Practices (IAP). These practices are eco-friendly and enhance the production of crops and vegetables. The farmers have tried and have witnessed a 40% to 70% of increase in yield in the recent years. Following are some of the practices:



Soil Testing



Summer Ploughing



Seed Treatment



Seedbed Preparation



Nursery Bed, Seed and Seedling Treatment



Land Preparation



Line Plantation



INM



IPM



Weed Management



Crop Cutting



Post-Harvest Management

Integrated Farming System



BSSS promotes Integrated Farming System (IFS) to help the farmers to have stability in their income, employment and continuous food security. There are 87 (Spread-33, STEER- 30, SWAAD-14 & BMZ-10) IFS models created in the project area as a demonstration for the farmers to learn and replicate the same in their land. Near about a thousand farmers have adopted two or three additional components of IFS like paddy cultivation, vegetable cultivation, fish farming, goat

farming, poultry, mushroom cultivation and production of organic manure through BSSS intervention and have gained a 30% to 45% increase in their income.



Seed Village Program

BSSS to ensure quality seed availability for the farmers at the right time implemented the seed village program. The farmers were trained in the techniques of disease and insect-free quality seed production and storage methods. Demonstration of seed models were created in different villages and hundreds of farmers have been equipped to produce quality seeds for themselves and others. Besides quality seeds for Kharif and Rabi seasons were provided for the deserving farmers as individuals and in groups. 200 kgs of foundation seeds of different varieties of seeds were supported for 10 acres and an average of 18 quintals of quality seeds were collected and 70% of it were used by the farmers themselves.



Quality Seed Support



BSSS catered to the needs of the farmers with quality seeds to enable them to cultivate the crops on time and have access to varieties of seeds. Most of the farmers experimented with one or two varieties and measured the yield, then selected the proper seeds for their lands. BSSS supported them with an amount of 350 kgs pulses, 200 farmers with vegetables, and 4000 kg paddy seeds which produced 30 to 50 % of the yield due to quality seeds and improved agricultural practices.

Creation of Different Paddy Models



BSSS initiated different models of paddy cultivation as a demonstration and learning process. The farmers of different villages came forward to have a demonstration and take responsibility for following the methods suggested. Hence bio-compost vs chemical fertilisers, local vs high-yielding seeds, climate resilience vs any available seeds, and wild planting vs line plantation were the models created. After the results, most of the farmers reduced a minimum of 15% of chemical fertilisers and increased the use of organic manure, many of them acquiring high-yielding, climate resilience seeds and adopting line plantations for cultivation.

Production of Organic Manures and Organic Cultivation



BSSS to maintain environmental health, adopt an Echo-friendly approach in all its interventions and reduce pollution emphasised organic cultivation by using organic manures and ecologically based pest control. Most of the farmers produce organic manure like nadev, azolla, vermin and matihandi and use them in the cultivation of vegetables and cash crops. 80% of the families have their vegetable gardens maintained with organic manure.

Climate Smart Agriculture Adoption

BSSS trained the farmers to adopt agricultural practices suitable for protecting the environment and increasing production. The farmers have adopted climate resilience seeds and taken up winter cropping. 70 % of the farmers have increased their production by 43 percentage. Cultivating climate-resilient crop varieties, crop rotation, bio-fertilizers, agro-forestry, water management, integrated pest management, nutrient management and livestock management are some of the good practices followed by the community to boost soil health and reduce erosion, minimize air pollution, and enhance water absorption.



Cereals, Pulses, Cash Crops and Tuber Crops



BSSS encouraged the beneficiaries to cultivate the land with cereals, pulses cash crops and tuber crops in all its areas of intervention with available water. Since these crops require less water and keep the farmers engaged in the Rabi season this initiative is appreciated by them. Ginger, Turmeric, Arum, Ground Nut, Maize, Millet, Black gram, Green gram, Bengal gram, Wheat, Mustard, sunflower, potatoes, and sweet potatoes are cultivated. This has not only resulted in an increase of 40% in income but provided nutritious food, and supported the families in assuring the food security around the year.

Plantation drive



BSSS advocated 'save trees save the earth' in all their intervention. The communities are sensitised to protecting forests and planting trees on barren land to reduce the green gas effect. 127 farmers of 16 villages of Saragchhida have planted 3763 bamboo sprouts in their 37.63 acres of land this year. This is adding to the 83.24 acres of land which were brought under the cultivation of bamboo last year. Besides farmers of various places have been planting trees in the barren land like papaya, drum stick and banana which gives income and nutritious food to the people.

Income Generating Activities (IGA)





BSSS promoted income-generating activities to be taken up in a group mode by all the CBOs. Most of the SHGs, FCs and FFs have been linked with the line departments and get credit for taking up any IGA according to their interest and expertise. Most of the SHGs have adopted one or the other trade and have been successful. The SHGs and individuals were also taught bookkeeping, tactics of marketing and other components of trading. Phenyl, Packaging of Turmeric, Mushroom, Sabai Rope, Piggery, Mohua flower, Sal leaves, Goat rearing, Incense stick, Pickle making, Grocery shop, washing powder, Vegetable Nursery, Chicks Rearing and Vermin Composting are some of the IGA adopted by SHGs

Farmers' Hub

BSSS learnt about the struggle of people for farming machinery and encouraged Farmers' Clubs to maintain a hub where the machines for cultivation would be available to the farmers of the village for rent. 20 farmers hubs are capacitated with Pumpsets, delivery pipes, sprayers, weeders, single-row seed drillers, manual weeders, MB Plough, paddy thrashers, and power tillers which are given out on rent and the farmers' club of that village maintains them.



CASE STORY

Creating Resources in the Community

Goat rearing is a common livelihood among poor and vulnerable families. It fetches good income within a year. One of the risks faced by the people is infectious diseases which are the greatest threat to livestock health. There was a lack of quick, accurate and timely diagnosis which resulted in the death of the livestock. This devastating situation was discussed in the project meetings of Saragchhida. Laba Murmu of Saragachhida village was identified as the available human resources, during the Capitalization process. He agreed to serve the community if an opportunity was given to him. The community appreciated his commitment and willingness to work for his community. He had initial training under a veterinary doctor and now BSSS make sure to increase his capacity to serve the community better. Thus, Laba saves the Livestock from illness.



Community-Based Organizations (CBO)

BSSS invests in the formation and strengthening of community-based organizations for the effective implementation and sustainability of the programs. Here below we discuss the various CBOs existing in the sector of agricultural and allied livelihood programs.

Self Help Groups

BSSS unites women in the project area through SHGs and empowers them to be financially stable. Most of the SHGs have regular meetings and maintain proper documentation. Leadership, bookkeeping and Income Generating Activities (IGA) training are arranged from time to time to capacitate them and take up their own IGA. They are linked with the line departments and have access to various schemes of the departments. The number of SHGs existing in the project areas is mentioned in the following page.



Name of the program	Area	Number of SHGs	Number of Members	Activities carried out
BMZ	Basudevpur	60	606	Fishery, goat farming, chicks rearing, kitchen garden
ECRICC	Bhogarai & Baliapal	1,133	11,795	Agriculture, fishery
STEER	Rasgobindpur	27	278	Fishery, Goat farming, Pig rearing, Chick rearing, Grocery shop, Sabai grass rope making, Nursery, vegetables and paddy cultivation, tree plantation,renting Paddy threshing machine & power tiller, stitching Angwanbadi children's dress, Mission Shakti house construction in the GP, Bathroom construction in the GP
SWAAD	Saragachhida	34	353	PDS distribution, electricity bill collection, guarding the forests and managing the government's midday meal scheme in school, fishery and vermicomposting
PEACE	Keonjhar Sadar	26	270	Sundried dumplings and Pappad
DREAM	Keuntinimari & Betna	18	187	Sabai grass, sal leaf,
SPREAD	Bangiriposi Block	50	554	Incense stick, mushroom, pig, chicks, Goat rearing
NABARD	Nilgiri & Basta, Anantapur, Chitala	39	150	Phenyl, washing soap, Hand wash, detergent, Dish wash liquid

CASE STORY

SHG Changed Our Lives

Maa Mangala SHG, Khuntapal is not only a group of women but a forceful entity that changed the lives of many members. The group members regularly attended all the training provided and mastered a number of IGPs. They maintain all their records and take all the opportunities to excel. They have created a good rapport with the line departments and are linked to Mission



Shakti, the Block Agriculture Office (BAO), the Block Education Officer (BEO), the Horticulture Department, KVK, and the Veterinary Department. They have the expertise in mushroom cultivation, goat farming, chick rearing, production and marketing of turmeric powder and renting of the power tiller. They have participated in several expo programs at the district level with their IGPs and have earned income. The members always say that the SHG group has given us life.

CASE STORY
Leading the Group to Prosperity

Allahdi Singh, a housewife organized women in her community and formed the SHG with the objective to work for their development. Her village, Nagrashol is surrounded by forests and some of the group members wanted to rear goats. Allahdi convinced her members to rear goats in group mode. A room was identified and goat kids were supported by BSSS. She educated the mothers on the proper care of goats. Her success in goat rearing helped her to get acceptance and trust from her group. Now she has initiated other developmental activities in the community. Allahdi is confident to tap different schemes and programs from line departments.



Farmers' Clubs



BSSS united all the farmers of a village under the umbrella of the Farmers' Club. Every FC has regular meetings and decisions are taken for the agricultural activities of the whole group. These Farmers' Clubs have a linkage with the line departments and have access to many of the schemes and subsidies. They play a significant role in carrying out the activities of the projects. Training programs on Improved Agricultural Practices (IAP), IFS, bookkeeping documentation, and awareness programs on social responsibilities are conducted. The Farmers' Hubs are under their control and regular in their collections.

Name of the program	Area	Number of FCs	Number of Members		Activities carried out
			Male	Female	
STEER	Rasgobindpur	13	126	10	Fishery, Goat farming, Pig rearing, Chick rearing, vegetables and paddy cultivation
SWAAD	Saragachhida	17	47	58	Washing powder manufacturing
PEACE	Keonjhar Sadar	13	186	126	Mushroom, vegetable, cash crops and paddy cultivation
DREAM	Keuntinimari & Betna	12	83	22	Sabai grass, Agriculture
SPREAD	Bangiriposi	46	795	0	Fishery, bio cultivation, paddy, cash crops and vegetable cultivation

CASE STORY

Farmers' Clubs - Means of Unity and Growth



Adivasi Farmer's Club, Karanjpada was formed when the beginning of the STEER project was implemented. In the beginning, members were not united and could not take up activities. Gradually with the constant training and accompaniment of the BSSS staff, the members began to attend the meetings and take an active part in the decision-making. Today they have the confidence to take loans from the bank, take up income-generating activities (IGA) and initiate group cultivation. The group cultivated potatoes through credit linkage and dug a deep bore well in the paddy field from where water is supplied for all. They are grateful to BSSS and the funding agency for capacitating them. They say we have strength because we have a Farmers' Club.

Farmers' Federation

Farmers' Federations are larger organisations at the Panchayat level. All the farmers' clubs mostly come together to form the farmers' federation. The federation has an executive committee that is responsible formaking decisions for the welfare of the farmers of the whole panchayat. Farmers' federations are guided with training programs and constant guidance. A few of the members are trained as lead farmers and created human resources within the panchayat on various agricultural and allied agricultural practices.



Name of the program	Area	Name of FFs	Number of Members		Activities carried out
			Male	Female	
STEER	Rasgobindpur	Chanda Taras Farmers Federation (FF)	52	6	A Power tiller is given out on rent and a computer center is established
SWAAD	Saragachhida	Sri Jagannath Farmers' Federation	10	60	Initiated a Farm school for different models and training for the farmers on 2 acres of leased land for 20 years.
SPREAD	Bangiriposi		53	3	Sal leaves collection and marketing

Farmers' Producers Company

BSSS has two companies of farmers in the District of Mayurbhanj for its credit. Marangburu Farmers' Producer Company Ltd, Keutunnimari and Anchalika Goshti Unnayana Farmer's Producers Company Ltd, Betna were registered with the Companies Act 2013.

Name of the company	Activities carried out
Marangburu Farmers' Producer Company	Paddy Procurement and selling to FC Sal leaf collection and supply to Vendors Liaising with different stakeholders and tapping the govt schemes
Anchalika Goshti Unnayana Farmer's Producers Company	Liaising with different stakeholders and tapping the govt schemes. Rapport with local vendors and suppliers to Vendoragri- products at appropriate rates.

Linkage with Government and Other Resource Agencies



BSSS makes every effort for the social and economic development of the communities and creates rapport with the government line department corporates and other like-minded non-profit organisations. At the beginning of any program, information is shared with the government organizations and their support is sought for effective and smooth implementation. A rapport is created between the people and the departments for direct access to the different schemes of the government. OLM, KVK Mayurbhanj, Horticulture department, Mission Shakti, Veterinary department, CTCRI, and AAO have provided training on a variety of subjects. They also have provided vegetable seeds, mushroom seed, chicks, saplings, and goats.

BSSS EDUCATES CHILDREN TO BE RESOURCEFUL FOR A BETTER TOMORROW



BSSS imparts quality education to the children in the villages through remedial classes and capacitates them. The centres in the interior villages of Balasore, Keonjhar and Mayurbhanj have seen tremendous development in the performance of the children. Presently 800 children are being taught in various education centres. 73 students have been admitted to Ashram Hostels and 12 Students have been selected for Scholarship Awards from the government. These activities are carried out under Mainstreaming the low-performing Tribal Students through Bridge up Centres funded by Stichting Actie Calcutta (SAC), & Wilde Ganzen, Netherlands (35 centres), STEER -Sustainable Transformation of Tribals through Empowerment, Education and Economic Reforms funded by Frères de nos Frères (Fd nF) Switzerland, (8 centres) and PEACE- Promoting Sustainable Economic Well-being and Creating Access to Quality Education, Funded by Manos Unidas, Spain (7 centres). Thanks to all the agencies who journeyed with us in shaping young lives.

Bridge up Centres (BuC)



BSSS set up education centres at the village level to mainstream the weak children in academics. There are 50 centres across Balasore, Keonjhar and Mayurbhanj districts imparting remedial classes to nearly 800 academically weaker and less privileged children of class 1 to class 5.

CASE STORY An Opportunity at the Right Time

Poornima lives with her 3 siblings in Unchabali and her parents work as daily wage earners. Due to financial constraints, the kids were sent to their relatives who helped them financially to meet the basic needs. Ms.Subhadra one of the Staff of BSSS met Poornima who showed interest in studies and spoke to her about the BuCs and the guidance given to the students for their integral growth. The parents were also convinced and Poornima was given extra care to study in Class 5. In the 5th standard i.e. the academic year 2022-2023, she scored 90% and made the BuC and the parents proud. Now she continues her studies and joins all the extracurricular activities of the Children's Club and Children's Parliament.

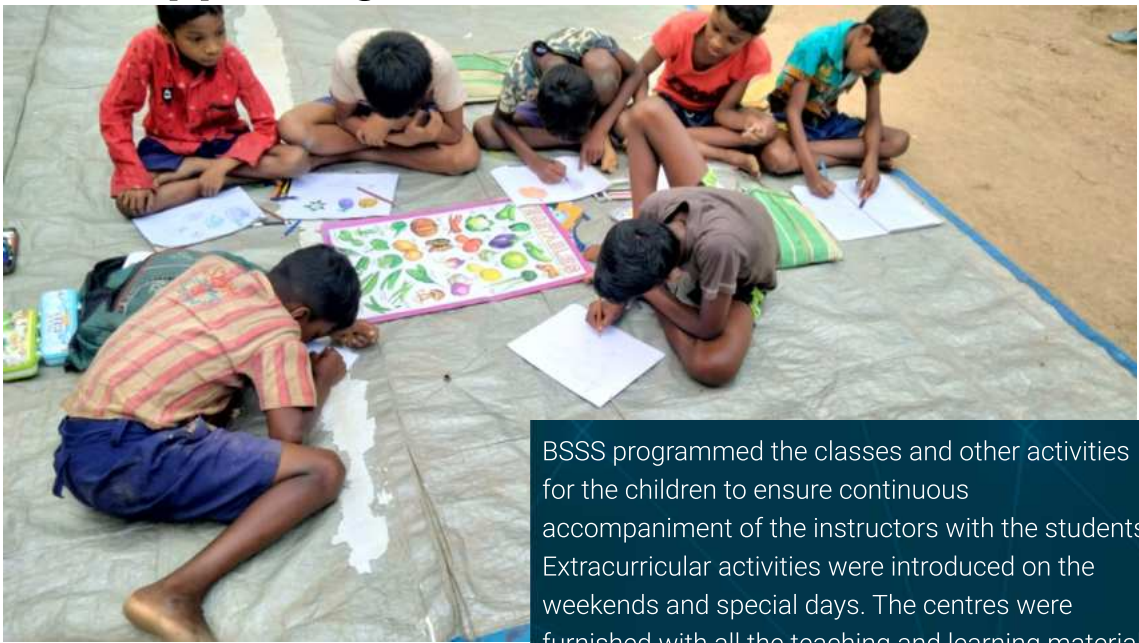


Enhancing learning interest and motivation through joyful teaching

BSSS appointed teachers of the locality to teach the students in the Bridge Up Centres. The teachers are trained to provide support to the pupils who lag in academics and assist in the integral development of the students. Joyful learning and teaching methods are introduced to the teachers to equip and assist the teachers to make the learning process a memorable one.



Teaching Activities, Aid and Supporting Materials



BSSS programmed the classes and other activities for the children to ensure continuous accompaniment of the instructors with the students. Extracurricular activities were introduced on the weekends and special days. The centres were furnished with all the teaching and learning materials.

Reaching Out with Educational Materials and Hygiene Kits



BSSS supplied appropriate learning kits for all students of classes 1 to 5 at the beginning of the Bridge Up Centres. Thereafter every new child who has joined the BuC for any class has availed of the educational kits and has lessened the financial burden of the parents. Every child was also handed over a hygiene kit to maintain personal hygiene as well as a precautionary measure against COVID-19.



CASE STORY

Specially abled Have a Right



Shiva Singh is 50% visually impaired and his parents could not afford to send him to a special school. The other 2 siblings regularly attended school. Sr. Anjali on her family visits came across Shiva who showed interest in studies but was unable to learn as there were no facilities in the village. Sr Anjali took this matter with the BSSS staff and requested to enrol him to BuC and help him with basic education. BSSS took it as an opportunity to reach out to Shiva and spoke with his parents and arranged to send him every day to the BuC. He learned the basics at the BuC and BSSS staff helped him to enrol in the village school. There was no limit to Shiva's joy. Now he regularly attends both BuC and the school at Jharlia, Kusudiha. His friends in the school help him and Shiva is leading a normal life with other children.

Children's Parliament

BSSS ignited the fire of unity among the children by organising them in groups. Replicating the parliament in children's situations 17 Children's Parliaments across Balasore, Keonjhar and Mayurbhanj are established. The children are educated on topics like their rights, their obligations, leadership and motivation. The children take up their responsibilities as various ministers and work for the progress of their communities. Protecting the environment by cleaning the surroundings, pavement of approach roads with the help of the authorities, reaching out to the elderly with basic needs, creating awareness among the children of their rights and encouraging dropouts to join back to the schools are some of the activities carried out by different Children's Parliaments.



Children's Clubs



BSSS extended the activities to all the children in the villages on the weekends and special days and created Children's Clubs. The students of the whole village gather weekly together to discuss their problems and find solutions. Extra-curricular activities are conducted in the children's clubs every weekend to nurture their talents and promote integral development. There are 48 Children's Clubs across the operational area of BSSS.

Children's Fair



BSSS gathered the children in clusters to exhibit their abilities in various forms. In 5 clusters across Balasore, Keonjhar and Mayurbhanj namely Kusudiha, Jaleswar, Badasahi, Anantpur, and Kuntapal, the Children's Fair was held in January and February 2023. Art exhibitions, quiz competitions, motivational speeches, cultural events, interaction with the children of other BuCs, and prize distribution were the attractions of the day. 530 children participated in the functions and were motivated.

CASE STORY

Every Child is Important

With the sudden demise of his father, Krishna at the age of 7, being the eldest had to look after the younger siblings as his mother went out to earn a living. This restricted his schooling and he could not attend his classes regularly. BSSS staff came across this family during one of their field visits and Krishna narrated his condition to them and expressed his desire to study. BSSS staff met the mother and requested her to send him to the BuC as it is only for a short duration.



Krishna attended regular classes at BuC and made up for all the years that he missed and at the same time cared for his younger siblings. Once he completed the Class 5 syllabus BSSS staff helped him to take admission to Class 6th at UparJharia School, Rasagovindapur.

Today Krishna is studying in Class 6th and his siblings can take care of themselves. He proudly says that without BuC, he would not have had the chance to pursue his studies.

Workshop on the Right to Education & Role of the Parents

BSSS organised workshops for the parents on the right to education and the role of the parents in 12 clusters of Balasore, Keonjhar and Mayurbhanj. The parents were enlightened on their responsibility towards their children. They were motivated to send their children every day to school and shun child marriage. Motivational sessions on leadership and the development of the community were also addressed. Group activities were conducted for the parents to understand the importance of education. About 2000 people including all the PRI members benefited from the program.



Health check-up for BuC Learners

BSSS extended health care to the BuC Students and conducted 10 health camps for 560 children from October 2022 to February 2023. The children were given sessions on health and hygiene and were taught to take care of their hygiene. The children from Bonua, Anantapur, Thakurminda, Jhaleswar, Jhatiaoda, Dhanpatta, Madavpur, Betna, Kusudiha, and Ghatkuari received an opportunity to have their health check-up. Medicines were distributed to the children who complained of cold and fever and had skin infections by experienced medical personnel.



BSSS - A TORCH BEARER OF PROTECTION RIGHTS OF CHILDREN

BSSS believed in creating a safe world for children by creating awareness of the rights of children in society. Unsafe migration, child marriage and child labour were on the rise in the district of Mayurbhanj. Hence BSSS introduced Surakhya - A joint Venture to Safeguard the Rights and Dignity of the Children of Mayurbhanj. Bhangriposi and Kuliana are the 2 blocks with Brahmandaon, Sorisopal, Chakidi, Saragachhida and Keutunimari panchayats where the activities are carried out. This program is covering 80 villages with 6,163 households and 60 educational institutions with approximately 20000 students. This program is sponsored by Misereor, Germany, and Manos Unidas, Spain and BSSS is indebted to the partners for the marvellous work done through this program.



District-Level Mass Awareness (Campaign) Programme

BSSS to commemorate International Girl Child Day and Children's Day organized a mass awareness campaign at the district level. The program was attended by stakeholders, teachers and students from various schools in the target villages. Issues and remedies concerning child abuse of all sorts were discussed and the government officials explained the provisions available for the children and their guardians when their rights are infringed in any manner. 54% of stakeholders of 80 communities have understood the importance of addressing child protection issues. 975 participants from 80 villages Bhangriposi and Kuliana attended the program.



Street Play on Child Rights



BSSS to communicate to the people rights of children and their significance organised Street plays at cluster level in the vernacular language. Kuliana and Bhangriposi were divided into 25 clusters and 7740 people attended the program. The parents and the stakeholders understood the implications and pledged to protect the rights of children in all circumstances. After this program, 62 students out of 72 have re-enrolled in the school.

CASE STORY

Back to School Again

Mathar Tudu, a resident of Chandbil, is a small innocent child who lost his parents at the age of 5. His maternal uncle looked after him. Instead of sending the kid to school, he assigned him to take care of his livestock. The child was frequently exploited by his aunt and was neglected. The future of the small child was at stake, till the case came to light and was spotted by one of the animators of BSSS.

The case was instantly informed to the AWW and village Community Child Protection Committee (CCPC) members. The higher authorities such as the BDO of Bangiriposi and the Sarpanch of Brahmanaon were involved in the case for quick action. The guardians were counseled and advised to take care of the child and safeguard his rights and dignity. The committee decided to admit Mathar Tudu to school for his further studies and with the collaboration of CCPC, BSSS team enrolled his name in Chandbil Primary School.



Promotion of School Vigilant Committee and Adolescent Girls' Group

BSSS encouraged the students to fight for their rights and formed them into groups to become a mighty force. Accordingly, information was shared regarding their rights and students of 7 to 18 years came forward to join these groups. Adolescent Girls Groups (AGG) were formed in the villages and in the girl's hostels to promote the welfare of the girl children



and protect their rights. Presently there are 80 AGGs active in the villages and In the hostel and the villages, these groups are known as AGG and in the schools as SVC. There are 80 AGGs in the villages and 14 in the girls' hostels who gather regularly to discuss their issues pertaining to their rights and security. There are 60 School Vigilant Committees (SVC) formed in 60 educational institutions that act as watchdogs among their own peer groups to protect their rights. Many of these groups have a tremendous influence on the lives of many young boys and girls to reduce dropout, child marriage and different forms of abuse.

Promotion of Adolescent Girls' Group at Village Level



BSSS has made the communities responsible for the protection of the rights of the children and formed 80 CCPCs in 80 villages. The members of these groups are the PRI members, ASHA workers, office bearers of SHGs and other CBOs of the community and the members of AGG. These groups meet periodically and discuss the situation in the villages and address issues regarding child marriage, child trafficking, dropouts and child labour. Periodically, they conduct sensitization programs in their own villages regarding child rights.

CASE STORY

CCPC Saves Teenagers

Anil (name changed) a 19-year-old boy from Kuliana Block studying in class X eloped with a girl of 16 years as per the old custom and took her to his home and lived together on the 8th of March 2023. When the Community Child Protection Committee (CCPC) of Tadki village learnt this matter alerted by one of the members plunged into action. This matter was discussed by the CCPC with the animator of the BSSS - project Surakhya.

As per the decision of the CCPC, a meeting with the parents of the boy was held and, in the meeting, it was decided to counsel Anil and the girl. After the counseling, they decided to stay away separately at their parents' place and continue their studies. It was also observed that when they are of age and willing to marry can approach each other and settle down.

Anil and the girl are happy in their homes pursuing their studies. They are grateful to CCPC and BSSS for the timely intervention.



Convergence of GPCPC/ CCPC and Govt. Stakeholders



BSSS united members of GPCPC, CCPC and government stakeholders to fight against child abuse and stand up for the rights of children. Mayurbhanj district-level program was attended by 500 GPCPCand CCPC members and 7 heads of the government department - DCPO, CDPO, IIC-police, Asst. SP, Childline, CWC, DSWO, DWO- responsible for child rights. The exchange of views and problems made them ever-vigorous advocates of child rights.

Gram Panchayat Child Protection Committee (GPCPC)



BSSS at the Gram Panchayat level formed child protection committees that will bridge the gap between the CCPC and the government authorities to take action against child abuse. Two exposure programs for selected 110 members of GPCPC were organised at various Govt. line departments. They visited Welfare Committee Office (CWC), District Child Protection Unit

(DCPU), District Childline Office -1098 and Child Care Institute (CCI) and learned the process followed in these institutions. They also conduct awareness programs at GP level.

Support & Rehabilitation of the Children



BSSS takes initiative to provide a sustainable solution to the families those who were economically backward and could not afford to send the children to school. They were supported with viable livelihood options like goats and chicken. BSSS also met the financial expenses of few children those to meet their travel expenses in fighting for justice with different cases of abuse.

WOMEN - THE CENTRE OF DEVELOPMENT



BSSS believes that the leadership and participation of women in the development of the community is inevitable. Women play a significant role in the family, society and the country in bringing about change in every sphere. The SHGs in the project area are not mere conduits for credit – they also act as a delivery mechanism for various other services ranging from entrepreneurial training, livelihood promotion activity and community development programs. The SHGs formation, strengthening and other activities for their welfare are executed under DREAM - Development of Real Empowerment through Agricultural Mission funded by, Secours Catholique Caritas France, SWAAD - Social Welfare through Agricultural and Allied Development, funded by Secours Catholique Caritas France, SPREAD - Sustainable and Participatory Rural Empowerment through Agri-based Livelihood Development, Funded by Manos Unidas, Spain, STEER - Sustainable Transformation of Tribals through Empowerment, Education and Economic Reforms funded by Frères de nos Frères (FdnF) Switzerland, PEACE- Promoting Sustainable Economic Well-being and Creating Access to Quality Education, Funded by Manos Unidas, Spain, Global Program -BMZ supported by BMZ and Caritas Germany and NABARD. BSSS is grateful to all the partners for their contribution for creating a better world for women.

Women Self-Help Groups (WSHG)



BSSS has organised women in the 4 districts of Balasore, Bhadrak Keonjhar and Mayurbhanj to make them financially independent and empower them to make decisions for their families and villages. Every village covered under various programs of BSSS has an SHG and most of them are vibrant. Some of the women from the SHGs participate in decision-making at the village

level, manage the financial affairs at the household level and are confident that they can change things for the better. BSSS is working with and monitoring 1387 SHGs this year.

Women in Leadership

BSSS promotes women's leadership as they are multi-tasking, creative, responsible and loyal to the objectives. The CBOs which are chaired by Women leaders found to be creative and result-oriented. The feminine leadership has enhanced the dignity of women and an attitudinal change is seen among the people concerning the roles of women in the society.

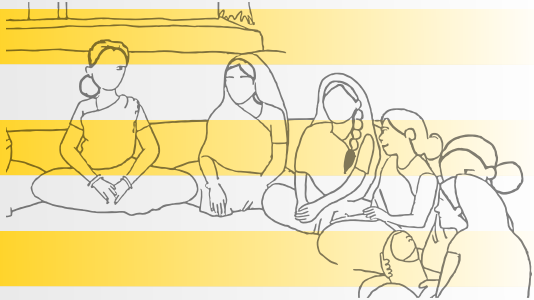


Women - Principal Agents of Development



BSSS identified that women effectively combat social crises and made them their partners in bringing about desired change. Women are the backbone of all the programs and interventions of BSSS. Most of the CBOs like CCPC, GPCC, Education Committees, BuC teachers, SHGs, FCs, and FFs have them as members and it is the women who are monitoring the safe migration in their villages. Women Anganwadi and Asha workers play a significant role in the success stories of intervention.

Name of the CBOs	% of Women Members
CCPC	50
GPCC	44
Education Committee	60
BuC/ERC Teachers	90
SHGs	100
FCs	35
FFs	20



Women as lead farmers and resource persons



BSSS encourages women to come forward to learn improved methods of agriculture. Most of the work concerning agriculture is carried out by women and they possess a special capacity for communicating and transferring knowledge to others. Around 250 women are capacitated as lead farmers who will be the resource persons in the village. They are equipped with the knowledge and can transmit it to their children and others.

DigitALL: Innovation and technology for gender equality (Women's Day)

The theme was celebrated extensively in the project area of BSSS on 8th March 2023 and the day was marked with programs of awareness on gender equality and other activities. In different places, the women gathered and expressed their unity and they were honoured for their contribution to the family, society and country. Cultural programs and competitions were held where many dignitaries from the line departments also participated.



Women share in the Economic development of the household

BSSS explores all the possibilities of making women self-reliant and provides opportunities for them. The majority of the women in the operational areas of BSSS are engaged in income-generating activities like livestock rearing – Pigs, goats, poultry, fishery, organic manure producing, phenyl production, soap powder making, pickles and snacks preparation, mushroom cultivation, nursery for vegetables and fruit trees, grocery shop, Sabai grass production, incense stick production, tailoring, and beauty parlour. These activities have raised an average of 50% of the income of the families.



Women Literacy Centres – An Initiative of TPNODL (TATA Power Northern Odisha Distribution Limited)

BSSS set up 15 Women Literacy Centres at different places in the Block of Sadar Balasore & Betnoti of the district of Balasore and Mayurbhanj respectively. The objective of this program is to make women realize their capacity to learn, think, make decisions for their lives, and ensure that their rights are respected.

In all the 15 centres, spread over 2 blocks, 15 trained teachers are appointed to teach the women. All the centres are provided with basic learning and teaching materials. The regular classes in 2 batches are being conducted and 574 women have been learning to read and write. Besides they are also trained in basic knowledge of computer applications and various government programs.

Every Saturday extracurricular activities are conducted for the women in all the centres to encourage them to exhibit their talents. Dancing, singing, drawing, games, arts and crafts sessions bring a lot of life and vibrancy to the centres.



The women of these centres were trained on personal health and hygiene and gained information on filaria the common disease prevalent in the area and many of the people have been administered medication by the ASHA workers.

Women were educated on some of the topics about their family life like the Sukanya Yojana, the evils of child marriage, the right to education and the rights of women. Some of the women were helped to create their Aadhar cards and linked the same with their bank accounts.

Most women have realised that they can learn at any age provided an opportunity is created for them. BSSS expresses sentiments of gratitude to TPNODL.

CASE STORY
Dreams Come True

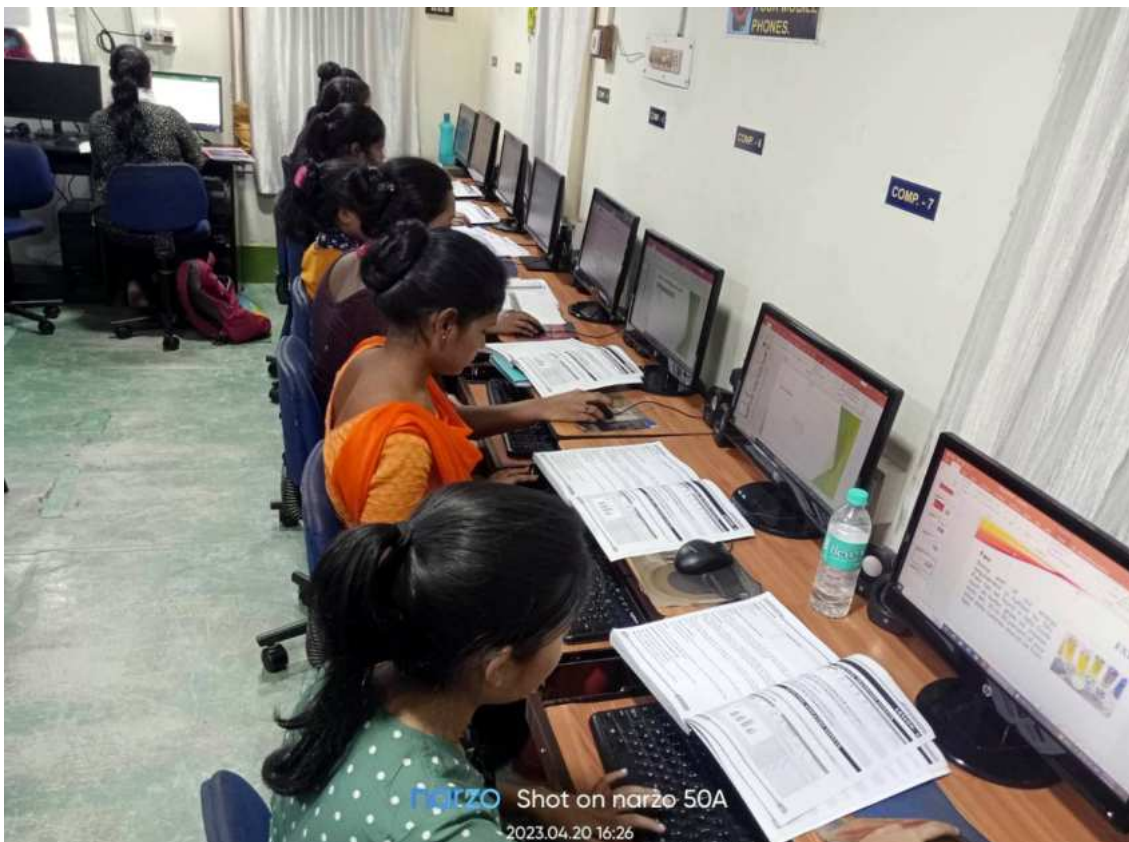


The life of Pana Marandi aged about 52 years from Rameshwar Nagar, Angargadia, Balasore and Sumitra Majhi aged about 60 years old from Durgapur changed with the arrival of the Women Literacy Centre. Both had a desire to write and read but it remained only a dream. Both the women were excited about writing and learning the basics of mathematics. Both of them attend the WLC centers regularly and take advantage of the opportunity. Today both of them feel their dream has come true and whenever they approach a bank or any other office and a stamp pad is extended for a thumb impression they smile and ask for pens and sign their names.

Education of Tribal Girls for a Sustainable Tomorrow

BSSS introduced skill-based education to the girls in the villages to empower them and keep the social evils of early marriage and unsafe migration. This program is implemented in Balasore, Keonjhar and Mayurbhanj and provides tailoring to 60 girls, embroidery to 15 students and Diploma in Computer Application (DCA) to 30 students. BSSS is grateful for the support extended by Indienhilfswerk Hilfezur Selbsthilfe, Liechtenstein, and Stichting Actie Calcutta (SAC)- Netherlands.

In different village areas tailoring centres are set up to make the young girls comfortable in



availing services from these centres. Sarat, Udala, Kusudiha and Ghatiduba of Mayurbhanj district and at Gopalgaon of Balasore district tailoring centres are set and training is being imparted.

Eighteen Students have already been selected across 3 districts and have joined the 11 identified computer centers and learning PGDCA, DCA, APGDCA, "O" level, DTP, CCC courses and BSSS is monitoring their progress.



BSSS - CHAMPION OF DISASTER PREPAREDNESS



BSSS ensures that life in all forms be saved from disaster at all times. Prior to the disaster BSSS coordinates with District authorities and partners to know what risks and hazards to prepare for. Hundreds of volunteers are trained and equipped as first responders to a wide range of hazards. BSSS closely works with communities to understand the needs of those most at risk and helps in preparing village disaster management plans (VDMP) for each village. BSSS sets up early warning systems so communities

can take early action before a disaster hits and evacuates vulnerable families to shelter homes. Dry food kits, safety kits, safe drinking water and other basic needs are made available to the disaster affected people.

BSSS helps the government to assess the destruction and take up saving measures. The communities are also helped with materials to repair their homes and are assisted with livelihood equipment.

Building Resilient Communities to Face Disasters- BMZ Global Program

BSSS is a champion of saving lives at all times and at all costs. BMZ Global Programme - Poverty Reduction and Food Security, Promoting Social Inclusion of Particularly Marginalized Groups and Increasing Resilience to Disasters in High-Risk Areas was implemented to reduce the risk by building resilience and focus on prevention of loss of life and property and thus recover better from actual disaster. The



marginalized and vulnerable are part of every planning process in the village-level decision and are made aware exclusively of the preparedness for disaster. BSSS, under the guidance of Caritas India, effectively intervenes in 15 villages of two Gram Panchayats of Andola and Balimeda of Bhadrak District, where the village task force teams are capacitated, risk elements are identified and disaster management plans are designed at village and panchayat level, which are being considered by the concerned authorities. Promotion of resilient agriculture and integrated farming system are also special features of the program where communities are strengthened to cope with the frequent natural disasters. Collaborating with District-Block administrations to bring out

effective disaster management plans and supporting all the stakeholders for its fruitful implementation are also major focuses of the program.

This program is funded by the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), the Government of Germany and Caritas Germany. BSSS is thankful and glad to work in collaboration with the agencies.

Village Disaster Management Plan (VDMP)

BSSS in compliance with Section 31 of the Disaster Management Act 2005 (DM Act), which makes it mandatory to have a disaster management plan for every district conducted workshops to familiarise the DDMP in 36 panchayaths of Basudevpur block of Bhadrak district and oriented the leaders on the same. A block-level coordination meeting was conducted where the leaders of the 36 panchayats came together and were enlightened on the disaster management plan that need to be prepared for all the villages of the block of Basudevpur.



GO-NGO Coordination

BSSS to make all its programs effective, meaningful and beneficial for the people creates a good rapport between the Government and other NGOs. Twice the Go-NGO meeting was conducted at the Bhadrak district level with the Government Department of Agriculture, Horticulture and Fishery and the 12 NGOs working in the district. Various schemes of each department, the process and means to reach the highest number of beneficiaries were discussed.

Prior to every natural disaster announced by the Meteorological Department of Odisha, under the leadership of the District administration and guidance of the District Disaster Management Authority, all the Nodal NGOs come together where BSSS also shares its experiential knowledge and skills to compact effectively the fourth coming disasters and mitigate the risks to its maximum.



Participatory Disaster Risk Analysis (PDRA)

BSSS prepared the people of Balimed and Andola Gram panchayat to combat disaster collectively. PDRA exercise was conducted in 15 villages. Major risk elements were identified for each village, discussed at the Gram Sabha and later incorporated into the Gram Panchayat Development Plan (GPDP). Thereafter double-platform tube wells are installed in Balimed Panchayat and an embankment was built around the Montie River in Charbatia village in Balimed Panchayat



We4Resilience Campaign

BSSS raised awareness of DRR through the we4resilience campaign in 15 villages of Basudevpur Block in the district of Bhadrak. Information was disseminated before the disaster like floods and heatwaves to reduce the risk and the community was ready to face any untoward incidents. The mobile van went around all 15 villages and leaflets related to the heat wave and early warning for the flood were distributed to the community.701 DRR volunteers are equipped and trained to use the emergency kit.



Task Force Preparedness



BSSS trained the volunteers to respond during the emergency, in all 15 villages of Balimeda and Andola in Bhadrak. Regular meetings and annual emergency drills are conducted to keep them informed about the need for preparedness and climate change adaptations. 10 task forces from 15 villages are first-hand responders in disaster and are equipped with emergency kits and are trained to use locally available materials for rescue. The volunteers are capable of providing first aid to the victims of the disaster.

Flood-Resistant Houses and Masonry Training



BSSS created 3 flood-resistant model houses for the beneficiaries to promote flood-resistant houses. 6 people were selected from the villages and were given masonry training by the engineers from OSDMA, Bhubaneswar. They educated the Masons on the technical aspects of flood-resistant building construction.



Creation of Resilience IFS Model

BSSS encouraged people to adopt the resilience-integrated farming system for better income opportunities. Integrated Farming System (IFS) promoted are feasible, sustainable and resilient to natural calamities and promote food security and income around the year. Paddy seeds(SWARN SUB-1 - Bina Dhan 11) which is a



high-yielding paddy variety for flood-prone areas (140 days duration / can tolerate submergence 14 to 17days), High platform for vegetable cultivation, especially in the water logging(brinjal, tomato, chilli, cucumber, long beans, Bottel Gourd, Simba) and Grow bag/ sack gardening cultivation are promoted in the area. Fish cultivation in Silpolin / ring ponds, horticulture poultry and Bio compost - Vermin, Azola, Nadeef, etc are other alternatives introduced among the people.



Familiarizing the Government Schemes



BSSS conducted training programs for PRI members, key leaders, AWW, and ASHA workers of all 15 villages. They were educated on the various schemes available for insurance and subsidised support from the departments of Agriculture, Horticulture, Veterinary and Fishery. Social security schemes for elderly, disabled and single mothers were also familiarised.

Linkage with Govt. Line Departments



BSSS has a good rapport with the government line departments and works in collaboration with them to better implement the programs. Interface meetings with the agriculture and horticulture government departments brought about access to the schemes available and benefits to the community. 100 beneficiaries received vegetable seeds from the horticulture department and the vegetables have brought extra income for the families. The officer from the Fishery department visited the field and trained the community on fish cultivation in the fish rings and ponds.

Aid to the Families in Distress

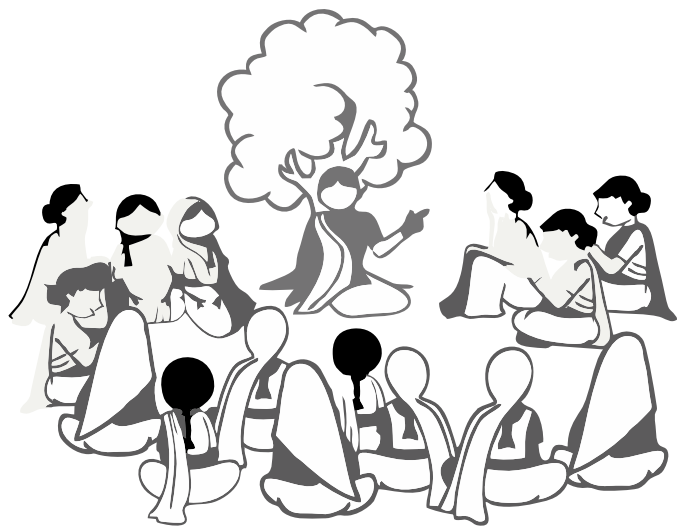


BSSS came to the aid of 17 families who lost their houses and belongings in the electrical fire in Basudevpur block of Bhadrak. The families were helped to go through all the processes to get compensation and their houses rebuilt. While the government provided these 17 families with cooked food and dry ration for 15 days, blankets, buckets, mugs and other toilet articles were provided by BSSS.



CBOs at the Service of the Community under the BMZ Program

Type of CBO	Total number of CBOs created/ strengthened	Number of Members	
		Male	Female
SHGs	60	-	606
DRR committees	10	175	94
Task force committees	10	238	146
Frontline Volunteers	51	30	21



BSSS – A PARTNER WITH THE GOVERNMENT TO COMBAT DISASTERS

Balasore Social Service Society, as a nodal NGO, extended all the assistance to OSDMA to conduct training programs for the Constitution of Cyclone Shelter Management and Maintenance Committee (CSMMC), Food Service Management Company FSMC and Task Force Volunteers at Baliapal, Balasore.

225 task force members across 30 Cyclone / Flood shelters were instructed on disaster response and shelter management and its maintenance. The volunteers were prepared to face disaster and prevent the valuable loss of life. They were trained to use the equipment available at their shelter. The major topics covered were social mobilization, resource identification and mobilization, early warning dissemination, Management of shelter after evacuation-from providing cooking food and emergency health service, basic of search and rescue, improvisation of stretchers, Survival skills, ropes in the rescue operation, knots and lashing in rescue, use of the ladder, floating devices, firefighting devices, SOP of equipment use and at the end rescue Volunteers demonstrated mock-drill.



Women-led Disaster Recovery and Disaster Preparedness - (WrDP)



BSSS initiated Women-Led Disaster Recovery and Disaster Preparedness (WrDP) in collaboration with Caritas India which was funded by Caritas Italiana. The main objective of this program is to reduce the loss of life of vulnerable communities during disasters, to ensure safety from waterborne ailments, provide access to basic needs during the disaster, and resume agricultural and allied livelihoods to mitigate migration and education of the children.

This program is implemented in the Sadar block of Balasore covering 3 Gram Panchayats of Olonda Saragaon, Kuradiha, and

Chhanua covering 10 villages.

The main activities that are carried out are the repair of 370 shelters, livelihood support for 310 people, the repairing of 100 toilets and restoring of 10 hand pumps. Besides, Community-based Risk reduction plans are developed and Task force committees are formed and equipped with emergency response kits.

BSSS is grateful to Caritas Italiana and Caritas India



Emergency Relief Support to the Flood-Affected Households

BSSS came to the rescue of the flood-affected victims of 18 villages of 3 Panchayats of the Baliapal block of Balasore district. With the swollen rivers inundating low-lying areas, the villagers were evacuated to safe places by the government authorities. Most of the people lost their mud houses and lost their standing crops of paddy and others.

In consultation with the District Emergency Officer, Balasore, PRI members and local leaders, the most affected 573 families from Asti, Baliapal and Madhupura Panchayats were selected and cash support was given to the families to rise against the loss created by the flash flood.

The BSSS team made physical verification of the beneficiary list received and collected all necessary documents and a cash transfer of ₹ 3000/- was made to their accounts.

BSSS discovered in its post-monitoring that 80% of the fund was utilised to generate other income sources while 18% fund was utilised to repair the houses and 2 % was utilised for daily consumption.

Thanks to the support of the Catholic Relief Service (CRS), Baltimore and CRS India.



WASH Kits, WASH Promotion & Cash Transfer



BSSS together with Caritas India carried out flood relief in the district of Balasore in 2 blocks namely Bhogarai and Balasore Sadar. The 12 most affected villages of 3 Gram Panchayats i.e. Jayrampur, Tukuri Hajira and Kumbhargadi of Bhograi blocks were provided with a wash kit worth ₹. 2342/- (Tarpaulin, floor mat, bathing soap, washing soap, bucket with cover and mug, mosquito net, mat, chlorine tablet, rope, sanitary pad, mask etc) to 1171 households and made a Multipurpose Cash Transfers



of ₹. 2500/- to 711 families. Water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) training in 12 villages of Bhogarai block were conducted. This program was funded by START FUND through Caritas India.

Dignity Kits and WASH Preparedness



BSSS reached out to the people of the Bhogarai block of Balasore district with dignity kits (plastic bucket with mug, lifebuoy soap, Rin supreme, ORS, Dettol, mask, sanitary clothes, nail cutter, combs) to 750 households. Hundred and fifty dilapidated toilets were restored in the area. Chlorination of contaminated tube wells, repair of handpumps and raising of double platforms for tube wells was carried out. Sensitisation programs, cleaning of the villages, and training for the masons were conducted. A WASH PREPAREDNESS PLAN was prepared for 5 villages. This program was carried out in collaboration with UNICEF and Caritas India.



Enhancing Climate Resilience of India's Coastal Communities (ECRICC)



BSSS is collaborating with the Forest, Environment and Climate Change Department, Govt. of India to develop the resilience of the lives and livelihoods of the most vulnerable populations particularly women, in the coastal areas of India to climate change and extreme events, using an ecosystem-centered and community-based approach. This program focuses on activities of Awareness, Training, Climate Adaptive Livelihoods and Capacity Building.

The program was introduced in the month of February and is in its infancy stage. 36 villages of 15 panchayats of Bhogarai & Baliapal blocks of Balasore districts are selected as the area for intervention. 14093 Households with a 59,661 population are the beneficiaries of the program. This program is funded by the Green Climate Fund(GCF), the Government of India, the Government of Odisha.



The program has been introduced at all 36 villages and 15 GP levels. The CBOs and the people have shown their willingness to collaborate and support the program for its smooth implementation. At both block-level, an inception program was conducted which was attended by the representatives of the people and the government officials.

There are 1133 SHGs in 15 Panchayats with 11,795 women members. BSSS is looking forward to make a difference in the lives of the people in the coastal areas in collaboration with all the partners.

BSSS AS A RESEARCH PARTNER

Capitalization of experience from savings and credit groups

BSSS is one of the selected partners of Secours Catholique Caritas France (SCCF) to organize a study on Capitalization. The study was facilitated by the expert consultant Ms. Delphine Larat under the guidance of the Agency to identify and document the good practices; activities, processes and strategies adopted in making the SHGs self-reliant, sustainable and autonomous in their initiative for holistic development. The 1st phase



commenced in the month of May 2022 and went up to September 2022. This phase was marked by visits and interactive sessions by Ms Delphine Larat with the various SHGs supported by BSSS in the district of Mayurbhanj and Balasore.

She analyzed the findings (gaps, challenges, difficulties, dos and don'ts) and developed a suitable course of direction for the BSSS as an organization and all its stakeholders, keeping the community at the center with special emphasis on the project

SWAAD. The 2nd phase began in the month of February 2023 and ended on 18th March 2023. In the 2nd phase, several remote workshops with the BSSS staff were conducted and three-day practical sessions in the SWAAD project field, where the participants were the target beneficiaries (FCs, SHGs and other common village people) of the project.

Both the 1st and the 2nd phases of the capitalization process enriched BSSS with processes to be followed, tools to be used and strategies to be adapted in empowering target communities towards self-reliance, sustainability and autonomy. Finally, a document has been prepared where the findings have been recorded for future references.



Development of IEC Materials



BSSS has organized training and workshops on various topics on agriculture, crop cultivation, the protection rights of children and women, IGA, different Govt. schemes, disaster management, education and health and hygiene. All these topics are made available to the people as a ready reference either through leaflets, brochures, wall paintings, or video shows.

Annual Day of BSSS

September 5th the day of Mother Teresa, Bharat Ratna, the highest civilian awardee, is commemorated as the annual day of BSSS. Every year, inspired by her work and life, BSSS marks this day with a humanitarian event. A blood donation-cum-eye donation pledging camp was organized on the campus of BSSS.

The Red Cross Blood Bank, Balasore collected the blood of 117 eligible persons. It was a moment of pride for BSSS because most of the blood donors were from the project areas and well-wishers. 94 people in and around Balasore pledged to donate their eyes to the blind and needy after their death which was indeed an act of great kindness towards humanity. At 10 am the program was inaugurated by the





District Emergency Officer, Balasore, flanked by CDMO, Balasore and president of BSSS cum Administrator of Diocese of Balasore and other members of Governing Board.

A sapling was given away to all the dignitaries and the blood donors with a message that together with saving lives one has the obligation to save the earth. The emergency Officer exhorted the staff and all the assembled to save life and our mother earth from destruction.

In honour of BSSS day, the staff visited Pratikya, a Home for the Mentally Challenged and persons with disability, and Sishu bhavan at Kuruda, Balasore. The members interacted with the inmates of both houses entertained them and distributed clothes and eatables. The joy of the inmates even in their nothingness touched the heart of every member.

The words of Mother Teresa echoed in their minds "A life not lived for others is not a life".

Sharing to Care – A Campaign against Hunger

Starving has different meanings to different people. Many of us starve but have means to satiate our hunger. BSSS realized that in the City of Missile, people are homeless and hungry. This reality pushed BSSS to begin its campaign against hunger in the streets of Balasore.



Sharing to care campaign was started in the year 2019 just before the COVID-19 pandemic and during the pandemic, thousands of hungry people in the street were fed through this campaign. Contributing to SDGs and based on the concept of 'Sharing community" one of the 5 pillars of Caritas India to set an initiative to help the poor with locally available resources, the campaign sustains 20 to 25 homeless and beggers everyday with cooked food like puri, upma, chickpeas and mixed vegetales. This program is sustained by the contribution of well-wishers, friends and people who sponsor food to the street dwellers on their special days.

Recognition of Covid Warriors



BSSS served thousands of people during the COVID-19 Pandemic. When everyone was behind closed doors BSSS staff and volunteers were there with the people on the streets and slums. BSSS distributed dry ration kits, safety kits, and cooked food in the govt hospital and streets, helped with the COVID hospital health desk, and counselling desk and conducted COVID awareness programs in busy streets and villages. This was possible because of the dedication and commitment of the staff and the volunteers to humanity. This humanitarian gesture was recognized and celebrated by honouring all the staff and volunteers with a memento on the special occasion of the BSSS annual picnic.

Covid Warriors in Action



GENERAL ACTIVITIES

Staff Meeting



Visitors to BSSS



A Day for Yoga



With ECRICC team



Capacity Building on DRR by Caritas India

Caritas Germany Visitors to BSSS



Nilachakra FPO visit by NABARD Team, Balasore



State level consultation on Millet & climate change



National conference on We4Resilience



Christmas Celebration



Lenten Campaign



Picnic



Light
The Flame
2022

Joining hands
with Manos Unidas in solidarity with the poor



Independence Day



Republic Day



**Interns from Marian College
Kuttikkanam, Kerala**



Interns from Assam Don Bosco University, Assam



BSSS Team	
Satyanarjan Mohapatra	Sarmistha Sen
Binita Singh	Sandhyarani Sahoo
Chakradhar Rout	Sibayen Jena
Sangram Murmu	Aurobindo Patra
Jayasmita Das	Uttam Kumar Biswal
Sambid Giri	Alok Nayak
Anirudha Patra	Daniel Subudhi
Silu Saha	Jay Behera
Barsha Priyadarshini	Binsen Joseph
Satyajeet Behera	Juli Gomes
Chandrasekhar Panda	Puja Marandi
Lulu Soren	Hrushikesh Mohanty,
Julie Hembrom	Surendra Singh
Rajib Giri	Sr. Clara D'Souza

Field Staff	111
Education Instructors	48
Volunteers	250

Governing Body



Fr. Isaac
Puthenangady



Fr. Jose



Fr. Paul



Mrs. Mita
Mohanty



Sr. Vineetha



Fr. Lijo



Fr. Sunil

BSSS Staff



Tribute to a Friend



John William Barick

*"Some people come into our lives and quickly go.
Some stay for a while, leave footprints on our hearts,
and we are never, ever the same."*

~ Flavia Weedn



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**DAVID R. ASSOCIATES
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS**

BALASORE SOCIAL SERVICE SOCIETY
AT: P.N. Wang P.O./Dist.: Balasore, Orissa, India
Name of the Accountant: **Consolidated A/C (Local & Foreign)**
Receipts & Payments Account for the period from 01.04.2022 to 31.03.2023
relating to the F.Y. 2022 - 2023

[illegible]

for Day



BSSS is a non- profitable organization that continues to render its services with passion in society through financial support of individual donors, national & international organizations that shares a common mission of working for the marginalized. Without their support we would have not been able to transform the lives of thousands of people and enable them with the decent living conditions. To remain committed & keep continued its services to community; BSSS seeks the help of people like you. You too can bring smile to the little faces of the vulnerable children, empower the women, reduce the food insecurity in the region and above all prepare the community for natural calamities. We assure you your little actions, in whatever form will be taken note of and appreciated. BSSS promises to account your smallest of the donations and utilize it positively for the improvement of the lives of the poor.

You can send your donations in favour of "Balasore Social Service Society" through cheque or demand draft at this address:

Balasore Social Service Society,

Vivekananda Marg, Balasore 756001,

Phone:++ 91 - 6782 296540 | Email: talk2bsss@gmail.com | Web address: [www.bsssodisha .org](http://www.bsssodisha.org)

All your donations would be exempted from Income Tax under 80G.

Our Esteemed Donor Partners





annual report 2023

BALASORE SOCIAL SERVICE SOCIETY

Vivekananda Marg, Balasore 756 001

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