

ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT(3RD YEAR)

PROJECT TITLE: “SURAKHYA” A Joint Venture to Safeguard the Right and Dignity of Children in Mayurbhanj



Supported by:



Implemented by:



Balasore Social Service Society –BSSS
Vivekananda Marg, Balasore

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Acronyms:

Sl.No.	Acronyms	
1	AGG	Adolescent Girls Group
2	CCPC	Community Child Protection Committee
3	CWC	Child Welfare Committee
4	SVC	School Vigilant Committee
5	HDI	Human Development Index
6	DCPO	District Child Protection Officer
7	CDPO	Child Development Project Officer
8	SP	Superintendent of Police
9	DEO	District Education Officer
10	BEO	Block Education Officer
11	GP	Gram Panchayat
12	SHG	Self Help Group
13	BDO	Block Development Officer
14	LO	Labour Officer
15	PRI	Panchayati Raj Institution
16	GRS	Gram RojgarSevak
17	CBO	Community Based Organization
18	ASHA	Accredited Social Health Activist
19	AWW	Anganwadi Worker
20	POCSO	Protection of Children from Sexual Offences
21	JJB	Juvenile Justice Board
22	OIC	Officer In-Charge
23	IIC	Inspector In-Charge
24	CCI	Child Care Institution
25	LS	Lady Supervisor

1. General information:

1	Title of the project	“SURAKHYA” A joint venture to safeguard the rights and dignity of children in Mayurbhanj
	Name of the Organization	Balasore Social Service Society (BSSS).
2	Address (Street, Dist, State, Pin-Code)	At: Vivekananda Marg, PO/Dist-Balasore, Odisha -756001
3.	Ph.& Fax No(withSTD)	06782-296540, +91 9439253633
4	Email	talk2bsss@gmail.com
5	Name of the Director/ Chief Functionary / Project Holder	Fr. Lijo George, Balasore Social Service Society (BSSS), Odisha.
6	Registration Details	Societies’ Registration Act XXI of 1860. Regd. No :- 19342/61 of 1992-93.
7	Act under which registered	1. Society Registration 1860 Act XXI. 2. Income Tax Act (U/s 12 A) 3. Foreign Contribution Regulation Act
8	Date of Registration	Dated: 24th October 1992.
9	FCRA No & date of Registration	104820098 dated 12 th August 2004 and renewed vide letter # 0300083812021 dated 23 rd March ‘2022
10	Banking details (Account No, Name and Address of the Bank)	A/ c Holder: Balasore Social Service Society A/c No. 40105891921 Bank – State Bank of India, Branch Code - 00691 IFSC – SBIN0000691 SWIFT – SBININBB104 New Delhi Main Branch-II, SansadMarg, New Delhi 110001
11	PAN No	AAFTS2095G
12	Target Group / location	80 villages and 60 Educational institutions of Mayubhanj Dist. of Odisha.
13	Project Duration	3 Years
14	Total Amount received (November 2021 to October 2022)	MISEREOR – Rs.2320082.50
		MANOS UNIDAS – Rs.718289.9
15	Total Expense (November 2021 to October 2022)	Rs.3322600.60

2. Background of the project:

The district of Mayurbhanj is among the most backward districts category. A joint survey conducted by the US-India Policy Institute and the New Delhi-based Centre for Research and Debates in Development Policy has found that eight districts of Odisha are among the 50 most backward districts in the country. Mayurbhanj is one among the eight. In terms of the Human Development Index (HDI) Mayurbhanj is also among the most poverty-stricken districts of Odisha with HDI of 0.12. of the 30 districts of Odisha, Mayurbhanj stands at a dismal 26 position and 564 in all India ranking.

Child protection issues become particularly important in areas which are economically and socially backward and poor. According to UNICEF, Odisha has the second highest proportion of scheduled caste and tribal people in India, and these communities constitute almost half of the state's poor. Odisha still has the third highest infant mortality rate in India.

A UNICEF report on Challenges and Opportunities (Odisha) states that nearly half of the blocks in Odisha are identified as educationally backward and rural female literacy is lower than the national average. Improving school attendance, reducing drop-outs in socially disadvantaged groups and ensuring the quality of education are serious concerns. These challenges are vivid among the tribal population and are compounded by the diversity of languages and dialects spoken by the tribal people. The state has the highest percentage of children aged between 6-14 years who are out of school. Child trafficking and child labour are major challenges. Early marriage and subsequent early pregnancy are common, especially in tribal areas.

Odisha ranks 13th among the Indian states with 21.3% of child marriages. The district of Mayurbhanj is among the severely affected districts of Odisha in matters of Child Protection. According to National Family Health Survey - 4 (2015-2016) by International Institute for Population Sciences, around 17.7 % of women aged between 15-19 years in Mayurbhanj were already mothers or pregnant during the time frame of the survey.

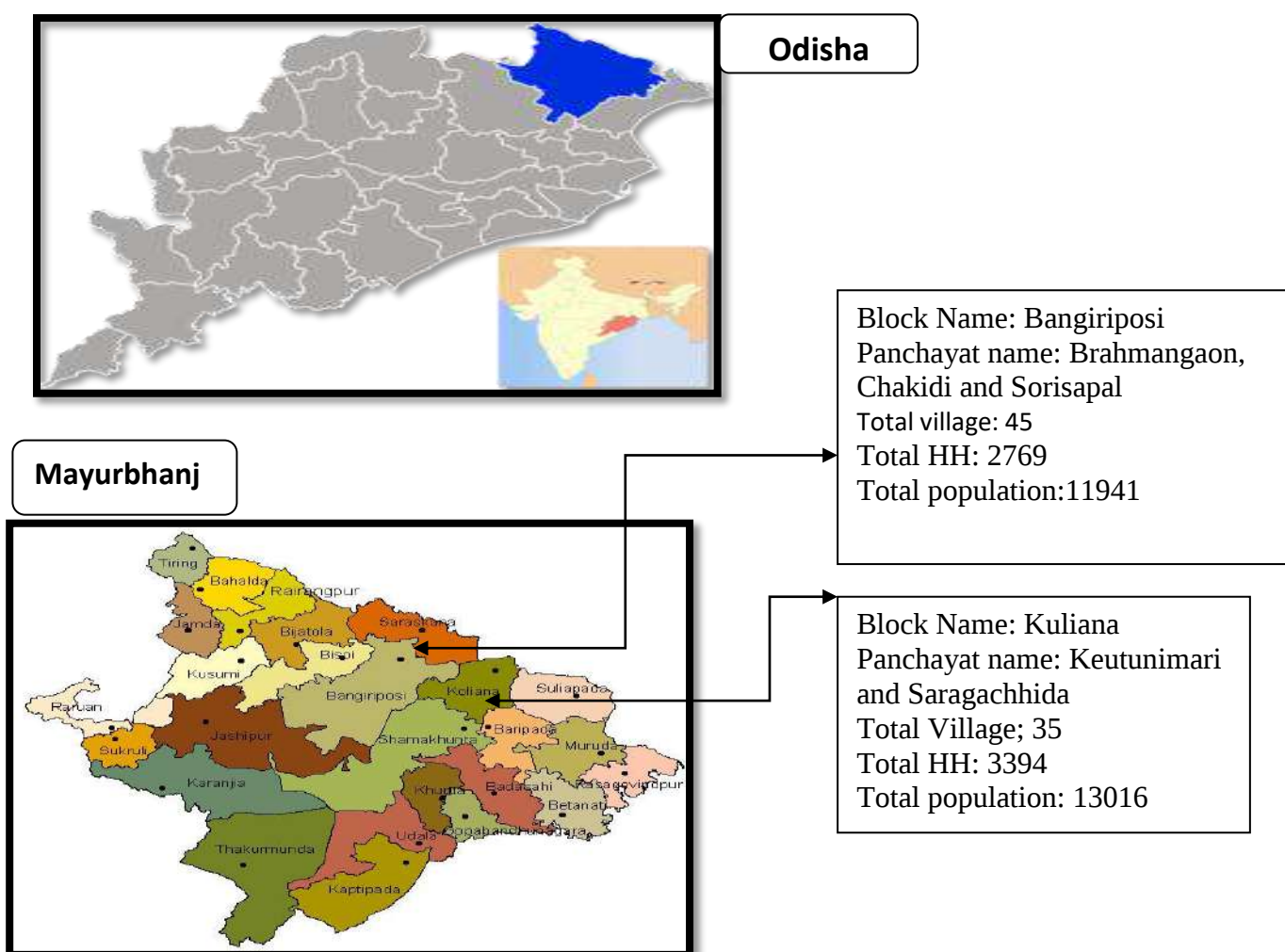
According to a series of media reports from early 2019, rape of minors and trafficking is on the rise in the district of Mayurbhanj. Many of these incidents take place in school hostels where girl students reside. According to the U.S. State Department's Trafficking in Persons 2013 report, India has between 20 – 65 million people in forced labor and reports of forced marriage occurring in Odisha have increased in recent years. Ninety percent of trafficking cases are internal and occur among the poorest, the most vulnerable groups. In a news report by Matters India, published on April 10, 2015, in Odisha 11,000 girls below the age of 15 attained motherhood. In another recent report by Matters India published on July 26, 2019, Odisha is fast turning out to be one of the most unsafe places for minor girls and boys.

Besides that, the number of cases of child marriage is in increasing trend as reported. It is seen that child marriage is a usual practice in tribal communities. There is a lot of abuse on girl children in the villages, hostels, and schools. These are also evident in media reports. In most of the tribal areas of the district Mayurbhanj, the hostels and schools have become a hub of misuse. Even after knowing all these facts and incidents on minor girls, the parents are still willing to send away their children with others/mediators for engagement into the different works without thinking about the pros and cons of the situation or environment of the places of working or people with whom these minors are working. Primarily the main reason is poor economic conditions and security issues. In such a situation the girl children become the victims of migration, child marriage, child labour, sexual abuse etc. Though there is Government mechanism to address the issues of children such as Odisha State Child Protection Society, District Child Protection Units/ Child welfare Committee/ District Child Protection office/Juvenile Justice Board/ Special Juvenile Police unit at Mayurbhanj to address the issues of children at Mayurbhanj, often they fail to stop these inhuman practices and protect the children.

In order to reduce such inhuman practices as mentioned above as well as to safeguard the rights and dignity of minors especially of the girls of the 5 operational GPs of the 2 blocks of Mayurbhanj district, BSSS is implementing the project SURAKHYA "A joint venture to safeguard the Rights and Dignity of Children in Mayurbhanj" with the support of Misereor and Manos Unidas. The proposed intervention is aiming at "creating an environment where children are able to enjoy their child rights, especially right to protection". Already the project has completed 6

months in implementing different activities amidst the protocols of the pandemic corona virus. The different activities implemented are given below on the next page.

3. Project area and the district Map of Odisha



4. Project Goal:

Creating an environment where Children are able to enjoy their child rights, especially the right to protection

5. Specific Objectives:

Objective 1: Child protection issues have reduced by 50% in the two blocks of Mayurbhanj district

Objective 2: 50% of the key stakeholders (families, school teachers, hostel in-charges, caregivers of children and local PRI members) are taking proper actions to prevent and reduce issues related to child protection and child trafficking

Objective 3: 50% of the child protection issue has been resolved with proper action by the duty bearers

Levels of intervention:

- (A) At the community level: - Children under the age of 18 years and their parents along with the village community
- (B) Educational institutions level: - Schools, hostels, teachers and caretakers of children in the hostels
- (C) Government department: -all the line departments (District Child Protection office, Child Welfare committees, Police, labor office)

Activities implemented with the support of Manos Unidas Budget

A. Objective 1:

Child protection issues have reduced by 50% in the two blocks of Mayurbhanj district

3. Situation assessment (base line) and identification of government and private educational, boarding and hostels in and around 5 panchayats of Mayurbhanj and concrete planning with them

Sl.N o.	Name of the Activity	Target plan Nov – 2022 to Oct - 2023		Coverage		
		Target	Achieve ment	Distri ct/Pa	No. of cases	Name of office

				nchay ats		
3.1 (R1 A.1.4)	Collection of the secondary data of the present scenario of the whole district (details of 5 GPs)	-	-	-	-	-

No secondary data from different offices are available as they keep no records against the child abuses.

Sl.No.	Name of the Activity	Target plan Nov – 2022 to Oct - 2023		Coverage		
		Target	Achievement	District/Panchayats	No. of cases	Name of the office
3.2 (R1 A.1.5)	Gather the official information/ number of cases of child abuse in the operational area	-	-	-	-	-

Though the BSSS has been able to develop and maintain good relationship with various departments concerned to child protection at district and block level, yet the officers entrusted to it keep no records of child abuses with them. So, the organisation has not been able to gather information from the officials.

Sl.No.	Name of the Activity	Target plan Nov – 2022 to Oct - 2023		Coverage		
		Target	Achievement	Village	Type of cases	No. of cases
3.3 (R1 A.1.6)	Gather unofficial information of the numerous cases of child abuse from the communities and other reliable	-	-	67	* Child marriage * Orphan	36 09

)	sources				* Dropout * Missing * Abuse * Child labour	19 01 01 01
	Total					67

In comparison to the 1st year the cases of child protection/trafficking have reduced in succeeding years. It is due to the realization of people followed by presence and active involvement of the promoted structures like CCPC, AGG, SVC as well as involvement of the concerned departments in taking up cases reported to them. After three years of intervention still there are more than 50% stakeholders who have not yet internalized the importance of protection issues. Because of this reason the above 67 cases are coming out from the communities. However, whatever cases are coming out is being dealt in accordingly.

Table on status of cases addressed till date

Sl.No.	Type of case	No. of cases till date collected	No. of cases resolved completely	No. of cases resolved but later failed	No. of cases still under observation
1	Child marriage	63	44	13	6
2	Child labour	30	15	14	1
3	Dropouts	221	94	85	42
4	Child abuse/Physical torture	5	5	-	-
5	Orphan	8	8	-	-
6	Rape	1	1	-	-
7	Missing	1	1		
	Total	329	168 (51%)	112 (34%)	49 (15%)

Table on villages where child abuse cases have been stopped so far

Sl.No.	Type of case	No. of villages out of 80	%
1	Child marriage	51	63.75
2	Child labour	66	82.5
3	Dropouts	21	26.25
4	Physical torture	77	96.25
5	Orphan	75	93.75

Sl.No.	Name of the Activity	Target plan Nov – 2022 to Apr - 2023		Coverage	
		Target	Achievement	District/ Panchayats	No. of departments/ educational institutes
3.4 (R1 A.1.7)	Build rapport with the departments and educational institutions and acquaint with the scenario and systems existing with regards to the safety of their students	-	-	-	8 departments including 20 schools

Sensitization to the people including school students through promoted SVCs and AGGs in the hostel has brought a sense of securing the rights and dignity of children in the minds and hearts of the duty bearers. The key stakeholders of the communities i.e. the members of CCPCs and GPCPCs including AGGs are also making themselves well aware of about the departments concerned and their roles and responsibilities so that to avail the supports as needed. Besides that they are also guiding the people specially the victims to follow the proper procedures to approach the departments with the existing systems.



Results achieved:

- ❖ More than 45% key stakeholders like Anganwadi workers, PRI members, of 80 communities have good relationship with departments concerned
- ❖ 73% members of CCPC, AGG and GPCPC of 80 villages are aware of about the existing systems of child safety

5. Formation and strengthening of Community Child Protection Committee (CCPC) at village level:

Details of activities conducted

Sl.No.	Name of the Activity	Target plan Nov – 2021 to Oct - 2023	Coverage

		Target	Achievement	Village	Participants	Officials
5.3 (R2 A.2. 4)	Village level community awareness program by CCPC	-	80	80	2450	-

Within this three years of intervention the CCPCs and the AGGs including the other key stakeholders of the communities have gathered information upon the importance of child rights protection. The AGGs and the CCPCs have involved themselves not only in finding out the cases but also engaged themselves in solving those



issues including rehabilitating the victims. All these have increased their knowledge and understanding as well as



enabled them to sensitize the fellow community members with practical examples. The above said initiatives of CCPCs have increased proper understanding in 45% key stakeholders upon the child rights and government schemes available for

the victim children.

Results achieved:

- The CCPC members are speaking out the issues confidently without any fear
- 45% key stakeholders of the communities have increased proper understanding on child rights and protection
- The guidance and cases resolving capacities of CCPCs have increased cooperation from the community members in addressing the child protection issues

8. Providing specific and knowledge-based awareness support to vulnerable families

Sl.No.	Activity Name	Target plan Nov – 2022 to Apr - 2023		Coverage	
		Target	Achievement	No. of victims students	No. of families
8.3 (R2)	Livelihood support for the vulnerable/families affected	-	-	6	6

A.2. 11)	(FOLLOW UP)				

In the 2nd year 6 vulnerable families had been supported with livelihood options. The purpose was to strengthen their economy and thereby to enable the victims to meet their needs in some extent as well as to continue their studies. The details of their present status have been given in the below.

Livelihood support for vulnerable/families affected:

Mathura Tudu, an orphan boy who had been supported with goat for his care as well as to continue his studies. He had been supported with 2 goats and now the number of goat has been increased to 3. The boy Mathura Tudu is continuing his studies in Child Care Institute where he had been admitted.



Raisen Hembram of village Bethjharan, who was a dropout and had been under the costudy of his elder brother, is continuing his study in class IX and 2 goats supported have increased to 4 in number.

Sonamani Murmu who was under the costudy of his grandfather, had been supported with 10 chicks. Within this period the chicks had grown up in size and number. Out of the total 25 chicks, 10 chicks had been sold out and the money received from the same had been utilized for the study and the Sonamani has been able to complete her +2 standard successfully.



Jayamani Bhakta, age 15 years, was living with her lonely mother had been supported with 2 goats. The supported goats have been increased to 3 and she is also continuing her study in class-X.

Meghray Marndi of Chalunia village who had last year been supported with 2 goats as livelihood. Her mother is rearing and he is continuing his study in class –VIII.



Ruma Sing, 16 years an orphan teenage girl, who had been supported with chicks to earn her living. She sold out some grown up chicks in the market

and with the money earned she has further bought another 25 new chicks to rear. In this way she is increasing her earning.

9. Building community awareness and conscientisation

Sl.No.	Name of the Activity	Target plan Nov – 2022 to Apr - 2023		Coverage		
		Target	Achievement	GP/Village	Total member	Category of member in GPCPC
9.2 (R2 A.2.1 3)	Formation of GP level federation (GPCPC) of CCPC and linkage with government line departments (FOLLOW UP)	-	5	5/80	60	- Sarapancha - ANM - Primary school teacher - Panchayat Executive Officer - Lady supervisor - Anganwadi worker - High school teacher - Eminent person - Social worker - Adolescent girl - Adolescent boy - BSSS staff



Last year the GP level structure (GPCPC) had been renewed with orientation to the 12 members upon their roles and responsibilities. As per orientation and their roles and responsibilities outlined, the members are sitting quarterly and are reviewing the child protection issues of the GP. Besides that whatever issues are coming to them, they are taking part into it to render best possible support. The selected CCPC members also use to participate in these meetings. At least 45% members along with CCPCs are strongly involved in the child protection issues.

Results achieved:

- The GPCPC members make themselves available in handling the critical cases of the project
- At least 45% GPCPC members are quite regular and active in cooperating the project initiatives

10. Establishing and strengthening reporting and referral mechanism

Sl.No.	Name of the Activity	Target plan Nov – 2022 to Oct - 2023		Coverage	
		Target	Achievement	No. of cases reported	From no. of communities
10.1 (R3 A.3.1)	Effective and safe mechanisms established for children or adults to report abuse, neglect or exploitation of children. The mechanism should link informal and formal mechanisms appropriately (FOLLOW UP)	-	67	67	12

The project has already established an effective way of reporting the cases. As per decision in the communities the stakeholders have been asked to report the cases either to the CCPC or to the AGG including project staff as soon as they get any information about the child abuse. Then it is the responsibility of the CCPC members to get further information about the case to confirm it. Later, at the confirmation, a date with venue of meeting is fixed up where the violators of the rights/dignity along with their guardians are invited to participate. If the case gets resolved in the meeting then it ends up there. If it doesn't happen so, then the case is referred to the CDPO and through CDPO it goes up to the CWC, DCPO and to local police as per need. Till now, the above way of handling and resolving the cases has been an effective way of reporting and the same is properly linking both the informal and formal mechanism of reporting.



Results achieved:

- Most of the cases (54 out of 67 cases) are being resolved in the community itself by the intervention of CCPCs
- 13 rehabilitation cases have been reported to the department concern following the formal procedures of reporting and have been successful

Sl.No.	Name of the Activity	Target plan Nov – 2022 to Oct - 2023	Coverage
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		Target	Achievement	No. of referral cases	Types of cases
10.2 (R3 A.3.2)	Referral and case management services established for children who who have been abused, exploited or neglected (FOLLOW UP)	-	67	13	Orphan – 7 Child marriage and early pregnancy-4 Neglected – 1 and Missing case - 1

Altogether 67 cases had been detected from the communities and of which 13 cases have been referred to the departments within this one year. These cases were of different types as mention above in the last right column. These cases were beyond the capacity of the CCPCa to resolve them in the community. The legal holders involved in these cases were CWC, DCPO and CDPO. For the referral and case management services, the children those have been abused are taking the support of their friends (AGG members), close relatives and Anganwadi workers. Besides that for required services they are depending upon the advice and knowledge about the departments or institutions rendering services.



11. Linkage with PRI, Police station and relevant government offices

Sl.No.	Name of the Activity	Target plan Nov – 2022 to Oct - 2023		Coverage	
		Target	Achievement	No. of officials	Names of offices
11.2 (R3 A.3.4)	Constant interaction with officials and updating of the issues and cases (FOLLOW UP)	-	-	12	- District Education Officer - Block Education Officer - District Welfare Officer - District Social Welfare Officer - District Child Protection Unit

					- Child Welfare Committee - Childline - Police - Child Development Project Officer - Block Development Officer - Integrated Child Development Scheme - Welfare Extension Officer
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Starting from the inception to the end of the project in different occasions and needs the government line departments have been kept involved with the project. Prior to intervention the departments had been given information through letters about the project and its location; during the project span of three years, many of them had been involved by inviting them as resource persons to the specific activities of the project, cases unsolved in the communities had been referred to them for solution, periodically these departments had been visited to apprise them about the ongoing activities and cases detected with resolved. Besides that during interface program a number of officers use to come to attend the program and each of them deliver speech on different schemes available for the children. In this way the project has developed and is maintaining good relationship with the above departments. The CCPCs including the key community members have also acquainted themselves with these departments.



D. Other Activities

b. (R0 A.0.5) Activity: Quarterly review cum evaluation meeting at BSSS

The objective of the activity:

- To review the quarterly plan versus levels of progress achievement
- To assess the staff performance and suggest measures for improvement
- To revise the quarterly plan based on the review findings

Activity in brief:



The asusual review meeting is conducted regularly on each quarter. The project staff including the animators use to attend the meeting. The director presides over the meeting. Following the process, each and every staff present their achievement against the target plan for review. Then there are common discussion about how far the expected results have been achieved followed by difficulties/challenges faced. Based upon the above discussion and findings, plan for next quarter was prepared followed by types of supports they need to carryout the quarterly plan. Finally, at the end the staff members prepare their monthly action plan with request for support if needed.

Results achieved:

- The staff members became able to pin point the areas needing to be emphasized further for better results
- Enhanced their knowledge on process of documenting the changes brought about

C. Annual Evaluation (External):

Objective of the activity

- To measure the achievement level in relation to the objectives set forth
- To locate the gaps in the project implementation for further improvement
- To gather learning from the intervention made and apply the same in future projects

Activity in brief:

As per plan there was annual evaluation and for the same an outsider expert in evaluation had been invited for three days. During his evaluation, he visited different village, sat with the communities (CCPC, AGG and SVC) separately and interacted with them about the project, how the project is benefiting them and how the communities are carrying ahead the protection issues for the safety and protection of the children. Besides that he also interacted with some of the government stakeholders to know their involvement and sort their opinion on the impact of the project. The details of evaluation report has been attached separately with this report.

D. Endline Survey:

Towards the end of the phase – I, the project conducted endline survey to know the impact of the project. On a random basis it selected 40% of the villages from the two operational blocks and covered 780 respondents. The questionnaires were of four different types, i.e. (1) concept of child and the importance of child protection (2) how far the parents are capable of protecting their child (3) how far the children are comfortable in bringing the decisions taken against them to their favour and (4) how far the duty bearers (government stakeholders) are approachable (to parents and children) and sensitive to their roles in protecting the child. Against these questions the

responses as follows – almost 80% of the parents are well aware of about the importance of child protection but of them only 45% to 50% parents are capable enough to give protection to their children. In the same way with regard to children and their capacity to bring the decision taken against them to their favour, it is only the 7% to 10% children who are confident enough to influence the decisions in favour of them. Similarly with regard to the trust on the support to be received from the government stakeholders is only 20% to 35%.



Government supported activities (without budget)

a. Martial arts for self defence:

In today's world mastering the skills of martial arts has become necessary specially for girls/women to safeguard themselves from the anti-socials, people wilfully harming them and their modesty. It is observed that often the girls are being harrshed and abused against their willingness. But they are being minor and have no means of getting out of the situation, they bound to become the prey to the anti-social people. In such a situation, the need of martial arts for self defence is quite important. Realizing this fact specially for the girls of boarding hostels, the government has introduced martial arts sessions as often these hostels have been a places of child abuses. The resource person for this martial arts session was a professional in martial arts, deputed by the government for the purpose. He taught this martial arts to the girls of 6 different hostels in the Bangiriposi project area. Altogether 230 girls learnt self defence skills.



b. Capacity building of project staff on counselling

The child protection project safeguarding the rights and dignity of the children specially the girls, is primarily a project of sensitizing and resolving the issues of child abuses/trafficking (child marriage, child labour, school dropouts, physical and mental exploitation, neglecting of orphans etc.) through counselling of both the parents and the children. As counselling is crucial to settling any issues, the project needed it to build up the capacity of its staff members. Accordingly there was a training on counselling for the project staff of child protection. The resource person for the training was from CWC, Mayurbhanj. The various topics he covered are –



- * Child rights and existing constitutional framework
- * Importance, components and need of counselling
- * Counselling theories and approaches
- * Counselling skills and techniques
- * Understanding clients and follow up

In the training there were 14 participants and they increased their understanding, skills and techniques of counselling.

c. Celebration of women's Day

During the reporting period International Women's Day was observed in collaboration with the block level line departments of government. The participants for this program were mainly women i.e. anganwadi workers, ASHA, SHGs members as well as members from AGGs. The main purpose of the program was to mainstream the gender rights, i.e. to reduce gender prejudices, fight for gender equity, reproductive rights, violence against women and child abuse. The resource persons for the program were Chairman of Panchayat Samiti, BDO, CDPO, BEO and IIC-police, Chandua. They encouraged the women, talked about their rights, dignity and empowerment. In the celebration there were 150 women including AGG members. The anganwadi workers were awarded with prizes for their outstanding performances.



d. Celebration of national deworming day

There was National Deworming Day celebration in the schools. It was a program of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. The purpose of the program was to make every child of the country worm-free. This is done by improving the overall health, nutritional status, access to education and quality of life of every child. So, this day has been observed in the entire district of Mayurbhanj by covering all the schools and Anganwadi centers. There were Anganwadi workers, ASHA, ANM and PHC doctors to distribute deworming tablets. The project staff of Bangiriposi collaborated with government health workers and covered 60 schools with deworming program.



e. Haemoglobin test for girls

In the rural area deficiency of haemoglobin in the adolescent girls is common and which retards their growth and development in the body. The prolonged haemoglobin deficiency in the body is expected to develop anaemic condition which causes various complications. In order to prevent adolescent girls from such situations/health complications the government health department use to conduct haemoglobin test for girls. During this reporting period one such test had been conducted in Maa Sitala Government High School, Bangiriposi under the guidance of Medical Officer. The above test had been conducted in 105 girls and of which around in 50% girls haemoglobin deficiency had been found. All the girls had been provided with vitamins and iron tablets. Besides that they had been advised about types of food to be taken to maintain the haemoglobin in the body.



f. One day orientation program to support person on POCSO Act:

The District Child Protection Unit (DCPU) had organized an orientation program on POCSO Act-2012 (Protection of Child from Sexual Offence) in Baripada of Mayurbhanj. The purpose of the program was to select the support staff from the district and prior to engage them in to their area, had been oriented on POCSO Act. 2012. In this program there altogether 35 participants and they were District Child Protection Officer, District Law Officer, Women and Child development officer, member expert from Child Welfare Committee, DSP cum HRC, and member of District Consumer court including NGO representatives from the district. The selected support persons were outlined with their roles and responsibilities.



g. One day workshop on Beti bochao beti padhao (to save the girl, educate the girl child):

“Beti bachao betu padhao” save the girl by educating the girl child is scheme of central government to encourage not only the girls but also their parents towards girl child. The purpose is to ensure safety and education for girl child by providing them social, economic and health facilities to them. The particular workshop had been conducted in the district level and where various department personnel like the District Collector, District



Legal Service Authority Officer, District Child Protection Officer, President of Jilla Parishad, District Labour Officer, Chairman of Child Welfare Committee, CDMO District Hospital, Baripada, District Education Officer, all the BDO, CDPO, BEO of 26 block including the NGOs attended the program. The DCPO was the person responsible for conducting this workshop.

Conclusion:

Looking at the rural people especially the tribal residing in the remote, the project “SURAKHYA” A joint venture to safeguard the rights and dignity of children in Mayurbhanj is fitting to them and their situation as they are prone to the negative effects of numerous socio-cultural, education and economic condition. Hence, the journey of the project from the year 2020 to 2023 has indeed been an eye opener for them. Almost all the stakeholders of 80 villages including duty bearers have recognized the need and importance of the project. The community structures (CCPC, AGG, SVC etc.) promoted to take ahead and to own the systems of protecting and safe guarding the rights and dignity of children, have also come up taking responsibilities. As a results of which 35% key stakeholders have actively involved in taking proper actions in resolving the issues related to child protection/trafficking. Within these three years of intervention followed by the findings/suggestions of external evaluation, BSSS could learn a lot to handle the project properly along with have found some new ideas/knowledge for making the project intervention more effective. It is true that child protection like sensitive issue which is so deeply rooted in the society generations, needs more time to change the people and their attitudes and really it is a challenging task before the BSSS. In order to take this phase-I learning and achievement further ahead, an extension proposal for another three years have been submitted to the esteemed agency. In this phase-II proposal another 52 new villages have been added, in order to make the project and to enlarge the circle of safety net for the children. Enlarging the project area is a need to safe guard the rights and dignity of children especially the girls by covering more people and spreading the protection issues.

The stakeholders specially the girls have immensely been benefitted of the project. They including their parents have started thinking about the wrongs of child abuses and are growing up with new thoughts to safe guard the child rights. The project has saved many girls from ruining their future by being married in early age, being drop out of the schools etc. Hence, the parents, children and specially the girls have extended their gratitude to the esteemed agency. BSSS is also grateful to the esteemed agency for the support and cooperation in this journey to safeguard the lives of the children becoming victims to the ill practices of the society.

Case studies:

Gauri Hansdah (Child Marriage)

Gauri Hansdah, a 15 years teenage girl belongs to Chakidi village of Keutunimari Gp of Kuliana Block. She was once a school dropout student who had been enrolled in the school through Project Surakhya in the year 2021 and had also been admitted in Rangisole Girls hostel. Time rolled on and on Oct 2022 she again dropped her studies and stayed at her house.

In due course of time she fell in love with Sushant Patra, a boy from Bhaliatilou village and they both absconded to a place named Ghodabondha on 10th Feb 2023. The news spread everywhere and came to the knowledge of Mrs. Arati Mohanta (AWW) and on 11th Feb 2023, she informed this matter to Mr. Benjamin Hansdah (Animator, Surakhya).



On 15th Feb 2023, a meeting was held at the residence of Mr. Chaku Hansdah (father of Gauri Hansdah) where the Village Ward member, AWW, SHG members, Club members and other CCPC members along with Block Supervisor of Surakhya; Miss. Barsha Priyadarshini were present. In the meeting the matter was discussed with Mr. Chaku Hansdah and proper awareness on Child marriage was given to him. He was strictly advised to bring back her daughter home as soon as possible.

Finally on 16th Feb 2023, Chaku Hembram brought back Gauri to home and assured the CCPC members that he will keep her daughter with him until she attains her legal marriage age and after that he can solemnize her marriage. During a recent follow up it was found that Gauri is currently staying with her father.

Three Orphan Children of a vulnerable family produced in CWC, Baripada

Late Madan Marndi and Late Srimati Marndi left their five children as orphan (Three daughters and two sons). After they passed away, Madan's brother was looking after them. Madan's brother is a small farmer, having a small plot of land for cultivation. Economically he is very poor. He has his own children, so it is very difficult for him to manage his big family. Unfortunately late Madan's brother was affected by TB and paralysis and became bed ridden. So, he failed to earn money and take care of Madan's children and they became more vulnerable. He failed to give them one time food, so the children had to remain in hunger or half stomach in most of the day. So, late Madan's three children named Hitaj (11 years old girl), Dula (9 years old boy) and



Ram (5 years old boy) who were staying with their uncle's house had to stop going school due to the said reason.

Having seen their uncle's miserable condition elder daughter of Madan, Musli took them to her house. Though she took decision to take care of her small brothers and sisters, she couldn't give them proper care due to poor financial condition. The children went to neighbours houses asking food when they feel hungry and the neighbours also realizing their condition use to give them food often but not always.

In this situation the village CCPC members and BSSS field staff discussed this matter and informed their elder sister Musli, about Child Care Institute (CCI) for her neglected brothers and sister and asked her to put them there. However, she was found in a dilemma to take right decision. So, again another meeting was convened where relatives of the orphan children were made to present. The CCPC members suggested them to send the children to CCI through Child Welfare Committee. In this meeting GPCPC member; Sarpanch of Chakidi GP were also present there and they made the Musli and their relatives agree upon the proposal of sending them to CCI and accordingly issued a recommendation letter to the Chairman of CWC for these children to get an admission in the CCI. Finally the relatives of the orphan children and Sarpanch of Chakidi GP, Ward Member of Kukurbhuka, Project Coordinator, Block Coordinators, animators of BSSS helped the orphan children to reach CWC office, Mayurbhanj on 20th April, 2023. After the interview and filling up of a form followed by counselling, the said children were shifted to Child Care Institution (CCI) and Specialized Adoption Agency (SAA) centers according to their age. Thus, the helpless orphan children finally got a shelter and rehabilitation center where they started a new chapter of their life in a new environment to build up their bright future.



A Child Marriage Stopped in Brahmanaon GP

Masuri Soren is a 15 years old adolescent girl of Laxman Soren. Laxman Soren is a small farmer of Salghati village under Brahmanaon GP, in Bangiriposi Block and his family consisted of five members (his second wife, and first wife's daughter Masuri and second wife's two children). Economically he was very poor and somehow he manages his family. When Masuri was very small she lost her mother. Therefore, her father Laxman did second marriage. The step mother instead of loving Masuri started ill



treating her. She (step mother) always wanted to keep Masuri away from home so that she could live with her husband and her own children happily. In this way Masuri became a burden for the family. They engaged her as a maid servant in some one's house instead of sending her to school. Whatever wages the Masuri used to earn were being taken away by her step mother. This made the girl upset and she returned back to home again to live with her own family. But she was tortured more and more mentally. She was also encouraged to run away and get married with any boy she likes. So the girl ran away with a 22 years old boy Surendra Sirka the son of Ramchandra Sirka of Badampahar, Timtima on 8-4-2023.



The step mother was very happy with this incident and they wanted to get married there. Accordingly, necessary negotiation had been made with the boy's family. By the time the news came to Lakhian Majhi, one of the animators of BSSS, and based upon the information received, an urgent meeting was called

on 12.04.23 by the CCPC to stop the child marriage. Then the members of the CCPC went to Masuri's house to do counseling to Masuri and her parents. Even after a long discussion in the meeting, parents didn't agree to stop the marriage. Realizing the stiffness of the girl's parents, the CCPC members along with the ASHA, AWW, Ward Member and Sarpanch the very next day (13.04.23) went to CDPO and informed her about the matter. CDPO immediately helped the CCPC members and informed the IIC police of Bangiriposi to stop the child marriage.

On the same day the ICDS Supervisor Mrs. Chandrimani Dei, ASHA, AWW, Ward Member, SI of Local Police Station including the Project Coordinator Mr. Rajib Giri of SURAKHYA Project and Sarpanch of Brahmangaon GP, Community Head, and other members of CCPC reached to the girl's house. The boy Surendra was also there on that day. Police asked them to stop marriage but

Laxman, the father of Masuri, replied that if they stop the marriage or take the boy and girl to police station then the whole family will take poison and die. After two hours of counseling, the boy and the girl and the girl's parents were agreed to stop marriage and both will stay separately in their own



houses until Masuri reaches the age of marriage and after that they can get married. Accordingly, a resolution was written in front of the people/personnel at Masuri's house. Thus the child marriage was stopped by the help of BSSS staff, CDPO, Police, Village Head, Sarpanch, AWW, ASHA, Ward Member and CCPC members at Salghati village.

Photo Gallery:



CDPO Kuliana block in one of the Need based program



Street plays on child abuse issues



Celebration of women's Day



Street plays on child abuse issues



Training on self defence for girls



Readmission of a dropout



Producing an orphan child at CWC



Quarterly staff review meeting



Community level awareness by CCPC



Government health workers conducting Haemoglobin test of Adolescent girls



District level experience sharing meeting



Block level interface meeting



GP level CCPC program