



Annual Report 2004-05

TABLE OF CONTENTS

CHAIRMAN’S NOTE.....	2
FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.....	3
STRATEGIES AND APPROACHES.....	5
FOCAL AREA I – Self-Governing People’s institutions.....	7
FOCAL AREA II - Education and Health.....	10
FOCAL AREA III - Enabling infrastructure	20
FOCAL AREA IV - Livelihoods and Food security	25
FOCAL AREA V Human and Institutional Development	32
FOCAL AREA VI Outreach and networking.....	34
TREASURER’S NOTE	38

CHAIRMAN'S NOTE

It is acknowledged that NGOs and other civil society organisations play a vital role in plugging gaps in basic services, by building bridges between the government and marginalized communities. This is amply demonstrated by the role of Gram Vikas in rural Orissa. Working in the areas of education, health services, protected water supply, sanitation, etc., Gram Vikas strives to create an enabling environment in which development processes can be nurtured for take off.

One of the biggest challenges for Gram Vikas is to mobilise and utilise resources in a creative and optimal manner, with a clear focus on building systems, which will ensure sustainability of development processes and products even after Gram Vikas withdraws. While systematic development of technical and managerial capacities is a key ingredient in this, it is important that each community has substantial funds at their disposal as well. The process of building up community funds needs a tremendous amount of foresight and ability to calculate future costs and factor in contingencies. The process of convincing communities to raise resources today to meet tomorrow's expenses is tougher. This has been most impressively accomplished by Gram Vikas in its interventions in community managed water supply and sanitation. 105 villages with 8,000 families who joined the programme over a decade from 1992 to 2002, have village corpus funds of over Rs.11.8 million, the interest earned on which ensures that all families will have access to water supply and sanitation at all time in the future, even as the number of families grows in the villages.

Another interesting and innovative aspect of Gram Vikas' work is the principle of cost-sharing that is evident in all interventions. Gram Vikas believes that local communities can and will pay a share of the cost of development projects, but 'social costs' clearly are necessary for basic services which are 'fundamental rights'. These are leveraged from the government wherever feasible and from external donor institutions. The process of linking with government creates spaces where Gram Vikas together with rural communities can, through a process of demonstrating alternative implementation processes, influence implementation of development schemes and formulation of policies. One thing Gram Vikas has realised, is that to be really able to influence the government, activities have to be demonstrated on a sizeable scale, impacting large populations. Gram Vikas has articulated in its Strategic Plan (2004) its vision for scaling up. The challenge will be to simultaneously build up financial resources and human and institutional capacities to match the scaling up. Quality and effectiveness must not be compromised. The good and bad experiences from the scaling up of interventions in biogas in the decade of the 80's will stand in good stead as Gram Vikas prepares to expand exponentially in the coming years.

With a committed workforce, and under the able leadership of Joe Madiath, Gram Vikas promises to grow bigger and more effective in the coming years. I wish it all success.

J B Singh

Chairman

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Gram Vikas has made consistent efforts to counter inequities and injustices that are manifest in the society around us. Over the decades of working in rural Orissa, we find that while the nature of inequities may have morphed from one form into another, the fundamentals persist. In fact, politics and policies deliberately perpetuate and sustain several of these inequities. This is most manifest in the ever-widening divide between rural and urban areas. With poor living conditions, the absence of basic services of education and health, and the lack of meaningful employment, poor people are drawn from rural areas to urban centres, where they live like vermin in slums and shanties to keep their body and soul together, in an existence that is sub-human and abhorrent to any civilised society.

Take the case of rural water supply and sanitation, an area that Gram Vikas has been working in for more than a decade. For the rich in urban areas it is a matter of opening the tap or flushing the toilet, to access a labyrinth of pipelines and machinery, for which the users do not pay even a fraction of the cost. In rural areas, every family must build their own toilet, and establish ways of disposing the waste effectively. The government today gives one-time support upto 90% of the capital cost to rural communities for accessing protected water, but thereafter it is upto the rural poor to keep the systems operating effectively and functioning for all time. The rules governing electricity charges for operating community managed water supply systems in rural areas are even more intriguing. If every family were to dig their own well and pump the water into a private tank, they would be charged at the domestic rate for electricity. The moment water is pumped from one common source to one common overhead storage tank and supplied through pipes to all families for domestic use, the activity is labelled a public utility and costs more by about Rs.2 per unit of electricity. As such a 'penalty' is imposed for collective action, and what should be considered optimal use of resources.

Do users contribute even a fraction of the cost of thermal or hydro-electric power generation plants, which supply them highly subsidised electricity at the turn of a switch? Rural communities, who must set up renewable energy systems, because grid electricity will not reach them even in the next few decades, are expected to contribute to the capital cost of the project and as in water supply take all responsibility for operations and maintenance. A majority of the people in urban areas would not even know the source of water supply to their homes, or electricity for that matter. While sops are available to the educated, rich and enterprising in urban areas, we expect the poorest of the poor in rural areas to work collectively and demonstrate the highest levels of initiative and enterprise to establish, operate and manage their own systems for electricity generation, water supply, sanitation, etc.

That said, we do believe that poor communities are capable and willing to pay for products and services that will bring direct improvements in their quality of life. We have tried in some measure to enable rural communities access essential services, with a fair degree of success. One of the critical factors for success and sustainability has been our efforts to mobilise the entire population within village habitations to be participants in accessing these services and benefiting equally from them. We realise that 'exclusion' has been the bane of our society and the greatest deterrent of development processes.

Effecting ‘inclusion’ is a challenge in feudal societies like in Orissa, where ‘exclusion’ is deeply entrenched. Where those excluded consider it their fate, and those excluding consider it their right. The approach of including all families and the experiential learning of working together by establishing systems for water supply and sanitation has been effectively demonstrated by Gram Vikas. Families come together when they realise that even one family staying out of the loop will jeopardise their own health as well as the rest of the community. The poorest person in the village gets the same minimum facilities as the richest person, with the latter often paying part of the costs of the former. Collective effort ensures that there is a ‘win-win’ situation for all. The experience of working together through the process of ‘100% inclusion’ infuses high levels of dignity, pride and confidence, and whittles away the differences that are there within communities. These communities demonstrate a feeling of self-worth and a more positive outlook to develop a society where men treat women with much less repression, where children get a chance to study and experience a happy childhood, where squalor and disease are avoided.

We had the occasion to share some of these experiences last year with a group of 30 visitors from across the world, grappling with similar issues in their contexts. The Building and Social Housing Foundation, UK, brought these practitioners and experts together as part of a study visit in conjunction with World Habitat Award given to Gram Vikas in 2003. Over the year we also organised a national workshop on Village Energy Security and Rural Village Electrification with support from the Ministry for Non Conventional Energy Sources, Government of India, and the eastern region consultation of the WASH (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene) campaign with support from Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council, Geneva. While creating platforms for sharing experiences and some efforts at influencing policies, these events have been an opportunity for us to receive feedback and critique on the work that we do. The process of scaling up our work in water supply and sanitation has gained momentum and we are expanding our work in collaboration with the government and other NGOs, sharing with them our experience and expertise. We are also gradually building experience in land and water development and management using watershed principles. Innovative strides are also being made in renewable energy and education.

Gram Vikas’ work continues to grow in spread and strength with the untiring efforts of all our field workers across the state. I take this opportunity to place on record my gratitude for their commitment. The task at hand is by no means simple, and demands high levels of resilience and stamina. Thanks must also be extended to all institutional donors (including CARE, India; Christian Aid, UK; CT_xGreEn, Canada; European Union; ICCO; ODAF; SCIAF and SDC), individual donors, partner organisations, volunteers and supporters in India and abroad for their support and guidance. Extending efforts in raising resources, our friends in Holland and Belgium have registered Stichting Gram Vikas, Benelux, which proposes to raise funds through public donations. Gram Vikas’ project ‘Building dignity through habitat development’ was also listed on the GlobalGiving website to raise funds online. Above all, I thank the members of the General Body and Governing Board of Gram Vikas for their strategic guidance and for egging us on in our endeavour to make a difference in the lives of rural communities in Orissa.

I am proud to present to you the 26th Annual Report of Gram Vikas.

Joe Madiath, Executive Director, June 2005

STRATEGIES AND APPROACHES

Gram Vikas' mission is realised through the programme and process of MANTRA (Movement and Action Network for Transformation of Rural Areas).

Core values that drive this process are Inclusion, Social and Gender Equity, Sustainability and Cost sharing.

Institutional and methodological features aligned with these core values are as follows:

- **Inclusion**: 100% coverage of all families in every village/habitation. The poorest and most marginalised people/families must be involved in the development processes and must benefit from the fruits of development.
- **Social Equity**: Representation of all sections of the community in decision-making processes across caste, class and other societal barriers. Making available the same minimum level of services and decision-making space for all creates a level playing field.
- **Gender Equity**: Equal representation and participation of men and women in community level decision-making and control. Women partake alongside men in articulating concerns, take responsibility and actively participate in development processes.
- **Sustainability**: Development processes are based on sound environmental values and necessarily have built-in institutional and financial mechanisms to sustain beyond the life of the project.
- **Cost sharing**: Poor people *can and will* pay for development services but there are some social costs which society at large must meet. These 'social costs' are resourced from government, donor agencies and individual donations.

Gram Vikas' responses are context specific, based on the needs and priorities of the communities we engage with. Given the diverse social and economic situation of the communities, the relative importance of the sectors varies across regions and communities. The interventions are based on a combination of the following focal areas:

- Self-Governing People's institutions
- Education and Health
- Enabling infrastructure
- Livelihoods and Food security

Target groups and methodology

Gram Vikas' work is concentrated in predominantly *adivasi* and poor districts of Orissa. We aspire to work with 1% of Orissa's population (~80 to 100,000 families) over the next decade, through direct outreach and in collaboration with other non-government organisations. We aim to reach 20% of the population in the Gram Panchayats we work in. This strengthens the process towards forming 'critical masses'. Similar efforts will be made for aggregation of critical masses at the block, district and eventually at the state level.

Gram Vikas plays the dual role of an implementer and facilitator to achieve its mission. involves mobilisation of communities in identified clusters, initiation of development processes, supervision and management. There follows a gradual role transformation enabling communities to manage processes and eventual withdrawal upon handing over full controls to communities.

A typical cycle through these stages takes five to seven years in each village. The facilitator role involves working with a network of small and medium non-government and community-based organisations, which mobilise communities and engage in direct field action. Gram Vikas' support involves transfer of knowledge, skills and resources.

1. Demographic profile

District	# Blocks covered	# GPs covered	# Villages covered	Households				Population		
				<i>Dalits</i>	Tribals	Others	Total	Male	Female	Total
Bargarh	5	19	29	355	320	1,519	2,194	6,330	6,005	12,335
Bolangir	7	28	64	1,980	1,683	4,954	8,617	18,260	18,523	36,783
Boudh	1	3	4	71	16	169	256	755	758	1,513
Deogarh	1	1	1	1	18	26	45	146	113	259
Gajapati	6	27	86	37	2,838	486	3,361	8,333	8,764	17,092
Ganjam	15	46	114	772	1,649	4,762	7,183	20,276	18,449	38,725
Kalahandi	3	12	39	337	1,004	357	1,698	4,332	4,292	8,624
Keonjhar	4	7	10	68	206	690	964	2,886	2,711	5,597
Koraput	1	2	2	32	46	37	115	290	292	582
Mayurbhanj	11	17	34	191	1,092	1,068	2,351	7,108	6,823	13,931
Nawarangpur	1	2	2	115	47	13	175	608	527	1,135
Nayagarh	2	3	5	36	-	461	497	1,638	1,473	3,111
Rayagada	1	1	1	7	6	37	50	100	100	200
Sambalpur	1	2	4	60	41	150	251	725	640	1,365
Surbarnapur	2	5	5	59	31	254	344	1,121	974	2,095
	61	175	400	4,121	8,997	14,983	28,101	72,908	70,444	143,347
				15%	32%	53%		51%	49%	

FOCAL AREA I – Self-Governing People’s institutions

- *Promote and strengthen local self-governance and people’s institutions, at the village and Gram Panchayat level to achieve self-reliance.*
- *Promote and institutionalise mechanisms for equitable representation of the community at all levels, across caste, class and gender.*
- *Enable community mechanisms to manage common resources and needs.*
- *Enable women to have equal access and control over resources & processes*
- *Promote clear knowledge of responsibilities and rights and ways to achieve them.*

The starting point of all Gram Vikas’ activities is the community. Development of community-based management systems is vital for enabling gradual transfer of responsibilities to the community to allow for eventual withdrawal of Gram Vikas over a defined period of time. This opportunity is used as a process to enable communities to experience values of democratic and participatory governance in the true sense. The inherent premise is that the engagement with the development process initiated by Gram Vikas is a springboard to enable the community to tackle all other development issues that it faces in a holistic manner.

100% Inclusion - Building social and gender equity

Gram Vikas works in villages only when there is agreement of 100% of the families to be part of the development process. From each family there must be at least one adult man and woman who are part of the general body. In the initial period, in each village there are separate general bodies till women gain confidence to articulate amongst a larger group, especially before men, and men begin to show greater acceptance of women’s opinions. Social and gender equity are key concerns in establishing new structures for democratic governance in the village.

The general body elects a representative committee, with equal number of men and women, ensuring that all sections of the village community are represented. Members of the executive committee or others are nominated to sub-committees, which are formed on the basis of specific activities undertaken in each village (e.g. sanitation committee, education committee, health committee, etc).

Village committees are registered under the Societies Act 1860, giving them institutional autonomy to access, generate and utilise funds. Most committees meet once a month (and sometimes, more frequently) depending on the activities in each village. The status of finances is shared periodically with the village general body to maintain transparency in transactions. Details of major activities and financial contributions are put on public display in each village.

Community funds

Each village has to find ways to raise community funds and manage community assets. In initiating the water and sanitation programme, an average of Rs.1000 per family is raised at the start of the programme through equitable contributions by families, where the poor contribute less and the better-off contribute more. Villages identify recurring sources of income, including forest patches, developing community horticulture, leasing in and undertaking scientific pisciculture in village ponds. Communities in tribal areas are encouraged to manage grain banks (which is a traditional practise in several communities) and seed banks.

These initiatives build experience among communities to make collective decisions, work out benefit sharing formulae and manage their assets and resources effectively. As well as raising community assets, the funds that they manage enhance their confidence, while at the same time increasing their sense of dignity.

Gram Vikas' work typically spreads through a demonstration effect. Leaders from villages which Gram Vikas supports become ambassadors, influencing neighbouring villages and nearby areas where they have relations or seek to build relations through marriage! Villages are developed in clusters, so that a critical population (at least 20%) is covered in each Panchayat. These clustered villages often form an area committee and make collective representations to the Panchayat and Block on issues of common concern, including functioning of schools and health centres, facilities under the public distribution system, forest management, and development of roads and markets. Members of Panchayats are part of the village level institutions nurtured by Gram Vikas. Over time, men and women showing leadership potential are also encouraged to participate in Panchayat elections and the like. This year a large delegation of *adivasi* village leaders from Ganjam and Gajapati districts rallied together to participate in a state-wide demonstration in Bhubaneswar, in which a memorandum on tribal issues was submitted to the Chief Minister. For many this was the first time they had visited the state capital and proved to be a powerful experience in joining with other *adivasi*'s from across the state.

Capacity building of village institutions is an ongoing process in our work and happens through workshops and discussions in structured training sessions as well as practical handholding and support. At the start of interventions all elected/selected leaders (men and women) go through leadership development programmes. In subsequent years, there are follow-up workshops. The follow-up in the field includes accompanying the leaders and building their confidence, especially in interfacing with the external environment. Functional literacy programmes are organised for leaders to enable them to understand and participate in management effectively.

2. Status of registered societies

	Till March 2004	Apr '04 to Mar'05	As on March 2005
Village water and sanitation societies	128	42	170
Watershed societies	6	6	12
Adivasi Area development societies	14	0	14

3. Status of community funds (as on March 2005)

Corpus fund	Villages	211	Village fund	Villages	67
	Households	12,124		Households	1246
	Amount	Rs. 19.8 million		Amount	Rs.328, 896
Watershed Devt. Fund	Villages	26	Grain banks	Villages	128
	Watersheds	10		Households	3349
	Amount	Rs.369,000		Amount	219 tonnes

Accessing government resources in 2004-05

- Proposals for water supply programmes in 34 villages Rs.18.7 million were sanctioned of which Rs.3.3 million was received, while Rs.2.7 million was sanctioned for sanitation in 23 villages of which Rs.1.2 million was received
- 181 villages leveraged Rs.27.1 million for other development activities including construction of roads, ponds, school buildings, community halls etc, of which Rs.19.8 million was received

FOCAL AREA II - Education and Health

- *Enable & promote people's access to basic education and primary health services*
- *Provide opportunities for education up to high school level for tribal children from remote and isolated habitations/ hamlets*
- *Promote community based mechanisms for maternal and child health care*

Education

The interventions in education by Gram Vikas aim to ensure that all children are able to access primary education. Where government schools exist, our efforts are towards motivating and mobilising village communities to ensure effective functioning of these schools. Together with village communities, we ensure that all eligible boys and girls are enrolled in schools and dropouts are motivated to re-enrol. In villages where the student-teacher ratio is high, the village committees have engaged additional facilitators who are trained by Gram Vikas. These facilitators also conduct tuition classes in the evenings. Government schoolteachers are involved in development activities in the village and appropriate training programmes and events like *sisu melas* (children's fairs), *vigyan melas* (science fairs), and *yuba melas* (youth fairs) organised by Gram Vikas. A new initiative in the past year has been school-based sanitation workshops involving government schools.

Gram Vikas runs village-level schools only in remote, inaccessible villages/habitations that are inhabited by *adivasi* communities where the government has failed to provide the requisite infrastructure for education. We therefore run village level education centres in villages in parts of Ganjam, Gajapati and Kalahandi districts. Village Education Committees, formed and trained by Gram Vikas manage these centres. After passing out of these centres, children are encouraged and supported to enrol in Gram Vikas' residential school or the nearest government schools.

Village based facilitators called 'gaon sathis', are trained by Gram Vikas to run classes for children. Simultaneously local youth are also identified to train as second-line teachers to ensure continuity in education. Over the past two years Gram Vikas has been making attempts to mount pressure on government schools in tribal areas to make them work. Such efforts have been stepped up especially since, under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan ('education for all' campaign of the Government of India), teachers are appointed from the local area, in most cases from the same Panchayat. Increasing collaboration and support from the government for education in tribal areas has been a highlight of the past year, including increased supply of government test-papers and books to Gram Vikas schools, and notably in Kalahandi district, Gram Vikas teachers have been invited to participate in the government's District Primary Education Project (DPEP) training programmes.

The innovative approach of 'Joyful Learning' adopted by Gram Vikas schools takes the government-accredited syllabus and heightens it with creative and interactive teaching methods, locally produced low-cost learning materials, and culturally sensitive and skills-based extra-curricular activities. In June 2004, Gram Vikas released a Joyful Learning Training Manual designed to support and guide staff in following this method of teaching. Community service, regional fairs, competitions and sports camps, vocational classes, kitchen gardens and the promotion of health, sanitation, social and environmental values are additional components of

the education process. Many of these children are first generation learners, and without this facility, the communities would remain without access to formal education in the years to come, therefore these efforts to initiate an ongoing interest in education are vital.

Pre-school education centres (balwadis) have been a part of Gram Vikas' work for over two decades. These centres prepare children for school, and also provide health and nutritional care. Mid day meals are cooked by mothers in turn, and provided to children, while the facilitator teaches the children songs and dances and introduces the children to cognitive learning.

Gram Vikas continues capacity building programmes for gaon sathis, second line teachers (local facilitators), and the village education committee.

• **Financing education**

Gram Vikas supports the bulk of costs of running village based education centres. Parents collect a school fund with collections of Rs.2 per month to meet small expenses, while children are encouraged to have monthly savings of Rs.5 each to inculcate the habit of savings and to support part of their expenses when they enrol in a higher class outside the village. Efforts to make people's contributions more formalised have begun in recent years. This includes raising community resources through individual household collections and identification of at least 2 acres (0.8 ha) of common land to be brought under horticulture in each village. Other common resources like village ponds, or part of agriculture, horticulture and forest produce are also being tapped to augment common funds, which the village can use to pay salaries of school and balwadi facilitators and other recurring expenses of the school.

4. Status of Gram Vikas run schools as on March 2005

District	Villages	Centres	Total Eligible			Total Enrolled		
			Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total
Ganjam	69	48	343	360	703	322	325	647
Gajapati	45	34	359	388	747	338	360	698
Kalahandi	28	28	368	389	757	344	344	688
	142	110	1,070	1,137	2,207	1,004	1,029	2,033

Note: In 18 centres out of 110, Gram Vikas runs schools together with government teachers. In 29 villages, government schools function regularly and are monitored by local communities.

5. Academic performance (Std 1 to 3) in Annual Exams - May 2004

District	Appeared			Passed		
	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total
Ganjam	289	246	535	155	153	308
Gajapati	283	308	591	200	203	403
Kalahandi	301	229	530	144	96	240
Total	873	783	1,656	499	452	951

Note: 90 boys and 57 girls passed Std 3 and enrolled for higher education.

Children's savings and school funds are collected both in centres that Gram Vikas directly operates, and those that are run by government. 632 girls and 643 boys in 96 centres across different projects are part of the children's savings groups. They collect Rs.5/ month on average and have a balance of Rs.140,000. The savings are especially useful when children pass out from Std 3 and enrol for higher education.

6. Status of balwadi centres as on March 2005

District	Centres	Villages	Eligible			Enrolled		
			Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total
Ganjam	38	40	287	277	564	287	277	564
Gajapati	27	38	281	301	582	242	246	488
Kalahandi	19	21	179	201	380	179	201	380
Total:	84	99	747	779	1526	708	724	1432

7. Balwadi funds as on March 2005

District	Centres	Opening Balance	Collection	Expenses	Closing Balance
Ganjam	19	2,629	2,307	2,166	2,770
Gajapati	23	4,888	8,324	5,097	8,115
Kalahandi	19	13,881	4,470	1,879	16,472
Total	61	21,398	15,101	9,142	27,357

Residential Schools

Gram Vikas' residential schools provide learning opportunities primarily to children who pass out of the village schools and do not have access to government schools near their villages. Boys and girls live and learn together under the care of teachers who also reside in the schools. The number of children enrolled in Gram Vikas' residential schools continues to increase each year as people's interest and motivation towards education increases. Currently, a three-storey building accommodating new class room and hostel facilities is under construction at Gram Vikas' Shikhya Niketan school in Kalahandi district, improving the facilities for the expanding number of tribal students studying there. The table below provides information on the current status of the schools.

8. Status of residential schools

District	Name/ Location of the School	Class	Boys	Girls	Total
Ganjam	Kerandimal Middle Education School, Konkia	III to VII	126	62	188
	Gram Vikas High School, Konkia	VIII to X	84	45	129
	Gram Vikas Vidya Vihar, Rudhapadar	III to VI	52	66	118
	NCLP School, Tumba	II to V	30	18	48
Gajapati	Mahendratanaya Ashram School, Koinpur	III to VII	184	93	277
Kalahandi	Gram Vikas Shikhya Niketan, Kumudabahal	III to VII	106	55	161
Total			582	339	921

Parents are encouraged to contribute in the range of Rs.1000 out of the annual cost of about Rs.6000 per child. For the first time this year, provision of a government stipend for Class 6 and 7 students of Gram Vikas's Shikhya Niketan residential school has also been provided. Girl child education has been made free since 2004, giving impetus to the enrolment of girl children in the schools. This strategy appears to have been effective, with an increase in girl child enrolment in the past year. Special consideration is also given to orphan students, and those from single parent or particularly disadvantaged backgrounds. Several students in these schools have received tuition scholarships from the government. Two children from Gram Vikas Shikshya Niketan, Kalahandi, one from Gram Vikas Vidya Vihar, Rudhapadar, Ganjam and one child from NCLP School, Tumba, Ganjam secured admission to Navodaya Schools. This is a matter of great pride for the schools and a great opportunity for these tribal children.

The curriculum at the residential schools spans beyond the core syllabus to include leadership development and life skills training. For many years now, students from Gram Vikas Residential Schools have stood proudly alongside their peers from other schools in rural and urban areas, and continue to win awards at district and state level exams and academic competitions, as well as sports, recitation, quiz, drawing, drama etc. competitions.

Cultural programmes, community service, school magazines, vocational classes and skill development in masonry, tailoring, horticulture and kitchen garden work are some of the unique aspects of the curriculum imparted. Gram Vikas believes this holistic approach to education helps develop leadership capacities of students and in turn promote community development in the villages and regions they come from.

Since 1997, when Gram Vikas High School was started at Konkia, 76 children have passed the High School level. While 47 are continuing higher education in colleges, 26 have secured jobs as anganwadi workers, teachers (Shiksha Sahayaks), in the police force and in private companies. Subarna Sabar from Padmapur village in Gajapati district highlights the difference in her life after education in Gram Vikas' residential school.

Schooling: Opening new gateways of life

Subarna Sabar passed high school in 2003, and is currently 16 years old. She has been fortunate to continue her studies and is presently completing her +2 degree at the Woman's College in Parlakhemundi, Gajapati District. Subarna says her dream of becoming a teacher is soon to be fulfilled – largely as a result of the education and opportunities she received at Gram Vikas' residential high school at Konkia.

Subarna says her present life is significantly different from that of her friends who did not study, and even from those who studied in the government high schools. She is the only one among her peers to attend college – all the others dropped out long ago. In addition, Subarna is aware that she holds a different mentality from that of her friends who have not received education; she has developed confidence in herself and her communication skills, and unlike others, she feels comfortable when talking to government officials and other outsiders. Subarna believes that her community and village recognizes and gains many benefits from her education. She is currently involved in helping the SHGs in her village and in the future she hopes to contribute as a teacher

and community leader, contributing towards rural development. Subarna's parents also feel very positive about her decision to become a teacher and expect her to support the family.

Subarna says she encourages and motivates her relatives and friends to also study - in order to expand the mind, become literate and as she states, "because without education life would be dark". One day when she has children, she wants them to become educated, attain a college graduation and work in high positions such as a Block Development Official, a professor or in the government.

9. Academic performance of residential schools

Examination Details (Class 10)									
Name of the School	Year	Appeared		Passed					
				1st division		2nd division		3rd division	
		Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls
Gram Vikas High School, Konkia	2003-04	21	12	1	2	4	1	4	2
	2004-05	24	9	3	-	7	4	9	3

Examination Details (Class 7)									
Name of the School	Year	Appeared		Passed					
				1st division		2nd division		3rd division	
		Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls
KME School, Konkia, Ganjam	2003-04	13	6	10	6	3	0	0	0
	2004-05	19	1	3	1	11	0	5	0
Mahendra Tanaya Ashram School, Koinpur, Gajapati	2003-04	9	11	5	3	4	7	0	1
	2004-05	21	3	5	0	10	2	6	1
Gram Vikas Shikshya Niketan, Kumudabahal, Kalahandi	2003-04	15	8	15	8	0	0	0	0
	2004-05	19	6	11	4	8	2	0	0
Total	2003-04	37	25	30	17	7	7	0	1
	2004-05	59	10	19	5	29	4	11	1

Key issues

- While residential schools are expensive, they fill a vital gap in the educational system in the regions they operate in. Gram Vikas runs the residential schools from its own resources and contributions by Gram Vikas staff and individual donations. No external institutional support is presently available to the schools.
- The focus of the schools currently is developing sustainability plans and raising resources, which will go towards meeting a greater part of the costs in the coming years.
- Recruitment and retention of staff with adequate capacities to run and manage the schools remains a challenge.
- There are plans to upgrade all schools to the high school level. Efforts are also being made to secure official recognition for these schools. We are hindered in this process by issues such as inadequate qualified teachers, small class size, etc.

Community Health

In our efforts to understand the root causes of poverty and backwardness we found that lack of access to safe drinking water is a major cause of ill health and loss of productivity. It is perhaps the principal cause of life-threatening diseases among infants and children. Access to safe drinking water and securing a healthy living environment are therefore key aspects of Gram Vikas' approach to community health.

Gram Vikas motivates and enables communities to access government health services for basic medicines, immunisation of eligible children and ante-natal and post-natal care of mothers. Timely detection and treatment of leprosy, tuberculosis and malaria control also form part of Gram Vikas' interventions in community health. Gram Vikas runs project level dispensaries with trained health staff in remote *adivasi* areas of Rudhapadar in Jagannath Prasad block, Ganjam; Koinpur in Rayagada block, Gajapati and Kumudabahal in Thuamul Rampur block, Kalahandi, to provide essential medical facilities.

Sanitation and protected water supply

The intervention in sanitation and protected water supply is one of the core activities in community health. Over 80% of instances of morbidity and mortality in rural areas can be traced to water-borne diseases. Since 1992, Gram Vikas has carried out a programme in which each family in the village builds their own toilet and bathing room, with piped water supply from a common water tower to which water is lifted by pumping from open wells or deep bore wells or from perennial springs through gravity flow water supply. The sanitation and water supply systems ensure access to protected piped water to all families throughout the year.

Building sustainability in water and sanitation

100% coverage, involvement of all families in the village habitation and raising a corpus fund with Rs.1000 from each family on an average, are non-negotiable conditions in Gram Vikas' approach. Adult men and women are motivated to come together at the start of the intervention as the village general body, and they elect a representative executive committee with equal number of men and women. The amount collected towards the corpus fund is placed in a fixed deposit, with the President, Secretary and Treasurer of the elected committee as signatories. The interest from the corpus fund is reserved for extending support to new families in the village for building toilets and bathrooms with piped water supply, to ensure 100% coverage at all times.

These conditions have spurred processes of collective work and collaboration within the villages. Work for establishing water supply systems is undertaken only after completion of construction of toilets and bathing rooms by all families. Gram Vikas provides all technical support in establishing the water supply systems. Villagers are responsible for operations and maintenance of the system. Local youth identified by the community are trained by Gram Vikas in undertaking minor repairs and maintenance of the pump, motor, pipelines, etc. and are able to take complete responsibility and manage the systems.

Together with toilets and bathing rooms, drainage systems are developed to ensure that wastewater does not accumulate. Banana and papaya trees planted around soak pits help to leach excess water and keep the pits dry. Cleanliness drives are carried out in all villages to motivate

villagers to ensure that the surroundings are unpolluted and clean. Children are also encouraged to participate in maintaining village cleanliness. Quarterly water testing conducted by Gram Vikas ensures that water quality is closely monitored.

The support provided by Gram Vikas for sanitation is Rs.3,000 to Rs.3500 per family, of a total cost of Rs.7500. Each family contributes the balance in labour and materials. Families below poverty line are also eligible for additional support of Rs.500 from the Total Sanitation Campaign of the Government of India.

In case of very poor villages, efforts are made by Gram Vikas and the community to obtain some additional funds from government schemes or local area development funds from Members of Parliament or Members of the Legislative Assembly.

Consistent efforts have been made to link this intervention with government rural drinking water supply schemes including Sector Reform Programme in Ganjam district and the Swajaldhara promoted by the Ministry for Rural Development, Government of India. Being one of our core interventions, this is an opportunity to demonstrate effective ways of partnering with and utilising government resources.

10. Coverage under water and sanitation

	Villages covered	Households covered	Toilets and Bathing room units	
1992 to March 2003	105	8121	8185	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Piped water supply to each individual family in the toilet, bathing room and kitchen – 8185 includes 64 common units in schools and community halls – 113 units have so far been constructed by ‘new’ families after Gram Vikas withdrawal from villages, keeping coverage at 100% – Construction of 132 individual units is pending due to village conflict
April 2003 to March 2005	106	8003	8007	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Construction of 5,971 toilet-bathing room units is completed. The remaining units are at different stages of construction and will be completed by March 2006.

Motivation and mobilisation is presently going on in 74 villages with 6672 families where construction activities are to be completed by March 2006. Women play a key role in the spread of this programme, as described in the following case.

Uniting for water, ushering development and a licence to dream

‘It wasn’t this easy before’ says Manu, describing life in her native Khatuakuda village in Ganjam. Manu is one of the key instigators in bringing about change in her village – delivering clean piped drinking water to every household, and individual toilets and bathing rooms for each family. Prior to this, they got water from a well in the next village, over half an hour walk away.

Her day used to start at 3.00 am, and for four hours in the morning and two hours in the evening, Manu would balance the large water pots upon her head, for endless trips to and from the well. On big events like weddings – they would spend the whole day before just collecting water “and everyone was forever getting married!” says Manu. “Often we would not be looking forward to the festivities at all”. One day after spraining her ankle, she decided she had had enough. Manu rallied the women who together convinced the village of the need for water supply through taps at their individual homes. Manu also lobbied for toilets and bathing rooms, as an alternative to trekking through swampy marshlands every time they wanted to relieve themselves.

The women of Khatuakuda pushed the programme from one stage to the next, and acted as the main organisers and collectors for the community contribution to the project. Construction, however, was the most difficult part, due to many of the men working as migrant labourers. Manu tried to speed up the progress by building her own toilet block, then urging and helping her neighbours. “At first they thought I was a little mad – but this made me more determined”. Now that construction of toilets-bathing rooms and the water supply system is completed, Manu is busy with the Self Help Group. Manu explains that her SHG is “ a great way to catch up with news, and plan the next project... and there’s always much more to be done”. She explains that the access road to the village needs repair and with the help of Gram Vikas, they are now lobbying for government funds. Her SHG also provides her with support and the confidence to send her daughter to school – a contentious issue with her mother in law. “I want my daughter to go all the way...I don’t want her to be just a housewife...”

Water supply systems are functional in the 105 villages covered prior to 2003. Piped water supply is available round the clock (24*7) in 95 villages. In 10 villages, water supply is restricted to a few hours daily, due to shortages caused by drought conditions. Efforts are made to identify alternative sources of water and to undertake source augmentation where feasible.

In villages covered after 2003, of the 106 villages where overhead water tanks were to be constructed, work has been completed in 26 villages. Of these, in 17 villages, water supply systems are fully functional with completion of construction of 100% toilets and bathing rooms and pipe water connections to individual families.

11. Status of corpus funds (in Rs. Million)

Villages covered prior to March 2003

Villages	Households	Original Corpus deposit	Present Corpus value	Value at maturity
105	8121	8.24	11.8	13.2

Villages covered after April 2003

Villages	Households	Corpus deposited	Raised in material	Net value of Corpus
106	8003	3.9	4.1	8.0

Key issues

Sustainability of water source

Though bore-wells have been the preferred source of water since the start of Gram Vikas' interventions in rural water supply and sanitation, instances of failure and also concern for future sustainability have made us turn towards open wells with appropriate protection and re-charge mechanisms. This has been the strategy adopted for the new villages that Gram Vikas has taken up. In older villages with bore-wells, back-up sources are also being developed. Gravity flow water supply is also tapped where feasible, whereby water from perennial natural springs is collected and supplied via pipes to all families. Appropriate land treatment and protection is undertaken around the source of the spring to ensure sustainability. The shift away from borewells and water pumping by electricity is driven by Gram Vikas' efforts to reach poorer and more remote villages. The shift in water source is evidenced in the table below:

12. Water source accessed

	Villages	Bore well	Dug well	Spring
Pre 2003	105	97	4	4
Post 2003	48	15	21	12
	58	To be identified		

Key issues (contd.)

Working with the government

In 2003, Gram Vikas chose to leverage government grants for rural water supply when the Swajaldhara scheme was introduced, rather than depend on funds from donor agencies, which since 1992 had been the main source of funds for village water supply. The shift was in line with Gram Vikas' approach to demonstrate wise use of resources.

The shift however comes with its challenges. Being on the State Drinking Water and Sanitation Mission and relevant District Drinking Water and Sanitation Missions, Gram Vikas is able to influence the programme in some positive ways. The biggest challenge however is that government is the sanctioning authority and at the same time the implementing agency, and hence their needs always come first. This complicates the process of sanction of proposals and release of funds, which often gets mired in bureaucratic delays. The change of fund source has also meant a shift in our relation vis-à-vis communities. While we could earlier follow the principle of '100% completion of toilets before water supply begins', this is harder to enforce with government deadlines for completion of work on water supply.

Electricity charges

The high electricity charges incurred by the villages for pumping water is a source of worry. Community water supply systems are charged as per the rate for public utilities, while individual pumping of water by households is charged at the domestic rate, which is less by almost Rs.2 per unit. The penalty for collective action is unfair and unjust. Gram Vikas together with concerned villages has appealed to the Orissa Electricity Regulatory Commission (OERC) in this regard.

Community health management

Village health committees comprising of elected men and women monitor health status in the villages on a periodic basis, with special focus on sanitation and timely intervention during the outbreak of diseases. Periodic growth monitoring of children to arrest malnutrition is also carried out. Kitchen gardens with banana, papaya and drumstick are promoted to improve the nutrition status of village communities, especially children. 37 health camps, catering to clusters of villages were organised last year to promote awareness of common diseases and preventive measures. Government health officials were actively involved in these camps.

Project staff assist the health committees to liaise with the government *anganwadi* worker, Auxiliary Nurse and Midwife (ANM) and the local Public Health Centre (PHC) to procure medicines and vaccines for immunisation of eligible children and ante-natal mothers. Over 80% of eligible children were immunised in the past year. The coverage is better in the non-tribal areas in the plains at 90% and while it is 70% for the remote *adivasi* areas. Trial efforts in malaria prevention using Pyralfin – a newly available malaria prophylaxis, have been expanded this year to cover communities in the malaria prone *adivasi* areas. To date, all Gram Vikas staff have been encouraged to take Pyralfin, and a marked a reduction in the incidence of malaria has been observed.

In remote *adivasi* areas of Ganjam, Gajapati and Kalahandi, where government services are weak, Gram Vikas project staff and health committees take responsibility of informing and bringing children and ante-natal mothers to a centre where immunisation is conducted periodically. In these areas, Gram Vikas has trained 187 Village Health Workers (VHWs), 212 Traditional Birth Attendants (TBAs) and supports the functioning of 173 Drug Distribution Centres (DDCs). Regular training of VHWs and TBAs are organised. VHWs are responsible for running DDCs in the villages, while trained TBAs ensure safe deliveries and post-natal care.

To revitalise traditional knowledge in medicines and use of local herbs for treatment of common ailments, herbal gardens have been developed for demonstration in Rudhapadar, Ganjam and Thuamul Rampur, Kalahandi. Villagers are motivated to develop small patches of medicinal herbs near their houses.

Insuring lives

In the past couple of years we have encouraged and facilitated villagers to subscribe to the Janashree Bima Yojana (JBY) of the Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) of India. An annual premium of Rs.100 provides insurance cover of Rs.20,000 in case of natural death and Rs.50,000 in case of accident. Currently 2970 persons from our operational area in *adivasi* villages of Ganjam, Gajapati and Kalahandi districts, are insured. 111 claims were made in the last year, of which 89 were redeemed. An accompanying scheme of the JBY is the Shikshya Sahayak Yojana (SSY), which provides scholarships to children of insured persons, studying in Classes 9-12. Forty-nine children are currently receiving Rs.100 per month under the SSY scheme.

FOCAL AREA III - Enabling infrastructure

- *Enable creation of appropriate living conditions, including protected drinking water, sanitation and disaster-proof housing*
- *Enable creation of adequate common infrastructure including community halls, grain stores, communication systems and energy systems.*

Gram Vikas' intervention in the rural infrastructure sector focuses on mobilising communities to pool resources to create basic infrastructure for sustainable disaster-proof habitats. People contribute labour and locally available materials. Gram Vikas supports communities in accessing 'social costs', which we believe are essential for basic services. The costs are determined in the specific context of each habitation and appropriate finances are raised including local contributions, external grants and loans.

Housing

Gram Vikas provides financial and technical support for building permanent, disaster-proof houses. The building designs vary in each area according to the resources available for providing low cost high quality structures. Therefore, in the plain regions, houses are made of brick and cement, with filler slab concrete roof. In inaccessible areas where cement cannot be transported, GCI sheets or tiles are used for the roof. In hilly areas houses are built with locally available stone. As a rule Gram Vikas supports construction of houses with at least 45 square metres of plinth area. Each house has two rooms, a kitchen space and a veranda. The houses are designed such that toilets and bathing rooms can be built alongside each house.

Loans accessed from Housing Development Finance Corporation, Mumbai and Stichting DOEN Foundation, Netherlands have been given by Gram Vikas to selected families for the construction of the houses. The average cost of each house is Rs.45,000. The quantum of loan depends on the type of house being constructed and ranges from Rs.10,000 to Rs.40,000. Gram Vikas also provides training, technical guidance, masons and support for bulk purchase of building materials.

Construction of 3,625 houses has been supported so far with loans of over Rs.70 million. The average repayment period of the loans given at 9% interest is fifteen years. Rs.3 million was repaid by housing clients in 2004-05, taking total repayment to Rs.28 million.

The intervention by Gram Vikas has had an impact on rural housing in the area, both self-financed and government supported, as people are now more conscious about design, costs and quality of construction.

The housing finance activity has evolved over the past two decades from a full grant approach to a full loan approach. Experiences have been varied in terms of people's involvement, ability and attitude towards repayment. Establishing the loan-based approach has been slow as government-housing schemes operate on a full grant approach. The process of accessing government grants is however ridden by bureaucratic concessions and there are very few allotments each year. Gram Vikas is negotiating with para-statal institutions and donor agencies to provide partial subsidy for the poorest families for construction of disaster-proof houses.

Community infrastructure

Communities are encouraged to leverage funds from the government for building community infrastructure including community halls, school buildings, grain stores, etc. In villages where such facilities are needed but government support is not forthcoming, Gram Vikas provides partial support for the construction. Gram Vikas normally meets about two-thirds of the cost of construction of these units with the community contributing the balance amount. The need for a multi-purpose disaster proof community building for each village became more critical after the cyclone in 1999. The multi-purpose buildings are an important communal space, and are used for running the day school, conducting village meetings, as store and workspace for women, etc. There is a separate room for storing grain in every building.

Gram Vikas undertook the construction of high school buildings in Ganjam as part of the post-cyclone reconstruction under the Prime Minister's Relief Fund and Chief Minister's Relief Fund programmes. The programme was administered by DRDA, Ganjam. In 2001, Gram Vikas undertook the construction of 26 High Schools. All schools have been completed and handed over to the concerned authorities. In addition to adhering to good construction principles in making them disaster-proof, Gram Vikas has demonstrated several cost effective technologies through construction of these schools.

Key issues

Redefining the process of rural housing

There has been a great deal of introspection on the process of loan-based housing followed by Gram Vikas in the past years. Loan recovery while being steady in the tribal areas, has been determined by seasonal incomes from land and forest, which are affected by droughts. With the dominant environment being one of 'free' housing under the Indira Awas Yojana, operating a 100% loan has not been very successful. A combination of part loan and part grant may be more viable in the present paradigm, with the package varying with the economic status of families.

Technology development and demonstration

Gram Vikas believes that appropriate technology can be useful only when it can contribute to enhancing income and employment of the poor. Gram Vikas' participation in technology action research projects like the Vertical Shaft Brick Kiln (VSBK) and experiments in renewable energy from biomass and bio fuels has ensured that technology is adopted and applied for use and management by village communities.

Vertical Shaft Brick Kiln

The Vertical Shaft Brick Kiln (VSBK) is a cost-effective, energy efficient and environment friendly way of brick production, which originated in China. The technology was brought to India in the late 90's with support from the Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation. Gram Vikas was selected to set up the second VSBKs in the country in 1997. Though brick making is generally a seasonal activity, the VSBK enables the firing of bricks throughout the year, providing stable employment and income. Gram Vikas saw in this, a potential for creating sustainable livelihoods especially for the traditional communities of brick-makers.

Taking inspiration from the example of the community-managed kiln of Asuramunda in Bolangir, the villagers of Patrapalli in Bargarh district came together to build a kiln themselves. A two-shaft kiln with capacity of 7,000 bricks per day was built at a cost of Rs.1,260,000. This was financed by a KVIC group loan for rural industrialisation by the Bolangir Anchalika Gramya Bank (BAGB). Gram Vikas is providing technical support and training in construction and operations. One shaft started operations in November 2004 while the second shaft was started in January 2005. Fifteen moulder families from Partapalli are engaged at the kiln, and 12 youth have been trained as the fire team.

The operations of the community owned VSBK in Asuramunda, Bolangir were affected by management conflict, which were resolved by the community in course of the past year.

Gram Vikas also provided technical support in the establishment of three privately owned VSBKs at Khujenpalli, Bolangir, Rohinia, Bargarh and Sargunamunda, Sonepur. Two private VSBKs are under construction at Gurunthi, Ganjam and Bhatli, Bargarh. Taking into count the private kiln at Asureswar, Cuttack, Gram Vikas has by now, supported the establishment of six private VSBKs. The experience has been essential both in terms of disseminating the technology as well as in building capacities of Gram Vikas in construction and operation of VSBKs.

In the course of the year, Gram Vikas decided that we will concentrate on promoting community VSBKs where feasible, rather than private VSBKs, in line with our mission and priority to work with poor and marginalised communities.

Gram Vikas directly operates two VSBKs as demonstration and training units. The downscaled two-shaft VSBK at Mohuda with a capacity of 1.2 million bricks per year has completed its fourth year of operation. The kiln began with an opening stock of 0.13 million bricks. During the year, 1.02 million bricks were produced (5% damage). 0.91 million bricks were sold and 0.19 million bricks are in stock at the end of the year. Limited availability of appropriate soil has hindered the functioning of the VSBK at Konkia (established in 1997). The kiln was in operation from January to March 2005. During the period, 0.28 million bricks were produced and 50,000 sold.

Interventions in renewable energy

Increased availability of energy/electricity is required for a quantum improvement in the livelihoods and betterment in the overall quality of life of the rural poor. Efforts are directed towards decentralised generation of energy/electricity so that direct benefits reach the poor, hitherto deprived of access to grid electricity. Work in the area of rural energy has increased by a significant measure over this year, with three pilot projects running concurrently. Promoted as community managed approaches under the Livelihoods Improvements through Biomass Energy in Rural Areas (LIBERA) programme, these technologies tie in with our efforts in enhancing food security and livelihoods in remote un-electrified villages.

Biomass gasifier project

A gasifier of 10kW output, based on 100% producer gas from charcoal was piloted in Kanheiput village, Ganjam district. Technology support for this project is provided by The Energy Resources Institute (TERI), New Delhi; Sorane Sa, Switzerland and DTU (Danish Technical

University). The Kanheput gasifier has been operating since May 11, 2004, providing power to eleven households of Kanheput village for five hours every evening. It powers an electric water pump that supplements the village's gravity flow water system, as well as a flourmill and rice huller. Gram Vikas' barefoot engineers and a trained local villager operate the system.

12. Operations summary of biomass gasifier

Number of operational days	306 (as on March 31, 2005)
Total system downtime	13 days (4%)
1500 hours engine run time	~ 7400 kWh (units of electricity) produced
Average fuel consumption	36kg charcoal/ day
Fuel cost per kWh	Rs 6.45/kWh
Household tariff	Rs 50/month
Total maintenance expenditure for period	Rs 1350

The Kanheput gasifier runs on charcoal. Charcoal produces cleaner gas as compared to wood, which means less maintenance and less downtime. This system has conclusively proven this fact. Charcoal procurement and production is, however, a major issue with regards to disseminating this particular system. To this end (and for current operational purposes), three different charcoal kilns were tried out on campus including a beehive kiln, a traditional pit kiln and a modified thermal gasifier unit. Meanwhile the 100% wood-based gasifier systems have been improved by TERI, and Gram Vikas will trial this technology in the coming year.

Micro-hydro project

Work on a micro hydro system of 3-15 kW capacity in Amthaguda-Kuang villages of Kalahandi district was to be completed by July 2004. The project has not been able to meet its deadlines, due to delays in supply of equipment.

During the year,

- Construction of the operator's residence and powerhouse, installation of penstock pipeline, transmission poles and electrical cable were completed.
- The distribution system, house-wiring and streetlight wiring was also completed
- People's total contribution to the project over the 12 months of construction/installation work is 5,330 labour days (~2,650 days per six month period).
- Rs.152,000 was received from Integrated Tribal Development Agency (ITDA) for house wiring and streetlights.
- In the coming months, water supply to the powerhouse is to be established; watershed work is to restart; and final wiring connections are to be made

Key issues to be addressed once the system is commissioned and becomes operational include education in safe use of power, training and support for Village Energy Committee for collection of monthly tariff, system daily management and account keeping, further training of village youth (and GV staff) in system operation and maintenance, and ongoing technical accompaniment for about three months by Gram Vikas staff

Bio-diesel project

Under a World Bank Development Marketplace funded project, Canadian organisation CTx GreEn, is implementing experiments in carbon-neutral biodiesel-fuelled energy systems for small-scale water pumping and rural electrification in Gram Vikas' tribal villages. Since February 2004, Geeta Vaidyanathan and Ramani Sankaranarayanan have been on full time assignment from CTx GreEn working towards a) the scaling of (biodiesel) technology to community needs and local (biomass) resource availability b) capacity building during early stages of technology adaptation, both within the village community and within Gram Vikas, and c) developing indicators and mechanisms to monitor the impact of the project. Experiments are underway to produce bio-diesel through esterification of oils from under-utilised seeds from forest trees and agricultural crops. The pilot plants established in the demonstration unit and laboratory at the Mohuda campus of Gram Vikas include one 5-litre and one 20-litre reactor, a seed grinder and an oil press. A large number of staff and community representatives have visited this unit for exposure and training. Field pilots have been located in Kandhabanta and Talataila villages of Ganjam district and Kinchiling village of Gajapati district. While the primary objective is to use bio-diesel for pumping water for rural water supply, the units are scalable to cater to other requirements that may come up in due course of time.

The first pilot unit in Kinchiling village, Gajapati caters to 16 families. A five-litre bio-diesel reactor was installed on November 29, 2004. The pump set was commissioned on February 5, 2005. The second pilot unit at Kandhabanta-Talataila villages, Ganjam caters to 36 families. A 5-litre bio-diesel reactor was installed on December 31, 2004. Tests have been conducted to assess yield of wells. The work on the water tank, grinder and oil press at both units are to be completed by June 2005.

The work in Kandhabanta-Talataila villages has progressed parallelly with a focus on rural energy planning, including an energy planning survey in 12 villages around Kandhabanta-Talataila; a forest survey with the Vana Surakhya Samiti; cluster level analysis to select two more villages. A workshop was also organised to assess institutional forms for managing the bio diesel unit, including village committees and women's self help groups.

The bio-diesel project also worked with a resource assessment focus in the Tumba project area, Patrapur block, Ganjam district. The main activities included forest assessment in three clusters of villages; livelihoods analysis on *bogodo* or shifting cultivation as a livelihood system; collection of baseline data to assess/monitor long-term impact of bio-diesel project on environment and livelihoods. Two villages have been selected in this region for installation of bio-diesel units in the coming months.

FOCAL AREA IV - Livelihoods and Food security

- Promote appropriate & ecologically conducive mechanisms for increasing food production to promote household level food security.
- Facilitate generation of surplus from farm, off-farm, and non-farm activities through sustainable use of resources and develop capacities to deal with markets.
- Facilitate processes for enhancing capacity of natural and human resources to enable livelihood security.

Management of Natural Resources

Land, water and forests are the three most important resources for the people living in rural areas. Intensive work is carried out by Gram Vikas in enhancing food security and improving environmental resistance to drought through effective land, water and forest management practices. Communities recognise the fact that sustainability of natural resources will also determine food security and sustainable livelihoods for themselves. Gram Vikas supports village communities in undertaking sustainable management of natural resources through a variety of interventions in promoting community forestry and horticulture, land and water conservation and development.

Our work in this sector is concentrated in the tribal dominated areas of Ganjam, Gajapati and Kalahandi districts. Since 2002, Gram Vikas is also the Project Implementing Agency (PIA) for watershed projects funded under schemes of Government of India in Bongamunda block, in the drought-affected district of Bolangir. Gram Vikas has also recently signed an MoU with the ITDA as a PIA for the Government funded, Orissa Tribal Empowerment and Livelihood Programme (OTELP) in Thuamul Rampur Block, Kalahandi District. This work covers 12 watersheds over an area of 5000ha, including 37 villages in four Gram Panchayats and is for a period of five years.

Integrated Watershed development, Bolangir

As the PIA in Bongamunda, Bolangir, Gram Vikas is implementing watershed projects falling under four schemes of the Government of India. These include:

- ❑ Four watersheds under Drought Prone Area Programme (DPAP) 7th batch
- ❑ Four watersheds under Drought Prone Area Programme (DPAP) 8th batch
- ❑ Two watersheds under the Additional Central Assistance-Revised Long Term Action Plan (ACA-RLTAP) of the special programme for Koraput-Bolangir-Kalahandi (KBK) Districts
- ❑ Ten watersheds under Western Orissa Rural Livelihoods Programme (WORLP)

A total of 20 micro watersheds are being developed in Bongamunda block covering 10,163 hectares across 49 villages. More than 7,500 households with a population of over 30,000 are involved. The funds are directed through the District Rural Development Agency (DRDA) Bolangir.

Watershed associations and committees have been formed and registration procedures completed in all watershed areas. Participatory micro planning for preparation of five-year watershed action plans was completed (except under WORLP) in the last reporting period. Livelihood action plans

have been completed for 10 watersheds under WORLP. These participatory plans include a well-being analysis to identify very poor, poor, manageable and well-off families and design appropriate interventions. This has been useful in developing user-group based plans for land and water development. Community based cadres of para-veterinary workers and village agriculture workers are also being developed.

Under the entry point activity provision in the DPAP and WORLP projects, watershed villages are being motivated to take up community based water and sanitation with 100% coverage. This has been recognised as a process of achieving ‘total inclusion’ and creates a democratic platform for other activities to be taken up. Other PIAs in Bolangir district are also approaching Gram Vikas to undertake water and sanitation as entry point activity in areas where they are working.

13. Activities in watershed areas of Bongamunda block in 2004-05

- Soil treatment work was carried out across 234 hectares across 26 villages.
- Excavation and renovation of 10 water bodies was completed, while work on 8 units is in progress.
- 20 farm pond units were completed and 50 are in progress
- Self Help Groups managed five nurseries for horticulture and eight ponds for pisciculture
- Community plantation work was undertaken in 77 hectares.
- Composting techniques including vermi-compost were demonstrated.
- There were successful experiments with back-yard vegetable gardens involving 356 families.
- With increasing acceptance, 46 families bought IDE treadle pumps during the year.
- Local youth were trained as para-vets to undertake immunisation and treatment of livestock. The initiative has met with success.
- 12% of total expenditure has been kept in a watershed development fund (WDF). In 10 watersheds, the WDF has accumulated to Rs.369,000, with Rs.206,000 deposited this year.

Key issues

This being the first time we have worked on government supported watershed programmes as PIA, there are several lessons learnt over the past two years:

Need to focus on the process of mobilising communities

In the first few projects the stiff targets and rigid procedures to deliver an action plan, form watershed associations and committees, receive funds, spend them and submit utilisation certificates etc, hindered the process of effective community mobilisation. We got our act together in the later projects and were able to establish a better rapport with communities, which has helped make plans more realistic. There is realisation at all levels that the process of mobilisation is critical to the sustainability of the project. Given that watershed projects, by design benefit the very poor the least, the need for additional inputs for this section has now been acknowledged by adding *watershed plus* components focusing on the poor.

Total inclusion through appropriate entry point activities

The government has recognised Gram Vikas’ approach of using water and sanitation to mobilise all families living in a habitation as an effective entry point activity. Towards this Rs.1,400 per family has been allocated towards supporting sanitation infrastructure for all watershed projects.

Water supply and sanitation is being undertaken as an entry point activity in areas where Gram Vikas is the PIA. Other PIAs have also been approaching Gram Vikas for support.

Funds should be available with the watershed committees at the right time

Watershed projects normally suffer either from the problem of plenty or from the problem of scarcity. When funds are disbursed they are done in one large tranche, and there is typically an accompanying pressure to spend them fast. On the other hand, there are some very critical moments when the availability of funds or their lack thereof makes it extremely difficult to carry on the work properly. There are two periods in any given year when there should be sufficient funds available with the watershed committees. First, towards the end of October, which is the time families who depend on migration will make their decision whether to leave or stay for local employment and second, towards the end of March, so that the earth works can be taken up and completed before the onset of the monsoons. Not having funds at any of these two periods are serious bottlenecks in project implementation, both for the PIA and for the watershed committees.

Community based natural resource management, Kalahandi

In addition to the government financed watershed projects, Gram Vikas is also developing with its own resources, micro-watersheds across seven villages in Thuamul Rampur block of Kalahandi district. Work in these villages began in mid-2002. This work benefits 800 ha and involves 324 *adivasi* families in Tukuguda, Tangiri, Tikirpada, Dholguda, Pustiguda, Amathaguda and Kuang. Area and drainage line treatment is undertaken following the ridge to valley approach. The area treatment undertaken includes continuous contour trenches (CCT), water absorption trenches (WAT), contour stone bunds (CSB), farm bunds and horticulture/social forestry. The drainage line treatment is by loose boulder gully plugs. These activities have helped to generate employment in the area and have begun to demonstrate ways of protecting land and water resources.

For work on the community land, people's contribution to the total costs through *shramdaan* is 20%, their contribution to the village fund is 5% and the remaining 75% is the net payment by Gram Vikas. For work on private land, people's contribution is 40%, their contribution to the village fund is 5% and the remaining 55% of the total costs is the net payment by Gram Vikas. The total cost of work in the watershed projects in Kalahandi is Rs.2.28 million. The quantum of watershed development funds is Rs.0.1 million. Villagers have agreed to abstain from slash and burn cultivation in earmarked areas within their villages and develop the hills and surrounding lands following sound watershed management principles.

Community forestry and horticulture

Gram Vikas motivates communities to collectively manage their forests and horticulture plantations. Communities have been motivated to regenerate common and private wastelands by growing trees for fuel, fruit, fodder and timber and also by developing horticulture patches. Community forests and horticulture help to protect the local environment and yield incomes. The process of management and sharing benefits enhances unity among the community.

The process got a boost in the past year with the strategy to link the education programme in the *adivasi* areas of Ganjam, Gajapati and Kalahandi with afforestation. Each village is encouraged to earmark at least 2 acres (0.8 ha) of community plantation towards ensuring sustainability of

the education programme. Links are established with appropriate government departments for procurement of seeds and saplings. Currently, 47 villages have undertaken plantation and protection of over 380 acres of community land, to contribute towards the school expenses.

Agriculture and horticulture development

Development of cultivable land through levelling, digging of farm ponds and construction of bunds are promoted particularly in adivasi areas of Ganjam, Gajapati and Kalahandi districts where villagers traditionally practise slash and burn cultivation. During the year 527 families across 53 villages were supported to develop 118 ha of land while 14 families across 8 villages constructed stone bunds around 6.4 ha of land

In these regions agricultural activities including cultivation of paddy and vegetables is promoted, as well as growing fruit trees such as mango, cashew, lemon, papaya and banana through field training, credit support and accessing appropriate inputs. In many villages, the successes of agriculture and horticulture has led to significant augmentation of incomes and reduced dependence on slash and burn cultivation. Villagers are also encouraged to develop pits and tanks for composting of organic wastes and vermi-compost. During the year 3,963 farmers of 150 adivasi villages cultivating 683 ha were supported through the kharif, rabi and summer seasons, for cultivation of food crops and vegetables, while 2735 families across 121 villages planted cashew, mango, banana, papaya and other horticulture species over 384 ha of land.

In the Tumba project area of Patrapur block in Ganjam, Gram Vikas aided the local adivasi people's organisation to revive two local *haats* (weekly markets) in Puriasahi and Tadakasahi. These two markets are to be registered so as to enable them to enhance their scale of trading. For an area where all villages are located on the hills and none reachable by motorable road, this has made a big difference in selling what they produce, and for purchase of essential requirements.

Livestock care

Efforts are made to ensure effective care of livestock in adivasi regions where Gram Vikas works in Ganjam, Gajapati and Kalahandi districts. Immunisation and treatment of livestock is done through links with local government livestock inspectors who are brought to camps catering to clusters of 15-20 villages. Gram Vikas staff and local para-vets are also trained in livestock care to cater to emergency needs. Three training programmes in livestock vaccination and treatment were conducted for 30 staff and 39 village youth.

After freedom from exploitation, securing their lives and livelihoods

Jalior village is remotely located in the sparsely populated Mahendragiri Range at approximately at an altitude of 1000 meters. The village has 207 men and women from 34 households, all adivasi, with BPL status. The village has no electricity or communication facilities and continues to be deprived of even the most basic services. No government servant has ever visited Jailor. Access to Jailor is possible by foot only - no roads penetrate through the steep forest range.

Bhima Badamundi is an active and motivated member of his community. Along with his fellow villagers, he depends upon the ancient practice of bogodo to feed himself and his family. However in recent years, Bhima has observed that what could be produced on half an acre in the

past now takes one acre. Where as today he leaves each site fallow for 3 to 5 years, in the past, plots were left fallow for 10 to 15 years allowing the soil to regenerate.

Increasing population pressure on the land leading to a steady deterioration of land quality is to be blamed for making the traditional practice of bogodo unsustainable. The declining productivity of the bogodo lands mean longer lean periods, and increasing dependence on *sahukars* (money lenders).

In 1999, Bhima and his family approached the Gram Vikas staff. After hearing his story, Gram Vikas offered Bhima a loan, and the technical assistance required to start his own sustainable income generating activity. He built a stone fence around an acre of his land, and established a plantation of cashew, guava, pineapple, lemon, papaya and turmeric. For the first time, Bhima and his family were not dependent entirely on bogodo and the *sahukars* for their food, but were trying their hand at growing, harvesting and marketing horticultural produce instead. The rewards of his efforts were surprising to all. Within the first year he was able to pay off the *sahukars* and release all his mortgaged land from their clutches. The following year – with a profit of Rs. 3400 he cleared his loan to Gram Vikas and was able to support his nephew’s studies. With further assistance from Gram Vikas, he began construction of a new ‘pucca’ house. The income generated from his garden goes towards regular repayments of the housing loan.

Bhima’s wife is a member of one of three SHGs in Jailor. The combined savings of the groups is now approximately Rs.16,000 – from which Bhima’s wife has taken a small loan to purchase more goats. Previously goats, cows bullocks and poultry were used in Jailor only for consumption. However, Gram Vikas has promoted their use as a commercial income generating activity. This is accompanied by organising vaccination camps, construction of cattle sheds and training programmes in elementary veterinary care. Today, almost 350 livestock are kept in the small village, and provide a regular income to each household.

Livelihoods diversification

Livelihoods diversification linked with increased incomes and savings are critical to reducing vulnerability of rural communities, especially in times of disasters. In the non-farm livelihoods sector, Gram Vikas’ efforts are focused on promotion of self-help groups, skill building, community enterprise in processing of agriculture and minor forest produce and technological applications for livelihood promotion

Self Help Groups

In all villages, Gram Vikas supports the formation and strengthening of self-help groups (SHG). The basic premise is to encourage thrift among the members who are mostly women and provide readily accessible funds at reasonable rates in times of need. These groups provide a platform for bringing women together to discuss issues of common concern. In several villages, self-help groups take responsibility for functioning of the education centre, regular immunisations and growth monitoring, monitoring of village cleanliness, etc. In a few villages self-help groups and village committees have taken local government construction contracts, ensuring that funds are effectively and efficiently used.

Self help groups have demonstrated that over time women gain confidence to articulate and express themselves even in the larger village meetings and participate actively in community level decision-making. Gram Vikas provides practical field level accompaniment and necessary training to self-help groups.

In Ganjam, groups are linked to MASS, through which they avail credit. Several groups in Bargarh and Mayubhanj districts also leverage funds from banks. In most tribal areas, where markets are underdeveloped, bank credit is not widely accessed, given the limitations in credit absorption. Instead groups use their own accumulated savings for various personal consumption activities, and at times of shortage and local celebrations. Loans are used for income generation activities including livestock rearing (poultry, goats and bullocks) and processing of minor forest produce (making leaf plates, binding brooms, processing tamarind, etc). Some groups have taken up trading in cashew, tamarind, paddy, *sabai* grass, etc, to ensure better returns. They make a fair profit in the process. Of particular note has been the efforts of the District Forest Officer – Bhanjanagar (Ganjam district) in Gram Vikas’ Rudhapadar project area in working with Gram Vikas to highlight the livelihood opportunities from non-timber forest products for the local *adivasi* communities.

An issue of concern in several groups in linking with external resources is that large funds thrust on groups through schemes such as SGSY and by agencies such as MASS, with rigid conditions and lack of effective planning. This has led to several groups not utilising the funds effectively and in a few instances led to fractures in socially active and coherent groups. This issue is especially acute in tribal areas where credit absorption is poor.

14. Status of self-help groups

Villages Covered		350
Groups	Male	159
	Female	1,113
	Mixed	16
	Total	1,288
Members	Male	1,781
	Female	14,456
	Total	17,042

Transactions (amount in Rs.Million)		
Opening	Savings	4.8
	Loan O/S	7.6
Transactions	Collection	5.5
	Loan repaid	2.5
	Interest collection	2.6
	Loan disbursed	8.7
	Withdrawals	0.04
Closing Balance	Savings	6.7
	Loan O/S	13.8

Livelihoods in construction sector

Training men and women in masonry, stone cutting, wire bending, carpentry and plumbing is integrated with the process of infrastructure development in all villages through on-the-job training.

Over the year 287 persons (222 men and 65 women) were trained in masonry in 12 programmes at different project locations. The training duration is 60 days at the end of which a test is

conducted. 210 persons (163 men and 47 women) passed their tests this year. At the end of the year 60 persons (57 men, 3 women) were completing their training at 3 different project sites.

Trained masons have since been able to find regular employment and are not dependent on Gram Vikas. A process of monitoring progress of masons to assess the efficacy of the training has been put in place.

A “barefoot engineers” training programme was started by the Building Support Team (BST) of Gram Vikas in 2002 to develop a cadre of trained persons to support the construction works undertaken by Gram Vikas, capable of carrying out basic engineering tasks at the village level. This was found necessary, as it is difficult to motivate and retain qualified engineers to live and work in remote rural areas. The barefoot engineering programme is integrated with Gram Vikas’ interventions in water supply and sanitation, housing, renewable energy, watershed development and masons training. Each training cycle involves a 150 day-course curriculum with 90 days theory-practical sessions and 60 days on-site training. A total of 66 persons were trained over the past two years in three batches. 52 persons passed the course, of which 30 continue to work with Gram Vikas, supporting various field projects.

FOCAL AREA V Human and Institutional Development

Staff development

Capacity building of staff is an ongoing activity, which takes place through accompaniment in the field and periodic training programmes. There are orientation and induction programmes for new staff. Staff meetings are held at the different project locations each month, after which all project coordinators come to the head office for sharing progress of work, problems faced and seeking additional support when needed.

The main activities in staff development undertaken last year included

- ❑ Training of staff and community representatives on watershed development was organised at Thuamul Rampur project area in Kalahandi facilitated by WOTR, Ahmednagar.
- ❑ Training of staff and community representatives on vaccination and treatment of livestock was organised at Bongamunda, Bolangir and Thuamul Rampur, Kalahandi facilitated by Dr A J John
- ❑ Team building workshops and trainings in Gender, Panchayati Raj, Accounts and Documentation were organised at all project areas.
- ❑ Creative writing workshops were organised at Bolangir, Mohuda and Koinpur. 77 staff across all projects participated in these workshops and wrote about their experiences. A compilation of case studies in Oriya titled ‘Gram Vikas Safalata Samahar’ has subsequently been published.
- ❑ Organisation wide Review and Planning events were organised in April and October. Over 100 staff from different project areas participated. These events create learning and sharing platforms, and provide a forum where specific policies and strategies of the organisation are discussed.
- ❑ Gender Assessment Studies were carried out across all projects reflecting on mechanisms and structures for promotion of gender.
- ❑ Much progress has been made in synergising programme and finance monitoring of Gram Vikas. Project Coordinators and staff are also involved in an exercise to synchronize planning and budgeting processes.

Gram Vikas Foundation Day

January 22 marks the Foundation Day of Gram Vikas. Every year community representatives and staff come together at Mohuda for 2-3 days to celebrate the event. This year, the event was restricted to the staff of Gram Vikas and local volunteers associated in our work. There were over 500 participants in the two-day event. On January 21st, staff teams discussed the Strategic Plan of Gram Vikas. The event was an opportunity to gain a common understanding of the vision, mission and strategies of Gram Vikas. The event was also an opportunity to showcase the talents of staff in cultural events and sports.

External Training and Exposure visits

Staff and community representatives have participated in training programmes and exposure visits to the following organisations during the year:

- NM Sadguru Foundation, Dahod, Gujarat
- WOTR, Ahmednagar, Maharashtra
- ARTI, Pune, Maharashtra
- Seva Mandir, Udaipur Rajasthan
- NIRD, Hyderabad
- CYSD, Bhubaneshwar.
- INSA, Bangalore
- Orissa Tribal Empowerment and Livelihoods Programme (OTELP) at Bhubaneshwar
- DHAN Foundation, Madurai
- Aga Khan Rural Support Programme, Gujarat
- Development Support Centre, Ahmedabad, Gujarat
- TIDE Technocrats, Bangalore,
- Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore
- SWRC, Tilonia, Rajasthan
- Development Alternatives, Jhansi.

FOCAL AREA VI

Outreach and networking

Senior staff of Gram Vikas participated through the year in several meetings and consultations organised by government, donor agencies and non-government organisations.

Mr Joe Madiath, Executive Director of Gram Vikas participated in the Annual Summit of the Schwab Foundation of Social Entrepreneurs at Rio de Janeiro, Brazil; the Global WASH forum at Dakar, Senegal; Renewable Energy Conference organised by EED, Germany; and the World Economic Forum at Davos, Switzerland.

Events were also organised by Gram Vikas to share the work that we are doing, as well as to receive feedback. These events have created an opportunity for dialogue and to generate inputs for influencing development policies and processes. A few key events organised by Gram Vikas last year include:

BSHF-Gram Vikas RHEP Study Visit - November 7-14, 2004

A group of 30 participants from across the world engaged in promoting habitat development among poor and marginalised communities visited Gram Vikas between November 11 and 17, 2004. The participants, selected by the Building and Social Housing Foundation (BSHF), came to Gram Vikas to understand the interventions in community managed water supply, sanitation and habitat development under the Rural Health and Environment Programme. The study visit was organized by BSHF as a follow up to the World Habitat Award given to Gram Vikas in 2003.

Workshop on remote village electrification and village energy security - November 17-18, 2004

A workshop on remote village electrification and village energy security was organised at Gram Vikas, Mohuda on November 17-18, 2004. Gram Vikas and TERI organised the workshop with support from MNES. Over 70 participants attended, including institutions from across the country involved in technology development and implementation of village electrification projects. Officials from the Ministry of Non Conventional Energy Sources (MNES) and different government departments of Orissa also attended. The workshop included representatives of village communities and local organisations owning and managing village electricity and rural infrastructure projects in Orissa, Uttaranchal and West Bengal. Each of these representatives made presentations on their experiences.

The key lessons that emerged from the workshop were:

- It is essential to intensify the implementation of village electrification projects and spread the 'islands of successes' that exist few and far.
- Ensuring sustainability of these projects is essential not only from the resource availability point of view but also from an economic, and more importantly, managerial point of view.
- Village electrification projects provide opportunities for starting new income generation activities that can help attain sustainability and promote economic growth of the villages. However, this is a slow process, especially in the first few projects, until this mode of economic development catches on. At the same time, the contribution of energy in

meeting the basic survival and livelihood needs such as lighting, water-lifting etc. can never be discounted.

- Experiences with village based, community-managed energy systems are relatively new and the lessons are only emerging now. Most of this experience lies in the field of micro hydro, and very little in biomass gasifiers.
- Village-based, community-owned power generation systems are a complex business and need considerable time, effort and iterative learning from the community and a huge amount of intermediation from the external agency.

Eastern region WASH consultation - January 11-12, 2005

The Eastern region consultation of WASH (Water Sanitation and Hygiene Campaign) was held at Gram Vikas, Mohuda, Orissa on January 11-12, 2005. 39 participants took part in the consultations including representatives of NGOs and District and State Water and Sanitation Missions. The Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council, Geneva supported the consultation.

Auditors Workshop – February 22, 2005

A workshop was organised by FMSF, New Delhi at Gram Vikas, Mohuda on February 22, 2005. The workshop brought together auditors and staff from Finance and Accounts from Seva Mandir, Pradan, Accion Fraternal, ADATS and Gram Vikas, which are participating in the Co-funding programme on Sustainable Income Security in India, supported by European Union-ICCO and other organisations.

Volunteers

Australian Volunteers International (AVI) Youth Programme

Team 1 - October 14, 2004 to December 6, 2004

Team 2 - December 10, 2004 to February 6, 2005

Gram Vikas hosted two ten-week AVI Youth Programmes last year. The programmes were an opportunity for Australian youth to live with the rural communities of Orissa, and to try and understand the development context. In course of the programmes a variety of community development programmes were organized at different Gram Vikas project locations. The communities welcomed the youth with enthusiasm and some curiosity. The outcomes of the two programmes were positive for Gram Vikas, the rural communities and the participants. Sneha Madiath was the Indian Team Leader for both programmes while Shaun Lauder was Australian Team Leader for the first and Emma McGill was Australian Team Leader for the second programme.

- Sasha Kiessling and Michael Tuckwell from AVI completed two years of volunteer work with Gram Vikas. Sasha has been involved in documentation and capacity development programmes, while Michael coordinates projects in renewable energy.
- Jeon Seong-hun, volunteer from KOPION, Korea volunteered for four months during which he undertook a survey of graduates from Gram Vikas residential schools.
- Deepasri Baul, Ashish Vainak and Megha Anwar, student volunteers from New Delhi visited project areas of Gram Vikas to understand Gram Vikas' work and to document case studies.

- Vincent Kadi, volunteer from Ecole de Mines, French technical institute, participated in rural energy planning activities for two months.
- Stan Iondanov, from University of Waterloo volunteered for four months with the bio diesel project.
- Rebecca Mancini and Kari Kokko from Canada also volunteered with the biodiesel project. Their 3 week assignment included assisting with preparation of a users manual.
- Alan Mulvey, an architect from Ireland left Gram Vikas after about three years of volunteer work, during which his most significant contribution was the office annex building at Mohuda.
- Canadian Volunteers Luyse and Gordon Groulx participated in a three-month volunteering programme. Luyse was involved in a study of dropout children, while Gordon was involved in developing a film on Gram Vikas' residential school at Konkia. The couple gifted a direct-to-home satellite receiver to the school.
- Cedric de Smet from Belgium studied farming systems in Ganjam and Kalahandi.

Publications

1. Joe Madiath and Jayapadma RV, **The water and sanitation challenge: How complex? How urgent?:** TerraGreen, Issue 62, June 15, 2004
2. Michael Tuckwell, **Developing renewable power for India's rural poor:** ReNew, Issue 89, October to December, 2004
3. Sasha Kiessling and Jayapadma RV, **Village republics and Girls Can! Juggling gender equity:** Australian Volunteers International Magazine, Spring 2004
4. Mary Todd and Tom Palakudiyil, **Harnessing local capacities in rural India:** World Disasters Report 2004, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
5. Jayapadma RV, **Gram Vikas Housing Programme – Orissa:** Participatory Rural Habitat Processes; Emerging Trends, Vol 1; Development Alternatives, Building Social Housing Foundation, January 2005.
6. Joe Madiath and Jayapadma RV, **What makes Gram Vikas entrepreneurial?:** Alliance, March 2005
7. **Gram Vikas Safalata Samahar:** Compendium of case studies in Oriya from "Creative Writing Workshops 2004", Gram Vikas, March 2005

Other documents

8. Joe Madiath and Jayapadma RV, **Not just a dream! Experiences in habitat development in rural Orissa,** BASIN Conference 2004, March 2004
9. Joe Madiath and Jayapadma RV, **Learning by doing – sowing the seeds of local governance,** IRMA Silver Jubilee Symposium on Governance of NGOs, December 2004
10. Jayapadma RV and LT Johnson, **Guiding the course - A study of the governance systems of Gram Vikas,** IRMA Silver Jubilee Symposium on Governance of NGOs, December 2004
11. L T Johnson and Kylie McEvoy, **The adivasis of Thuamul Rampur – Challenging the realities,** IRMA Silver Jubilee Symposium on Governance of NGOs, December 2004
12. Ramani Sankaranarayanan, Geeta Vaidyanathan, Joe Madiath and Urmilla Senapati, **Carbon-neutral biodiesel-fuelled energy system for small scale rural water pumping and power generation:** Proceedings of the International Conference on Biofuels, Winrock India, New Delhi, September 16-17, 2004

Film

Gram Vikas produced a film in Oriya titled “The Samantrapur Story” directed by Ms Mina Mishra. The film explains the processes involved in the community managed water supply and sanitation. The film is to be used as a motivational tool for new villages, interested in joining the programme. Discussions held around the film with village communities help clarify concerns, apprehensions and doubts that the community may have in undertaking the programme.

FUNDERS

CA	Christian Aid, UK
CARE	CARE India, Bhubaneswar
CTx GreEn	Kitchener, Ontario, Canada
EU	European Union
ICCO	Interchurch Cooperation, Netherlands
ODAF	Orissa Development Action Forum, Bhubaneswar
SCIAF	Scottish Catholic International Aid Fund, UK
SDC	Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation

Donations

Agnieszka Radomska, Warszawa, Poland	Jacqui Blacket, Australia
Alexander Alfred Kazaglis, Australia	Jodie Wegener, Australia
Anetta Wojcik, Woj. Podkarpacie, Poland	Katie Black, Australia
Augustow’s Gimnazjum, Woj. Podlaskie, Poland	Kirby Rogers, Australia
Carl Steinfort, Australia	Luyse Groulx and Gordon Patridge, Canada
Claire Elkin, Australia	Michael Bogwitz, Australia
De Heer H Breman, Belgium	Philip Nelson, USA
Donvale Christian College, Australia	Publiczne Gimnazjum, Dziewin, Poland
Ian Pitchard, UK	Shaun Lauder, Australia
	Zespol Szkol, Woj. Podkarpckig, Poland

TREASURER'S NOTE

I am happy to place before you the audited statements of accounts of Gram Vikas for the period April 2004 to March 2005. I have discussed these Accounts and Management letter with the Auditors.

The Annual accounts contain a set of Notes to which I invite your special consideration.

- The financial systems in Gram Vikas maintain a high order of integrity and transparency. I am pleased to report that there is regular internal audit scrutiny and the management is continuously reviewing and implementing needed improvements.
- Gram Vikas has satisfactorily complied with all statutory requirements related to FCRA, Income Tax, Provident Fund and Gratuity.

With these observations, I propose that these Annual Audited Accounts of Gram Vikas for the financial year 2004-2005 be approved.

Rajesh Tandon
Treasurer

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31st MARCH 2005

Particulars	Schedule	As at 31.03.2005 (in Rupees)	As at 31.03.2004 (in Rupees)
<u>LIABILITIES</u>			
Capital Fund	I	167,094,596	168,145,961
Project Funds	I	67,518,395	51,194,190
Other Funds	II	47,737,088	45,606,891
Loans	III	51,949,033	82,809,286
Current Liabilities and Provisions	IV	32,307,247	958,497
		<u>366,606,359</u>	<u>348,714,825</u>
<u>ASSETS</u>			
Fixed Assets	V	37,055,281	38,180,355
Investments	VI	170,207,247	109,484,856
Livestock	VII	365,100	347,736
Current Assets	VIII	158,978,731	200,701,878
		<u>366,606,359</u>	<u>348,714,825</u>

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2005

Particulars	Schedule	Year ending 31.03.2005 (in Rupees)	Year ending 31.03.2004 (in Rupees)
<u>INCOME</u>			
Grants in Aid		117,383,848	76,778,240
Interest on Bank Deposits		8,682,103	3,821,319
Income from Investments		14,171,997	17,725,028
Profit on Sale of Investments		1,222,391	(4,824,114)
Miscellaneous Receipts		8,003,410	13,164,113
Total		149,463,749	106,664,586
<u>EXPENDITURE</u>			
Programme Expenses	IX	87,882,999	55,408,475
Grants & Donations		36,387,942	37,666,293
Administrative and General Expenses	X	4,824,876	4,067,553
Depreciation		5,063,420	4,757,396
Total		134,159,237	101,899,717
Excess of Income over Expenditure		<u>15,304,512</u>	<u>4,764,869</u>

Glossary

List of abbreviations

ANM	Auxiliary Nurse and Midwife
BPL	Below Poverty Line
DRDA	District Rural Development Agency
Govt.	Government
HDFC	Housing Development and Finance Corporation
ITDA	Integrated Tribal Development Agency
ITDP	Integrated Tribal Development Programme
KBK	Koraput Bolangir Kalahandi
LIBERA	Livelihood Improvement (through Innovative Interventions) using Biomass Energy in Rural Areas
MANTRA	Movement and Action Network for Transformation of Rural Areas
MLA	Member of Legislative Assembly
MP	Member of Parliament
NGO	Non Government organization
NIRD	National Institute for Rural Development
ODAF	Orissa Development Action Forum
OTELP	Orissa Tribal Empowerment & Livelihoods Programme
PHC	Public Health Centres
PIA	Programme Implementing Agency
PRI	Panchayati Raj Institutions
PRIA	Society for Participatory Research in Asia
RHEP	Rural Health and Environment Programme
SDC	Swiss Agency for Development and Co-operation
SGSY	Swarna Jayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana
SHG	Self Help Group
TERI	The Energy and Resources Institute
VSBK	Vertical Shaft Brick Kiln
WORLP	Western Orissa Rural Livelihoods Programme

Translation of Oriya words

Adivasi	People from Scheduled Tribes
Anganwadi	Pre school centers run by government
Balwadi	Pre school centers run by Gram Vikas
Bogodo/ Dangar	Slash and burn cultivation
Dalit	People from Scheduled Castes
Didi	Sister
Gram Sabha	General body meeting of the Panchayat
Gaon sathi	Friend of the Village
Haat	Weekly market
Kotho Dhaan	Community Grain storage system
Mela	Fair (a large gathering of people)
Pala	Local theatre troupe
Palli Sabha	General body meeting of a village/ hamlet
Pucca	Of permanent nature
Shiksha Sahayaks	Education facilitators
Shramdaan	Voluntary contribution of labour
Vaidya	Native doctor/ Traditional healers