

State of SEEDS: a brief update

Priyadarsan Patra and Sri Goopal Mohanty, on behalf of the SEEDS volunteers

Sustainable Economic and Educational Development Society (SEEDS) continues to promote and advocate for sustainable, equitable and decentralized development in Orissa and else where, with its fundamental emphasis on empowerment, education and micro-enterprise based thrusts. We, within the limits of our resources, pursue to educate ourselves on development issues facing Orissa, to raise small or big contributions, and to share ideas with others in support of these core principles.

SEEDS, catalytically, helps development workers (NGOs) and ordinary people alike to empower and help themselves. We work in partnership with the beneficiaries and executing bodies (NGOs) in a manner different from a typical funding agency, as would be evident from the analysis we perform before, during and after a local project is undertaken. Most of our volunteers continue to donate their time, energy and expenses to keep SEEDS functioning with zero overheads to a typical donor. We see that enthusiasm for grass-roots development among non-resident Oriyas and Indians has caught on to some extent. Although our resource mobilization is dismal over the last year or so, we are happy to note that two groups in California have joined SEEDS as chapters who self-govern themselves to promote the core principles of SEEDS.

As for financial matters, our expenses in 2003 were \$12,003.00 . For 2004 till date, the expenditures stand at \$2770.00 . Donations (not including time and expenses of most of our volunteers) in 2003 were \$2286.37. In 2004 so far the contributions received are a meager \$206.99 .

No doubt that our resource base in terms of volunteers, monetary donation and such has seriously dwindled, and has reached subsistence-levels for an organization. Yet we continue to hope and strive to keep working, facilitating, and networking to inch toward what we believe is our common destiny.

We summarize below in a table our various project undertakings and you may find more details of these activities at our websites, myseeds.home.comcast.net and www.seedsnet.org . As always, we will love to hear you, and dearly hope to receive your camaraderie in this effort at true and lasting development. This year we strongly encourage younger members of our society born or brought up here to volunteer at some of our project sites in Orissa. We also need a fresh infusion from university students to shore up “the movement” that after all started from academic confines a decade ago.

Place (district)	NGO	Project	Goals
Thuamula (Kalahandi)	Vanavasi Seva Prakalpa	Residential School's integrated development	Education in tribal areas
Konark (Puri)	Odissa Dance Academy	Cyclone repair	Art Education in Orissa (Konark)
Jalespeta (Phulabani)	Vanavasi Kalyan Ashram	School teachers, and library	Education in tribal areas
Dalijoda (Cuttack)	Sri Aurobindo SriKshetra	Pump for irrigation, rebuild cyclone-destroyed School rooms	Education in tribal areas
Jagatsingpur, Kendrapada, Puri, Cuttack	Unnayan	Intervention after super cyclone, promote self- reliance via SHGs	Livelihood security, formation of pani panchayat and introduction of microcredit and sustainability
Naugan (Jagatsingpur)	ASRA	Health planning, nutrition, kitchen- garden, portable x- ray machine	Health education awareness and facility in rural areas
Ganjam town (Ganjam)	United Artists Association	repair cyclone- devastated school, provide better environment for education	Primary education, cyclone rehab
Baghbahali (Balangir)	REACHD	Minor LI point, pani panchayat, income generation	Livelihood security SHG microcredit
Kandhaichhapar, Chauldia (Bolangir)	The Humanity	Land leveling, food for work, check dam, composting	Livelihood security, sustainable farming
Nuapada	Kalahandi Vikas Parishad	Water harvesting, ponds	Livelihood security, natural resource preservation
Rayagada	Utkal Khadi Mandal	Supporting schools	Education in tribal areas
Jhankarbahali (Sambalpur)	BISWA	Bamboo plantation, sustainability and micro- entrepreneurship	Livelihood security, ownership for landless people

Mohana Block (Gajapati)	SACAL	Poultry farming training, SHG	Income generation, selfhelp, empowering for interacting with govt. structures
Betanoti Block (Mayurbhanj)	IMTS	SHG, cyclone-damage	Income generation
Jagatpur (Jajpur)	SRDO	Poultry farming, goatery, kitchen garden	Income generation
Khurda	GJS	SHGs, mushroom farming	Income generation
Mahulapada (Dhenkanal)	Indira Social Welfare Org.	Candle manufacturing, SHG	Income generation
Angul	Bajiraut Chhatrabas	Deep bore-well and hand pump	Education; Earn and Learn
Bhubaneswar	Unnayan/ Dhanada Mishra	Ferro-cement boat for marginal or small-scale fisher-folks	Appropriate technology development
Kodala (Ganjam)	SAIMA	School for the mentally handicapped	Special Education and “integrating the voiceless”
Utkal University (Vanibihar)	University	Community donation for eye-sight restoration for the very poor college students	Targeted help for the very disadvantaged but meritorious college students

“Vision without action is a daydream. Action without vision is a nightmare” says a Japanese proverb. Let’s forge for a better tomorrow.