

aNNUAL rEPORT

(2018-19)



VIRD has completed 28 years of its service to the poor and marginalized sections of the society. During these years, VIRD has faced many challenges and got opportunities in serving the partner community during these years. In the mean time, the organization has gained experience and expertise through engagement in different domains of community development-Health, Education, Livelihoods Promotion and Governance.



VOLUNTARY INSTITUTE FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Aida, Titigaon, Athamallick, Angul, Odisha

Admn. Office: Hakimpada, Angul, Odisha

Tel.: 9438850416, E-mail: virdangul2005@yahoo.co.in

URL: www.virdngo.org

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I acknowledge with sincere thanks the contribution of all who have been associated with VIRD and have contributed to its growth, its intellectual properties and have rendered valuable opinions. All these have enriched us.

I am earnestly thankful to all the departments of State and Central government, the Panchayatiraj Institutions, the opinion leaders, women who speak up, children look upon us, and the innumerable individuals never expressed their desires but look forward to seeing a developed community, not only for themselves, but for the future generations. They, though cannot use the development jargons, but are real heroes and heroines. In this single line/ paragraph I acknowledge their contributions.

This page needs a special mention of the District Administration, who has trusted us to be competent enough to carry out projects of governments on a satisfactory level.

I am grateful to the staffs of VIRD who have rendered their services with utmost sincerity, efficiency, and effectiveness to let the dreams come true.

The entire efforts of VIRD would have gone ashtray had it not received the total support of the community at large. At the finishing point, I convey my greatest respect, love, appreciation and admiration through this page, for them.

I remain.

Namita Satpathy

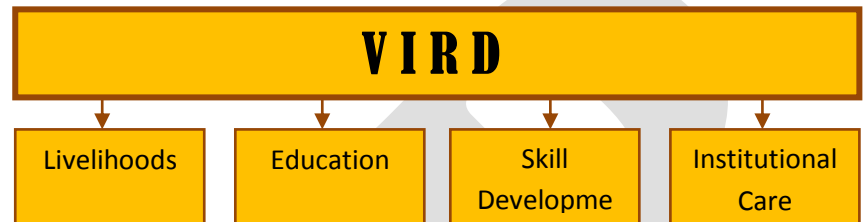
Namita Satpathy
Director

KNOWING VIRD

Voluntary Institution for Rural Development (VIRD), a non-governmental, not-for-profit organization traces its origin to coming together of a group of professional social workers. The organization was registered under Societies Registration Act XXI of 1860 in 1988 and has been working with the poor and marginalized sections in Angul and Deogarh districts of Odisha.

VIRD has been working in the field of community development since 1987 with the objective of ensuring a life of dignity for the socially excluded promoting social

equity and social justice encouraging their participation in social, political and economic spheres with programs and activities aimed at bridging the welfare gap between the socially excluded and the general population. The organization has credibility of working with different government departments and development support organizations for implementing livelihood promotion, Skill building/Capacity Building and welfare activities. The organization has the experience of running Short Stay Home/ SWADHAR Home, Day Care Centre, Women Help Line and Ujjawala-Against Trafficking of Women, One Stop Center to provide solution to aggrieved women in a single window and Crèche to address the needs of the Women, Children and Elderly persons in distress. VIRD has also organized Skill Building Training for Dibyangjans and Rural Artisans.



Presently; VIRD is operating two districts, Angul and Deogarh of Odisha. The activities are spread over 143 villages in 6 Gram Panchayats of 4 blocks of the districts mentioned.

During these years, VIRD has got opportunities to renew its commitment to the poor and marginalized and its basic principle of putting people's/community's priority at the centre has always helped it stand in good stead. Over the years, the organization has been able to gain professional expertise in planning, execution and monitoring of its development projects.

To broaden and deepen our involvement with the community, VIRD has sought support from development support organizations aimed at promotion of forest-based livelihoods, improvement of students' learning outcomes, adolescent health, agricultural development through promotion of organic farming and indigenous seeds, and promotion of women entrepreneurship.

VIRD has integrated the contents of government's flagship programmes such as; Swachha Bharat Abhiyan, Beti Bachao Beti Padhao, Financial Inclusion with its project based development initiatives playing the role of a catalyst in inclusive development.

Areas of Intervention:

VIRD has six areas of intervention viz. Livelihood promotion, Skill Building, Institutional Care and Education, Women empowerment, Protection of rights.

Vision

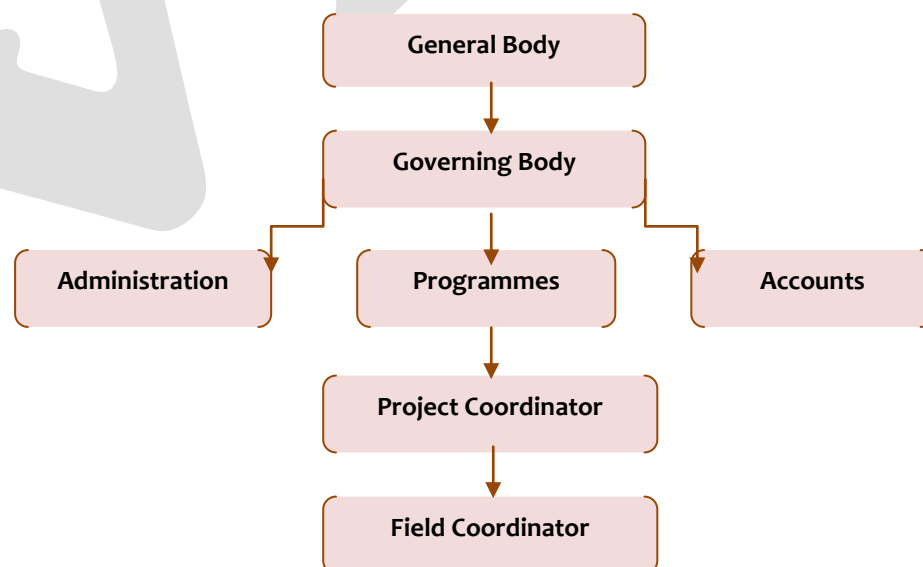
Sustainable improvement in the socio-economic status and self-reliance of disadvantaged community

Mission

To create a sphere for the new generation where women and children have a say in decision making process, a new social structure where individuals join together as communities to realize their individual and collective well-being

Legal Status

Registered under Societies Registration Act XXI of 1860	1838/181 of 88-89
Registered under Foreign Contribution Regulations Act 1976	105020197
Exemption under section 12 AA of Indian IT Act	90/2004-05
Exemption under section 80 G of Indian IT Act	80G-13/2011-12/8563
Permanent Account Number (PAN) with IT	AAAAV1864G

Structure of VIRD

ACTIVITIES HIGHLIGHTS**Training of Adolescents**

Adolescents are considered, in development parlance to be the guardians, watching the processes and as a community, have the potential to direct the processes under progress as they need it to be. It is their world.

District	GP/Block	No. of Participants	Duration
Angul	Aida GP, Athmallick Block	34 participants	2 days
Deogarh	Lulung GP, Reamal Block	41 participants	2 days

VIRD organized Training of Adolescents on Sexual & Reproductive Health Rights with the objective to improve adolescents' knowledge on Sexual & Reproductive Health Rights, increase school/college attendance and retention, prevent child marriage and educate and mobilize the adolescents towards health-seeking knowledge, attitude and practices.

AIDS Awareness Programme

VIRD has undertaken Awareness Programmes on HIV & AIDS with the theme of "Know AIDS for No AIDS" among high-risk population and through community based organizations. The organization undertook the campaign amongst truckers, persons associated with transportation across states, hoteliers beside the national highways etc. through dissemination of IEC materials collected from different sources active in addressing the menace.

Use of the occasions such as; meetings of SHGs and village organization is a very important strategy for awareness generation among people on STIs, & HIV/AIDS. VIRD as an NGO has utilized these platforms to disseminate knowledge and information on the issues. Through these platforms, over 4000 persons have been made aware of HIV & AIDS. Members of SHGs, VDC members and youth groups attend the meetings and discuss issues related to HIV/AIDS, migration, trafficking of young girls, unprotected sex etc.

Animal Welfare Programme

VIRD organized Animal Health Camps in each of the project villages and discussion was held on various preventive measures that need to be taken to keep the livestock healthy.

Training on Collective Marketing

Training on "Marketing of Forest Produce as Group Venture" was facilitated by a social activist engaged in promotion of marketing of forest produces. Women were oriented on maintenance of practices of cleanliness and hygiene in collection, primary

processing and storage of Mahua. They were oriented on the benefits of Collective Marketing (Marketing as a Group Venture) so that they will have the bargaining power against the petty traders.

Anti-Drug Awareness Campaign

Drug abuse and substance use has emerged as another social evil. Addressing this issue, VIRD has organized one anti-drug campaign. The rural population of our project area is addicted to country liquor and Indian hemp. With organization of Anti-Drug Campaign and regular counselling by the volunteers of the organization, VIRD has been to de-addict 21 persons from Alcohol and 37 persons from Hemp.

Cancer Awareness Programme

During the last few years, cases of Oral and Liver Cancer have witnessed an increasing trend in our project area. Use of Tobacco, alcohol, country liquor, Cigarette/Bidi and lack of oral hygiene are some of the reasons for higher incidence of Cancer. It is being witnessed that the young generation is getting addicted to tobacco and liquor which make them vulnerable to Cancer. VIRD organized Cancer Awareness Programme which was attended by 46 community volunteers. The community volunteers have spread the message organizing formal and informal discussions with the community.

Cultural Programme

VIRD organized three cultural shows to disseminate socially relevant messages among the community using Daskathia, one of the most popular folk art media. Through this, VIRD disseminated information on female foeticide, financial inclusion and gender equality. Cultural troupes were oriented on the themes/issues and community based organization of different villages looked after the logistics of the programmes.

Immunization and Health Check up Camps

Rural population in general and the poor in particular suffer on account of disease burden which creates a vicious cycle of poverty. Lack of knowledge, attitude and practice among the people, absence of disease preventive knowledge and inaccessibility to health services are the factors responsible for poor health status of the community. VIRD organized Immunization and Health Check up Camps in 4 villages of Athmallick (Titigaon, Bahali) and Reamal (Poipani, Burbuda) Blocks with the objective of providing curative health services. 342 persons attended the Health Camps. Health service providers held interactive sessions with the community disseminating information on government health schemes and programmes and apprised the participants on personal hygiene, nutrition and cleanliness.

Environment Awareness Programme

In pursuance of its mandate of protecting the environment from further degradation, VIRD organized Environmental Awareness Building Camp inviting women community leaders. The day-long Camp focussed on the theme of “**Environment and Women**” underlining the vital role that the women could play in building awareness among the community and the measures that need to be taken for environment protection and

regeneration. The camp was organized at Bahali village in Athamallick block of Angul district which was participated by 42 women community leaders.

Promotion of Kitchen Garden

VIRD has supported 56 households to develop kitchen gardens in their respective backyards. It is a livelihood intervention and targets the rural women to participate in family income measures. The targeted women have been trained to develop a qualitatively superior vegetable garden in terms of varieties of vegetables grown by the households. It is important to note that the initiative has resulted in improvement of dietary status of the households and reduction in disease burden among them.

Livelihoods promotion

With external support, VIRD has implemented one livelihoods programme targeting rural women in Deogarh district Odisha. Under this initiative, VIRD has supported members of 2 Self Help Groups with 2 goats for each household and members of 2 SHGs to take up vegetable cultivation. In total 40 women; one from each household is supported to augment their family incomes.

SHG Promotion

Bringing rural women into the Self Help fold and collectivizing them into groups has proven to be one of the effective means of rural development. It not only enhances the quality of social lives but also ensures an augmented economic standard. During the period under report, VIRD collectivized 73 women into 7 Self Help Groups in even number of villages and imparted training on various aspects of group dynamics.

Swachha Bharat Abhiyan

VIRD has held Orientation Programmes of community volunteers on promoting use of toilets. The community volunteers have been oriented on ways and means to flag off discussion among the community through formal and informal discussions. Reasons frequently cited by the non-users and their counter arguments were discussed with the community volunteers on the Orientation Programme. Case studies and newspaper reports underlining the benefits of use of toilet were also discussed with the participants for their further dissemination among the community. Community Volunteers have organized 81 Interactive Sessions with the partner community following Orientation Programme.

Vocational training

Skill building is an important focused activity of the organization under livelihood program. VIRD with support from development support agencies has undertaken Skill Building Trainings for the differently able youths. Skill Building Trainings on Mobile Phone Repair and Computer have been undertaken by the organization in Mahidharpur. 60 youths have been trained on Mobile Repairing and Computer providing opportunity of employment and self-employment to the trained youths.

Sl.	Trade	Participants	Venue
01	Mobile repairing	12 youths	Nuakheta
02	Mushroom Cultivation	12 women	Nuakheta
03	Candle making	14 women	Swadhar Greh

VIRD has undertaken training of women on livelihood skill creating opportunity for them to contribute to family income and to make them self-reliant.

Yoga Awareness Program

VIRD organized Yoga Awareness Camp of the community volunteers apprising them the benefits of Yoga in maintaining a good physical, mental and spiritual health. They were trained in Asanas and were imparted knowledge on the benefits of each of the Asanas. The participants were provided booklets on Yoga that pictorially presented the Asanas and delineated their processes. The community volunteers were advised to organize Yoga Sessions in their respective areas on International Yoga Day. The trained community volunteers organized 41 Yoga Sessions on the International Yoga Day which were attended by 1154 persons.

Old Age Home

VIRD is running a Jara Niwas (Old Age Home) at Bahali in Angul district since March 2014 providing residential, recreational and health care services to 25 aged men and women that don't have family or kinship care. The inmates are provided accommodation, food, clothes and other daily necessities. VIRD arranged an excursions trip to Maa Tarini Pitha, Ghatagaon in February 2019. The Old Age Home has taken up income-generation activity such as; backyard vegetable farming for making the care centre self-reliant. The Old Age Home has earnestly attempted to provide peaceful, dignified and healthy living to the senior citizens.

Handicrafts Development

VIRD in order to support the crafts persons; trained 17 terracotta artisans in developing new designs and establish market linkage. The programme was conducted at Aida of Athamallick of Angul district. It went on for 3 consecutive months commencing from November 2018 to January 2019.

SWADHAR GREH

Women & Child Development Department, Government of India has been extending financial assistance to VIRD since 2001 to run the Swadhar Greh. The objective of the Home is to provide shelter for a limited period to distressed women and girls. Presently, 30 adults and 08 children are sheltered in the home. The program received 19 new cases this year and resolved 17.

Category of Cases

- Unwanted Motherhood 03
- Survivors of Sexual Abuse 02
- Deserted by Husband 12
- Survivors of Domestic Violence 11
- Widow 04
- Mentally Challenged 01

10 follow up programs have been conducted to assess the present status of rehabilitated residents. The rehabilitated residents receive counselling, legal support, weekly health checkups, youth education, literary classes, food and clothing. The residents are also given training in various programs such as tailoring, broom making, cooking, and garden activities. The women have been collectivized into Self Help Groups for enabling them to earn and save money. Legal assistance in the form of drafting petitions, registering cases at police stations, and preparing agreement documents is also provided. In some instances, the organization takes the case directly to the court. 16 awareness meetings and 4 home committee meetings have been organized to assess the performance of the program.



UJJWALA

UJJWALA is an initiative of government of India to curb the menace of trafficking of women and children through civil society participation. VIRD has been assigned with one component of the initiative i.e.; formation of Balika Mandals. The project is being implemented in Kaniha and Talcher blocks of Angul district.

During the reporting period, VIRD has facilitated formation of 10 Balika Mandals. The Balika Mandals are formed to build camaraderie among the girls and sensitize them so as not to fall prey to human trafficking. The Balika Mandals hold regular meetings, discuss their issues and concerns and these meetings have helped in sensitization against human trafficking. In addition to formation of Balika Mandals, VIRD has formed 6 Vigilance Groups. The Vigilance Groups are supposed to keep strict vigil on human trafficking (especially women and children). The Vigilance Groups undertake vulnerability mapping and laying special focus on those vulnerable to human trafficking provide counselling service to such individuals and their family members. To create awareness among the general population, VIRD has conducted Daskathia and Palas on the theme of human trafficking making the people understand and avoid the traps of human trafficking.

Community Empowerment

Under the auspices of the CEASH project, community groups have been formed and strengthened in the target villages. At present, 50 women self-help groups (containing a total of 781 people) are working to improve the health and sanitation of their communities. They are also working to create income generating activities. The self-help group (SHG) members have raised Rs.9,80, 871/-.The SHG members have also gotten a loan for Rs. 3,000,000/-, so that they will have capital to start their own businesses. The increase of savings as well as of the living status is a startling result within the women groups and it has been a regular practice among group members to recycle the amount at crisis periods.



Today they are maintaining their own records and cooperating with government officials and do their bank linkage without any external support. Clearly, the income generating activities that the SHGs have taken part in are improving their quality of life. CEASH has also worked to raise awareness among community members regarding health practices, government involvement in the health sector and the implementation of the NREGA. The group members are making an individual effort to send their children to school more frequently and are also teaching illiterate women to read. They are also participating in Palli Sabha and Gram Sabha, learning about SRH, HIV/AIDS. The SHG members are learning about health practices, issues, and services such as hand-washing, water borne disease, and breastfeeding, the role of Panchayat. The group members are not only working to educate themselves, but also their respective communities.



Strengthening PRIs

A monthly GPHC meeting has been attained by the PRI members. These meetings cover issues such as the regularization of the ICDS centre, delivery of children in a hospital facility (institutional deliveries), malaria prevention and safe drinking water. The PRI members have not only discussed the health issues themselves but have also participated proactively in the implementation and monitoring of health service delivery in their areas.



Sustainable Development through Food Security

An extension phase of the project "Sustainable development through food security" for tribal people has been implemented in Reamal Block, supporting 2 new villages along with the 3 existing villages. Self assessment of beneficiaries regarding the upraise of the living standards In order to assess the effectiveness of the project, the community organizers created a survey to look into the changes in living standards in the beneficiaries of the 5 villages of Reamal Block, Deogarh District.



Institutional development two new villages adjacent to the project area have been added into the project, have benefited from the establishment of important institutions. Each of the villages has formed a women self-help group that strengthens women through providing learning and training opportunities. The group-members manage all credit activities themselves, such as saving and opening pass books for financial transaction. In Nehengera, the village community has formed a "Pani Panchayat" to maintain the Water Harvesting Structure and manage the water resource.



Training

Several training sessions on various topics such as financial management for SHGs, a refresher course on the "water management sustainable process" for Village Education Committee (VECs), capacity building for farmers and SHG members, health aspects for village volunteers, capacity building concerning marketing systems, the Panchayati Raj Institute (PRI) system and the establishment of a team of intensively trained health workers have been organized in order to sustain the program. Other than that several exposure visits for the active farmers and governing board members of VIRID as well as numerous training session for the staff and board members on the following topics have been organized: capacity building on the project cycle management and moderation techniques, the NREGA, PRI, a tribal convention on "Lokamela" and RTI and a strategy planning of VIRID. In total, 10 training sessions (each lasting for 2 days) have been organized and 433 people had participated.

Nursery and Agriculture

An agriculture production-cum-demonstration centre and a nursery have been established in the village of Mahidharpur on a barren and unproductive land. This has generated enthusiasm and interest among the people. From this agricultural activity VIRID is able to obtain various type of organic products such as wheat, garlic, onion, ginger, corn, mustard and other different types of fresh vegetables.

Rural Tribal Women Support Programme

VIRID is dedicated to raising the income and self-esteem of poor tribal women through micro entrepreneurship in Reamal Block, Deogarh District, Odisha, India. 35 women from the project area were covered under different initiatives including training on savings and credit, group management, and general business skills, along with specific trades such as live stock management, nurseries, vegetable cultivation, agriculture allied activities and micro entrepreneurship skills. Bankers, horticulturists, agriculturalists, veterinarians, local government departments, and other agencies imparted training to them for their capacity building. We also formed sub groups consisting of 5 to 6 members, who then selected two needy women for financial support. Accordingly, 80 women from 40 sub groups have taken financial support from the project to facilitate income generation activities like goat rearing, cow and bullock rearing, kitchen gardening, the collection and sale of minor forest produce, etc. After involvement in different entrepreneurship activities, they are able to substantially boost their financial contribution to their family. Through improving collective savings and group work in their respective villages, they are regularly sending pupils to school, receiving health care when ill, avoiding alcohol, and participating in the village development process.

Establishment of Hostel for Girl Students with Single Parent

VIRD, with support from SEED, an external supporting agency has established one Hostel for 40 girl students at Chhendipada of Angul district. The hostel, in addition to providing shelter, provides food, extra tutorials and other support for their studies.

Education for Child Labour

It is a chronic disease in our society to engage minor children to labour and this system is nothing but for the poverty in poor helpless families. These poor and helpless families are compelled to engage their lovely minor children in hand & hazardous works with a view to getting food. These children are driven of getting education, nutrition & better employment in future other than to remain as slaves. To get rid of these slavery system and better employment in future other than to remain as slaves. To get rid of these slavery system and to pull on the child labour to civilization & to engage them on self-employment. The government in Labours Department has chalked out programmes through N.G.Os eradication of the child labour and provides them better education, nutrition and self-employment. Our organization has undertaken with the above aims with the active financial assistance of the Government. In the above said programme we had found out 220 child labours in ANGUL of whom 100 child labour are now prosecution their regular studies in Primary education They supply with free M.D.M. free education books, vocational training, under different trade etc through our volunteers. The people our localities are cautioned not to engage any child labour at their home for any other purposes.

These activities were supported by the Volunteers in Service to Education in India (VSEI); a USA based donor agency.

CONCLUSION

VIRD has a road map for taking its activities forward. The road map has been done in line with the assessment of local needs, locally available resources and own strength, available opportunities etc. It is also searching and pondering funding opportunities to materialize the plans. However it has been supported by many and still the avenue is open.

We hope to march ahead.