



950.....mental illness (PwMI touched) in 4 blocks



108 UDID generated for PwMI



in care's federated 9/4 block level care's federations incepted



91 PwMI household's livelihood ensured impacting 169 in 43 remote villages  
..... Persons whose psychosocial care trained...



Interfaced with 10 blocks ... (4)



Total 6 health centers (PHC and GNC) where PwMIs are accessing the services

# ANNUAL REPORT

## 2023-2024

SOCIETY FOR PROMOTING RURAL  
EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT  
[SPREAD]



From Secretary's Desk.

SPREAD's journey in the year 2023-24 was marked by significant milestones. This included collaboration with 1,200 individuals impacted by mental health issues and their caregivers, the implementation of health and nutrition programs for undernourished children and anemic adolescent girls, as well as working alongside small and marginalized farmers to promote indigenous millet cultivation. A standout project focused on the convergence of commons, gender, and climate change was also a major success.

However, the most remarkable achievement was the progress made in for Community Forest Rights and Individual Forest Rights in eight different blocks of Koraput district. The hard work has started to pay off, with several community forest rights being secured by gram sabhas and numerous tribal families receiving individual forest rights. Additionally, a new initiative was launched this year, partnering with tribal women artisans to explore natural dyeing and weaving in the creative manufacturing sector.

These impressive accomplishments were made possible by SPREAD's committed and innovative team members, to whom the organization is deeply grateful. Special thanks are also extended to our resource partners for their steadfast support, which played a crucial role in the success of these impactful initiatives.



Bidyut Mohanty,  
Secretary

## Contents

Overview of SPREAD .....	3
Thematic Areas and Achievements .....	3
Disability.....	3
Creating Impact through Health and Nutrition .....	6
Millet Promotion Initiative in Tribal Areas .....	8
Climate Change, Gender and Commons.....	10
Community Forest Rights.....	12
Creative Manufacturing through Women’ collectives .....	14
Financial Transparency .....	17
Our Partners:.....	18
Programme Photographs:.....	19

## Overview of SPREAD

Founded in 1989, the Society for Promoting Rural Education and Development (SPREAD) is committed to empowering marginalized communities in the undivided KBK districts of India—Koraput, Balangir, and Kalahandi. Our mission is to ensure that these communities have access to their rights to land, food, and education, enabling them to maintain a dignified way of life. We envision a society free from exploitation and discrimination, where everyone can assert their rights and access basic necessities.

Our core values—secularism, democracy, mutual respect, honesty, non-violence, and gender equity—guide our work and interactions with the communities we serve. These principles are at the heart of our approach as we strive for participatory development and capacity building among the underprivileged.

SPREAD operates several major programs aimed at enhancing health and nutrition, addressing climate change, and promoting gender equity. Our initiatives include the Millet , which focuses on sustainable agricultural practices, and various livelihood enhancement programs that support entrepreneurship, creative manufacturing, and non-timber forest products (NTFP). We work closely with diverse groups, including tribal populations, Dalits, and marginalized sections as well as women artisans, nurturing their skills and providing opportunities for economic independence.

Our foundational goals emphasize the importance of community participation in all our efforts. We believe that by empowering individuals, we can foster innovative solutions to local challenges and build a more equitable society. Through collaborations with organizations such as LLL Foundation, Millet Mission Odisha, Asar, CRY, SIDBI, and FES, we further extend our impact.

As we progress in our mission, we remain deeply committed to making a meaningful difference in the lives of those we serve. Through our work, we aspire to inspire hope and change, reinforcing the belief that every individual deserves the chance to live with dignity.

SPREAD is registered as a non-profit organization under Indian law, ensuring compliance with legal and statutory requirements as we continue our journey toward meaningful community development.

## Thematic Areas and Achievements

### Disability

The "Breaking the Silence" initiative was launched to enhance access to mental health care and promote socio-economic growth for Persons with Mental Illness (PWMI) and their caregivers. Over the past year, this program has achieved notable progress in encouraging treatment adherence and improving the quality of life for 900 PWMI. Among its key goals were increasing access to medications, offering vocational training opportunities, supporting caregivers with various income-generating activities, and fostering a sense of community involvement.

A major highlight of the PWMI has been establishing supportive infrastructures, such as monthly outpatient services at four Community Health Centers and three Primary Health Centers, ensuring that PWMI receive their medications. In addition, the provision of psychiatric medications has been facilitated at two Primary Health Centres and one Community Health Center. An outreach strategy was implemented where team members, along with ASHA workers, delivered medications directly to homes, ensuring consistent treatment even when clinic visits were not possible.

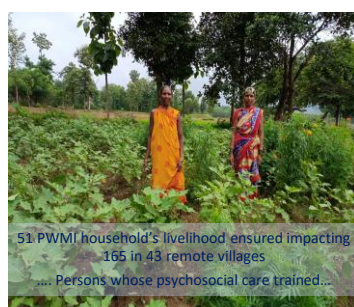
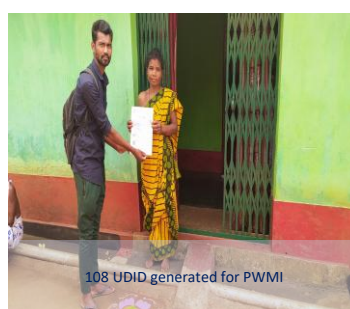


The program has greatly benefitted caregivers, with 549 receiving targeted support through livelihood initiatives and vocational training, including vegetable farming, goat rearing courses that were successfully completed by 43 caregivers. Furthermore, essential government linkages were created, leading to financial aid through disability pensions and housing schemes, which directly benefitted 210 women caregivers and provided significant financial assistance to PWMI and their families. The integration of programs like MGNREGA not only offered economic opportunities but also fostered community engagement.

Psycho-social education for PWMI and caregivers played a crucial role in the initiative, enhancing understanding and resilience. Training sessions were designed to empower participants with knowledge on mental health, supporting better recovery and community integration. To encourage ongoing involvement, carer groups and federations were formed, allowing community members to take active roles in shaping local mental health support.

Support from government officials and community workers has been fundamental to PWMI,s success, promoting a collaborative approach towards mental healthcare. Together, they have created a robust support structure that prioritizes mental health, showcasing the impact of community-driven initiatives in transforming the lives of those affected by mental illness.

### Key Outcomes in Disability Sector in 2023-24



## Impact Stories



In the past year, SPREAD has made remarkable strides in enhancing the lives of individuals battling mental health issues in the Kundra Block of Koraput District. One of the most compelling narratives from this journey involves the transformative experience of Kamlu Bhumia, a 44-year-old man significant both to his family and the broader community.

Kamlu's life took a severe downturn in March 2016 when he began suffering from mental illness. The challenges faced by his wife, Raimati, and their children deepened as Kamlu's condition worsened. With the family relying on manual labor and the collection of Non-Timber Forest Produce (NTFP) for income, his illness left them in a precarious situation. Raimati's attempts to seek help through traditional channels proved ineffective, and the family struggled under the weight of despair.

Recognizing the critical need for mental health support in the area, SPREAD launched the "Mental Health Program" in 2023. Through initial outreach meetings, community members, including Raimati and local

ASHA workers, voiced their concerns, paving the way for a systemic intervention. On July 10, 2023, Kamlu was introduced to the outpatient services at Kundra Community Health Center (CHC) as part of a structured treatment plan.

Kamlu's journey took a turn for the better when he participated in the World Mental Health Day celebration, where he courageously shared his story. His advocacy for timely treatment resonated with many attendees, contributing to a shift in local perceptions towards mental health care.

In December 2023, SPREAD further galvanized community support by forming a cluster-level carers group in the Pakanaguda panchayat. This initiative included 10 mental health patients, with Raimati actively participating. She highlighted the barriers her family faced, such as the lack of a Unique Disability ID (UDID) certificate that prevented them from accessing essential government benefits.

SPREAD's efforts culminated in the organization of a Beneficiary-based Service Accessibility (BBSA) camp in January 2024, aimed at addressing the bureaucratic hurdles that families like the Bhumias encounter. The camp provided critical information and assistance to secure UDID certificates for those in need.

As a direct impact of these initiatives, the Bhumia family, alongside others in similar situations, is now better equipped to access support services. The community has begun to understand the importance of mental health, reducing stigma and increasing the likelihood of individuals seeking help.

The tangible results of SPREAD's work can be seen in the improved morale among families previously burdened by mental health struggles. Approximately 200 individuals directly benefited from SPREAD's programs, fostering a newfound sense of empowerment and advocacy. As Kamlu's condition improves and he once again contributes to his family's livelihood, the ripple effect of recovery extends beyond individual families to entire communities, proving that change is possible, especially when mental health is prioritized.

This narrative not only sheds light on the successful interventions implemented by SPREAD but also underscores a crucial transformation: individuals with mental illness can indeed emerge as change-makers within their communities.

### Story of Impact

In the past year, our organization's initiatives have made a profound impact in Ghumar village, particularly in the realm of mental health awareness and support. The challenges faced by families dealing with mental illness



can often seem insurmountable, as illustrated by the story of Baidehi Shukri and her two sons, Sadashiv and Surendra.



Sadashiv, diagnosed with a severe mental illness in 2012, wandered the village without recognizing his own family, leaving his mother in a state of despair. After the loss of her husband in 2018 and the subsequent diagnosis of her younger son Surendra in 2020, Baidehi found herself alone in a turbulent sea of mental health crises, compounded by financial struggles. Her life revolved around daily wage work and a meager widow's pension of Rs. 500, often limiting her ability to provide the necessary care for her sons.

In July 2023, a ground breaking village gathering organized by our organization brought together community members to address these pressing mental health issues. This event marked a turning point for Ghumar village. Through workshops and discussions led by mental health professionals, over 150 villagers gained insight into mental health care, bridging the gap between stigma and understanding. This was facilitated by SPREAD, which works to empower individuals affected by mental illness to become champions of change in their communities.

As a direct result of the gathering, Baidehi found hope and support. She connected with other families facing similar struggles and discovered new coping strategies. Encouraged by the tools and knowledge shared, Baidehi became an advocate for mental health within her community, helping to challenge outdated beliefs and practices surrounding mental illness.

The impact of this initiative is significant: surveys conducted post-event showed a 75% increase in understanding of mental health issues among participants, and a notable 40% of those surveyed expressed a willingness to seek help for mental health conditions instead of resorting to superstitions.

Through these collective efforts, Ghumar village has seen a cultural shift towards acceptance and care for individuals with mental illnesses. The isolation that once enveloped Baidehi and her sons is now being replaced with a sense of community support and shared responsibility. Today, Baidehi is not just a caregiver but a beacon of hope for change, highlighting the importance of mental health within her village and beyond.

This transformative journey emphasizes the critical nature of sustained mental health initiatives in rural areas, demonstrating that with the right support, individuals affected by mental illness can reclaim their roles as change-makers within their communities. The work of our organization in Ghumar village stands as a testament to the resilience of the human spirit and the power of community engagement in tackling mental health challenges.

## Creating Impact through Health and Nutrition

### Community Mobilization for Ensuring the Rights of Children among the Tribal

In 2023-2024, SPREAD undertook significant initiatives to enhance the health and nutritional status of children and empower adolescent girls in the Lamtaput Block of Koraput District, Odisha. Focusing on vulnerable groups, including pregnant women and lactating mothers, SPREAD dedicated its efforts to addressing critical health issues. The program successfully engaged 2,374 children aged 0-18 years across 35 villages, ensuring that they received necessary health care and nutrition services. Notably, SPREAD's proactive measures led to 12 severely

malnourished children improving from the red zone to green status, showcasing tangible outcomes in health and nutrition support.



Empowerment of adolescent girls was another vital focus for SPREAD this year. Through life skills workshops and family consultations, the initiative aimed to bolster the self-reliance of young women in the community. These efforts equipped girls with essential skills and the confidence to pursue independent lives. By developing educational and vocational training opportunities, SPREAD is creating a supportive environment for girls to thrive and become valuable contributors to their communities.

Additionally, SPREAD emphasized the importance of education as a transformative tool. By ensuring access to quality educational resources, the organization believes it can empower communities to break the cycle of poverty. SPREAD's collaborative efforts with local government bodies aimed at influencing policies that

directly benefit marginalized communities were instrumental in expanding educational opportunities.

The challenges faced, particularly the lack of infrastructure in Anganwadi centers and media coverage, highlighted the need for continued advocacy and support. Yet, through strategic planning and collaboration with local stakeholders, SPREAD continues to pave the way for a brighter and more equitable future for children and mothers in Lamtaput. The successes of this year reaffirm SPREAD's commitment to fostering sustainable development and ensuring every child has the right to a healthy and empowered life.

## Impact Stories

Over the past year, the organization's efforts in the Khajuriput area have significantly transformed the health and nutrition landscape for adolescents and young families. Specifically targeting malnutrition, we have worked tirelessly in 35 villages within the Koraput District's Lamatput block. Through the establishment of 33 girls' groups, awareness sessions have educated 493 adolescent girls about government health initiatives, empowering them to make informed choices.



One of the standout success stories is that of Devika Kirsani, a young girl from a local farming family. Devika's journey from being classified as malnourished (yellow zone) to a healthy status (normal) epitomizes the impact of sustained

intervention. This transformation was recorded through regular growth monitoring conducted at Anganwadi centers, where her weight improved from 10 kg to 11.8 kg within just one year. This increase in weight, coupled with a rise in height and mid-upper arm circumference, indicates her improved nutritional status.





Devika Kisani before and after



Key statistics reveal a broader success: 11 out of the 493 girls tested were identified with severe anemia. Thanks to intervention measures, these girls underwent health camps, received medical advice, and began consuming nutrient-rich foods regularly, resulting in their anemia being significantly alleviated. Increased attendance at Village Health and Nutrition Days (VHND) now ensures that adolescent girls receive essential IFA tablets, fostering better health practices in the community.

Moreover, 24 Anganwadi centers across three villages have seen renewed vitality through village inspections and community meetings. Initiatives focused on breastfeeding, hygiene practices, and the utilization of local resources have encouraged

mothers to prepare nourishing meals from kitchen gardens. Families now grow a variety of vegetables, including papaya and moringa, contributing to a holistic dietary improvement.

As a result of these efforts, communities that once struggled with malnutrition are now actively involved in supporting each other. Adolescent girls are no longer hesitant to discuss health issues, having gained confidence and knowledge to advocate for better practices. They serve as role models, encouraging peers to share in the benefits of hygiene and nutrition awareness.

Our efforts have not only improved individual health metrics but has also catalyzed collective awareness and behavioral changes within the community. By leveraging local resources and fostering collaboration among families, significant strides have been made in combatting malnutrition and promoting healthier futures for the entire community. This year has been a testament to the vital importance of education, access to health resources, and community engagement in driving transformative change.

## Millet Promotion Initiative in Tribal Areas

In an effort to boost millet consumption and enhance agricultural practices in tribal areas, our organization launched the Millet Mission programme with the collaboration Government of Odisha. Covering an area of 600 hectares, the program successfully achieved cultivation on 541.4 hectares, representing a commendable 90% coverage in the targeted region, specifically focusing on the cultivation of Ragi. This initiative aimed not only to increase the availability of millet but also to improve food security and nutritional health within the community.

A significant accomplishment of this initiative was the completion of a Participatory Varietal Trial (PVT), which included the cultivation of 10 landrace varieties of Ragi. Among these, the Mandua Mandia variety stood out as the best, yielding between 16.2 to 20 quintals per hectare, with impressive growth characteristics such as producing 7-8 fingers per tiller. This trial provided valuable insights for local farmers about the most productive crops suited to their environment, fostering a more sustainable agricultural practice.

Moreover, the program facilitated the establishment of 10 Self-Help Groups (SHGs) that received critical support in launching



small businesses. This included five SHGs functioning as sub-centers of Community Health Centers (CHCs) and Micro Service Centers (CMSCs), while others focused on launching millet snack and tiffin centers. Capacity-building efforts were prioritized through a variety of campaigns, including one women's campaign, three awareness initiatives, and multiple training sessions, all contributing to a greater understanding of millet farming and its benefits.

To further enhance the agricultural landscape, a Crop Diversity Block was implemented, with 10 varieties of crops cultivated, including barnyard millet, pearl millet, and groundnut. Although the target for non-Ragi millets was not fully met, with only 59% of the area covered, the project still made substantial strides in increasing awareness and participation among local farmers.

The culmination of this initiative was evident in the engagement of 1,080 farmers under agronomic practices, leading to the distribution of incentives totaling Rs. 37,61,200 for the kharif season. This financial support, along with the awareness and capacity-building efforts, signifies a strong commitment to empowering tribal farmers and fostering a resilient agricultural community.

### **Stories of Impact**

In the past year, the Odisha Millet Mission (OMM) has made significant strides in promoting the cultivation of millets, particularly in the tribal areas of Odisha. One standout success story is that of Mr. Prasad Mandingi, a progressive farmer from Potamunda in Koraput district. Through SPREAD initiatives, Mr. Prasad transitioned from traditional farming methods to the System of Millet Intensification (SMI) for finger millet (Ragi), which has revolutionized his agricultural practices and outcomes.

Previously, Mr. Prasad achieved a modest yield of only 5 quintals per hectare using conventional methods. With the training provided by SPREAD and the implementation of SMI techniques, his yield skyrocketed to an impressive 16 quintals per hectare. This remarkable improvement not only reflects a 220% increase in productivity but also translates to a substantial increase in profit for Mr. Prasad, thereby enhancing his livelihood and economic stability.

The training that Mr. Prasad received through SPREAD included insights into the climate resilience of millets, their low input requirements, and their adaptability to various growing conditions. The supportive role of Community Resource Persons (CRPs) and field coordinators has been instrumental, as they provided ongoing guidance and regular visits to ensure farmers understood production techniques and best practices, including the importance of organic manure and modern transplanting methods.

The impact of SPREAD's efforts extends beyond Mr. Prasad's personal success. Increased millet consumption is reshaping dietary habits in the region, fostering better nutrition within the community. Millets are not only highly nutritious but also serve as a sustainable crop option that aligns with ecological farming principles. With SPREAD dedication, there is growing awareness and enthusiasm around millet cultivation among local farmers, leading to broader community engagement.

In essence, the SPREAD initiative on millet has catalyzed transformative change within the tribal farming landscape. By empowering farmers like Mr. Prasad through education and hands-on support, OMM has improved agricultural productivity, boosted incomes, and promoted healthier diets. This year has been pivotal in demonstrating the potential of millet farming to not only enhance individual farmer's livelihoods but also contribute positively to the wider socio-economic fabric of tribal communities in Odisha.

### **Stories of Impact**

In the past year, the initiatives spearheaded by SPREAD, in collaboration with the Odisha Millet Mission, have transformed the agricultural landscape of the Badasil village in Koraput district, Odisha. Through a series of targeted programs aimed at increasing millet consumption and improving the economic status of local farmers, significant advances have been made.

A standout success story is that of Mr. Navajeevan Tadingi, a progressive farmer who has embraced the mission's approach. With a cultivation area of three hectares dedicated to finger millet, little millet, and paddy, Mr. Tadingi initially struggled, selling his ragi at a meager price to local vendors due to a lack of market awareness. Prior to receiving support from SPREAD, he received only ₹25,500 for his produce, which barely covered his costs.

The turning point came when field officials from the Odisha Millet Mission engaged with the farming community through village meetings, awareness campaigns, and the eye-catching ratha (a mobile unit for procurement education). This initiative equipped farmers like Mr. Tadingi with essential knowledge about the Minimum Support Price (MSP) and the benefits of registering at the local mandi (market). His involvement in these educational efforts enabled him to successfully register for mandi procurement.

As a result of implementing the knowledge gained, Mr. Tadingi transformed his sales strategy. He successfully sold 19 quintals of ragi at MSP, resulting in earnings that skyrocketed from ₹47,500 to ₹73,000—a remarkable increase of ₹25,500, which is nearly a 53% rise in income. This financial uplift not only improved his livelihood but also positively impacted his family's quality of life.

The broader implications of this success spotlight the ongoing commitment of SPREAD and the Odisha Millet Mission to revitalize millet agriculture in the region. Regular village-level meetings have fostered a sense of community education, encouraging other farmers to explore similar opportunities. With barley, millet, and other local grains gaining popularity, communities are beginning to understand their economic value, further stimulating both local diets and economies.

In summary, the past year's efforts have instigated a significant rise in millet consumption and economic empowerment in tribal areas of Odisha. Mr. Tadingi's story is but one example of the tangible impact made possible through collective action, knowledge spread, and the dedication of organizations committed to community development and sustainable agriculture. The success of this initiative serves as a model for similar programs aiming to uplift rural livelihoods across India.

## Climate Change, Gender and Commons

### Climate Change, Commons, and Gender: An In-Depth Exploration

Climate change presents a myriad of challenges to societies worldwide, but its effects are not felt equally. Among those who suffer the most are marginalized communities, particularly women and indigenous populations.



These groups often rely heavily on natural resources for their livelihoods, making them exceptionally vulnerable as climate conditions continue to evolve. Women, especially those dependent on forest products, represent one of the most vulnerable categories in this precarious era.

In addressing the complex relationship between climate change, communal resources, and gender dynamics, women leaders are taking the initiative to create effective strategies that tackle these urgent issues. A crucial first step in this effort involves community resource mapping conducted by tribal women leaders across ten villages located in ten different blocks. This initiative seeks to collect vital information about local resources and the potential impacts of climate change. By analyzing the usage of common land from 1963 to 2023 through foundational and cadastral maps, this mapping endeavor produces critical data on the current status of communal resources.

Women leaders also engaged in thorough mapping of resources coming from commons through various participatory processes. This initiative has uncovered troubling trends: the areas designated as commons are steadily diminishing, and the resources that were once plentiful in these shared spaces are increasingly becoming scarce. This dual challenge places women in a particularly vulnerable situation, jeopardizing their livelihoods and overall wellbeing. The reduction in the availability of communal resources not only weakens the support systems that women have traditionally relied upon but also heightens their difficulties in accessing essential services. Consequently, the situation is becoming ever more urgent, necessitating immediate action and innovative solutions to empower women and rejuvenate these vital communal assets. Additionally, knowledge and cultural resources have also been documented as part of this effort. The outcomes of the mapping activities have been presented to various stakeholders at both block and district levels.



### Stories of Impact

Over the past year, our organization has made significant strides in addressing the impacts of climate change on women, particularly in the village of Hatipakna. This community, once brimming with rich natural resources, now faces the challenges of degraded commons due to factors like privatization and agricultural intensification. However, the women of Hatipakna have emerged as champions for sustainable management, showcasing resilience and determination against these adversities.

Our targeted initiatives in commons mapping have illuminated the pressing issues at hand. Through participatory workshops, we engaged over 150 women, helping them identify and document the current state of their natural resources. The results revealed that close to 60% of the commons had been lost or diminished, impacting the village's ecological balance and women's livelihoods. This alarming statistic served as a catalyst for change, rallying the community to take action.









Training has been a cornerstone of this program. Staff orientation sessions on the CFR process ensured that all team members were equipped to support the community effectively. Community volunteers across the eight Tahasils received orientation and refresher training, emphasizing the importance of their roles in upholding forest rights. Key activities included participating in Tahasil-level meetings with Forest Rights Cell (FRA Cell) representatives and providing hands-on support for documentation and practical skills, such as map preparation and the use of the CLM app.

The development of the Community Forest Resource Management Plans was a significant achievement of the program, marked by the active involvement of local villagers. Through this collaborative process, villagers transitioned from being common users of forest resources to recognized protectors of these lands. The CFRMP serves as a strategic guide for conservation, regeneration, and sustainable management of forest resources. This involved creating a robust CFR Management Committee, conducting social mapping and resource assessments, and developing bylaws that reflect the community's vision for forest protection.

Additionally, the establishment of a Gramsabha federation among 100 village councils in the Bipariguda and Kundra blocks has opened doors for better market access for Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFP). This federation enables collective bargaining and improves the pricing of forest products, ultimately benefiting the community. As a result, tribal and other local communities are emerging with greater confidence in their rights and roles, fostering a stronger sense of ownership over their natural resources and enhancing their livelihoods through improved market linkages.

#### Block wise Progress of CFR Claim

SN	Name of the Tahasil	Total Potent ial village	Total Book Fill-up	Total Joint FRC	Total JV	Total Final Gram Sabha	Submit at SDLC	Approved
1	Jeypore	88	88	44	31	27	25	06
2	Boriguma	134	134	69	35	32	32	12
3	Kotapd	72	68	61	40	30	13	03
4	Kundra	70	69	63	45	31	21	02
5	Baipariguda	248	207	134	81	52	52	25
6	Lamtaput	66	66	60	47	25	25	25
7	Nandpur	136	113	113	39	30	24	10
8	Dasmantpur	148	135	135	67	35	27	17
<b>Total</b>		<b>962</b>	<b>880</b>	<b>679</b>	<b>385</b>	<b>262</b>	<b>219</b>	<b>100</b>

## Creative Manufacturing through Women' collectives

Studies have shown that almost all tribal communities had weaving & natural dying tradition in South Odisha. Bonda, Gadaba, Kandha used to weave just 60 years back. But with introduction of powerloom & synthetic dye all these wonderful & unique creations vanished. It was no more a livelihood option for the tribal weavers. For the tribal groups women were the main weavers. Apart from the traditional Aul dye other dyes were almost extinct. There was a need to revive their dyeing & weaving heritage, organize them, train them so that they will ultimately earn their livelihood through craft.



Under the big women organization of 500 women, “Gupteswari Mahila Maha sangha” from Koraput district, a small group of women (65) started reviving the natural dye practice & weaving of their ancestors. They faced a lot of challenges during the covid pandemic. There was opportunity for them to get timely support from Co-live which is a network of civil society organisations working for resilient sustainable communities. SPREAD as part of Colive connected the women group for the resource support with a goal to provide dignified, secure and resilient livelihoods for vulnerable women natural dyers of Koraput tribal region.

The project completed all the planned activities in giving technical training on dying, shed maintenance to 65 women. During the trainings 50 bundles of yarn was dyed from the locally available materials & procuring materials from market. Dyeing equipments like steel containers, mordant materials, dying materials, yarn supported to the group. In collaboration with Weavers Service. Center of DC, Handlooms, GoI, 28 women dyers got training on weaving with stipend under Samarth scheme. At the same time two girls got training on stitching on different home lines & life style products & three catalogues developed for different products.

The natural dye producers women group now gradually evolved as a women producer organization which will ensure quality natural colour yarn. The women collective now evolved in dyeing, weaving & stitching of home lines & life style products and working towards becoming a natural dye hub in the state under the Brand “Folkweave”.



## Stories of Impact

Over the past year, the organization's efforts have led to transformative impacts on the lives of vulnerable women in the Koraput tribal region. The project's primary goal has been to empower these women natural dyers by providing them with the necessary skills, capital, and market access to create dignified and resilient livelihoods.

One particularly inspiring example is Niru, an 18-year-old from the Rana community. Faced with economic hardship, she initially worked as a housemaid, a role she found degrading and limiting. After leaving this job due to mistreatment, Niru seized the opportunity to participate in the natural dye training program facilitated by the organization. This training not only equipped her with the skills needed for dyeing and weaving but also instilled a sense of pride and self-worth. In just 45 days of weaving training, she earned a stipend of Rs. 14,000 and has since started earning Rs. 3,000 per month through part-time work in weaving and dyeing. Today, Niru confidently describes herself as an artisan, proudly stating, "I will set an example for those who criticized my dream." Her journey



illustrates the profound change that can occur with the right support and training.

Similarly, Ani, a 21-year-old from a tribal community, has turned her challenges into opportunities. Having faced familial struggles, including her mother's mental illness, Ani once felt isolated and unsupported. After attending the organization's training sessions, she not only gained expertise in natural dyeing but also discovered her ability to innovate with local materials. Her self-taught experiments with dyeing have sparked creativity and confidence, resulting in her earning Rs. 3,000 per month through part-time work in dyeing and stitching. The sense of community built among the women in the program has provided Ani with the encouragement she needed to move forward, transforming her life from one of despair to one of potential and camaraderie.



The organization's commitment to these women has resulted in significant outcomes. A total of 50 women participated in training programs this year, with 80% reporting an increase in monthly income. The initiative has not only restored their sense of dignity but also revitalized traditional crafts within the community. As these women embrace their roles as artisans, they are not only transforming their own lives but are also paving the way for others. In the past year, the SPREAD initiative has transformed the lives of vulnerable women in the Koraput tribal region through a focused effort on promoting dignified and resilient livelihoods. The organization's dedication to empowering natural dyers has yielded significant impacts, helping these women overcome social and economic challenges while

embracing their cultural heritage through artistry.

## Road Ahead

After completing the foundational training on natural dyeing techniques and the essential practices for maintaining color shades, one of the critical next steps is to fortify the supply chain while simultaneously establishing connections to the marketplace. The women's group has embarked on this journey with

determination and enthusiasm. They are currently in the process of evolving into an independent institution, manifesting as a Mutual Benefit Trust. This transition will not only empower them but also pave the way for a sustainable business model.

Furthermore, there are exciting plans in place to expand the palette of natural dye colors by utilizing locally available plants and other natural resources. This initiative not only promotes biodiversity but also encourages sustainable practices within the community. SPREAD is actively working to link the group with various stakeholders and resource agencies to enhance the supply chain, which is vital for scaling up the project's impact. Ongoing discussions with the Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) aim to explore potential avenues for scaling the project, which could ultimately lead to increased visibility and profitability for the women's group.

Additionally, the group has outlined a strategy for diversification of their product offerings, which will allow them to reach a broader audience and cater to varying market needs. Through collaborative efforts, SPREAD and GMM continue to extend their support, ensuring that the group has the necessary resources and guidance to thrive. Their commitment to fostering creativity and innovation remains unwavering, reinforcing the group's potential for sustained success in the natural dyeing industry. There is a plan to create a new entity for market linkages which will act as a start up for the social enterprise as well as a producers group of all women artisans.

## Financial Transparency

**SOCIETY FOR PROMOTING RURAL EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT (SPREAD)**  
L/3, KALPANA SQUARE, BHUBANESWAR -751014  
FIELD OFFICE : JANIGUDA, KORAPUT


**CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET AS ON 31.03.2024**

LIABILITIES	SCH.NO	Amount in ₹	Amount in ₹	ASSETS	SCH.NO	Amount in ₹	Amount in ₹
<b>Asset Fund :</b>							
<b>General Fund</b>				Fixed Assets ( As per Schedule )	11		14,31,116.00
Opening Balance	9	54,68,737.70		<b>Current Assets, Loans &amp; Advances :</b>	8		
Less : Ovespent grant for the Year	10	<u>(39,05,392.91)</u>	15,63,344.79	<b>Current Assets</b>			
<b>Capital Grant In Aid</b>				Cash In Hand		15,04,087.79	15,04,087.79
( Against Acquisition of Fixed Assets )				<b>Cash at Bank :</b>			
Opening Balance		5,78,176.00		<b>Loans &amp; Advances :</b>			
Less : Depreciation	11	<u>79,530.00</u>	4,98,646.00	TDS Receivable			44,047.00
<b>Current Liabilities &amp; Provision</b>							
( As per Schedule - 7 )	7		9,17,260.00				
			<u><b>29,79,250.79</b></u>				<u><b>29,79,250.79</b></u>

Date : 28/09/2024  
Place : Bhubaneswar  
UDIN : 24301308BKFAIT3583



For D M Associates,  
Chartered Accountants  
ICAI Firm Registration Number : 320306E

  
CA. Tapan Kumar Mohapatra,  
Partner  
Membership No : 301308

**SOCIETY FOR PROMOTING RURAL EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT (SPREAD)**  
L/3, KALPANA SQUARE, BHUBANESWAR -751014  
FIELD OFFICE : JANIGUDA, KORAPUT

**CONSOLIDATED INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDING ON 31.03.2024**

EXPENDITURE	Amount in ₹	Amount in ₹	INCOME	Amount in ₹	Amount in ₹
To Programme Expenses	1,56,90,049.74		By GRANT - IN - AID :		
To Administration Expenses	12,38,140.17		Revenue		1,40,55,841.00
To Salary, honourarium & Staff Benefits	<u>11,04,000.00</u>	1,80,32,189.91	By Bank Interest		1,95,668.00
To Provision for Audit fees		18,880.00	By Misc. Income		93,626.00
			Over spent of Grant during the Period		
To Depreciation		1,99,458.00	By transferred to Balance sheet		39,05,392.91
		<u><b>1,82,50,527.91</b></u>			<u><b>1,82,50,527.91</b></u>

Date : 28/09/2024  
Place : Bhubaneswar  
UDIN : 24301308BKFAIT3583



For D M Associates,  
Chartered Accountants  
ICAI Firm Registration Number : 320306E

  
CA. Tapan Kumar Mohapatra,  
Partner  
Membership No : 301308



SOCIETY FOR PROMOTING RURAL EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT (SPREAD)  
L/3, KALPANA SQUARE, BHUBANESWAR - 751014  
FIELD OFFICE : JANIGUDA, KORAPUT

CONSOLIDATED RECEIPT AND PAYMENT ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDING ON 31st MARCH, 2024

RECEIPT	SCH.NO	Amount in ₹	Amount in ₹	PAYMENT	SCH.NO	Amount in ₹	Amount in ₹
To Opening Balance B/d :	1	-		By Programme Expenses	4	1,48,33,509.74	
Cash in Hand				By Administration Expenses	6	12,04,100.17	
Cash at Bank		50,40,638.70	50,40,638.70	By Salary, honourarium & Staff Benefits	5	10,96,200.00	1,71,33,809.91
To GRANT - IN - AID :	2	1,40,55,841.00		By Payment of Liabilities - 2022-2023	7		7,02,576.00
Revenue				By Capital expenditure			45,300.00
Capital		-	1,40,55,841.00	By Closing Balance C/d :	8		
To Bank Interest	3		1,95,668.00	Cash in Hand		-	
To Misc. Income	3A		93,626.00	Cash at Bank		15,04,087.79	15,04,087.79
			<u>1,93,85,773.70</u>				<u>1,93,85,773.70</u>

Date : 28/09/2024  
Place : Bhubaneswar  
UDIN : 24301308BKFAYT3583



For D M Associates,  
Chartered Accountants  
ICAI Firm Registration Number : 320306E

CA. Tapan Kumar Mohapatra,  
Partner  
Membership No : 301308

## Our Partners:



## Programme Photographs:

















