

Welcome to this edition of our Newsletter...

We are happy to announce that DFID, the British Department for Development Cooperation has appreciated the work of Vikash and given an article of the work in their journal "Vikas Varta". It is the story of tribal women making solar equipments. Different stories show how women are given a priority in all sectors of Vikash initiatives.

Micro Watershed Development

Vikash has undertaken implementation of Micro Watershed Development Programme in Narayanpatna Block of Koraput District. The developmental activities conducted through this programme include Awareness camp, Job fair, Participation in Tribal fair and Construction of Spring based water supply system.



Mr. Bijaya Mishra addressing the session in the **Awareness Generation workshop** on MGREGA held at Narayanpatna block on 11th Jan '2010.



Tribal women of OTELP Micro Watershed of Narayanpatna block visiting a stall in the in the **Adivasi Mela** which was organized in Bhubaneswar from 26th Jan to 10th Feb. Solar lanterns and agri products prepared by these women were displayed in the fair.



← Tribal women of SHG groups of Narayanpatna are visiting the Dhauligiri temple near Bhubaneswar through their **Exposure visit** on 7th Feb.



Vikash has facilitated construction of a **Spring Based Water Supply system** at Pindamali village which is situated at the hill top of Narayanpatna. The village is inhabited by 65 tribal families. The perennial water supply system has solved the year's long drinking water problem of the area. The water source is also used for the purpose of cultivation. Construction of a similar water supply system is in progress in the Korida Borigi village.

Vikash facilitated participation of 70 tribal youth of the Narayanpatna block in the **Job fair** organized in the Koraput district on 10th March 2010.

Vikash had initiated Rural Electrification Project in Tinginaput village, Narayanpatna block of Koraput district under the support of OTELP, funded by DFID. The project has electrified 32 houses in the village and has empowered many tribal women. The pictures below depict the success story of these Barefoot Solar Engineers as published in the 'Gender Special' issue of the newsletter of DFID. <http://www.dfid.gov.uk/Where-we-work/Asia-South/India/>

PHOTO
ESSAY

The Barefoot Solar Engineers of Tinginaput

Four women from a little hamlet in tribal Orissa leave their homes for the first time to train in solar power technology. Abbie Trayler-Smith captures their journey to a new future.



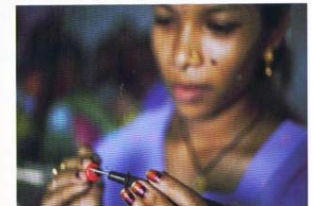
The barefoot solar engineers of Tinginaput, India. Left to right: Talsa Miniaka, Pulka Wadeka, Meenakshi Dewan and Bundei Hidreka



Grandmother Pulka Wadeka cannot read or write. But she can wire up and run a solar-powered 12-volt electricity system



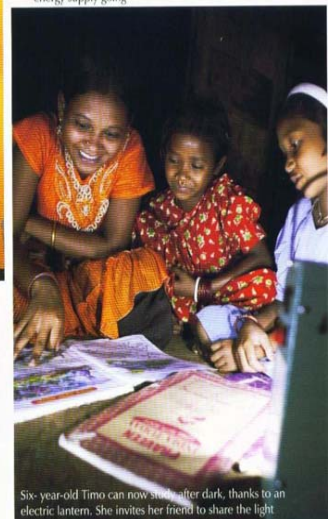
Each village house has a solar panel on its roof, generating light and power



The newfound practical skills mean the women can keep the solar power systems in good order and keep the village's energy supply going



Bundei Hidreka, 31, shares her electrical engineering skills with Rohim Miniaka, 20, teaching him how to make a solar lamp



Six-year-old Timo can now study after dark, thanks to an electric lantern. She invites her friend to share the light

The Orissa Tribal Empowerment and Livelihoods programme (OTELP), funded by DFID and run in partnership with the state of Orissa, invited Pulka and her neighbours to Hyderabad to train them in solar power technology. The proud women have now set up the Orissa Tribal Women Barefoot Solar Engineers Association to share the benefits of solar energy with their community.

Challenging and Winning Carrier

Mr. Krushna Chandra Wadeka is a literate tribal guy in the Atamama Micro Watershed of Narayan Patna block. He has an intuitive knack of identifying the most appropriate locations for soil and water conservation structures. He is often called upon to identify the best locations for developing watershed structures such as ponds and channels. Because of this quality he got a chance to work with the watershed project. He joined there as a community mobiliser. With regular training of Vikash, dedication and self confidence, he has become a trainer by himself. He is now the leader of village electrification committee in Tinginaput. He was nominated by the Block Authority for taking B – Class contractor training. After 10 days training programme conducted by ITDA he has become a certified contractor and has undertaken the work order for Podapodar Gram Panchayat. Meanwhile he has acquired Higher Secondary Qualification and is planning for higher studies. Achievement of Mr. Wadeka is an inspiring instance for the youth.

Rehabilitation of People with Disabilities

Glimpses of this quarter. . . .

- 5 mental health camps were conducted in the Kanti and Kundura blocks of Puri districts. A total of



159 PWMI's attended the camps for free check up and they have been distributed with medicines.

- Regular treatment has brought about improvement in 26 persons with mental illness. Initiatives are being taken for their further improvement and to give them a stable life.
- Timely identification and treatment has brought about a ray of hope for Ms Kadamini Biswal who once suffered from mental

illness. She is now one of the normal people of the society. Rehab workers of Vikash have arranged loan for her to lead an independent life.

At a glance

No. of persons provided with Handicap Certificate	5
No. of persons provided with MI certificate	3
No. of handicapped persons provided with pension	5
No. of new cases identified	51

Evaluation by Donor Agencies. . . .



Dr. Nina from **Miserior** and Mr. Subrat Mishra from **Basic Needs**, Bangalore and 2 coordinators, Mr. Suman Singh and Mrs. Saibalini visited Kanti field on 11th of March 2010 to monitor the improvement of PWMIs. They inspected the need of the project and spoke to the persons identified by Vikash regarding the problems faced by them, benefits they have got

and the livelihood support provided to them. The visitors were very happy and were satisfied with the changes in the lives of the persons with Mental Illness and their independent style of living through livelihood support and medical treatment. The donor agency, Miserior has agreed to provide grant even for the financial year 2010-11.

Their development is our achievement

- ❖ **Ranu Kandi** is a girl of 6 years. Since her childhood she got the disease of becoming senseless. She used to become faint for about 7 to 8 times a day. Being poor her father couldn't arrange proper treatment for her. Since her parents earn their living by daily wages, her elder sister had to discontinue her studies to take care of Ranu. She was completely dependent on her sister for daily activities. CBRWs of Vikash met her in the year 2007 and made arrangement for her medical treatment. After a few months of treatment her condition improved. The frequency of becoming faint decreased to about 7 to 8 times a month. Then a chart was prepared to train her in doing daily living activities herself. With proper treatment, training and support of her sister, she has improved a lot. She is now leading an independent life and is also showing interest towards studies. She is now the leader among the children in her village.



- ❖ **Babita**, a young girl of 30 years age, suffered from Schizophrenia. Due to the disease she was confined to a room which served as her bedroom, dining as well as the urinal. Her family members were scared to meet her or speak to her. At times she used to become violent and shout loudly and has even tried to attack her family members. Mrs. Rita, Special Educator of Vikash, listened about her and met her father. Initially he was hesitant to tell anything but later on he was convinced and he and his family members extended their cooperation. She learnt from her father that her mother too suffered from the same disease and died of it. But with regular treatment, care and affection of family members, Babita is getting back to normalcy. She now stays with her family members and helps her sister in law in household works. Her father now wants her to get married. But the doctor has recommended for few more months of treatment.



Equitable & Quality Education for all

Vikash advocates for Equitable & Quality Education for all. It empowers parents / community and builds their capacity at the village level to strengthen Primary Education System. Indigenous children are provided opportunities for pre-school education and prepare them to make successful transition from home environment to schooling. The programmes implemented by Vikash have enabled children to transform their life for a better tomorrow. The parents are sensitized and motivated to encourage their children's education. The case study given below is one such classic example of parent's mobilization for girl child education.

"I want to educate all girl children in my village"



Mr. Ramchandra Gamel of Pottangi Block of Koraput district is known as an ideal parent in his village. He has three daughters. In spite of being a marginal farmer, he wishes to educate his daughters. But the Government School is little far from his village. Moreover, due to poor attendance of the teachers in the government school, he preferred to admit his daughters in **Mukti Pre-school**. Mr. Ramchandra is also an active member of Parents Committee and Managing Committee of the said School. Because of his profound interest in providing education to his children, he is very much involved in the school management and monitoring. He regularly attends the **Parents Committee** and **Managing Committee** meetings, monitors the attendance of students, interact with the Education Facilitators and even inspire the people of his village to educate their children. He believes that **educated girls bring name and fame for their parents**. He is an ideal parent in his village and wants to educate all girl children in his village

The understanding, commitment and dedication of Mr. Gamel for girl child education are a mile stone for others to follow.

Development of Women Leaders

Mrs. Sushila Sahu, an illiterate rural woman, is an active leader of her village. She supports anyone who is harassed by society or law. Education never became a constraint for her. She always wanted to help her husband in earning daily livelihood and educating her children. With



her husband's support she joined a woman SHG and started her profession with cutting of beetle nuts. After her husband's death she stood as a pillar and took the charge of her family. She is now the cashier of Baba Somanath SHG and is also the leader of Kanti Krushak Nidhi Primary Cooperative Union, facilitated by Vikash. The training programmes conducted by Vikash have increased her ability as a leader and her ability in strengthening the role of women in the management of Krushak Nidhi. She is also successfully running her business of dairy farm, beetle nut cutting and incense stick making. Her daughters are now well educated and are employed in different sectors. She is one of the

respectable persons of the society and dedicates most of her time in empowering the women of the society. She hopes for a society free from violence against women.

Intervention of Mrs. Sushila to help a harassed girl and her family

Vikash supports the vulnerable people with legal assistance through the community leaders, women leaders and the net work supporter. On 26th January 2010, a 13 years girl named Tiki was kidnapped from her village. The accused person belongs to a rich and affluent family and has some family rivalry with the victim's family. The accused person along with another person blind folded the girl and fled away in a motor bike in the morning. The girl struggled and shouted and finally with God's grace she was able to escape. The girl was rescued from a place



which was about 15 kms from her village. Being poor, her father wanted to remain silent but Mrs Sushila Sahu, convinced him to lodge a case against the accused person. She along with a group of women of the village demanded for the immediate arrest of the person and four non bail-able Sections – 323, 341, 354 and 506 were charged against him. But when police tried to dissolve the case, they gave a written complaint to the Collector. A 'General Register' case has been filed in SDJM, Bhubaneswar and an 'in-action by police' case has been lodged by the victim in the High Court. We hope Tiki and her family would soon get justice. In the same time we thank our grass root leaders and the network involved in providing legal service.

Global Warming

School children and youth of Konark NAC sensitized on Climate Change.....

Vikash organized a weeklong event to sensitize the school, youths and the parents on the issue of environment protection and Global Warming. The event was a part of governance programme implemented by Vikash in Konark NAC. The programme coincided with the National Environment Awareness campaign in March 2010. School children from Vivekananda Sikshya Kendra, Konark Girl's High School and A.K Vidyapitha participated in the event. Essay competition on causes & effect of Global Warming and plantation was organized involving the school children and youths. The participants carried out a symbolic sanitation drive and cleaned the school pond of Konark Girl's High School. This attracted the attention of public on various aspects of environmental issues and probable steps to be taken to protect the environment. After plantation, the resource persons and teachers addressed the gathered youth and students on Global Warming, its Causes & Remedies. Leaflets containing information on various aspects of environment and the need for its protection were distributed during the awareness meeting.



Azolla as Cattle - Feed



The one year long experiment on using Azolla as cattle feed has ended in March'10. The project was supported by NABARD, Bhubaneswar under RIF (Rural Innovative Fund) project. It was implemented in 3 milk cooperative societies named Majhikhera and Dasbidyadharpur of Satyabadi block and Bidurpur of Delang block of Puri district. Each of 65 farmers was provided with a cement tank of 7'X5'X9' size and two polythenes for multiplication of Azolla. Farmers were trained by OUAT and district veterinary officials in 3 phases at their villages. At the end of the project farmers were able to increase their milk yield by 15 - 20% as well as nutritional condition and fertility of cattle increased significantly. After successful intervention the existing farmers enhanced the livestock for remunerative income. Also some new farmers of nearby villages adopted Azolla as cattle feed by their own means.

Officials of NABARD, Shri Chitta Ranjan Pattnaik, Chief General Manager-Bhubaneswar, Shri Sankarnarayan, Asst. General Manager and Shri Prabir Ku. Panda, AGM (DD) - Puri, had a visit on the project site on 20th Feb 2010 and expressed happiness over the progress.

Involvement of Volunteers



Aude-Claire Doiseau is an engineering student from a French University. She joined Vikash as an intern in September 2009. During her stay of 6 months, she conducted a Study on **Village Ecosystem around Chilika Lake**. In her report she has described a plan of action to improve the waste management near the lake to improve the ecosystem in and around Chilika Lake. *For details visit:*

<http://vikash.org/pdf/Study%20on%20Village%20ecosystem%20around%20Chilika%20Lake%20by%20Doiseau%20Aude-Claire.pdf>

We are obliged to you all for your support

Please send your feedback at

Vikash

Socrates, D-2/7, Ind. Estate, Rasulgarh, Bhubaneswar-751 010, Orissa (India)

Ph.No. 91 (0) 674 2585306, 2588187 Fax No.: 91 (0) 674 2586436

Email: vikashbbsr@gmail.com / info@vikash.org

www.vikash.org