



ANNUAL REPORT

2022-2023

Kandpali
, Rajendra College
Balangir-767002,
Odisha



Executive Secretary's Address

Dear Members, Supporters, and Partners of DREAM-India,

It gives me immense pleasure to present the Annual Report of DREAM-India for the year 2022-2023. This year has been a testament to our unwavering commitment to empowering communities, fostering sustainable development, and driving meaningful change across India.

Despite challenges, we have achieved remarkable milestones, touching the lives of countless individuals through our initiatives in education, health, skill development, and environmental sustainability. These achievements are a result of our collective efforts—our dedicated team, valued partners, generous donors, and, most importantly, the communities we serve.


We are proud to report significant progress in advancing our vision of "Transforming Dreams into Reality." From enhancing access to quality education for underprivileged children to promoting inclusive opportunities for livelihood, DREAM-India remains steadfast in its mission to build a more equitable society.

Looking ahead, we aim to scale our impact, deepen our engagements, and innovate further to address the emerging needs of our society. I extend my heartfelt gratitude to everyone who has supported us on this journey. Together, we will continue to dream big, work hard, and achieve even greater heights in the coming years.

Thank you for being a part of this transformative journey.

With warm regards,

Asish Kumar Rajhans
Executive Secretary
DREAM-India



Climate action

The promotion, protection, and regeneration of the environment in the Deogaon block of Balangir district, Odisha, can be approached through a combination of community-driven initiatives, government programs, and sustainable practices. Here's an outline:

Promotion of Environmental Awareness

- **Community Engagement Programs:** Organize workshops, seminars, and campaigns to educate local communities about environmental conservation and sustainable practices.
- **School and Youth Programs:** Involve schools and youth organizations in tree plantation drives, waste management education, and eco-friendly activities.
- **Traditional Knowledge Integration:** Leverage local and tribal knowledge for sustainable environmental practices.

Protection of Natural Resources

- **Forest Conservation:**
 - Enforce protection of existing forests under programs like Joint Forest Management (JFM).
 - Involve communities in protecting forest cover through afforestation drives and regular monitoring.

Water Resource Management:

- Rejuvenate traditional water bodies like ponds and tanks through de-siltation and preservation.
- Promote rainwater harvesting to improve groundwater levels.
- **Wildlife Conservation:**
 - Protect biodiversity by identifying and safeguarding areas with high ecological value.

Regeneration of Degraded Land

- **Afforestation and Reforestation:**
 - Use native and drought-resistant species for large-scale plantation drives.
 - Encourage agroforestry practices to combine agricultural productivity with ecological benefits.

Soil Conservation:

- Promote sustainable farming techniques such as contour plowing, crop rotation, and organic farming.
- Prevent soil erosion through the construction of check dams and other soil-binding measures.

Sustainable Livelihoods

- **Eco-friendly Income Sources:**
 - Promote sericulture, beekeeping, and herbal medicine cultivation as alternatives to deforestation for livelihood.
 - Train locals in producing handicrafts and goods from renewable resources.

Women Empowerment

Adolescent girls represent a powerful, yet often underrepresented, segment of society. Empowering them is crucial for their development, the progress of their communities, and the overall advancement of gender equality. Here's an overview we initiated in 45 villages of Balangir and Gudvel Block of Balangir:

Breaking the Cycle of Poverty: Empowered girls are more likely to stay in school, delay marriage and childbirth, and pursue careers, thereby improving their economic independence and breaking the cycle of poverty.

1. **Education as a catalyst:** Education is a key driver for empowering girls. It provides them with the knowledge, skills, and confidence to challenge societal norms, make informed decisions, and become active participants in economic and political spheres.
2. **Health and Well-being:** Empowering girls means ensuring they have access to healthcare and the right information to make decisions about their bodies. This includes access to reproductive health services and the ability to protect themselves from harmful practices like child marriage or female genital mutilation.
3. **Leadership and Voice:** When adolescent girls are empowered, they are more likely to become community leaders, influencing change and advocating for their rights and the rights of others. Giving girls a platform to speak up and lead is critical for shifting societal norms.
4. **Breaking Gender Norms:** Empowerment challenges the traditional gender roles that confine girls and women to certain expectations. It encourages girls to dream big and pursue careers in all fields, including politics, science, sports, and more.

Key Strategies for Empowering Adolescent Girls

1. **Education:** Make quality education accessible, especially in rural or marginalized areas. Programs that offer scholarships, mentorship, and tutoring can help girls overcome barriers to schooling.
2. **Sexual and Reproductive Health Education:** Providing accurate, age-appropriate education about sexual health helps girls make informed decisions, reduce early pregnancies, and prevent sexually transmitted infections (STIs).
3. **Community Engagement:** Engage with local communities to change attitudes and reduce harmful practices. This includes educating families about the importance of girls' education and gender equality and challenging stereotypes that limit girls' opportunities.

Food Security

Food security is a crucial concept referring to the availability, access, and affordability of food to ensure that all individuals have the necessary resources to lead a healthy life. It involves multiple factors such as food production, distribution, accessibility, and consumption. In India, food security is significantly supported by various policies and programs, one of the key initiatives being the National Food Security Act (NFSA). we have facilitated 712 households in this process to access food securities schemes in our operational areas.

The NFSA, enacted in 2013, aims to provide subsidized food grains to approximately two-thirds of India's population. The act has two main components:

1. Coverage and Entitlements:

- Priority households (PHH) are entitled to receive 5 kg of food grains per person per month (rice, wheat, and coarse grains), with rice being provided at ₹3 per kg, wheat at ₹2 per kg, and coarse grains at ₹1 per kg.
- Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) households, which represent the poorest of the poor, receive the same amount of food grains at no cost.

1. Grain Distribution: The food grains are distributed through the Public Distribution System (PDS), a network of fair-priced shops that helps ensure that food grains reach the needy sections of society.

1. Nutritional Support: The NFSA also emphasizes improving nutrition, particularly for vulnerable groups like pregnant women, lactating mothers, and children, through supplementary feeding programs, such as the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) and the Mid-Day Meal Scheme (MDMS).

Challenges

Despite the NFSA's reach, there are several challenges:

- Exclusion Errors: Some eligible households may not be included in the PDS, while some ineligible households may gain access.
- Nutritional Quality: While the focus is on providing basic grains, nutritional variety in terms of fruits, vegetables, and proteins is not sufficiently addressed.

In summary, food security in India, with NFSA at its core, seeks to address hunger and malnutrition through subsidized food access, but challenges related to distribution, inclusion, and nutritional quality still persist.



Education

The government has initiated programs to improve infrastructure, such as the provision of science laboratories, computer labs, and libraries, alongside continuous monitoring and teacher engagement. However, challenges remain, particularly in remote areas, where access to schools can still be limited Balangir

Alternately, we have sensitized the community in 45 villages of our educational area for the school infrastructure and availability of teachers as per RTE, so that they are engaged with district administration to settle the issues for the future of their children.


Key Challenges

Despite the progress, Balangir district, including Gudvella, faces several educational challenges:

- Gender disparity in literacy rates: In villages like Gudbhela, the female literacy rate is significantly lower than that of males.
- Access to higher education: While primary and middle schools are available, access to higher education institutions, including senior secondary schools and colleges, remains limited, with students often needing to travel to larger towns like Balangir
- Infrastructure gaps: Some remote areas still lack adequate educational facilities, which affects the overall quality of education and student retention.

Conclusion

Education in Balangir and Gudvella blocks has seen improvements, especially with government efforts to ensure school availability and provide incentives for underprivileged students. However, continued attention is needed to address gender disparities and infrastructure challenges to ensure more inclusive and quality education for all students.



Combating malnutrition

Combating malnutrition in 200 children aged 0.6 to 5 years is crucial, as this period is key for growth and development. Strategies that should focus on improving nutrition, ensuring access to essential health services, and promoting healthy practices are initiated in 4 four remote tribal villages of Gudvella Block. Below are key approaches to address malnutrition in this age group:

1. Promote Exclusive Breastfeeding (0-6 Months)

- Why it matters: Breast milk is rich in nutrients and antibodies that help build the immune system and provide optimal growth in infants.

2. Introduce Nutrient-Rich Complementary Foods (6 Months Onwards)

- Introduce a variety of complementary foods that are rich in protein, vitamins, and minerals by providing 150 ML milk and 4 Parle G biscuits six days in a week to each child.

4. Promote Safe Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene

- Educative Action for Mothers:
 - Promote handwashing with soap, especially before eating and after using the toilet.
 - Provide access to clean drinking water and sanitary toilet facilities.
 - Educate caregivers on safe food preparation and storage to reduce contamination.

5. Prevent and Treat Common Childhood Illnesses

- Ensure regular immunization to prevent diseases.
- Promote the use of oral rehydration solutions (ORS) for diarrhea.
- Provide prompt medical care to treat infections and ensure proper nutrition during illness recovery.

7. Family-Based Nutrition Programs

- Promoting family-based gardens or local food programs that can help increase access to fresh produce.

8. Monitor Growth and Development

- Regularly monitor the growth and weight of children through growth charts.
- Conduct regular health check-ups and nutritional assessments.
- Encourage routine use of screening tools to detect undernutrition or stunting early.

By addressing these key factors, communities and governments can reduce the incidence of malnutrition and its long-term effects on the growth and development of 200 children aged 0.6 to 5 years.



Conclusion

DREAM-India's impact in Balangir District this year has been substantial, but much work remains to ensure lasting change. Moving forward, the organization plans to expand its reach, deepen its focus on sustainable development, and continue advocating for equitable access to government schemes.

- Expansion of Programs: The NGO intends to launch new environmental projects, including expanding the rainwater harvesting systems and launching an organic farming initiative.
- Strengthening Partnerships: The organization aims to strengthen its collaborations with local and national entities, ensuring the sustainability of its initiatives.

Continued effort and collaboration, DREAM-India envisions a future where the communities in Balangir are empowered, self-reliant, and living in harmony with their environment.

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