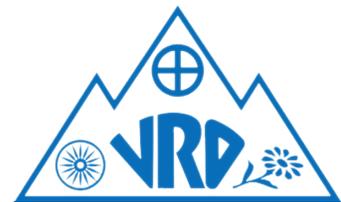




Village Reconstruction Organization

Annual Report 2013 – 2014



Building Networks

The process of the community development is not an individual affair but a community endeavour. It needs neighbors, groups, cluster, circle and organizations of people participating in common activities with unilateral approach and shared responsibility to achieve the agreed goal.





Theme for the year 2013 – 2014 'Building Networks'

The process of the community development is not an individual affair but a community endeavor. It needs neighborhood, group, cluster, circle and organization of people participating in common activities with unilateral approach and shared responsibility to achieve the agreed goal. In this post modern era, the organizations rendering service to the development and growth of the Human Society should be capacitated enough to involve all the well-known groups, clusters and organizations of people in order to achieve the desired goal. In other words those groups, clusters and organizations are called as *systems* because each got its own rules, norms and behaviors. The well-known systems are family, friends, schools, colleges, clubs, organizations, associations, institutions etc.

VRO has been working in the field of rural development for more than 4 decades and maintained its relationship with the above systems such as government offices, schools, and village councils, other NGOs etc. In VRO, development path is designed, implemented

and measured in relation to the systems mentioned above. However, the involvements of the systems in the participation of development approach of the organization have declined over the period. Today, the social work scenario and working methodologies push us to rethink about the involvement of systems into the development approach. Progress made by VRO during the last year demonstrates its ability to rebuild the systems network at the field level for better planning, implementation and progress of projects. The work of rebuilding the systems network brings a new hope in the VRO strategies by moving the development plan to the community by the community and for the community.



6Es

Environment

Enjoyment

Employment

Enlightenment

Empowerment

Entitlement

Vision

“Better Villages for a Better World”

Mission Statement

“To encourage the initiatives and the energy of the villagers by facilitating their self improvement and sustainability process through development partnership”

VRO believes that the micro Village, as a human settlement, a socio-economic entity with an identity of its own and with a particular eco-system, should not only survive in modern society but also grow in its strength. The economy of the micro Village should be vibrant enough to provide employment to the most of its inhabitants and the village people should be empowered to bargain with the larger world. One day the world is bound to discover that the village offers a pattern of life that is more serene, sane, sustainable and humane than the modern cities offer today.

Minutes of 42nd Annual General Body Meeting

The meeting started with a prayer song 'Om Jagadeeswara' sung by the trainees of Livelihood Learning Centre (Rajulaloya - 52km) and Cultural team of VRO Odisha.

Ms. Rekha Abel, Sr. Cletus Daisy, Sr. Martin, Mr. Theo Vaes, Dr. T. Nagender Swamy, Mr. J. Ranga Rao, Fr. Peter Daniel SJ and Fr. Santiago SJ lighted the lamp at the end of the prayer song.

Mr. Theo Vaes, President welcomed all the General Body members

The Secretary presented the minutes of the 41st Annual General Body Meeting and placed the same for approval. It was proposed by Mr. Sethy and seconded by Mr. K. Ravi Pradeep to approve and pass the minutes.

Mr. Theo Vaes, President presented his valuable message effectively using the Power-Point presentation. The President thanked all Governing Board members for their contribution and support during his tenure as president. In his message, Mr. Theo Vaes emphasized on various resources that environment provides us such as land, tress, water etc. and such resources should be used diligently. Further, he mentioned that VRO should be able to use the human resources, entrepreneurship skills, inspirations etc. for betterment of rural India.

In his report the Secretary mentioned about the four meetings held in the previous year. Important resolutions passed in the meetings during the year were placed before the General Body. He announced that Mr. Theo Vaes and George D'souza tendered their resignation letters as President and member respectively. The Secretary recalled the committed and sincere efforts of Mr. Theo Vaes in guiding the organisation during the past three years as President.

The Operational Director, Fr. Peter Daniel in his report mentioned that VRO should focus on three important environmental aspects of a village i.e. natural environment, social environment and spiritual environment to create a better village.

Then the field reports followed reflecting the core objectives of VRO actually materialized in the execution of the programs. Mr. Jean Paul, Project Coordinator led the presentation of project reports with the help of representatives from each state i.e. Mr. Pithambar Sethy, Odisha; Ms. Rama Devi and Ms. Anitha Thomas, Andhra Pradesh and Mr. Jayaraman, Tamil Nadu which were appreciated by the members.

Fr. Santiago, Associate Director presented the report on Restructuring of VRO. He spoke about restructuring done under the following headings: society, strategy, organization, technology, cluster programs, finances and mobilization of local resources. He also emphasized that the focus of 2013-14 will be centering on rights based and people oriented approach.

After the presentation of reports, it was open to the house for discussion and clarifications. Mr. T. K. S. Sarma, Fr. Dhanapaul SJ and Fr. Bosco SJ raised the question of General Body membership and renewal. General Body members suggested a couple of things such as attendance at Annual General Body meetings, term period for life membership etc. Besides, General Body members also discussed about the presence of the foreign members in the General Body and suggested alternative ways of involvement like an advisory body etc.

The General Body members also reflected on the implementation of the programs and after discussions, they appreciated the efforts made by the Governing Board and volunteers in bringing about the restructuring, newness and stability in the organization.

Minutes of 42nd Annual General Body Meeting

Mr. J. Ranga Rao, Treasurer presented the Financial report and indicated that the organization was out of deficit with a little surplus. At the end of the report, it was proposed by Fr. Dhanapaul SJ and seconded by Mr. T. K. S. Sarma. The General Body had confirmed and passed the financial report.

The secretary, on behalf of the Governing Board proposed Mr. T. Gopal Rao and Fr. S. Dhanapaul SJ as members of the Governing Body in place of the members who tendered their resignations. The General Body unanimously approved the same.

The General Body resolved to continue the auditor M/s KVR Subba Rao & CO, Guntur for the financial year 2014-2015.

The meeting concluded with the VRO anthem, Vijayaviharam and was followed by a community lunch.

Dr. T. Nagender Swamy
Secretary - Governing Board



President's Message



Dear friends and partners of VRO

It has been a great honor for me to be associated with the Village Reconstruction Organization (VRO) since 1974. It has been a very satisfying experience too. Started in 1969 by Professor M A Windey SJ, VRO has been reaching out to people caught in impossible and risky situations like massive disasters. The members of the organization have taken upon themselves the responsibility of giving a better and safe future to people who come to them seeking help.

To Professor Windey, village was the force with families rooted in the land with certain common interests, certain traditions and certain ambitions. He believed that floods, cyclones or any crisis are to be tackled from the social point of view. Professor Windey was known for achieving the impossible through the village reconstruction.

As we gather for the 42 General Body Meeting, let us pledge ourselves to build more village communities and impart more technical trainings to unemployed youth.

The need of the hour is to organize programs in partnership with the Government and like-minded NGOs to build stronger communities and villages. The VRO could not have attained so much of success, had it not been for the generous support of the funding partners.

As we meet to reflect, discuss and resolve matters, let us think of making synergetic

efforts to help many more children, mothers and senior citizens – the vulnerable groups in the society.

May the organization grow from strength to strength helping many more people as well as empowering more and more communities! Let our decisions and plans help people at large to appreciate as well as nurture Mother Nature.

A Big ***“Thank You”*** to everyone!

With God's blessings,

Sr. Cletus Daisy JMJ
Interim President

Secretary's Report



*Madam President,
members of the Governing
Board, General Body and
friends*

It is my pleasant duty to place before you the report of the Governing Board for the year 2013-14. In the last General Body meeting you had nominated members to the Governing

Board for the term 2013-16, replacing two members who had submitted their resignations. However, Mr.T.Gopal Rao who was nominated as President by the GoB tendered his resignation in January necessitating having an Interim President for the remainder of the year. During the year under review the Governing Board met as follows;

1. 1st September, 2013 at Hyderabad
2. 20th December, 2014 at Hyderabad
3. 6th January, 2014 at Hyderabad
(Emergency Meeting)
4. 22nd March, 2014 at Kakani, Guntur
5. 11th June, 2014 at Kakani, Guntur
6. 13th September, 2014 at Hyderabad

Important resolutions passed during the year;

- To place on record appreciation of the services of Mr.Theo Vaes as President and Fr.George D'Souza SJ as member on the Governing Board.
- Unanimously resolved to have Mr.T.Gopal Rao as President of VRO and to continue Dr.T.Nagender Swamy as Secretary and Mr.J.Ranga Rao as Treasurer.
- To accept the resignation of Mr.T.Gopal Rao as President of the Governing Board. To have an interim President till the Annual General Body Meeting. Sr.Cletus was the unanimous choice which she graciously accepted.
- Following a detailed discussion in the background of an unfortunate incident in the centre at 132 kms, the GoB resolved

the following;

- a. All programmes and activities for children learning should be response to specific needs and demand from village communities
 - b. In every way the continuity of education of the children should not be adversely affected
 - c. Any plan must be preceded by a meaningful consultation with the partner communities
 - d. A specific study of the centres should be undertaken by the VRO volunteers with external assistance and help
- To nominate Fr.Bhaskar as legal advisor for issues related to land and other legal matters.
 - To donate the vehicle AP09X9721 (Tempo Traveler) to Melukolupu for public awareness programmes. The recipient will undertake awareness programmes in villages with VRO presence.
 - Resolved to prepare and communicate a protocol for official representatives from VRO Donor Partners
 - To call for the 43rd Annual General Body meeting on 14th September, 2014 in Hyderabad

I should like to place on record the commitment and seriousness, the members bring to the discussion on issues related to both policy and execution of programme activities. I wish to thank all the members for their intense participation in the meetings and genuine concern to bring about required changes in the VRO and its contribution to village development.

Dr. T. Nagender Swamy
Secretary – Governing Board

From Operational Director's Desk



Everything begins with an idea, so did VRO! Fr. Michael A Windey sj gave existence to an idea with a cause in mind and the poor in the heart, relying on the goodness of many local as well as international people. It was purely a social cause that he believed in which could make a better and a more

beautiful world where people could live happily. This was his vision and he translated it into action by transmitting the same to many people. To achieve this end, he traveled East to West, North to South and mobilized possible supporters, collaborators, donors who could journey along with him to make his dream come true. During the journey from April 2013 to March 2014, VRO as an organization has put in its efforts to better the lives of the people especially the target communities. I would like to point out a few important events and trends of the organization.

Shift from center approach to community

In the past VRO was mostly concentrating its activities through various centers in all the three States. When we look back into history taking into account the various factors such as government policies, developmental thinking, literacy rate, socio-economic and cultural conditions of the target communities, the center-focused approach was relevant and needed. As we closely looked into the outcome and the impact of such programmes we were wondering whether we are only repeating the activities year after year without measuring the impact on the village communities taking into account the changing scenario in the various fields. It is a fact that the target communities in Hyderabad region, having understood the importance of education, are sending their children to English medium schools. All the government run Telugu Medium schools in the villages are almost empty. Besides, as a follow

up of the external evaluation study done in Hyderabad region by Ms. Shanti Yeachuri and Ms. Padma conducted in May 2012, Governing Board in the meeting held in March 2014 decided to move away from the centre-oriented approach to village oriented empowerment programmes in order to realize the original vision namely “better villages for a better world”.

Volunteer Development

The above shift demands that the volunteers are oriented, trained and motivated to walk in the new way and focus on the village communities. To create the momentum among the volunteers, the project team with the help of human resource and training consultant organized orientation sessions, training programmes and facilitated review meetings. It is heartening to note that some of the volunteers have improved their analytical and reporting skills. Others improved themselves in their commitment to realize the vision of the organization. This was apparent in their timely reporting, good documentation, professional relationships with one another, accountability, transparency, etc.

Implementation Strategy

During the reporting period, there has been a close monitoring of the programmes in all three states by the project team that facilitated the volunteers to understand the implementation process, the difficulties faced in the field. The well planned review meetings at the local and regional level has improved the implementation of the planned programmes. Thus the monitoring component in VRO has been strengthened.

Networking

VRO is on the move in identifying partners who can journey with VRO at community level, regional level, State level and International level. At the village level we are in close association with the panchayat leaders, people's organizations and the

From Operational Director's Desk

the government agents who facilitate the implementation of our programmes. We have initiated the process of enabling the local leaders to be capable of owning the programmes. We are interacting with some of the VRO-inspired NGOs and in the process of identifying many more like-minded organizations. We are happy with the international partners for their continuous support. We look forward in networking with government agents to avail the facilities and the programs for the development of the people.

Cluster approach- Need of the Hour

The original thinking and the dream of the founder Director have been to vibrate the development process among the village communities in and around the centers. However in the course of time, the importance was lost and the centers were given importance. In order to concretize the concept of reaching out to people, two Cluster programmes were initiated in Kothakota and Gonasika areas.

Financial Management

We feel proud to say that the financial situation in VRO has improved over the years. The reason behind this status is the hard work of the finance team, the timely advice of the treasurer and the close monitoring of AD and OD. The

finance related information is well documented and kept ready for any enquiry. Under the guidance of the Project Coordinator, the Field Coordinators and the finance personnel are well oriented to prepare the project profiles and the budget, which is the backbone of the effective functioning of the organization.

GoB Meeting

The quarterly GoB meetings have been a booster for the management team and volunteers who were provided guidance, support and appropriate timely interventions to implement the programmes successfully.

Before I conclude my report, I take this opportunity to thank General Body members, GoB members, the committed volunteers, Fr. Santiago, the Associate Director. My sincere appreciation and gratitude to the VRO partners abroad, who toil hard to support the programmes in order to create better villages. Thanks one and all!

Yours sincerely,

Peter Daniel SJ
Operational Director, VRO



Field Coordinators Desk - *The Journey Continues*



Odisha Area

VRO in Odisha has seen ups and downs throughout its journey towards development of the village communities. We have consistently performed well to win the hearts of the villagers. Women and children are our main supporters and fought with their male counterparts in creating an understanding of the development approach. A journey of forty three years in India where development pace is gradually gaining momentum, only rapid learning and application of the best practices can help us to sustain and make progress. VRO Odisha has accepted that challenge and enhanced the learning capacity of the volunteers. All the volunteers have undergone one month capacity building training in summer besides their skill improvement training and orientations. Similarly, continuous monitoring and evaluation has sharpened our ideas to implement the programs effectively. In the changing scenario, we have changed our traditional working system and fixed mindset. We have a well-knit accounting system in place. Our centre oriented approach has been changed to village oriented and specifically cluster approach giving adequate space for a holistic and comprehensive development of the villages. With rejuvenated spirit and vigorous strength, our volunteers are ready to take up new challenges in the future.

Mr. Pithamber Sethy
Area Coordinator, Odisha



North Odisha

During the reporting period, special attention was paid to reach out to the tribal people beyond Gonasika area who are far away from modern civilization. In the process of comprehensive development, one has to acknowledge the local wisdom of the people through which developmental approach can be localized according to the context, geography and habitation. To reach out to the people located in the interior places and impart education to children, training to youth, enabling the people to get involved in community initiatives is a challenging mission. Through this phenomenon of developing village communities, we have been learning and equipping ourselves through various trainings such as leadership, communication skills, analytical skills, documentation, computer learning, first-aid practice etc. we also made efforts to move our programs from center based approach to village community oriented one. We re-titled a couple of our programs to fall in line with this approach. Change leads to development and development is newness.

Mr. Sujit Kumar Rout
Field Coordinator, North Odisha

*The Journey Continues***South Odisha**

VRO South Odisha has been working with the people who are poor, illiterate and lacking opportunities for development. While developing the village communities, VRO never undermined the respect for the poor, the values of the local community, the need for mobilizing the local resources. Over the years VRO successfully assisted the villagers to complete the housing projects enhancing the capacity of local people. Remembering the words of our Fr. Windey, Founder Director, “VRO is a floating university”, many of the volunteers pursued their studies through distance education and finished their degree courses. We also informally learnt about community development, food and nutrition, teaching methods and other allied skills to build up our capacities. We fondly remember the words of our Founder director that learning never ends.

Mr. Saroj Kanta Swain
Field Coordinator, South Odisha

Guntur Region

The year 2013-2014 is a memorable one for Guntur region, because a greater emphasis was laid on the empowerment of women. Most of the projects were related to the women empowerment Programs such as Self Help Groups, awareness meetings on entitlements and welfare measures, skill training programs etc. We networked and maintained good contact with similar organizations like SEEP, MSME, Vignan Institute, Grace Home, DRDA, JMJ-SSS and Government Departments for better development of the villages. One of the greatest challenges faced during the year was to convince the people and motivate them to avail the welfare measures available with the Government like Indiramma Social Housing Scheme, various types of Pension scheme, etc.

Mr. Ch. Chennaiah
Field Coordinator, Guntur

Nellore Region

The year 2013-2014 was a year of capacity building for volunteers. We laid emphasis on improving the volunteers’ skills by acquiring soft skills during summer training that would help for documentation, report writing etc. Through GTC program, we enabled the villagers of five former villages to carry out the repairs and maintenance of their houses satisfactorily. This contact with the former villages improved the image of the functioning of VRO. We collaborated with the Government (Rajiv Yuva Kirnalu) in conducting training on tailoring in Gandhi Nagar, Nellore for 80 women for three months. They received certificates, which paved the way for better job opportunities.

Mr. A. Arjun Rao
Field Coordinator, Nellore

The Journey Continues**Rajahmundry Region**

The year 2013-2014 has been a year of capacity building and training. The regional volunteers improved their knowledge on project implementation and imbibed the true meaning of the mission of the organization based on the original vision. We have organized Spoken English Training camp for fifty children of CLCs during summer and similar camp for the volunteers in the month of May with the support of Jesuit Brothers. The training experience provided the brothers an opportunity to understand the rural development. In this way, a cross learning process was established. However, VRO Rajahmundry is ready to face a new challenge regarding the displacement of the people that may happen in future due to the construction of Polavaram Dam project. VRO constructed fifteen villages in this area, which will be inundated after the completion of the project. Facing the consequences of the displacement, rehabilitation of the people will be a greater challenge for the rural communities. In this context, VRO has to play a major role in supporting and strengthening the people in shaping their future.

Mr. P. Yallamandaiah
Field Coordinator, Rajahmundry

**Hyderabad Region**

The year 2012-2013 taught us lessons and helped us to revise our perspectives about our development approach. While rendering services to the stakeholders, protecting both the parties i.e. the provider and receiver need to be analyzed and strategies to be framed accordingly. This year has been very challenging in implementing the projects in Hyderabad. We faced difficulty in reaching the targeted stakeholders number, managing with less human resources etc. However, they are guided and supported by the committed staff to finish their training. We have networked with the local government officials who guided us in re-framing our strategies.

Ms. V. Anita Thomas
Field Coordinator, Hyderabad

**Tamil Nadu Region**

During the reporting period, we collaborated with the Government College, Pudhukottai in conducting service camps in the villages around Madagam health centre to bring awareness among the villagers about health hygiene and Entitlements. 15 students attended the service camps organized by the health worker. The main focus was imparting skill like tailoring in the villages and organizing empowerment programs for women. An effort was made to extend the programs to the villages of Sivagangai and Ramnadu districts, which are very much prone to drought.

Mr. M. K. Jayaraman
Field Coordinator, Tamil Nadu

Community Child Care Program (CCCP)

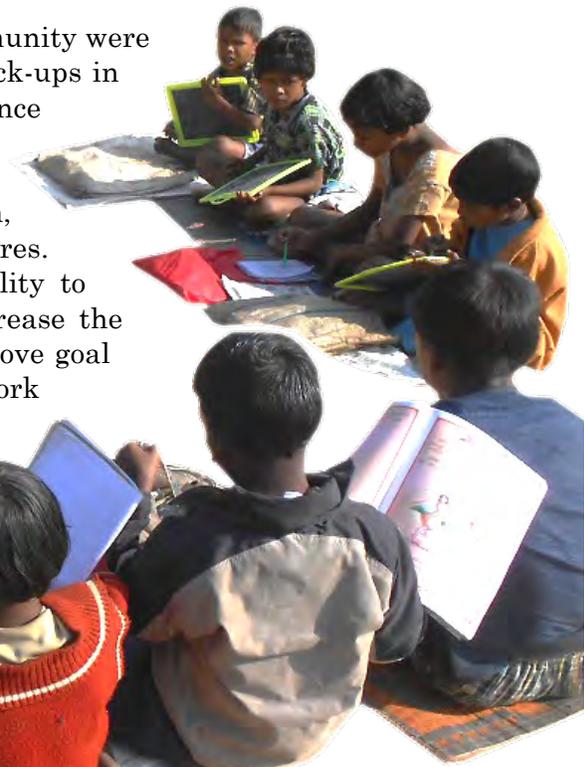
The project aims at the holistic development of rural children who were not facilitated with wide range of opportunities for their development. The Holistic development of children includes supplementary nutrition, immunization, health check-up, referral services, Pre-school learning, non-formal education etc. Keeping in mind the aspect of holistic development of the children, VRO decided to build a network of different systems that are available in a particular village in order to create a sustainable growth and transformation. The needs that are to be addressed for development of children can be categorized into three heads: Physical/mental growth (nutrition), Health (health check-ups, referrals), Education (pre-school learning, non-formal education).

Physical/Mental Growth (Nutrition)

It is observed that organizations providing nutrition to the child was not a sustainable solution for the growth of the children. It creates a weaker and a dependent community rather than creating a strong and responsible community. Hence, during the reporting year, discussions were held with the stakeholders concerned in addressing the issue and consequently the villagers were motivated to take initiatives to provide nutrition to the children. In one village in Odisha, the villagers gave a share of their income to purchase nutritious food for the children while in another village a community kitchen was established to cook for children. The women with great enthusiasm actively participated in cooking food for the children. This participation also enabled the women to learn the nutrition index of food.

Health (Health Check-Ups, Referrals, Immunization)

To enable the children to be healthy, the parents and the community were made to understand the importance of the regular health check-ups in order to keep the children safe from the deadly diseases. Once again, an idea of creating a sustainable solution that can be met within the rural resources was made clear to the people. In all the meetings with village leaders, parents and children, emphasis was laid on health education and preventive measures. The youth were also motivated in taking up the responsibility to create a clean environment in the respective villages to decrease the possibilities of children falling sick. In order to achieve the above goal especially in cluster villages, VRO maintained a feasible network with ASHA worker, ANM and local PHC to procure better health services for children.



Community Child Care Program (CCCP)

Education (Pre-School Non-Formal Education)

The VRO Volunteers are capacitated enough to provide the above-mentioned education to the children. However, the volunteers are motivated to look at the village without the presence of VRO in the long run and accordingly discover the solutions for the problems in the village. In consultation with the experts on the development field, we moved on to the concept of community based volunteers to teach the children. We were able to implement in a couple of our centers and it enabled active participation of the villagers in the program. However, the volunteers network with local school teachers and headmasters with a view to mainstream the children. Villagers were also encouraged to contact the schools. In this way we were able to fill the gap between the villagers and service providers to some extent. The process of building networks is enabling us to see the possibility of creating non-dependent communities that can address their problems and move towards the sustainable development solution.

Systems Involved In CCCP

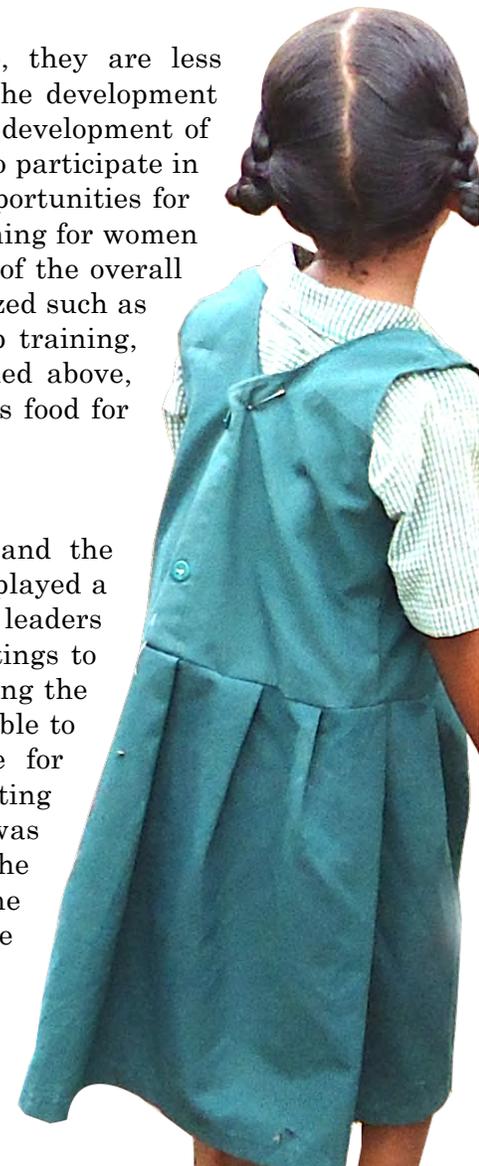
Village Women groups, Village Leaders, LLC trainees (VRO), Health workers (VRO), Health Personnel (Govt. + Pvt.), Local Schools etc.

Village Women Groups

Since our target community women belong to the neglected group, they are less encouraged and do not have any prior experience in participating in the development process. We believe that women need to be empowered to enhance the development of the children. Hence CCC programs focus on the women enabling them to participate in it. We have created sufficient space, different occasions and various opportunities for women to participate in the programs. Indeed, CCCP includes skill training for women to enable them to be an economically sustainable group in the process of the overall development of the children. A range of activities for women was organized such as the strengthening of SHGs, skill training, health education, leadership training, village meetings etc. in order to enhance their capacities. As mentioned above, these women groups were also involved in the preparation of nutritious food for the children.

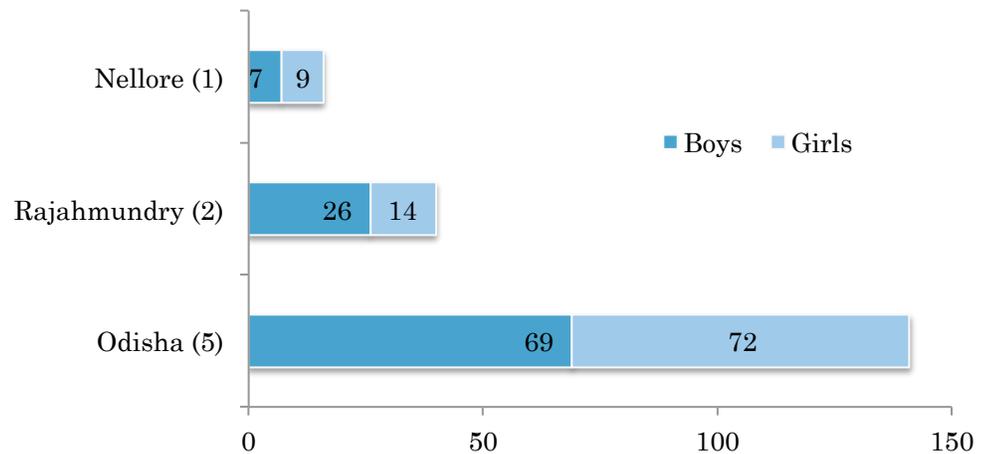
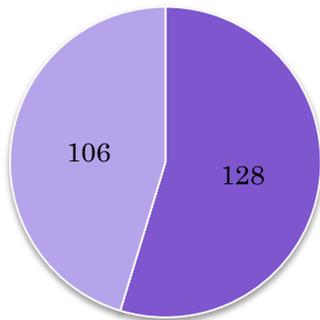
Village Leaders

Better sustainable development is based on a bottom-up approach and the leaders were motivated to be open to this approach. The CCCP worker played a vital role in instilling in them the idea of development approach. The leaders were also involved in the project and they have decided upon the meetings to address the parents and enable the progress of the project by encouraging the participation of the villagers. The leaders in most of the villages were able to motivate the villagers to construct residence for volunteer, cottage for conducting CCCP, keeping the environment clean etc. During the reporting period the villagers made their effort to rebuild the CCCP center that was damaged during the cyclone in Odisha. Through the help of the council, the CCCP worker was able to conduct village meeting and provide the villagers with information on various government entitlements, welfare measures and motivated them to avail the same.



Community Child Care Program (CCCP)

■ Women (Skill Training)
 ■ Children (Evening Study)



Stakeholder Details of CCCP in all regions of VRO

Left – Skill Training & Evening Study | Right – CCCP (Balwadi) Children
 (n) Indicates number of centers active during 13-14 in each region

LLC Trainees of VRO

The trainees at Livelihood Learning Centers in Odisha were also encouraged to participate in the exposure programs and service camps. The trainees carried out activities such as awareness, health education and social education to the villagers. Apart from this, the trainees also spent their time with the children to understand their needs, progress, etc. Through this, the process of intra-networking enabled the stakeholders of one project to support the stakeholders of another project. This process builds up and establishes oneness, unity and a sense of belonging to a human family among the stakeholders of various projects.

Government personnel and officials

Since the inception, the VRO has been partnering with the government in the process of the development of the villages. CCCP is a bridging unit between the village and service providers such as government and other NGOs. The CCCP worker empowers the leader and the villagers to build a strong network between the village and service providers. The government officials were involved in the program through health check-ups, immunization, vaccination of children, admission of children in schools etc. Hence the network with the government officials plays a vital role in the continuity of the process of change. Apart from doing this regular duty, the CCCP worker also maintains contact with government officials to enable the stakeholders to avail themselves house loans, SC/ST subsidies, land loans etc.



Children Learning Center (CLC)

Children are the most vulnerable section of the society. We know that Today's Children are Tomorrow's Citizens! This implies that the children are the national assets and their lives are the proof of today's struggle for better villages. Development program should ensure that every child has equal opportunity for optimum personal growth. VRO has been working for children who are neglected, caught up in child labour, marginalized, migrated, etc. Hence, VRO has been providing the parental care, shelter, financial assistances, healthy food, protection and peaceful atmosphere for learning.

VRO also believes that the all round development of the children can take place in a serene, peaceful and rural atmosphere. In order to achieve this goal, a set of activities was framed such as parents meetings, village meetings, and service camps for the trainees, networking with local schools etc.

VRO has been re-thinking about the residential centers for the children from another perspective. Over the period, VRO has learnt through these residential centers that the basic right of the child is neglected i.e. right to live in the family. As a result of learning from books, research and publication of various organizations working for the development of the children, VRO planned to restructure the approach from the institutional programs to non-institutional family oriented programs. As part of the restructuring process, it laid stress at the strengthening of monitoring mechanisms, project implementation procedures and approach towards development projects meant for the children.



During the reporting period, we became aware of the negative aspects of residential centers i.e. separation, anxiety, maternal deprivation, failure of trust, development delays, difficulty in mainstreaming etc. (publication on children-setting by Child Line Foundation). We have conducted an internal review of our CLC projects and found that we deviated ourselves from the above focus and we need to shift our focus from welfare based approach to rights based approach.

Children Learning Center (CLC)

Systems Involved In CLC

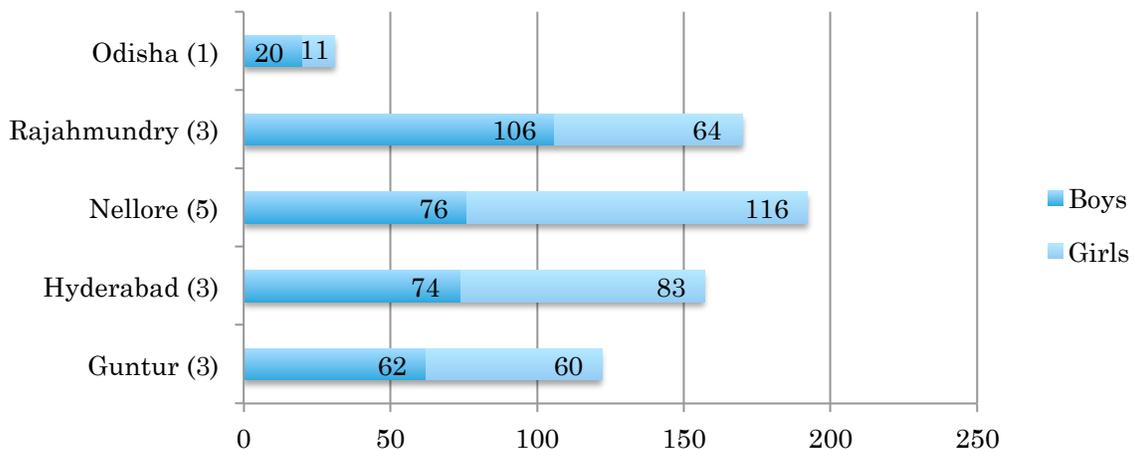
Councils & Parents, Local Government Schools, Local health personnel, Soft skill trainers, Well-wishers

Councils & Parents

Councils and Parents are involved to take up advocacy and awareness on the issues regarding the development of the children. The council members were encouraged to analyze the dropouts in the particular village in the light of negligence towards the education of the children and children being a source of earning for the families. Such attitudes towards children were addressed first and foremost at the parents and council meetings. VRO emphasized on this because families are the primary groups that the children interact with and start learning. The councils and parents are involved slowly as partners to improve the lives of the children. The councils took responsibility for safeguarding the common site. For example after the cyclone, the village council of Nanpur, Odisha, reconstructed the damaged thatched roofs of the study rooms of the children.

Local Government Schools

All CLCs during the reporting period had good contact with the local government schools. The children attend their formal education in the nearby schools. Through this approach, children were able to procure the benefits such as uniform, textbooks and mid-day meals. In the feedback given by the school teachers and headmasters, it is understood that the collaboration is very helpful and beneficial for the growth of the children. However, while revising our strategy, we found out that the participation of local children at the school is not very encouraging. Hence the question arose in our evaluation: Are we creating an imbalance in the service delivery of the government by moving the stakeholders of one geographical location to another? We discussed about this issue with experts and social workers who suggested that service delivery within the geographical location of the stakeholders will enhance their performance and development. Considering those factors, VRO decided to restructure CLCs by animating the parents to admit their children in their respective village schools in the forthcoming academic year.

**Stakeholder Details of CLCs | Sex Ratio**

(n) Indicates number of centers active during 13-14 in each region

Children Learning Center (CLC)

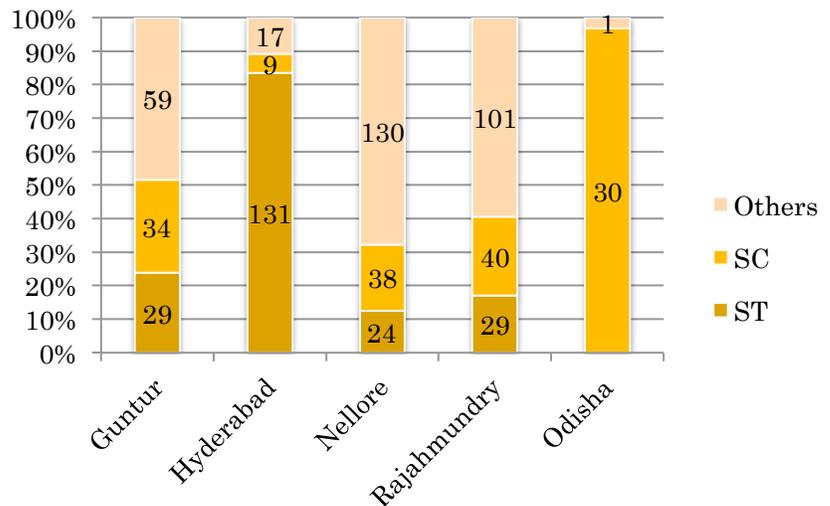
Local Health Personnel

Since the children are prone to health related risks, we networked with local Primary Health centers (PHC) from where the doctors and nurses were motivated to visit periodically our nearby CLC centers to help the children. Besides, the children were provided with information on health and they were encouraged to follow certain practices such as washing hands and plates before meals, washing clothes on regular basis, daily bathing, keeping environment clean etc.

Soft Skill Trainers

In order to enhance the talents and the competence of the children, special trainings such as spoken English, drawing etc. were organized. During summer, Jesuit brothers as teams spent 15 days at different CLC centers to train the children on English, social behavior, games and sports etc. The children were prepared through special coaching and they were encouraged to appear for Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya exams. 16 children cleared the exams successfully.

CLC Stakeholders | Community Ratio



Well-Wishers

VRO is deeply rooted in the hearts of the people and has an appeal to the public as secular organization because of the spirit of volunteerism that was emphasized by the Founder Director M. A. Windey SJ. This enabled the volunteers to raise local contribution in kinds from the well-wishers who were once the volunteers of the organization either directly or indirectly. For example, during the reporting period, a well-wisher contributed 400 Kilos of rice for the Children’s center at Prathipadu (48 km), Rajahmundry. Other centers also used to receive such benefits periodically.



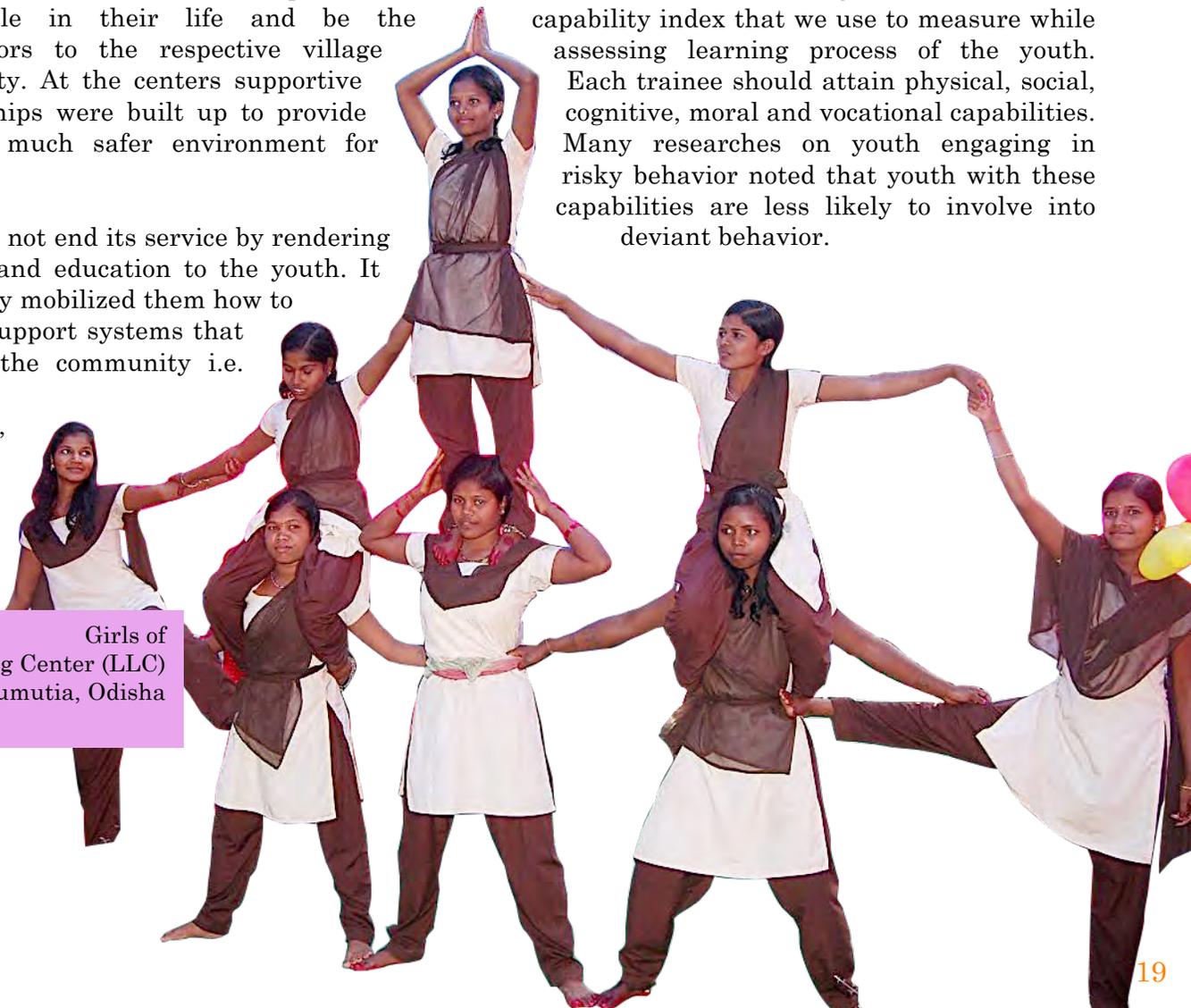
Livelihood Learning Center (LLC)

The strategies on the development of the Youth in the villages focus on giving young people the chance to build relationships with caring adults, learn skills, exercise leadership, and thus help their communities. Youth are the valuable and respected asset to the respective community. Development strategy for youth is not merely focused at enhancing their skills and capacities but it is about involvement of people, institutions and systems that support the development of the youth. In order to implement this, VRO's LLC programs included well-structured setting with safety of the youth, consistent guidelines, clear boundaries, continuity and age appropriate. The setting also provided opportunities for youth to learn skills that enable them to be efficient, positive and responsible in their life and be the contributors to the respective village community. At the centers supportive relationships were built up to provide youth a much safer environment for learning.

LLC does not end its service by rendering training and education to the youth. It practically mobilized them how to use the support systems that exist in the community i.e. service providers, training

institutions, employer etc. which are affirming, respectful and ongoing. They are also provided opportunities to articulate, practice, learn, express, and influence others. They were given chances to experiment with different roles to learn leadership skills. The project is structured accordingly to enable a holistic development of youngster as leader and influencer. At VRO we believe learning is continuous process and occur at different settings and situations. Hence we designed a set of activities such as service camps, environment care, awareness camp, leadership training etc. for continuous learning of trainees.

We want the youth to be competent enough by the end of their training. We have a set of capability index that we use to measure while assessing learning process of the youth. Each trainee should attain physical, social, cognitive, moral and vocational capabilities. Many researches on youth engaging in risky behavior noted that youth with these capabilities are less likely to involve into deviant behavior.



Girls of
Livelihood Learning Center (LLC)
Bayakumutia, Odisha

Livelihood Learning Center (LLC)

Systems Involved In LLC

Councils and Parents, Local and Government Training institutes

Councils and Parents

The transformation that takes place in the youth while learning at the VRO centre must be sustained later and therefore, there is a greater work to be done in the environment he/she comes from. Hence, we involve the village councils and parents of the trainees to provide them with information on the process of learning that the youth are undergoing in our training centers. The council members were motivated to create space back at the village level for the trainees to utilize the learnt skills.

Local Training Institutes

Most of the LLCs of VRO collaborate with the local training institutes such as USHA International Sewing School, Odisha; Creative Minds Computer Training Institute, Pidugurala, Guntur region to enable the trainees to obtain certificates. In a couple of our centers, external certified trainers were involved to train the youth. For example, Mr.

Rasool, Tailoring Instructor at Arogyanagar, Kadapa region teaches tailoring skill to the boys who are dropouts from the schools. Such collaboration and networking offered a good training to the youth in a particular skill. The trainees were able to use the certificates to obtain loans, get employed etc. Besides, the centers network with other trainers who train the youth on soft skills such as social behavior, motivation in life, attending interview, Spoken English language etc. during the reporting year, Mr. Sudhir Kumar Das from People Development Center, Bhubaneswar offers his services to the LLCs in Odisha whenever there is need.

Government

We have collaborated with government initiatives to enable our trainees to obtain certificates. One such collaboration with government was with Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise (MSME), Jan Sikshan Sansthan. As mentioned above, the trainees were able to get employed and obtain loans from the banks using these certificates.



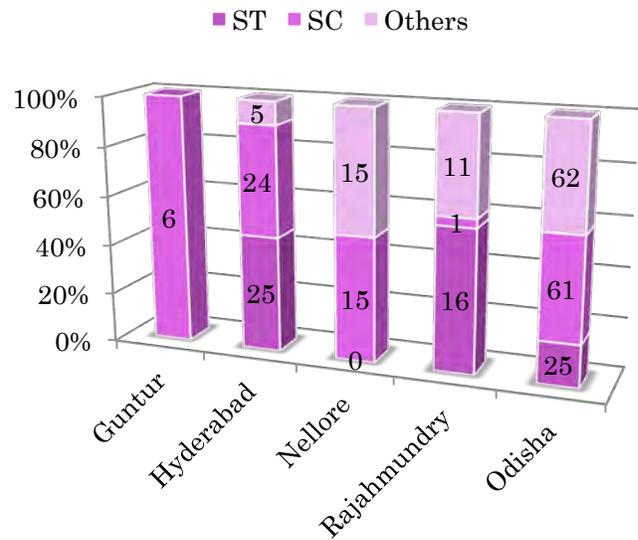
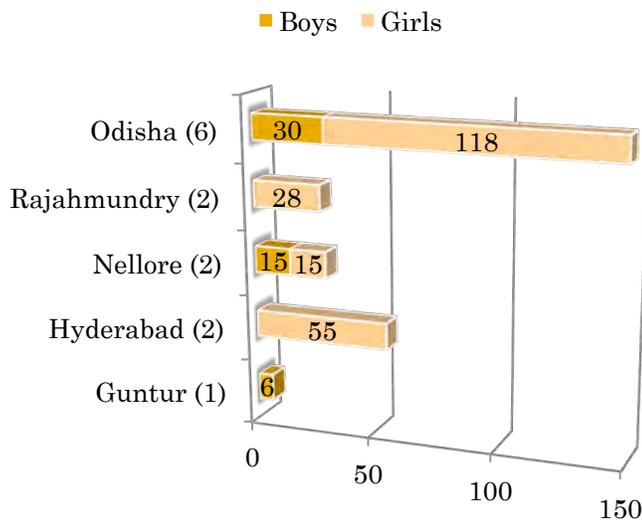
Livelihood Learning Center (LLC)

Well-Wishers

VRO is often supported by the well-wishers. In Odisha, they contributed towards uniform to all the LLC trainees. Besides, the advisory board at the policy level strengthens VRO, contributing for professional growth of the organization and its projects.

Involvement of trainees in other projects

The trainees were involved in other projects such as CCCP and CHP. The trainees were taken for field visits to the villages, where they conducted service camps and awareness camps. Through the field visits, the trainees learnt about the needs of the different villages and thus imbibed social responsibility. They also get time to interact with the villagers, stakeholders and get a clear picture of social, economical, environmental and political situation of the villages.



Stakeholder Details of LLC in all regions of VRO

Left – Sex Ratio | Right – Community Ratio

(n) Indicates number of centers active during 13-14 in each region

Community Health Program (CHP)

Community Health Program (CHP) is aimed at the integral health of the community in the context of the geographical location, biological environment etc. Health of an individual is not an independent variable; it is dependent on the socio-demographics and socio-economic condition of the individuals and the community. The Community health includes three aspects namely Individual/Family (Immunization, First Aid), Community Environment (Education) and Referral services (Networking). VRO focuses on the above mentioned three aspects while rendering health services.

Individual/Family (Immunization, First Aid)

In order to address the health needs of the individual and families in the village, VRO has been conducting community health programs in remote places where people are not able to get the basic health services. The health worker visits the houses and observes the health scenario of the villages periodically, while providing health information. Besides, the health worker assists the people in obtaining vaccination at the immunization camps organized by government PHCs and other agencies.

Community Environment (Education)

Educating the villagers about health issues is linked to the cultural component.

In other words they are educated about their biological environment through pictorial charts, drawings, paintings on the walls, which were prepared by the trained volunteers. Besides, the LLC trainees (youth) are also involved in the process of educating people on health

issues. They conduct service camps and awareness camps in the villages on health issues through street-plays, dramas, dances and songs. Health education is not just providing information for people on health hazards but it is a process of making them to imbibe the responsibility to respond to those health hazards effectively.

Networking (Referrals)

Services that are rendered by an individual organization like VRO do have limitations. However, VRO never wanted an individual or a community to suffer from want of any health safeguarding measures due to those limitations and hence networking with different service providers becomes a necessity. In terms of health services, all the community health programs of VRO maintained a good network with the local government as well as private hospitals. By networking with ASHA, ANM and Anganwadi teachers, VRO community Health workers enabled the villagers to avail the health services in time.



Community Health Program (CHP)

Systems Involved In CHP

Village Leaders/Councils, LLC Trainees /Youth (Students), Village Health Personnel (ASHA, ANM), Health Service Units (PHC, CHC, Hospitals)

Village Leaders/Councils

Since the inception of VRO, the organization believed in the concept of village councils that used to act as a responsible intermediary committee between the village and the organization and enable the organization in getting the detailed picture of the persisting health issues. Similarly, the village council is involved in the project and they play a vital role in mobilizing people for health education, health camps etc. The councils also act as communication unit and they sometimes pass on the information from the health worker to the concerned people.

LLC Trainees/Youth (Students)

The trainees of Livelihood Learning Center were also involved in the health program by way of participating in exposure program. They are encouraged to conduct service camps, awareness camps, work camps in the villages to disseminate the health information to the rural population using the art form such as songs, dance, drama etc. This is also a learning opportunity for the youth to know the social, economical, environmental and political situation of the given village. Such intra-collaboration was very helpful for the trainees of Rajulaloya (52km), Hyderabad region who are doing their MPHWH course. Apart from our trainees, VRO also involved the students of

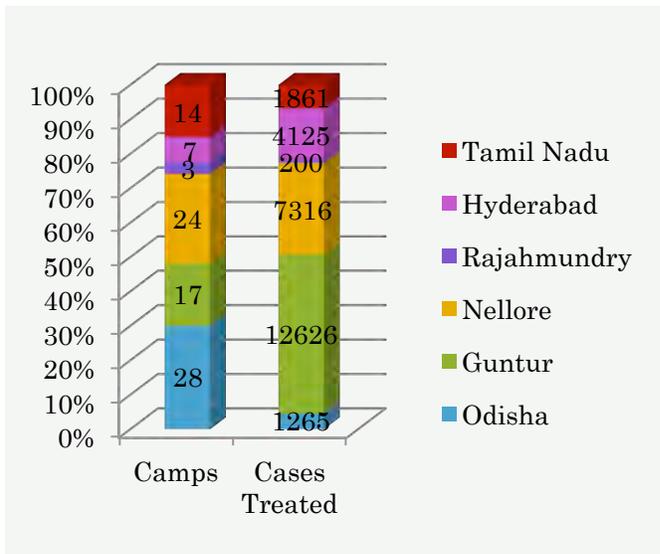
local colleges for exposure visits to the villages. These students are encouraged to impart message on health, environment etc using the art forms. For example, the students from the Government College, Pudukottai, Tamil Nadu conducted such camp at Madagam health center.

Village Health Personnel (ASHA, ANM)

Under National Rural Health Mission (NRHM), each village has a health worker viz., Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA) who supports the village by providing basic medicine and testing kits for malaria and pregnancy. Auxiliary Nurse Midwife (ANM) who supports the pregnant women during their period of pregnancy periodically visits each village. However, villagers lack information on responsibility of these personnel. The health personnel at times do not possess sufficient communication capacity to pass on the health information to the people. VRO Community Health workers maintained better contacts with these personnel to fill the above gap enabling the health services to reach the villagers.

Health Service Unit (PHC, Hospitals)

VRO health workers network with local Primary Health Centers (PHC), Government hospitals and private hospitals to refer the patients. They maintained an active relationship with government and private hospitals through their participation in health camps conducted by above units. They not only just participated in the camps but also mobilized the villagers to avail the services in such camps. Through this networking, they were able to serve the different sections of the community i.e. children, women, physically challenged etc.

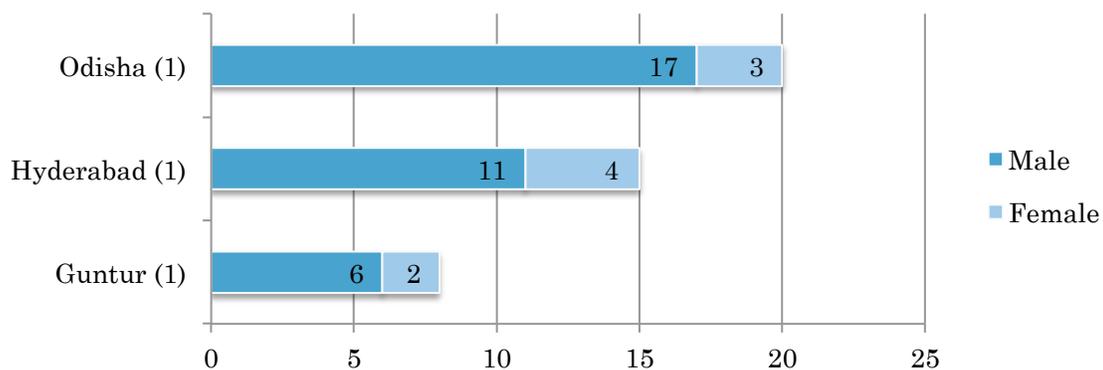


Old Age Home (OAH)

Care of the Elders is traditional service rendered out of love by the children to their parents. However, the socio-economic conditions of families today make it difficult for the children to look after the old people. With a view to address such situation among the rural population, VRO started two old age homes in Andhra Pradesh and one in Odisha. The purpose of the Old Age Home is to address the physical, mental and social well being of the aged. A set of activities was put into practice for the wellbeing of the aged viz., fieldwork (physical well being), spiritual sessions (mental well being) and cultural sessions (social well being).

Another important aspect of this service is that elderly persons are seen as knowledge transmitters to the younger generation. However, keeping in mind the sustainability of this program, the concerned families and the relatives are motivated to look after the elders who can still contribute to the families by offering advice and looking after the children. Hence, we re-worked the structure to render better service to the old people. We have experimented in Guntur region (Perecherla) by shifting them from the Old Age Home to their respective families who were provided with monthly provisions by the organization. Later, the same procedure was

followed regarding the old age home in Hyderabad region while Odisha maintains status quo. In Odisha, the learned among the aged are taken to the nearby schools where they are able to share their experience to the children reinforcing the responsibility of the children towards the aged. Thus the aged are able to relive their active life of the past and motivate the children to be better citizens of tomorrow. The in charge volunteers periodically followed the well being of the elders staying at homes. It was observed that staying with the family members made them happier. However, we were not able to reunite all the inmates with their families due to various reasons and hence three of them were admitted at their request in an Old Age Home in Gurujala, Guntur Region. With this model of care for the aged, we were able to expand our boundaries in counseling the families about elderly care and also assist them through providing information on various service providers to enhance their livelihood and economic standards. For example in Guntur Region, VRO volunteer referred a woman to a tailoring institute where the woman underwent training and completed it satisfactorily. Now she is able to earn more income to look after her aged father. Thus the focus is shifted from institutional care to non-institutional and community based care and concern.



Stakeholder Details of OAHs | Sex Ratio

(n) Indicates number of centers active during 13-14 in each region

Women Empowerment Program (WEP)

Empowerment is defined as vesting power on some one where it does not exist or exist inadequately. Empowerment of women would mean equipping women to be economically independent, self-reliant, have positive esteem for themselves, in order to enable them to face difficult situations and participate in the community development process. VRO has shifted its focus after due reflection on the process of empowering women accepting the principle that power comes from with-in. A person is labeled powerful when she is able to control the situation by taking decision. Studies and research indicate that women are not encouraged to be decision makers. Hence the primary aspect of women empowerment program is creating space and opportunity for women to take their responsibility for their decisions. It can be a decision of attending a meeting/training, setting up a business, admitting children into schools etc. In India women are discriminated and marginalized by the society at every level whether it is social participation, political participation, economic participation, access to education, sanitation, reproductive healthcare etc. Women were found to be less literate, unhealthy and economically poor. This leads women to engage in works or activities which won't bring them dignity and honour. To address the above situation, they must be empowered through education, skill training, leadership training etc. in order to protect and restore their dignity. In short, women empowerment cannot take place unless women themselves move forward to empower themselves using the available opportunities in NGOs and the Government.

The Empowerment aspect of VRO is aimed at developing various skills among the rural populations towards self-reliance leading to a sustainable process which will be active even after withdrawal of VRO from the specified geographical habitation. We have experienced difficulties, faced challenges and learnt strategies in the course of implementing the project. We have to restructure the working framework of volunteer and re-shape the image of the organization carried by stakeholders. We have learnt through our experience, indeed in a hard way, that empowerment strategy is to assist the marginalized to create their own network, understanding the rationale that only the marginalized

know what their own people need most. Thus such facilitation and assistance creates stronger and independent communities. Women organizers of VRO conduct meetings at village level and enable women to discuss the social, economical, political, environmental situation etc. of the village. Women are facilitated in taking steps both at personal level (individual/family) and society level (neighbors /community) on the above situations.



Women Empowerment Program (WEP)

Systems Involved In WEP

SHGs, Village Councils, Government Officials

Self Help Groups (SHGs)

Women need to be brought together to discuss among themselves. Instead of using a new strategy of grouping, we have used the already existing grouping mechanism in the villages i.e. Self Help Groups. Hence, we created no chaos and confusion among the stakeholders. It was also helpful for the organizer to follow the needy women. Women Organizers participate in the SHG meetings of the groups and assist them in procuring financial assistance (loans) from nearby banks and facilitate them to set up an income generating activity. They also train these women on skills such as tailoring, craft, embroidery, preparing household items like detergent, soap powder etc.

Village councils

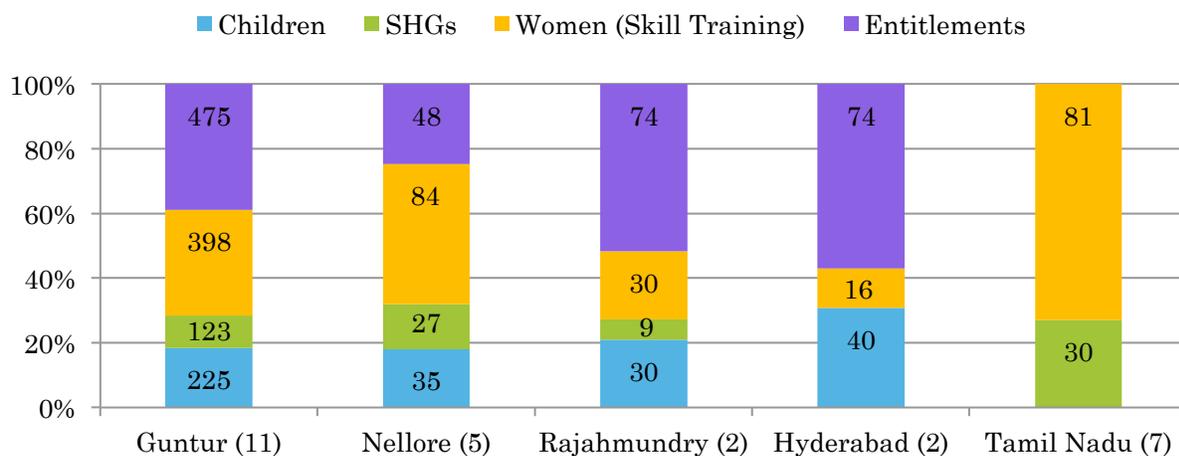
The concept of village council is encouraged in all the villages, as most of them are hamlets of revenue villages where marginalized people reside. In turn the council is envisaged to collaborate with the village panchayat. To empower the women of such habitation has been challenging since the primary concerns of the women were not addressed. Hence the councils consisting of men and women are used as a communication agent to realize the

objective in action and vice-versa. The councils play a major role in categorizing the problem, design self-reliant strategies with the help of the volunteers, villagers, etc. This is also a platform for women to learn about political participation.

Government & Other NGOs

Addressing both individual and community needs is essential to empower women. Hence VRO enables them to maintain a strong relationship with the local government authorities such as MDO, MRO, MEO and Bank officials to address various needs of rural women. Women organizers act as liaisons between the officials and the rural women. Apart from this, the women are provided with practical training on the structure of government and were introduced to the concerned officials. During the reporting period, Women Empowerment Program at Gandhi Nagar, Nellore region has set a standard collaboration with Rajiv Yuva Kiranalu (RYK - government initiative to build skills in unemployed youth) and trained more than 80 women including Muslim minority women. The other organizations that we collaborated regarding women empowerment are SEEP (for training of rural women) and JMJ (for procuring minority subsidy loans).

Women Empowerment Program Outreach



Gramashakthi Training Center (GTC)

Villages form the backbone of the country. VRO as rural development organization with special focus on the villages worked for more than 4 decades with an aim to create safer, better and sustainable living place for the village people. Over the period, the organization observed the importance of local leadership from within the community that effectively carried out the development and the growth of the village in a particular geographical habitation. Another dimension of VRO is that it believes on the empowerment of village through strengthening the identified leaders. For example, village councils play an important role in exercising their leadership through development partnership.

From the starting of VRO, village councils were formed to participate in the development activities. Those councils acted as representatives of the respective villages in all aspects. Unfortunately after withdrawing the service from the villages, the councils were not

followed and supported adequately. Keeping in mind the aspect of sustainability of the village development, the GTC was framed to follow-up the old villages, strengthen the councils and re-design approach strategies. Each GTC program was structured to address 20 old constructed villages.

During the reporting period, one GTC was functional in Nellore region. The GTC team conducted survey in the villages and addressed the identified issues. A couple of the issues that were addressed were water problem in Vellamedu, repairs and maintenance of the houses in collaboration with the families in 5 villages of Nellore region. The villagers are also made aware of the welfare measures available with the government for the various categories of the village folk. More than 250 villagers were assisted to avail themselves of the different government entitlements.

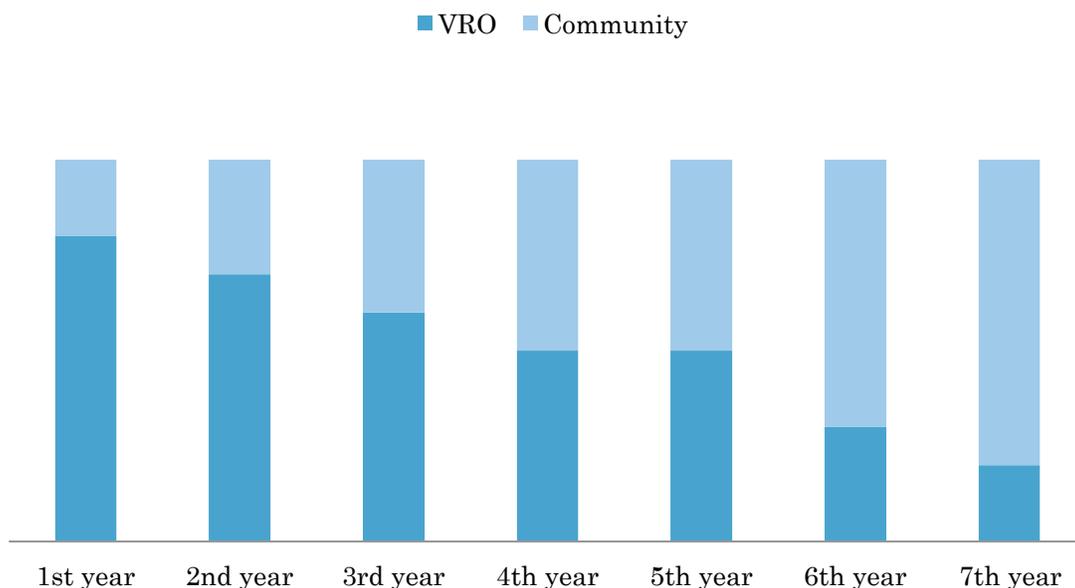


Cluster Project

The cluster approach enabled the village communities to get into the process of empowerment and community participation. The people were assisted and facilitated to identify the resources that were available within the community to solve their own problems. Village Leaders (Councils) also took initiatives in mobilizing and motivating their villagers to participate in the process of development and awareness of entitlements by involving them in the activities such as health, improvement of environment towards a healthy life. During this process, VRO played a role of catalyst in the community towards sustainability through 6Es and has been a partner in the process of the development.

During the reporting period, the cluster project carried a range of activities addressing the needs of the community such as education, health, drinking water problem, women empowerment and awareness about their entitlements. Apart, people carried out house repairs in the villages where people could not complete the houses even after availing themselves of the welfare fund from the housing board.

The involvement of VRO and the Community in the process of community development through project is shown in the diagram below:



Cluster Project

Programs Addressing The Need For Education

Education is one of the major problems identified in the cluster area. It was observed that children did not attend the school because the school is located far away from their residences. Besides, it was reported by the villagers that children were unable to get through in the school entrance test meant for the tribal with residential facilities and hence they discontinued their schooling at the primary level itself. Therefore villagers proposed two kinds of programs in the Cluster area to address the vital need of children's education i.e. Bridge School and Supervised Study in the evenings. Apart, CCCP centers were started in the villages without Anganwadi to mainstream the children into formal education.

Bridge School

A bridge school provides regular schooling for children in the age group of 6 to 8 years who missed the regular schooling. This type of school was maintained and monitored by the respective community itself. To impart such education, a tribal youth with minimum qualification of 10th class, capable of teaching was identified in consultation with village leaders and given practical training on utilization of visual aids and play-way method of teaching. The council was empowered to take part in the functioning of the school through conducting parents meeting, village meetings etc. and address the needs of the school on periodic

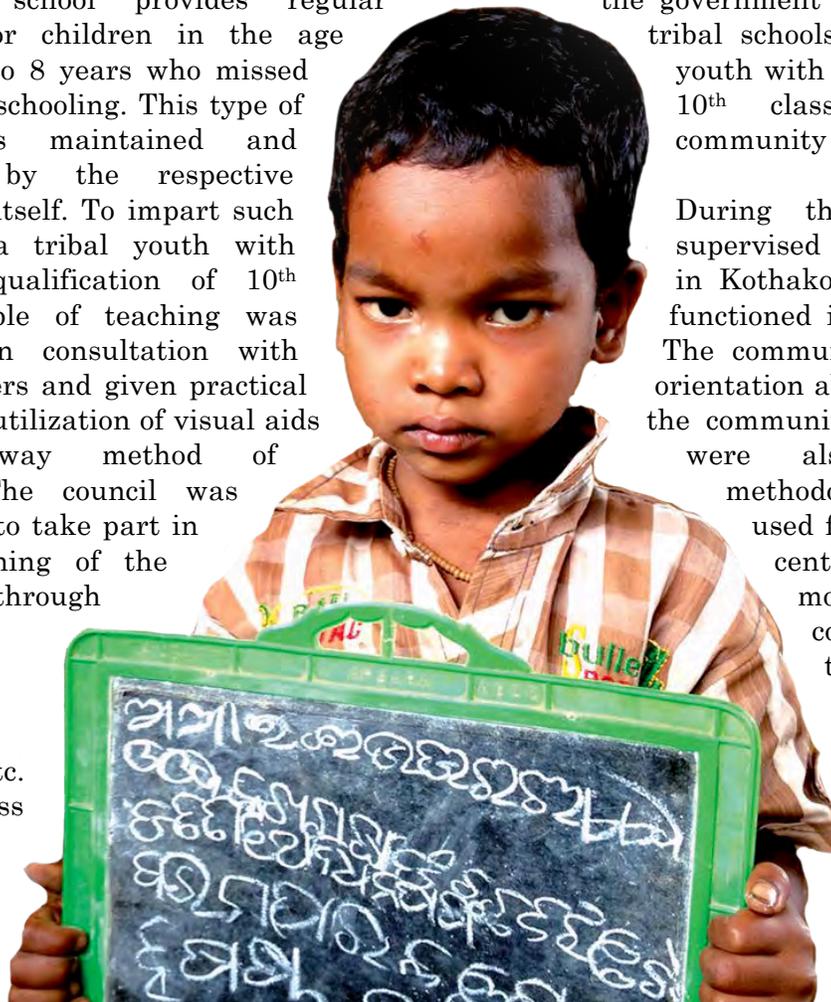
basis.

For the year 2013-2014, two Bridge Schools functioned in Kothakota cluster area and no Bridge School was set up in Gonasika cluster area since formal education offered by the government was within the reach of the children. Both the schools in Kothakota were started at the proposal of the people and the people decided the mode of functioning of the school. People took decisions to build a thatched roof structure for the school purpose, which reveals the idea of ownership by the people.

Supervised Study

Supervised study was conducted in the evenings for the children attending the Government school. This is to assist the children to excel in their academics so that they appear for the entrance test conducted by the government to secure admission into tribal schools. Once again, the tribal youth with minimum qualification of 10th class were recruited as community workers.

During the reporting period, 4 supervised study centers functioned in Kothakota cluster and 7 centers functioned in Gonasika cluster area. The community workers were given orientation about the organization and the community oriented project. They were also trained on the methodologies that need to be used for teaching children. The centers were periodically monitored by the village councils, which handled the issues that arose. The cluster animators played a vital role in facilitating people in the process of discussion and decision-making.



Cluster Project

Community Child Care Program (CCCP)

Similar to the CCCP in VRO, the villagers requested to open up CCCP centers in the cluster area where no anganwadis were present. The cluster project made a difference in the selection process of the community worker for CCCP through community involvement i.e. the villagers decided and selected the community workers. However, cluster animator in selecting the community workers followed a few criteria such as 10th class completed, being a tribal girl, enthusiastic in collaborating with the people. This process enabled the villagers to look at the sustainability of the program by using the available local human resource to sustain the development process.

Programs Addressing The Health Needs Of The Community

Health was another major problem that was identified during the baseline survey done in February and March 2013. Unlike the regular VRO Community Health Programs, the health services in cluster area used Mobile Medical Unit (MMU) to make it accessible to the villagers. The cluster team networked with the existing local Primary Health centers in delivering health services to the village communities especially to women and children. A local retired MBBS doctor who worked in Gonasika area was also involved in order to understand the health needs of the community better and deliver the services much more professionally. In Kothakota of Andhra Pradesh, a local Registered Medical Practitioner (RMP) was involved for the same since no MBBS doctor was available. The MMU visited the target villages periodically and conducted health camps.



Cluster Project

Programs Addressing The Need For Drinking Water

Drinking water is another problem faced by the tribal people, especially during the summer season. Most of the villages have Government-installed hand-pumps which required minimum repairs. Therefore under the cluster, the public water sources i.e. open wells and hand pumps were repaired and maintained so that they provide sufficient water throughout the year. The villages with no water source were identified and new water sources such as hand pumps or open wells were installed in such villages. The cluster animators motivated the youth in the village to take care of the water source that was installed in the village.

In kothakota Cluster, the team took extraordinary initiative to supply drinking water from kothakota to the interior village (Nerudubandha) located 24 kilometers away which had no water source to depend upon during summer. The process of supplying water in two summers was done in consultation with the village leaders. After much discussion with the villagers, the village council decided that 2 water cans would be provided to each family for a week. The council also motivated the villagers to take turns to carry water cans for 6 kilometers to the top of the hill where they reside. The quick step taken by

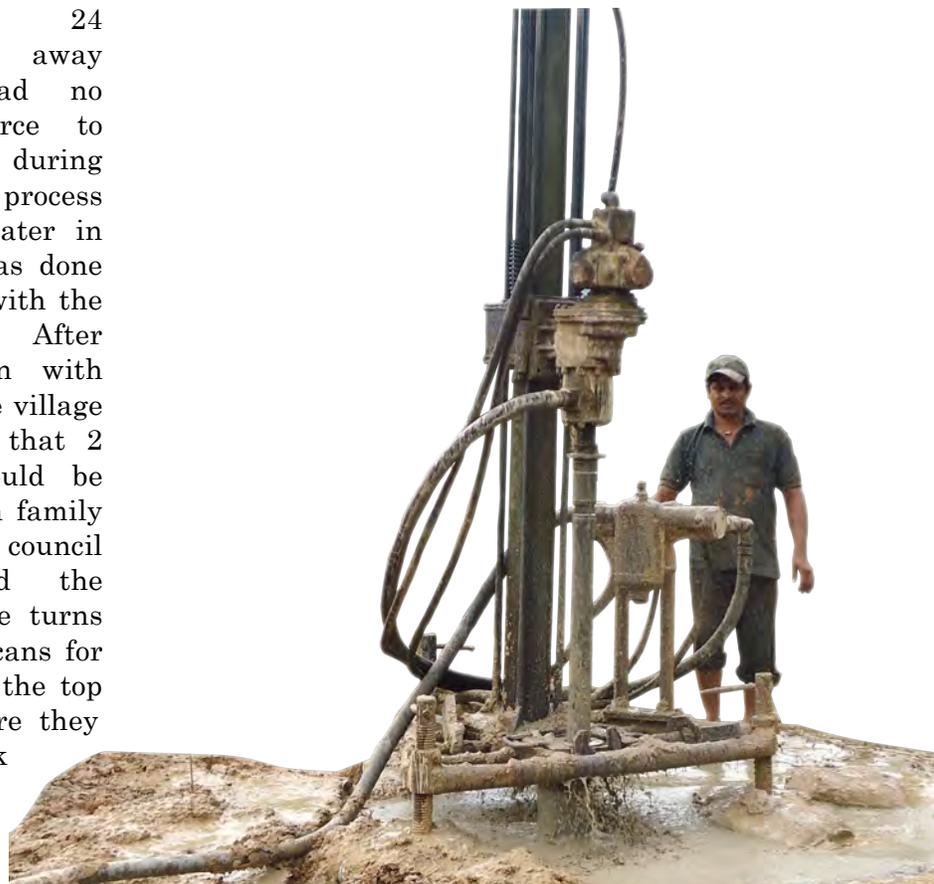


the team and village council to provide the villagers with water met their basic need for survival.

The following are the details of the open wells and hand pump that were installed in the cluster villages:

Village Name	Open Well	Hand Pump
<i>Gonasika Cluster Area, Odisha</i>		
Katarpalli		Y
<i>Kothakota Cluster Area, Andhra Pradesh</i>		
Ajayapuram		Y
Pedagaruvu	Y	
Neredubandha	Y	
Rayipadu		Y
Pedimpalem		Y
P. Jallampalli		Y
Kondaveedhi		Y
Chinna Gorrigedda		Y

*Y – Yes



Cluster Project

Programs Regarding The Empowerment Of Women

Women in general lack livelihood opportunities and thus make themselves dependent on men. The Government specifically introduced micro-credit initiatives to make women economically stable and consequently promote livelihood opportunities through Self Help Groups (SHGs). However, it was observed that women were unable to properly utilize the procured loans. It is at this juncture, VRO through the cluster program provided with information, assistance and support to strengthen their SHGs, which in turn enabled them to avail micro-credits enhancing their economic conditions. The information provided to women included livelihood skills, marketing etc. For the reporting period, 3 trainings were conducted for women of 44 identified SHGs in Gonasika cluster area. The trainings included role and responsibility of SHG leaders, agarbathi making, marketing skills etc. A couple of external resource persons from other organizations such as People Development Council (PDC), Bhubaneswar were involved in the training. In Kothakota cluster, the animators conducted SHG meetings.

Programs To Improve General Awareness Of The Target Community

The tribal community was not aware of the various schemes and welfare measures of the Government that are meant for them. The Government in fact designs and announces a number of programs every year for such communities. The communities were unable to avail the benefits due to their lack of knowledge and awareness about the procedures. Therefore it was planned that a team go around creating awareness among the target communities through cultural programs.

For the year 2013 - 2014, in all 16 target villages of Gonasika cluster the councils were formed and regular awareness meetings were conducted in all the villages. 3 awareness camps were conducted with the help of Trainees from Livelihood Learning Center, Bayakumutia. The trainees performed street plays on social issues such as education of girl child, the ill-effect of alcoholism etc. In Kothakota, the councils were formed in all 21 target villages and regular awareness meetings were conducted. 4 environmental camps were also conducted in four villages viz., Gunti, Kamakotam, Pedimpalem, Chinna Gorrigeedda by the animators with the support of the villagers.



Capacity Building and Training for Volunteers

VRO believes that social work is a great service that can be rendered to humanity. Hence volunteers should be motivated and animated before being inducted in the service of villages. They should be capacitated periodically to meet the challenges posed by the fast changing world. It has been a challenging task for us to train our volunteers who speak different languages belonging to different states. Accordingly, we framed our trainings including the components like Spoken English, Computer learning at the outside institutes, which are closer to their work place in order to address the challenging situations. Besides, they learnt the social work methodologies, approaches, project implementation, monitoring and functioning of social work organizations. Training cum Human Resource Consultant, Mr. Arockiam trained the volunteers on various aspects to make them to come up to the expectations of the organization. The highlight of the capacity building process has been that the consultant started with the resourcefulness and initial capacity of the volunteers and based mostly on the experience of the volunteers themselves. It is heartening to note that some of the senior level volunteers have changed themselves and the commitment of most of the volunteers has increased. Relationships among volunteers improved. Reporting and monitoring the program has considerably improved. Perspectives of some of the volunteers changed and some gained analytical skills.

Spoken English (Summer Camps)

Since English is a foreign language, volunteers take time to articulate in English. However, they understood the importance of spoken English in this era of modern communication skill. Over the period, VRO has been presenting its achievements and results to various stakeholders, well-wishers, contributors, donors, etc. During this process of presentation, it was observed that the volunteers due to lack of fluency in the

English language face communication barriers. They develop diffidence before the stakeholders. Hence we paid attention towards training in spoken English to the volunteers. We have seen the progress of the volunteers in writing reports, narrating the case studies etc. The spoken English camps were also conducted by the Jesuit Brothers for the students in 03 villages in Guntur region during summer. It created much interest among the students.

MSME Training (May)

VRO has been offering various training facilities for different stakeholders. One of the major training skills that VRO offers in different states is tailoring and handicraft training for women. In the growing fashion trends, the trainees are looking for learning new designs, handicrafts, preparing household sanitary items etc. Hence VRO organized the training for the trainers to meet the increasing demand and the standards of fashion trends. During the reporting period, 30 women volunteers in Andhra Pradesh underwent training for a fortnight in summer conducted by Micro Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) in Hyderabad region.

Regarding Vision & Mission (22nd to 26th July, 2013)

Over the period of 4 decades, the change in the approach towards development itself left the volunteers with certain doubts regarding VRO Vision and Mission. Such a situation created an atmosphere where the volunteers paid attention to carrying out the target activities without reference to the Vision and Mission. They have limited themselves to the proposed project profile rather than expanding the project purview to community oriented. The visits made by the training consultant to various programs and the training given by the VRO team to the volunteers made them see the programs in relation to the components of Vision and Mission.

Capacity Building and Training for Volunteers

Training in Photography (20th July, 2013)

The reporting and documentation procedures were changed at VRO for smooth flow of information and long lasting quality documentation. Like all the other NGOs, VRO uses photographs as an evidence for the work done. Each time to have a professional photographer to take photos will be expensive as the events that need to be documented are more. Hence, the field coordinators and a few site in-charges are trained and provided with digital cameras. In one of the review meetings in Odisha, it was observed that the volunteers were unable to take good photos. Therefore, a special training on photography was organized to the field coordinators and site in-charges. Mr. Jean Paul, Project Coordinator also conducted the meeting and taught the staff about different types of shots, angles and perspective of photography

Training on Project Reviewing (September)

VRO laid emphasis on revising the strategies and learn new techniques for better functioning of the organization. During the reporting period, a consultant for Capacity Building and Human Resource development was appointed to enhance the efficiency of functioning in the Organization. It was observed that VRO had to develop the review meeting procedures for better assessment of the projects and finance.

FCRA Seminar (20th Sep, 2013)

Finance sector is the core department, which enables the organization to function effectively and VRO put an effort in strengthening the finance sector through providing them with inputs under regular guidance of Mr. J. Ranga Rao, Treasurer of GoB. During the reporting period, 2 accountants attended an outreach seminar on FCRA at Hyderabad. The team learnt about the new stipulation and guidelines of FCRA.



Capacity Building and Training for Volunteers

Computer Training (25th to 29th Nov, 2013)

The growing demands to use the computer and digitalization of various information of the project such as baseline data, meetings, progress of the project etc. Hence, the training program was organized at Head Office especially for the cluster animators working in Kothakota, Rajahmundry region. The animators underwent training program for a week under Mr. Karthik (computer trainer, VRO) who taught them the Fundamentals of Computer and MS Office.

Training on Change Process and Learning Process (5th to 10th Feb, 2014)

As a follow up for the above training, Mr. Arcokiam, consultant participated in the volunteers review meetings of South Odisha, North Odisha and Gonasika Cluster. During those meetings, he enabled the volunteers to identify the learning sources and consequently

improve the process of learning. He also emphasized on the role of the volunteer to transmit the vision and mission of the organization to the trainees/stakeholders who will be the agents of change and transformation in the villages.

Report & Profile Writing (25th to 28th Feb, 2014)

VRO has been restructuring the documentation procedures and to meet the demanding standards of the reporting set by various stakeholders. Hence, VRO organized a training program on reporting and profile writing for all the site in-charges. The training objective is to enhance the capacity of the volunteers to present the activities and their result in correspondence to the objectives of the project and also to enhance their ability to convert the need of the project into project profile.



Treasurer's Report



I feel privileged to present you the financial report of VRO for the year 2013-14. Financial statements of accounts comprising of Receipts and Payments, Income and Expenditure and Balance Sheet for the year ended 31st March 2014 duly certified by the Statutory Auditors in an abridged format along with their report are incorporated in the Annual Report circulated already.

In terms of financial situation, VRO has made a steady progress during the reporting period in comparison to the previous years and it is a good sign in spite of the struggles the Voluntary Sector is facing in mobilising the external sources, especially the European continent, which has been the base supporter for the organisation. Accordingly, both the receipts and the payments are almost in the same levels as of the previous year.

At this juncture, I would like to draw your attention on some of the highlights in the financial reports:

- The organisation could maintain the same over-all turn-over from 117.5 Million INR in the last year to 123.3 Million INR in the current year. It is made possible due to the continual support of the partner organisations and individuals, especially in coming forward for cluster-based comprehensive development interventions.
- There is a slight increase in the receipts (external and local) from 42.415 Million

INR in the previous year to 44.010 Million INR. The break-up of these contributions of the reporting period is as follows:

- Overseas Donors 43.868 Million INR
- Local Contributions 0.142 Million INR

- Among the overseas donors, the efforts of the following top donors have to be kept on record for their major contributions and their generous support continuously:
 - SWIVRO, Switzerland to the tune of 24.551 Million INR with 56% of the over-all share and continuous efforts of Ms. Christine supported by the entire team;
 - Indien Hilfe, Kelkheim, Germany to the tune of 6.048 Million INR with 14% of the over-all share;
 - E-Klub, Austria to the tune of 5.402 Million INR with 12% of over-all share through the special efforts of Dr. Robert Wychera;
 - Sonnenhaus, Germany, BIVRO, Belgium, Missions Prokur, Nurnberg, Germany, Theresa Heil and Freiburg group of Germany for their continual cooperation and assistance;
- Similarly, other Income comprising of Bank Interest, etc. has been increased by 61.72% from 6.765 Million INR to 9.870 Million INR. It is because the bank interest is realised on our Fixed Deposits in this financial year as well.
- Administrative expenses have come down to 7% of the overall expenditure: this is a remarkable achievement as personnel and related costs pertaining to various projects are directly booked under those respective heads of accounts.

Treasurer's Report

- Rural Development expenses have slightly increased from 36.322 Million INR in the previous year to 39.939 Million INR during this year.
- There is an excess of income over expenditure to the tune of 9.495 Million INR during this year better than the previous year.

I am glad to state that the majority of the projects are externally funded and the general expenditure has been drastically brought down in the current year.

At this juncture, I assure the Members that I shall continue to contribute in further streamlining the systems and procedures not only in maintaining books of accounts but also

in producing the periodic reports to the Operational Team and to the Governing Board with effective budget controlling techniques.

Thank you,

Mr. J. Ranga Rao
Treasurer – Governing Board



Head Office Cum Training Center, Pedakakani, Guntur

Audit Reports

We have audited the attached Balance Sheet of VILLAGE RECONSTRUCTION ORGANISATION [INDIA] as at March 31, 2014 and the Income & Expenditure Account for the year ended on that date annexed thereto. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Society's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in India. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatements. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by the management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statements presentation. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion. We have no relationship with or any interests in the Association other than our capacity as auditors.

We report that, in our opinion and to the best of our information and according to the explanations given to us, the said accounts, give the information in the manner so required and give a true and fair view in conformity with the accounting principles generally accepted in India:

- In the case of the Balance Sheet, of the state of the Society's affairs as at March 31, 2014; and
- In the case of Income & Expenditure Account, of the surplus for the year ended on that date.

Significant accounting policies and notes on accounts

- Revenue Recognition: The society follows cash basis of accounting for all financial transactions. The society may require refunding the contributions received from certain agencies, if the same is not utilised for the sanctioned purposes as per the contracts.
- Fixed assets and Depreciation: Fixed assets include all expenditure of capital nature are valued at cost of acquisition and cost of installation/ erection as applicable. Depreciation is provided on written down value method and at the rates prescribed by the Income tax Act. No fixed assets register is maintained.

Notes to accounts

- Activities and Purpose: The society is established with the primary objective of village reconstruction and development and with a motive of not to make profit out of its activities.
- Classification of expenditure as stated in the programme and based largely on the identification and estimates of the management.
- Previous year figures are re-grouped where ever necessary
- Administration expenses include volunteers savings paid during the year.

For K V R SUBBA RAO & CO.
Chartered Accountants

Place: Guntur
Date: 21-07-2014

K V R Subba Rao FCA
Chartered Accountant | M.No. 020129

Finance Reports

RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2014

RECEIPTS	<i>Sch. Ref.</i>	<i>March 31, 2014</i>	<i>March 31, 2013</i>
Balance	[5]	70,137,377.55	68,159,026.97
Contributions	[6]	43,114,517.27	42,415,464.45
Other Income/ Receipts	[7]	9,879,761.58	6,765,203.13
Advances/ Deposits	[8]	231,063.00	246,995.00
Total		123,362,719.40	117,586,689.55
PAYMENTS			
Administration & maintenance	[9]	2,929,854.21	10,086,571.00
Rural Development	[10]	39,939,299.75	36,322,124.00
Advances/ Deposits	[11]	100,000.00	-
Fixed assets	[12]	617,545.60	1,040,617.00
Balance	[5]	79,776,019.84	70,137,377.55
Total		123,362,719.40	117,586,689.55

INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2014

INCOME	<i>Sch. Ref.</i>	<i>March 31, 2014</i>	<i>March 31, 2013</i>
Contributions	[6]	43,114,517.27	42,415,464.45
Other Incomes	[7]	9,834,516.58	6,765,203.13
Total (A)		52,949,033.85	49,180,667.58
EXPENDITURE			
Administration & Maintenance	[9]	2,929,854.21	10,086,571.00
Rural Development	[10]	39,939,299.75	36,322,124.00
Depreciation	[3]	585,340.98	539,787.13
Total (B)		43,454,494.94	46,948,482.13
Excess of Income over Expenditure	(A) - (B)	9,494,538.91	2,232,185.45

For Village Reconstruction Organization

As per our report even date annexed
For K V R Subba Rao & CoSd/-
Operational DirectorSd/-
TreasurerSd/-
Chartered Accountant

Finance Reports

BALANCE SHEET AS AT MARCH 31, 2014

SOURCES OF FUNDS	<i>Sch. Ref.</i>	<i>March 31, 2014</i>	<i>March 31, 2013</i>
Capital Fund	[1]	148,514,226.37	139,019,687.46
Loans & Advances	[2]	532,967.50	495,603.50
Total		149,047,193.87	139,515,290.96
APPLICATION OF FUNDS			
Fixed Assets	[3]	67,582,662.03	67,550,457.41
Advances / Deposits	[4]	1,688,512.00	1,827,456.00
Cash & Bank balances	[5]	79,776,019.84	70,137,377.55
Total		149,047,193.87	139,515,290.96

Fixed Assets – Schedules to balance sheet as at march 31, 2014

S.No.	Particulars	Balance as on 01-04-2013	Additions upto 30th September	Additions after 30th September	Total	Deletions during the year	Balance	Rate of depn.	Depn. for the year	Balance as on 31-03-2014
1	Land	2,173,269	-	-	2,173,269	-	2,173,269	0%	-	2,173,269
2	Buildings	62,225,663	-	-	62,225,663	-	62,225,663	0%	-	62,225,663
3	Furniture & fixtures	122,751	-	13,657	136,407	-	136,407	10%	12,958	123,449
4	Equipment	680,002	-	29,476	709,478	-	709,478	15%	104,211	605,267
5	Vehicles	2,259,096	-	419,912	2,679,008	-	2,679,008	15%	370,358	2,308,650
6	Other	5,205	-	-	5,205	-	5,205	15%	781	4,424
7	Computer	84,472	-	154,501	238,973	-	238,973	60%	97,034	141,940
	Total	67,550,457	-	617,546	68,168,003	-	68,168,003		585,341	67,582,662

For Village Reconstruction Organization

As per our report even date annexed
For K V R Subba Rao & CoSd/-
Operational DirectorSd/-
TreasurerSd/-
Chartered Accountant

Budget for the year 2014 – 2015

A) Anticipated Expenditure

Programs	Un.	Odisha	Hyderabad	Rajahmundry	Guntur	Nellore	Tamil Nadu	Total
		INR	INR	INR	INR	INR	INR	INR
CCCP	7	697,950	-	180,431	-	-	-	878,381
SSC	1	-	-	-	-	-	78,650	78,650
SAC	11	-	909,698	1,268,546	1,093,796	2,360,015	-	5,632,055
CLC	1	401,425	-	-	-	-	-	401,425
LLC	17	5,246,990	1,539,456	2,075,494	1,234,140	1,138,808	699,477	11,934,365
SAA	3	1,187,875	236,280	-	111,000	-	-	1,535,155
CHP	14	-	948,584	78,900	626,705	716,465	412,342	2,782,996
GTC	3	-	-	564,824	1,425,635	833,686	-	2,824,144
WEP	27	-	418,884	88,770	866,360	1,228,564	152,350	2,754,928
House Repairs & Maintenance		-	-	2,625,000	315,000	5,250,000	-	8,190,000
House Construction			3,519,930	-	-	-	-	3,519,930
Cluster Program	2	4,633,138	-	5,252,526	-	-	-	9,885,665
Volunteer Training		310,275	271,425	258,300	248,850	165,900	131,250	1,386,000
Water and Sanitation		-	-	-	105,000	105,000	105,000	315,000
Discretionary Fund		-	-	-	200,000	-	-	200,000
Legal			50,000		100,000		50,000	200,000
Grand Total	86	12,477,653	7,894,258	12,392,792	6,326,486	11,798,437	1,629,068	52,518,694

CCCP – Community Child Care Program | SSC – Supervised Study Center | SAC – Supportive Assistance for Children | CLC – Children Learning Center | LLC – Livelihood Learning Center | SAA – Supportive Assistance for Aged | CHP – Community Health Program | GTC – Gramashakti Training Center | WEP – Women Empowerment Program

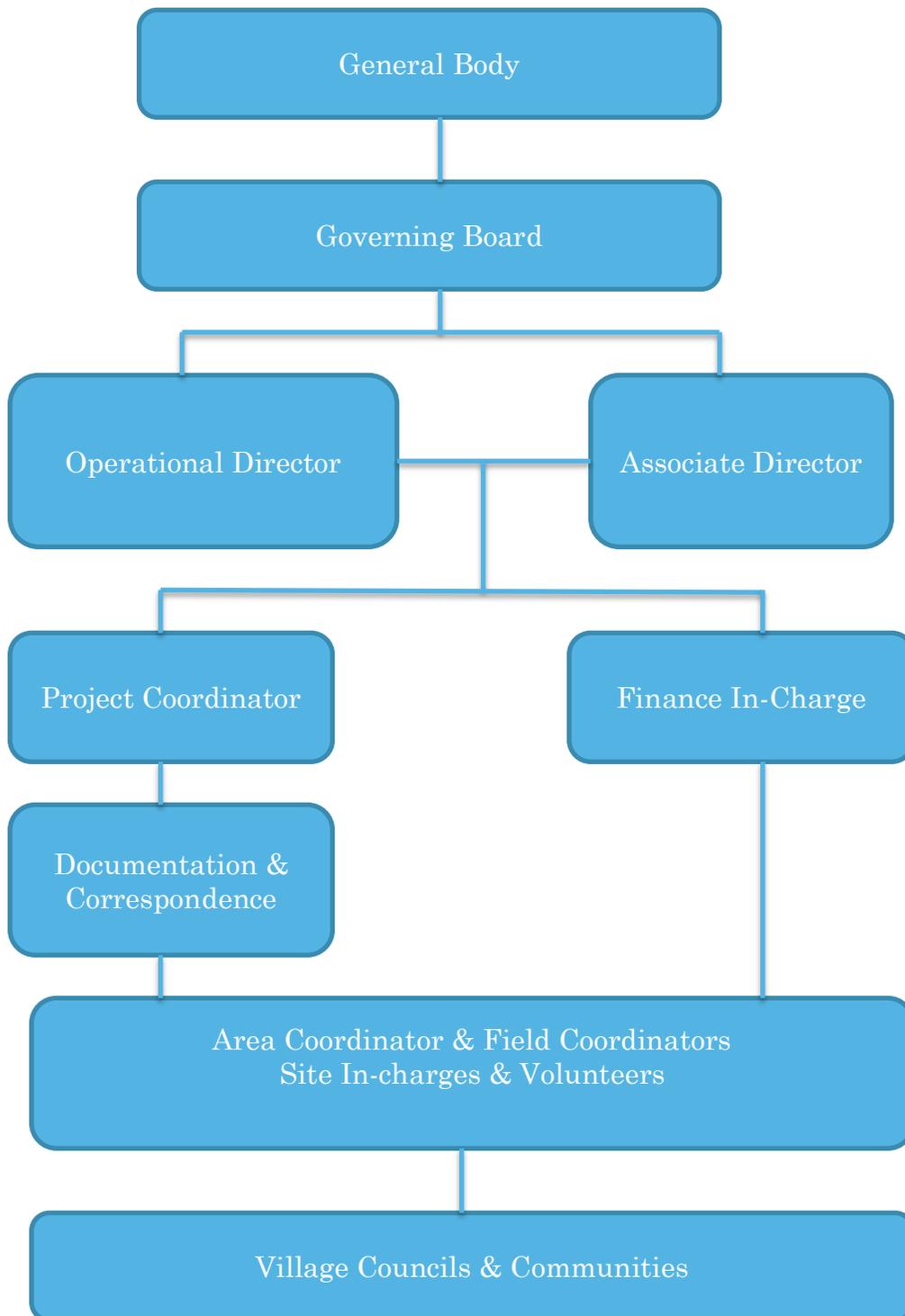
Budget for the year 2014 – 2015

B) Resource Analysis

Programs	Units	Opening Balance	Local Contribution	Donor Contribution	Total
		INR	INR	INR	INR
CCCP	7	88,306	11,250	778,825	878,381
SSC	1	12,741	-	65,909	78,650
SAC	11	1,760,060	4,500	3,867,495	5,632,055
CLC	1	6,292	-	395,133	401,425
LLC	17	602,676	67,500	11,264,189	11,934,365
SAA	3	35,602	19,163	1,480,390	1,535,155
CHP	14	566,702	-	2,216,294	2,782,996
GTC	3	175,117	-	2,649,027	2,824,144
WEP	27	416,221	-	2,338,707	2,754,928
House Repairs & Maintenance		-	-	8,190,000	8,190,000
House Construction		1,788,874	-	1,731,056	3,519,930
Cluster Program	2	2,602,399	-	7,283,266	9,885,665
Volunteer Training		-	-	1,386,000	1,386,000
Water and Sanitation		-	-	315,000	315,000
Discretionary Fund		-	200,000	-	200,000
Legal		-	200,000	-	200,000
Grand Total	86	8,054,990	502,413	43,961,292	52,518,694

CCCP – Community Child Care Program | SSC – Supervised Study Center | SAC – Supportive Assistance for Children |
 CLC – Children Learning Center | LLC – Livelihood Learning Center | SAA – Supportive Assistance for Aged | CHP –
 Community Health Program | GTC – Gramashakti Training Center | WEP – Women Empowerment Program

Organogram



Village Reconstruction Organization (VRO – India)

Village Reconstruction Organization, familiarly known as VRO, was founded on June 6th, 1969 in the wake of disasters, floods due to cyclone in Costal Andhra Pradesh especially Guntur, Krishna and Prakasam Districts. The original aim was to extend relief and rehabilitation measures to the victims of endemic natural calamities such as cyclone and floods in east cost region of south India. To start with it is a relief organization, which in later years became a development-oriented organization. It is secular, non-profit, voluntary organization



<http://www.vro-india.org>

2013 – 2014



Head Office

C-198, Bypass Road, Pedakakani
Guntur, Andhra Pradesh 522509



Liaison Office

Ridge House, #3-6-238, Himayath Nagar,
Hyderabad, Telangana 500029