Empower Humanity Ensure Environment!

Annual Report [2012 – 2013]

Village Reconstruction Organization – India

The essential component of any human service organization is to translate its objectives through Projects/programs to the intended target population. The year 2012 – 2013 was one such period to bring in excellence through its services to the rural population of India

Village Reconstruction Organization (India)

VRO believes that the micro village – as a human settlement, a socio-economic entity with an identity and a history of its own that has grown as a result of interaction with a particular ecosystem – should not only survive in the modern society, but also grow in its strength. The economy of the micro village should be vibrant enough to provide employment to most of its inhabitants and the 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 sane, sustainable and humane than the modern cities have to offer today.

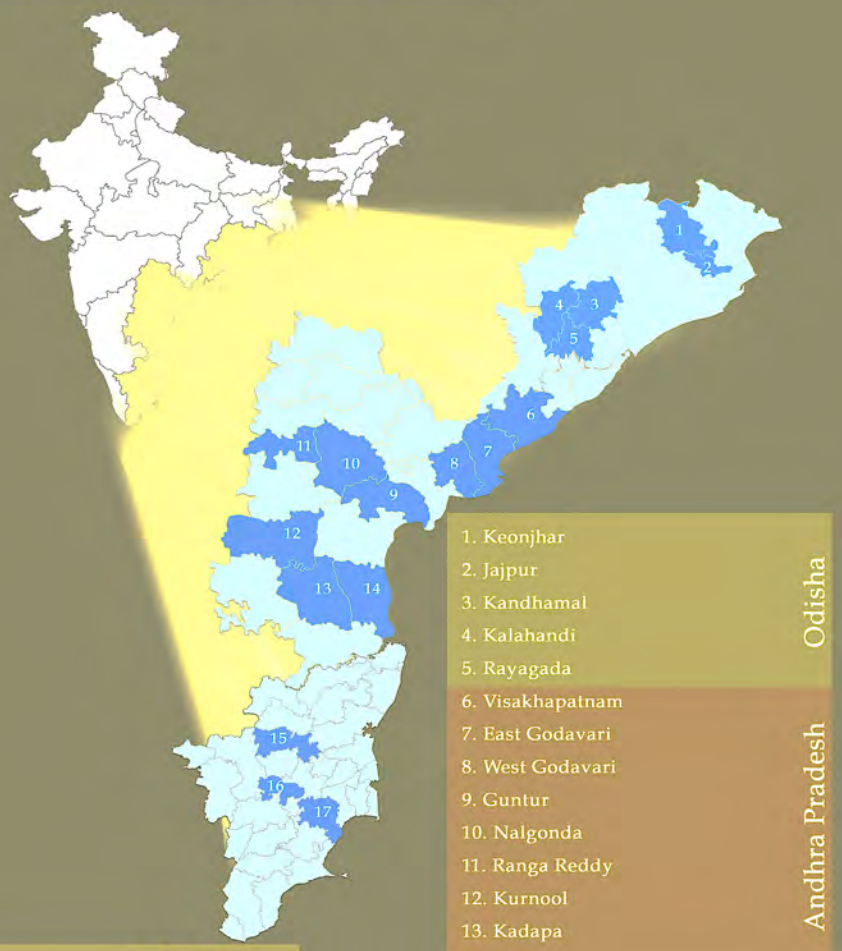
Vision

"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 at a Glance



Covering 17 Districts

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Minutes – 41st Annual General Body Meeting

The meeting started with a prayer song 'Om Jagadeswara', sung by girl trainees of VDTC (52km) and Lady Volunteers.

Ms. Judith Riewesell, Ms. Iris Raviov from Germany, President, Operational Director, Associate Director and Mr. Ranga lighted the lamp.

The Secretary read out the mails from the members, namely, Prof. R. V. Kolhatkar, Ms. Leena Kolhatkar, Ms. Faizul Nissa, Mr. Jose Vincent, Ms. Ulrike Biedendieck, Mr. Sreeman Narayana, Ms. Prema Bedell, Ms. Ruth Roosen, Dr. Robert Wychera, Ms. Christine Camenzind, Mr. Ronald Nachbauer, and Mr. Prasad Rao who were unable to attend the meeting.

President Theo, warmly welcomed all the general body members.

The Secretary read out the minutes of the 40th General Body Meeting and the Minutes were passed. It was proposed by Fr. Bosco and was seconded by Mr. Sudhir.

President, Mr. Theo Vaes presented his message on the theme of the year **connecting towards**. In his message he mentioned about the need to change in three aspects i.e. India (Country), Government (System) and Global village (Unit). The president also reflected on mission, vision and strategy of VRO and conveyed the message of building trust through communication and transparency.

In his report,the secretary reported about the four meetings held in the previous year and mentioned about the vacancy in Governing Board (GoB) owing to the resignations tendered by Mr. Walter Linsi and Ms. Ulrike Biedendieck who were Treasurer and Member respectively.

The Secretary informed the General Body the decision of the Governing Board to have Fr. Peter Daniel as Operational Director and Mr. J. Ranga Rao Treasurer, which was unanimously approved.

Mr. Sivarama Krishna, GB member has raised the question of Membership application for renewal of old members and entry of new members. After discussions, Mr. T.K.S. Sharma, Mr. Rajaiah and Fr. Bosco proposed that the new GB Members will be given Annual Membership and later based on contribution made by individuals they will be given Life Membership. This was confirmed and passed by the General Body.

The Operational Director, Fr. Peter Daniel presenting his report spoke about connecting volunteers, stakeholders, donors and communities towards achieving the vision and mission of the organization. He spoke about building oneness among the volunteers and informed that in the Annual Report Preparation workshop every volunteer came forward and contributed to the report. He also emphasized on external evaluations that helped organization to identify and start the Cluster Programs, which were referred as circles by Fr. Windey.

This year the report was presented program wise by representatives from each state, namely, Mr.Sethi, Area Coordinator, Odisha; Mr. Sudhir John, Secretary to Operational Director and Ms. Anita Thomas, Field Coordinator, Hyderabad Region, Andhra Pradesh and Mr. Jayaram, Field Coordinator, Tamil Nadu.

The Associate Director presented his report on restructuring of VRO. In his report he spoke about restructuring done under the headings viz. Society, Strategy, Organization, Leadership and Finances. He also presented the overview of 2012-2013, during which he mentioned the future focus in three states i.e. to reduce and restructure the existing programs in Andhra Pradesh, to work in under-developed areas of Ramanad and Sivagangai districts of Tamil Nadu and to strengthen and expand the existing program in remote places of Odisha.

Later, the Members reflected on the reports and raised points for clarification on the reporting style, leaving of volunteers, training strategies and founder's vision.

After discussions, the GB members clarified their doubts and appreciated the administration for the restructuring strategies and newness brought into the organization.

Mr. Ranga Rao, presented the financial report. The highlights of the report were – over-all-turn-over is 25% less than the previous year, contributions have come down by 39.5%, Administrative expenditure increased by 16% and this year there is an excess of expenditure over income. **The General Body had confirmed and passed the financial reports.**

The Secretary, on behalf of the Governing Board, Proposed Ms. Rekha Abel and Sister Cletus as GoB Members which was unanimously approved.

The General Body approved the proposal of Mr. Ranga to be treasurer and to continue the same Auditor M/s KVR Subba Rao & Co., Guntur for the financial year 2012 – 2013.

In his closing remarks, president requested all the members to sing VRO anthem standing in a circle holding hands to form a human chain that represents the theme **connecting towards**. Singing the VRO anthem – Vijaya Viharamu in Telugu, English and Oriya and concluded the meeting.

The community lunch followed.

Dr. T. Nagender Swamy
Secretary, Governing Body

President's Message

In the beginning of the previous century Rabindranath Tagore eloquently demonstrated to be an environmental pioneer as he was seeking harmony between progress and preservation. Gandhi, who by then received the title of Mahatma, reminded us "What we are doing to the forests of the world is but a mirror reflection of what we are doing to ourselves and to one another." This is just one of his more than 200 quotes on the environment. **The Indian Constitution is one of the very few constitutions in the world,** which provides for specific provision for the protection of the Environment. The constitution, being the fundamental law of the land has a binding force on citizens, non-citizens, as well as the State. The Fundamental Rights and the Directive Principles of the State Policy underline our national commitment to protect and improve the environment. The courts in India have also given an additional interpretation to the constitutional provision relating to protection and improvement of the environment. Given this rich heritage, it is every Indian's solemn duty to preserve the scarce land and natural resources that we utilize and borrow from our future generations. It is also our duty to help and guide those who may, with the short sightedness of next quarters' profit, lose sight of the interests of our children and grandchildren.

Little wonder that when Fr. Windey conceived the four leaves (4Es - Environment, Enlightenment, Employment and Enjoyment) of VRO, Environment was there. Coming from the farmlands of his home country he understood the mechanism of nature's ability to provide for us if we look after it. His understanding of delayed gratification made it easy to convince villagers to save the small tree from the fireplace and preserve it to provide shade 20 years down the line. Environmental science and ecology are closely related disciplines, and familiarity with the principles of one is essential to fully understand the other. The main difference between the two is that the first is a more overarching field that incorporates many elements of Earth and life sciences to understand various natural processes. Ecology, on the other hand, is usually more focused on how organisms interact with each other and with their immediate surroundings. Both sciences provide very important information about nature and what people can do to better protect the planet and conserve resources. With this definition, which came to us in the sixties only, I dare speculate that Father Windey might have used the word Ecology just as well. It would also inspire us to reflect on how we interact with other organisms, resources and people. In Neuro Linguistic Programming (NLP) ecology is the process of considering the effects of any change in behavior across a number of time frames, situations and places for self and others. This brings me back to the Bapu of this great nation whose life itself was his message. He also gave us the ultimate lesson in economics and ecology: "Earth provides enough to satisfy every man's needs, but not every man's greed."

When we agree that it is important to deal with our environment, land, water, energy and ores in a diligent manner, should we also not consider optimizing the use of India's most valuable resources? The human capital, the output of every hour, every day, the education, health and nutrition of every single man and woman is probably the most underutilized resource of the entire world. But is this also not where the biggest treasure of humanity is hidden? VRO touched the heart of tens of thousands of villagers and volunteers. Can we do the same thing with their brains, their entrepreneurship, their inspiration and their dedication to change the face of India's rural environment?

Theo VAES
August 2013
Outgoing President of the Governing Board

Secretary's Report

Mr.President, members of the Governing Board, General Body and friends

The second Governing Board of VRO completes 3 years (and its term) today. During the course of the three years two members resigned (Mr.Walter Linsi and Ms.Ulrike Biedendieck). Mr.Ranga Rao shouldered the responsibility of Treasurer (unofficially in the 2nd year and officially in the 3rd year). Sr.Cletus and Ms.Rekha Abel replaced the members who resigned.

The term of the Governing Board saw quite a bit of activity, beginning with a 2 day work shop on "Revision of Vision" in Hyderabad followed by workshops at the field level for the staff and volunteers. While the vision remains 'Better Villages for a better world' the mission and strategy (as a result of the workshop) brought about clarity. External evaluation studies, one in Orissa and one in Andhra Pradesh, were undertaken to help the operational leadership to align programmes and activities in tune with the changing socio economic context, both global and local.

During the year under review the Governing Board met four times;

1. September 9th, 2012 at Hyderabad
2. November 30th,2012 at VRO Head Office, Guntur
3. April 12th-13th, 2013 at VRO Head Office, Guntur
4. August 31st, 2013 at VRO Liaison office, Hyderabad.

Important resolutions passed during the year

1. The GoB felt the need to review the members in view of some deceased, some not having attended the Annual General Body meetings, non renewal of annual membership by some etc.
2. It was resolved to hand over the sites at Vinobhanagar to the Vinobhanagar Development Society by the end of April 2013.
3. It was resolved to dispose of the site at 116 km after settlement with the former CCCP supervisor and the receipts to be credited to the Corpus fund.
4. It was resolved to hand over the land leased by the Government at Chandikole to the Government after consultation with the Advisory Committee of VRO Odisha.
5. The GoB agreed in principle to make land available at 75 km to the government for a primary school. However, the extent to be decided after further investigations in the area.
6. It is resolved to authorize Operational Director, Fr.Peter Daniel to operate Volunteers savings (RD + Accounts) with Andhra Bank, Kothapeta branch in addition to the volunteer and Dr**.** T.Nagender Swamy, Secretary VRO. All volunteers savings accounts will be operated by the volunteer **and** either the Operational Director **OR** Secretary of the GoB.
7. With regard to the property in Delhi, the GoB resolved to dispose off the property after announcing the availability for sale and following all the stipulated procedures as per the law.
8. The GoB resolved to dispose the vacant plot in Trichy after announcing the availability for sale and following all the stipulated procedures as per the law.
9. After reviewing the application from the Chengai Jesuit Society, Chennai, the GoB resolves to extend the lease of property at Pondicherry for a further period of 2years.
10. The GoB resolved to insure all the VRO personnel under the CHAI Health Insurance. While VRO will pay 75% of the premium the volunteers will pay 25%.
11. The GoB approved the overseas travel plan of the Operational Director for meetings with donors and VRO friends.
12. The GoB resolved to call for the Annual General Body meeting of the VRO on September 1st 2013 at Jeevan Jyothi, Hyderabad.

I should like to place on record the intensive involvement of the President Mr.Theo Vaes throughout the term of office in the work of taking VRO forward. He made extensive contacts both in India and abroad to bring the contextual relevance of VRO in the rapidly changing global and national development scenario. His support and assistance during the visits to Europe of the Operational Director were instrumental in bringing about an understanding among the donors. He brought in to the discussions a sense of urgency and relevance of the VRO in its area and sectors of work. He conducted the meetings in a very democratic and business like fashion and contributed in bridging the gap between the Governing Board and the Operational leadership.

The services of our Treasurer Mr. J. Ranga Rao were invaluable in bringing about some systems in the finance sector and the Organization is very much indebted to him for the time he gave to guide the finance sector and the Operational Leadership.

The duo of, Fr. Santiago and Fr. Peter Daniel, have been sharing the operational work load of organizational restructuring and the new approach respectively with the usual commitment that accompanies Society of Jesus. I am particularly grateful to Fr. Santiago for his consultation channel, both prior to and after the Governing Board meetings.

Fr. George D'Souza was unable to attend a few meetings but his attendance and presence brought certain depth in discussions around strategy and the core values of VRO.

Ms. Rekha Abel and Sr. Cletus have brought a missing dimension – the gender, to the composition of the Governing Board. Both, very experienced and articulate administrators were taken as members on the Governing Board only in the last year. Sr. Cletus has already proven that the needs and interests of Odisha state are adequately highlighted.

In conclusion I should like to mention a word of appreciation to Mr.Samuel, Mr.Saidulu, Mr.Prasad, Mr.Lakshminarayana, Mr.Prasanna Kumar, Ms.Anitha, Mr.Chennaiah, Messrs.Ratnam, Sujjan, Anand and Shekar of the transport sector and to all the other staff and volunteers of VRO who have taken pains to ensure arrangements for the GoB meetings.

Dr. T. Nagender Swamy
Secretary – Governing Board

Operational Director's Message

Dear Friends,

As I speak to you, my heart is filled with gratitude to God who led all of us (VRO) during the past 41 years on the whole and in particular last two years in the path of restructuring and recommitment to the poor. At the same time, my heart is filled with gratitude to all the wonderful and generous donors of VRO who are standing as the back-bone of the organization at all times. I have no words to express my growing admiration for the enduring sacrificial service of the volunteers. At the end, I wish to thank the general body and the GoB members for their continuous assistance to me and Fr. Santiago to go ahead with the VISION of Fr. Windey and the mission of VRO.

Preceding the detailed report of programs and activities, I only place before you an overview of it all, within the larger framework of our VRO's significance and performance in India and across the world.
When I went around Europe during the last summer 2013, all our friends in Europe told me, "Peter! We have a long winter, no spring". But now the temperature in Europe has gone beyond 40 degrees Celsius. The last summer in India, was unbearable and thousands of people died. This scenario makes me talk about the environment and the urgent need to take care of it. VRO, as a committed NGO to the rural poor, need to focus especially on village environment. Fr. Windey used to talk to us about the environment as follows:

"There is the **natural environment**: trees, plants, birds, earth and that invisible all-determining element AIR, to live by. They are the sources of our joy, strength, hope too.

There is the **social environment**: the people around us, with their character, ideas, work, interests, attitudes, feelings that make up for our individual deficiencies in achieving the intended results.

There is also our **spiritual environment** within us: the power of Almighty in the creation, the good will of the people, the desire to strive for perfection, relentless search for truth etc."

The above elements of the environment are to be taken care of by us. The Volunteers and the Villagers are to be energized with this thinking of our beloved founder, Fr. Windey. We have to rededicate ourselves to empower one another and the rural people towards a greater love for the environment and to protect it with passion and dedication. Let us march forward to achieve this goal keeping in mind the saying of the Founder:

"Together Everyone Achieves More!"

Fr. Peter Daniel SJ
Operational Director, VRO

Enlightenment (Study)

The statistics from the District Information System for Education (DISE) on the elementary schools shows that 76.36% of schools are run by the General Education Department of the Government of A.P. whereas the Tribal Rural Development Agency (TRDA) conducts only 5.25% of schools. In spite of the higher number of Government schools present in the districts, the problem of illiteracy is yet to be addressed especially in the tribal areas. The major reasons behind the dropouts from schools include, distance of school from residence, lack of facilities at schools like drinking water, toilets, inadequate number of teachers in the schools etc. Since the inception of VRO, the Community Child Care Program and Children Learning Centre addressed the above problems and enabled the children to pursue their studies.

The Community Child Care Program facilitates the rural and tribal communities to send their children to pre-school and the program itself creates interest among the children to learn nursery rhymes, alphabets, action songs etc. The Children Learning Center is more a kind of base where residential facilities are provided enabling the children to attend the nearby Government schools. Besides, learning guidance with special supervised studies was organized at children's home along with extra-curricular activities. Further the volunteers from CCCPs and CLCs build network with the local Government teachers and helped the children to avail the welfare measures from Government schools.

Programs addressing Objective of 'Enlightenment (Study)'

COMMUNITY CHILD CARE (CCC) PROGRAM

The Community Child Care Program for village children between the age group of 3 to 5 years aims at teaching basic education by using play - school techniques such as rhymes, poems, songs etc. The CCC worker conducts the Program for the children in the morning from 8.00 am to 12.00 am. In the afternoon session (2.00pm to 4.00pm), she organizes classes on tailoring skill for local women between the age group of 18 to 35 years. In the evening supervised study is conducted for the primary school going children in the age group of 6 to 12 years. Right from the inception of VRO, the CCC program always served as an entry point to the village. She serves as bridge connecting the village and the organization.

During the reporting period, the Community Child Care Programs were able to reach out to 343 Children in 15 service centers in A.P and Odisha states.

CHILDREN LEARNING CENTER (CLC)

The Children Learning Centers provide education to the rural children between the age group of 6 to 14 years. The aim of the center is to work for the holistic development of the children with academics and other extracurricular activities such as sports, debate, music, singing etc. The Children Learning center (CLC) is of two types, namely, residential and non-residential. All the residential centers are equipped with necessary facilities for sound health and well-being of the children. However, the non-residential centers provide education along with mid-day meal to the children.

The Children Learning Centers were able to serve 881 Children at 19 service centers in A.P and Odisha states.

Employment (Work)

The work participation ratio as per the 2001 census reveals that 39.1% of total population belong to working class: out of which the marginal workers consist of a large rural population that is 8.7%.This indicates that the working population of the country is less with a greater percentage of unemployment. The two major reasons for unemployment are lack of opportunities and lack of required skills to be employed. Addressing the need for employment, VRO initiated two major programs i.e. Livelihood Learning Program and Village Development Training Program.

These programs targeted the youth (boys and girls) and adult women. These programs brought about change in the attitude of the target population and helped in building their skills which in turn enhanced their ability to set-up a small scale business on their own or utilize the employment opportunities that are available in the locality. The core objective of the program is to build a rural community that can enhance their economic status through creating self-employment opportunities. This year the programs addressing the need of employment have shown a greater impact especially among the rural women (both young girls and adult women).

Programs addressing Objective of 'Employment (Work)'

LIVELIHOOD LEARNING CENTER (LLC)

A Livelihood Learning Center is a place where the youth are trained on skills such as electrical (House wiring, fan winding etc.) along with basics in carpentry. They are also given training on other skills like leadership, games and sports etc. The program is structured to impart the core objectives of VRO i.e. the 4Es (Environment, Enlightenment, Employment and Enjoyment) of the Founder Director of VRO, Fr. M. A. Windey sj. The trainees will be taught about each 'E' through their daily routine that includes fieldwork and cleaning the surroundings (Environment), learning, awareness building on their responsibility and rights, value classes (Enlightenment), skill training like electrical, carpentry (Employment) and cultural activities like music, singing, dance (Enjoyment) etc. The trainees who are interested in completing their academic course are enabled to do so. The LLC have both the residential and non-residential centers.

The Livelihood Learning Centers were able to train 243 trainees at 10 service centers in A. P and Odisha states.

VILLAGE DEVELOPMENT TRAINING CENTER (VDTC)

As the CCCP acts as the entry point, the VDTC acts as the exit strategy in the cycle of creating citizens to take care of their own villages. The village youth are targeted under this program. The VDTC imparts training on computers (Boys), tailoring, handicraft and Multi-Purpose Health Worker (MPHW) course (Girls). The major difference between LLC and VDTC is the following: the trainees will be oriented both theoretically and practically on creating employment opportunities in the village. This is a residential program along with village level service camps during the training.

The Village Development Training Centers were able to train 112 trainees at 5 service centers in the three operational states

Environment (Care)

A safe environment is vital for everyone to have healthy and better life. In this modern era, handling of the environmental issues should be more localized respecting the local knowledge, values and beliefs. However, the challenge of sustainability of health through the change in environment for better is always a question to be answered. VRO in its programs has incorporated the component of care for environment in every aspect possible. All the programs and activities that are carried out by VRO have the primary component of care for surroundings. With this perspective, the children/trainees at the sites were involved in cleaning, gardening, raising nursery, planting saplings etc. In the action phase of the environmental governance, VRO believes that NGO should address the environmental issues when the health of the community is deteriorating. Therefore during the reporting period, the health program and Old Age Home are considered as the major action platform for initiating environmental governance. Considering the fact that the environmental problems can be better solved through technology transfer, great emphasis was laid on information dissemination, community mobilization and emergency response that suits the local context. The Health Workers have almost fulfilled the above goal in their work, disseminating information about various health hazards that are found in the village such as open drainage, stagnant water, unhygienic surroundings etc. They mobilized people to come with remedies to the above issues. The Old Age Home was one such source of knowledge transfer based on the experiences of the old people that helped VRO in framing its strategies keeping in mind the value and respect to the local tradition and beliefs.

Programs addressing Objective of 'Environment (Care)'

COMMUNITY HEALTH PROGRAM (CHP)

A Community Health Program provides preventive health education, basic medication and referral services to the rural communities. The community health worker is based at VRO health center which is accessible to the village people and pays periodic visits to the surrounding 5 to 10 target villages, conducting health check-up and organizing meetings to educate villagers about various health issues i.e. mother and child-care, immunization, nutrition, health and hygiene, HIV/AIDS and other chronic diseases. Besides, health camps are organized twice a year in the suitable place in collaboration with the others.

The Community Health workers were able to treat more than 37,065 patients and especially 2500 chronic patients through 19 Community Health Centers in the three operational states.

OLD AGE HOME (OAH)

Old Age Home is a home for the elderly who were neglected by their families and communities. The objective of OAH is to provide a healthy and safe environment to the inmates. The program was structured to enhance their physical well-being through medical assistance, mental well-being through cultural and skill-based activities sharing their knowledge and experience, spiritual well-being through meditation and relaxation exercises. With residential care and a healthy meal, it is a home away from home for the senior citizens.

The Old Age Homes were able to serve 56 senior citizens at 3 service centers in A.P and Odisha states.

Empowerment

In developing countries like India, access to positions of influence and power are limited to women. They have limited access to occupational choices and their earnings are lower than that of men in most cases. Comparing this scenario of women in urban and rural community, it is observed that the status of women in rural area is more linked to the local traditional roles. In recent articles on development, a greater emphasis was made on the influence and economic independence of women.

To address some of the problems and issues women face in rural society, VRO envisaged a few Women Empowerment Programs with components of training on livelihood skills, soft skills, leadership etc. that enable them to have great influence in the community where they live and earn additional income through the acquired livelihood skills. The Village Empowerment program (Gramshakti Training Center) addressed the need of making the rural society to be more independent and organized from within rather than by external source.

Programs addressing Objective of 'Empowerment'

WOMEN EMPOWERMENT PROGRAM

Women Empowerment Programs are carried out among the village women with an aim of empowering them. The women organizers worked along with the Self Help Groups (recognized by the Government) of the villages. They strengthened the SHGs by providing the group members with information on entitlements and the availability of welfare measures from the Government, bank loans etc. Besides, they assisted in organizing SHGs meetings, writing reports, maintaining the unity etc. They also supported the primary school going children through evening supervised study.

The Women Empowerment Programs were active at 19 villages and strengthened the functioning of 75 SHGs in A.P state.

GRAMSHAKTI TRAINING CENTER

This program is meant to be more of follow-up of the reconstructed villages (target villages) in order to strengthen the contacts between the villages and the organization. The team visits the former constructed villages to strengthen the Village Councils, build unity and self-confidence among them, besides enabling them to mobilize their own resources for their community development. The village leaders act as animators helping the villagers to articulate their needs and requests as well as the ways and means of solving them. This program serves as bridge between the organization and the reconstructed villages so that the villages may develop further preserving their tradition, energy and beauty.

The Gram-Shakti Training Centers served 32 old villages in A.P state.

Timeline of Events

APRIL 2012 Training and Evaluation

- The month of April was conducive for imparting Training for volunteers, organizing Camps for trainees and village children. 3 English coaching camps for 42 volunteers were conducted at Head Office and the resource persons were Brother Jayaraj SJ, Brother Velangini SJ, Mr. B. Kantha Rao and Mr. B. Hanmanth Rao.

- Summer Camps on 'Tailoring and Handicraft' were conducted for 20 school going children at VDTC Puthur, Tamil Nadu Region.

MAY 2012 Special Training

During this period the following special camps were organized at Odisha Region. Besides, Evaluation of Hyderabad region of VRO by an outside agency was initiated.

- Camps/Workshops at Odisha Region
    - Syllabus Preparation Camp for Learning Guides
    - First Aid Camp by St. John's Ambulance for all Volunteers
    - Workshop on Village Survey and Resource Mobilization for all Volunteers
    - Spoken English Training Camp for all Volunteers
    - Ms. Shanti Yeachuri & Padma Reddy, (Development and NGO Management Consultants) conducted an Evaluation study of VRO Programs and Activities of Hyderabad Region in the month of May 2012.

JUNE & JULY 2012 Networking

Collaborating and Networking with other NGOs for an effective service delivery, VRO participated in the following programs.

"LEARN WITHOUT FEAR CAMPAIGN" was conducted on 13th June – 2012 in Head Office, Pedakakani by Coordinator of **ASSIST-India** from Bollapalli**,** Vinukonda area**.** The participants were 15 Volunteers from VRO and ASSIST India, 15 Children from Tamil school, Perecherla and Rajupalem, 40 children from Government school, Pedakakani, 15 parents of the children and 8 Government staff. Besides, MDO & MEO from Pedakakani contributed a lot by their presence.

Ms. Shanti Yeachuri & Ms. Padma Reddy were the resource persons for the workshop on Current Status of VRO Programs and Activities and animated the volunteers making use of the findings of their evaluation report of Hyderabad region. Field Coordinators and senior volunteers 40 in all participated in the two day work-shop at Satyodayam, Hyderabad on 19th& 20th of July, 2012.

AUGUST 2012 Staff Welfare

A decision on the Welfare of the senior staff working for a long time in the organization was taken and necessary procedures were worked out towards availing the Health Insurance facility offered by Catholic Health Association of India (CHAI). 25 volunteers were selected on the basis of their seniority and were issued the Health Insurance Cards. A couple of volunteers made use of the Insurance package during the reporting period.

Timeline of Events

SEPTEMBER 2012 — Remembrance & Newness

- In remembrance of his 3rd Death Anniversary of the Founder director Fr. M. A. Windey, a special event was organized at the head office and the volunteers organized the same at their respective sites and regions.
- The new concept namely 'cluster approach' (similar to VRO circle) is introduced to add newness and sustainability.

OCTOBER 2012 — Local Contributions

Efforts were made to initiate the Collaboration with local organizations and institutions to mobilize local contributions.

- Siddhartha Engineering College, Vinobha Nagar in Hyderabad region, contributed Textbooks, Uniforms and Blankets to the children.

NOVEMBER 2012 — New Project

The members of the two Cluster Projects from Andhra Pradesh and Odisha underwent an intensive training on 'Community Enterprise System' at Xavier Institute of Management, Bhubaneswar (XIMB) from November to December.

DECEMBER 2012 — Big Impact

Skill training to youth fetched employment opportunity for the VDTC trainees.

- All the 8 VDTC trainees from Rajupalem, at the end of the training joined the Job of 'Data Entry Operators' in the Andhra Bank, Ananthapur district, A.P.

JANUARY 2013 — Monitoring Tools

New tools and methods to monitor the implementation of the various programmes, have been designed and finalized in this month.

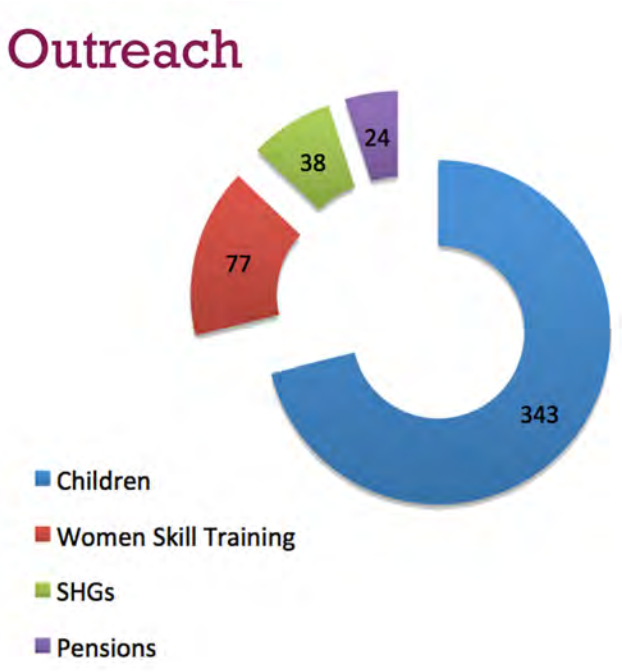
GoB Treasurer, Operational director, Associate Director, Finance Team, Projects Team and Field Coordinators participated in the workshop organized at Head Office, Pedakakani. The treasurer animated the workshop on strategies to monitor the financial expenditures in relation to the budget.

FEBRUARY 2013 — Survey

The 6 women organizers underwent an in-service training at Mandal Development Office, Pedakakani to familiarize themselves with Government welfare schemes and motivated around 700 families in Pedakakani and Nambur, how to avail the individual toilet schemes provided by the Government.

MAY 2013 — Women's Day

All the Women organizers along with the members of the 75 Self Help groups in A.P state organized the Women's Day celebrations. Similarly it was done in other regions too.



CCCP

02 States

Andhra Pradesh & Odisha

16 Centers

Community Child Care (CCC) Program

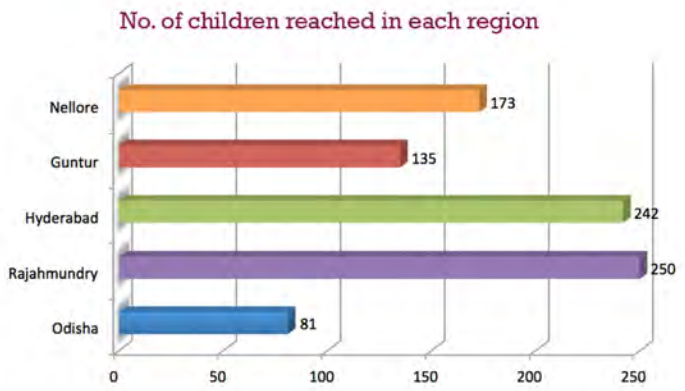
The Community Child Care Program was not just children centered only but rather an entry point into the village. The CCCP workers acted as bridge between the village community and organization. During the reporting year, they showed their enthusiasm in strengthening the neglected population of the society i.e. the children and the women.

The programs enabled children in the age group of 3 to 5 years from the villages to learn basic education i.e. numbers, alphabets (Telugu, Odiya & English), action songs etc. Playful articles and methods were used along with games& sports (both indoor and outdoor) to make it easy for the children to learn. The CCCP Children were promoted to the Government schools to pursue the primary education.

The CCCP workers were the first direct contact for the communities and visited all sections of the people to study the socio-economic condition of their respective villages. They played a major role of community mobilization for various purposes, which include awareness and program implementation. They also supported the needy villagers in obtaining their pension and availing welfare measurers from the Government. They made home visits in the evenings and educated the villagers on health, the value of education etc.

The CCCP workers in all the centers were able to assist the Self Help Groups (SHGs) in their respective villages. In few villages they motivated the local women to form new Self Help Groups in order to avail the Government benefits. They also used to train rural women on skills like wool knitting and making leaf - plates, which enabled them to earn additional income.

Outreach



No. of Centers in each region
Nellore 04 | Guntur - 03
Hyderabad - 05 | Rajahmundry - 04 | Odisha - 03

CLC

19 Centers

881 Children

Children Learning Center (CLC)

The programs were structured towards holistic development of the children. The following were the core components of the programs, namely, academic improvement, awareness of entitlements, physical and mental well-being of the children. These centers could establish a good relationship with local Government schools, primary health centers and other Government institutions.

As a result of collaboration with the local Government schools, the children were able to obtain mid-day meals, uniforms and textbooks. The Government teachers are motivated to visit VRO centers. VRO learning guides learnt an effective teaching methods and teaching aids from them.

To ensure the physical and mental well-being of the children, a strong relationship was maintained with the local Primary Health Centers. The doctors from the local health centers visited the sites, conducted free medical check-up and provided free medicines to the children. Besides, VRO health workers also make visits to the CLC centers periodically to take care of the health of the children. In order to improve the physical fitness of the children, sports day was organized now and then and incentives were given to the winners at every site.

The children were encouraged to participate in school and district level competitions and exhibitions. The learning process of children was enhanced by providing the parents with regular information on the progress of the children. The site in-charges organized parents' meeting periodically during which they disseminated information about various Government entitlements. Free bus passes were obtained for the children in Rajahmundry area with the collaboration of the local state transport corporation.

CLC

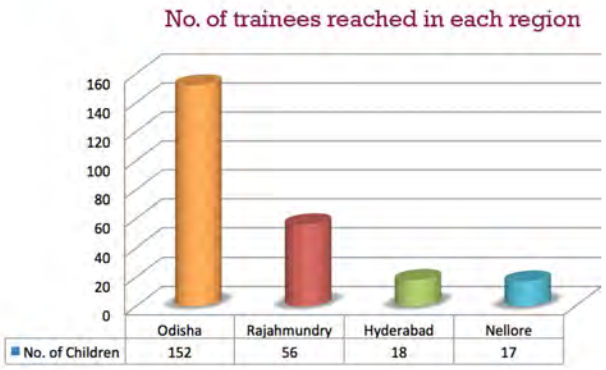
Home Away From Home

Survey has been an integral part of the program. The volunteers used to conduct survey regularly in the surrounding villages to motivate children and youth towards education and employment training respectively. One of our volunteers went on a Survey to a village named Chinathopu, Nellore Region (close to Sagarsangam) and to her surprise, she found two girl children very anemic and scantily dressed.

The father given to drink neglected the children almost to the point of starvation. The reason being that Mr. P. Polliaha lost his wife after the birth of his second daughter Vaishnavi. Of course the responsibility of the two children fell on his shoulders. The single parent really found it challenging in bringing up the kids. He used to earn through daily labour a paltry sum that was not enough to feed the children adequately. Over a period of time, Polliaha got into depression and he started spending major share of his income on alcohol. *'Earlier my dad is a bit responsible but now- a- days he won't even return home; sometimes I find him lying by the roadside'* says Lakshmi, elder daughter of Polliaha. It was reported by the neighbours that Polliaha felt it burdensome to bring up the two children.

The two girls hardly remember having tasted a good homemade meal. They survived with a single meal a day, which was provided at the local Government school. *'The only reason I go to school is to eat, if we don't go to school we should starve'* says Vaishnavi. She also added that her sister would request food from the neighbours during holidays. It was shocking to hear that these kids were followed this routine for more than two months. The neighbours and the local teacher, who fed them, referred the kids to CLC, Sagarsangam at the beginning of the academic year. Finally, VRO has become their home. Presently Lakshmi is in 3rd class and Vaishnavi in 2nd class pursuing their studies.

Outreach



No. of Centers in each region
Odisha - 06 | Rajahmundry - 02
Hyderabad - 01 | Nellore 01

LLC

10 Centers

243 Trainees

Livelihood Learning Center (LLC)

The major section of the rural population is poor and uneducated. The parents show less care for the children and as a result the youth are neglected and deprived of their rights such as education, health care, family care and affection etc. As a response to this social situation, the Livelihood Learning Centers of VRO initiated a few skill trainings, which would enable the neglected youth to learn the skill of their choice and get employed in life. The purpose of this program is to enhance the capacity and ability of the rural youth to create employment opportunities on their own. The LLCs have structured courses that address the skill development of both the boys and girls.

The courses for girls include Tailoring, Dress Designing, Embroidery, handicraft and training on domestic skills for school dropouts. The women are given leadership training to improve their life in the future. In addition to this, awareness is created among them about the Government entitlements and programs that are available for women belonging to the category of Below Poverty Line. The course for boys includes electrical, house wiring, motor winding, tailoring and carpentry etc.

In order to improve the quality of training at the centers, collaborations with various institutions has been established. One such outstanding collaboration was with USHA International Sewing School, Odisha, through which more than 20 trainees were able to obtain a recognized certificate after completion of the course. In the same region, collaboration with Dhaitri Chemicals Company, Keonjhar helped the trainees to make washing liquid, surf, bleaching powder etc.

The final outcome of the program was to make the youth work for the betterment of their village. Hence, to impart such kind of social responsibility in the youth, service camps were organized in the villages located close to the center. Similar steps were taken in LCC centre, Rajanagaram in Rajahmundry region. Three service camps were carried out in which the trainees learnt to repair the street lights, do the house wiring etc. Apart, the holistic development and well-being of the trainees were taken care of through health checkup, physical fitness and skill performance.

LLC

Creating Role Models

"To take birth in higher family is the good will of God but it is the responsibility of a man to work on High thinking"

Ms. Sankhalata Pradhan, aged 19 years, daughter of Rahasa Pradhan and Sudara Pradhan has a strong desire for skill learning. Today her self-confidence made her to be self-reliant. The problem of illiteracy and poverty has come to an end. She was able to make money using her skill (Tailoring, Embroidery & handicraft) learnt at Livelihood Learning Center. She was also organizing coaching classes to young girls at her village. In the past, she used to go out with her mother and assist her in collecting firewood and leaves from forest. The earning that has been made through selling of firewood and leaf-plates is the only source of income. She could not study any further due to her family's financial condition and dropped out from studies after 10thstandard. She is the only child of her parents. Income of her father and mother is not sufficient for their livelihood and was not enough to support her education. She was identified and was admitted into our LLC site at Bayakumutia.

Her confidence, smartness and good behavior attracted the mind of the trainers. Day by day she gained more knowledge about the tailoring skill. She exhibited her skill very well in the parents' meeting. The parents were very much impressed by her. The inspiration, encouragement and strong support of trainers and parents enhanced her hope towards a better future. During the period of training she completed +2 in Arts in Suakathi College through Distance Education.

After completing the training, she went back to her village. After 15 days she was appointed at Dhaitri chemicals as production in-charge/ trainer. She is giving training to SHG women supported by Bank of India (BOI). Now she is teaching 8 of her village girls and boys. She was also doing her degree in the above college. She is giving training on the preparation of home sanitation product such as Phenyl, bleaching, HCL, Liquid detergent surf, Candle and Essene sticks.

VDTC

05 Centers

112 Trainees

Village Development Training Center (VDTC)

An intra-collaboration present among the volunteers working in different programs enhances the teaching/training methodology and also enables the volunteers to learn from each other. Keeping this in view, the trainees were exposed to other sites sharing their experiences of implementing the respective programs. One such an activity was from VDTC Rajulaloya – Hyderabad region, where the Multi-Purpose Health Workers (MPHW) take turns to assist the Community Health worker in 52Km and learn how to deal with the patients with compassion and kindness.

Moreover, the collaboration and good relationship built with the local Government officials and the staff of Vivekananda Vocational Junior College, Hyderabad has improved the academic performance of the trainees. In order to instill in them the social responsibility, a series of camps in the villages were organized as part of the program. All the VDTC centers were able to carry out at least one camp per year in their surrounding village.

During the reporting period, emphasis was given to issue recognized certificates to trainees after the completion of their training. All the VDTC centers were able to procure certificates and issue the same to the trainees from their respective collaborating Institutions. These certificates are used by the trainees to obtain bank loans from the local banks, using which they were able to enhance their livelihood opportunities by setting up small business in their respective villages.

One such collaboration during the reporting period was between VDTC Rajupalem, Guntur and the institution by name 'Creative Minds', Pidugurala. The trainees learnt basics of computer at the site and professional graphic design course at the collaborating institution. Thus after the completion of the course they were issued certificates by Creative Minds. All the 8 trainees of VDTC Rajuplem got absorbed as Data Entry Operators at Andhra Bank, Ananthapur district, A.P. Another such collaboration was between VDTC Rajulaloya and Dr. Vivekananda Vocational Junior College, Hasthinapuram, Hyderabad, through which the 20 MPHW trainees underwent On-Job Training (OJT) learning the professional skills.

VDTC

Enhancing Capacity and Power

Finding employment for rural youth has always been a challenge as they lack necessary skills. The VDTCs addressed this issue over the years. The VDTC at Ashapuri equips the young girls with skills like Tailoring, Embroidery, computer etc to realize their dreams. This year, the center has once again seen the success of the program in the life of Rina Rani Barik.

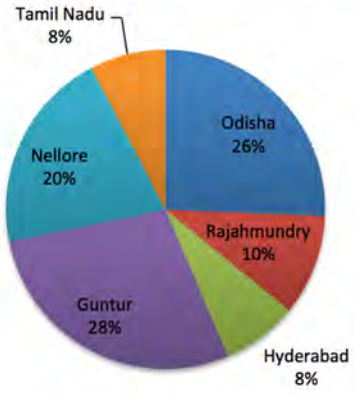
Rina's family is dependent on the income that is generated through agriculture. She has two brothers and two sisters. The income that the family earns on agriculture is not sufficient for their daily living. As days pass by, it became difficult to maintain the family with the meager income. Hence Rina reflected about the alternative to augment the income of the family. It was at this juncture that she joined VDTC at Ashapuri, where she learnt tailoring and computer program. Later after the completion of the course, she wanted to get a tailoring machine and start working in her village as tailor. But the economic status of her family was not conducive to buy the machine.

She didn't give up her dream. She decided to start tutorial classes for primary school children at the village. She made a little saving out of the tutorial classes. However the spirit to study is still alive in Rina and she did another course in computers at the nearest training center. The saved money from the tutorial classes helped her to pay the course fee. The computer training provided at VRO center helped her to understand the concepts taught at the local training center. Now with her knowledge in computer program, she joined as Data Entry Operator at Anandapur Block while still running the tutorial classes. With the money she made out of the Data Entry Job, she purchased the tailoring machine and started a tailoring center at home.

Presently, she is able to make a decent income and support her family without much difficulty. In her recent interview with VRO volunteer, she mentioned that change in her life took place right from the VDTC center where she developed confidence and learnt leadership and communication. This is one of the examples to show how the training at VDTC center transformed the lives of young people with purpose and focus towards the future.

Outreach

Health Camps Organized by Health Workers in Collaborations with others



No. of Centers in each region
Odisha - 03 | Rajahmundry - 02 | Hyderabad - 04
Guntur - 04 | Nellore 04 | Tamil Nadu - 02

CHP

19 Centers

2500

Chronic Referrals

Community Health Program (CHP)

Addressing the health needs is very vital to the rural population. The ignorance and superstitious beliefs are two major reasons behind health problems of rural communities. The major activities carried under the health program were referral services, preventive health measures, free medical check-up, free distribution of medicine based on the health condition. The health workers maintained collaborative relationships with Government health workers and their respective centers to enable the patients to avail the services.

The health program was introduced into interior places where the Government health facilities are not available. In order to bridge the above gap, health centers established a good relationship with the local Primary Health Centers (PHCs) to obtain free medicines for the patients. The Community Health Worker Collects the medicines from the Local Primary health centers and distributes them to the sick people during regular visits to the target villages. Health workers played a vital role in organizing Government immunization camps i.e. Pulse Polio Program, etc. Such a collaborative participation has served as a platform to build a good relationship with the Government machinery.

The Community Health Workers (CHWs) organized health education classes in the villages during their regular visits. The classes covered the issues on Health and Hygiene, General Health, Mother and Childcare etc. It is not just the villagers got health education but the health workers created awareness among the people on diabetes, alternative medical treatment, dealing with leprosy patients, AIDS control etc.

One of the major activities carried out by the health workers was referral services through well maintained network with Government and private hospitals.

CHP

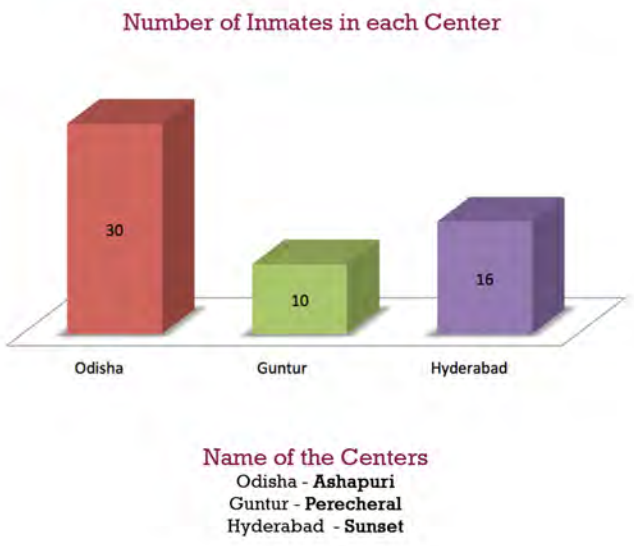
Service with values

HIV/AIDS is still one of the major causes of death in Andhra Pradesh. Community Health Centers were also playing a major role in addressing the needs of HIV/AIDS patients. The timely assistance in the case of Mr. Badahu, changed the plight of his family members for the better.

On a normal day, Mr. Badahu, S/O Veeranna approached our Health Center at Namavaram, Hyderabad Region. He requested the health worker to test him for fever. However, after checking his body temperature, the health worker became suspicious about his health condition and sent Mr. Badahu for blood test. The result of the test revealed that he was suffering from HIV/ AIDS. The health worker paid a visit to Badahu house and also took blood samples of his wife and son. The wife of Mr. Badahu out of curiosity asked about the condition of her husband. The health worker didn't reveal about his HIV/AIDS immediately and later called her to the local Government hospital, Suryapet where the local doctor had explained the condition of Badahu. The results of blood test of his wife and children were negative.

On the suggestion of the local Government doctor, the VRO health worker referred the patient to Nalgonda Government Hospital where the patient was registered for the Anti-Retroviral Therapy (ART). The sad thing was that the wife of Mr. Badahu did not know about HIV/AIDS. Making use of the situation, the health worker has organized a special health education session on HIV/AIDS. Thus the VRO Health Services are rendering valuable services to the rural population.

Outreach



OAH

03 Centers

56 Inmates

Old Age Home (OAH)

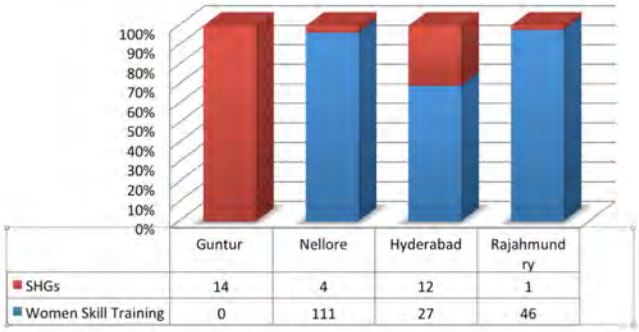
The aged people belong to the neglected lot of the population. VRO looked at the senior citizens with potentials to pass on the knowledge of the past to the present generation like the burning candle emanating the light. They have their rights and the volunteers assisted them to obtain their share of the welfare measures from the state Government.

The volunteers maintained a good relationship with the local Government officials and made the process of obtaining pensions easy for the inmates of the OAH. One of such efficient centers is Ashapuri OAH, Odisha. The volunteer contacted Block Development Officer (BDO), Ghasipura and requested to grant old age pension to the inmates. It was done in a short time.

The volunteers also maintained contact with the local Primary Health Centers (PHCs) through which they obtained medical support to the senior citizens. Besides, VRO health worker also paid regular visits to the center. The program was structured to impart and enhance mental well-being of the senior citizens through spiritual and cultural sessions. The inmates were treated in the local Government hospital at the time of sickness. At Perecherla, Guntur Region, 06 senior citizens underwent free cataract operation at the Shankar Eye Hospital near Head Office in Pedakakani, Guntur.

Outreach

Skill Training and SHGs addressed by WEPs



Number of Centers in each region
Guntur - 09 | Nellore - 05
Hyderabad - 02 | Rajahmundry - 03

WEP

19 Centers

31 SHGs

Women Empowerment Program (WEP)

The women belong to the most disadvantaged section of the community. This program was structured to impart skill development and financial stability among the rural women so that they can augment the family income and share the role of the bread-winner. The women organizer was provided with information on welfare measures and knowledge about the functioning of SHGs for better management. She enables the rural women to avail the Government schemes and the bank loans.

The women organizers maintained contact with their respective Mandal Development offices to help the women access the information available with the officials concerning the women empowerment programs. With the information gained at those offices the women get organized to avail those programs. A special training camp was organized, in the month of July 2012, at Head Office, Pedakakani, during which six women organizers learnt about Self Help Groups, Small Savings Credit Program (SSCP), Old age pensions, Deepam, Rights of Women, Sakshara Bharathi, Indira Kranthi, etc. Such trainings helped them to assist DWCRA (Development of Women and Children in Rural Area) group and the marginalized people in the community such as old people, widows to obtain pensions.

Besides, they also train the village women on skills such as sari painting, hand embroidery, making of leaf plates, stitching plastic bags, preparing flower vase with wool etc.

WEP

Volunteer – A Helpful Hand

Empowerment doesn't simply mean providing financial aid only to rural women. It involves enlightenment and awareness about current trends in society and continuous acquiring of various skills such as soft and professional skills that enable them to attain social status and security in the respective communities. Keeping this in mind, the woman organizer of Mancha Gaddaburu provided the best support and assistance to young girls of her village. The success story of one of the girls is as follows:

Ms. Sathyavathy, daughter of Mr. Chinna Ramu belongs to a very poor family and she was not aware of the outside world. She always seeks the help of her friends or neighboring girls to go out. In spite of the economic problem in the family, she was able to finish 12th standard in the neighboring Government school. The father asked her to stop her education as his financial status was not good enough to support her. Hence she could not pursue her study. While staying at home she attended the meeting organized by the VRO in the village. She consulted the women organizer and asked her suggestion and support to pursue her higher education. After a long discussion, the girl came to a conclusion to attend the training meant for the police constables.

The girl was introduced to the local police constable to get information and training to appear for the examination. Finally she succeeded in getting admission in the Training Center at Vishakhapatnam. At the end of the training, she cleared the physical test but failed in written test. However, the girl was able to learn more about the world around her through this exposure and look beyond for better opportunities to succeed in life.

Later, she went for computer training under Rajiv Yuva Kirnalu scheme of the state Government and acquired certificate. Presently she is working as a computer operator in the above city and is able to support her family financially. At last, she has become independent as she enjoys social status and security.

GTC

02 Centers

32 Villages

Gramshakti Training Center (GTC)

The GTC program was designed to promote village empowerment especially among the reconstructed villages. The GTC teams visited 32 villages in the reporting period. They organized periodic village council meetings and maintenance camps at the target villages. During these meetings they provided the villagers with information on Government Welfare schemes and other measures for the development of the village. In couple of villages they formed some action teams within the village councils and trained them how to approach the Government officials and keep contact with the Government offices.

The team did the follow-up visits to the old villages in Nellore region and re-established the relationship with the villagers. The teams collected the updated socio-economic information about the village. Based on the information, they organized special meetings in the villages. On 3rd October 2012, a meeting was conducted in Chinnanattu village for women and provided them with information on small savings. On the next day a similar meeting was conducted in Anemadugu. In the month of October, similar meetings were conducted in B. K. Songuru, Tallaporulu and Morakandapuram.

Apart from the awareness meetings, the teams also conducted various maintenance camps that enhanced the community participation. They successfully motivated the families in 2 villages in Guntur region and 5 villages in Nellore region to repair the RCC roof of the houses that leak during the rainy season. The local contribution amounted to 30% of the total cost. During the reporting period, land title deeds for house sites were distributed to actual families in 15 villages in Guntur, Nellore and Kadapa regions.

Students from Loyola College, Vijayawada, Loyola Academy, Secunderabad and JMJ College,Tenali, attended an exposure camp at Pelicon Nivas, Nellore Region, from 27th December 12 to 1stJanuary 13, under the guidance of Fr. Shailendra SJ, the state advisor of AICUF, Nagarjuna Nagar, Nambur. 33 university students (10 boys & 23 girls) participated in the work camp and conducted awareness meetings for the villagers in three nearby villages.

Involvement of Students

During the reporting period, efforts were made to involve the students into the various activities. Accordingly, a couple of exchange programs were organized with national and international students. Besides, the students from the local colleges also visited the nearby sites, and provided value addition to the program and to the organization as well.

International Students

Five international students from Belgium underwent the practical exposure in some of the centers. Firstly, a team of 4 nursing students from Belgium namely, Mr. Cedric Fchelfhout, Ms. Nele Bijnens, Ms. Stefanie Bekaerj and Ms. Wafa Bouchikhif has started their four months internship from November 2012.

They spent the initial period at Hyderabad and later continued their practicum at Odisha. The objective of internship was to analyze the health issues, welfare measures and also to understand the impact of the VRO health program among the people. At the end of the practicum they were able to present the report of all the CHP centers they have visited and suggested a couple of new strategies that can be used in the Health Program. Unfortunately, they could not complete the exposure camp as they had planned, due to local problem in Odisha.

Mr. Jan Beuls from Belgium did his internship from 13th of March to the middle of June 2013. As part of his orientation, he visited some sites in Hyderabad Region and later was involved in office work at the Head Office. He worked both with the Projects and Accounts sector assisting them in the preparation of the reports 2012 – 2013, profiles and budgets for 2013 – 2014.

National Students

Mr. Prabaharan, a student from Bishop Heber College, Triuchirappalli, did his block placement as part of his MSW course (Master in Social Work) from 27th Feb to 25th March. The objective of internship was to get an overview of working strategy of Non-Government Organization (NGO).

During this period, he was oriented to the vision, mission and core objectives of the organization. He was periodically involved in the official meetings that enabled him to understand the administration and correspondence aspect of the organization.

During the term of internship, the Project Coordinator, Mr. Jean Paul Boddu, guided the student. The student spent his initial week of orientation at the Head Office and later was involved in the Children Learning Center (CLC), Tamil School, Perecherla.

He spent his time in teaching the children and assisting the site in-charge in carrying out his work. He was actively involved in a social survey to find the socio-economic condition of the Tamil migrants. In his reflection journal, he mentioned 'VRO gave him an opportunity to understand the causes and consequences of migration.'

Exposure Camps

Thirty three students (10 Boys and 23 girls) of All India Catholic Union Federation (AICUF) from 03 different colleges participated in the exposure cum work camps organized by Fr. Shailendra SJ, state Advisor of AICUF from Nagarjuna Nagar, Nambur, at Pelican Nivas in Nellore region from 27th December 2012 to 1st January 2013.

Fr. Peter Daniel, Operational Director gave orientation to the students regarding the vision and mission of VRO and how to understand and interact with villagers. As part of the camp, the students visited the neighboring villages namely, Pedambattu, Puderu and Krishnapuram to have field exposure.

Training of Volunteers

Steps were taken to train the trainers during the reporting period. The volunteers were involved in one or the other training program that fits his/her work profile. The training programs were not just seen as platforms to gather information but were used as a golden opportunity in providing an interactive and reflective training session based on their own experiences.

Spoken English Camp (7th May to 6th June 2012)

Three Spoken English Camps were organized at the Head Office, Peddakakani. The volunteers were divided into three batches and underwent the training in May and June 2012. The first batch was trained from 7th to 18th of May with 15 volunteers, the second batch with 14 volunteers from 21st to 31st of May and the third batch with 13 volunteers from 29th May to 06th June. Altogether 42 volunteers participated in the training. They learnt tenses, parts of speech, active voice, passive voice and report writing in English. The other volunteers who were unable to attend the above camps were encouraged to undergo training at various Private institutes in their respective regions. The course fee for such training program was paid by the organization.

Re- Capturing The Renewed Vision Of VRO

A two-day workshop for the volunteers on the Re-vision of VRO was conducted during the month of June 2012. While inaugurating the workshop, the Associate Director keeping in mind the renewed vision of VRO, explained to the volunteers about the importance of recalling the vision in relation to the current scenario of development. Mr. K. Ravi Pradeep, Director SFIRD, Guntur, former OTL of VRO conducted the sessions and guided the volunteers to re-think about the vision and strategies for the organization. Thirty seven Volunteers including the field coordinators of all regions attended the workshop**.**

Meeting on Budget Preparation (June 8th 2012)

One-day meeting on the preparation of the budget was organized with all the site in-charges. The purpose of this meeting was to involve the volunteers from the field level to contribute to the budget at the preparatory level itself through sharing their experiences.

Senior Volunteers Meeting (19th and 20th July, 2012)

Field Coordinators and senior volunteers (total 40 in number) participated in the two day work-shop at Satyodayam, Hyderabad on 19th & 20th of July 2012. Ms. Shanti Yeachuri & Padma Reddy, (Development and NGO Management Consultants who evaluated the VRO programs, Hyderabad region), were the resource persons to animate the volunteers making use of the findings of the evaluation.

Workshop on Preparation of Annual Report (25th And 26th July, 2012)

Mr. Jean Paul, the project coordinator, conducted a two-day workshop on the preparation of the Annual report. A brief brainstorming session was conducted to draw out the ideas from the volunteers on the style of presentation. The Annual Report outline and draft documents were prepared during this workshop. All the field coordinators and site in-charges from three operational states participated in this program.

Projects Review Meetings

An emphasis on review meeting was laid, keeping in view the project and finance perspective during the monitoring the progress of the program. The Project Coordinator formed a team along with Secretary and the respective Field Coordinator. This team paid periodic visits to the sites to monitor the progress of the program. Apart, the team also organized regional volunteers' meetings at all regions of the three operational states.

Finance Review Meeting

Mr. J. Ranaga Rao, Treasurer of GoB, after assessing the last year financial situation, initiated regular review meetings on finance. Later with his guidance, the finance team started drawing out the financial reports to assess the over spending in the usage of funds. In order to have better clarity in the finance reports, modifications were introduced to the existing Tally Program.

Women Empowerment Camp

The Women Organizers were encouraged to establish contacts with the local Mandal Development Officers (MDO) in their respective places to access the various welfare measures available for the women. This enabled them to obtain information from the Government officials and pass on the same to the women. Periodically, special meetings were organized for them to share their knowledge and experience among themselves.

Programs for the year 2012 – 2013

Programs 2012 – 2013							
Regions (Left to Right) **Programs (Top to Down)**	Odisha	Rajahmundry & Kothakota (AP)	Hyderabad (AP)	Guntur (AP)	Nellore & Kadapa (AP)	Tamil Nadu	**Total**
Community Child Care Program	6	7	-	2	1	-	**16**
Children Learning Center	3	4	5	3	4	-	**19**
Livelihood Learning Center	6	2	1	-	1	-	**10**
Village Development and Training Center	1	-	1	1	1	1	**5**
Community Health Program	3	2	4	4	4	2	**19**
Old Age Home	1	-	1	1	-	-	**3**
Women Empowerment Program	-	3	2	9	5	-	**19**
Gram-Shakti Training Center	-	-	-	1	1	-	**2**
Total Centers/Programs	**20**	**18**	**14**	**21**	**17**	**3**	**93**

Cluster Project

The time has come to rethink about the programs and service centers keeping in mind the sustainable development of villages in the present day context. The continuous support to the villages is making the villagers dependent on the Organization and the VRO is considered as a resource provider rather than a facilitator and partner. In the renewed context, the core objectives to be considered are the six pillars (4Es+Empowerment and Entitlement) of VRO that stand for the development of the rural people who are neglected and marginalized by various forces both locally and globally. Right now, the rising globalization is impacting the growth of small-scale farmers, producers, local vendors and in particular the villagers to live a sustainable and peaceful life. At this juncture, the VRO is committed to involve itself to extend its core objectives towards sustainable and holistic development of the villages by creating a platform where villagers can stay united and fight for their rights towards sustainable development. The VRO is now making a shift in its perspective by enabling the people discover their own resources, identify the available opportunities and improve their skills. Thus VRO wants to be a partner in the development of the rural people rather than a mere resource provider.

The Cluster approach takes into account the inherent vulnerability of the poor small farmers and the tribal people. The poor earning capabilities, lack of skills, lack of marketing techniques, un-sustainability of the marginal farmers, the threat of the global food crisis etc. are some of the reasons behind the origin of the cluster project. The project is based on the belief that unless all tribal people are equipped with the required skills and until the problems faced by the rural poor and the tribals are optimally resolved simultaneously, the poor small farmers/producers cannot be relieved from the vicious circle of poverty. Failing to solve the above problem would result in the collapse of the local food production system and the livelihood of the poor. The project stresses on the holistic development of the villages through Cluster approach (circle concept of VRO).

Oct 2012	Nov 2012	Dec 2012	Jan 2013	Feb 2013	Mar 2013
Induction to VRO	Training at XIMB	Training continued	Field Introduction	Training at Head Office	Baseline Survey

Induction to VRO

The three cluster teams participated in an induction training and observation session in the month of October 2012. The Cluster team, Kothakota had the training from 4th to 9thOctober 2012 and the same training was organized from 10th to 12th October in Odisha. During this induction training the team members were taken to a couple of working sites of VRO and were provided an insight into the work. The new team members were also given an explanation about vision, mission and values of the organization. The senior volunteers and field coordinators took initiatives to brief the cluster team members about the history of the organization. Later, they were involved in a community survey so as to imbibe the idea of the needs of the community.

Training at Xavier Institute of Management, Bhubaneswar (XIMB)

After the introduction and initiation to the cluster program, the team members attended an intensive training at XIMB, Bhubaneswar. The team members were trained on the concept of Community Enterprise System (CES) and cluster approach. A series of theoretical sessions were conducted with the support of various Professors from social work, communication, sustainable agriculture and marketing departments. Apart from the theory, the team members were also exposed to a practical experience through an observational visit to Community Enterprise System (CES) at Navajothi in South Odisha. The Navajothi project was designed and conducted by Prof. Amar J Nayak, who has done intensive work on Community Enterprise System (CES). He was also the backbone for training and assessing the trainees. He assisted VRO in framing the cluster project. The training program was organized from 5th November to 15th December 2012 with one-week break. The trainers assessed the three cluster teams periodically during the training.

During the one-week break, the teams were asked to prepare a tentative plan for the survey and were also asked to get some basic information about the villages under their respective cluster. In the second half of the training, a planning meeting was organized during which the decision of not going ahead with the third cluster i.e. Kungabasa Cluster - South Odisha, was taken. The main reason was that there were not enough tribal trainees to form the third cluster team. Therefore, only two cluster programs namely, Kothakota Cluster, Andhra Pradesh and Gonsika Cluster, North Odisha were selected for the year 2013 – 2014. A plan was prepared for the baseline survey and the team members were asked to do village survey and family survey to assess the various needs such as socio-economical, livelihood options, education, health, civic facilities, etc. A decision on the number of panchayats and villages to be covered under each cluster was decided. Each cluster covers 2 to 3 Grama Panchayats with a minimum of 20 villages. A final list of the short-listed team members (list in the appendix) was announced and the members were assigned to their respective cluster.

Field Introduction

The team members started as per plan the rapport building with the community and at the same time they also identified the needs of the community. The field introduction happened in the month of January, during which the team members organized village meetings and gave explanation to the villagers about VRO and the cluster approach. Some of the villages selected under the cluster were already known to VRO through the village-rebuilding program. They took consent from the villagers and requested their participation in the project. After assessing the community participation into the project a list of villages was prepared and was approved to carry out the base line survey (list in the appendix).

Training at Head Office

The team members from both clusters participated in a training program at Head Office from 4th to 12th February. The purpose of this training was to understand the values and the functioning of VRO and to prepare the baseline survey format. Mr. Jean Paul, Project Coordinator, organized the training program. The team members were trained on need assessment, identification of cause-effect phenomena of problem, differentiation between problem, need and want, skills and roles of community worker. The team members were taken to different sites i.e. CCCP, CLC, LLC, WEP, OAH, etc. to understand the different categories of people that VRO serves and how the problems of each sector of the community varies. They were also taken to villages to teach them practically about conducting a survey. During the 10 days training, the team members were given different assignments to practice their skills and identify their role as community worker. The project coordinator with the help of the team members prepared a baseline survey format.

Baseline Survey

In the month of March, the team members have carried out the baseline survey in their respective clusters. Two formats for survey viz., village survey and family survey were used to gather the data. The village survey form was used to gather the data about the village demographics, resources and facilities. The family survey format was used to collect the data about socio-economic condition, livelihood, saving and borrowing pattern, entitlements of each household. Later the data collected was analyzed using Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS - a statistical analysis program). By analyzing the consolidated data, the major problems that need to be addressed were identified and first year plan for cluster program was prepared.

General Objectives of Cluster Project (First Year)

- To enable the tribal children in getting into the mainstream of education.
- To improve the health condition of the tribal people in the selected clusters.
- To support and assist women to improve their economic conditions through the skill development on various livelihood components.
- To create awareness among the members of the village communities through cultural means.

Programs Under Cluster Project

Program	**Objective**
Education Program	To enable children in joining the school through admission procedures and support school going children to excel in academics
Mobile Medical Unit	To educate and make people aware about health and preventive measures To examine and cure the needy villagers To network with Government Machinery in delivering health services to the people.
Water Program	To educate and create awareness of the target communities about water and sanitation To provide at least one safe drinking water source to the village To capacitate the youth on water management and maintenance of water system.
Women Empowerment	To educate and make women aware of the management of SHGs, livelihood skills and marketing To make them understand the connection between SHGs and Bank
Plantation Program	To improve the economy of the farmers through introduction of Horticulture
Social Awareness Program	To create awareness on the various schemes, programs of the Government among the target community. To educate the target communities on the entitlements and their rights.

Treasurer's Report

It is a great privilege for me to place before you the financial report of VRO, once again, for the year 2012-13. First of all, I take this opportunity to present you the abridged financial statements along with the auditor's report. While the report along with the financial statements is in your hand, I would like to highlight some of the findings along with the concerns:

- VRO could maintain almost the same over-all turn-over from 120 Million INR to 117.5 Million INR. It has been made possible due to the major shift of our direction to cluster-based interventions with an integrated approach and in rejuvenating our partnership with the old-timers. Operational team deserves an appreciation for having made it possible.
- Contributions (Donors, local and villagers) have increased by 23.16% from 34.440 Million INR in the previous year to 42.415 Million INR. The break-up of these contributions of the reporting period is as follows:
  - Overseas Donors 40.866 Million INR
  - Local Contributions 1.549 Million INR

  This is a tremendous increase while the voluntary sector is struggling hard to continue the programmes due to the financial crises all over the World.

- Among the overseas donors, top four donors were appreciated for their major contributions and their generous support is placed on record:
  - SWIVRO, Switzerland to the tune of 14.446 Million INR with 35.35% of the over-all share and continuous efforts of Ms. Christine to make it possible are praiseworthy.
  - E-Klub, Austria to the tune of 8.730 Million INR with 21.36% of over-all share and efforts of Dr. Robert Wychera are highly commendable.
  - Indien Hilfe, Kelkheim, Germany to the tune of 6.371 Million INR with 15.59% of the over-all share and their efforts are appreciated.
  - Sonnenhaus, Germany to the tune of 3.792 Million INR with 9.28% of the over-all share and their efforts are appreciated.
  - Missions Prokur, Nurnberg, Germany to the tune of 3.121 Million INR with 7.64% of the over-all share is laudable.
  - BIVRO, Belgium to the tune of 2.649 Million INR with 6.48% of the over-all share is well appreciated.
- Similarly, other Income comprising of Bank Interest, etc. has been increased by 61.72% from 4.183 Million INR to 6.765 Million INR. It is because the bank interest is realised on our Fixed Deposits in this financial year.
- Administrative expenses have come down by 16.58% compared to the previous year from 12.09 Million INR to 10.09 Million INR.
- Rural Development expenses have slightly come down by 8.41% from 39.659 Million INR in the previous year to 36.322 Million INR during this year. It is due to consolidating sector-based interventions and shift to cluster-based action in a comprehensive manner.
- There is an excess of income over expenditure to the tune of 2.232 Million INR during the year contrary to the excess of expenditure over income in the previous year.

Having assured in the last General Body meeting by the Operational Director Fr. Peter Daniel along with the Associate Director Fr. Santiago, I am glad to state that all the projects have been covered in the current year. At this juncture, I assure the Operational Team and the Members that I shall continue to contribute in strengthening the systems and reports mechanism periodically from the Accounts and Finance Sector with effective budget controlling techniques. Finance sector will play a supportive role to the Operational Team in achieving the project goals with better tools and techniques.

Thank you,

J. Ranga Rao, Treasurer - GoB

Finance Reports

Audit Report

We have audited the attached Balance Sheet of VILLAGE RECONSTRUCTION ORGANISATION [INDIA] as at March 31, 2013 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:

i) in the case of the Balance Sheet, of the state of the Society's affairs as at March 31, 2013; and
ii) in the case of Income & Expenditure Account, of the surplus for the year ended on that date.

For K V R SUBBA RAO & CO.
Chartered Accountants

Place: Guntur
Date: 01-08-2013

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

Significant Account Policies and Notes on Accounts

Significant Account Policies

Revenue Recognition: The society follows cash system 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. Land values mentioned in schedule of fixed assets to Balance sheet does not include such lands received as gift, since the cost of acquisition is NIL. Value of land situated in the state of Tamil Nadu acquired earlier is also not included in the total value of land.

Notes on 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 wherever necessary.

Finance Reports

RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2013

RECEIPTS	*Sch. Ref.*	*March 31, 2013*	*March 31, 2012*
Balance	*[5]*	68,159,026.97	81,153,969.64
Contributions	*[6]*	42,415,464.45	34,440,010.05
Other Income/ Receipts	*[7]*	6,765,203.13	4,183,324.00
Advances/ Deposits	*[8]*	246,995.00	295,240.00
	Total	117,586,689.55	120,072,543.69
PAYMENTS			
Administration & maintenance	*[9]*	10,086,571.00	12,090,738.37
Rural Development	*[10]*	36,322,124.00	39,658,973.35
Advances/ Deposits	*[11]*	-	45,245.00
Fixed assets	*[12]*	1,040,617.00	118,560.00
Balance	*[5]*	70,137,377.55	68,159,026.97
	Total	117,586,689.55	120,072,543.69

INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2013

INCOME	*Sch. Ref.*	*March 31, 2013*	*March 31, 2012*
Contributions	*[6]*	42,415,464.45	34,440,010.05
Other Incomes	*[7]*	6,765,203.13	3,877,089.00
	Total (A)	49,180,667.58	38,317,099.05
EXPENDITURE			
Administration & Maintenance	*[9]*	10,086,571.00	9,120,562.32
Rural Development	*[10]*	36,322,124.00	39,658,973.35
Loss on surrender of Mutual Funds		-	2,970,176.05
Depreciation	*[3]*	539,787.13	628,764.87
	Total (B)	46,948,482.13	52,378,476.59
Excess of Income over Expenditure	***(A) - (B)***	**2,232,185.45**	**(14,061,377.54)**

For and behalf of
Village Reconstruction Organization (India)

sd /-
Fr. Peter Daniel SJ
Operational Director

As per our report even date annexed,
For K V R SUBBA RAO & CO.
Chartered Accountants

sd /-
K V R Subba Rao FCA
Chartered Accountant

Guntur | 01-08-2013

Finance Reports

BALANCE SHEET AS AT MARCH 31, 2013

SOURCES OF FUNDS	*Sch. Ref.*	*March 31, 2013*	*March 31, 2012*
Capital Fund	*[1]*	139,019,687.46	136,566,649.34
Loans & Advances	*[2]*	495,603.50	716,456.17
	Total	139,515,290.96	137,283,105.51
APPLICATION OF FUNDS			
Fixed Assets	*[3]*	67,550,457.41	67,049,627.54
Advances / Deposits	*[4]*	1,827,456.00	2,074,451.00
Cash & Bank balances	*[5]*	70,137,377.55	68,159,026.97
	Total	139,515,290.96	137,283,105.51

FIXED ASSESTS - SCHEDULES TO BALANCE SHEET AS AT MARCH 31, 2013

S. No.	Particulars	Balance as on 01-04-2012	Additions upto 30th September	Additions after 30th September	Total	Deletions during the year	Balance	Rate of depn.	Depn. for the year	Balance as on 31-03-2013
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	136,390	-	-	136,390	-	136,390	10%	13,639	122,751
4	Equipment	800,002	-	-	800,002	-	800,002	15%	120,000	680,002
5	Vehicles	1,571,900	-	997,817	2,569,717	-	2,569,717	15%	310,621	2,259,096
6	Other	6,123			6,123	-	6,123	15%	918	5,205
7	Computer	136,280	-	42,800	179,080	-	179,080	60%	94,608	84,472
	Total	**67,049,628**	**-**	**1,040,617**	**68,090,245**	**-**	**68,090,245**		**539,787**	**67,550,457**

For and behalf of
Village Reconstruction Organization (India)

sd /-
Fr. Peter Daniel SJ
Operatinal Director

As per our report even date annexed,
For K V R SUBBA RAO & CO.
Chartered Accountants

sd /-
K V R Subba Rao FCA
Chartered Accountant

Consolidated Budget
for the financial year 2013 – 2014

S.No.	Details	Units	Orissa	Hyderabad	Rajahmundry	Guntur	Nellore	Tamilnadu	Total	Local Contribution	Donor Contribution
			INR	INR	INR	INR	INR	INR	INR	INR	INR
I	**Programs**										
1	Community Child Care Program(CCCP)	8	596,878	-	194,982	-	104,170	-	896,029	11,850	884,179
2	Community Health Program(CHP)	15	275,904	887,609	85,800	685,214	855,307	431,614	3,221,448	-	3,221,448
3	Childrens Learning Center(CLC)	16	337,823	3,247,136	4,421,228	2,680,143	3,637,599	-	14,323,929	247,188	14,076,742
4	Gramashakthi Training Center(GTC)	1	-	-	-	-	445,531	-	445,531	-	445,531
5	Livelihood Learning Center(LLC)	13	3,529,085	1,757,887	1,675,720	983,541	1,388,510	490,618	9,825,361	112,500	9,712,861
6	Old Age Home(OAH)	3	1,189,261	588,298	-	100,000	-	-	1,877,558	21,713	1,855,846
7	Women Empowerment Program(WEP)	27	-	248,270	141,051	1,296,425	595,210	450,340	2,731,296	-	2,731,296
	Sub-Total - (A)	**83**	**5,928,951**	**6,729,199**	**6,518,780**	**5,745,323**	**7,026,327**	**1,372,571**	**33,321,152**	**393,250**	**32,927,902**
II	**Repairs & Maintenance - (B)**		-	-	-	**1,000,000**	-	-	**1,000,000**	-	**1,000,000**
III	**Village Cluster Programme - (C)**	2	**14,154,518**	-	**11,874,236**	-	-	-	**26,028,754**	**744,200**	**25,284,554**
IV	**Training Programme - (D)**		-	-	-	**500,000**	-	-	**500,000**	-	**500,000**
V	**Discretionary Fund - (E)**		-	-	-	**1,500,000**	-	-	**1,500,000**	-	**1,500,000**
	Grand Total - (A+B+C+D+E)	**85**	**20,083,469**	**6,729,199**	**18,393,016**	**8,745,323**	**7,026,327**	**1,372,571**	**62,349,906**	**1,137,450**	**61,212,456**

sd /-
V. Lakshminarayana
Finance

Report on Restructuring of VRO

By Associate Director

Dear General Body Members, Donors, Well Wishers of VRO,

I am happy to present the report on major changes and improvements occurred in the Organization during the reporting period as follows:

SOCIETY: Land & Legal Issues

Vinobhanagar:

In view of handing over the land to Vinobhanagar Development Society/Bhoodan Yagna Board in future, a small number of 25 boys and 25 girls Stayed in 'A' Site and 'C' Site respectively attending the government school in Ibrahimpatnam. The other primary school going children were shifted to Kurmedu (girls at 66 Km) and Vinjumuru thanda (Boys at 75 km) to pursue their studies

116 km Needasthali:

With the help of the Police Department the land was measured as per the document (2 acres 39 guntas). There was no excess land available. There was an indication that the former volunteer might accept to come to terms with VRO by accepting 2 guntas (5 cents) for house site. Fr. Bhaskar, High court Lawyer from Hyderabad, was deputed to deal with the issue and bring about the settlement outside the court, Devarkonda.

Village Land related documents:

House-site pattas and House allocation papers issued by VRO were returned to the concerned families in 18 villages. They were thrilled to receive back the relevant papers.

STRATEGY

Village maintenance and repairs:

With the financial support of Dr. Robert Wychera, E-Klub Austria, the maintenance and repairs of the houses in 10 Villages (2 in Guntur region, 5 in Nellore region and 3 in Tamil Nadu) were carried out. The contribution by the families (free labour and masonry charge) amounted to 30% of the total cost. Since the respective families undertook the supervision, the program was successfully carried out. Appreciating this support, the Villagers drew inspiration to march forward to the next phase of the development. They are very grateful to the donors for providing the timely assistance.

Village Re-building Program:

The two construction villages namely Jangamlanka in Guntur region and Junuthla in Hyderabad region are about to be completed. The participation of the families in the program is commendable. Hence, the presence of volunteer is not needed. All the 30 Yanadi families out of 38 in Jangamlanka got the grant from the A.P state Housing Board.

Personnel

Three well qualified persons were recruited, namely Mr. Jean Paul, Project Coordinator, Mr. Raj Prakash, Cluster Coordinator, Kothakota and Mr.Venkat Rao, Accountant to enhance the quality and efficiency in the functioning of the organization. Their involvement and performance have done a lot of good for the Volunteers and VRO. Forty-Eight Volunteers made use of the financial package and left the organization. Similarly Twenty-Eight Auxiliary and seventeen CCCP Personnel availed the financial benefits. VRO is grateful for their selfless service towards the poor in the micro villages.

Health Insurance scheme

To begin with, only 25 Volunteers from AP had registered themselves in the month of April 2012 with CHAI Hyderabad, to avail the benefit of the Health insurance scheme. It was very beneficial for some of the volunteers who unexpectedly became sick.

Collaboration

The Operational Director along with the Associate Director visited Delhi, Jamshedpur and Bhubaneswar from 22nd to 27th January 2013 and met some important persons to build collaborations for the advantage of VRO, Odisha. Mr. Kurien, the close associate and well-wisher of VRO living in Delhi, handed over the

documents of the House Flat and other relevant files concerning VRO to OD. Later, they met the Jesuit Provincial in Jamshedpur on 26th January to involve the Jesuits in VRO, Odisha. On the following day, they met the advisory committee including Fr. Anselm in the VRO office, Bhubaneswar to discuss the status of VRO. Their suggestions were very practical and useful.

ORGANIZATION

Workshop on Recapitulation of the Renewed Vision of VRO

A two day workshop for 37 volunteers on the Re-vision of VRO was conducted in the month of June. Mr. K. Ravi Pradeep, former OTL of VRO and General Body Member was the resource person.

Training for Cluster Animators:

Interview was conducted on 25th October 2012 in the church campus at Narsipatnam, Kothakota to select the youth (boys) to be animators in the cluster villages. Eleven boys with intermediate qualification from tribal community were identified for further training. They underwent VRO training from 28th to 30th October 2012 in the Head office, Pedakakani, wherein Mr. Ravi Pradeep General body member, explained the Vision, Mission, Core Values and objectives of the VRO.

Summer spoken English Training:

Three separates camps on Spoken English were conducted in April 2012 at Head Office. Totally 42 volunteers attended the camps. The resource persons were Brother Jayaraj sj, Brother Velangini sj, Mr. B. Kantha Rao and Mr. B. Hanumanth Rao. Two Jesuit brothers conducted similar camp for a fortnight for 6th and 7th class children in Jaggampeta, Rajahmundry during summer holidays 2012. Forty children attended the camp with great enthusiasm and eagerness to learn.

Training in Mandal Development Office:

The five women organizers underwent an in-service training for a month in February 2013 in the MDO office, Pedakakani, Guntur. The purpose of this exposure was to enable them to have the first hand information on the Government Programs for the target communities.

Ongoing monitoring of the projects:

A 2 day monthly review meetings were held for the volunteers and the field coordinators in the respective Regions. The project coordinator along with a staff from the Head Office attended all the meetings and provided them the necessary input and training. On the second day, the volunteers submitted their monthly reports based on their records.

New Website

A new website has been launched in the Year 2013. The address is: http://www.vro-india.org/ the field coordinators and the personnel in the Head office are provided with email service for future communication.

Cluster Program

The cluster program was launched for better functioning and close monitoring of the Programs where people benefit the most. To achieve this purpose, a solid training for 3 weeks was organized by the CENDERET/XIMB to the animators of the cluster program. They were taken for the field exposure in Odisha where they could gain practical knowledge. They were also given training for a fortnight in the Head Office and VRO centers in Guntur region to imbibe the spirit and the values of VRO. Let us hope for a substantial change in the cluster villages.

Finances

There is improvement in the financial administration. At last we have overcome the excess expenditure over the income. It was decided along with the Treasurer to improve the Tally System for better financial management and documentation. There is a ray of hope that VRO can be established on solid foundation once again.

Local Resources mobilization

Education: More than 800 children stayed in VRO centers attending the Primary schools run by the Government of AP. They availed the benefits offered by the schools like mid-day meals, text-books and uniforms etc. This reduces the program cost to some extent.

Regarding health: the focus is on the referral services using the Primary Health centers and Government Hospitals to benefit the patients free of cost.

Appreciation: Mr. Nagaiah (Retired CEO), consultant to VRO for 9 years, passed away at the age of 78 on 25th March 2013. He contributed his valuable services till his last breath. May his soul Rest in Peace!

OVERVIEW 2013-2014

Our committed services continue:

- Towards building strong villages in the three operational States
- To Empower Humanity to Create Harmony and Peace, Ensure Environment and Ecology
- To Promote Cooperation among persons, organizations and Government

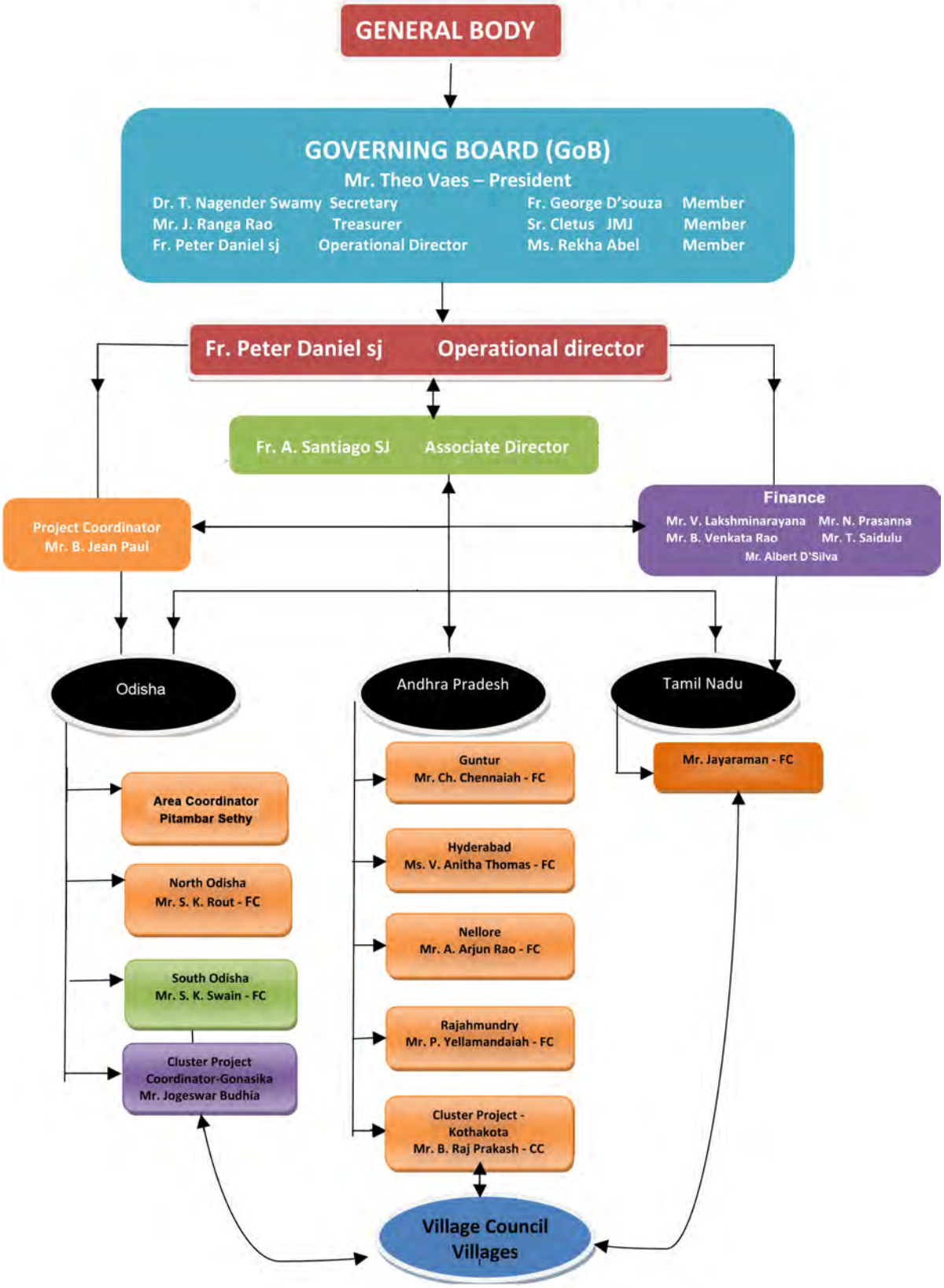
FOCUS ON

Andhra Pradesh	Rights based people centered approach Referral Services Empowerment of the Villages Empowerment of Women Entitlements
Odisha	Strengthening the programs in the remote areas Expansion through Cluster Approach
Tamil Nadu	Imparting Skills Supervised Study Referral Services

I wish to conclude the report expressing heartfelt thanks.

Fr. A. Santiago SJ
Associate director

Organogram


GENERAL BODY
GOVERNING BOARD (GoB)
Mr. Theo Vaes – President
Dr. T. Nagender Swamy Secretary
Mr. J. Ranga Rao Treasurer
Fr. Peter Daniel sj Operational Director
Fr. George D'souza Member
Sr. Cletus JMJ Member
Ms. Rekha Abel Member
Fr. Peter Daniel sj Operational director
Fr. A. Santiago SJ Associate Director
Project Coordinator
Mr. B. Jean Paul
Finance
Mr. V. Lakshminarayana Mr. N. Prasanna
Mr. B. Venkata Rao Mr. T. Saidulu
Mr. Albert D'Silva
Odisha
Andhra Pradesh
Tamil Nadu
Area Coordinator
Pitambar Sethy
North Odisha
Mr. S. K. Rout - FC
South Odisha
Mr. S. K. Swain - FC
Cluster Project
Coordinator-Gonasika
Mr. Jogeswar Budhia
Guntur
Mr. Ch. Chennaiah - FC
Hyderabad
Ms. V. Anitha Thomas - FC
Nellore
Mr. A. Arjun Rao - FC
Rajahmundry
Mr. P. Yellamandaiah - FC
Cluster Project -
Kothakota
Mr. B. Raj Prakash - CC
Mr. Jayaraman - FC
Village Council
Villages

Outreach of VRO

Villages Construction Projects Since Inception in 1969							
S.no	Region	Districts covered	Completed/ Inauguration	Families benefited	Ongoing (Old Villages)	Ongoing (new villages) since 2009	Families expected to be benefited
1	Odisha North	6	10	400	0	0	0
2	Odisha South	3	9	240	0	0	0
3	Hyderabad	6	113	5274	0	1	30
4	Rajahmundry	2	40	1560	0	0	0
5	Kothakota	2	20	950	0	0	0
6	Wardha / Rajasthan	4	7	247	0	0	0
7	Guntur	5	83	5112	0	1	38
8	Nellore	3	65	3496	0	0	0
9	Kadapa	1	28	1506	0	0	0
10	Tamil Nadu	11	40	1890	0	0	0
Total		**43**	**415**	**20675**	**0**	**2**	**68**

Village Reconstruction Organization (India)

Head Office

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