

BHAGABATI PATHAGAR

ANNUAL REPORT – 2023-24



Head Office: At- Dasapurusottampur, Po- Garchandpur, Dist- Puri, Odisha, 752105

Website: www.bhagabatipatagar.org

Email: bhagabatipathagar@gmail.com

Mob: +91 9040236024 & +91 9938496745

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INTRODUCTION :-

Message from the President.....

Dear Friends and Supporters,

We are proud to present the Annual Report for 2023–24. This year has reaffirmed our commitment to uplifting marginalized communities in Odisha, especially in Puri district.

From health and education to women's empowerment, sustainable agriculture, and resource management, our grassroots initiatives have grown in impact and reach—building resilience and self-reliance among the people we serve.

These achievements were made possible by the unwavering support of our donors, the dedication of our team, and the trust of the communities. This report is not just a summary of milestones but a celebration of collective progress.

As we look ahead, our focus remains on inclusive and sustainable development. Thank you for standing with us—your support fuels our mission every day.

With warm regards,

Ashok Kumar Dash

President, Bhagabati Pathagar

ABOUT US :-

Bhagabati Pathagar is a community-rooted organization committed to fostering inclusive development across rural Odisha. Our focus lies in transforming the lives of marginalized communities—particularly in Puri and Bolangir districts—through a holistic approach that integrates health, education, livelihood, and social empowerment.

Since our establishment, we have worked hand-in-hand with grassroots communities, building pathways for dignity, opportunity, and sustainable growth. Through collaboration, innovation, and compassion, we aim to create long-lasting impact where it's needed most.

Our Vision –

To create a just and equitable society by empowering rural communities through inclusive and holistic development in the areas of healthcare, education, and livelihood. We envision a future where every individual, regardless of their background, has the opportunity to live with dignity and self-respect.

Our Mission –

Our mission is to promote self-reliance and resilience among marginalized groups by raising awareness, building capacities, and encouraging sustainable and participatory practices. We strive to empower individuals—particularly women, children, and farmers—to become agents of change within their communities.

Our Core Values –

At the heart of our work are values that guide our every action and decision:

- ❖ **Community Participation:** We believe that sustainable development is only possible when the community takes ownership of the process. We ensure all voices are heard and included in decision-making.
- ❖ **Gender Equality:** We are committed to creating equal opportunities for women and men, and we actively promote gender-sensitive approaches in all our programs.

- ❖ **Education for All:** Education is the cornerstone of empowerment. We promote lifelong learning opportunities, especially for children, youth, and women from disadvantaged backgrounds.
- ❖ **Women Empowerment:** We champion the rights, voices, and leadership of women—supporting them to overcome social barriers and become pillars of strength in their families and communities.
- ❖ **Uplifting the Youth:** We invest in young people as change-makers, equipping them with skills, mentorship, and platforms to lead, innovate, and drive progress.
- ❖ **Friend of the Poor:** We stand in solidarity with the most vulnerable, striving to eliminate poverty and injustice through compassion-driven, inclusive action.
- ❖ **Environmental Sustainability:** Protecting natural resources is central to our vision. Our initiatives emphasize ecological balance, climate resilience, and responsible stewardship of the environment.
- ❖ **Transparency and Accountability:** We maintain high standards of integrity and openness in our operations, ensuring that resources are used effectively and impactfully.

Operational Areas -

- ❖ Puri District, Odisha

Social and Cultural Engagement: -

1. Sports and Cultural Programs

To foster community spirit and celebrate indigenous heritage, 10 sports meets and 6 cultural events were held across rural and tribal areas of Puri. Traditional games like kabaddi were revived, and cultural activities such as folk dances, drawing competitions, and storytelling rooted in tribal traditions were promoted. Over 850 children and youth participated, gaining exposure to teamwork, discipline, and cultural pride in a safe, inclusive environment.



2. Celebration of National Days

Eleven community events marked key occasions including Republic Day, Independence Day, Gandhi Jayanti, and International Women's Day. Activities like rallies, patriotic songs, and flag-hoisting ceremonies engaged more than 1,500 community members, fostering civic awareness, unity, and national pride.



3. Youth Club Formation and Awareness

Three youth clubs were established in Puri district to empower young people as community change-makers. Through awareness drives on substance abuse, hygiene, and volunteerism, over 150 youth are now actively involved in social initiatives, promoting positive behavioural change within their communities.



Women Empowerment and Inclusive Development: -

4. Women Empowerment Programs

Six workshops were organized in Puri to equip women with essential knowledge and skills for social and economic advancement. Covering gender rights, financial literacy, legal aid, leadership, and access to welfare schemes, the sessions reached over 320 women. Many participants have since joined Self-Help Groups (SHGs) and taken on leadership roles in community spaces, supported by continued mentoring and participatory learning.



5. Promotion and Formation of ESHGs

Ten elderly Self-Help Groups (ESHGs) were newly formed or revitalized with targeted training on savings, credit practices, entrepreneurship, and collective marketing. These efforts benefitted 120 elderly women, fostering stronger economic resilience and social solidarity within the groups.



6. Campaigns for Disability Inclusion

Four community drives were held to promote the inclusion of persons with disabilities (PWDs). Through support from volunteers and coordination with the



social welfare department, 30 individuals received disability certification and access to assistive aids and welfare entitlements, advancing rights and dignity for the differently-abled.

7. Senior Citizen Rehabilitation Awareness

Two outreach programs were conducted to sensitize communities and stakeholders about the needs of senior citizens. Over 80 elderly participants attended discussions on elder care services, old-age pension schemes, and social security measures. The sessions also helped families understand the importance of emotional support and inclusion for senior citizens in rural households.



Health, Wellness, and Sanitation: -

8. Physiotherapy and Wellness Services

Access to rehabilitative healthcare in rural areas remains limited. In response, physiotherapy services were extended to over 60 persons, predominantly elderly individuals and PWDs, through regular health camps and home-based sessions. These were complemented by wellness initiatives such as yoga and naturopathy camps in three villages. The holistic health approach reached 200 community members, promoting physical well-being and stress management.

9. Water and Sanitation Awareness Programs

To improve hygiene and reduce disease burdens, five awareness sessions were conducted on water safety, sanitation, and hand hygiene practices. Demonstrations using visual aids, group discussions, and handwashing drills were held in schools and community centres, reaching over 700 individuals, including schoolchildren and homemakers. The initiative led to increased adoption of hygienic behaviours and demand for safe sanitation facilities.



10. Disaster Risk Management Training

Six disaster preparedness programs were conducted in flood- and cyclone-prone villages. These included practical mock drills, awareness talks, and the formation of local emergency response teams. Around 180 participants, including SHG women and village youth, were trained in early warning mechanisms, basic first aid, and evacuation protocols. The initiative has enhanced community resilience and readiness for climate-induced disasters.



Agriculture, Horticulture & Climate Action: -

11. Agriculture and Horticulture Training

In response to declining soil health and climate variability, six farmer training sessions were conducted on sustainable agricultural practices. Topics covered included organic farming techniques, seed treatment, integrated pest management, and multi-seasonal vegetable cultivation. A total of 180 farmers, including a significant number of women cultivators, gained hands-on knowledge to adopt eco-friendly practices and improve productivity.



12. Plantation and Nursery Raising

Environmental restoration efforts led to the plantation of over 1,000 saplings, including fruit-bearing, medicinal, and native tree species. Plantation sites included trench bunds, village common lands, and school campuses. Students, SHG members, and village volunteers participated in planting and upkeep activities. Additionally, two community nurseries were developed, producing more than 2,000 seedlings. These nurseries have become centres of learning and future green enterprise.



13. Climate Change Awareness Campaigns

To build climate literacy, four interactive sessions were held on the impact of changing weather patterns on agriculture, water availability, and rural livelihoods. Low-carbon farming practices, water conservation, and mitigation strategies were shared with over 300 farmers and youth. These campaigns have sparked dialogue and action around climate adaptation in vulnerable regions.

Awareness and Capacity Building: -

14. Consumer Awareness Programs

Six campaigns were undertaken to educate rural citizens on consumer rights, fraudulent practices, and available grievance redressal mechanisms. Street plays, posters, and Q&A sessions were utilized for effective outreach. The initiative reached over 850 villagers, empowering them to make informed decisions and assert their rights as consumers.



Future Plan: 2024–25

1. Strengthening Livelihoods and Women's Empowerment

- Expand the formation and mentoring of Self-Help Groups (SHGs), with targeted training on digital financial literacy, value addition, and enterprise development.
- Facilitate market linkages for rural women entrepreneurs to enhance income-generation activities.

2. Youth and Child Development

- Form more youth clubs and leadership circles to promote community service, skill-building, and civic participation.
- Organize life-skills workshops and career guidance programs for adolescents, especially in remote villages.

3. Inclusive Development and Social Justice

- Intensify campaigns for disability inclusion, ensuring greater access to welfare schemes and assistive technologies.
- Conduct community awareness drives on elderly care, gender equity, and mental health.

4. Education and Digital Literacy

- Launch community-based digital literacy centres to bridge the technology gap in rural areas.
- Enhance support for school-going children through after-school learning support, storytelling sessions, and activity-based learning.

5. Natural Resource Management and Climate Resilience

- Promote climate-smart agriculture practices and low-cost water conservation models to build environmental resilience.
- Initiate plantation drives and eco-awareness programs in schools and villages.

6. Partnership and Capacity Building

- Strengthen collaborations with government departments, local institutions, and civil society groups to scale our interventions.
- Invest in capacity building of staff and volunteers to ensure quality and impact in all field activities.

Our Vision for 2024–25 is to empower more lives through sustainable, inclusive, and participatory development. With continued support from our partners and communities, we are confident in building a future where dignity, opportunity, and justice reach every corner of rural Odisha.

-:Acknowledgements:-

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the community members, field staff, local authorities, and partner organizations who have stood beside us throughout this journey. Your unwavering support, trust, and collaboration have been the cornerstone of our progress.

Your commitment continues to inspire us—to dream bigger, to work harder, and to pursue our shared vision of inclusive and sustainable development across rural Odisha. Together, we have built more than programs; we have built hope, resilience, and lasting change.


We look forward to your continued partnership in the years ahead.

Contact Us

Bhagabati Pathagar

Puri, Odisha

 **Email:** bhagabatipathagar@gmail.com

 **Phone:** +91 9040236024 / +91 9938496745

Together, we build empowered and sustainable communities.