



## Monthly Letter March-April 2011

They help us make a difference!



Elective Surgery Camp in Odisha

A team of highly qualified surgeons with specialties ranging from plastic surgery to gynecology to anesthesia have participated in 4 day elective surgery camp in Nabarangpur, Odisha. It was a unique camp with local IMA chapter and hospitals working hand in hand correcting deformities and ailments unique to tribal poor.

Synergy with Indian Medical Association, Koraput and local Christian Medical Hospital, Nabarangpur made the camp a unique event



Visiting Medical Team with local IMA and Christian Hospital doctors

US plastic surgeons handling a tribal patient with abnormalities: Doctors who have travelled all across continents to reach them and help us give hope to patients like Bhano who have to live with the cursory tumors and lesions for life, hampering their livelihoods and health. Additional benefit was the work shop on “Extended Medical Education” to local medical community in Jeypore wherein latest developments in relative medical fields were presented. Based on this pilot camp we plan to institutionalize the medical service exchange program bringing succor to more and more needy tribal poor.



Surgery in progress on an adolescent tribal girl for her deformities on eye lid; the girl went back with a confident look





## Tribal Technology of “Mud and Wood”



ARTI: Appropriate Rural Technology Institute; Phaltan; Maharashtra

*Tribal livelihoods are tempered with local and appropriate wisdom passed on to generations. They preserve fruits and vegetables after drying for consumption during summer. ARTI has developed this simple Bamboo Pyramid drier that can be made with local bamboo. We are widely propagating the device that costs less than Rs.10 (25 cents). It helps natural drying preventing aflatoxin contamination. Our endeavor is that all partner families have at least one each. Recently our Field Team underwent a practical course on Tribal Friendly Appropriate Technologies in ARTI, Phaltan, and Maharashtra to adapt smokeless chulas, fuel briquetting and low cost nurseries*

## SKS Team Participates in Paris Global Graduation Meeting: March 22<sup>nd</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> 2011

The event was watershed in the Global Net Work initiative of Graduation Pilots. 10 Pilots in 8 Nations including India, Haiti, Yemen, Honduras, Ethiopia, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Ghana and Peru had their representatives share a common platform under the auspices of CGAP, BRAC Development Institution and Ford Foundation. SKS was represented by its two senior functionaries. The 10 nations put together share chunk of global burden of ultra poverty (population living below 1.25US\$ a day). Global Net Work program has joined the mission of MDG (Millennium Development Goals) UN to which all UN member Nations have avowedly committed.



The meeting is eloquent testimony to the determination of 10 Pilots in 8 nations against geographical bandwidth of extreme poverty and chronic hungry. It promotes a measured global harmony of **hungry lessworld** through proven demonstrations holding graduation ladders to existing government safety nets.

SKS is one of the advanced pilots amongst the 8 Nation and 10 Pilots initiative with program components like Food security, micro savings, health grassroots workers, livelihoods promotions, financial literacy, capacity

building and state service provider linkages. So far SKS has covered nearly 2700 ultra poor families in Odisha and AP states with full time dedicated team on Ultra Poverty proofing.

## Dalima Nayak climbs the Graduation Ladder



This time Dalima need not share half of her harvest towards interest servicing to **Double Company** a money lender rogue entity that charges 100% for harvest period

Ultra Poor Graduation Program rests on 5 pillars viz.

- Targeting the ultra Poor;
- Food allowance
- Livelihoods
- Skills Training
- Savings

Bolliguda is a small tribal habitation where SKS Ultra Poor Center has been in function for the past 12 months. It is a remote habitation not in the ambit of formal state service providers like schools, hospitals or Banks. Bolliguda Ultra Poor Center got

Mutated into a SHG as per government guidelines, qualifying for Bank Linkage

Program. The new SHG was named as **“Maa Thakurani”** Self Help Group and got Rs.20, 000 (500 US\$) as first step Bank Loan at 11.75% interest rate from SBI, Boipariguda branch. Out of 18 members, first cycle of loan went to 9 members including Dalima who has taken up Peanuts crop in micro land of 1/10<sup>th</sup> of a Hectare. She is a divorcee and heads the family and normally borrows from local **“Double Company”**, a rogue micro finance entity that charges equivalent of principle borrowal money as interest for one crop season. Now she is not in the caprice of Double Company. Assured of Rs.5000 (120 US\$) income from the crop and can retain lion's share of her earnings to reinvest in next cycle of livelihoods. She has all indicators in her favor to be called **“Graduate”**.

- Food buffer for next 30 days through Rice Bank in her ultra Poor Center
- Own Savings of Rs.800 in the Ultra Poor Center
- More than one source of income in addition to wage labor through her micro land growing peanuts
- Awareness about health and social issues, thanks to her Ultra Poor Center weekly meetings and trainings.
- Bank or government linkage through SHG which is mutated from the existing Ultra Poor center

Maa Thakurani SHG is eligible for government subsidy under SGSY (Swarna Jayanti Grameen Swarojgar Yojana), a central sponsored scheme that subsidizes 33% of loan as interest free grant during II phase of Bank Linkage Program. Incidentally it is the first time that anybody in the village got a savings account leave alone a loan. It is quantum leap in the “Financial Inclusion Exercise” put forth by NABARD and Public sector Banks.”

Safety nets, livelihoods and micro loans are sequenced promoting a measured growth and no surprise as Dalima exclaims it is **“a life changing transition!”**