

DARBAR SAHITYA SANSADA

ANNUAL REPORT 2023-2024

Empowering Communities for Resilience and Prosperity

DSS

Sodhua, Balipatana, Odisha
April 2025

About DSS

The history of Darbar Sahitya Sansada (DSS) traces back to the early 1990s, rooted in the experiences of a group of teenage boys who gathered at a rural library in Nischintapur village, Odisha. There, they immersed themselves in books and magazines, engaging in lively discussions about literature and its potential to inspire change. However, their focus shifted when two consecutive floods ravaged the region in 1980 and 1982, leaving devastation in their wake. Unable to stand idly by, these young individuals stepped up, assisting government efforts to evacuate residents and distribute relief supplies. This initial foray into social work ignited a collective resolve to create a unified platform—a society—that would empower them to channel their energy into youth-led initiatives and community development.

In 1982, this vision took shape with the founding of Darbar Sahitya Sansada (DSS), meaning "People's Court for Social Justice." Established by these passionate, literary-minded youths, DSS emerged as a dynamic organization committed to promoting social good and harnessing the potential of young people in Nischintapur. What began as a response to crisis has since grown into a lasting legacy of service and empowerment.

Vision

DSS envisions self-sufficient and self-managed villages in Odisha where individuals live in peace and harmony, free from discrimination and injustice, upholding self-dignity and community well-being.

Mission

DSS works to empower marginalized communities by building their confidence and capacity for socio-economic and political development. The organization focuses on geographically vulnerable communities and socially disadvantaged groups, including women, adolescent girls and boys, Scheduled Castes, artisans, landless and migrant laborers, and marginal farmers.

Area of Operation

DSS operates across 300 villages in 9 districts of Odisha: Puri, Khurda, Balasore, Kandhamal, Dhenkanal, Mayurbhanj, Bhadrak, Jajpur, and Kendrapara.

Legal Status

Registered under the **" Societies Registration Act of 1860 "- No - 719 1279 of 1984 - 85**
Registered under **"Foreign Contribution Regulation Act of 1976**, Ministry of Home Affairs, Govt. of India - **No - 105020062**
It is also registered under **section 12 (A) and 80 G of Income Tax Act of 1961**
It is registered under **NITI Ayog Unique ID - OR/2016/0103762**
It is registered with Guide Star India - **GSN 9040**
It is Gold rated by CPA services

Board Members

Sl. No	Name	Occupation	Designation
1	Dr Adwaitakumar Patra	Agriculture Consultant	President
2	Subash Chandra Nayak	Advocate	Vice-President
3	Kedareswar Chaudhury	Development Social Worker	Secretary
4	Rajanikant Mohanty	Development Social Worker	Asst.Secretary
5	Dr. (Ms)Srita Bhol	Educationist and Craft Professional	Member
6	Mohan kumar Baliarsingh	Development Consultant	Member
7	Smt. Menaka Pradhan	Women Development Activist	Member
8	Smt. Laxmipriya Sahoo	Women Development Activist	Member
9	Dr (Ms) Anusuya Dash	Asst.Proffesor/Physician	Member
10	Ritanjali Bhoi	Women Development Activist	Member
11	Labangalata Mallick	Women Development Activist	Member



Activities during the Year 2023-2024

DSS (Darbar Sahitya Sansada) remains steadfast in its mission to foster sustainable development and empower marginalized communities. The year 2023-24 witnessed significant progress across various impactful programs, reflecting our commitment to inclusive growth and resilient livelihoods. This report highlights key initiatives implemented with the support of our esteemed partners.



1. Sustainable Agriculture and Livelihoods

1.1. Programme Strengthening Initiative

DSS, with support from Dasra, implemented the Programme Strengthening initiative across Khordha and Puri districts during the reporting period. The initiative aimed at enhancing organic farming practices through training sessions on organic farming techniques, exposure visits to successful organic farming models, and continuous monitoring to ensure effective implementation.

The program covered four villages each in Nimapara Block (Puri) and Balipatna Block (Khordha), directly benefiting 100 women vegetable growers. Participants received practical, hands-on training and had the opportunity to visit established organic farming models, fostering both learning and inspiration.

The initiative yielded significant outcomes, including the increased adoption of organic farming practices among women farmers. Additionally, it strengthened DSS's operational capacity by promoting strategic planning and facilitating the recruitment of new program staff.

Overall, this initiative not only empowered women farmers with sustainable agricultural practices but also bolstered DSS's internal capacity to drive long-term program success.



1.2. Organic Farming Development

DSS, funded by GGF, implemented Organic Farming Development activities in 10 villages across Nimapara Block (Puri) and Balipatna Block (Khordha) during the reporting period. The program aimed to promote sustainable agricultural practices and empower women farmers through organic farming techniques.

The initiative engaged 300 women farmers and provided essential resources, including pesticide unit distribution, seed mini kits, and the establishment of 10 vermicompost pits, 10 zero-energy cool chambers, and 6 wall paintings promoting organic farming awareness.

Capacity-building efforts featured five training sessions on organic farming, five sessions on soil testing and crop planning, and one exposure visit to Nariso. These activities equipped

women farmers with practical knowledge, fostering confidence and skill development in organic agriculture.



The program yielded significant results by successfully encouraging organic vegetable cultivation in all 10 villages. The combined approach of resource support, training, and community outreach strengthened the adoption of sustainable farming practices.

This initiative not only enhanced agricultural productivity but also empowered women farmers by boosting their technical skills and reinforcing the importance of organic methods, contributing to long-term environmental and economic sustainability.

1.3. Agriculture Management Service

DSS, in partnership with Shivia, implemented the Agriculture Management Service program in Dhenkanal district, focusing on 37 villages across 4 Gram Panchayats in Kankadahada Block during the reporting period. The program aimed at empowering tribal women through sustainable agricultural practices and livelihood enhancement.



Key activities included organizing four training sessions and one exposure visit to Nayagarh and Kolkata for staff and progressive women beneficiaries. These sessions provided practical knowledge on advanced farming techniques and encouraged cross-learning experiences.

The program's core interventions involved the distribution of vegetable seeds for kitchen gardens, supporting commercial vegetable cultivation for 50 women, and introducing the System of Rice Intensification (SRI) method for paddy cultivation to 50 beneficiaries.

The initiative yielded significant outcomes. It trained 400 tribal women in vegetable farming and vermicomposting, equipping them with skills to improve agricultural productivity. As a result, 200 women experienced increased incomes through enhanced farming practices. Furthermore, 50 women adopted commercial vegetable cultivation and SRI methods for paddy farming, boosting their capacity to engage in sustainable agriculture.

This initiative not only boosted agricultural productivity but also enhanced income-generating opportunities and strengthened the capacity of tribal women in sustainable farming, fostering long-term community resilience.

2. Livestock Development



2.1. Poultry Development Service

DSS, in collaboration with Shivia, organized five training sessions and one exposure visit for staff and progressive women beneficiaries in Dhenkanal district, targeting the Juang tribal community across 37 villages in Kankadahada Block during the reporting period.

The program provided essential support for poultry farming, including the distribution of poultry chicks, feed, and vaccination services. Beneficiaries participated in training sessions and exposure visits to Nayagarh and Kolkata, gaining practical knowledge and firsthand experience in effective poultry farming techniques. DSS staff ensured regular follow-ups to monitor progress and address challenges.

The initiative yielded significant outcomes. It directly benefited 400 tribal women by enhancing their knowledge and skills in poultry farming. As a result, 200 women experienced increased income through poultry farming activities, while 300 women acquired essential poultry farming skills to sustain their livelihoods.

This initiative not only enhanced income-generating opportunities for the Juang tribal women but also strengthened their capacity in sustainable poultry farming practices, contributing to long-term community empowerment and resilience.

3. Aquaculture Development



3.1. Sustainable Aquaculture Model

In collaboration with GIZ, DSS implemented a Sustainable Aquaculture Model across 5 coastal districts of Odisha — Khordha, Puri, Jajpur, Bhadrak, and Kendrapara — covering 12

blocks during the reporting period. The program focused on enhancing aquaculture practices by building local capacities and promoting sustainable methods.

Key activities included 48 CRP trainer sessions in Odisha and Assam, 240 CRP training sessions in Bhubaneswar and field locations, and a 7-day residential training for 120 FPO board members. Additionally, the program conducted 30 days of CRP training for 240 participants, an exposure visit to CIFA for 119 CRPs, and a 3-day residential out-state visit covering 12 blocks.

The program directly benefited 3600 fish farmers (559 women and 3041 men), providing essential resources such as EM field trial materials, water testing kits, and farmer record books to strengthen aquaculture practices.

A major outcome of the initiative was the creation of 277 Community Resource Persons (CRPs) and 48 certified CRP trainers. Significantly, 90% of aquaculture producers adopted Good Aquaculture Practices (GAP), improving their understanding of water quality management, pH values, and fish seed release processes.

This initiative not only enhanced sustainable fish farming but also empowered fish farmers by equipping them with technical knowledge and tools. It fostered a community-driven approach to aquaculture, ensuring long-term environmental sustainability and economic growth.

4. Women Empowerment and Gender Justice

4.1. Combatting Violence Against Women

DSS, with support from Karuna-D-Maitri Network, conducted a 16-day campaign in Khordha district during the reporting period, focusing on Balipatna Block and Bhubaneswar slum areas. The campaign aimed to combat violence against women by raising awareness about sexual and gender-based violence and promoting community action.

The campaign engaged 500 participants, including SHG members, federation members, Anganwadi workers, adolescents, and youth. A series of impactful activities were organized, such as masculinity training for boys, community fairs, and the formation of 5 adolescent girls' groups, 3 adolescent boys' groups, and 5 women's groups. Additionally, paralegal volunteers were identified to provide support to victims of violence.

The initiative yielded significant outcomes. 18 victims received direct support through counseling and legal aid. Furthermore, 40% of women and girls gained crucial knowledge about gender-based violence and their rights. The campaign also strengthened community engagement by forming focused groups for adolescents and women, creating a supportive network.

This initiative not only raised awareness about gender-based violence but also empowered women and youth by fostering safe spaces for dialogue and support. It contributed to a stronger and more informed community, encouraging collective action against violence.



5. Skill Development and Youth Empowerment

5.1. Smart Skill Program

DSS partnered with Tech Mahindra Foundation to implement the Smart Skill Program in Bhubaneswar, Khordha district during the reporting period. The program aimed at skill

development and job placement for slum students, focusing on empowering youth through vocational training.

Two batches of training were conducted, benefiting 40 students (22 females and 18 males). The training provided participants with comprehensive skills in various trades, along with career counseling and employment support.

The program achieved 100% job placement, with all 40 students securing employment by the end of the training. This initiative not only enhanced youth employability but also strengthened their economic resilience by opening new avenues for sustainable livelihoods.

5.2. Training on Terracotta Craft

Under NABARD's Micro Enterprises Development Programme, DSS facilitated a 15-day training program in Badalapaschimakhanda Village, Balipatna Block, Khordha district during the reporting period.



The training focused on design, skill development, and marketing of terracotta crafts for 30 women artisans. Participants learned innovative design techniques, improved their craftsmanship, and received guidance on market linkages to boost their livelihoods.

The initiative empowered women artisans by enhancing their creative skills and providing the tools needed to expand their market presence and increase their incomes.

6. Sustainable Livelihood Promotion

6.1. GRLTP

Funded by NABARD, DSS organized a one-day training session on sustainable livelihoods for 50 women FPO members in Khordha district during 2023-24.

The training focused on enhancing participants' awareness of government and NABARD schemes, equipping them with the necessary knowledge to develop sustainable livelihood strategies.

As a result, participants gained practical insights into accessing support systems and strengthening their economic opportunities. This initiative reinforced DSS's commitment to empowering women farmers and promoting inclusive rural development.



7. Contributing donors of the year

- Dasra
- Shivia

- Karuna-D-Maitri Network
- GGF
- GIZ
- Tech Mahindra Foundation
- NABARD

8. Plan for coming year

Under the theme "Empowering Communities for Resilience and Prosperity," DSS aims to expand its reach from 200 to 250 villages across eight districts—Puri, Khordha, Kandhamal, Mayurbhanj, Dhenkanal, Kendrapara, Bhadrak, and Jajpur—while exploring opportunities in one additional district. We will also work in Nuapada district during 2024-2025 to broaden our impact. The focus will be on strengthening sustainable livelihoods through enhanced agricultural practices, livestock, aquaculture, and craft-based initiatives, prioritizing women, Scheduled Castes, and Scheduled Tribes. Organic farming will extend to 20 more villages, supported by training and resources with partners like Global Green Grants Fund and Madhyam Foundation, alongside nurturing existing Farmer Producer Organizations and establishing new ones with NABARD's support. Women's empowerment will deepen through enterprise promotion, skill-building, and expanded efforts to combat gender-based violence across six blocks with Karuna-Maitree. Climate resilience will be bolstered by developing disaster management plans in additional villages with OSDMA and introducing climate education in communities and schools. Vocational training for youth and women will broaden employability, partnering with Tech Mahindra and Usha Silai, while support for vulnerable groups—children, the elderly, and persons with disabilities—will grow through education, care, and welfare programs. Organizational capacity will strengthen through staff training and digital tools, ensuring sustainable growth across Odisha in the coming year.

9. What they say about DSS

- "DSS is doing wonderful work across Odisha. I wish them outstanding success." ***— Abhisek Bhattacharjee, Tata Steel, Kolkata***
- "Thank you for inspiring us with your impactful work. With your inspiration, I am confident INDCA will shine bright. I look forward to partnering with you." ***— Gokul Ranganathan, Tata Steel***
- "I'm delighted to see this grassroots organization making a significant contribution to livelihood creation in Odisha. Best of luck." ***— Manas Pati, Axis Bank***

- "It was wonderful working with Mr. Choudhury on natural farming and landscape transformation. I look forward to collaborating with DSS."
  — Pramel Gupta, NCNF
- "DSS is an excellent organization in grassroots development. Their efforts with women farmers are deeply encouraging, fostering strong community connections."
  — Dr. M.D. Emran Ali, NCNF
- "The project has been successfully implemented and looks impressive. We hope DSS continues its good work to transform communities. I look forward to ongoing collaboration."
  — Lincy Paravanethu, Engagement Global



10. DSS Balance Sheet

DARBAR SAHITYA SANSADA (DSS)

REGD. OFFICE : ARAPADA, DALAKASOTI, BALIPATNA, KHURDA, ODISHA
ADMN. OFFICE : SODHUA, DALAKASOTI, BALIPATNA, KHURDA, ODISHA, INDIA

BALANCE SHEET AS ON 31ST MARCH 2024

LIABILITIES		AMOUNT (Rs)	ASSETS		AMOUNT (Rs)
CAPITAL FUND			**FIXED ASSETS**		
As per last Balance Sheet	15,44,439.40		(As per Schedule -III)		45,28,505.45
Less : Excess of Expenditure over Income during the year	48,291.12	14,96,148.28			
TEMPORARY RESTRICTED FUND					
Unspent Grant (As per Schedule - I)		2,44,546.62			
DEPRECIATION FUND					
As per last Balnce Sheet	29,79,015.00				
Provision durin the year	2,93,484.00	32,72,499.00	**CURRENT ASSETS**		
			LOANS & ADVANCES		
LOAN LOSS RESERVE			Grant-in-aid Receivable	28,21,138.00	
(Provision for Doubtful Debt)		1,04,584.00	SHGs Loan (As per Schedule - IV)	12,96,799.00	
INTEREST FREE HAND LOAN		13,56,425.00	Others (As per Schedule - V)	23,714.00	
			Program Advance	32,000.00	
CURRENT LIABILITIES AND PROVISION			Closing Cash & Bank Balance (As per Schedule - VI)	7,58,977.45	49,32,628.45
Audit Fees	1,27,100.00				
Expenses Payable (As per Schedule - II)	28,59,831.00	29,86,931.00			
		94,61,133.90			94,61,133.90

The above Balance Sheet, to the best of my/our belidf contains a true account of the fund and liabilities and properties and assets of the Organisation as on 31.03.2024.

Kedareswar Choudhury
Secretary
Secretary
Darbar Sahitya Sansada
Arapada, Khurda

As per our separate report of even date.

Sanjeeb Kumar & Associates
BHUBANESWAR
Chartered Accountants

CA. Sanjeeb K. Mohanty,
Partner
UDIN 24054142BKEDXZ5678
Date.28/09/2024



DSS

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