

Evaluation of Household Economic and Social Security (HESS) in South India Program (Orissa)

Study Team

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Acronyms

BAIF	Bharatiya Agro Industries Foundation
BPL	Below Poverty Line
CDA	Chilika Development Authority
CB	Capacity Building
CBO	Community Based Organization
CCCD	Child Centered Community Development
CHFS	Community Health Financing Scheme
CPR	Common property resources
CYSD	Center for Youth and Social Development
DFID	Department for International Development
DRDA	District Rural Development Authority
DTP	Desk Top Publishing
DW	Drinking Water
ECCD	Early Childhood Care and Development
ERP	External Resource Person
FD	Fixed Deposit at Bank
HESS	Household Economic and Social Security
HH	Household
HIV/AIDS	Human Immuno Virus/Acquired Immuno Deficiency Syndrome
IGA	Income Generation Activities
ITI	Industrial Training Institutes of India
Job Card	Identity card for families to avail the benefit from NREGS
JFM	Joint Forest Management Group
KVK	Krishi Vigyan Kendra
MHI	Micro Health insurance
MIS	Management Information System
NRM	Natural resource management / development
NREGS	National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme
PCG	Plan Core Group for HESS
PREM	People's Rural Education Movement
PRHSS	People's Rural Health Service Scheme
PU	Program Unit (Operational area of Plan)
SRI	Specific Rice Intensification
SHG	Self Help Group
UMSB	Utkal Mahila Sanchay Bikas (Federation of SHGs)
UNCRC	United Nation Convention on the Rights of the Child
VC	Village Committee
VT	Vocational Training
WES	Water and Environmental Sanitation

PART – I

Overview of the Study and Summary of Findings & Recommendations

1 Backdrop of the Study

1.1. Children's Development, Poverty and importance of Household Economic and Social Security (HESS):

Childhood is a significant stage of life and deprivation during this period can have long-term adverse impacts on the wellbeing of children. Deprived children lack access to human development opportunities and face serious constraints in their development, partly because their families and communities have a limited ability to protect and nurture them. This deprivation constitutes childhood poverty¹. Childhood poverty is, therefore, a crucial area of concern because of its role in jeopardizing the rights and wellbeing of children and because it may lead them to a life-time poverty.

Allowing childhood poverty to persist, affects the health, wellbeing and productivity of the society as a whole. Family poverty is often passed on to children through poor diet and inadequate time to mature. Unlike adults, children cannot necessarily overcome the effects of poverty, even short periods of which can have long-term effects. Childhood struggling against hunger, humiliation and violence often leads to adulthood spent in similar patterns of survival². Children who have a 'healthy' start in life are at less risk of being poor as adults, and of initiating another cycle of poverty with their own children. According to the 2001 Census of India, the population of children below 18 years is estimated to be around 400 million. While the infant mortality rate is 43 and the Under 5 mortality rate is 52 for children in households with a high standard of living, the corresponding rates for children in households with a low standard of living are more than twice as high as, 89 and 130 respectively. The national infant mortality rate is 70.

India accounts for the majority of the poor in South Asia, with 260.2 million people living in poverty (1999/2000³). However, the data presented by Government of India varies from other sources. As per the world development indicator report 2005, 34.7 % Indians are living below poverty line (less than \$ 1 a day) which is around 356 million. Also, the world development indicator report 2005, states that 79.9 % of people live with the average earning of \$ 2 per day in India. Poverty in India is associated with limited access to productive assets, skills, capabilities and infrastructure, which prevents poor people from being benefited by economic growth. As per the World Bank report, per capita gross domestic product in India is 613 US\$. The human development report 2004 says that 21% Indian population is malnourished. A key characteristic of poverty in India is the great diversity in the level of deprivation and social development across the states.

Poverty is dynamic, complex, institutionally embedded, gender and location-specific. Although poverty is rarely about the lack of only one thing, the bottom line is always hunger. Poverty has important psychological dimensions, such as powerlessness, voicelessness, dependency, shame, and humiliation. In India, certain groups, especially the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes (this includes all such castes or tribes, which have been declared as scheduled castes and scheduled tribes by the Constitution of India under the provisions of Article 341 and 342 of the

¹ Harper and Marcus, 1999

² Narayan and Petesch, 2002

³ Gol, Planning Commission, 2001

Constitution of India.), are more vulnerable to deprivation, insecurity and marginalization because of their specific circumstances. Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes have been identified as the two most backward groups of Indian Society. The 'scheduled castes' correspond to the castes at the bottom of the hierarchical order of the Indian caste system and were subject to social exclusiveness in the form of 'untouchability' at Indian Independence (August 15, 1947), while the 'Scheduled tribes' correspond to the indigenous tribal population mainly residing in seclusion in hills and forests, more or less untouched by modern civilization and development in one form or other. Furthermore, the structural causes of social exclusion, such as continued high level of poverty of scheduled caste & schedule tribe's children, remain as significant constraints for fulfillment of children's rights. Social exclusion reflects the multiple and overlapping nature of the disadvantages experienced by certain groups and categories of the population, with social identity as the central axis of their exclusion.⁴ Individuals are most vulnerable when they have fewest personal capacities and material resources, but, none of these threatens their survival so long as they enjoy the protections afforded by membership of an inclusive group that co-operates productively and redistributes its product.⁵ Unfortunately, still mainstream of Indian society does not give enough protection and support to these disadvantaged groups to break the age old practice of social exclusion.

Scheduled Castes constitute about 16 percent of the total population of the country while Scheduled Tribes constitute about 8 percent of the total Indian population. Thus, together, these groups constitute nearly one fourth of the total population of the country. Poverty rates among scheduled caste and tribe households are significantly higher than the rest of the population - in 1993/1994 survey conducted by National Social Survey, the proportion of schedule caste and schedule tribe households below the poverty line were 49.0 and 49.5 % respectively, as compared to a poverty rate of 32.8 per cent for non-scheduled households. Beside all, the conditions of children belonging to schedule caste and schedule tribes are poorer across various indicators of education, health and nutrition. The Constitution of the country, promulgated in 1950, recognizes the scheduled castes and the scheduled tribes as the two most backward groups needing special protection. A number of provisions have been made in the Constitution with a view to abolish all forms of discrimination and put these groups at par with others. Specific provisions for the reservation in education & services in favor of the members of the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes have been made in the Constitution of India. But, India stands for a long way to go to bridge the gaps between mainstream society and socially excluded groups like schedule caste and schedule tribes.

In general, an individual can become marginalized and thus deprived of essential facilities as a result of various circumstantial and contextual situations that often arise from life cycle-related events. For example, various calamities like flood, drought, earthquake, war, communal riots, bring additional shocks at the household economy level. This gets worse in case of death of the bread winner of the family or infection by any chronic disease to any of the family members. Currently, these families do not access any social security to cope with these shocks. These situations eventually affect children as they are the most vulnerable members of these families. Beside these mishaps, majority of the poor families live with insecure source of livelihood.

⁴ As per Kabeer 3,

⁵ Jordan, 5

Majority of the poor communities depend on monsoon for irrigation and lack of which often results poor harvest. Families dependent on 'unorganized / informal sector' (daily wage worker, vendors, off-farm workers, livestock rearers etc) for livelihoods live with higher risk. Any form of economic stress / crisis pulls these families into vicious cycle of poverty. Further, such situations lead to childhood poverty and intergenerational transfer of poverty.

Poor people lack access to basic infrastructure - roads (particularly in rural areas) transportation, electricity and potable water. The unhygienic environment in which many poor people are forced to live can be fatal for children. While there is a widespread thirst for literacy, schooling receives little mention or mixed reviews. Poor health and illness are dreaded almost everywhere as a source of destitution. This is related to the high costs of quality healthcare as well as to income lost due to illnesses. It has been realized that the poor rarely speak of income, but focus instead on managing assets – physical, human, social, and environmental – as a way to cope with their vulnerability. While attitudes to children and experiences of childhood vary significantly, the lives of all children born into poverty can be exceptionally vulnerable because they face inequalities in access to crucial resources, leading to further exclusion and marginalization which may prolong to life time and pass on to next generations.

Therefore, it can be said that household poverty and livelihood strategies also contribute to childhood poverty and inter- generational transfer of poverty, particularly through children's missed opportunities, such as their access to education. For example, migration may interrupt schooling. Household poverty may also force children to work for wages and forego education and their other entitlements. Poor environmental conditions and frequent droughts also contribute to the transfer of poverty to future generations.

The review shows how inadequate educational opportunities and poor health conditions are partly responsible for poverty transfers. The inability to read and write among poor people in general and women and girls in particular makes it difficult to acquire new skills and access information and services. Women are less likely than men to diversify occupationally and thereby increase their earnings. The absence of positive changes in poor women's social position, and in their skills and education, often result in poverty being transmitted to their children.

Livelihoods are strongly determined by natural, human, social, physical and financial capitals and by the prevailing policy and institutional context. Distribution of, and access to, different capitals and institutional entitlements and processes are highly influenced by caste and social status. Assets owned by the household, employment status and fluctuations in their income and consumption are important indicators of the vulnerability of livelihoods, which often lead to poverty. Poor people are mainly dependent on casual wage labour, within and outside their community, for their livelihoods. However, the demand and wages for labour fluctuate seasonally⁶. Poor educational status, poor health, limited access to credit, and social exclusion further constrain the income-generating capacities of poor people. Although, government of India has initiated National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS) which ensures 100 days of employment to families under poverty line. This scheme has been piloted in few districts and

⁶ Bhargava and Sharma, 2002

government is planning to replicate the scheme in more poverty stricken districts. Most poor communities have had long histories of frustrating experiences with government programmes and tend to view new initiatives with suspicion⁷.

The term Livelihood has come to denote and combine different meanings. It is most commonly associated with the notion of income and economic returns. In recent years, greater understanding of the psycho-social complexities of survival and the decision-making processes of the poor has made the definition of livelihood systems more holistic and inclusive, as said above, five livelihood's assets or capitals natural, physical, human, social and financial play a crucial role in providing household economy & social security. For Plan, it is important to understand how such factors influence the quality of lives of the children and help households to ensure that children's needs and rights are met. Therefore, the study was planned to review the overall HESS programming in South India in order to improve its efficacy for children.

2. A Study on Household Economic and Social Security – Introduction:-

United Nation Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) recognizes that, in all of the countries in the world, there are children living in exceptionally difficult conditions and such children need special consideration. Also, UNCRC recognizes the importance of international co-operation for improving the living conditions of children in every country, particularly in the developing countries, taking due account of the importance of the traditions and cultural values of each person for the protection and harmonious development of the child. This also directs to ensure household economic security for the upbringing and development of the children (indicated in UNCRC's Article 27& 18⁸).

Plan International as a child rights based organization recognizes that HESS is required for proper upbringing and development of children. HESS is determined by the capacity of the household – irrespective of household belonging to any caste, class, creed or headed by women, disable etc. – to provide basic rights and needs of the children (e.g. food, shelter, health care, education, clothing, emotional well-being etc.) and maintain the stability of the household economy even during economic stress. Broadly, HESS has five components; it includes (a) economic

⁷ Farrington, 2001

⁸ **Article 27:** (1). States Parties recognize the right of every child to a standard of living adequate for the child's physical, mental, spiritual, moral and social development. (2) The parent(s) or others responsible for the child have the primary responsibility to secure, within their abilities and financial capacities, the conditions of living necessary for the child's development. (3) States Parties, in accordance with national conditions and within their means, shall take appropriate measures to assist parents and others responsible for the child to implement this right and shall in case of need provide material assistance and support programmes, particularly with regard to nutrition, clothing and housing. (4) States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to secure the recovery of maintenance for the child from the parents or other persons having financial responsibility for the child, both within the State Party and from abroad. In particular, where the person having financial responsibility for the child lives in a State different from that of the child, States Parties shall promote the accession to international agreements or the conclusion of such agreements, as well as the making of other appropriate arrangements.

Article 18: (1) States Parties shall use their best efforts to ensure recognition of the principle that both parents have common responsibilities for the upbringing and development of the child. Parents or, as the case may be, legal guardians, have the primary responsibility for the upbringing and development of the child. The best interests of the child will be their basic concern. (2) For the purpose of guaranteeing and promoting the rights set forth in the present Convention, States Parties shall render appropriate assistance to parents and legal guardians in the performance of their child-rearing responsibilities and shall ensure the development of institutions, facilities and services for the care of children. (3) States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to ensure that children of working parents have the right to benefit from child-care services and facilities for which they are eligible.

development of households and communities, (b) accessibility to microfinance services, (c) social protection & risk management, (d) life skill / vocational skill development, and (e) accessibility to information education technology. Together, it does not merely focus on strengthening livelihoods at household but also ensures building enabling environment for economic development and social security through required financial services, skill development, risk management & protection, updated information etc.

Plan in India has seven goals which aim to ensure that children in India live in safe and enabling environment where their rights are recognized, realized and respected which include HESS. As per the seventh goal of country strategy plan “Children and families in India have household economic and social security where individuals can participate in decision-making, at home and in the wider community, to the best of their ability.” Therefore, HESS programming is placed in the larger context of child survival and development in Plan’s intervention. It demands HESS programming as an important component of the comprehensive package for children’s development and in sync with others.⁹

Plan in India works with 14 partners to facilitate child centered community development in 11 states of India. HESS is a key component of many partners’ programs and 7% of the total budget for 2005-06 was spent on HESS activities. Partners realize poor economic status of families, with lack of access to services and low appreciation of entitlements as key reasons for children not realizing their entitlements. Partners are trying to address family poverty by enhancing livelihood opportunities, and helping develop linkages with support service(s) providers. Plan & its partners in India have been working on HESS for many years but until now the effectiveness of the HESS intervention on children’s well being has not been assessed. Plan has also never developed a HESS strategy within a comprehensive package of children’s development. Therefore, livelihood interventions have lacked strategic focus. With this view an evaluation was planned to evaluate the HESS programming in south India. Initially, Program Coordinators of South India program office (Vinay Vutukuru, Madhavi Sakaru & Tusar Ray) did a pilot testing in their respective PUs. After completion of the pilot study another comprehensive study was planned on the same line. The idea was that Plan should be in a position to learn from the good practices of partners, share

⁹ Seven Goals of Country Strategy Plan:

1. Children in India grow up and develop in safe and enabling environments that ensure that their **right to protection and participation** is respected and realised, and that they can grow and develop free from abuse, discrimination and exclusion.
2. Children, families and communities in India, including vulnerable groups, can exercise their **right to attain and maintain optimal health status**, based on appropriate knowledge and services.
3. Children in India, including all girls, realise their **right to quality education** that enables them to make informed choices.
4. Children, families and communities in India can exercise their **right to participate actively in value-based community governance** and take on the responsibilities that come with this.
5. Children, families and communities in India realize their **right to a healthy environment**, where they have geographical and economic access to quality integrated water and sanitation services that are free from social exclusion and gender discrimination.
6. Children and families in India, especially vulnerable groups, live in communities that can **protect themselves from the effects of natural disasters**.
7. Children and families in India **have household economic and social security** where individuals can participate in decision-making, at home and in the wider community, to the best of their ability.

those lessons with other partners and build recommendations for a strategic approach supporting HESS interventions. It was also desired to develop a comprehensive HESS strategy ensuring maximum benefit to children to help them in realizing their potential. On the verge of the mid term review of the country program outlines (CPOs), it was the appropriate time to do this study which could provide a learning for the PUs and recommendation for support and direction to Plan – especially reviewing the interventions which have positive impact on children and identifying if livelihood is also a means to achieve Plan’s vision.

2.1. Objectives of the Study:-

Three objectives were set for this study which are as follows:

1. To map current HESS activities in PUs of south India: Review year-wise data on livelihood related activities (via output codes and natural codes) and identify trends in investment.
2. To study the work of three PUs to assess effectiveness of interventions, factors influencing or inhibiting the change. Are the effects sustainable? Are programs reaching the targeted groups? Do HESS programs effectively serve the most vulnerable? Do direct benefits produce long-term income improvements and are they appropriate? Are livelihood, awareness and advocacy initiatives are linked effectively to support positive impact on children?
3. To study, understand and assess the various sectors and sub sectors of livelihood such as (a) Microfinance, (b) Natural resource management / development (NRM), (c) Common property resources (CPR), (d) Agriculture promotion, (e) Livestock promotion, (f) Enterprise promotion, (g) Vocational training, (h) Micro health insurance, and (i) Disaster mitigation

2.2 Methodology adopted for study:-

This study was conducted by a joint group of Plan staff with the support of a team of external resource persons of BAIF (an organization working for livelihood promotion). A core group of Plan staff was formed which was comprised of Madhavi Sakaru, Tusar Ray (two Program Coordinators of south India Program), Tanushree Soni (one Program Coordinator of North India Program) & C. P. Arun (Coordinator – Livelihood at India Country office). The core group was guided by Shruti Joshi (Program Manager – South India) and Verity Corbett (Program Support Manager – India Country Office). Also, the core group was supported by Randeep Kaur (Technical Advisor – Learning), Arimugum Kalimutthu (Technical Advisor – Water Environment and Sanitation) and Nirali Mehta (Technical Advisor – Early Childhood Care and Development) which helped this study to be aligned with CCCD (child centered community development approach of plan).

The study deliberated to understand micro health insurance (MHI) and vocational training (VT). Initially, MHI was not a part of the HESS program and was being promoted under the domain of Health. In order to synchronize the components of HESS program under one umbrella MHI and VT were included under HESS study. As stated above Social Protection and Risk Management are two important components of HESS and insurance is one of the crucial tools to address these two components. Therefore, MHI program significantly contributes to strengthen HESS. Also, Plan understands that MHI is an area which demands close involvement of HESS and Health teams. In

which HESS team can focus on financial aspects of the program and Health team can be more engaged with quality of health services provided under insurance scheme. Hence, MHI also became part of the study. Although a separate study was planned for MHI & VT but since it plays crucial role in HESS programming, it was included in this study. Therefore VT & MHI were important components for the study team.

Growing Program Units (PUs) of the South India Program were selected for the study, as the majority of the PUs are in a phase out mode so all three growing PUs of Orissa were selected for this study. A detailed Terms of Reference, on the same lines as the pilot study carried out by the Program Coordinators of South India Program, was developed. Three main objectives of the study were defined, including (a) Analysis of investment pattern of PUs for HESS interventions, (b) Analysis of impact of HESS interventions on children, and (c) Analysis of various sectors of HESS programming in the PUs. The HESS core group members of Plan identified output codes (OCs) used for HESS interventions and made the investment analysis. Prior to field work, a Consultative Workshop with BAIF team and HESS core group of Plan was organized. A common understanding about Plan's strategy and Plan's CCCD approach was built among BAIF team members. A part of the workshop was also done with Project Directors (PD) of all the three PUs of Orissa. During the workshop a common understanding about the methodology to be adopted for the field study was built among HESS core group of Plan, BAIF team and PDs of all the three PUs. This included the method of sampling of the villages for field visit to get fair representation of villages covered under our program. Identification of the villages for the study was done on broadly three basis (1) Accessibility of the village; (2) Agro-climatic zone (3) Villages with maximum numbers of HESS intervention. The tools for field study were fine-tuned which included focus-group discussion, discussion with key informants, home visits and rapid assessment through visits to specific interventions.

After the consultation workshop, a pilot field study was carried out in PU – Chilika jointly by all members of HESS core group of Plan and BAIF team members. The team spent four days visiting identified villages under the program area. The findings and observations were shared with Program Director of PU – Chilika. After the successful pilot testing of the field study, a guideline for field study was developed. Then the team was divided into two teams, each team comprised of a HESS core group member of Plan and a BAIF's team member. One team went to PU – Koraput and another team went to PU – Bhubaneswar for field study. Both the teams followed the same process and guidelines developed after the pilot field study.

3. Summary of Findings and Recommendations:-

This report analyses the impact of HESS interventions made by Plan / PUs of Orissa (all three PUs) on children. This includes the causes of positive and negative impact of the HESS interventions. The paper flags examples of the effects of poverty on children, both now and in later life. It gives a basic outline of potential opportunities which can be further explored in order to improve HESS programming. Also, an analysis is being presented to understand the potential of various sectors and sub-sectors for HESS promotion. At the same time some potential risk affecting quality of intervention is also being highlighted in the report. The report analyses the investment pattern of HESS programming by the all three PUs of Orissa.

The paper forms the basis for the research on themes / subjects related to HESS programming in India and Orissa state in particular. This analysis highlights the needs of strategic approach to build child centered HESS programming. Also, the report points out the broad guideline for HESS strategy.

A number of significant observations and recommendations are written below which reflect the scope of improvement in HESS programming. These recommendations are equally important for improving the efficacy of HESS programming at the same time improving the child centeredness of the program. Also, these recommendations are applicable for HESS programming in India in general and specifically to Orissa. These observations / findings and recommendations are as follows:

3.1. Findings / Observations:-

1. Majority of the women recognize that the earnings generated out of any income generating activity, a portion of the income they keep aside for children's education, cloth and other needs. In comparison with men, women have been found more sensitive to use income for children's development.
2. Successful implementation of any income generating activity which increases the family income is being utilised for household needs and therefore, eventually, it also helps meeting children needs. But, this is not enough for CCCD. Generally, people do not recognise the children's right and don't make conscious efforts to percolate the income for children's development to fulfil children's entitlements.
3. Majority of the projects' designs were not technically good including value chain analysis.
4. The targeting of most interventions does not focus on the vulnerable and marginalized families where the children are most adversely affected. The beneficiaries are currently randomly picked up and are usually those families, which fall in the borderline categories (above poverty line but below middle income group). So, whether ongoing interventions benefit the 'poorest of the poor' remains a question. Also, there is an issue of outreach - breadth and depth of interventions – there is lack of clarity about what income group of beneficiaries are the target groups.
5. In the face of crises (natural disasters, chronic disease, bad financial health, etc.) the coping mechanisms are limited and cases of distresses are high. This demands redesigning of products of financial services. E.g., an apex organization of SHGs (federation) can introduce a special savings product for education/ health insurance/ festivals/ marriages with an interest accrual on such savings.
6. Presently, SHGs do not relate themselves with the federation and hardly see any direct linkages with the federation, especially in PREM. The federation's role in promoting SHG's processes, quality improvement was not seen. Also, required information related to SHG's savings and credit performance was not found.
7. In case of group activities promoted by SHGs/ SHGs' Federation, the fallout is that they don't sustain themselves as there is a lack of ownership of the assets, lack of care and no individual investment. Also, members were found reluctant to spend time and attention for group interventions as well. Thus, group enterprise fails in a big way, particularly in CYSD. This happens primarily because of the lack of group cohesiveness.

8. The current practice of vocational training does not consider market demand and follow typical traditional practices. Moreover, in case of women the stereo-typed vocational courses are being given, – Tailoring, embroidery, handicraft etc., without prior market study. In addition, post vocational training follow-up is missing which is required for job placement, advanced courses for enhanced skills, provision of other financial and business development services to promote entrepreneurs, etc.
9. As in many cases it was found that when youth go out of their village for employment in towns, their earning does not meet the cost of living of town / city & causes either drop out from the job or poor quality of living in towns.
10. Currently, financial and governance aspects of micro health insurance (in case of PREM-Plan PUs) are not very transparent. It is primarily because the team could not meet Utkal Mahila Sangh Bikas which is the biggest stake holder of the scheme. Also, people's contribution is being managed by Utkal Mahila Sangh Bikas and financial aspects are not transparent to Plan.
11. Presently, the Grain Bank is not being maintained effectively, the communities need to understand the purpose of grain bank. Secondly, Grain Banks has not innovated to develop need based / suitable products to serve the most vulnerable families of the communities. Also, accounting / documentation system was found very poor in most of the cases.
12. Advocacy for fisher folk, tribal, Dalits etc. for land rights, fishing rights, prawn cultivation, etc. are being supported by (PREM-Plan PUs) which all are time demanding initiatives. But, the intervention does not include any gap filling interventions to meet the acute needs of the community – e. g. issues related to fisher folk requires advocacy but at the same time, some alternative source of livelihood is required to be explored for community and for youth in particular.
13. Innovative intervention, such as model farm, requires a close and thorough follow up and required changes should be brought in as and when required which is missing presently. No efforts were made to replicate the good practices out of interventions to other locations.
14. While agri-based livelihoods focus on the technical inputs, increased follow-up of the technical training and greater hand-holding support to the farmers at the time of plantations which result in hands-on transfer of knowledge and practice is missing. Also, the benefits of collective cultivation are largely being untapped. The insurance options for agri-based production are still unexplored.
15. Traditional sources of livelihood are being practiced by many families which brings sufficient income to household. These avenues were found potential to generate livelihood for other communities which is untapped at present.
16. Many a times HESS Projects' plan / design and implementations are being made without involvement of communities and children. These results lack of community ownership for the program and at the same time children's concerns are being ignored. Also, the documents maintained at village level are filled mechanically. These documents hardly make any logical framework for project formulation.
17. Regular and quality monitoring from Plan was missing. Programmatic inputs to strengthen specific interventions related to HESS were not seen.
18. Basic understanding about HESS and CCCD was low among the PU staff. Capacity building was required for HESS programming at various level, including community workers, livelihood point person, PU manager and Plan staff.

19. In the name of children's participation children were found duplicating the adult's work without clarity about the purpose and goal of the initiation. The members of children's club were doing savings and credit. At one village children's money was given to a family which did not repay. This led to de-motivation amongst all the members of the club and finally the club was defunct.

3.2. Recommendations:

1. HESS programming should focus on women while supporting any project for income generation activity.
2. A conscious effort should be made to sensitize communities (men & women) and develop their perspective on UNCRC (United Nation Child Rights Convention) during HESS programs.
3. To strengthen child centeredness, Plan should not support any HESS project unless the positive impact on children is central to the project design. Also, appropriate set of success indicators should be made central to the program design.
4. Quality of children's participation in HESS programming is another area of research which can help Plan to take a position. This requires to be studied in detail.
5. All projects should involve communities and children during the planning / designing / implementation phases of the interventions which should be monitored by Plan.
6. Plan should support projects only when programs are socially viable and financially sustainable. Therefore, the projects with complete value-chain analysis – including analysis of sustainability, market linkages, linkages to resource agencies, Government departments etc., should be considered for support.
7. Direct hand out should not be supported under HESS program unless it is required as a part of larger intervention with complete value-chain cycle, for a specific period of time with clear exit plan.
8. Projects based on the identified potential avenues of income generation, being traditionally carried out by the communities, should be promoted through value addition / technical inputs / market linkages etc. Also, a suitable structure like cooperative should be promoted / supported for collective bargaining power and equal sharing of profit. Also, the benefits of collective cultivation are untapped which should be explored through cooperative model.
9. Group based income generating activities carried by SHGs / SHGs' Federation should be supported only if groups' cohesiveness / ownership and commitment is high. It should be tested prior to any such support.
10. All plan supported HESS programs need to include the most vulnerable families of the communities. Special efforts are required to address the needs of the families identified as the most vulnerable. Appropriate economic development activities should be supported / encouraged under HESS program which respond to the needs of communities including most vulnerable household (Household with child labor, CIDC, child with single / without parent, HIV affected, etc.).
11. A comprehensive package of livelihood program should be designed for the communities keeping the stock of community members' resources, expertise, experiences and limitations.

12. Plan should encourage regular and quality monitoring of HESS interventions following the set of indicators developed ensuring positive impact on children.
13. While advocating for any rights (which are time consuming initiatives) a parallel support should be provided as a gap filler intervention to meet the acute needs of the community.
14. Plan should support identified capacity building needs of different stake holders including Plan, PU, and community members.
15. Any innovative intervention (like model farm) should be closely followed and required changes should be brought in as and when required.
16. PU should ensure that successful experience of any HESS intervention is getting replicated in other communities with or without Plan support.
17. Identification of good practices related to HESS, within the Plan supported program area and outside the Plan area, should be promoted. Learning visits should be encouraged by PU and Plan for adaptation of such good practices.
18. SHGs should have clarity about the role and functioning of federations and significance of federations should be visible to SHGs. Federations should be well engaged with the SHGs for improving group qualities and processes, helping groups to be able to provide required financial services, sorting out / taking forward the larger issues of SHGs.
19. A suitable management information system (MIS) should be introduced to monitor and support the credit and savings performances of SHGs - Federation. In this regard, federation should take the lead role in supporting management, execution and governance.
20. There is scope of promotion of microfinance program through SHGs which may help communities meeting their needs of financial services.
21. All projects of vocational training should be supported only if the proposed vocational training is based on market demand. Equal opportunities and new ideas for the vocational training of girls should be promoted and supported. Also, post training follow up needs to be done. Special focus should be given to identify rural based employment opportunities for vocational training.
22. There are many aspects which need to be unfolded and studied for better understanding & transparency of the micro health insurance program, especially in PREM. This includes (a) Study of business plan – focusing on efficiency of micro health insurance as a model, (b) Causes of inconsistency in membership – dropouts, inclusion of most vulnerable, and (c) Ownership of community in governance and management of the program. Plan should clarify the issue prior to any further support to MHI scheme.
23. Another area of research can be useful for Plan to understand the coping mechanism / risk management of household for children's survival and development, at the time of economic crises.
24. Plan should explore other models / opportunities for promotion of social security and risk management of community members. This would include insurance of assets (dairy animals, goats) crop, life, health, etc.
25. Grain bank should not be supported unless the concept is well seeded in the community. Secondly, an appropriate product designing should be done to include the most vulnerable. Thirdly, a good accounting / documentation system should be maintained to make the grain bank transparent.

PART - II

Impact of HESS on Children

4. Impact of HESS Intervention on Children:-

As mentioned in the introduction, the study has been carried out with the support and guidance of a team of experts of Livelihood. But, their role was primarily to give technical inputs for improving HESS programming and guide Plan's HESS Core Group for carrying out the study. HESS core group was expected to do (a) desk review and analysis of financial investments made for HESS programming, and work on (b) Analyzing impact of HESS programs on children. Therefore, HESS core group is presenting Part I & II of the report which includes investment analysis and Impact of HESS intervention on children.

The report on 'Impact of HESS Intervention on Children' is an analytical presentation of the field situations rather than facts presentation. All details of facts related to each village are being covered by BAIF team's report (Part IV) which is attached with this report. So for reference one can look at the field visit report to understand the facts and situations. This section of report is purely an analysis with the lens described in the box – I below (as written in the terms of reference of this study), on the basis of observations made by the study team.

Before we present the overall analysis on 'impact of HESS programming on children', it is important to have some basic overview related to it. The following few paragraphs present the abstract of overall impression of study team about HESS programming in the communities Plan works. It would be wise to share it up front to have common clarity on the issues and concerns raised by the study team. The team understands that Plan never had this lens of analysis to develop/ monitor / evaluate HESS program in the way the study has been carried. Therefore, this analysis would help to have an understanding about the requirements / scope of improvement for a child centred HESS programming.

4.1. Impacts of HESS on children – a brief summary:-

Achieving sustainable impacts on children and improving their quality of life is an overarching goal of all Plan programs. In the context of HESS, achieving this goal needs a long-term strategic intervention. It requires interventions addressing immediate and long-term needs. By doing so, a reasonable impact on the lives of children can be seen. But, the current HESS programs give evidences of lack of strategic approach. Therefore, successful / positive result of such interventions is very sporadic. Also, most of the interventions have failed to bring any positive result / outcome. In this context, it would be too ambitious to expect significant positive impact on children out of HESS programming. As of now, positive impact of HESS intervention on children is a distant goal which requires a consistent and strategic effort.

Neither the current interventions do not particularly address children's rights nor are the programs child-centred. HESS interventions should address two of the most important steps:

(a) improving additional income generation at household level for sustainable economic security, and (b) developing the bridge between generated income / improved economic security for children's survival and development in strategic manner. Presently, majority of our interventions don't help household to improve and sustain economic security. Such circumstances increase the probability of negative impact of HESS interventions on children.

While Plan's interventions do improve household economy and so contribute for children's development in pockets and islands, it can not be seen as strategic effort, it is coming up eventually but it is not enough. Moreover, the additional amount of income generated per household, with Plan's support, is very marginal in most of the cases. Therefore, communities don't recognise it as very crucial for their livelihood and for children in particular. Also, there is no mechanism to map / find the linkages between improved income, out of HESS support, and investments made on children's development (nor it has been ever examined). When a reasonable level of income generation is achieved, the investment on children viz., on their education, health, nutrition and overall quality of life is expected and can be seen. But, that is subject to adequate sensitisation of adults when they realise that it is their duty and a child's right to have a good quality of life. The biggest issue of concern for the study team is that whether HESS interventions are improving household income or the improved income is helping children or not was never examined. No effort was made to understand the cost-benefit efficiency of HESS programming. Also, no efforts were made to make the HESS intervention economically self-sustainable and / or the HESS program design did not consider the calculation of break even.

It is also true that in the communities we work, there has been a shift in perspective and therefore impacts on children's lives, their rights especially that of girl child have been realized. But the issue is that how much we can attribute such impact to HESS interventions in the area, without knowing this we can't strategically replicate in other areas.

In the context of programming, the above translates into developing a quality program ensuring economic security and developing such indicators that can measure progress of individual projects/ programs towards the larger goals of helping children realise their full potential. Also, how children's involvement in developing HESS program can be positively sought. However, in practice biggest bottle neck is adults' attitude to accept the fact that children can also suggest / decide / reject program strategies / activities.

PART – III

Detailed Findings and Analysis for Each PU

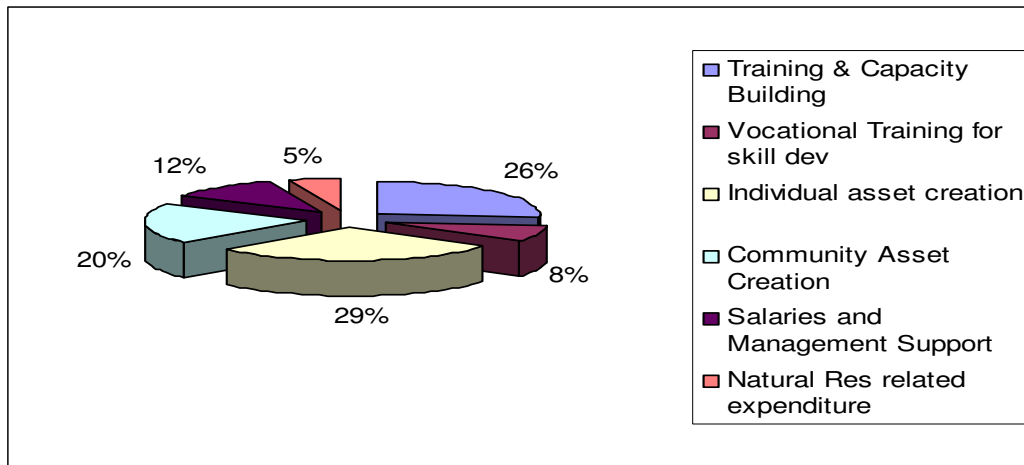
5. Investment Analysis on HESS:-

The data presented below is an analysis of total financial investment made by Plan over a period of five years' time (2001 to 2005). To get this figure, the HESS core group of Plan identified certain output codes (account lines) used for HESS related investments. All the HESS related investments were categorized into six broad categories (a) training and capacity building, (b) Vocational training, (c) Individual asset creation, (d) community asset creation, (e) natural resource management, and (f) Salaries and management support. It reflects that a major chunk of money has been invested for "Individual Asset Creation" followed by "Community Asset Creation". However, the trend shows a decrease in both – Individual and Community Asset Creation over the past 5-year period. This clearly reflects a shift in Plan's focus from individual household level benefits to more broad-based community empowerment approaches.

This analysis does not reflect the result of investments. There is no data indicating that with this investment 'x' amount of income at households has improved. Therefore, cost / investment efficiency is not clear, primarily due to lack of required data and / or due to lack of appropriate program design. Also, these figures do not help to understand that out of this investment how much resources (financial and non financial) have been mobilized from other sources. PU wise investment charts along with the analytical summary are presented below:

5.1. PU Chilika:-

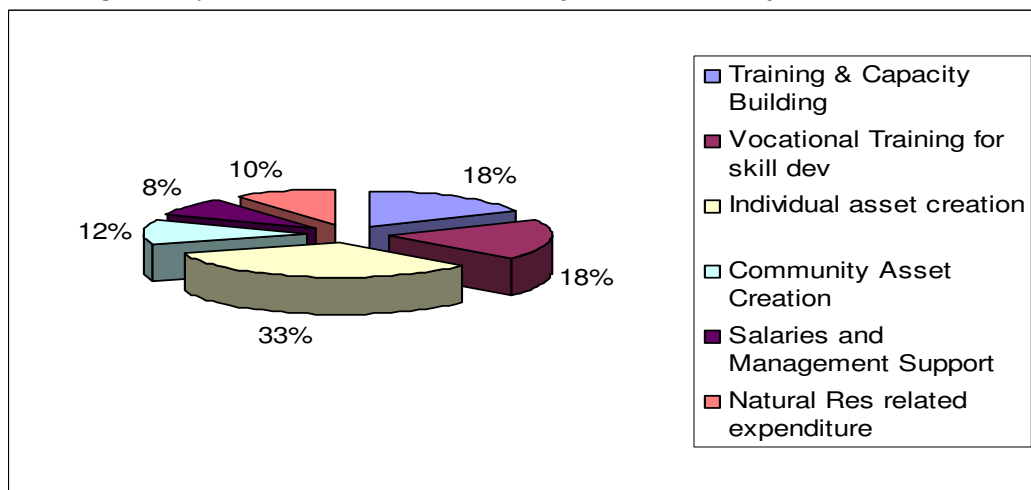
An investment analysis was made for PU Chilika where Plan is partnering with PREM. Following charts presents the overall analysis of the investment pattern.



As apparent in the presented chart, 29% of amount was invested for individual asset creation. This supports the trend of investment made by Plan. In Chilika PU second highest investment was made for capacity building / training/ awareness etc. This set of intervention cost was around 26% of total investment. Followed by community asset creation under which 20% investment was made during last five years. It shows the trend of investment in SI Program in which major investment was made by the Individual asset creation and community asset creation. Vocational skill development / training cost was 8% of total investment. Total 5% of investment was made for management of natural resources which was not a priority area for the PU as there is very little scope of NRM based interventions.

5.2. PU Koraput:-

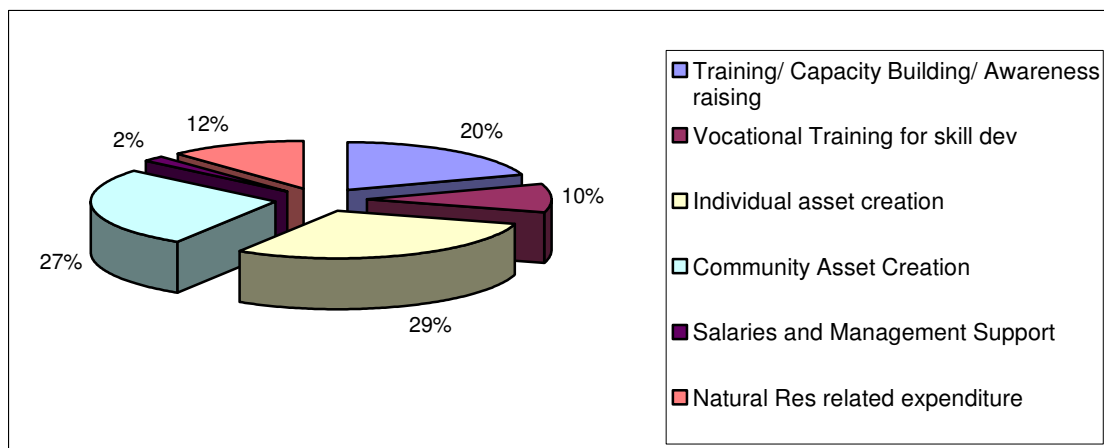
PREM / Plan is also working in Gajapati district of Orissa which is known as PU Koraput. The following chart presents the investment analysis of over five years under the PU.



Individual asset creation was a major cause of investment under this PU too under which 33% investment was made. Capacity building and Vocational training each consumed 18% of investment. Community asset creation was smaller expenditure in comparison to other PUs which caused only 12% of investment. This breaks the trend in the PU as prior to this investment analysis period, in Koraput PU, a five years project of agro-forestry was implemented under which major intervention was related to community asset creation. Therefore it is not reflecting in this analysis. Total 10% investment was made for management of natural resources and salaries and management of HESS programs accounts for 8% of total investment.

5.3. PU Bhubaneshwar:-

Similar financial analysis of PU Bhubaneshwar is presented below:



Over past five years, 29 % money was invested towards individual asset creation which typically shows the traditional method of Plan’s functioning in giving handouts to families in needs. Second highest investment was made for community asset creation amounting 27% of total investment. This presents the gradual shift of Plan’s approach from individual or family centeredness to

community centeredness. Thirdly, training / capacity building / awareness raising etc. were another major area of investment which cost 20% of total investment. This includes training of SHG members / leader, farmers, users groups, general awareness in issues related to livelihood (agriculture, livestock, Govt. schemes etc.). Also, CYSD invested 12% for activities related to management of natural resources. Since the project area is rich in resource base therefore a large amount was invested to utilize these resources in sustainable manner for livelihood of poor families. Next to it is vocational training on which 10% of investment was made. This is one of the most common set of interventions in all Plan supported project areas which aims to ensure employment opportunities among adolescent / youth. Lastly, to implement and manage livelihood related interventions 2% investment was made against salaries and management expenditure.

6. Overview of the PUs' Area of Orissa:-

6.1. PU Chilika:-

Traditionally, the communities of the operational area of PU Chilika were dependent on Paddy cultivation, Betel vine cultivation and Fishing as primary source of livelihood. Beside this, daily wage labour, Polong (Non-edible Oilseed) trading & bamboo craft have also been additional sources of livelihood options available for the communities. The area has a very limited resource base especially for Dalit & Fisher folk communities. The scarce resource based is mostly controlled by the upper caste population and PREM-Plan targeted communities largely depend on the upper caste for their livelihood.

PREM-Plan, Chilika through its orientation team have taken up mobilization of *Dalit* communities for a period of 5 years to confront and change the dehumanizing value system existing in the villages. The effort was successful in emerging *Dalit* movement to challenge the social discrimination. Earlier, *Dalit* children were not allowed to sit in the class rooms along with children belonging to upper caste. The *Dalits* were oppressed and were compelled to serve the upper caste communities as low cost servants. Since, *Dalits* were traditionally landless and resource-less, they had no other alternative but to accept the oppressive social system. The *Dalit* representatives were not allowed to sit in the village Panchayat forums with that of elite upper class. The people of these communities were also not allowed to enter the temples. Therefore, PREM-Plan, Chilika made efforts to organize *Dalit* and fisher folks, through continuous motivation, education, trainings, network building with other *Dalit* groups within the state and outside the state, which has slowly helped in changing the social scenario of the project area.

During the field study, the team found it very hard to establish direct correlation between livelihood interventions and fulfillment of children's entitlements as the HESS interventions were conceptualized separately without reference to child rights. There was very limited focus on 'processes of HESS interventions'. Generally, all interventions were input driven rather than result driven. However, during interaction with children, women and other community members it was shared with the study team that the quality of life of the children has improved over a period of time in general, that can be seen in terms of increased rate of children's enrolment in schools, decreasing drop out rates, decrease in mal-nourishment status, dressing pattern, etc.

6.2. PU Koraput:

Most of the population lives in remote areas with scanty communication facilities. PREM-Plan works with tribal communities which are located in the highly remote areas. Some of the villages do not have roads and many of them get cut off during rainy season. The tribal communities are primarily dependent on the forest. Primitive pattern of agriculture has been one of the major sources of their livelihood. Besides agriculture, forest produces have always been one of the important sources of livelihood for tribal communities.

Before the colonial invasion, the tribal communities were living as an autonomous group in plain areas cultivating the fertile lands but the colonial British rule brought some of the draconian policies through local Jamindars (Landlords) and feudals, which totally shattered the life of tribal. Anti-tribal forest policy was adopted in the year 1856, which separated the forest from the tribal and brought the same under their colonial control. Many exploitive land tenure systems were introduced for collection of forced taxes and free labour. This forced them to slowly leave their permanent settlements and migrate into the deep forests. The tribal people were living with community spirit having mutual caring and sharing system. It is they, who had the common property concept which was not accepted by the colonial legal system. As a result, the colonial forces through their agents i.e. local Jamindars and feudal class imposed the exploitive laws and grabbed all the resources of tribals and in the long run converted them to land less class. For livelihood, tribal were forced to cut some of the forest for fuel and agriculture purposes but they never opted to cut any fruit bearing trees which ensure their food security. Major forest depletion took place in Indian tropical forests through colonial forces that opted to fell the natural forests and exported the same for commercial purposes. In course of time when communication systems were extended, the non-tribal business forces migrated into the forest areas and began smuggling all the forest products using tribal's as their wage labor.

During the past two decades rapid deforestation caused increased dependency on agriculture which became the primary source of livelihood because forest is no longer a sufficient source to meet the needs of the increasing tribal population. Though, tribes were the users of the forest land and forest produces, they were not the owner of the land. Due to illiteracy and innocence they were being exploited by the local *Dalit* caste. Literacy rate was very low. Basic awareness and recognition of child rights was a distant goal. But, during recent years, in general, their awareness has improved. Attitude of the Government has also changed and now present forest bill permits tribal to avail land on freehold (Patta). Overall, parents' attitude towards children education, nutrition, health care etc. has improved; it was shared and observed during field visit and interaction with communities.

Plan supported a five year agro-forestry project in the area, which was financially supported by DFID. During the interaction with the communities it was felt by the study team that the implementation of the project was process driven rather than just input driven. Community members, CBO were involved in project implementation and therefore the result of the project was successful in improving household economy in the area. However, the learning of the project was not scaled up or replicated in the operational areas. Other than this agro-forestry project all other HESS interventions were input driven and result of such interventions were not so successful.

6.3. PU Bhubaneswar:-

Four tribes - *Santhals, Bhautdi, Munda* and *Saunti*, predominantly inhabit this district and the economy is marked by huge migration patterns to nearby towns/ cities for daily wage labour. Keonjhar district is resource-rich however; the low productivity from farms is attributed to high percentage of (68%) uplands and water scarcity in the region. The annual average rainfall in the region is recorded 1200 mm which is unevenly distributed. Most of the farmers practice rain-fed farming, supplementing their meager agricultural income by collection of minor forest produces. Such dependency on forest has depleted the natural resource base. Small and marginal farmers constitute 70% of the population in the project area. Farmers continue to practice traditional farming system - single crops, multi-cropping has not taken off in the region. To make this difficult, periodic drought and hailstorms make their agriculture based livelihoods quite vulnerable. Their access to Government schemes and policies is also limited. Thus, agricultural livelihoods are sporadic to help make both ends meet. As a result, most of the people in the PU operational villages migrate to the near by towns as wage labourers in the mines, crushers and construction sites during lean season in agriculture. This adversely affects children's education. Most of the time communities struggle to survive and ensure a stable source of livelihood. In this condition children's basic needs and entitlement remain at the bottom of their priorities. Overall, children's rights for survival and development are still to be recognized and protected by the communities.

7. Guidelines for Evaluating Impact of HESS Intervention on Children:-

The Box – I below were the guidelines for the study team members to assess the impact of HESS intervention on children. This was developed as per the terms of reference for the study. As written in the introduction, this has already been tested by the program staff of south India Office. Based on which this detailed study was carried out.

BOX – I

- a. Effectiveness of interventions – review the pattern of change of income generating activities for understanding the underlying reasons.
- b. Factors influencing or inhibiting the change.
- c. Are the effects sustainable?
- d. Are programs reaching the targeted groups?
- e. Do HES programs effectively serve the most vulnerable?
- f. Do direct benefits produce long-term income improvements?
- g. Appropriateness – review the impact of interventions on children and their quality of life – is there any apparent link with improvement in life situations of children? How the programs did benefited children?
- h. Are livelihood, awareness and advocacy initiatives linked effectively to support positive impact on children?

8. PU Wise Detailed Analysis of Impact of HESS Interventions on Children:-

8.1. PU Chilika:-

Broadly, all initiatives made by communities under HESS programming were targeted to meet livelihood needs which can be classified into three categories; (a) interventions supported by the PU, (b) SHGs lead/ supported Initiatives, and (c) traditional sources of income as independent livelihood activities of the families. Under each category a set of interventions were seen during the visit which are being scanned with the lens of above mentioned guidelines (BOX – I). Following list of activities were observed during the field study and are categorically presented:

Interventions supported by PU includes:-

- 1) SHGs promotion
- 2) Vocational Training
- 3) Direct handouts to HH
- 4) Micro health insurance
- 5) Grain Banks
- 6) Advocacy on land rights, fishing lease / rights / rates for fisher folk and communities,
- 7) Model farms – sunflower, pisciculture, coconut plantation, treadle pumps

SHG Led/ Supported interventions:-

- 1) Trading of grain, Polong (local name for non-edible oil), seed and dry fish,
- 2) Animal Husbandry – goatery and dairy
- 3) Agriculture – betel vine, paddy cultivation
- 4) Non-farm enterprises: Grocery stores,

Traditional source of income based on existing local resources:-

- 1) Orchard growing and trading – jackfruit/ mango/ cashew nut/ coconut/ non-edible oil seed (Polong)
- 2) Fishing
- 3) Agriculture – paddy
- 4) Betel vine cultivation

During the visit of the study team, the team had discussions with children, women groups, adolescent groups, farmers, village committee members etc. about the above said interventions. There was mixed experience of success and failure of each of this intervention. Each of these interventions is analyzed with the set of guidelines given in the BOX – I, is presented here:

Interventions supported by the PU

1) SHG Promotion and support to seed capital in the form of revolving fund:- This intervention has been successful in community mobilization and building confidence among women members. The group cohesiveness and ownership was seen high among the women. These groups meet regularly; take up credit and saving activities to address their consumption and production needs. Some of the groups are linked to the banks for credit support and also avail revolving fund from the PU. There are some groups that have received such support from the PU only and SHG-bank linkage has not been materialized. The women members undertake individual enterprises, which are for non-farm, off-farm and on-farm activities through mobilization of internal savings/ external credit support.

Effectiveness: The consumption needs includes children's education, health and other daily household requirements. The easy access to credit has opened up new avenues for women to take up income generating activities such as, goat rearing, dairying, grocery shops, grain trading, etc. During interactions with these families, *majority of the women recognized that from the earnings generated out of these enterprises, a portion of the income was set aside for meeting children's education, cloths and other needs.*

Factors inhibiting: Utilization of such benefits for children largely depends on the success/ failure of these enterprises. There are instances of failure of certain income generating activities like dairy, where the family is pushed into a perennial debt cycle either because of the death of an animal or dry milking cycle, etc. In such cases, lack of technical inputs and linkage to other resource agencies/ veterinary hospitals, etc caused the failures which could be supplemented by PU's support. *Also, the potential activities can be further scaled up to economically viable level. e.g. herd size of 10 -15 goats for goaterly; trading of grain, dry fish, fruit, Polong etc requires sufficient amount of working capital which can be arranged by PU. PU should work out on these line to make the intervention profitable which is missing at present in many cases.*

Appropriateness: The PU team may also guide women in taking up any IGA (income generating activities) appropriate to the condition, through proper situational analysis. In case of dairy, it was found that community/ families did not have enough support services to make the intervention economically viable so that it could have been replaced by alternative activities.

Targeting: The interventions made by the PU have very limited outreach to the poorest of the poor. The members of the SHG are only those who can save and have the ability to repay loans. This approach therefore excludes the poorest of the poor. This section of the population does not have the time to attend meetings as they lose wage for the day. As a result, this segment has a characteristic feature of 'self-exclusion'. But the question here is, how to involve such segments of the population into the development processes. The process of development involves a wider participation of the communities and SHGs provide a platform to strengthen the common binding. *Thus, it demands inclusion of entire community which is missing and a certain segment is left out. Therefore, the situation demands for some alternative processes of group formation for the left out section of community suitable to their condition in terms of time, saving products (grain rather than cash), pattern of lending and repayment etc. Also, certain products like soft loans with longer repayment terms, some seed capital (in the form of grants) during initial phase of SHGs can be given to help them take up an individual enterprise.*

Sustainability: Sustainability of these interventions have a high correlation to the extent of direct linkages developed with mainstream agencies for technical inputs, for services like veterinary doctors/hospitals, banks for formal credit support, market linkages (forward and backward) and support for the complete value chain, and linkages with the govt. departments. It also depends on the extent to which the PU/ Partner has engaged in a dialogue with the Govt. and other resource agencies to bring the demand (*right holders*) and supply (*duty bearers*) side of the system to one platform.

2) **Vocational training:** Vocational training (VT) is one of the most important components of HESS for youth. Community demands vocational skills which is required for employment generation, besides formal education. VT helps them to clearly correlate education with the source of living. During the visit the study team focused to understand the overall outcome of VT.

Effectiveness: A range of VT were given to the adolescent boys and girls which included – tailoring; embroidery; handicraft; Making of – soap, candle, agarbatti, phenyl; motor repairing; mobile repairing; DTP training etc. These trainings have been successful in providing employment to a only few and majority of the students of VT were found unemployed. In many cases these training appeared more like life skill training than vocational training and had very limited scope of employment generation. Therefore, it can be said that effectiveness of vocational training was not upto the mark. It has generated employment for few, primarily for boys.

Factors influencing / inhibiting change: There is a range of avenues available in the market which requires technically trained human resources. The current set of interventions did not consider market demand and followed typical traditional practices of VT. These set of occupations had no market in the area and resulted unemployment for most of the trainees. Some of the boys could get jobs after VT, because they moved out of their village to town / city to get the job. Moreover, in case of women the stereo-typed vocational courses were thought – Tailoring, embroidery, handicraft etc. this has no market base. In addition, post VT follow-up was missing which is required for job placement, advance courses to enhance skills, providing other financial and business development services to promote entrepreneurs, etc. Available avenues in the local area require to be scanned through local economic analysis and accordingly VT should be initiated. Several examples are being sought in the annexed report given by the BAIF team. Such process would bring sustainable change for employment generation in the long run. Otherwise, present system of VT does not ensure sustainable livelihood for youth.

Targeting: The criteria of selection require special focus on most vulnerable and accordingly suitable training for youth should be given. Currently, in general, VT is given to those youths who are fit for certain courses rather than vice-versa.

Appropriateness: As mentioned above VT is a very crucial activity for children with whom Plan is working. After some basic formal education children's expectation from life increases and they look for dignified employment. Therefore, most of the adolescent boys and girls demand VT. During the field visit and interactions with adolescent groups VTs were repeatedly demanded by most of the children on appropriate vocations which can provide source of living for them. So, major thrust should be on identifying the right type of VT and then regular follow-up for placement and entrepreneurship promotion as per the need and context. Also, PU may initiate dialogue with the Govt. for introducing need based courses as per the suitability of the poorest section of the communities through relevant institutes (ITI, Polytechnic colleges or any other institute). Moreover, rural based employment opportunities can be identified which can reduce migration and develop source of livelihood for the people in their own area. As in many cases when these youth go out of their village and get employment in towns, their earnings do not meet the cost of living of town / city & causes either drop out from the job or poor quality of living.

3) **Micro Health Insurance (MHI):** Initially, MHI was not a part of HESS program and it was promoted under the domain of Health. Moreover, there was no point person for HESS in Plan International (India). Later, during 2006 with the HESS point person in place, it was decided to look at the MHI program with HESS perspective. As mentioned earlier, there are 5 broad component of HESS; this includes Social Protection and Risk Management. MHI is one of the crucial tools to address the issue of social protection and risk management. MHI program significantly contributes to strengthen HESS. Hence, MHI also became part of the study otherwise a separate study was being planned for MHI and VT.

The team made efforts to understand the nitty-gritty of MHI program. Plan is supporting People's Rural Health Service Scheme (PRHS) for five years, starting from 2003, after which the scheme is expected to be self sustainable. In case of PU Chilika, Plan will withdraw its support by 2008. PU Chilika targeted to cover 40,000 members of the area through MHI program. The scheme was expected to generate people's contribution @ Rs. 20/- per member and Plan supported by giving matching grant to people's contribution. People's contribution was planned to be invested in Banks and shares by UMSB (a SHGs' federation of PU Chilika & Koraput). UMSB is an apex body of SHGs of PU Chilika and Koraput. So, it was thought that overall governance and management would be rooted through UMSB. This includes control over finances as well. Thus, UMSB is a primary stakeholder of the MHI scheme. Initially, Plan's commitment was made for the period of five years with an average of 10% annual increase in the budget which changed eventually. Actually, Plan's commitment was to reduce contribution over the years which were supposed to be sufficed by increased MHI membership and earnings from investments & loan of people's contribution. It was thought that by this process in the following five years there would be enough money with UMSB for the MHI scheme to stand on its own feet.

The project projected that by the end of five years, people's cumulative contribution would be Rs. 4 Million, Plan's total contribution as matching grant would be Rs. 6.06 Million. After all expenses UMSB would be left with at least Rs. 5.06 Million excluding interest earned on investments. By the end of three years (FY 06), it was reported that UMSB had Rs. 5.6 Million.

The study team interacted with communities, SHGs and children to understand the effectiveness of the scheme.

Effectiveness: MHI is one of the most accepted programs in the communities that were visited during the study. Majority of the families of the communities visited were retaining membership and contributing membership fee. The MHI initiative is supporting families in health crisis and at the same time providing basic health care at village level. There have been incidences when the bread winner of the family got crucial support from the scheme and the HH economy did not get badly affected as badly as it would have done without it.

Factors influencing / Inhibiting change: Generally, the scheme covers casualty upto Rs. 3000/- to its member. But, in exceptional cases the ceiling is flexible and special requests are being considered by the scheme. The team found that the product designing and health services provided by the MHI scheme are built as per the needs of the people. However during the interaction with the community, it was felt by the study team that the program has not been able to involve community in the processes of program governance and management at tertiary level.

Therefore, ownership of community, we visited, appeared skewed upto management of program at community level only. Also, community members were unable to spell out roles and responsibilities of UMSB which indicates that their understanding about UMSB is not clear. Although, communities were found happy with the services they are availing from the UMSB and therefore they were not concern about its functioning. This appeared to the study team that the People's Rural Health Service Scheme operates in a service delivery mode.

Targeting: Since the program is covering almost entire village, it intend to include most vulnerable. But at present the process is followed mechanically, no special efforts have been made to include most vulnerable especially who are not able to pay membership fee. Drop out rates shows that there have been inconsistencies in membership. The evidence of benefit out of MHI program is being demonstrated in the community which naturally motivates people to be the part of this program even though inconsistency of membership demands further study on the issue. Also, to include most vulnerable what efforts can be most appropriate would be worth to study.

Sustainability: The program is being supported by Plan and almost 45% of money is being contributed by community (as shown in the projection during the planning). There is no evidence available to us that how the program would be sustainable after phasing out of Plan's support. There is no business plan / model promising the sustainability of the program. Though, the initial project has projected some basic level of business plan, but, realistic business plan after having some experience in implementation of the scheme is missing. Sustainability of the scheme is still based on the initial hypothesis which was made four years back (during project formulation).

The study team could not understand the existing business plan supporting self-sustainable model of scheme as UMSB did not meet the study team. Although, UMSB was informed in advance about our visit and PU had confirmed the appointment. It was very important for the team to get clarification on several issues related to MHI and SHGs. But, at the eleventh hour the team was informed that all UMSB staff was on leave which was disappointing especially when appointment was taken. Therefore, PRHS Scheme was not transparent to the study team which is a matter of concern.

Another target set, while developing People's Rural Health Service Scheme was to make the program managed and owned by the community. Currently, it looks like a very ambitious target. It requires thorough orientation, participation and capacity building of the community to take up the lead role. But, presently community participation is restricted to community level management of medicines depot, referral cases etc. only. Financial management and control is not with the community members. Overall, study team felt that the scheme is still in service delivery mode and community ownership needs to be built for which starting point would be to make the programs transparent.

Appropriateness: Overall topographical remoteness, economic backwardness, unavailability of services for the communities, makes life very vulnerable for poor people. While meeting with communities the team felt that demand of a self-sustainable model of MHI scheme exist to meet the needs of these communities. During meeting with communities, the community members claimed that when bread winner of the families loose means of livelihood due to health reason the gross affect include children as well. It increases indebtedness of HH economy which further

crumbles the economy. Thus, it can be said that the scheme is appropriate to target the needs of the community. However, the study team found that the biggest issue attached with the People's Rural Health Service Scheme is transparency of finance (business plan for self sustainable scheme) and better involvement of community in the program. Therefore, the team recommends that a study needs to be carried out to understand the (a) business plan – focusing on efficiency as a model and explore the possibility of financial sustainability of the existing MHI program, (b) Causes of inconsistency in membership – dropouts, inclusion of most vulnerable, and (c) Ownership of community in governance and management of the program prior. Also, Plan should clarify transparency of finance prior to any further support to this People's Rural Health Service Scheme.

4) **Grain Bank:** To ensure food security grain bank was introduced in the PU villages. These grain banks are being managed by village committees. However, this activity was not universally implemented in all villages we visited. In general, grain bank is being considered as a very useful support for the poorest section of the society which ensures food security in crisis. Therefore, it is being supported by Plan for the villages which are most vulnerable.

Effectiveness: During the visit study team observed that at a few locations people are sensitized to understand the concept and realized the benefit of grain bank. Therefore, they are using grain bank properly. It meets the needs of the family in crisis. Most importantly, community members accepted that it was very useful for the family members especially for children, as during crisis, adults manage with little food but children face highest difficulty. In such condition Grain Bank works like a cushion for family to meet the crisis needs of their children. But, records / stock are poorly maintained and at times there is no record. It runs out of the memory of the villagers which may lead to internal conflict in long run.

Factors inhibiting change: In some villages Grain Bank support was one time activity which means it was used by the people for once and they never repaid to Bank and it became defunct. People used the entire support as charity. It indicates the concept of Grain Bank was not clearly seeded in these communities and that is why it caused failure. Moreover, it failed in those villages which are in highest need, as ERP's report mentioned in Khula Muh village some families were living without food during past couple of days, but in this village the concept of Grain Bank did not work. Normally, villagers return grains in place of grain, but this is easy for only those villagers where agriculture is primary occupation. In case on non-farmers it is difficult to repay grain, therefore for such families mode of repayment should be something else eg. – Money, wage contribution, etc.

Sustainability: At current stage it is very hard to say that these Grain Banks would be sustainable, (It is relevant to those Grain Banks which are still functioning not for those which are non-existing now). Sustainability is largely subjected to overall management process adopted by the community – in terms of up keeping of records, storage capacity of grains, options and diverse mode of accepting repayment (as per the repaying capacity of families) etc. Presently, there is very little progress in these respects and only few of the communities have been able to understand the concept of Grain bank. So the concern of sustainability is on a high risk.

Targeting: The intervention has tried to serve the vulnerable group but it has not been successful to serve the most vulnerable group effectively. Therefore, it requires innovation in designing the

intervention suitable for certain communities with appropriate package of products. Also, at places where Grain bank is functioning further refinement of package is required to include the most vulnerable. Above all, good examples need to be demonstrated and advocacy is required for other duty bearers to replicate it in the area.

5) Advocacy on land rights, fishing lease, rights, rates, of fisher folk and communities: This is one of the core area in which PU has worked to support fisher folk and other dalit communities. The intervention was mainly with Chilika Development Authority (CDA) to represent the problems and concerns of fisher folk and communities dependent on Chilika Lake for their livelihood. This includes issues related to fishing in Chilika, terms and condition to avail lease areas of fishing, rate of these lease etc. Also, there were issues linked with structural causes of the society and the community voiced their opinion to make their concerns felt to the stake holders. Mobilization of the community was good to represent their issues in front of duty bearers. Many issues were sorted out and fisher folk availed benefit of this lobbying. However, there are issues still to be sorted out like opening up of small gates allowing juvenile fish to get into the lake from sea, increasing rates of lease land, prawn cultivation, exploring other livelihood options for the communities dependent on Chilika lake, etc. For which there is much scope of intervention. This requires to be taken up very seriously, as the community strongly believes that present situation indicates that there is no future in Chilika lake for next generation therefore a need of alternative source of livelihood is required. The children will have problems of livelihood if they go with the traditional occupation. Therefore, there is an urgency to take up the issue and work on it to serve the children of the community.

The intervention is aiming to serve the most vulnerable communities and through this intervention major issues are being targeted. But, the process requires time therefore some alternative process should also be tested parallel to advocacy. This would help in serving the most vulnerable. The process of advocacy is based on long term perspective which may be good in the long run but requires gap filler through testing alternative source of livelihood. Since it is serving the basic needs of the community, the appropriateness of the issue is not questionable. However, the process, pace and strategic plan to achieve need to be worked out which is not clear at this stage.

6) Model Farming Intervention: The concept of model farming was piloted by the PU at a few locations with a package of a pond, treadle pump, pisciculture, coconut plantation, vegetable cultivation and Sunflower cultivation. During the visit of study team had an opportunity to visit one Model farm with above mentioned package. The SHG has taken up this model farming. The coconut trees are young and need time to start yielding but the survival rate of plants is good; one cycle of fish farming was also done by SHGs and members are planning to do next cultivation after rainy season; one cycle of vegetable cultivation was done by few individual farmers in few patches around the pond which was used primarily for consumption along with a bit of selling; sunflower cultivation was the major visible and acclaimed benefit by the community out of the model farming intervention. Therefore study team focused on the sunflower cultivation for analysis.

Effectiveness of Interventions: The Ma Mangala SHG undertook sunflower cultivation at a cost of Rs. 2,500 (Seeds, fertilizer, tractor hiring). The women members of the group worked together. Their total sale was

about Rs.8000 and the money was added into the SHG corpus. This was an encouraging example of a new business initiative by the group. Indirect benefits to individual members – additional credit availability for internal rotation. New source of income identified but the additional income generated was marginal. As a result, no impact was visible on children.

Appropriateness: Design flaws - If the sunflower cultivation could have been scaled up by organising the farmers and additional inputs would have been given for the oil extraction and market linkages were developed, the additional income could have reached more number of families and the benefits would have benefited the children's lives in these families. Child-centered perspective of program planning is missing while designing intervention.

Sustainability, Advocacy initiatives: The success of this intervention was not capitalized on adequately. It could have been sustainable if the intervention had been linked to Govt. departments, like the DRDA, provision of technical inputs from Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVK), buy-back guarantees/ contract farming models with agro-based companies, and so on. These would work only if sunflower production is taken to a scale.

Target: It did reach a certain segment of the population such as a women's SHG. But, the poorest of the poor were not included in this SHG. Therefore, the impact of the intervention is skewed to reaching just one segment of the population, which may or may not be the poorest segments of the population. So, the intervention was not targeted exclusively to reach the poorest. Though it was a pilot test, this learning can be kept for future program planning of such model farming.

Recommendations: Scale-up, benefits to individual families (dividends e.g., cooperative model), Impact on communities and households

7) Direct handouts of coconut trees, banana trees, Mango trees, Jackfruits, chicken, vegetable seeds, fingerlings for fishing purposes, grains etc. : A blanket distribution model was applied by PU which included wide range of distribution of fruit trees, vegetable seeds, chickens fingerlings for fishing purposes, grains etc. This distribution took place across almost all villages during different time even during recent times. The activity caused huge investment over a period of time. These activities were input driven and had hardly any component related to 'process of intervention'. So largely it was seen as one time activity and there were no inter-linkages within the livelihood intervention made by PU or with external agencies working for livelihood. Therefore, there was high rate of mortality of distributed fruit plants, chickens etc. and in terms of impact there was nothing much to see. Detailed analysis of such initiatives is well captured in the annexed report, submitted by the ERPs.

The survival rate of the distributed direct handouts was very low and the success rate was also very low. Therefore, the intervention was not effective for children. The scale was too small and therefore it was not able to make the beneficiaries serious about the intervention. Sporadic success was observed but that too was not very significant in terms of income enhancement at house hold level. Moreover, it was appearing more like a nutrition program than livelihood program. Fruits, chickens, egg and vegetable have contributed to family consumption and part of it went to children, but, it was not directly targeted for children. However, such interventions have increased dependency of individuals and households on the PU.

Overall, such interventions had problem of appropriate designing which prohibited success. There was lack of inputs in backward forward linkages such as training in plantation, training of rearing chickens or fish cultivation. No effort was seen to upscale the successful activity related to above mentioned items. Distribution of grain can be seen as relief program which was used for consumption and there was no issue of sustainability of the program. These patterns of intervention had no rationale for sustainable development and appears more as charity / welfare approach. There was lack of perspective for long term development. Therefore, as a model it was unsustainable. Whatever few successful stories were there, were individual based and no technical inputs from the PU / Project staff was given.

SHG Led/ Supported interventions & Traditional source of income: SHG Led/ Supported interventions & Traditional source of income based on existing local resources are totally self initiated by the individual or group's ideas and experience. There was no contribution from PU in the success or failure of the interventions other than mobilizing them under SHGs. SHG helped them to have availability of credit which encouraged them to take up these IGA. Such IGA include – (i) Trading of grain, Polong (local name for non-edible oil seed) and dry fish; (ii) Animal Husbandry – goatery and dairying; (iii) Agriculture – betel vine, paddy cultivation; (iv) Non-farm enterprises: Grocery stores; (v) Orchard growing and trading– jackfruit/ mango/ cashew nut/ coconut/ non-edible oil seed (Polong); (vi) Fishing etc. To analyze it better, there is a very thin line between SHGs led / supported and traditional practices of livelihood promotion. It indicates that both set of IGA is practically being done by the group members and had no contribution from PU. Only difference is SHG led and supported IGA were carried jointly by the group members like – Trading of grain, dry fish, Polong etc. but, individual members carrying such IGA were doing it independently with credit support from the group. However, the traditional activities are being carried by individual families with their own capital and experience. Such ventures are generating income for the families and naturally it contributes to children's development but no explicit efforts have been made to make these efforts child centered. General awareness and sensitization helps families to make conscious efforts for children's entitlement.

At this stage, it was felt by the study team that these interventions have high potential of scaling up. Therefore, PU can further study each of such potentials and plan for appropriate package of interventions as enhanced source of livelihood with child centered approach. Details of each livelihood options have been presented in the annexed report of ERPs.

8.2. PU – Koraput

PU – Koraput is one of the oldest PU in the state. DFID supported agro-forestry project was the biggest livelihood intervention in the PU covering 225 villages out of 333 villages covered by the PU. The project was implemented during 1999 to 2004. The project covered a range of activities including – Integrated land development – soil and water conservation; community and individual mixed fruit tree plantation; introducing intercropping and vegetable cultivation; capacity building and awareness raising among village members / CBOs etc; community revolving fund; community grain bank / seed bank; micro water harvesting for soil and water conservation. Other than these activities some other livelihood interventions were made which were only supported by Plan. This includes vocational training to youth; direct handouts – distribution of vegetable seeds, coconut

trees, fruit trees etc.; SHGs promotion; advocacy for mobilising Govt. resources such as NREG job card, ration card, land patta etc. Each of the intervention had some positive or negative impact on the lives of the children. The following analysis would throw some light as per the guideline of ToR:

Measuring Impact of HESS on Children

As stated at the very beginning of the report, it is difficult to assess the impact of HESS intervention especially when the interventions have failed. There are various levels of indicators for assessing impact of HESS programs on children which can not be looked without baseline data. Moreover, it would be inappropriate to look at those indicators at the moment when the CCCD is still to be adopted and HESS indicators are still to be formalised. But, there are some basic criteria on which some visible impact was measured during the visit. A brief overview of impact of HESS program is being portrayed here:-

The study team visited six villages of Koraput PU, out of which five villages were covered under DFID supported Agro-forestry project (except Kingada Village of Gumma Sector). The comparative analysis of both type of villages (Supported with Agro-forestry project and non-supported) gives a very nice presentation of impact of HESS programs on children. Both the villages had similarity in - natural resources like forest land, natural water streams, rain fall, socio-economic condition, community culture, governance etc. Both type of villages had almost same package of support services from PREM – Plan implemented in these villages including Health, learning, ECCD, WES etc. The basic difference was in HESS intervention.

(a) Village supported with Agro-forestry project: The natural resources were tapped and utilised for household economic security. This resulted as better cultivable land, water availability for one to three agricultural crops in a year, additional income through fruits, vegetables etc. This brought a better stabilized source of income for household & improved quality of living.

(b) Village without Agro-forestry project: The household economy of this village was totally dependent on traditional sources of livelihood. Primary source of living was rain-fed agriculture, a bit of income from livestock and little support from forest produces was there. There was no support / initiation from PU to work in same line of agro-forestry project. The PU support was primarily for SHG promotion, direct handouts of fruit trees, vegetable seeds, etc. which had no sustainable impact on lives of the community dwellers.

This difference was very apparent as we started analysing the impact of HESS programs on children. In the village supported with Agro-forestry project, all the children were appearing healthy and none of them were found malnourished though none of the villages we visited (except one) had Aanganwadi centre. The quality of children's dressing was apparently good and many of them were wearing slippers. There were also incidences of children being active participants in the other community development processes. Almost all the children were studying in school (there were a couple of cases, due to non-economic reason) and many of them were in private schools including girl children. A few of the children (both boys and girls) were studying in high schools and senior secondary schools in the city, living in the hostels, and parents were bearing the cost of their education. But, in the village without Agro-forestry project the situation was just reverse. Most of the children below five years of age looked malnourished, though there was an Aanganwadi centre. We learnt that the raw material of supplementary food was being given to children's guardian (supplementary nutrition is not directly given to children) and many of the families use this supplementary food for HH consumption during crises. Many of the children appeared sick and weak, and dressing pattern of the children was apparently poor. Many of the children had dropped out primary school and there was evidence that few amongst school dropout adolescents were working for wage.

The above analysis clearly suggests that good household income leads to better quality of living of children. Broadly, this further contributes to children's development in general. Rest finer level of interventions based on children's Rights & entitlement can be gradually built with HESS programming which can be effective if household economy is strengthened.

The above mentioned interventions can be classified into three sets of interventions which are as follows:

DFID supported project: (a) water and soil conservation; (b) community and individual mixed fruit tree plantation; (c) introducing intercropping and vegetable cultivation;

Non-DFID supported intervention: (a) SHG promotion; (b) Distribution of vegetable seeds, coconut trees, fruit trees etc; (c) Advocacy for mobilising Govt. resources; (d) Vocational Training; (e) capacity building of community / user groups of various related interventions; etc..

Traditional practices of livelihood: (a) Agriculture; (b) Livestock; (c) Collection and selling of forest produce;

Each intervention has been technically assessed and captured in detail by ERP which is annexed with this report. The following analysis would review the importance of interventions for child development.

1. DFID Supported intervention: The area has had faced massive deforestation over past two decades which made forest hills apparently nude. Erratic heavy rain falls on this uncovered sloppy terrain causes severe soil erosion. It has not only affected the ecological balance but also the livelihood sources available in the area. Poverty and scarcity of livelihood sources was pushing migration. The project aimed to prevent such situation and develop livelihood option for communities.

(a) **Water and soil conservation and introducing intercropping and vegetable cultivation:**

Effectiveness: This has been the core area of intervention as it was touching the root cause of the problem. The area has very good rain fall but there was lack of technology to store water for agricultural use. As part of the project intervention several check dams were built on natural streams, irrigation canals were made to utilise water for agriculture, land levelling, land bunding etc. were done to utilise land for agricultural purpose. The entire effort was made to stabilize agriculture and ensure food security of the villagers in the eco friendly manners. The project was well conceptualised to address the needs of the area. At few locations the demonstration was very well done. During field visit and interaction with community it was realised that such interventions have helped community to ensure at least one paddy crop. At times many farmers started getting two crops and some times three crops in few patches of land, depending on the water availability. Also, vegetable cultivation has enhanced the quality of household consumption pattern as well as opened another avenue of income generation. Such developments have brought overall prosperity in almost all the communities we visited. The very first benefit on children, out of above said development, is claimed by the community that none of the children sleep without food. Also, in all DFID supported villages we visited, all children were attending school (except one or two children were dropped out due to non-economic reasons), many of them were studying in city, living in hostels and families were paying the cost of education. Children living in the communities were looking quite healthy and none of them were underweight, though in none of the community (supported by the DFID project) had Aanganwadi. In a village we met a girl who was a trained “Peer Educator” for HIV/AIDS at the same time she was studying in class IX.

There was incidence of children studying in senior secondary and parents were able to afford it, as they were able to generate income from agriculture.

Factors affecting / influencing change: Apart from that, the intervention has also been made to tap natural streams for drinking water supply at household and community level. Overall, this set of interventions not only brought economic prosperity in household but also improved quality of living of the children and the community. However, these interventions could not be scaled up or community / PU could not capitalise on these demonstrations by replicating it at other available resources. This has been well explained in the annexed report of ERP. During the visit study team observed that there were several missed opportunities which could have further helped household and communities to increase their income.

Sustainability: These interventions can be sustainable and have long term effect if community takes the responsibility of maintaining these structures by their own. At the moment, in few villages community was observed casual in their approach for maintenance and management of the structures.

Targeting: The most vulnerable section includes landless family, women headed (widow) family, and in each condition this intervention does not do much than providing opportunities for wage. So, in these cases a set of specific intervention / arrangement required to be developed in the community which was missing in the above interventions. In short, there was no specific intervention / thinking for most vulnerable families and in few cases exclusion of certain vulnerable families was noticed.

Advocacy: During visit, study team was told that model of drinking water supply was well noticed by the Govt. department and on similar model 40 other drinking water supply systems were made. This was a very good example of replicating demonstration of good work. On similar line other check dams, land bunding etc. needs to be advocated with forest department and DRDA to tap available opportunities.

(b) **Community / individual's mixed fruit tree plantation:**

Effectiveness: The intervention was planned to promote forestation with fruit and other forest trees. As mentioned above, in order to prevent soil erosion and promote aforestation it was required to develop belongingness of local tribal with forest. Mixed fruit plantation was expected to generate income and therefore it was planned that this intervention would develop positive bonding between villagers and forest protection. Therefore, plantations were promoted by individual family members and also by the community. But, unfortunately mixed fruit plantation got converted only into fruit plantation and other forest trees / herbs were totally ignored or in other words eradicated by the villagers. So the gross effect of intervention is not ecologically correct. It has been reported in greater detail by ERP which is annexed with this report. Moreover, there was no direct link built between the interventions and children.

Factors influencing / inhibiting change: This intervention was very useful for the community and HH as their income generation through fruits added into the livelihood portfolio at individual HH & established a common capital for the community through community plantation. Its effect was equally good on children's nutrition and financial support for study & quality of living provided by

the HH, as claimed by the community members during interaction. Presently, fruit plants are adding in family income (details of each fruit trees and its average income is narrated in the ERP's report) but it can be further upscaled if it is being supported with technical inputs for better production, processing of the products and market linkages etc. Moreover, a conscious effort to involve educated youth in the process would help younger generation to be the part development and changing cycle.

Targeting: This activity brings excellent opportunity for the most vulnerable families of the community, as the plantation is normally being done at forest land and in such case landless (non – cultivable land) families can also avail plots for plantation. It was found that all families got some plot for individual plantation (if individual plantation was done) but no special effort was made to reach the most vulnerable. Moreover, income generated out of community plantation was kept as community fund. It gave equal opportunity to all, but, there was no special attention / protected discrimination for the most vulnerable families. An exclusive strategy could have helped such families in a better way.

Appropriateness: The program design was appropriate which was able to bring visible change within 4-5 years. The area started becoming greener with fruit plants. However, long term perspective was clearly missing. Villagers were not at all sensitised about the importance of trees of various species available in the forest. It has resulted in massive deforestation of undesired trees (as per villagers' wishes) which is being replaced by fruit trees. The process severely damaged the ecological balance which would affect overall environment in the long run. At the same time, PU needs to advocate for prevention of such ecological imbalance, but for that firstly PU's own perspective needs to be developed which is very narrow at this stage.

2. Non-DFID supported intervention: This type of intervention includes Plan (solely) supported intervention which has been implemented during, pre & post DFID supported project. As stated above it can be broadly classified into several categories as: (a) SHG promotion; (b) Direct handouts - distribution of vegetable seeds, coconut trees, fruit trees etc; (c) Advocacy for mobilising Govt. resources; (d) Vocational Training; (e) capacity building of community / user groups of various related interventions; and (f) MHI. It has been implemented in all villages covered under plan support. During the visit the study team had the opportunity to look at these components as well. Based on the interaction during the visit and observations following analysis would help to examine the impact of these interventions on children and families:

(a) SHG promotion:

Effectiveness: Through out the villages the team visited SHGs were promoted and it was observed that mobilisation of women was quite good. These groups are doing savings and credit. Recently, many of them have started doing collective small businesses either with their own savings or revolving grant received from PU. These businesses include trading of Mahua, paddy, kerosene, pulse etc. Largely, these enterprises are being run and managed by the group themselves with little bit of support from villagers. There was hardly any role of PU visible in such ventures. These initiatives still require time to grow and add on to family income. Presently, surplus amount generated out of business are being kept with the group. There is no system of dividend of profit earned out of the group business / interest earned on internal loan. Moreover, few of the group members availed loan from group to start their independent business. It includes agriculture,

grocery shop, goat & milch animal rearing etc. These supports have been very well utilised by the HH for enhancing their family income. In many cases, women particularly, counted number of benefits provided to children out of income generated from the business like coaching fee, books, hostel fee, clothes during festivals etc. Beside the productive loans, loans for consumption are also being given for health needs of family members & children, household expenditure, education related expenditures. Most of the time loans for consumption were utilised in crisis. These activities were quite useful and effective for children.

Factors inhibiting / influencing change: These groups require technical inputs in terms of business skills, marketing skills, financial management, accounting skills to run their respective businesses efficiently. At present these missing links are inhibiting achieving better results. Moreover, cross learning from one group to another is also not being practiced which can inspire one another for adopting new ideas and best practices.

Sustainability: Above all, sustainability of these initiatives are on stake as there is no fact supporting their business plans. The only positive factor supporting sustainability is that the opportunity is available in the market and these women are trying to tap these resources. In most of the cases these activities are remunerative which help children therefore it is appropriate for the children's development.

(b) Direct Handouts – distribution of vegetable seeds, coconut trees, fruit trees etc: Like PU Chilika, distribution of direct handouts was another set of activity which had almost similar effect as stated in PU Chilika report. These interventions had hardly any long term perspectives, effectiveness for enhancing family income was negligible or not at all. Therefore, it can be said that these distribution were not appropriate intervention as per HESS programming. Details of each set of intervention are well captured in the ERP's report which is annexed herewith.

(c) Advocacy for mobilising Govt. resources: PU was found very active and effective in mobilising communities and groups for advocating their right and entitlements. So far, major achievements were (a) most of the eligible HH have availed job cards for NREG schemes, (b) HH have availed ration cards (c) people are aware and sensitised to get land patta, (d) Many eligible families availed benefit of free hostel for their children's education etc.

These achievements were quite effective to ensure better economic situation at HH. Community members are using Ration card facility for availing food grains at subsidised rate. Similarly, many a times Govt. lead activities under NREGS provide employment opportunities to community members. Normally, these activities are being initiated during lean season of agriculture so that the income through wage would meet the crises needs of the families. However, during the visit it was found that none of the villages had enough work under NREGS which could provide 100 days of employment to a family. Average employment generated under the scheme was between 30 to 50 days. This has helped families to generate additional sources of income for family members & children. Though there were no facts to support nor any conscious effort was made to use these earnings for children development, but generally, it was useful for the household economy. Even ration card was used to get subsidised grain it was used for household consumption and hence, the children have also availed benefit in natural process.

The criteria to give ration card and job card is on the basis of economic status of HH which is being followed by the Government's rules. Therefore, as per Government records this includes most vulnerable. However there was an incidence of exclusion of most vulnerable families for which community is assuring to make efforts. In case of land patta, PU needs to make conscious effort & sensitize community to do justice for equal land holding. Also, special effort is required to sensitize community and forest department to make eco-friendly initiatives otherwise the current practice would result into ecological imbalance.

(d) **Vocational Training:** During the visit all the villages the team interacted in there was not much intervention made for vocational training. We had very limited interaction in this regard and came to know from the community that vocational training related to leaf plate making, driving, mason work, motorbike repairing, handicraft, tailoring etc. were given. The pattern of such training was almost similar to PU Chilika. No follow up was made to find out the rate of success and failure of provided vocational skills in terms of ensuring employment to trained youth. However, during interaction it was realised that rate of failure was higher than success. Therefore, all analysis and recommendation given for improving vocational training for PU Chilika is applicable to PU Koraput as well.

(e) **Capacity building of community / user groups of various related interventions; etc.:** Such interventions have no direct relation with the quality of children's life. But, these interventions have its own significance in order to make the above mention intervention sustainable and effective. Therefore, it can not be measured / assessed in terms of effectiveness of the CB and training on children's development, serving most vulnerable children and families etc. These interventions of CB can be independently assessed as an activity.

As stated above, there is no mechanism in place which checks or tests the efficiency of these training. However, it was being informed that now TOT has been organised for building capacity of SHGs members / leaders. Similarly, training for bio-fertilisers, users group have been given within the select community members. However, there was no evidence of standard practices related to NRM and agriculture, so the articulation of training input was not very apparent.

(f) **Micro health Insurance:** Like PU Chilika, 'People's Rural Health Promotion Scheme' was initiated in PU Koraput. The concept and plan is identical to PU Chilika which is being mentioned in Chilika's report. Since PU Koraput works in larger geographical areas therefore the target population to be covered is higher than PU Chilika. But, for both the PU's SHGs federation is same – UMSB, which controls people's contribution. During the visit the study reviewed the status of the MHI scheme and found that all issues & concerns rose in the report of PU Chilika stand same for PU Koraput as well. Only positive development was seen in the area of PU Koraput is that membership retention rate is better than PU Chilika.

Traditional practices of livelihood: All the activities being carried by the communities include above mentioned IGA. Apart from these, generally, in all the communities visited during the study following set of livelihood sources were found common (a) Agriculture; (b) Livestock; and (c) Collection and selling of forest produce which is providing food & economic security to families. Therefore, majority of the HH had dependency on these IGA for their living. Each set of intervention have immense potential of income generation which is required to be tapped further.

Most of the times, these practices are independently managed and run by the community dwellers. PU hardly plays any role in promoting any of the interventions. At times they avail loan from the SHGs to start / contribute in their respective businesses. As described in the ERP's report, each intervention can be upscaled and can be further explored for enhancing HH economic security.

Observation and Recommendations for PU – Chilika and PU – Koraput:

About Overall HESS Programming.

1. Majority of the women recognize that the earnings generated out of any IGA, a portion of the income they keep aside for meeting children's education, cloth and other needs. In comparison with men women have been found more sensitive to use income for children's development. Therefore, PREM – Plan needs to be more engaged with women to develop positive experience of income generation intervention for children development. Also, a conscious effort would be required to sensitize men / women to develop their perspective on Child Rights & entitlements while planning any IGA. Most importantly, prior to any support a clear perspective of child centeredness needs to be built and appropriate set of indicators has to be developed for quality monitoring.
2. Successful implementation of any IGA which increases the family income is being utilised for household needs and therefore it also helps meeting children's needs. But this is not enough for CCCD. Generally, people do not make conscious efforts to percolate the income for children's development. In order to role out CCCD approach, the existing practice demands a system (set of indicators / set of norms etc.) which ensures that HH economy primarily takes care of children's needs and entitlement. Therefore, PU needs to work on it.
3. The potential IGA can be identified in the communities and needs to be further scaled up to reach economically viable and profitable level. Also venture capital / working capital needs to be facilitated to community members for identified IGA. For e.g. herd size of 10 -15 goats for goatery is generally viable; trading of grain, dry fish, fruit, Polong etc requires sufficient amount of working capital which can be arranged through establishing bank linkages.
4. Special efforts are required for inclusion of most vulnerable families. In case of HESS program, they are the neediest and therefore our intervention should target such families. An innovative / need-based products / services / intervention are required to ensure inclusion of the most vulnerable.
5. Each intervention supported should have sustainability analysis without which project should not be supported. Also, an analysis of linkages with resource agencies for support and technical inputs, (e.g. for Livestock - services like veterinary doctors/hospitals; Enterprise - banks for formal credit support, BDS; etc.) should be looked at. Similarly, a thorough plan for market linkages (forward and backward) should be planned prior to intervention. Overall, a complete cycle of value chain analysis and preparation would help to develop a good intervention. Also, planning should be made in alignment with govt. departments to facilitate community availing Govt. resources. It would guide the PU/ Partner to be engaged in a dialogue with the Govt. and other resource agencies to bring the demand (*right holders*) and supply (*duty bearers*) side of the system to one platform.

Specific to HESS related Interventions:

6. In the face of such crises the coping mechanisms are limited and cases of distresses are high. This demands redesigning of products of financial services. E.g., Utkal Mahila Sanchaya Bikaas (UMSB as an apex organization of SHGs) could introduce a special savings product for education/ health insurance/ festivals/ marriages with an interest accrual on such savings. Similarly, suitable loan products and insurance (for life, asset, crop etc.) products need to develop / design, as per the needs of the communities. This would help build the corpus of the SHG Federation. Insurance products related to asset (dairy animals, goats) crop, life / accident of the earning members, health insurance for all family members, etc. can be introduced.
7. A system of dividend of interest earned on internal loaning can be introduced in SHGs. This can be only done if groups maintain accounts properly and regularly which is missing at present. By this all group members would be able to clearly see the benefit of savings and credit processes at the same it would bring transparency in the accounting system at group and UMSB level.
8. SHGs should have clarity about the role and functioning of federations. Presently, groups do not relate themselves with the federation and hardly see any direct linkages with the federation. Federation's role should be more engaged with the SHGs in terms of improving group qualities and processes.
9. A MIS should be introduced to monitor the performance of credit and savings of SHGs. UMSB may play an important role to take appropriate action to improve the financial services being provided by the SHGs. PU may help identifying the areas of capacity building needs and accordingly training can be organized.
10. The current practice of VT does not consider market demand and follow typical traditional practices. Moreover, in case of women, the stereo-typed vocational courses are being given – Tailoring, embroidery, handicrafts etc. without prior market study. In addition, post VT follow-up is missing which is required for job placement, advance courses for enhanced skills, provision of other financial and business development services to promote entrepreneurs, etc. Therefore, it is recommended that local area analysis is required to trace the available avenues and accordingly VT can be initiated. Equal opportunities for girls should be promoted and supported. Also, post training follow up needs to be done.
11. Special focus should be given to identify village based employment opportunities for vocational training, which can also prohibit migration and develop source of livelihood for the youth at their own land. As in many cases it was found that when youth go out of their villages for employment in towns, their earning does not meet the cost of living of town / city & causes either drop out from the job or poor quality of living in towns.
12. Currently, finance and governance aspects of MHI are not very transparent which became the major concern for the study team. It was primarily because the team could not meet UMSB which is the biggest stake holder of the scheme. There are many aspects which needs to be unfolded and studied for better understanding & transparency of the program. This includes (a) Study of business plan – focusing on efficiency of MHI as a model, (b) Causes of inconsistency in membership – dropouts, inclusion of most vulnerable, and (c) Ownership of community in governance and management of the program. These studies would help us to understand the nitty-gritty of MHI as a model in detail which would guide Plan's position on MHI in future. Also, people's contribution is being managed by UMSB and financial aspects

are not transparent to Plan, therefore, the study team, recommends that Plan should clarify the issue prior to any further support to MHI scheme.

13. To utilize Grain Bank in effective manner, it would be important for the PU to seed the concept first without which intervention fails. Secondly, a range of product designing is required to include the most vulnerable – e. g. repayment through cash or appropriate range of kind etc. Thirdly, a good accounting / documentation system is required to make the efforts transparent in long run.
14. Advocacy for fisher folk, tribal, Dalits etc. for land rights, fishing rights, prawn cultivation, etc. are being supported by PU which are time demanding initiatives. At the same time, PU should also work for the gap fillers interventions to meet the acute needs of the community dwellers – e. g. issues related to fisher folk require advocacy but at the same time some alternative source of livelihood is required to be explored for community and for the new generation in particular.
15. Any innovative intervention, such as model farm, requires a close and thorough follow up and required changes / innovations should be brought in as on when required. These innovative ventures require dynamic approach for modification, value addition which is missing at present. Efforts should be made to work on the learning and replicate the good practices out of interventions to other locations.
16. Direct hand out (fruit trees, vegetable seeds, chickens, grains etc.) should not be encouraged rather it should be discouraged. It can be done only if it is required as the part of larger intervention with complete value-chain cycle with proper backward forward linkages.
17. PU / Plan should identify the potential avenues of income generation being traditionally carried out by the communities. PU should support through value addition / technical inputs / linkages with resource agencies for enhanced source of living.
18. PU should identify good practices being followed by any SHGs / VC / community and share it with other village's group / communities for intra learning. Internal exposure for SHGs / VC can be arranged to facilitate the process. On the same line federations should be encouraged to facilitate the same and these should be the part of their roles.
19. Learning of NRM based interventions should be replicated in other villages (Villages not supported by Agro-forestry project). Also, further efforts should be made to utilize other natural resources available in the sustainable manner which is still untapped in the areas the team visited. It was observed that there is huge scope of improving users groups of all the structures made (watershed, land bunding, aforestation etc.) on which PU should work. Federation may take the lead role in cross checking of maintenance of these structures.
20. There is huge potential of value addition of the products produced through forest and agriculture. These products may bring better income after a little bit of value addition (processing through small units / cottage industry model) which requires to be done. Similarly, for marketing of these products cooperatives can be developed through existing SHG's federation. These avenues need to be analyzed and tapped in comprehensive manner.

8.3. CYSD:

CYSD is a well known organization primarily for livelihood promotion. Plan's association with the organization is relatively new in comparison with PREM. The PU has been working in poverty stricken areas where livelihood interventions were in focus. The following analysis would help us

to understand that how these interventions were beneficial for children and what measures we should take to make the HESS programming child centered.

Livelihood Interventions supported by the PU:

1 Cashew plantation on community land and also on forest encroached land

Cashew plantation is one of the most successful ventures undertaken. The cashew plantation was undertaken in two phases. One batch of the trees has started yielding; the second batch is yet to flower/ fruit. The PU has supported the communities with awareness on the viability and profitability of the venture, supplying saplings; helped promote nurseries and negotiating both individual and collective plantations. Initial technical training was given to the farmers. However, maintenance of the plants in terms of care, distance between plants, trimming, applying manure and pesticides is an issue. As a result, there is a high mortality rate of these saplings or the existing plants are either dwarf or morph. Increased follow-up of the technical training and greater hand-holding support to the farmers at the time of plantations could have resulted in high-yielding crops.

Further, there has been no attempt to estimate likely production, resultant increase in income and working out on processes of value addition at the village level and scaling it up across the operational area. Adequate forward linkages like value addition and marketing need to be established for deriving maximum benefits from this intervention. The proposed Business Development Services Unit can undertake these possibilities. However, only those households who own either individual or collective land have been benefited from this initiative. Value addition activities through small community owned/managed processing units would provide employment to the landless families who presently are not benefiting from this intervention. Appropriateness of this initiative needs to consider deliberate mechanisms for benefits accruing to children without placing additional burden on them, especially girls. This has to be essentially built into the project; designing and monitoring indicators needs to be developed likewise.

2. Lemon plantation:

Lemon plantation has been undertaken individually and also as a common property resource. The production of lemon is encouraging and is of good quality. The soil quality and local climate is suitable for lemon plantations. The local traders have been linked to the lemon producers for sale of the product. The farmers sell lemon in the local '*haats*' at remunerative prices. This initiative is contributing to additional income of the households engaged in this production activity.

The additional income generated is used for children's education, health, etc. as shared and observed by the community members. This intervention is exclusively targeted at farmers who own substantial lands. So, marginal/ tenant farmers do not benefit from this intervention.

This intervention has the potential of scaling up across the operational area subject to soil testing and piloting of the entire package of interventions. The operations are sustainable as, the PU has done the required hand-holding and has built buy-back linkages with the local traders.

3. Water harvesting structures

The water harvesting structures were incomplete as the project was not approved by Plan and is under processing for FY07.

Community members are unaware of the capacity and per acre availability of water to the adjoining lands in the catchments area. The farmers are unsure whether the available water would be sufficient for growing vegetables.

Community members suggested check dams that can harness rain water and benefit 40 families. However, a detail project strategy needs to be in place to address the scale of benefits, outreach to number of families, how long and how many acres can be irrigated with the harnessed water. Therefore, increased yield, additional income, impacts at household level - Child centered indicators to be developed and a comprehensive project needs to be in place considering all these parameters.

The targeting is not adequately planned / designed. So, it is unclear how many communities and families are benefiting from this intervention. In-depth analysis in program designing is required. It includes a clear activity plan, outcome indicators clearly spelt out and monitoring indicators to be developed for periodic monitoring of the program.

Agriculture Interventions: The PU is implementing a number of agriculture interventions in its operational areas. The ones closely studied by the HESS Study team include:

Treadle pumps: These manual pedal pumps are provided to only those farmers who own lands near a water body. Clearly, other farmers in the community are not targeted for this activity. The pumps are sometimes shared with farmers of adjoining lands who are not given the pumps. This seems to be a low-cost irrigation model and quite useful for vegetable cultivation. Children enjoy using the treadle pumps, but according to their parents, they are allowed to do this only during vacations. A clear impact indicator is that earlier, these households rarely consumed vegetables and now, there is an increase in household vegetable consumption, mainly among children.

Seedling support accessed from Govt: The PU has supported linkages with various Govt. depts. for agricultural inputs like seeds and seedlings. However, this seems to be a one-off linkage. The linkages need to be long-term and therefore sustainable so that there are no more requirements of external support/ hand-holding. Linkages need to be explored with various marketing agencies for forward and backward linkages so that long-term benefits accrue to communities and their children.

Collective vegetable farming: This intervention is not what its title says. It is the only farming done in adjoining farms but not necessarily collectively. The farmers only guard each other's farms from cattle, theft, etc. But, there is no collective purchasing of inputs, no joint production/ harvesting, no bulk sales to achieve scale. Therefore, the benefits of collective cultivation are largely being untapped. Also, insurance options for crops can be explored as a safety net for the farmers.

Technical support on vegetable cultivation: The farmers are trained on vermi composting and usage of other organic manures and pesticides for vegetable cultivation. Experts from agri universities are invited to demonstrate best practices on farming.

Apiculture: This intervention is targeted at landless farmers dependent on daily wage labour who undertake apiculture during lean seasons. The farmers are provided with bee boxes and are trained on bee keeping practices. The honey produced is sold in the local markets.

The marketing of honey production needs to be mainstreamed and forward market linkages needs to be built. This also requires that honey is produced at a scale that can be marketable. So, all honey producers need to be first organized and honey produce should be collected at a common collection point/ by a market agent. The local market for honey also needs to be studied closely and if the returns are not remunerative, the produce needs to be sold at a major market. This intervention needs intensive hand-holding by the PU, careful market research, developing market linkages, organizing the honey producers and ensuring that they get remunerative prices for their produce. This would ensure an increase in household income and reduce the families' struggle during lean seasons.

Land development: The PU has undertaken land leveling activities under this intervention. This is done because the terrain is undulating and therefore unsuitable for agriculture. However, no direct benefit out of this intervention is evident. Even the farmers meant to benefit from this activity are not aware why such an intervention is planned. Clearly, the communities have not been involved during the planning/ designing/ implementation phases of this intervention and as a result, this activity is a stand-alone intervention with no benefits accruing to the community.

Vocational Training: Masonry training is given to the youth in the operational area. Post training, 60% of the youth report that they have got a secure income option. However, since the youth are inexperienced in this vocation, they still have to command the right rate for their work in the larger market.

Promotion of grain banks: Grain bank support is provided to almost all the communities to help households with food security during lean seasons that last between 3-6 months every year. The grains/ paddy is borrowed as a loan and is repaid with an interest (post harvest) so that the asset base of the grain banks increases to reach a level where no external support is required. However, these grain banks only support households that practice agriculture and can repay the grain bank loan (grains) in time. The grain banks do not cater to the needs of the marginalized groups in these villages who are the most vulnerable during the lean seasons and need food security the most (especially for children).

The current grain storage structures need to be upgraded to elevated platforms, because they are attacked and eaten by rodents. As a result there is a high loss of grain. Also, the grain needs to be periodically recycled to avoid pest infestation due to accumulated stocks over long periods of time.

Farmers groups: The PU has organized local farmers groups who undertake vegetable cultivation and paddy cultivation. The farmers' groups share knowledge and information on new farming

practices. These groups are formed with an objective of tapping govt. resources, bank crop loans, trainings provided by Govt. Agriculture Depts. and for collective action. The PU has plans to federate the farmers' groups at the Block/ District level as a cooperative through which collective sale and purchase activities can be performed along with tapping mainstream markets and developing linkages with resource agencies. These farmers' groups are supported by agriculture volunteers responsible for 2-4 nearby villages.

Community Health Financing Scheme [CHFS]: This scheme provides financial support to community members to access available health care facilities - at primary, secondary and tertiary levels. This scheme has been introduced with the intention of reducing the financial burden incurred due to medical care on individual poor tribal families. Instead, this burden can be shared by the other community members thus avoiding financial strain on any one individual/ household.

The SHG federation is the apex body, which is responsible for the implementation of CHFS at the village level through the network of SHGs in all project villages. The premium amount paid by the beneficiary is supplemented with a matching grant given by the PU. Gradually the amount of grant will reduce over a period of 5 years. It is expected that by then the individual families will be in a position to pay the total premium amount. The SHG federations are being mobilised to form an apex body which will be the program implementing agency at the Block/district level in order to ensure program sustainability.

a. SHG led/ supported activities:

- a. Federation of SHGs: A large corpus has been mobilized in the form of individual SHGs affiliated to the Federations. The individual groups and the Federation of SHGs have been successful in accessing loan from the local banks through the SHG-Bank linkage program.

Goat rearing: Was undertaken as a group venture. However, this activity has failed and has not been revived. All goats procured for trading have died due to some unidentified disease – no asset insurance, no veterinary treatment and lack of ownership of the goats are some reasons of failure of this activity. The remaining goats were distributed among individual members and then, the survival rate of goats increased. The fallout of this is that group activities do not sustain as there is no lack of ownership of the assets and therefore, less care and investment. Thus, the enterprise fails. This is also an indicator of the cohesiveness of a group.

Leaf plate-making: Both as a group venture as well as individual activity. This is a successful activity and much in demand as the market linkages are built-in. However, the members do not get remunerative prices due to the involvement of many middle-men. A cooperative model is best for such bulk activities where scales of production can be easily marketed and the profits realized are much higher as the middle-men are removed from the value chain.

Tailoring: Both as a group as well as individual activity. The SHGs have mobilized tailoring contracts from Govt. schools for stitching uniforms for children. The SHGs have also been able to leverage govt. contracts for the mid-day meal scheme and cook and provide food to the schools in the area

Traditional livelihood activities:

The tribal communities in the operational area traditionally depend on the forests for NTFP that includes collection of *Mahua* flowers and fruit for oil extraction, which is used for cooking, as fuel and for medicinal purposes. The communities depend on forests for fuel wood, collect *Sa/* leaves for leaf plate-making, and collect Kusum flowers for oil extraction (fuel).

One major traditional activity in the area is the preparation and sale of local brew (*Handia*), which is made from fermented rice. The tribal women are engaged in the preparation of certain additives that go with the brew and there is a major market for this in Bhadrak, the adjoining district headquarters.

Home-based poultry and goat rearing is also undertaken up by most of the tribal families. However, this is mostly for household based consumption.

About 80% of the families are into daily wage labor as these are landless farmers with very low income levels. In these families, both parents migrate to adjoining districts and leave behind their young ones with older siblings. This spirals into a whole set of problems ranging from – high drop out rates, especially among girl children, malnutrition, high infant mortality rate, and overall low quality of life of children who are left in the care of old grandparents.

Recommendations/ Suggestions

These recommendations are both broad-based as well as related to specific livelihood interventions in the PU in the context of impacting children through the tangible benefits out of livelihoods.

- 1 While agri-based livelihoods focus on the technical inputs, increased follow-up of the technical training and greater hand-holding support to the farmers at the time of plantations would result in hands-on transfer of knowledge and practice. Further, adequate forward linkages like value addition and marketing need to be established for deriving maximum benefits from the intervention. Also, the benefits of collective cultivation are largely being untapped. The insurance options for crops can be explored as a safety net for the farmers.
- 2 If the income levels are enhanced as a result of agriculture interventions, a clear analysis needs to be done if such benefits are adequately reaching children and whether there is an improvement in the overall quality of life of the families, especially that of children.
- 3 The targeting of most interventions does not focus on the vulnerable and marginalized families where the children are most adversely affected. The beneficiaries are currently randomly picked up and are usually those families, which fall in the borderline categories. So, how do the existing interventions benefit the ‘poorest of the poor’? Also, there is an issue of outreach - breadth and depth of interventions – how many villages and what income group of beneficiaries are the interventions targeting?

- 4 In-depth analysis in program designing is required. It includes a clear activity plan, outcome indicators clearly spelt out and monitoring indicators to be developed for periodic review and monitoring of the program. There is a need to revisit the project indicators related to HESS in the framework of benefits accruing to children. E.g., in an intervention related to vegetable cultivation a clear impact indicator is that while earlier, the households rarely consumed vegetables now, there is an increase in household vegetable consumption, mainly among children.
- 5 The existing interventions are far from being sustainable as the linkages developed with Govt. depts./ other technical agencies are one-off linkages with duration of a year or two. The linkages need to be long-term so that there is no further requirement of external support/ hand-holding.
- 6 In case of off-farm activities like apiculture, the marketing of honey production needs to be mainstreamed and forward market linkages need to be developed. This also requires that honey is produced at a scale that is marketable. This intervention needs intensive hand-holding by the PU, careful market research, developing market linkages, organizing the honey producers and ensuring that they get remunerative prices for their produce. This would ensure an increase in household income and reduce the families' struggle during lean seasons.
- 7 In case of land-based interventions, the communities were not involved during the planning/ designing/ implementation phases of the interventions and as a result, the activities are stand-alone interventions without any clear benefits accruing to the community. Neither the communities nor the project staff was aware of the impact of these interventions.
- 8 The grain banks as a food security intervention only support households that practice agriculture and can repay the grain bank loans (grains) in time. The grain banks do not cater to the needs of the marginalized groups in these villages who are the most vulnerable during the lean seasons and need food security the most (especially for children). This is again an issue of target selection.
- 9 In case of group activities promoted by SHGs/ SHG Federation, the fallout is that they don't sustain as there is a lack of ownership of the assets, less care and individual investment by the members in terms of time and attention. Thus, the group enterprise fails in a big way. This is also an indicator of the lack of cohesiveness of a group.
- 10 Cooperative model is best for bulk livelihood activities like farming, honey bee production, tailoring, animal husbandry and others where scales of production need high technical inputs, can be better managed, systematically marketed and the profits realized are much higher as the middle-men are omitted from the value chain. Such interventions therefore have sustainable returns on investment.

PART – IV
**Sector Wise Analysis of the PUs and village
report**

Sector wise analysis of HESS programming is being captured by the report shared by BAIF team which is annexed with this report. Facts related to **field visit** and observation is also captured in the field visit report.