

SAMUDRAM

(UNDP-Equator Initiative Award Recipient- 2010)



Nature of the Organisation:

Samudram is a **State level Federation of Women Fish Workers Organisations** working in the State of Orissa for the development of marine fisher folk living on the coastline of Bay of Bengal.

Formation and legal status:

The organisation started functioning in the year 1993 from Sana Nolia Nuagam as a federation of 15 Women organisations of Ganjam and Puri district with the due facilitation of United Artists' Association, Ganjam and got itself registered in the year 1995-96 under Societies Registration Act XXI of 1860 with registration number- 4287/95-96.

Area of operation:

At present the operational head quarter of the organisation is at Katuru village in Chatrapur Block of Ganjam district. The organisation operates 52 coastal habitation populated by marine fishing community in 9 blocks in 4 coastal districts i.e. Ganjam, Puri, Jagatsingpur and Baleswar district of Orissa and is supporting fellow women in Kendrapada district with little intervention in community organization and alternate livelihoods promotion along with Orissa Marine Resources Conservation Consortium.

Address for communication:

Samudram, AT: Katuru, PO: B. Aryapali, Via: Chatrapur, Dist: Ganjam, PIN: 761 020, Orissa, India

Call: +91 6811 230050, E-mail: samudram.or@indiatimes.com, web: www.samudramodisha.com

Aims:

The organisation aims at empowering traditional marine women in all aspects of life and foster unity, solidarity, love, peace and mutual concern among themselves with a special focus on marine resource conservation and sustainable fisheries.

Objectives:

- ✓ Promote self-esteem and dignity among the traditional marine women fish workers.
- ✓ Enhance socio-economic, political and cultural status of the traditional marine women.
- ✓ Capacity building of traditional marine women to counter confidently any law or system that is detrimental to their interest.
- ✓ Improve quality of life by developing living conditions of traditional marine women through spread of education and better health practices promoted by member organizations in collaboration with like minded organizations and Government.
- ✓ Provide opportunity for Fair Trade to marine fishers to improve their economic status.
- ✓ Act as a nodal point for collection, compilation & dissemination of relevant information related to market, governmental schemes and programs, opportunities for livelihoods improvement etc.
- ✓ Improve skill of members by providing training and produce and market processed fisheries products to provide increased income of the members.

- ✓ Promote a sense of responsibility towards conservation marine Bio-Diversity among members and other likeminded groups.
- ✓ Promote networking among other like-minded organisations working for a common cause.

Thrust areas of work (past & present):

- Social issues related to health, education and un-scientific beliefs/ practices among fellow women etc..
- Influence of outside moneylenders and private traders
- Streamlined procurement and payment system of fish/prawn at landing points with information sharing and
- Establishment/ improvement of infrastructure to run community cooperative trading
- Developed skills of marine fisher women to produce market oriented improved dry fish and make more money out of low cost marine species by producing value added products like
- fish pickle, fish bhujia, prawn pickle, fish papad etc.
- Violation of CRZ act
- Conservation of marine resources and promotion of nature based alternate livelihoods
- Involvement of women fish workers in Savings cum Relief scheme
- Penetrated into fresh fish wholesale markets with in and outside the State.
- Established linkage with wholesalers and exporters to provide better market access to marine fisher women.

Major Achievements':

- Promoted girl child education in operated villages
- Strengthened community cohesiveness by promoting groups and federating them at different level.
- Initiated web-based product promotion to trade above products produced by members
- Joined hands with other environmental groups to protect and promote marine bio-diversity and Intrusion of trawlers violating OMFRA.
- Developed skill and produced value added fisheries products like hygienically processed and packaged dry-fish,
- Increased income of fishers by promoting community cooperative trade initiative
- Improved community level infrastructure for fish/prawn preservation, stocking and processing.
- OUAT etc. and obtained technology for improved fish processing
- Brand promotion of value added products through web hosting.
- Established linkage with academic/ research institutes like CIFE, Mumbai, College of Fisheries,
- Encouraged banks for supporting individuals and Fisher women SHGs with credit support.
- Promoting marine and brackish water weed culture to protect bio-diversity and provide alternate income to fishers with the support of Algal center of Berhampur University.
- Promoted crab fattening, duck and hen rearing, small business etc. for additional income generation of members in villages near mass nesting sites with the support of OMRCC members.
- Deployed artificial reefs to protect and promote fish habitats' in collaboration with OMRCC members and CMFRI.
- Promoting clean beach concept on communities for safe nesting of turtles with the support of OMRCC members, ensured community participation in nest monitoring

ISSUES AHEAD: As foreseen by: M. Parvati, Secretary, Samudram, B. Chittiama, Advisor, Samudram, Malati Malik, Exe. Member, Samudram, Baleswar Branch etc.

Micro level:

Low Women literacy
Sanitation status of habitations
Payment of equal and statutory wage
Implementation of Govt. welfare schemes in its true spirit
Legal title over homestead land
Formal participation of women in community decision-making process
Licensed country liquor shops in marine fishing villages

Macro level:

Implementation of OMFRA & CRZ act in its true spirit
Prawn seed production centers
Unregulated license to mechanized fishing vessels
Non-implementation of Murari committee recommendation
Monsoon fishing
Deforestation of coastal region
Minimum support price for fish and marine products
Defunct primary fisher cooperatives
Climate change induced sea surface temperature rise, coastal erosion etc.

Strengths:

Inter group/ Village solidarity, network of organization at village, regional and apex level.
Existing infrastructure and equipments
Network with other stake holders at local to national level
Brand name established in different regional markets.
Support of Orissa Traditional Fishworkers Union (OTFWU), National Fishworkers Forum (NFF),

Weaknesses:

Scattered habitation along the coast
Lack of systems for information collection and dissemination on time
Lack of Managerial skill among members across the organization

Threat:

Depletion of marine resource (Fish/ Prawn)
No food security of the community due to seasonal catch & declining fish population
Unregistered migration
Effect of Globalization
Climate change

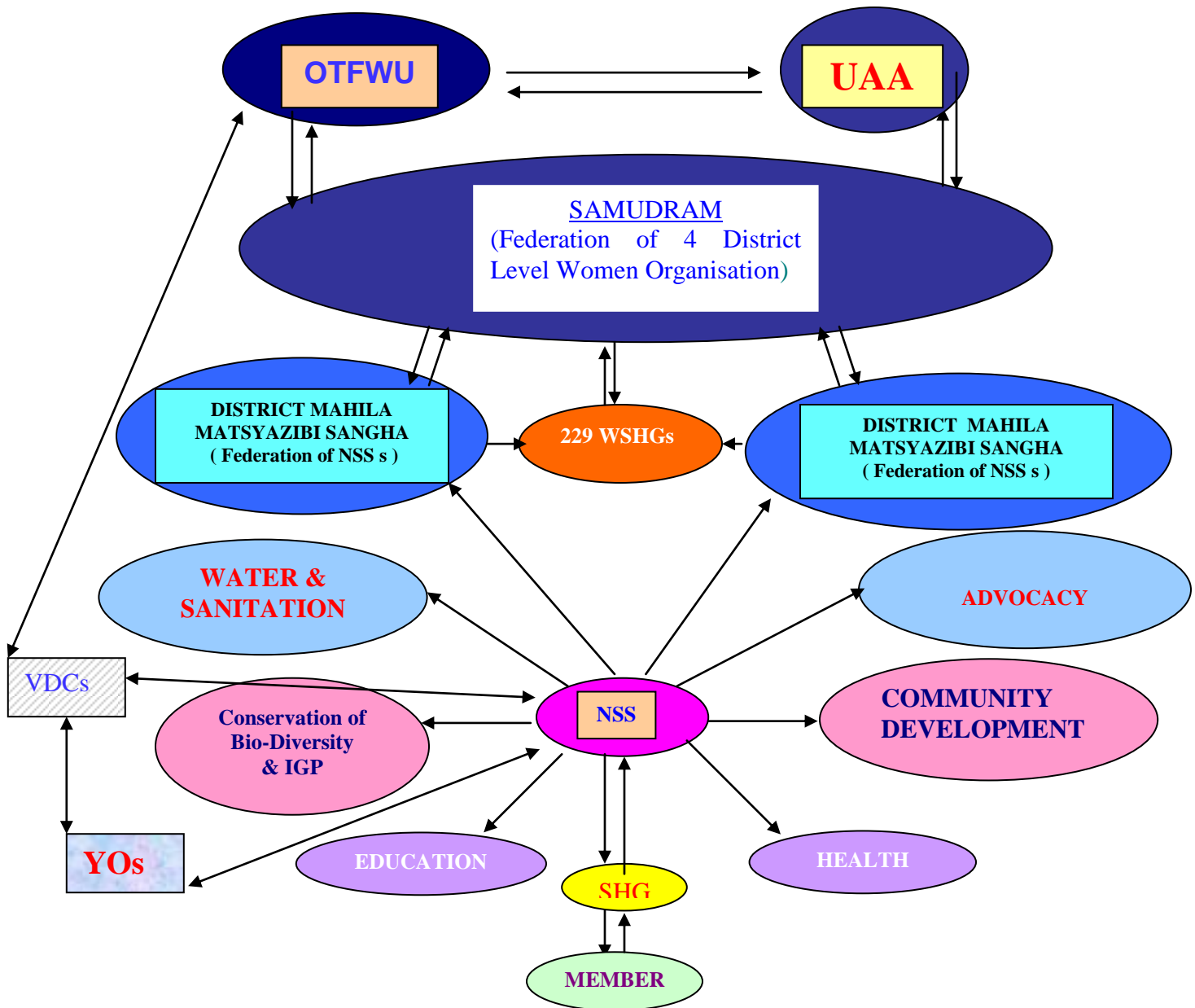
Supporters:

United Artists' Association (UAA)
Orissa Traditional Fishworkers' Union
College of Fisheries, OUAT, Rangailunda
Central Institute of Fisheries Education, Mumbai
Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute, Chennai
Orissa Marine Resource Conservation Consortium (OMRCC)
Turtle Action Group- India (TAG-India)
District Administration and Fisheries Dept. Government of Odisha

Partners:

ActionAid
Oxfam-GB, Oxfam-India, John Davidson Trust thorough Oxfam India
Covenant Center for Development through OMRCC

NETWORK of Marine Women Fishworkers Organisation



SAMUDRAM: State level federation of Women Marine Fish workers Organization

OTFWU: Orissa Traditional Fish Workers Union

UAA: United Artists' Association

NSS: Nari Shakti Sangha (Women Organization)

WSHG: Women Self Help Groups

VDCs: Village Development Committees,

YOs: Youth Organisations

IGP: Income Generation Praogram

MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE of SAMUDRAM

