

JANUARY 2025

IN THE LOOP



Vasundhara Newsletter, 30 th January

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Research Methodology Workshop Strengthens Academic Capabilities

OVERVIEW :

- Research Methodology Workshop Strengthens Academic Capabilities.
- Vasundhara Plans Strategic Initiatives at Two-Day Chilika Meeting.
- Women Lead Powerful Rights Campaign.

In a significant initiative to enhance research capabilities, a comprehensive three-day Research Methodology Workshop was conducted from December 21-23, 2024. The workshop brought together distinguished academics and researchers who shared their expertise across various aspects of research methodology, with a special focus on tribal studies and social science research.

The workshop opened with an illuminating session by Dr. Debendra Biswal, Professor at Utkal University, who laid the foundation by exploring the fundamentals of research methodology. His session provided participants with a clear understanding of various research types and



their applications in academic and practical contexts. A highlight of the workshop was the participation of Dr. A. B. Ota, Former Director of SCSTRTI, Odisha, who delivered compelling sessions on tribal studies. Dr. Ota's expertise brought unique insights into the demographic patterns, cultural heritage, and development challenges of Scheduled Tribes in India and Odisha. His sessions particularly emphasized the importance of understanding tribal customs and traditions while addressing development indicators.

The workshop took a practical turn with Dr. N. C. Dash, Professor Emeritus from Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences, who guided participants through the intricacies of data computation and analysis. His session equipped participants with essential skills in organizing and interpreting research data effectively.

The final day featured enriching sessions by Dr. Mihir Jena on identifying research

thrust areas, followed by Dr. B. Anjan Kumar Prusty's detailed exploration of research design and proposal writing. These sessions provided participants with practical tools for developing their research projects.



Vasundhara Plans Strategic Initiatives at Two-Day Chilika Meeting



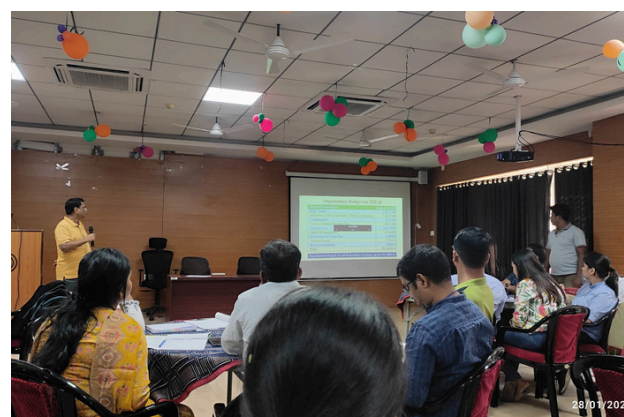
Vasundhara recently Organized a highly productive 2-day planning meeting at the serene Chilika Barkul OTDC, bringing together key team members to reflect on past accomplishments and brainstorm new initiatives for the year ahead. The event was graced by distinguished speakers, including Dr. Premanand Panda, Vice President of Vasundhara, and Mr. Tushar Dash, a dedicated researcher focused on the Forest Rights Act.

On the first day, the teams took the opportunity to review their previous work, sharing insights on what had been accomplished and identifying areas for growth.

The second day was dedicated to presentations, where each of the 6 teams-GIS, Research & Documentation, FRA, WHH, Biodiversity Conservation, and Livelihood-shared their innovative plans

for the year ahead A special mention goes to Ms. Rekha Panigrahi, an associate to Vasundhara, whose ideas on livelihood enhancement, women empowerment, and research initiatives were especially inspiring and impactful.

This meeting was a fantastic opportunity for collaboration, idea-sharing, and reaffirming Vasundhara's commitment to environmental sustainability, community empowerment, and social justice.



Women Lead Powerful Rights Campaign



In a remarkable show of solidarity and determination, the Ranpur Women's Association has launched an innovative postcard campaign spanning 100 villages. More than 50 women leaders are spearheading this initiative, bringing critical tribal rights and land justice issues to the forefront of local governance. The campaign, which culminated in a formal submission to the Nayagarh District Collector, addresses three pressing concerns. First, the restoration of tribal status for 300 Odia Kandha families who have been denied their rightful government benefits for over two decades. Second, the correction of gender bias in land rights documentation, where 116 families received land rights under the Forest Rights Act but only men's names were recorded. Third, the immediate distribution of Individual Forest

Rights titles to 68 villages still awaiting recognition.

The women's collective action has energized the community and demonstrated the power of organized grassroots movements. Their postcard campaign represents a creative approach to advocacy, ensuring their voices are heard at the highest levels of district administration. The initiative showcases how women's leadership can drive meaningful change in tribal rights and gender equality. As the movement gains momentum, these determined women continue their fight for justice, proving that community activism can be a powerful force for social transformation. Their campaign stands as a testament to the strength of collective action and the importance of women's voices in the struggle for tribal rights and land justice.

Empowering Communities for Forest Protection and Sustainable Management



A significant step forward in community forest management has been achieved with the formation of an 11-member Group Forest Resource Management Committee, established under the Recognition of Forest Rights of Other Traditional Forest Dwellers Act-2006. The committee, formed in compliance with Regulations 2008 and Amended Rules-2012 Rule 4(1)(e), demonstrates a strong commitment to gender equality with five women and six men serving as members. The committee's formation, backed by majority support from Gram Sabha voters, represents a pivotal moment in participatory forest governance. This balanced representation ensures that both women's and men's perspectives will guide the protection, conservation, and sustainable management of community forest resources.

