ISSUES RELATING TO ROLE OF NGOS IN RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN INDIA AND PROFILE OF THE SELECTED NGO (BREDS)

An attempt is made in this chapter to analyze the role of NGOs in rural development and to present the profile of the selected NGO from the Srikakulam district BREDS. In the first section the issues relating to the Growth of NGOs in India are outlined (3.1.). The Conceptual and Functional Issues relating to NGOs are discussed in the second section (3.2.). The growing role of NGOs through their diversified activities is presented in the third section (3.3.) and the profile of the selected NGO Bapuji Rural Enlightenment and Development Society (BREDS) is provided in the last section (3.4.).

3.1. Issues relating to the Growth of NGOs in India:

Most of the Micro-finance programmes implemented by voluntary sector in India adopt group approach for lending. Several promotional agencies in the government sector have promoted and inspired to form different types of thrift and credit groups to channelize state sponsored poverty alleviation and social development programmes. In the initial stages, SHGs are brought on a common platform like villages, cluster or Mandal Parishad level conventions to facilitate cross sharing of experiences and ideas among them. These conventions gradually get formalized in the form of appropriate associations where the groups will evolve methods for sharing community and group resources. Each SHG operates independently and maintain their respective group saving account at the local bank and also contribute a part of their resources to the village, cluster level organization to access various financial and non-financial services available for the members. This transfer mechanism helps the groups to moderate the surpluses or deficits at the group level.

Government and many voluntary or Non-governmental organizations thought about the overall development of a nation and this can be achieved by empowering women. Women can be empowered through group activities in the society. Hence, SHGs came into existence and brought good changes in the empowerment of women, socio-economically, culturally and politically.
Mohammed Yunus, popularly known as the father of micro-credit system, started a research project in Bangladesh in 1979 and came out with ideas of micro-credit that resulted in the establishment of Grameen Bank in 1983 in Bangladesh. In 1984, the participants of the third international symposium on mobilization of personal savings in developing countries, which are organized by the United Nations (UN), alternately in its final resolution considered the following aspects. The internal savings are the basis for credit programmes, state control and rate of interest must be relaxed, and more decentralization of financial service and established strong linkage system between the formal and informal credit institutions for development.

Basically, micro-credit system gained the momentum in the mid 1990s after the world Summit for social Development held at Copenhagen in 1995. The Summit emphasized the easy access to credit for small producers, landless farmers and other low income individuals, particularly women, urged governments of various nations to take appropriate actions in order to make easy accessibility of credit to the poor. Subsequently, in 1997, the world Micro-Credit Summit, Washington, announced a global target of ensuring delivery credit to 100 million of the World’s poorest families, especially the women of those families by 2005.

Over the years the role of NGOs in development has been very significant, particularly in the developing countries. In India they are found in almost all the areas of human activity. The activities are virtually multiplying in geometrical progression. They have taken up an array of roles; activists of environmental protection, strong advocates of human rights, consumer protectionists and the like. In the areas of welfare, education, health, sanitation, environmental protection, human rights and social justice, the sector has carved out a niche for itself. In fact, the activities of the sector have influenced significantly the government policies and programmes.

In the context of Indian economy failure of public sector and limitation on private sector have necessitated evolving alternative arrangements for
raising some organizations like Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) or Voluntary Organizations (VOs). In recent times there are many NGOs which have not only grown in size but have also developed infrastructures like research, training and demonstration. The NGOs are being persuaded to take up the responsibility of welfare and development of the people at the grassroots level with financial assistance from government. Different approaches relating to development have been adopted by the various NGOs successfully and the governments have recognized the role of NGOs and slowly involved them in planning the development strategies. The majority of NGOs that have emerged in the last 100 years clearly served the interests of their governments abroad by undertaking various cultural and relief activities. Nevertheless, this fact does not necessarily compromise the quality of NGO activities, at least on the surface. By the end of 1980’s, over 2200 NGOs received donations and grants from industrialized countries and transmitted them to empower private non-profit institutions of the third world countries.

The process of evolution of NGOs in India is concerned, notwithstanding a long history of voluntarism; NGO is a comparatively new term in India. In fact, in India many people dislike the label NGO and preferred to be called as voluntary agencies, development organizations, and voluntary associations etc. It should also be noted here that NGOs in Western Countries are mainly engaged in advocacy and focus on four major issues namely: Environment, Human Rights, Consumer Rights and Gender issues. Where as in India, NGOs are mainly concerned with welfare, modernization or empowerment oriented. Probably Indian voluntary agencies would not like to be seen as champions of rights oriented and hence do not like the term NGO. However, in India, we continue to use the term NGO interchangeably with voluntary agency or development organization. Indian NGOs are generally formed by professionals or Quasi-professionals from the middle or lower middle class, either to serve or work with the poor, or to channel financial support to Community Based Organizations (CBOs).
Voluntary action in India is a long-standing trade. Today non-governmental sector has many direct links with recent history, in particular the social reform movements of nineteenth century. Here an attempt is made to explain briefly the evolution of NGOs in India in different phases. In the first phase, in Indian history, the first half of the nineteenth century was marked by the initiation and raise of social reform movements. Since then the NGOs had participated in limited areas after the adoption of western ideas and Christian faith towards the end of the eighteenth century. The Chapter Act of 1813 removed all restrictions on the activities of Christian Missionary in India and allowed for the establishment of Churches and their maintenance in British India. Since 1857 then the second phase of evolution of NGOs in India was started. This was also the time of consolidation of British Colonial rule over the political and economic life of the people in Indian society. The trends of the first phase were consolidated in the latter half of the nineteenth century by the institutionalized movements. At the same time, purely political organizations with a limited programme had emerged. The Indian National Congress formed an official platform for the expression of growing national consciousness. During this period, various voluntary associations were started in the form of societies to take-up literary and educational activities in different regions of India. The major factor in the third phase was that a successful attempt in this direction was made to channelize the voluntary spirit for political action and mass mobilization for struggle of independence which influenced the arena of voluntary action.

During the post independence period the fourth phase of voluntary initiative had began. The first 20 years of independence, until the mid 1960s, may be termed as the phase of nation-building. In the 1940s, the newly Independence nations, liberating and emerging from the yoke of imperialisms, realized that potentials and constraints to rural development were largely rooted in the society itself. Many people joined together with these organizations to work social-reform-based voluntary action and in constructive work to tackle the emerging needs and tasks of nation building, focusing on extension of work.
in agriculture and health and on community development, etc. The fifth phase started during the mid 1960s and the early 1970s, when the development model followed by the government came under critical review. There was growing evidence of the failure of government’s approach to development and the trickle-down theory. The gap between the rich and the poor and between urban and rural areas has increased during this period that is after 20 years of Independence. It was that at this stage, some NGOs began to experiment with alternative and integrated rural development through the initiative taken by a new generation during the year 1968-69. The new professionally trained youngsters also began to enter voluntary development organizations.

In the sixth phase the circumstances had forced many people to reflect upon their experiences to look back critically at the emerging trends in the country’s political process. After Independence, particularly during the period 1967-69, the process of politicization was almost rooted out and the latter political process contributed to the growth of voluntary action, both in terms of quality and quantity. As a result, new NGOs emerged in greater number and scope and they began to specialize in certain aspects, such as health, agriculture, education literacy etc. These organizations played an important role in rural development and social welfare acting as publicity and propaganda media to remove poverty in rural areas. Phase seven stated during 80s and it witnessed a growth in voluntary action at all levels. This period has given rise to professionally trained social workers from different academic institutions and they joined the sector of voluntary action. The government reposed faith on NGOs in the fields of child, health care, animal husbandry, social forestry, development of women and children etc. The recognition and visibility of the work of NGOs also increased during this period. In India, the Seventh Five Year Plan recognized the importance of NGOs in the difficult task of rural development and provided financial assistance to these organizations since then.
In India during recent Five Year Plans NGOs emerged as a vast sector. At local level, youth associations, women’s organizations and neighborhood groups are operating in both rural and urban areas. These are essentially informal NGOs, based on local inter-family, inter-household relationships addressing on various issues arising out of daily existence in those localities. In India, the rise of professional associations has paralleled the developments in the late 19th century. Associations of artists, writers, etc, began more than 100 years ago. However, in recent years, teachers, doctors, dentists, lawyers, engineers, managers, scientists, social workers, personnel managers, all kind of professionals have formed their own membership associations, which operate at local, provincial and national levels. The development of business social clubs has been quite rapid in the past three decades, covering even small towns. Although they meant primarily to socialize the members, these clubs have also taken on development functions, particularly in charitable activities such as relief, preventive health camps and education of people on issues such as problems of sanitation and over population.

3.2. Conceptual and Functional Issues relating to NGOs:

Generally, voluntary organizations and NGOs are treated as one and the same. This is not true. Voluntary organizations are formed voluntarily and they are non-profit, service-oriented organizations. They are not promoted and supported by Governments. All NGOs are not necessarily voluntary. Voluntary organizations are spontaneous in their origin where as NGOs may be government sponsored. NGOs, which by their nomenclature do not appear as a part of any government policy or programme and they are actually supported and promoted by governments. These are registered bodies that are allowed to function under certain rules and regulations. The basic objective of NGOs is to deliver voluntary service. In simple terms, NGOs can be viewed as private, non-profit, professional and participatory institutions with a distinctive legal character, funded by national or international agencies and concerned with the objectives of public welfare.
The objectives of NGOs reveal the range of their goals, ideals, programmes and activities. Regarding the aims and objectives, the NGOs are broad-based and each NGO combines more than one objective. These objectives cover a wide spectrum of subjects like socio-economic development, empowerment of women, development of rural folks, tribes, environmental protection, literacy, rehabilitations of the needy, awareness programmes, poverty alleviation, leadership training and consumer protection and soon.

The major objectives of NGOs are outlined as, development of women and rural folks socially, economically, politically through income generating activities, education programmes, awareness camps, etc., general socio-economic development of the people living in rural areas especially in down-trodden areas, encouraging the rural folks to participate actively in cultural activities, arts, sports and science activities, development of the under-privileged sections of the society such as fishermen tribes, rural women etc. Running educational programmes like formal education, non-formal education and adult education programmes to decrease illiteracy rate and to improve human resources for the development of a nation, protecting the environment, rehabilitating the deprived sections like the handicapped, mentally retarded and orphans, eradicating poverty through generation of employment opportunities, income generating activities, organizing competitions and giving training to the youth to participate actively in rural development activities, initiating self-employment ventures and organizing leadership/personality development programmes, propagating Gandhian ideology and literature, creating awareness and conducting de-addiction programmes, formation of self help groups and to provide financial assistance to the members of SHGs in order to empower them economically and improving health, hygiene and sanitation in slum areas and protecting the interests of consumers and working for prohibition and assisting in housing.
The main characteristic of an NGO is human touch, got eroded with the introduction of professionalism in social work, because volunteerism and professionalism are the poles apart. The volunteers render a healing human touch either in their personal capacity or through a non-official agency. However, most of the NGOs possess four basic characteristics which distinguish them other sectors in our society. They are indicated as, NGOs are formed voluntarily to render service to the people voluntarily who are in need with aims and objectives and self achieving goals. NGOs involve in the developmental activities and implement the rural development programmes launched by the government to develop the rural people to lead better life. NGOs do not depend on any Government or other organizations and they are relatively independent, they cooperate with other NGOs and government to serve the poor for the development of the rural areas. Hence, NGOs are, by and large, local organizations.

For achieving the aims and objectives, NGOs perform some functions to improve the socio-economic conditions of the people in rural areas. Generally, the functions undertaken by the NGOs are explained as, provides recreations and social service directly to the community for the benefit of children, women, youth, adults and elderly people, establishes contacts between people and government (State/Central) and to develop social life on the basis of goodwill and mutual help, catalyze rural population and Build models and experiments, supplement government efforts by organizing the rural people, educate the rural people and organize training programmes, disseminate information and mobilize the resources for getting better results in the development process, represent the rural people by promoting leadership qualities and act as innovators, ensure people’s participation, promote appropriate technology and activate the rural delivery system.

In the field of social welfare and development category, the NGOs are broadly categorized into four types. An attempt is made to explain in details of the various types of NGOs. The first type comprises welfare-oriented or service
providing NGOs. These are inspired by ‘helping others’ through welfare activities and largely provide service for the poor and marginalized sections of the society. Most of the services provided by this type of NGOs are as follows: establishment of clinics, hospitals, provisions of health, establishment of schools, colleges, organizing training programmes, vocational training, arranging non-formal education, and literacy camps etc., providing drinking water, sanitation facilities etc., providing facilities for agriculture and irrigation and afforestation and encouraging people to make use of available non-conventional sources of energy and appropriate technology for rural developments through agriculture.

One category of NGOs provides the services at low cost with extreme commitment and dedication. The services are also more flexible and responsive to the needs of the local community, and relevant. They above services are provided by some service-oriented NGOs where government programmes and services are not in existence. A related category of welfare activities can be undertaken in situations requiring relief and rehabilitation, working with refugees in crises and disasters such as cyclones, famines, wars, etc. Another category of NGOs are development oriented, working through the organization to undertake various empowerment activities of poorer sections. There are many such NGOs in India and they have contributed to the development of many innovative approaches to improve the socio-economic conditions of the poor and the deprived sections of the society. As a result, the ideas derived from the work of such NGOs have been used in national government programmes and policies. The NGOs are engaging the youth in empowerment process by conducting and organizing social and economic awareness camps in the rural and tribal areas.

The recently emerging NGOs provide a variety of support functions to different local NGOs. A specific and different set of activities undertaken by the support NGOs include professional training, providing services to local NGOs and management consultancy. Some NGOs are specialized in raising the
funds and the same may be disbursed to various local NGOs. In the direct service provision, their involvement is minimal. Some NGOs are using both their own resources from individual donations and financial assistance extended by their own national governments under joint funding schemes, effectively act as provides of resources to partner NGOs.

To achieve the goals, aims and objectives of any organization there should be some strategies. NGOs followed four clear-cut strategies for achieving the aims of development of rural areas and these strategies are for any voluntary organization serving the poor and helping the helpless is most important strategy. Hence NGOs gave first preference to the charity and followed this to develop the rural poor people. Development of any society can be done by supplementing welfare programmes in the state like health, education, employment etc, by the NGOs. Co-operating with Government and other NGOs can supplement welfares to the rural people and make the rural development easier. For the larger benefit of the community, they involve people in programme planning, raising resources, implementing activities and sharing fruits of the development and conscience instilling. One of the main strategies of NGOs in rural development is implementing programmes launched by the Government. The involvement of NGOs in rural development programmes fulfils the needs of the rural people as they mingle with the people by acting as mediators between the Government and the people. However, the main strategy of NGOs is to organize people to participate in developmental activities, enabling them to demand and undertake planning and implementation of development programmes for the benefit of the people. In addition, the NGOs also motivate the people to participate in various activities.

Regarding different income sources of NGOs in India, all the NGOs require funds for three purposes and they are implementation of field programmes and planned activities etc, core expenses i.e. for the day-to-day functioning and running of the organization itself and the long-term institution-building and infrastructure of the organization i.e. physical infrastructure of the
organization and other capital assets like land, building, vehicle, type writing machine etc. The above funds mostly can be raised by the NGOs from various sources. Since Independence, the State and Central Government as well as other financial agencies have been a major support to the programmes of the NGOs in the country particularly after the establishment of the Council for Advancement of People’s Action and Rural Technology (CAPART). Because of its initial enthusiastic response, a large number of additional resources were made available to NGOs through the CAPART.

As far as mobilization of their resources are concerned, in India, all NGOs collect funds on their own, because in most of the cases the government grants are not the only sources of income. They adopt many ways for collecting funds from various available sources. These contributions could be in the form of cash collected from members of the organization towards membership fees from the members of the community as donation as well as subscription contributions from the members of the community and the members of the organization on the form of time and free labour contributions of food, rice and vegetables from the community; fees from the beneficiaries, charity shows, sale of goods prepared in the agency. Foreign sources are another important source to NGO. There are three types of foreign sources to the NGOs in our country. They are the first source includes agencies of the foreign governments, there are some foundations which have been active in India, primarily Ford Foundation, Aga Khan Foundation etc. various Non-Governmental Organizations established in different countries like Cooperation for Assistance and Relief Everywhere (CARE).

Regarding staffing pattern of NGOs in India is concerned, NGOs have their own core values, but all the staff is expected to agree. Ideally, staff should not only have professional skills but should also agree with the core values of the organization. However, the separation of daily tasks from values leads NGOs to recruit new staff, and thus the personnel of the NGOs tend to be divided into two different types. The first type is career-oriented. However, the
members of this category perform their tasks but do not necessarily care for values of the organizations. The second type brings with them a strong set of compatible values but insufficient skill to carry out their tasks. Criteria that can be used as strategic tools to improve the quality of recruitment include sensitivity, ability to listen and learn, active patience and honesty. NGO staff identifies these factors as important attributes to improve their quality to work in NGOs. All NGOs are targeted to serve people outside the organization, not inside. In light of this basic principle, staff training is paradoxical, for it can be regarded as serving the NGO, although NGOs train the staff in the hope that they will better execute their missions.

The governance aspects of the NGOs in India, they encompasses the exercise of authority, through various measures, for the common benefit of society, which includes formulation and implementation of policies by the governing authority for socio-economic welfare. It is defined as the manner in which ‘power is exercised, in the management of the socio-economic resources of the economy. Good governance encompasses within itself efficiency and effectiveness in decision-making, decentralized management, cost effectiveness and flexibility. Most of the NGOs are formally incorporated under the Society’s Registration Act 1860 or the Indian Trust Act 1882, but both the laws require the establishment of a governing body or a governance mechanism that takes overall responsibility for the functioning of the NGO. Historically, the governance structure of NGOs has not been given enough attention. NGOs have been founded by motivated, committed and inspiring individuals and have functioned around those individuals. Leadership centered NGO activity, therefore, makes independent and autonomous governance rather difficult, as well as making the organizations totally dependent on their founding leaders. New generation staff is prepared to take the leadership function to expand the governance function and to manage the organization. Traditionally the development of policy making has a governance mechanism which is inadequate among the NGOs. The staff is given training so that they can help in achieving aims and objectives of the organization and maintain good
relationship with founder leader of NGO to run the organization effectively. Professional management of NGO is a recent phenomenon in India and is not yet accepted widely.

The issues relating to the NGOs relations with various bodies are concerned; NGO sector in India has been progressive, innovative and flexible in developing ways to work with local population and groups. Participatory planning and Programme implementation method have evolved from the practices and experiences of such NGOs. Although some welfare-oriented and service-providing NGOs treat their local beneficiaries as simple clients to be helped, this trend has changed rapidly in the last two decades. Discussions with local population, helping them to identify their needs and prioritizing the areas of interventions, and thus gaining their active participation in the development project have become a hallmark for most of the NGOs. NGOs in India are working in collaboration with the State and Central governments and a majority of the NGOs are receiving funds from the government and reach out to a larger number of people. NGOs have their own goals and pursue them independently of the government. Some were founded even before the formation of the independent Indian government and continue working towards the fulfillment of their objectives without particularly bothering about the government’s policy and programmes.

Relationship between the government of India and the non-governmental sector is showing signs of an emerging partnership. This is because the government realizes and has reiterated in its official policy documents that the magnitude of the problem is far too large to be resolved by a single delivery system, be it public or private. The non-governmental sector also realizes and believes that the final and ultimate responsibility rests on the Indian government. Even if the efforts of the government are critical, NGOs essentially perceive themselves in a partnership role with the government. Whether the NGOs receive funds from the government or implementing government sponsored schemes or creating innovative and alternative models,
they consider themselves as supporting government initiatives in fulfilling the objectives of working for the downtrodden in general.

Under the Ministry of Rural Area and Employment, CAPART was set up in 1986 to promote voluntary action and propagate appropriate rural technologies for the benefit of the rural areas. It provides assistance to NGOs under different programmes such as the India Awas Yojana, watershed management, social forestry, link roads in hilly areas, promotion of voluntary action for rural development, the development of women and children in rural areas. The CAPART is also providing financial assistance to NGOs involved in the organization of beneficiaries for various anti-poverty programme, central rural sanitation programme, drinking water under the technology mission on accelerated rural water supply programme and advancement of rural technology.

3.3. Growing role of NGOs through their Diversified Activities:

It is observed that the objectives of NGOs help us to understand various programmes, strategies and activities undertaken by the NGOs for the development of rural areas. Most of the NGOs have been undertaking more than one activity to achieve their objectives. Here an attempt is made to explain some of the important programmes/activities undertaken by the NGOs for the development in rural areas. More than 95 per cent of NGOs have involved in organizing various awareness programmes in the most preferred activity. Awareness programmes can make the development programmes successful. Arranging training activities for employment and skill development constitute the major and significant programme for majority of NGOs. Since many NGOs are functioning as small production units marketing of products has been considered as a major programme. Many NGOs are selling ready-made garments, electrical goods (such as voltage stabilizers), note books, greeting cards, milk products, pickles, jams, squash, candles, seeds, seedlings, handicrafts, curry powders and a variety of similar products.
Although there are only some purely environmental NGOs have taken up environmental problems and related issues as an important focus of activity, still there is environmental degradation and need for the protection of environment by motivating the communities and using human resources. The emphasis on surveys and research indicate the preference and importance given by the NGOs which helps us to understand the scientific basis of their activities. Scientific data is a prerequisite for any programme to become a scientifically founded one. The other areas of activities undertaken by the NGOs are consultancy services, information technology and networking. At present most of the NGOs offer consultancy services in a bid to earn an income and make the organizations economically viable. Information Technology (IT) has been identified as a thrust area of activity for a considerable number of NGOs. In the era of globalization and information technology it assumes significant place in the present communication system. NGOs are necessary to implement the prescribed development programmes successfully.

Education is broadly conceived as a means of promoting functional skills among people. In the recent past, education, especially adult education is concentrating on promotion of literacy and numerical skills only. There is a clear correlation between poverty and housing, the poor person either does not have a house or lives in an unserviceable kutcha houses. Housing scheme provides houses on loan-basis. Houses are self-built by beneficiaries either individually or through an organization of beneficiaries with the support of the government. The government extends its support by providing land, finances and access to cost effective technologies. Rural roads are important not only for the movement of agricultural and allied products from rural to urban consumer centers. Water and sanitation are at the forefront of the international debates on sustainable development. Sanitation means a package of health related measures. It is also defined as the means of collecting and disposing of excreta and community liquid wastes in a hygienic way and not to endanger the health of individual and the community as a whole. Today, concept of sanitation denotes a comprehensive concept of not only the methods of disposal
of human waste but also of liquid and solid wastes including matter originating from food and hygiene.

NGOs recognized the importance of entrepreneurship activities in rural areas and worked in this direction for the establishment of rural entrepreneurship by extending micro-finance and other facilities for the development of rural areas. The development of the socio-economic condition of people and development of economy any form is the outcome of human activity. Entrepreneurship is a purposeful activity in initiating, promoting and maintaining economic activities for the production and distribution of wealth. The individual as an entrepreneur is a crucial factor in economic development and is integral part of socio-economic transformation. Creation of self employment and earning a livelihood make them to venture into micro enterprises. The successes of these micro entrepreneurs are willing to provide for them. In business field the entry of women is a relatively new phenomenon. The enterprises set up by them are mostly in small scale sector. The development of rural entrepreneurship by NGO has gained the status of national movement not only for industrial development but also for solving the problem of unemployment and to uplift economically weaker sections in rural areas. Primary level NGOs are mobilizing their own resources to the development programmes and operating internationally to undertake development activities by themselves or through Intermediate organizations or through the Gross-roots level organizations. Intermediate NGOs procure funds various agencies and mobilize the resources to impart training and conduct workshops for professional work force.

Generally, the NGOs supplement and assist the development activities of the government. Yet there are many NGOs operating developmental programmes independently with their own programmes relating to income generation, self employment and entrepreneurship activities. Through selective approach, the NGOs have been concentrating their efforts on the development of micro entrepreneurshipships in the informal sector rather than the more
substantial formal sector business. During the past few decades, efforts were on to improve rural entrepreneurs, because the government and non governmental agencies are considered as the principal actors. The role of NGOs has assumed critical significance primarily at the grass root level. They have contacts with people and respond to their needs effectively. In India, the approach of NGOs to development tends to be more participatory than the strategies of the state. The NGOs usually maintain very close links with the local people and thus have more direct knowledge of local needs and opportunities. This knowledge allows them to recommend and implement truly sustainable development programmes which regenerates local resources and enhances local capacity to help the NGOs to play a more important role in empowering the rural poor because the NGOs usually involve actively through local communities in the identification and providing solutions to the problems of development.

3.4. Profile of Bapuji Rural Enlightenment and Development Society (BREDS):

Bapuji Rural Enlightenment and Development Society (BREDS) Inspired by the Gandhian philosophy of Gram Swaraj, or ‘self-rule’, a group of residents of Dimili village (Kotturu Mandal, Srikakulam District) and other area social activists founded the Bapuji Rural Enlightenment and Development Society (BREDS) in 1983. BREDS Registered under Societies Registration Act XXI of 1860(India) bearing the No. 185/83, dated 06.12.1983, Registered under the FCR Act of 1976 (India) bearing No. 010340004, dated 13.02.1985 and Registered U/S 12A of income tax Act,1961 (India) bearing No.III/19/85-86.

The activists, goal was to serve the most marginalized, vulnerable rural communities and focus on their socio-economic betterment through empowerment and sustainable livelihood promotion. Initially, BREDS opened night schools specializing in adult education. These volunteer-supported classes targeted Adivasis (tribal people) and members of ‘Other Backwards Castes’ (OBCs) in Dimili and nearby villages. The organization continued to
evolve over the next two decades and work with other target populations, but BREDS has experienced its greatest growth from 2001 until today. Through a combination of teamwork, commitment, strong leadership, government support, and donor participation, BREDS is now recognized as one of the best NGOs in our district of Srikakulam Andhra Pradesh, India. The organization has expanded in a number of ways they are now working in a larger area, with more community members on a variety of projects. Most importantly, they have achieved these goals by gaining the trust of the communities in which they work.

The table 3.1. Shows that there is a lot of growth and development in the different aspects of the organization. At the beginning BREDS has 2 programmes/ activities which were carried out by 5 workers in 33 villages covering families 225. Today BREDS programmes/activities have been extended to three states in India; they are, Andhra Pradesh (AP), Orissa (OR), and West Bengal (WB). The activities of BREDS have increased significantly and cover 2.90 lacks families in 3,980 villages severed by 120 programme volunteers. BREDS is taking help from Government of India, State Government of Andhra Pradesh and international agencies. The generous support and technical assistance provided by all stake holders engaged in the development sector has enabled BREDS to improve the scope of its activities through multi dimensional strategies.

Table 3.1
Growth of BREDS- 1983 To 2011

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Particulars</th>
<th>1983</th>
<th>2011</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Programmes</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Area of operation</td>
<td>Srikakulam District in Andhra Pradesh</td>
<td>Andhra Pradesh, Orissa and West Bengal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Programme villages</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>3,980</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staff</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Population covered(families)</td>
<td>225</td>
<td>2,90,500</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A. Vision of organization:

Every human being has inalienable rights, guaranteed by the constitution of India and the international covenants. However, due to a variety of circumstances women, children, the elderly, the sick, the disabled and other vulnerable sections are denied opportunities for growth and social advancement. To realize the GANDHIAN dream of GRAM SWARAJ by building a network of autonomous village communities which are self-sufficient and self-reliant.

B. Mission of Organization:

To capacitate the communities to become better informed and enlightened of their rights and choices in order to control the environment, resources and levels of power. To strengthen the institutional base necessary for social transformation and to bring positive change in the quality of life marginalized communities.

C. Organizational Goal:

To facilitate the process of empowerment of marginalized communities by reducing vulnerabilities and increasing capacities, and enabling them to liberate from oppression and exploitation and lead life with dignity and respect.

Core values:

- Respect for human dignity and human rights
- Inclusion
- Gender equity
- Accountability and transparency
- People participation

D. Objectives of BREDS:

BREDS has undertaken many development programmes /activities to achieve its objectives for the development of the poor. The main objectives of BREDS are.

- To capacitate the target community, focusing on role transformation at all levels, with a special focus on skill development that enables people to control their environment
➢ To educate the rural poor, emphasizing the value of education with a special emphasis on the promotion of women and the girl child. BREDS promotes value based and vocational education to further strengthen.

➢ To facilitate access to health service mechanisms for the rural poor and urban slum inhabitants by promoting health for all, particularly focusing on women’s and children’s care on the area of reproductive health.

➢ To emphasize the need for the socio-economic empowerment of the target communities, by pursuing the best possible avenues in all means and ends.

➢ To protect and restore local ecosystems and the environment, taking special steps for the protection of natural resources. BREDS promotes effective management and treatment of land, water, and forest for the sustainable livelihood promotion of the target community.

➢ To form and promote Self Help Groups (SHGs), Village Organizations (VOs), and Mutually Aided Cooperative Societies (MACS), which work towards their economic empowerment and a reconstruction of the rural economy through a revival of the cooperative movement.

➢ To promote sustainable agriculture and value addition through horticulture products and crops. This ensures sustainable food security, enhances income potential, and generates employment opportunities within the target community, thereby stemming the tide of migration.

➢ To promote and restore the traditional culture of the target community, sustaining unity and integrity in the village atmosphere.

➢ To provide relief and rehabilitation packages to rural communities affected by natural disasters and calamities.

➢ To facilitate all the government’s developmental priorities to reconstruct a better rural India that can realize the concept of gram swaraj.
➢ To initiate any additional development processes that contributes to the holistic growth and sustainable empowerment of the marginalized, vulnerable sections of the society.

E. Gender policy:

BREDS stands committed to the cause of gender equality and seeks to improve women’s well-being, in all areas. We believe that women and men should exist in a state of equal opportunity where both have the ability to make choices that affect their self-expression, growth, and sustainable development.

F. Programmes /Activities of BREDS:

At BREDS, they help communities identify their problems and find appropriate solutions. They work on a variety of issues, but most of their interventions fit into at least one of these focus areas;

- Natural Resource Management.
- Sustainable resource management and food security.
- Women’s Empowerment.
- Community Health and Education.
- Institution Building and Community Based Organizations (CBOs) and People’s self-governance.

Natural Resource Management:

BREDS promote the stewardship of resources in a manner that is beneficial and sustainable for both communities and the environment. By advocating appropriate rural technologies, promoting horticultural programmes and providing information about marketing strategies, BREDS helps community members to work towards solutions that ensure water safety, food security and livelihood restoration.

In vulnerable rural communities, villager’s lives and livelihoods are intertwined with and highly dependent on land, water and forest resources for their existence. Over the past few decades, a number of factors have contributed to the decline in the areas that BREDS works. Overall, rapid population growth has pushed consumption past previous levels and put a
strain on the environment. When members of vulnerable communities do produce goods, they are often taken advantage of by middlemen and compensated well below market level for their products. In the plain areas, wealthier farmers with access to electric pumps extract groundwater very quickly, when the already low water table drops even further, their poorer neighbors cannot access water to irrigate their own plots as natural water sources dry up.

Based on a successful project launched in Gujarat and Maharashtra states, the Maa Thota project enables tribal communities to create stable livelihoods and promotes environmental sustainability. Each family is responsible for farming a plot of land; with the climate in mind, cashews and amla have been planted as its two core crops. Other suitable forest species such as teak, eucalyptus, neem, curry leaf, and bamboo, are mixed throughout the plot to create biodiversity. Through trainings and models in the field, BREDS teaches community members about strategies for water harvesting, moisture conservation, and control of soil erosion. While villagers implement more sustainable farming methods that generate long-term gains, they also create short term benefits. Villagers are producing more crops and BREDS helps them access knowledge about better market rates so that they can earn a fair price for their outputs. Widespread chemical pesticide usage in our region creates major troubles for rural farmers from a both livelihood and health perspective.

Farmers often become ensnared in a cycle of debt if they cannot pay back moneylenders from whom they have taken loans for expensive chemical treatments. Not only these pesticides are unsuccessful in eliminating local pests, but pesticidal content seeps into the crops and decreases nutritional content. In addition, farmers exposed to the chemicals suffer from debilitating illnesses that affect their ability to earn and their overall quality of life. Our Non-Pesticidal Management (NPM) project gives farmers technical support to improve their agricultural production with low investment. BREDS encourages farmers to utilize traditional pest control methods and organic fertilizers that
are free of cost because they can be made by the farmers themselves from local, natural products. Customarily, rural farmers have relied on their tank, a local natural water reservoir, to access water to irrigate their fields. However, villages, tanks are often in major disrepair and cannot be used properly by the people in the area. When the tank is empty or malfunctioning as a result of blockage/breakage, crops must survive on (potentially insufficient) rainwater alone, or the farmers will not plant at all. Through the Andhra Pradesh Community Based Tank Management Project (APCBTMP), BREDS assists villages in organizing its water users and other stakeholders into groups that are committed to systematic tank improvement and management. Additionally, BREDS gives farmers agricultural and livelihood support, including information about crop diversification and generating higher yields for current crops.

Sustainable Livelihoods and Food Security:

People in rural communities depend on the land or the sea for their livelihoods, which can be notoriously unpredictable and unstable. When a harvest or catch does not meet expectations, as well as during the lean season, entire communities may suffer. Pursuing sustainable livelihoods can also be difficult for marginalized groups such as school dropouts, rural artisans and entrepreneurs, and physically handicapped persons who often do not have the appropriate education, skills, or training. Many people would prefer to stay among family and friends, in their native places where their ancestors have lived for generations, but they feel pressure to migrate. With so much competition for housing, low skilled jobs and other resources, people usually end up working for extremely low wages and homeless or living in urban slum conditions.

Highly skilled Indians are multiplying; livelihood sustainability remains one of the biggest challenges at the village level. BREDS believes that in order to improve the overall quality of life of community members, their livelihood base must be secure and strong. Based on available resources, BREDS enables
rural communities to add value through non market interventions such as the provision of start up capital for livelihood diversification activities or through linkages with skill development trainings. BREDS helps connect community based groups to formal financial institutions, where they can access loans for new micro enterprises and income generating activities, freeing themselves from the high interest rates and cycles of debt associated with local moneylenders.

Fisher folk communities in the coastal areas do not own land and derive their entire livelihood from the sea. The men go out fishing each day and the women are mostly responsible for fish processing, transport, marketing, and net making. Often, families borrow money from traders for boat and net repair, or to enable them to purchase goods during the lean season. They are then obliged always to sell their catch to that same trader for below the prevailing market price to help pay back their loans. Also, unfair competition from large-scale fishing operations forces people to engage themselves in migration. Many men spend nine months of the year in other states such as Gujarat, Maharashtra, and the Andaman & Nicobar Islands, working as low-wage laborers on shrimp trawlers. Livelihood instability also affects the local Dalit community, landless and amongst the poorest of the poor. The 2004 tsunami was another severe blow to the coastal areas.

The Swayamkrushi and Let’s Empower and Develop (LEAD) projects help members of the fisher folk and Dalit communities to create alternative IGAs such as rope-making and coconut broom making, cashew processing and marketing, dry fish preservation, and fish pickling in addition to helping them make connections with local banks to support these new activities. Communities living in the hills and plains rely on the products of the land for their livelihood, and Adivasis and Dalits face many challenges to their subsistence. Population growth in the rural areas makes land and other finite resources scarcer and improper Natural Resource Management (NRM) contributes to environmental degradation. Also, outsiders are constantly
encroaching on tribal lands to farm their own plots or to extract resources with little or no compensation. Because they live in such remote areas, traders frequently take advantage of the Adivasis’ lesser knowledge about proper market rates for their products. The Subhodayam and Aatma Gouravam projects provide the necessary skill trainings to members of these communities so that they can engage in supplementary IGAs such as livestock-rearing and dairy milk units. BREDS also offers strategies for watershed development and land conservation, as well as information about the cultivation and fair marketing of non-timber forest products (NTFPs) such as cashews, amla, honey, and different fruits.

Families frequently do not have excess amounts of the food grains that they grow to support themselves during the lean season. They must purchase food grains from local vendors between harvests, and are obligated to pay them back with a large portion of their next harvest, plus interest. The Subhodayam project meets food security needs and helps prevent families from becoming ensnared in a cycle of chronic debt. BREDS mobilized resources from its partner agencies to establish community grain banks in 102 villages. The communities run the grain banks through management committees, made up of their own members, who distribute the grain during the lean season and decide on appropriate payback measures.

**Women’s Empowerment:**

Around the world, women are not afforded the same opportunities and rights as men. Patriarchal attitudes and prevailing social norms prevent women from participating in decision making and asserting their views, both within their families and in greater society. Unfortunately, poverty often makes gender inequality and its repercussions even more stark and enduring. In more traditional, rural India, men are considered the breadwinners, they must earn the principle livelihood that supports a family. Women are typically responsible for child care, cleaning, food preparation duties and other domestic obligations. Often, women may also pursue additional income generating
activities to supplement the primary income earned by their husbands. It is generally accepted that men will make all financial and other important decisions facing the household and women do not have much say in these matters that will directly affect their lives.

BREDS recognizes when women are educated and empowered, they can make more informed decisions that have the potential to improve the quality of life of their families and entire communities. As a result, every BREDS project includes women’s empowerment as one of its primary objectives. Women identify issues facing their communities and create their own solutions. BREDS encourages women’s social mobilization and capacity building through the promotion of community associations such as Self- Help Groups (SHGs), Village Organizations (VOs), Federations and Mutually Aided Cooperative Societies (MACS).

One of the biggest benefits of these groups to women is the facilitation of access to credit and other services that can lead to more economic independence and social viability. Banks are very wary of lending to rural individuals, whom they consider high-risk. They are much more likely to lend to women if they approach the bank as members of a community-based organization like an SHG. Across Andhra Pradesh, these groups have gained a reputation for reliability because the communal structure strongly encourages participants to repay their small, personal loans on time. BREDS helps create these bank linkages, allowing women to receive start-up capital to kick-start IGAs and launch other micro-enterprises. Beyond bank linkages, women participating in grassroots associations can learn skills such as bookkeeping, petty business management, financial planning, negotiation tactics, and more that can help them tackle other problems they are facing at home or in their communities.

As women gain confidence through membership, they are more likely to take on community leadership roles, lobby with authorities on important issues, and assert themselves in the processes of local-level governance.
Specific government schemes exist to address the needs of pregnant women, lactating mothers, and children under the age of three. This vulnerable population is entitled to special services, delivered by health personnel via the government’s system of local clinics and outreach activities. Provision of these services is extremely effective in preventing common but easily avoidable problems such as malnutrition and infant death. More often than not, people are unaware of their rights and do not realize that these health care mechanisms are not functioning properly or at all. Through the Integrated Nutrition and Health Program (INHP), BREDS facilitated the formation of Mothers’ Committees, comprised of community members who are stakeholders in proper service delivery. These women are trained on their entitlements to health care and they now have the knowledge to monitor health care service delivery at the village level and put pressure on local authorities when this fails to occur.

Many women may feel isolated and alone when facing the problems of their daily life. But when they are connected to one another and gain knowledge about their rights and entitlements, possibilities are open to them in areas where seemingly insurmountable obstacles once stood in their way. They feel empowered to take advantage of new opportunities and tackle greater challenges. Part of BREDS role is to disseminate knowledge amongst women through our bi-monthly newsletter, Mahila Vijayam, or ‘the victory of women’. BREDS created this publication to provide women with accurate information about the numerous government schemes, packages, and other mechanisms available to address the specific needs of rural women. It explains the rights and entitlements for which they are eligible and enables access to information about relevant topics such as education, health, agricultural & horticultural methods, and more. Mahila Vijayam also includes success stories and best practices so that the women can learn from and become inspired by hearing about the experiences of others.

Community Health and Education:
India faces some of the most daunting health indicators in the world, which is particularly troubling because one sixth of the global population calls India home. The Indian Government has many schemes and programmes in the rural areas to address health care needs, efficient and effective service delivery often does not occur. Villagers are unable to access care and information through the government’s system of local clinics and outreach activities. Provision of these services is extremely effective in preventing common but easily avoidable problems such as malnutrition, chronic illnesses and infant deaths as a result of labour complications. People are unaware of their rights and do not realize that these local health care mechanisms are not functioning properly.

BREDS believes that each person is entitled to health knowledge and care, regardless of their caste, gender, place of residence etc. Its projects disseminate accurate information and offer preventive strategies to villagers through trainings, health days, cultural programming and gatherings. Also, BREDS facilitates community based monitoring of local service providers, empowering communities by informing them of their rights so that they can hold health institutions and their workers accountable to their mandates.

Pregnant women, lactating mothers, and children under three are recognized as a vulnerable population by the Indian government and are entitled to special services under the Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS). The network of AnganWadi Centres each employ that are responsible to track those who qualify and ensure that they are receiving appropriate care. The services they give include pre-natal and pregnancy care, information about hospital births and post-natal care, nutrition and health support for mothers and breastfeeding children, immunization camps, and advice to prevent common illnesses affecting young children. Through its Integrated Health and Nutrition Program (INHP), BREDS works closely with ICDS to coordinate outreach activities by Angan Wadi workers to reach effectively to mothers and children such as a ‘Nutrition and Health Day’; mothers can Take Home Rations of
staples (rice, lentils, oil, etc.). BREDS also promotes Mothers’ Committees, grassroots associations that are trained to monitor existing health delivery mechanisms at the village level and put pressure on health personnel when care is not provided.

The tribal or Adivasi communities face significant barriers to accessing rural health care services. Many tribal people live in remote and interior areas that are far from the system of government clinics and health care personnel. Distance and/or the cost of transportation may be prohibitive, even if Adivasis do know about the facilities available to them. Because Adivasis receive so little preventative care, health problems tend to escalate exponentially and the first point of contact with health professionals is often an emergency situation. In recognition of BREDS’ record as a reputable local NGO, the National Rural Health Mission has entered into a public-private partnership with BREDS. Maatha Sisu Rakshak Pathakam, the mobile medical health unit is responsible for visiting 32 villages each month on a fixed schedule. Trained staff travel to two villages a day and provide preventive, diagnostic, curative, referral, and emergency services to the Adivasi community. By regularly visiting tribal areas, Adivasis can access health care services in their own villages, reducing the likelihood that they will receive medical attention only in times of health crises.

**People Self Governance:**

The political system of Panchayat Raj Institutions (PRI) is unique to India and was inspired by the Gandhian ideal of Gram Swaraj or self-help. Gandhi advocated the PRI because he believed that each village should be autonomous, self-reliant, and responsible for its own dealings. In 1983, Andhra Pradesh fully adopted the three-tiered Panchayat Raj system as a mechanism to empower rural people to manage their own affairs at the village, mandal and district levels (Village Level-Gram Panchayat, Mandal Level Panchayat Samiti and District Level Zilla Parishad). This decentralization of administration to a more localized level intends for rural people to be in more direct control over
the processes of their own governance. BREDS strives to facilitate proper, democratic operation of the PRIs and empower the members of the Community Based Organizations (CBOs) to fully participate in their own governance. One of BREDS’ main objectives is to organize trainings for PRI members, clarifying their roles and responsibilities to their constituents. BREDS also raises awareness for community members about their rights in the PRI, particularly within the Gram Sabha. CBOs each develop their own community action plans, and are encouraged to integrate them into the development plans pursued by official’s at all three tiers of the system.

**Institution Building and Community Based Organizations (CBO):**

BREDS believes that the best way to create sustainable development at the village level is by empowering people to create positive change in their lives. Through the promotion of community based interest groups, BREDS fosters self-managed, grassroots level institutions and networks within the rural populations. Villagers, particularly and predominantly women, are encouraged to form cooperative associations that can influence local decision making bodies and the Panchayat Raj Institutions that manage local affairs. Building strong institutional networks and community based organizations ensures that power is in the hands of the community members to dictate the terms of their own social transformation.

Many people in the target areas are unaware of their eligibility for a variety of government programmes and schemes to alleviate rural poverty. Information is power, and we believe that community access to information is essential to achieving community empowerment. Knowledge transfer through advocacy, lobbying and networking is a crucial component of BREDS work. By facilitating positive collaborations between service providers, resource agencies and community based organizations; they enhance people’s capacity to secure rights and entitlements, to improve negotiation skills and bargaining power and to hold institutions accountable.
i) BREDS encourages women’s social mobilization and capacity-building through the promotion of community associations such as Self-Help Groups (SHGs), Village Organizations (VOs), Federations, and Mutually Aided Cooperative Societies (MACS). One of the biggest benefits of these groups to women is the facilitation of access to credit and other services that can lead to more economic independence. Banks are very wary of lending to rural individuals, whom they consider high-risk. They are much more likely to lend to women if they approach the bank as a members of a community-based organization like an SHG. Across Andhra Pradesh, these groups have gained a reputation for reliability because the communal structure strongly encourages participants to repay their small, personal loans on time. BREDS helps create these bank linkages, allowing women to receive start-up capital to kick-start IGAs and launch other micro-enterprises. Beyond bank linkages, women participating in grassroots associations can learn skills such as book keeping, petty business management, financial planning, negotiation tactics, and more that can help them tackle other problems they are facing at home or in their communities. As women gain confidence through membership, they are more likely to take on community leadership roles, lobby authorities on important issues, and assert themselves in the processes of local-level governance.

ii) Physically challenged persons are one of the most overlooked communities in the already marginalized rural areas. Disabilities may make it more difficult for them to engage in stable and sustainable livelihoods. BREDS’ Sankalpam project has facilitated the formation of over 132 SHGs and 1 Federation, totaling almost 1,000 members, to meet the needs of this community and build their capacities. BREDS helps create bank linkages and provides matching grants so that members can establish small businesses like phone booths, fish marketing, grocery shops, and stationery stalls. Also, people can participate in continuing education courses that can expand livelihood options.

iii) Families have been engaging in their traditional rural livelihoods for generations. It is often the youth who feel the most restless and disgruntled
about livelihood instability and an unpredictable future in the village. Young men are the community members who most frequently engage in distress migration; but with so much competition for housing, low-skilled jobs and other resources, they usually end up working for extremely low wages in urban slum conditions. For those who remain in the villages, particularly in the tribal areas, they often become idle and lose hope. BREDS’ Subhodayam project connects youth with available government schemes; they are eligible for vocational training programmes in areas like computer training (software/hardware), mobile phone repair, and masonry that can create real livelihood options at the village level. BREDS also provides meetings and awareness trainings for young men and women on important life skills.

G. Strategies of BREDS:

The strategies for the effective introduction of BREDS Interventions are as follows.

- Social mobilization and conscientization
- Institutional building
- Human capital development
- Entrepreneurship development & enterprise promotion
- Advocacy, lobbying and networking.

Our supporting partners & collaborations:

BREDS during these above two decades worked with several Foreign, Government of India, Government of Andhra Pradesh and Corporate partners. The supported / supporting agencies so far are:

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<th>Table 3.2</th>
<th>Supporting Partners during period 1983-2011</th>
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<td>F O R E I G N</td>
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<td>Diakonie Werk, Germany (Diakonie Emergency Aid)</td>
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<td>Broederlijk Delen, Belgium (partnership recently closed due to shift of focus to Africa)</td>
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<td>OXFAM Australia ( partnership recently closed as due to merger of OXFAM)</td>
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H. **Organizational Aspects of BREDS:**

BREDS adopted an organizational structure depending on the available organizational heads and infrastructure facilities. This structure is known as organogram of BREDS. The organizational structure is more flexible than the procedures to facilitate easy adaptability. Here an attempt is made to explain the organogram of BREDS as well as functions/role of each person in the organization.

i) **Chairman:** The general body elects the president/chairman. He presides over the meetings of the general body and governing body. The president organizes the activities of the organization in a proper manner.

ii) **Vice Chairman:** The general body elects the vice chairman. The vice-chairman acts as the chairman and presides over the meetings of the general body in the absence of the president.

iii) **General Secretors:** The general body elects the General Secretary. The General Secretary supervises the activities of the organization, conducts the meetings by circulating meetings agenda, maintains all accounts, records, correspondence on behalf of the organization, proper utilization of the funds of the organization etc. The General Secretary is responsible for overall performance of the organization.

iv) **Project Directors:** There are many Project Directors and each Project Director is responsible for one project. The Project Director implements and supervises the programmes relating to his project. The Project Director reviews the meetings, collects the reports etc., and he is responsible for overall performance of the branch.
v) **Programme Managers:** Programme Managers/Directors implement the programmes allotted to them look the overall implementation of the programmes, maintain records, cash books, documents etc.

vi) **Financial manager/Accountant:** The financial managers are responsible of the audit of the project accounts, look after all the financial management maintain cash book, entering data of loan disbursements and recoveries, activity wise disbursement, preparation of annual accounts, vouchers, payments and receipts etc.,

vii) **Training officers:** The training officers organize the training programmes to the newly recruited staff, monthly training to existing staff, assess the training needs, maintain the records, provide training to newly promoted new projects.

viii) **Project Co-ordinations:** Projector coordinators assess the implementation of projects, promote the better performance and implementation of programmes, assess the needs and provide the requirements for the implementation of project.

ix) **Office Assistant:** the Office Assistant maintaining small day to day activities in office and data enters also responsible by office assistant.

I. **BREDS Networking:**

Though BREDS implementing many programs through different channels and in different areas it is important to note that, without proper co-ordination and Networking of that NGOs the programmes can not achieve its objectives and hence BREDS tried to maintain Networking of NGOs through some projects or activities. They are i) sri seva samakya (District NGOs network) ii) “SANGHAM” A network of Tribal CBOs iii) Andhra Pradesh Child Right Forum iv) Swashakti (Women CBOs Network) v) Confederation of Rural NGOs and vi) CSREM (Institution with Rural Management Focus).

J. **Geographical area and Operational capacity:**
Today BREDS has a fairly large administrative infrastructure and logistic support system. BREDS cover, 3,980 Villages and 2,90,500 families.

BREDS has good human as well as physical infrastructure to carry out development initiatives and facilitate empowerment process successfully. BREDS has Administration office located at pathapatnam in Srikakulam District, Andhra Pradesh, India and have two fully equipped training centers one in tribal area and another in the coastal area.

BREDS is working in close collaboration with 32 cluster level women CBOs, 4 Apex level CBOs, 8 Youth Federations and one federation of physically challenged people in Srikakulam District of Andhra Pradesh, India. BREDS has net work initiatives with NGOs like Velugu Association, RES, YCB, ARTS, VJNNS, PRAGATHI and GUEST in Andhra Pradesh, India and ADS and SURAKSHA in Gajapati District of Orissa, India. BREDS also has strong network partnership with NGOs like PAD, POETS and good vision of Tamilnadu, India.
References:

