

Monthly Newsletter



Empowering Women Through Signature Literacy

As a special summer initiative, Shakti Organisation conducted a signature learning and practice campaign for women members of Self-Help Groups (SHGs) across its project areas in Ramanaguda Block, Rayagada District, during May 2026.

The initiative aimed to strengthen women's confidence, financial literacy, and active participation in SHG activities and livelihood programmes. During the campaign, nearly 120 SHG members learned to write and practice their signatures independently.

For many women, signing their own name marked an important step towards greater self-confidence and independence. Participants were encouraged to use their signatures instead of thumb impressions for banking services, official documents, SHG record-keeping, and business transactions.

The sessions also highlighted the importance of signature literacy in accessing financial services, participating in decision-making processes, and taking on leadership roles within SHGs. Women actively practiced their signatures and discussed how this simple skill can support their personal and economic growth.

This meaningful initiative reflects Shakti Organisation's continued commitment to empowering women with the knowledge, skills, and confidence needed to participate more actively in social and economic development.

In this newsletter
you can expect:

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Supporting Nutrition for Vulnerable Families

With the generous support of Jiv Daya Foundation, Shakti Organisation distributed the first round of dry ration support in April 2026 to 150 vulnerable families across six remote villages in Rayagada and Ramanaguda blocks of Rayagada district.

Under the Pre-School Nutrition and Education Initiative, each family received 30 kg of ration, including 26 kg of rice and 4 kg of dal. The programme provides dry ration support twice a year to families enrolled in the initiative, helping them meet their nutritional needs during critical periods.

The initiative aims to improve child nutrition, health, and early childhood education among underserved tribal communities. By supporting household food security, the programme helps ensure that children receive nutritious meals and encourages regular attendance at pre-school learning centres.

Through this continued effort, Shakti Organisation remains committed to creating healthier beginnings and brighter futures for children and families in remote communities.



Women-Led Fishery Initiative Creates New Livelihood Opportunities for SHG Members

Shakti Organisation, under the REWARD Project in the Sambalpur watershed area, has taken an important step towards strengthening sustainable livelihoods and women's economic empowerment through fishery cultivation.

As part of this initiative, Saraswati SHG from Nuamahulpali Micro Watershed received financial support of Rs. 50,000 under the REWARD Project to promote income-generating activities among its members.

With continuous technical guidance, regular monitoring, and support from the Shakti REWARD Project team, the SHG members successfully managed the fishery cultivation activity through collective effort and dedication.

On 22nd May 2026, the group celebrated its first fish harvest, producing around 150 kg of live fish, which was sold to local wholesalers at Rs. 125 per kg. The successful harvest has created a new source of income for the women and strengthened their confidence in managing livelihood activities independently. Beyond financial gains, the initiative has encouraged teamwork, leadership, and greater participation of women in local economic development.

This achievement demonstrates how targeted support, technical guidance, and community participation can help create sustainable livelihood opportunities and contribute to long-term women-led development in rural communities.



Empowering Farmers Through Climate-Resilient Agriculture

Shakti Organisation has taken a meaningful and purposeful initiative for environmental restoration and sustainable livelihood promotion through the establishment of village-level community nurseries in 25 tribal villages of Rayagada district. The initiative has been implemented in Ramanaguda Block (10villages), Gunupur Block (10villages), and Padampur Block (5villages) with active participation and ownership of rural tribal communities.

Under this initiative, villagers collectively developed community nurseries in common lands for regeneration and plantation activities. Various indigenous and income-generating plant species such as Hardida, Bhada, Mahula, Sopta, Sitaphala, Tamarind, Jackfruit, Mango, Lemon, Cashew, and Dalimba were raised through village-wise seed plantation and nursery management practices. Through this special initiative, nearly 40,000 plantation saplings have been prepared and promoted across the 25 villages for environmental regeneration and future livelihood support. The initiative aims to strengthen environmental conservation, improve green cover, and create sustainable livelihood opportunities for rural tribal households.

With strong cooperation, coordination, and growing awareness among community members, villagers are actively taking interest in protecting and promoting the nurseries. Continuous motivation, technical guidance, and field-level support provided by Shakti Organisation have played a vital role in mobilizing tribal communities towards sustainable natural resource management and long-term ecological regeneration.



Strengthening Access to Mental Health Care for Rural Communities

Shakti Organisation successfully organised a screening and treatment camp for Persons with Mental Illness (PWMI) on 14th, 19th, and 22nd May 2026 at the District Headquarters Hospital under the Community Mental Health Programme.

A total of 45 previously screened beneficiaries attended the camp for follow-up treatment, psychiatric consultation, and clinical assessment. The camp aimed to ensure continuity of care and improve access to mental health services for vulnerable individuals in Rayagada Block.

All beneficiaries underwent detailed examinations and received treatment support from Dr. Rakesh Ranjan Padhi and Dr. Kalyan Pradhan. Necessary medicines were prescribed and distributed, while counsellors from the District Mental Health Programme (DMHP) and Shakti Organisation provided guidance to beneficiaries and caregivers on regular medication, treatment adherence, mental health care, and follow-up support.

To ensure safe and timely access to services, Shakti Organisation arranged transportation support and coordinated the participation of all beneficiaries throughout the programme.

The intervention helped strengthen treatment continuity, improve caregiver awareness, and enhance access to community-based mental health services. Through the support of HDFC Bank and the Live Love Laugh Foundation, Shakti Organisation continues to promote accessible mental health care and improve the well-being and dignity of rural and tribal communities.

"Access to mental health care can change lives—bringing hope, stability, and support to individuals and families on their journey to recovery."



Tribal Women Turn Entrepreneurship into a Path for Economic Independence

Through the Mpowered Scaleup Project, Shakti Organisation has supported 10 tribal women from Maa Jagatajanani SHG in Sundhidamani Village, Ramanaguda Block, to start a paper plate manufacturing enterprise.

With support from Odisha Livelihood Mission (OLM) and Gramya Khadi, the SHG received a paper plate machine and underwent training in production, packaging, marketing, and business management.

Starting with a raw material investment of ₹5,000, the group generated sales of nearly ₹20,000 in the first production cycle and over ₹45,000 in the second cycle.

The initiative has strengthened household incomes, boosted women's confidence, and enhanced their role in community development. Encouraged by this success, other SHGs in the area are also exploring similar livelihood opportunities.



Expanding Financial Inclusion for Rural Women Through SHG Banking Access

Shakti Organisation, in collaboration with the SBI team, conducted a financial inclusion initiative across Rayagada and Ramanaguda blocks from 18th April to 15th May 2026. The programme focused on helping Self-Help Group (SHG) members open individual SBI savings accounts under the Lakhpati Yojana scheme. Through awareness meetings and village-level support, the initiative reached around 260 SHG members across 24 communities. Among them, 96 women were successfully supported in opening SBI accounts, while others are completing the process. The programme also promoted financial literacy and awareness about livelihood loans, encouraging women to strengthen enterprises such as tailoring, dairy farming, millet processing, and turmeric cultivation. By improving access to banking services, the initiative is helping rural women build financial confidence and strengthen their livelihoods.



Family Farming Initiative Strengthens Livelihoods in Tribal Communities

With the support of Ashraya Hastha Trust, Shakti Organisation is promoting sustainable family farming in Chanchadadrugam village to strengthen rural livelihoods.

Mrs. Alme Mandangi and her husband, Chakrapani Mandangi, adopted diversified vegetable cultivation, including ivy gourd, pointed gourd, and spine gourd, with technical support from Shakti Organisation. The family now harvests around 10 kg of vegetables per plucking, twice a week, and sells the produce directly from the field, creating a steady source of income.

Encouraged by healthy crop growth and strong market demand, the family expects higher production in the coming months. Their journey highlights how sustainable farming can improve both income and food security for rural families.

THANK YOU FOR READING!

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Empowering communities. Sustaining futures.



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