

2024-2025

Annual Report

TORPA RURAL DEVELOPMENT SOCIETY FOR WOMEN



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Message From The Director

TRDSW has remained unwavering in its commitment to creating long-term, transformative change in the lives of tribal communities. For nearly three decades, we have worked alongside women, children, and grassroots leaders to advance education, strengthen livelihoods, and foster leadership from within. This year marked an important milestone in our journey, as we embraced a bold transition to strengthen our internal systems and prepare our teams for the future.

We recognized that in order to sustain meaningful change, we needed to invest in the people and processes that form the backbone of our work. As part of this strategic shift, we engaged a professional consultant to support a comprehensive organisational strengthening process. The focus was clear: enhance field team capacity, bring greater structure and accountability to our operations, and improve program execution at every level.



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MARIAELENA FIGUEREDO
DIRECTOR | TRDSW





The past year has been a journey of reflection, learning, and alignment. TRDSW revisited its core mission and sought new ways to integrate community-driven approaches across all areas of work. To address critical leadership and coordination gaps, we brought on board a Project Manager whose role has been pivotal in ensuring better planning, execution, and mentoring support for our field teams.

Capacity building became a central pillar of our approach. Through carefully designed training modules and intensive facilitation workshops, we equipped our teams with essential skills to engage communities more effectively. They were introduced to the principles of clear communication, responsive stakeholder engagement, and daily systems of planning and reporting. These systems are now supported by structured digital tools and documentation practices that are already enhancing our ability to track progress, reflect on outcomes, and remain adaptive.

We also invested in developing field-level leadership. A key outcome of this transformation process has been the emergence of a cadre of empowered community-based professionals who are not only capable of delivering on-ground results, but also committed to becoming long-term changemakers. These individuals are now leading initiatives, mentoring peers, and setting examples in their communities of what local leadership can truly achieve.

Our vision for long-term sustainability is grounded in the idea that the project team and community change agents must lead from the front. It is only when communities are empowered to manage their natural resources, make informed decisions, and shape their development priorities that true resilience is built. TRDSW is not just expanding its geographic reach; it is deepening the impact of its work through this empowered model of grassroots leadership.



In parallel, we continue to strengthen our ecosystem of support. We are actively working to diversify our donor base and build long-standing partnerships within India that can support our mission. We invite collaborators who believe in the power of community-led change to join us in this effort. Together, we can ensure that indigenous voices and solutions receive the attention and resources they deserve.

As TRDSW continues on this journey of renewal and transformation, we remain focused on embedding a culture of shared accountability, continuous learning, and strong field leadership. The leadership team, the consultant, and the Project Manager are collectively ensuring that our field teams stay aligned with TRDSW's mission and bring clarity, motivation, and purpose to their work. Mentorship remains a priority so that each team member has the tools, knowledge, and confidence to deliver high-quality outcomes in their communities.

The best practices that have emerged from this process will enable TRDSW to scale its reach and deepen its impact. More importantly, they will allow us to remain rooted in the communities we serve while ensuring that our systems remain resilient, responsive, and future-ready.

TRDSW is building more than projects. We are building a movement. One that puts power in the hands of the people and stands firm in the belief that a lasting change can only come from within.

Our sincere gratitude to the Advisory Consultants, Governing Body, Communications Specialist and team, Donor Partners, Team TRDSW, and all our stakeholders. Thank you for standing with us and shaping a purposeful TRDSW journey in 2024-2025.

Sincerely,
Mariaelena Figueredo
Director, TRDSW.

ABOUT US

Torpa Rural Development Society for Women [TRDSW] - with three decades of unwavering dedication to building a just world where human dignity flourishes. Our wider vision for the Adivasi Samuday and Sanskriti encapsulates the tribal community, culture and the entire tribal ecosystem in which we work in, constantly exploring and building conversations around the challenges of the tribal people.

 TRDSW OFFICE

VISION

Fostering a just world where everyone's human dignity is respected.

MISSION

A society that upholds the human dignity of the oppressed and the marginalised, especially the tribal by enhancing education and livelihood, by networking and collaborating with like-minded CBOs, NGOs and the Government through right based approach.

Executive Summary

TRDSW ANNUAL REPORT 2024–2025

The year 2024–2025 has been a landmark year for TRDSW, marked by purposeful transformation, grassroots empowerment, and the strengthening of community-led development across Torpa and Rania blocks in Khunti district, Jharkhand. With a **focus on women’s leadership, farmer resilience, child-centered education, and cultural resurgence**, TRDSW continued to build integrated systems that empower communities from within.

LIVELIHOODS

TRDSW deepened its impact through **nature-based solutions (NBS), sustainable farming practices, and women-led microenterprises**. **Six Adarsh Grams were developed** as centers of learning, promoting Zero Budget Natural Farming (ZBNF), Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA), and organic practices. Over **225 women and men were trained** and adopted natural techniques like line sowing, vermi-compost, and Jeevamrut. **SHG institutions were strengthened through social audits and grading tools**, while 339 SHG members received para-veterinary training. Local governance was fortified through **Village Development Committees (VDCs), with 8 villages selected and trained**.

Events promoting indigenous seeds, wild edibles, and multilayer farming brought **visibility to traditional knowledge and community innovation**. Additionally, **150 farmers were supported to scale Lac cultivation**, leading to increased income through Kusum Lac. **Women-led enterprises were catalyzed across 900 SHG members**, with greater digital documentation ensuring accountability and tracking.

EDUCATION

Education remained central to TRDSW’s mission. With alignment to the National Education Policy (NEP), the **focus was on transformative learning, holistic development, and real-world readiness**. Activity-based teaching was strengthened through **toolkits and classroom innovation** led by educators and supported by child psychologist and Founder of Ummeed, Ms. Salony Priya. Fifty government schools reached 1,459 children from KG to class 5, with efforts focused on **ensuring zero dropouts**.

Children of the New Dawn School continued to grow as a beacon of quality education. Highlights included **capacity-building programs, board exam success (including a district topper), international exposure, participation in sports and arts competitions**, and infrastructure upgrades like smart boards, CCTV, and the grant of +2 affiliation for Science, Commerce, and Arts streams.

Bal Niketan Nursery **nurtured 389 young children** (3 years to 5 years) through joyful, activity-based learning, digital TV classrooms, and festival celebrations that **developed leadership and expression**. Teachers were supported with regular **capacity-building to embed creativity, repetition, and life-value learning** into daily practice.

TRDSW continued to manage the self-run hostel that provides safe, affordable accommodation for young women pursuing education or training. In 2024–2025, the hostel housed 60 residents, including 5 working women and 56 students from B.A. and intermediate levels, continuing its legacy of women-centric empowerment through safe spaces.

EVENTS AND ENGAGEMENTS

TRDSW's flagship event, **Tribal Women's Collective**, held on March 23, 2025, brought together over 2,500 participants to celebrate indigenous wisdom, showcase tribal products, and explore the power of women-led change. Key moments included the Beej Padh-Yatra, a cultural tribute to seeds and sovereignty, and panel discussions featuring policy-makers, scientists, and activists. The event spotlighted education, ethno-medicine, tribal weaving, and sustainable livelihoods.

Additional platforms such as the **Rotary Ranchi, Adivasi Mahotsav in Ranchi, EdelGive Partners meet in Delhi, EdelGive North and North East Partners meet in Assam**, and the **India CSR & ESG Summit in Delhi** provided visibility for TRDSW's work and sparked dialogue with new stakeholders.

LOOKING FORWARD

The path ahead is clear: to continue embedding leadership within communities, expand vocational and enterprise support for tribal women, advocate for inclusive education policies, and document and preserve tribal knowledge systems. **With strong systems, local leadership, and community ownership, TRDSW is poised to deepen its impact while staying rooted in the values of dignity, equity, and indigenous wisdom.**

TRDSW extends heartfelt gratitude to its partners, supporters, team members, volunteers, and the communities who walk this journey with us. Together, we are **creating a more resilient, empowered, and inclusive future for tribal India.**

Program Highlights 2024-25

Livelihoods

In 2024-2025, TRDSW made significant strides in strengthening the livelihoods of tribal communities in Torpa and Rania blocks of Khunti district, Jharkhand. Guided by expert advisory support, the organisation focused on building pathways to financial sustainability with a long-term vision of economic transformation rooted in local leadership.



OKHLI

(A TRADITIONAL PESTLE AND MORTAR)

A Munda adivasi woman from Khatanga village crushing millets (madwa) into a powder by using the Okhli - a traditional livelihood tool used in village kitchens.

Livelihoods at a Glance



Climate Resilience

4353

Direct beneficiaries capacitated

5406

Indirect beneficiaries capacitated

225

female farmers trained and practising CSA and ZBNF



Women Empowerment

900

women entrepreneurs

339

Self Help Group members trained as para-veterinarians



Traditional Ecological Knowledge Initiatives

8

women-led village level events

96

women leaders shared indigenous knowledge



Highlights & Achievements



Increased focus on Nature-Based Solutions



Digital Data and SOPs for Program Tracking



Leadership and financial literacy of SHGs



Targets Achieved

150

Farmers cultivated quality Kusum Lac

3

Quintals yield produced

Technical inputs given to Lac farmers for increasing production of Kusum Lac

400+

Total Lac Farmers

Nature-Based Solutions

Staying true to its women-centric approach, TRDSW continued to prioritise resilience-building among women farmers, fostering a cadre of grassroots change agents. A major highlight of the year was the deepened focus on **Nature-Based Solutions (NBS)**, including the use of natural manures, pest control methods, and organic fertilisers. Recognising the urgent need to prepare farmers for the climate crisis—marked by extreme summers and winters—TRDSW promoted practices that are both regenerative and community-owned.



JEEVAMRIT

SHG women of Sarangloya village adapt Nature-Based Solutions (NBS)

Climate-resilience

The flagship **Adarsh Gram initiative** was expanded, with six villages identified, oriented, and trained. Two more villages are in progress. Demonstration plots were developed as hands-on learning sites, allowing farmers to visualise, understand, and adopt sustainable practices. Training covered climate-resilient crop planning, **Zero Budget Natural Farming (ZBNF)**, **Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA)**, livestock management, lac cultivation, and micro-enterprise development.

A total of **225 farmers** (150 women and 75 men) received capacity-building support in CSA and ZBNF. Post-training, 150 farmers successfully implemented practices like mixed cropping, line sowing, vermi-composting, and use of Jeevamrit and other bio-degradable organic inputs on their fields. These sustainable techniques are steadily replacing chemical-intensive methods, led by farmers who are now positioned to become master trainers and peer educators.

Leadership and Self-governance

TRDSW also prioritised the strengthening of Self-Help Groups (SHGs), recognising them not just as financial collectives, but as platforms for women's leadership and social transformation. Social audits were completed, and a grading tool was developed to improve the performance tracking and reliability of SHGs.



MUNDA WOMEN

Women from a self-help group at Kotanger village stand united as a collective and future leaders.

Village Development Committees (VDCs)

Village Development Committees (VDCs) were formed or revitalised in eight villages—Banabera, Sarangloya, Gopla, Koccha (Torpa), and Khatanga, Kotanger, Baghiya, Kelo (Rania). VDC members were oriented on the Adarsh Gram model and equipped with tools and knowledge on CSA and ZBNF. These VDCs supported seed distribution and farmer surveys, paving the way for adoption of sustainable practices across the region. Two additional VDCs are currently being onboarded.

Livestock Health and Management

In parallel, **339 SHG members** were trained in para-veterinary practices for improved livestock care. Six training sessions, facilitated in partnership with Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), addressed key topics such as disease symptoms, shed management, vaccination, and de-worming.



Lac Cultivation

A major achievement was the promotion of lac cultivation as a viable income-generating activity. A total of **150 farmers** were trained and supported with technical inputs, resulting in increased yields of high-quality Kusum Lac (2–3 quintals per farmer), opening new economic avenues.



Indigenous People's Knowledge

To celebrate and strengthen traditional knowledge systems, six community events were organised, three in each block, focusing on indigenous seed conservation, wild edible plants, and multi-layer farming demonstrations.



WILD EDIBLE PLANTS

A knowledge exchange between Self Help Groups (SHGs) from Torpa and Rania.

“Hapram ko bidia” - a phrase in the mundari language which means the knowledge of our ancestors was a sentiment felt among the women as the older women shared their knowledge with younger women about wild edible plant varieties that are soon vanishing.



SHG WOMEN SHARING INDIGENOUS LEARNINGS

A peer learning opportunity for 96 women from Digri, Marcha, Jaipur and Tutikel villages.

Women Empowerment

Women-led enterprises were another focus area, with **900 SHG members** identified, mobilised, and oriented on micro-business opportunities across both blocks. These efforts were amplified through participation in networking events such as the **India CSR Summit** and TRDSW's own flagship **Tribal Women's Collective** event, which created space for dialogue, recognition, and future collaborations.



INDIA CSR SUMMIT 2024

TRDSW engaged in discussions on new partnerships and networking for future collaborations.



TRIBAL WOMENS COLLECTIVE

Indigenous women preserve the tribal tradition and are knowledge keepers. A display of fruits, flowers, twigs, pots etc for International Women's Day 2025.

Digital Data Collection and SOPs

Lastly, TRDSW continued its push for digital transformation at the grassroots level. The organisation developed Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), digital tracking tools, and Google-based data collection systems to ensure real-time documentation, transparency, and accountability in livelihood program delivery.



SOPs IMPLEMENTED

- Program Tracking
- Real-time Reporting
- Progress Mapping
- Geo-tagging photos
- Online Check-ins
- Monitoring Data
- Writing Case Stories
- Google Forms
- Google Meet
- Google Drive
- Canva Templates
- Content for Videos
- Observations Recorded



Together, these initiatives signal a powerful shift: from fragmented interventions to integrated, community-led, and climate-resilient development pathways—where tribal women lead from the front and transform the future of their villages.

Dasha Topno: Cultivating a New Future



In Banabira Beritoli village, Dasha Topno once struggled to make ends meet through traditional farming. Everything changed in 2022 when he attended a lac cultivation training by TRDSW. Starting small with just two ber trees, he earned ₹20,000 from his first harvest. Encouraged, he leased more trees and deepened his skills through advanced training at IINRG, Namkum.

By 2025, Dasha had harvested 210 kg of lac, earning ₹2,00,000. After expenses, he secured a net profit of ₹80,000, enough to send his three children to private school. His wife, Sushma, also joined the journey by becoming part of a Self-Help Group and adopting sustainable farming practices.

Dasha now plans to lease 30 Kusum trees and grow his business further. His story is a powerful example of how training, determination, and sustainable practices can turn struggle into success and inspire an entire community.

Churdag Tola Sabha: Reclaiming Community Leadership

Stories of Change

For over ten years, the Tola Sabha in Churdag, Khatanga village, lay dormant. Without it, community voices faded, development stalled, and decision-making drifted away from the people. That changed when TRDSW stepped in to revive local governance and community leadership.

TRDSW facilitated a village-wide meeting to raise awareness about the Jharkhand Panchayati Raj Act and the PESA Act. These discussions empowered residents to take ownership of their governance rights. Motivated by the sessions, village head Kushal Kandulna led the charge to restore the Tola Sabha.

The first act of the newly active Sabha was to clear the village roads of overgrowth and waste, renewing both hygiene and collective pride. Soon after, a ten-member Village Development Committee (VDC) was formed to steer further progress.

With TRDSW's support, the VDC introduced sessions on Zero Budget Natural Farming and Climate-Smart Agriculture. They identified 21 farmers ready to adopt sustainable practices and distributed Garma crop seeds in March 2025, launching a new era of eco-friendly farming.

Today, Churdag is a symbol of what grassroots action can achieve. From silence to strength, the village has revived democratic participation, embraced sustainable agriculture, and restored its identity as a self-reliant, forward-moving community.



Gulab Self-Help Group: Strength in Sisterhood

In Beritoli hamlet of Banawira village, Torpa block, 17 women came together in 2015 to form the Gulab Self-Help Group. Supported by Mahila Vikas Kendra, these women began meeting every Monday to discuss social and financial challenges, guided by President Anandit Topno and her leadership team.

Over the years, the group has become a beacon of women's empowerment. The women confidently voice their concerns in public forums and navigate government offices with purpose and pride.

Their journey is marked by resilience and unity. In 2021, they supported a member, Loarin Devi, by offering a ₹50,000 loan for her son's wedding. In return, she leased 80 decimals of farmland to the group, which began paddy cultivation and earned ₹77,000.

In 2023, when Loarin's daughter-in-law faced a medical emergency and a ₹4 lakh hospital bill, the group again stepped in with another loan of ₹50,000. This support enabled the safe return of both mother and child.

The story of Gulab SHG is one of collective courage. It is proof that rural women, when united, can overcome adversity, build economic strength, and lead meaningful change in their communities. Gulab is not just a group, it is a movement of transformation.



Village Development Committees: Driving Grassroots Transformation

Stories of Change

Under the EdelGive Project, eight villages in Khunti district are being transformed into model communities. At the heart of this transformation is the Village Development Committee (VDC), a group of dedicated men and women working together to drive change from within.

Each VDC is formed with the active participation and consent of the Gram Sabha and is composed of 10 to 12 members trained in leadership, planning, and implementation. These committees are not only implementing project activities but also championing long-term development goals such as improved livelihoods, better infrastructure, and access to government welfare schemes.

With guidance from TRDSW and the support of village animators, the VDCs have taken on responsibilities including promoting natural farming, supporting farmers, monitoring village projects, and engaging with government and local institutions.

The VDCs are regularly reviewed by the Gram Sabha to ensure transparency, quality, and effectiveness. Through community-led planning and action, these committees are turning vision into reality and setting a powerful example of participatory governance.

The Village Development Committee is more than just a project mechanism. It is a symbol of people's leadership, local ownership, and sustainable progress.



Program Highlights 2024-25

Education

In alignment with the National Education Policy (NEP), TRDSW continued to champion transformative education across its schools and learning centers. The focus remained on nurturing life values, critical thinking, and resilience beyond the classroom.



A COMMUNITY TEACHER (A GOVERNMENT SCHOOL - TORPA BLOCK)

A collaboration with the government at the block level to ensure zero drop-out rate. This school at Latauli village is located at the periphery of a forest.

Focus on Education

Value-integrated pedagogy for teachers and children

Government Schools Outreach

50

government schools reached

1459

children benefited from K.G. to Class 5

emphasis on zero dropout rate



Teaching Innovations



61

TRDSW staff + village animators trained in activity-based and value-integrated pedagogy

2

Teaching Toolkits developed by the team for K.G. to Class 5



Children of the New Dawn School

784

students from class 1 to 10, upgraded to +2

93%

obtained by Bharti Kumari, topped in Khunti district

18

medals won at CISCE Zonal Athletics Meet

52

students admitted from BPL families



Bal Niketan Nursery

389

children



Interactive learning with smart board technology

Teaching Innovations

Led by child psychologist Ms. Salony Priya, teachers from Bal Niketan and Children of the New Dawn (CND) School were trained in activity-based and value-integrated pedagogy. This resulted in the creation of a colourful, story- and rhyme-based teaching toolkit for KG–Class 5.

The toolkit was further extended in the form of two handbooks for teachers.



DEVELOPMENT OF TOOLKITS

Emphasis was given to activity-based and value-integrated pedagogy by Ms. Salony Priya, Ummeed



Education Project in Govt-run Schools

TRDSW continued to make meaningful strides in government schools across Torpa and Rania blocks, reinforcing its commitment to equitable and inclusive education for tribal children.

Total Schools Covered: 50

- Torpa Block: 32 Schools
- Rania Block: 18 Schools

Total Students Benefited: 1,459 children from Kindergarten to Class 5

Key Achievements:

- Focused intervention to prevent school dropouts, with regular attendance tracking and family-level engagement.
- Strengthened early grade learning through activity-based methodologies and value-based education.
- Teachers supported with classroom resources and encouraged to adopt interactive, joyful learning approaches.
- Promoted holistic development through storytelling, songs, and community events within school settings.



OUTREACH AT A GOVERNMENT SCHOOL AT FATKA VILLAGE

A collaboration with the government to ensure regular attendance of children during the assembly.



INTERACTION WITH SCHOOL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (SMC)

TRDSW Staff while conducting an School Management Committee (SMC) meeting with SMC members and parents

Community Involvement:

- School-level awareness sessions held with parents and guardians to enhance their role in their children's education.
- Regular liaison with local authorities and village leaders ensured smooth coordination and ownership.

The project serves as a vital bridge between traditional knowledge systems and modern education frameworks, supporting children in building both academic skills and life values.



Bal Niketan Nursery School

In 2024–2025, Bal Niketan Nursery continued to be a vibrant, joyful space where early childhood education was reimagined through a child-centric and value-rich approach. The school emphasized experiential learning, emotional development, and foundational literacy.

Total Enrollment: 389 Children

- KG: 119
- LKG: 149
- UKG: 121
- 11 children were provided free education and 7 children were given concession in fee payment due to weak economic family backgrounds.

CELEBRATING RAKHI FESTIVAL

Children from Upper K.G. creating colourful Rakhi patterns in order to celebrate Raksha Bandhan.



Festivals and Celebrations:

The school created opportunities for students to actively lead and participate in cultural events such as Raksha Bandhan, Independence Day, Teacher's Day, Diwali, Christmas, Holi, and Children's Day. The children were also introduced to inspirational figures like Mahatma Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru, and Birsa Munda, helping instill pride in their identity and culture.

Teaching Approach:

- Continued focus on creative, play-based learning using songs, stories, colors, and sensory activities.
- Capacity-building sessions were organized for teachers to strengthen their skills in interactive and experiential methods.
- Classroom content was linked to real-life contexts and designed to enhance curiosity, confidence, and retention.



LESSON PLAN DISCUSSION

Bal Niketan Nursery School teachers engaged in a discussion to decide on the upcoming plan

Technology Integration:

Digital TV classes introduced the concept of:

- I hear, I forget
- I see, I remember
- I do, I understand

This approach helped both children and teachers engage in multisensory learning.



SMART BOARD INTERACTION

K.G. children engage in interactive learning sessions on the smart board. Seen here during a session on vowels.

Bal Niketan stands as a model for holistic, value-based early education, preparing children not just for school—but for life.

Children of the New Dawn School

In the academic year 2024–2025, Children of the New Dawn School, an ICSE-affiliated institution, continued its journey of nurturing tribal children through a well-rounded, values-based education. With 784 students from Class 1 to Class 10, the school placed equal emphasis on academic excellence, emotional well-being, and cultural identity.

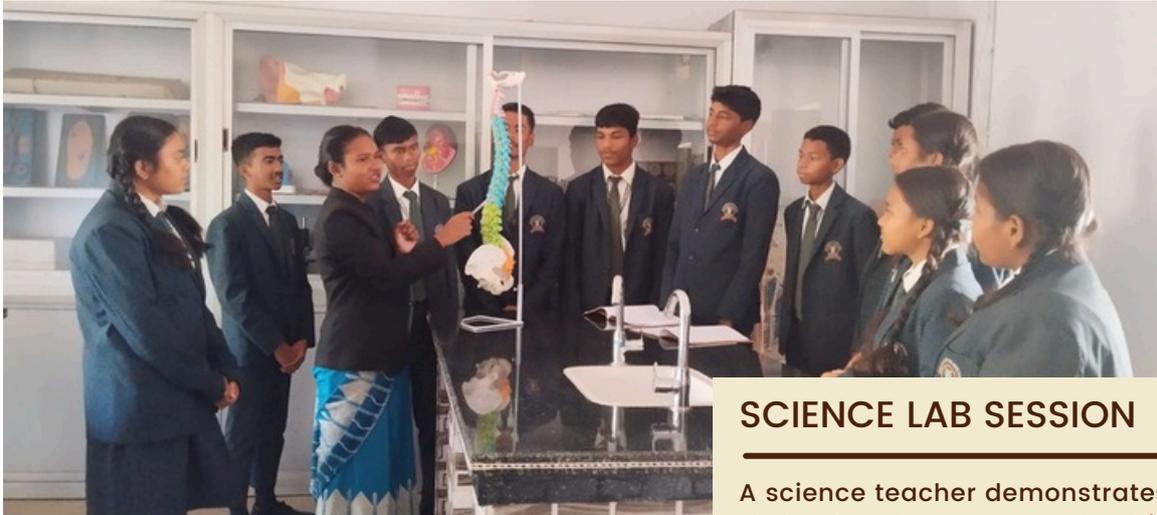
Academic & Pedagogical Highlights

- The school integrated transformative and activity-based pedagogy, inspired by a 2-day session in July 2024 on the Philosophy of Education led by TRDSW President, Ms. Ananda Amritmahal.
- Teachers were mentored by Ms. Salony Priya, Founder of Umeed, and engaged in interactive methodologies to enhance classroom learning.
- Webinars & Conferences:
 - Primary teachers participated in a national webinar on Art Integrated Pedagogy in August 2024.
 - The Principal participated the school at the International Conference for Transformative Education in Tokyo, Japan in August, 2024 and later represented the school at the CISCE Regional Conference in Patna in September 2024.



SHINING BRIGHT AT SCHOOL

Students of the Children of New Dawn reciting a patriotic message at the morning assembly.



SCIENCE LAB SESSION

A science teacher demonstrates the skeletal system anatomy to children at newly inaugurated science lab.

Academic Performance

- 49 students appeared for the Class 10 ICSE Board Exam. Use Infographics
- Bharti Kumari topped Khunti District with 93%.
- Sakshi Topno scored 86.4%, followed by Anjali Barla and Mili Kandulna at 81.8%.
- One student cleared the compartment exam post results.

Infrastructure and Digital Advancement

- 10 Smart Boards installed across classrooms.
- Upgrades included new wiring, CCTV cameras, PA system, and 5 new computers in the lab.
- Renovation of clerical, accounts, and principal's office; roofing over stage and shed completed.
- Security services introduced with 24/7 guard duty.



Extra-Curricular & Sports Achievements

- Activities like Karate, Music, and Band were introduced to foster self-expression and discipline.
- A 2-day Karate Championship was successfully organized.
- The Kho-Kho team secured third place in both junior and senior categories.
- Anupam Kandulna, Nidhi Kumari, and Usha Barla represented at regionals.
- Nidhi Kumari and Anupam Kandulna reached nationals in Hyderabad.
- Participation in inter-school declamation, chess, quiz, and rangoli competitions added vibrancy to school life.
- At the CISCE Zonal Athletics Meet (Khelgaon, August 2024), students won 18 medals (4 Gold, 9 Silver, 5 Bronze).
- Nidhi Kumari, Priti Bhengra, Usha Barla, and Harshit Topno qualified for nationals in Hyderabad.

KARATE CHAMPIONSHIP

A first-of-its-kind karate training was given to children. Today they are equipped with basic self-defense skills.



Celebrations & Exposure

- Celebrated Silver Jubilee Grand Finale on 19 December 2024.
- Students experienced a 12-day educational tour to Puri in September 2024, and a planetarium show was organized in July 2024.
- Staff participated in an exposure visit to Mumbai and Ahmednagar district in October 2024, gaining insights into innovative education models.



CULTURAL CELEBRATION

Students participated in a cultural dance performance to mark the closing of the Silver Jubilee year.

New Milestone Achieved

- Following an inspection on 21 November 2024, the school was granted affiliation for +2 (Science, Commerce, Arts) from the academic session 2025–26.

Children of the New Dawn School continues to shine as a beacon of excellence, equity, and empowerment, preparing tribal youth not just for exams—but for life.



A SHOWCASE OF UNITY

On Republic Day, students dressed in different Indian attire as well as adivasi attire on 26th January, 2025.

Working Women's Hostel

Established in 1990 with one-time support from the Department of Women & Child Development, Government of India, the Working Women's Hostel is one of TRDSW's earliest initiatives rooted in its women-centric development vision. This facility continues to serve as a crucial support system for women who pursue education, training, or employment opportunities away from their native villages and families.

Purpose & Vision

The hostel embodies TRDSW's commitment to safe, affordable, and supportive accommodations for women—particularly tribal and rural young women—who aspire to build independent futures. It reflects TRDSW's long-term belief that enabling women to learn and earn is central to sustainable community development.

Highlights for 2024–2025

- Total residents supported: 60 women
 - Working women: 5
 - Undergraduate students (B.A.): 16
 - Intermediate college students: 39
- The hostel created a nurturing, community-style environment that enabled women to focus on their education and career paths without the fear of displacement or insecurity.
- Several residents actively participated in TRDSW's ongoing skill-building sessions, digital literacy workshops, and livelihood planning initiatives, allowing them to gain life skills beyond their formal education.
- The hostel also served as a hub for peer mentoring, where senior residents supported new entrants through orientation and informal guidance.
- 2 college students were provided free accommodation, since there was no earning parent, after they secured the hostel admission.



Accountability

Data is regularly shared on a weekly basis as per the required template, with the Department of Women and Child with the district office and on a quarterly basis with the state office.

Impact

The Working Women's Hostel continues to play a transformative role in the lives of tribal and rural women, many of whom are first-generation learners or professionals. By offering stability and security, the hostel acts as a launchpad for empowerment, ensuring that these women can pursue their aspirations with dignity, confidence, and independence.

As TRDSW continues its broader mission of women's empowerment, the Working Women's Hostel stands as a living testimony to the organisation's commitment to building inclusive spaces for women to grow, thrive, and lead.

Torpa's Garha toli is a Model for Bal Sansads

In the remote village of Garha, 11 km from Torpa, a quiet revolution in education began in 2017. With support from TRDSW and Tata Trust, Community Teacher Amita Gudia helped revive the dormant Bal Sansad (child cabinet) model by turning students into leaders, not just learners.

Unlike thousands of schools where Bal Sansads existed only on paper, Garha toli's cabinet became vibrant and student-led. Class 4 and 5 students took charge of discipline, punctuality, school activities, and peer learning. Manisha Horo taught math, Aninee Rodra tracked attendance, and Anjali's team maintained a thriving kitchen garden. Students led morning assemblies, organized quizzes, and even reached absent peers by cycling 1.5 kms

Head teacher Mukesh Ram proudly showcased Garha toli's Bal Sansad to officials. Attendance touched 98 percent. Six girl students secured admission to Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya. Behind this success was Amita's creative, child-friendly teaching and deep community engagement.

Despite financial constraints, over 30 Bal Sansads remain active across Torpa and Rania. Garha toli's model shows that with the right support, children can lead change, strengthen schools, and inspire communities.

Rebuilding confidence. Regaining the attendance of children.

Kulap Primary School in Rania block was once a broken shell of a school –with crumbling walls, no water, power, or toilets, and just 11 students. That changed when two committed teachers, Md. Aftab Alam and Amsud Topno, arrived in 2016 and chose to rebuild not just the school, but community trust.

With the gram sabha's support, a reconstituted SMC led the change. Bribes from contractors were rejected, and villagers demolished the unsafe building themselves. Infrastructure steadily improved benches, electrification, clean drinking water, and nutritious mid-day meals followed. A 250-foot boundary wall and school gate were built by volunteers using recycled materials.

The real turning point came with Ashwanti Bhengra, a young village animator supported by TRDSW. Her engaging methods sparked curiosity in students and boosted learning outcomes. The school's Bal Sansad and Eco-Club empowered children to lead, speak up, and act.

Enrolment rose to 54 students with 96% attendance. Children began coming from neighbouring villages and even 100 kms away. Fifteen girls made it to Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya. Kulap Primary School was shortlisted for the prestigious PM Shri award.

From neglect to pride, this transformation was driven by unity, volunteerism, and community leadership. Kulap is no longer just a school, it's a symbol of what rural India can achieve when people come together.

Community Champions Transforming Rural Learning

In the villages of Torpa and Rania, a quiet education revolution is unfolding led not by institutions, but by the community itself. At the center are 104 Village Animators, local women selected by their gram sabhas, who stepped in when schools closed during the COVID-19 lockdown.

Every morning, under trees and on village squares, these champions taught children aged 5–12 using songs, flashcards, local materials, and joyful methods. What began as a crisis response became a powerful movement. Villagers began pooling Rs 20–50 per child to sustain their volunteers, restoring not only education but dignity and local ownership.

Their efforts revitalized School Management Committees, reactivated student bodies like the Bal Sansad, improved Mid-Day Meals, and addressed dropout rates. Attendance rose from 60% to 95%. Students who once struggled now lead assemblies, craft sentences in English, and dream bigger.

Today, 50 Village Animators are active, regularly trained, and closely mentored. Their impact is visible: cleaner schools, confident children, and stronger community-school bonds. From making birth certificates to organizing festivals, their influence goes beyond academics.

These women are more than volunteers they are educators, advocates, and changemakers. They've proven that the power to transform education lies within the community itself.

Inside Torpa's Rural Library Rooms

In the remote village of Sasangbeda, Principal Amrita Devi walks 4 kms daily to run a school where something magical is unfolding, a vibrant library corner that's transforming young minds.

With support from TRDSW and Tata Trust, 24 library corners were established across Torpa and Rania blocks post-COVID. Designed to be more than book storage, they became inviting spaces filled with colourful storybooks, folk tales, and poems. Sasangbeda's corner alone holds 263 books, and in March 2024, students from classes 3 to 5 borrowed over 117 titles.

Village animator Phulo Devi leads weekly reading sessions and storytelling circles. Children like Sonu Kumar and Roshni Kundulna eagerly share favourite tales like Jungle Me Rail and Hema Ka Sapna, even describing river Koel as "slithering like a snake." A "book hospital" ensures torn pages are lovingly restored, and library visits have become the highlight of their week.

More than 67% of the students are regular readers now. For many, this is their first relationship with books outside of textbooks. It's not just reading it's dreaming, imagining, and growing.

Thanks to 39 library corners now active in the region, rural schools are becoming hubs of imagination and learning. As Amrita Devi says, "Reading gives us a place to go when we have to stay where we are." In Sasangbeda, that place is now filled with stories and hope.

EVENTS AND ENGAGEMENTS

A CELEBRATION OF INDIGENOUS WISDOM AND WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP

On 23rd March 2025, TRDSW hosted its landmark Special Annual Event under the powerful theme of "Tribal Women's Collective." This event was a heartfelt celebration of tribal identity, women's leadership, indigenous knowledge, and sustainable development. The gathering brought together voices of change—ranging from local women leaders to national policymakers and social entrepreneurs—creating a vibrant space of solidarity, learning, and action.



SPECIAL ANNUAL EVENT

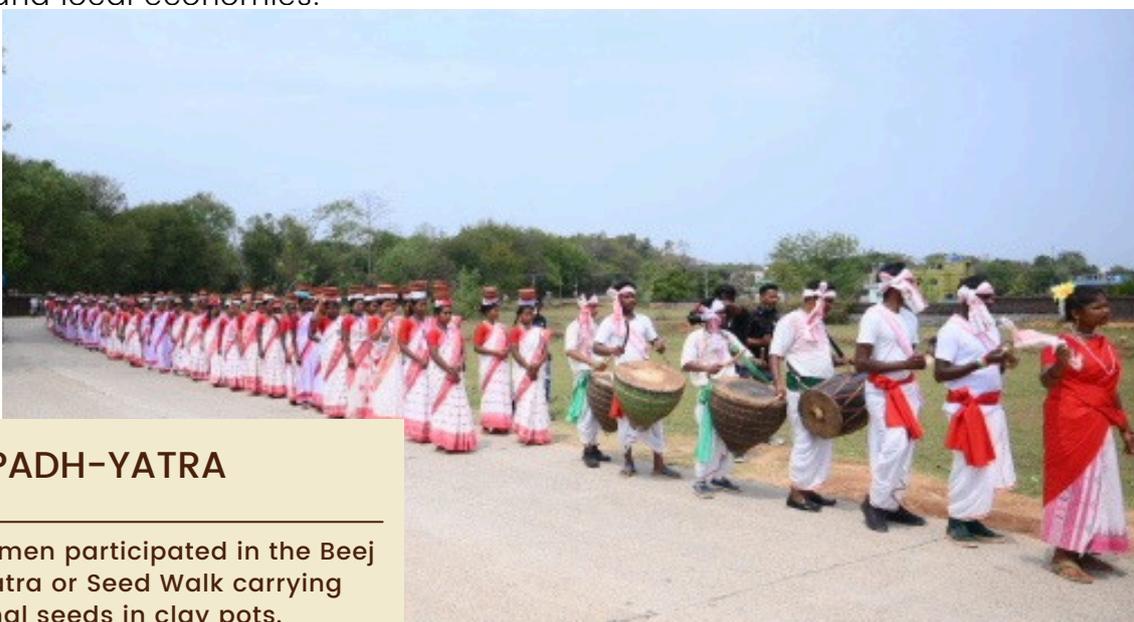
Date: 23rd March 2025
Theme: Tribal Women's Collective
Venue: Mahila Vikas Kendra, Torpa
Participants: Over 2,500 community members, educators, policymakers, SHG members, tribal farmers, and youth

Tribal Women's Collective

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE DAY

1. Opening Ceremony – Beej Padh-Yatra (Seed Walk)

The day began with the symbolic Beej Padh-Yatra, a traditional seed walk led by women of SHGs from Digri village. Carrying baskets of vegetables, grains, palash flowers, and handmade goods, the walk highlighted the intrinsic connection between tribal women and seed preservation. The Chief Guest, Hon'ble Minister Ms. Shilpi Neha Tirkey, Department for Agriculture, Animal Husbandry & Co-operatives, inaugurated the walk and addressed the gathering with powerful insights on women-led agriculture and local economies.



BEEJ PADH-YATRA

100+ women participated in the Beej Padh-yatra or Seed Walk carrying traditional seeds in clay pots.



HONOURABLE CHIEF GUEST

Ms Shilpi Neha Tirkey
Minister of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry
and Co-operatives

2.Cultural Showcase – Adivasi Dance & Traditions

The SHG members from Baghiya and Belkidura village, Rania block, performed a traditional Adivasi dance, setting the tone for a day rich in culture, color, and community spirit. Tribal songs, vibrant attire, and symbolic gestures made the performances deeply moving and resonant.



ADIVASI FOLK DANCE

A moment when women from two different Self-Help Groups (SHGs) performed in sync with each other matching the footwork to drum beats.

3.Panel Discussions & Knowledge Exchange

- A thought-provoking panel on education addressed the bridging of tribal knowledge systems with mainstream education.
- Dr. Deepak Rai, Head Scientist from Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Khunti, announced a new partnership with TRDSW—opening doors for scientific agricultural advancement and skill development.
- A short documentary capturing the lived realities of tribal farmers and SHG members was screened, filmed in villages like Kotanger and Khatanga-Churdag, adding authentic grassroot voices to the dialogue.



PANEL DISCUSSION

Community Teachers and a Supervisor from the Education Program for Govt-run Schools in a panel moderated by Ms. Salony Priya, Founder Ummeed.

4. Theatre Performance – "The Legend of Birsa Munda"

A moving theatrical reenactment honored the legacy of Birsa Munda, the legendary tribal freedom fighter. His struggle for justice and land rights served as an inspiration to all present.



A Theat
The Legel

VOICES OF CHANGE: KEYNOTE & EXPERT SPEAKERS



Ms. Shilpi Neha Tirkey, Minister of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Co-operatives shared insights on FPOs, pearl culture, and tribal welfare schemes.



Shri Sukhdeo Bhagat, Guest of Honour, reinforced the importance of collective tribal leadership.



Dr. Vasavi Kiro, Horopathy expert from Torang Trust, emphasized the need to document tribal medicinal practices.



Ms. Anuradha Kandala, Founder of Folk Weave, Koraput, inspired with her call to preserve tribal weaving under the theme: "Revive Your Weave to Revive Your Tribal Identity."

Impactful Showcases and Community Engagement

- Tribal women entrepreneurs exhibited local products: bamboo crafts, lac bangles, tribal cuisine, plant powders, handmade cloth bags, and indigenous pickles.
- A curated display of wild edibles, mushrooms, and forest produce celebrated the biodiversity knowledge of tribal communities.
- A unique exhibit of traditional tribal tools—ranging from household items to hunting and fishing gear—was admired by all attendees.



Key Achievements

- Engaged 2,500+ participants from across Jharkhand.
- Formed and deepened partnerships, notably with KVK Khunti for agricultural advancement.
- Showcased the knowledge, voice, and leadership of tribal women and youth.
- Sparked a commitment among stakeholders for inclusive development, cultural revival, and women-led change.



Looking Ahead: The Movement Continues

This special event was more than a celebration—it was a call to action. TRDSW commits to:

- Expanding vocational training for tribal women.
- Strengthening community-led documentation of tribal knowledge systems.
- Advocating for policy-level changes in education, livelihood, and tribal rights.
- Together, we are building a future where tribal women lead the way—with courage, creativity, and community at the center.



Abbreviations

- ICAR – Indian Council of Agricultural Research
- KVK – Krishi Vigyan Kendra
- ATMA – Agricultural Technology Management Agency
- JSLPS – Jharkhand State Livelihood Promotion Society
- AHTU- Anti Human Trafficking Unit
- SDPO – Sub-Division Police Officer
- DCPO- District Child Protection Office
- CWC- Child Welfare Community
- CO – Circle Officer
- BDO – Block Development Officer
- BPM – Block Program Manager, JSLPS
- BTM- Block Technology Manager, ATMA
- ATM- Assistant Technology Manager
- TVO- Touring Veterinary Officer
- NBS – Nature-based Solutions
- CSA- Climate Smart Agriculture
- ZBNF –Zero Budget Natural Farming
- VDC-Village Development Committee
- SHG- Self Help Group
- NTFP- Non-Timber Forest Product
- CB Support- Capacity Building Support
- DEO – District Education Officer
- BEEO – Block Education Extension Officer
- BEPO – Block Education Program Officer
- BRP – Block Resource Person
- CRP – Cluster Resource Person
- SMC – School Management Committee
- NEP – National Education Policy
- ICSE – Indian Certificate of Secondary Education
- CISCE – Council for the Indian School Certificate Examinations

Acknowledgements

State Administration

- Department of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry & Co-operatives
- Department of Women and Child
- Social Welfare Department
- Tribal Welfare Department

District Administration

- ATMA - Agricultural Technology Management Agency
- ICAR and Krishi Vighiyan Kendra, Khunti
- DPM, JSLPS - Jharkhand State Livelihood Promotion Society
- DCPO- District Child Protection Officer & CWC- Child Welfare Community
- District Coordinator, Udhyog Vibhag
- AHTU- Anti Human Trafficking Unit and SDPO Khunti
- DEO, BEEO, BEPO, BRP and CRP
- Head Masters of 50 government-run schools in Torpa and Rania Blocks
- JSLPS- DPM - Jharkhand State Livelihood Promotion Society
- SMC - School Management Committees of 50 government-run schools
- Gram Pradhan of Torpa and Rania
- Mukhiyas of Torpa and Rania
- Pramukh and Up-Pramukh of Torpa and Rania
- Panchayat Samiti Member and Zilla Parishad Representative

Block Administration (Torpa and Rania Blocks)

- CO - Circular Officer
- BDO- Block Development Officer
- BPO - JSLPS
- BTM- Block Technology Manager, ATMA
- ATM- Assistant Technology Manager
- TVO- Touring Veterinary Officer

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