

BIOGRAPHY



Ashok Bhagat

Sri Ashok Bhagat is an eminent Social worker and founder secretary of Vikas Bharti Bishunpur, a voluntary social organization of National repute. He established Vikas Bharti Bishunpur (an NGO) in 1983 for national integration to ensure holistic development of tribals of remote villages. He started to live with the community in Bishunpur, Distt.- Gumla and changed his name from Ashok Rai to Ashok Bhagat, now popularly known as 'Baba'. During last 33 years he has done exemplary and astonishing work in bringing transformation amongst the tribal and downtrodden people. He strived hard to reduce exploitation of Tribals by Jamindari system, Conservation of forest resources, protection and advancement of art & culture and other burning issues related to tribal communities.



His Ideology and Contribution :

- He did pioneering work towards Tribal Development.
- He chose to serve the people standing on the last rung of the society in Rural areas (Tribals, specially - Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs)).
- He believes and works on the principle 'Go to the people, live with them, learn from them and do work according to their needs and demand'. So, he finally settled down in 1982 at Chingri village of Bishunpur block, Gumla, Jharkhand, a village comprising mainly of tribals and started his work according to their need.

- He developed the integrated model for the development of tribals of rural areas that covers Health, Hygiene, Education, Agriculture, Income generation, Conservation of forest resources, Rural Technology and Social conscience, a model that is **Economically viable, locally acceptable and ecologically suitable, sustainable and replicable**. The basis of the model is “Total transformation through total development with people’s initiative and participation”.

Born : 25th July, 1951

Residence : Bishunpur, Distt.- Gumla, Jharkhand

Commonly known as : “BABA”

Known for : Encouraging movements at the grassroots for social change through community empowerment and integrated human development models through “Vikas Bharti Bishunpur”

Nationality : Indian

Religion : Hindu

Parents : Mother - Late Jamvanti Devi
Father - Sri Ram Murat Rai

Activity area : Jharkhand (for past 34 year)

Contact no. : 9431118213, 0651-2545836

Mail ID : ashokbhagat19@hotmail.com (Personal)
vikasbharti1983@gmail.com
vikasbharti1983@hotmail.com

Educational Qualification

- M.A. (Political Science) from Gorakhpur University in 1974;
- L.L.B. from Gorakhpur University in 1973;
- B.Sc. from Gorakhpur University in 1970.

Early Life

Volunteer of the Rashtriya Swayam Sevak Sangha (Akhil Bhartiya Vidyarthi Parishad)

Sri Ashok Bhagat was inspired by the Nationalistic Ideology of R.S.S. (Rashtriya Swayam Sewak Sangh) and joined Akhil Bhartiya Vidyarthi Parishad in U.P. He started his public career as a youth activist in Uttar Pradesh in 1972. He initiated Youth movements in Allahabad, Lucknow, Gorakhpur and Varanasi for Nation building. He dedicated his services for the benefit of youth and rural development by joining Akhil Bhartiya Vidyarthi Parishad as State Organising Secretary of UP. He was inspired by Late Jai Prakash Narayan and actively involved with J.P. movement

(1974-75). He was jailed for one year during emergency for his fight for democracy. He was associated with 'Sri Aurobindo Navnirman Prakalp' in Gorakhpur for reconstruction of villages during the year 1978-1982.

Present position:

- Secretary, Vikas Bharti Bishunpur, Gumla
- Chairman, Voluntary Health Association of Jharkhand- Affiliated to Voluntary Health Association of INDIA - 2006.
- Chairman, Scientific Advisory Committee, Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Gumla - 2004.
- Member, Technical Advisory Group, National Rural Health Mission, Jharkhand - 2011.
- Member, Tribal Welfare Society, Jharkhand
- Member, Jharkhand State Development Council - 2016.
- Member of Project Evaluation and Monitoring Committee of Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India - 2015.
- Member, State Development Council, Jharkhand
- Expert in the field of Rural Development in Khadi and Village Industries commission (KVIC) under Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) - 2015.
- Member, Monitoring Committee of Sansad Adarsh Gram Yojna - 2016.
- Member from Jharkhand in the expert committee for Mid-day Meals of M.H.R.D., Government of India - 2015.

Significant contribution in Social sector :

- President of Student Union (1970), Shibli National College, Ajamgarh (U.P.).
- Senior Under Office (N.C.C.), 'C' Certificate holder
- Founder of "Sri Aurobindo Navnirman Prakalp" in Gorakhpur (U.P.) in the year of 1974 & led the youth for rural reconstruction
- State Organizing Secretary, U.P (1977-80), Akhil Bhartiya Vidyarthi Parishad.
- An active member of Gandhian movement till 1982 under the leadership of Sri Dharendra Bhai Mazumdar, a noted Sarvodaya leader.
- Youth activist in J.P Movement for motivating students & youths for social reforms.
- Founder of "Grameen Vikas Vahini" of rural youths in U.P. for rural reconstruction.
- An active member of "Hindi Bhasha Movement" under the leadership of noted Hindi Poet Late Smt. Mahadevi Verma.

- Founder of Vikas Bharti Bishunpur in Gumla District of Jharkhand State in the year of 1983, a voluntary Social organization of national repute and presently functioning as Secretary and Chief Executive Officer (C.E.O) of the organization. Since then this is going to be 32nd successful operating year of Vikas Bharti Bishunpur.
- Nominated as Swachh Bharat Doot by Governor of Goa under Swachh Bharat Abhiyan.

Previous association :

- Ex-Sub-committee member of Planning Commission, Government of India on tribal development issues
- Ex-Member in National Advisory Committee of ILO as tribal affairs expert.
- Ex-Member of Regional Committee of CAPART.
- Ex-Member of Jharkhand Education Project committee.
- Ex-member of Agriculture Planning Commission, Government of Jharkhand under the chairmanship of Dr. M.S. Swaminathan.
- Ex-Member of Nutrition Coalition, Government of India under the chairmanship of Dr. M.S. Swaminathan.
- Member of Jharkhand Women Development Society.
- Guest Faculty in Lal Bahadur Shastri Administrative Training Institute Dehradun, Uttarakhand.

Institutions and Units established in his leadership:

- Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Gumla for Agriculture demonstration and technology support.
- Jan Sikshan Sansthan, Ranchi for vocational training on cottage Industries, Handicraft works and Service sectors.
- Eleven Ashrams, Gyan Niketan and Vidya Mandirs for education of children belonging to weaker section.
- Vikas Institute of Technology for higher education of youth of weaker section.
- Tribal Research Centre and Tribal Study centre for research, documentation, innovation and recommendation.
- Gram Takniki Kendra (Technology Resource Centre) for preservation of traditional technologies, new innovations and dissemination.
- Jeevan Jyoti Arogya Niketan Hospital, Bishunpur, Distt.- Gumla for health services.
- Food Processing Unit for facilitating people engaged in agro processing
- Herbal Plant farm for demonstration and promotion of various medicinal plants

Movements led by Ashok Bhagat :

- “TANA BHAGAT MOVEMENT’ All the positive features of original TANA BHAGAT movement were linked for protecting the social status of tribal leaders and infusing confidence in them.



- “DHARTI RAKSHA VAHINI” was initiated for the purpose of creating awareness to save land & forest in tribal areas.
- “SWASHASAN” for self rule in tribal areas, 2000 committees were formed for the purpose of maintaining peace and order in villages.
- “SOCIAL REFORM MOVEMENT” was launched against social evils, alcoholism and other bad habits and retrograde traditions of the tribals and local indigenous groups.
- “ADIM JANJATI VIKAS SAMITI” was formed in remote areas for integrated development of PVTG (Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups).
- “JHARKHAND VOLUNTARY ORGANIZATION” having a network of 150 social organizations of Jharkhand has been formed under the leadership of VIKAS BHARTI BISHUNPUR.
- Bora Bandh Movement, focussed towards water harvesting through low-cost locally developed structures.
- Harmu Nadi Bachao Abhiyan for rejuvenation of the Harmu River of Ranchi.
- Gram Swaraj Abhiyan for devolution of powers to the Gram Sabha and its strengthening.

Policies formulated and submitted to Govt. of Jharkhand :

- Agenda for Rural Development in Jharkhand.
- Agenda for Rural Industrialization in Jharkhand.
- Agenda for effective implementation of PANCHAYATI RAJ in Jharkhand.
- Agenda for promotion of status and livelihood conditions of Rural Artisans and technicians.

Rewards and Recognition :

- 2016** :
- * Received Excellence Award for Work Excellence in Jharkhand from National Environmentalist Association, New Delhi
 - * Received Award of Excellence for Work Excellence in Jharkhand from National Environmentalist Association, New Delhi
 - * Received Mahanayak Sharda Award Clean Media Foundation for Clean Environment and Water Conservation in Jharkhand from Clean Media Foundation, Allahabad
 - * Received Swachh Bharat Ratna Award for Sanitation and Hygiene in Jharkhand from Swachh Bharat Association, Ranchi
- 2015** :
- * Received Shantidhara Award for Holistic Development in Jharkhand from Shantidhara Foundation
 - * Received Swachh Bharat Award for Sanitation and Hygiene in Jharkhand from Swachh Bharat Association, Ranchi
 - * Received Certificate of Appreciation for Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation in Ranchi and Chatra District from Jharkhand Government.
 - * Conferred with **PADMASHREE** Award for social development work.



- * JHARKHAND RATNA AWARD
- * Received 18th Mahaveer Award for social services from Bhagwan Mahaveer Foundation, Chennai.



- * AWARD FOR BEST SOCIAL SERVICE in Jharkhand by Dainik Bhaskar group.
- 2014 : *
- * JHARKHAND GAURAV SAMMAN in 2014 By Daily Prabhat Khabar
- 2012 : *
- * Received Letter of Appreciation for National Mobile Medical Unit in all districts of Jharkhand from Jharkhand Rural Health Mission Society, Ranchi
 - * Received Certificate of Appreciation for Vistaar in Godda, Koderma & Sahebganj from Intra Health, Delhi
- 2011 : *
- * Received Letter of Appreciation for National Horticulture Mission, Jharkhand in Latehar, Lohardaga, Gumla & West Singhbhum from Jharkhand State Horticulture Mission, Ranchi
- 2008 : *
- * SHRI GURUJI SAMMAN by Jan Kalyan Samitee Maharastra for appreciable service to rural mass.
 - * SWAMI RAMA HUMANITARIAN AWARD from Himalayan Trust for social services and empowerment of rural poor and tribal people of hard to reach areas of Jharkhand.
- 2007 : *
- * Received Farmer Club Award for Support in Agriculture activities in Jharkhand from NABARD, Ranchi

- 1993 : * Received Ramaswami Humanitarian Award for Water Conservation in Jharkhand from Himalayan Trust, Dehradun
- 1992 : * VIVEKANAND SEWA PURASKAR of 1992 - by Kumar Sabha Pustakalaya, Kolkata, India.
* BHAU RAO DEORAS SEWA SAMMAN - By RSS for best social services.
- 1991 : * INDIRA PRIYADARSHINI VRIKSH MITRA AWARD for Social forestry programmes in tribal areas - by Ministry of Environment & Forest, Govt. of India.



Pioneer of Tribal development in Jharkhand

© Community Wellbeing and Sustainable Livelihoods:

He believes in the ideology that if you want to change the state of society, work with the children. Models developed by Vikas Bharti for drop-out children of different age groups have proved their worth and most suited for the deprived children of this part of the world. He established alternative models keeping into account the behavioural pattern of tribal families. Models for education evolved by the organization for mainstreaming the school drop-outs has created fabulous impact amongst the community and Human Resource

Development Department of Government of Jharkhand. Its ashrams and schools impart life skills together with quality education to the children belonging to economically weak families. To ensure primary and secondary education to every child of age group 6-18, there are two schools and 14 Ashrams, residential centers in Bishunpur. A comprehensive rehabilitation process starts for every child enrolled in the Ashram so that he or she can be enrolled in formal school for continuation of their studies. Thousands of students from Gumla District belonging to tribal groups have benefited from these schools. One of the exceptional efforts is the residential center with qualitative education and life skill training for Divyang children. Every year in his leadership a number of health camps in all parts of the state are organized to address health ailments like Malaria, diarrhea and other diseases that occur in every rainy season. ***A total of 60,26,000 persons in 24 district of Jharkhand have been benefited by the Mobile Medical Units run by Vikas Bharti Bishunpur.*** Education and livelihood opportunities for deprived girls and orphan youth through Jan Sikshan Sansthan and Gyan Niketans are creating enthusiasm among the deprived section of the society. Parents are now keen to send their children in different schools and vocational courses run by Vikas Bharti Bishunpur. Inclination of girl children towards education has increased everywhere. ***More than 30000 people in Jharkhand are gainfully employed by entrepreneurship and skill development training programmes conducted by the organization.***

© **Tana Bhagat Movement (Re-organizing and recognizing Tana Bhagats) :**

He renewed the spirit of Tana Bhagat Movement in Bishunpur, which promotes Social justice and eradication of consuming alcoholic drinks. He was pioneer to identify the ancestors and birth place of Jatra Tana Bhagat, a well known leader of Tana Bhagats. He tried to bring Tana Bhagats into mainstream of the development. He organized various programmes to make them aware about their rights and govt. schemes. He advocated to get their Patta on their land which was seized by colonial government for their participation in Freedom movement. He organized several platforms to establish dialogues with Tana Bhagats and govt. departments.

Conservation of Jal Jangal Jameen :

Numerous ideas were promoted by him during mid 80s and 90s to protect the resources of tribal people and enhance vegetative cover in the remote villages of Jharkhand. People were made aware about the importance of preservation of natural resources as well as livestock. Village institution building was focused for rational utilization of resources. Dharti Raksha Vahini is one such model which spread in all parts of Jharkhand working successfully and became big force to save the land, water and forest in their respective regions. ***An unique SATO and REHE DAMS were constructed at 1200 and 1350 feet height respectively on the tops of hills in Bishunpur Block*** with the help of villagers on voluntary basis. The dams can irrigate around 2000 Hectares of Land. The dams proved extremely valuable for the farmers of the area as they

are now able to take crops twice or thrice in a year. Three major PVTGs of Gumla district namely Asur, Birjia and Korwa immensely benefited by the intervention of Vikas Bharti Bishunpur. The Organization has promoted an Herbal Plant farm at Bishunpur, Gumla for demonstration and promotion of various medicinal plants which were at the verge of extinction. Villagers are availing the seedlings of herbal plants from this unit. More than 20000 farmers from Gumla are benefitting from KVK in terms of technology, organic inputs and training programmes on rational utilization of natural resources. National Horticulture Mission programme are being run in four districts of Jharkhand. Every year huge plantation drive is carried out by the organization in the tribal areas of the state. On 9th of August every year on the occasion of World Tribal Day a campaign Hariyari Mahotsava (Greenery carnival) is organized to spread the message to safeguard environment and natural resources which is the mainstay of the indigenous people of Jharkhand. On this occasion fruit and other plants are distributed to the participants.

- **Bora Bandh movement** : Conservation of water resources by the community was facilitated in a campaign initiated by the organization under the leadership of Shri Ashok Bhagat from 12th February, 2016 all over the state. It is a low cost technique to temporarily check the water flowing out of streams for proper utilization. This innovative model was accepted and appreciated by the community. Through this model 2025 beneficiaries have irrigated their 1834 acre land. In this process the community were mobilized to check their water by their own resources.



- **Harmu Nadi Bachao Abhiyan** : Shri Ashok Bhagat pledged to lead a movement and an advocacy campaign for clearance of all kinds of encroachment around the river which was reason for its disappearance. The movement **Harmu Nadi Bachao** took a huge shape in mobilizing community and masses and compelling the state machinery to become sensitive and active in taking corrective measures. The government realized and initiated work on Harmu Nadi Bachao. During the period from 2010 to 2014, several meetings were



organized for strategy formulation of the Harmu Nadi Bachao Samitee by the organization in Ranchi. A memorandum was prepared and submitted to the Chief Minister followed by a Satyagraha rally at the Morhabadi ground in Ranchi. Memorandums were also submitted to Governor for perusal. At present the government is taking initiative and doing actions on it.

Self reliance of Women :

Shri Ashok Bhagat believes that empowerment is directly linked to the well being of a person which can be achieved through augmentation of the set of human capabilities and providing economic opportunities to make use of these capabilities. Therefore, the intervention set should have initiatives to ensure economic empowerment at first which will automatically lead to social and political empowerment. He is trying to empower women through SHG groups engaged in saving credit activities along with Micro Enterprises Development. There are around 500 groups which have credit linkages with commercial banks in the block. They are engaged in various kinds of income generation activities and also engaged in Food processing and Semi processing of food products which are marketed by their own trust named Swawlamban Dhara. SHG groups also facilitate and coordinate plans on Social, Agriculture, Health and Political issues of the area.

Gram Sabha and Local Governance :

The Gandhian philosophy on rural development considers the Gram Sabha as the basic democratic institution for collective decision-making in the villages of India. In Tribal villages, traditionally the Gram Sabha plays an important role in decision-making. So, he started to strengthen the Gram Sabhas (an assembly of all village adults) for grassroot level planning, decision making, expenditure on development works.

In this context in leadership of Shri Ashok Bhagat, advocacy for strengthening of Local governance was done under the movement named **Teen Simani Sarkar** (from the period 1985-1990). A group of Tribals started to mobilize the traditional Gram Sabhas in planning and decision making. The impact of this mobilization played an important role to advocate to the Government for Panchayat Raj elections which has been conducted in 2011 after a gap of 32 years in Jharkhand.

After elections, the organization engaged in module development, IEC material development, training, Capacity building of newly elected Panchayat representatives in all over Jharkhand. He took a stand of launching a mass movement for establishment of the PRI system in the state. This was followed by a series of Block Level workshops, dharnas, rallies, preparation of memorandums etc.



He also gave a slogan -

**Na Lok Sabha Na Vidhan Sabha,
Sabse Unchi Gram Sabha**

Its echo can be heard in every village even now.

In 2016, Ashok Bhagat was invited by Haryana Govt. as a main resource person to share his experiences in local governance and guided in the planning & training for elected members of Haryana state.

Social Inclusion and Governance: Several models were promoted by the team of Vikas Bharti Bishunpur during mid 80s to protect the resources of tribal people for the betterment of social and economic status of the deprived section of the society. In order to protect the natural resources which are the mainstay of tribal groups in Jharkhand, Dharti Raksha Vahinis were promoted by Vikas Bharti Bishunpur in different parts of Jharkhand which are working successfully and became big force to save the land, water and forest in their respective regions. Similarly Farmers clubs and women groups were mobilized to augment the living standards of the family members. These groups are involved in economic as well as social development activities. Gram Swaraj Abhiyan is another platform promoted by Vikas Bharti performing in remote villages of Jharkhand to secure smooth functioning of facilities and schemes of government and influencing policies through advocacy for protection of rights of tribal people of Jharkhand. It was the yearlong effort of Gram Swaraj Abhiyan which prompted Government of Jharkhand to hold Panchayat elections as per PESA Act.

Youth Mobilization and Conservation of Art, Culture & Technology:

Strong village institutions such as “Dharti Raksha Vahini” and “Gram Swaraj Abhiyan” promoted by him are serving in disseminating information to rural masses, besides, these groups are fighting for their rights and entitlements. Recent conclusion of Panchayat election is an indicator. The organization has been continuously engaged in capacity building of CBOs, SHGs, community leaders and newly elected Panchayat representatives. He started innovative activities in different parts of Jharkhand to engage youth in constructive and

positive work. It was a big challenge for the organization to retain youth in their respective places and provide them opportunities to become self-reliant and noble.



With the help of the community, Youth festivals, Bicycle race, marathon and football tournaments in more than 100 Blocks of Jharkhand are organized every year to identify and develop the hidden potential of tribal youth. It was initiated in early 90s and now it is spread in almost every part of Jharkhand. Youth are taking initiatives and organizing such events on their own. Youth clubs were promoted in three Districts of Jharkhand to nurture the tribal heritage and involve youth in development process. Simultaneously youth transition towards violence is being minimized significantly.



Right from the beginning, one of the major concerns of the organization was to preserve the indigenous technologies of the local people. During last 25 years it has not only preserved these technologies, but based on the knowledge and practices, few modifications have been done. These Agro technologies are

being demonstrated through Krishi Vigyan Kendra established by Shri Ashok Bhagat at Bishunpur.

- **Statues (Paying tributes to traditional leaders of Jharkhand) :** In the process of youth development, he always reminds the youths of their ancestors who have done great work for building their societies. This not only creates role models in front of them, but also keeps them rooted to their culture and traditions. They also take pride in calling themselves a part of the families of these great people. He has promoted to build a number of statues of local leaders throughout Jharkhand and has continued to do so during the past year as well. These statues not only help the youths to know about the great people of their land but also create an atmosphere of sanctity and discipline around the place. Some of the names of the leaders are Bhagwan Birsa Munda, Kartik Oraon, Singi Dai, Rati Tana Bhagat, Jatra Tana Bhagat, Dr. Ambedkar, Swami Vivekanand, Mahatma Gandhi, Veer Budhu Bhagat, Rabindra Nath Tagore, Shaheed Nilamber Pitamber, Siddho Kanho, Chala Pachcho etc.
- **Seed Village :** Mr. Ashok Bhagat felt that there is lack of adequate supply of seeds to the farmers and they were facing problems to become self reliant specially in seed front. So, he initiated a new concept of Seed village in 2009 at Gumla. To ensure adequate supply of seeds to the farmers, to disseminate knowledge of seed production to the farmers, to make farmers self reliant specially in seed front, he started to ensure availability of quality seeds at farmers doorsteps and promote tendency to work together through mutual cooperation. It also helped to check forced migration of farmers. More than 50 Beej Utpadan Samitis has been formed and a proper institutional arrangement for procuring and selling of seeds was established as per govt. rules and regulations and now more than 200 farmers are involved and are earning income of Rs. 5,000 to 15,000 per acre.

Achievements and Impacts :

- ⊙ Increased avenues for employment leading to augmentation of income levels of around one lakh families of Jharkhand. More than 15000 youth have been self employed.
- ⊙ Awareness generation on Health and Hygiene practices amongst the scheduled tribes and Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups. People became conscious about the benefits of preventive measures on various water born diseases specially malaria and diarrhoea in remote areas of Jharkhand. Education promotion models developed and established in Gumla District is being replicated in entire Jharkhand and Bihar.
- ⊙ Dulmi block under Ramgarh district, Jharkhand has been made Open Defecation Free (ODF). 10667 Toilets has been constructed and being used in Dulmi. In other districts, near about 12000 Toilets are being constructed.
- ⊙ Construction of Sato Dam at a height of 1200 ft. became an eye opener for irrigation planners and engineers.

- ⊙ Strong grass root level institutions such as Dharti Rakhsha Vahini, Gram Swaraj Abhiyan, Women SHGs, Youth clubs and Farmers Clubs etc. are rendering services in all districts of Jharkhand.
- ⊙ More than 100 innovative Agriculture technologies developed by KVK Gumla being replicated in entire District.
- ⊙ Youth mobilization programmes Yuva Vikas Mahotsava initiated in the 90s has received tremendous response in the entire state. Now without the assistance of Vikas Bharti Bishunpur, the Youths are being able to organize these events in their respective Blocks.
- ⊙ Better health, sanitation, hygiene and nutritional status. Till date more than 60 lakh patients have been examined through NMMU. Every day 3000-3500 patients are benefiting in Jharkhand.
- ⊙ More than 1000 women SHGs are involved in income generating activities and their products are being sold in the brand name of “VIKAS” through different outlets.
- ⊙ More than 500 traditional artisans have developed skills for Handicraft promotion in the area.

Vikas Bharti Bishunpur - a model for Tribal development

Vikas Bharti Bishunpur: Creating a model for tribal development in left wing extremist affected areas of Jharkhand

Vikas Bharti Bishunpur is an organisation working in parts of Jharkhand which has been severely affected by left-wing extremism for years. During the past 33 years the organisation has successfully demystified the illusive thinking of extremists by ensuring community participation in the development initiatives of the state in these naxal affected areas. It would not be an exaggeration to say that the organisation has demonstrated a tribal development model for naxal hit areas, which can be replicated in other parts of the country facing similar socio-political situation. The following document presents the various building blocks of this model.

THE MODEL: Economically Viable, Locally Acceptable & Ecologically Suitable

- ✚ **Community led:** The youths are the most aspirational group in the society. It is their energy which can turn the tide either way - both constructive as well as destructive. This group has been encouraged to lead this movement within their communities. The principle, 'Involve, Inform and Inspire' has been actualized to ensure that they take pride in leading the development of their own people.
- ✚ **Integrated:** The communities are deprived of most of the basic facilities, amenities and services. In such a poverty stricken scenario it would not be sufficient to focus on any one or two social indicators. Therefore the organisation has been working on an integrated model encompassing education, health, livelihoods, water and sanitation, hygiene, nutrition and infrastructure development.
- ✚ **Collaborating with government:** The model is based on the basic assumption that it is the government where the buck stops, both in terms of accountability as well as resource availability. The civil society should only be a catalyst who can ignite and facilitate a process where the community is able to pull-in the resources from various government programmes and schemes. The model has established that it is not only the community which needs this catalytic function of the civil society, but also the government departments who are the victims of mistrust and perception.
- ✚ **Employment oriented:** It has been a proven fact that the community is triggered more easily by economic benefits as compared to the social benefits. Therefore the development initiatives undertaken in these areas were having the right blend of social and economic components. The **Skill development programme** for the neo-literate youths have created self-employment opportunities for them. Even the education programme run through various residential ashrams and schools impart life skill education along with the formal education to these children. The employment avenues created for these youths helps them to remain the part of the mainstream society and not get attracted towards the ideologies of the left wing extremist groups.
- ✚ **Technology driven:** The introduction of modern technology into these communities have ensured that the employment opportunities in which they are engaged are made appropriately remunerative. The agricultural practices have been modified through transfer of technologies from lab-to-land by the Krishi Vigyan Kendra. The

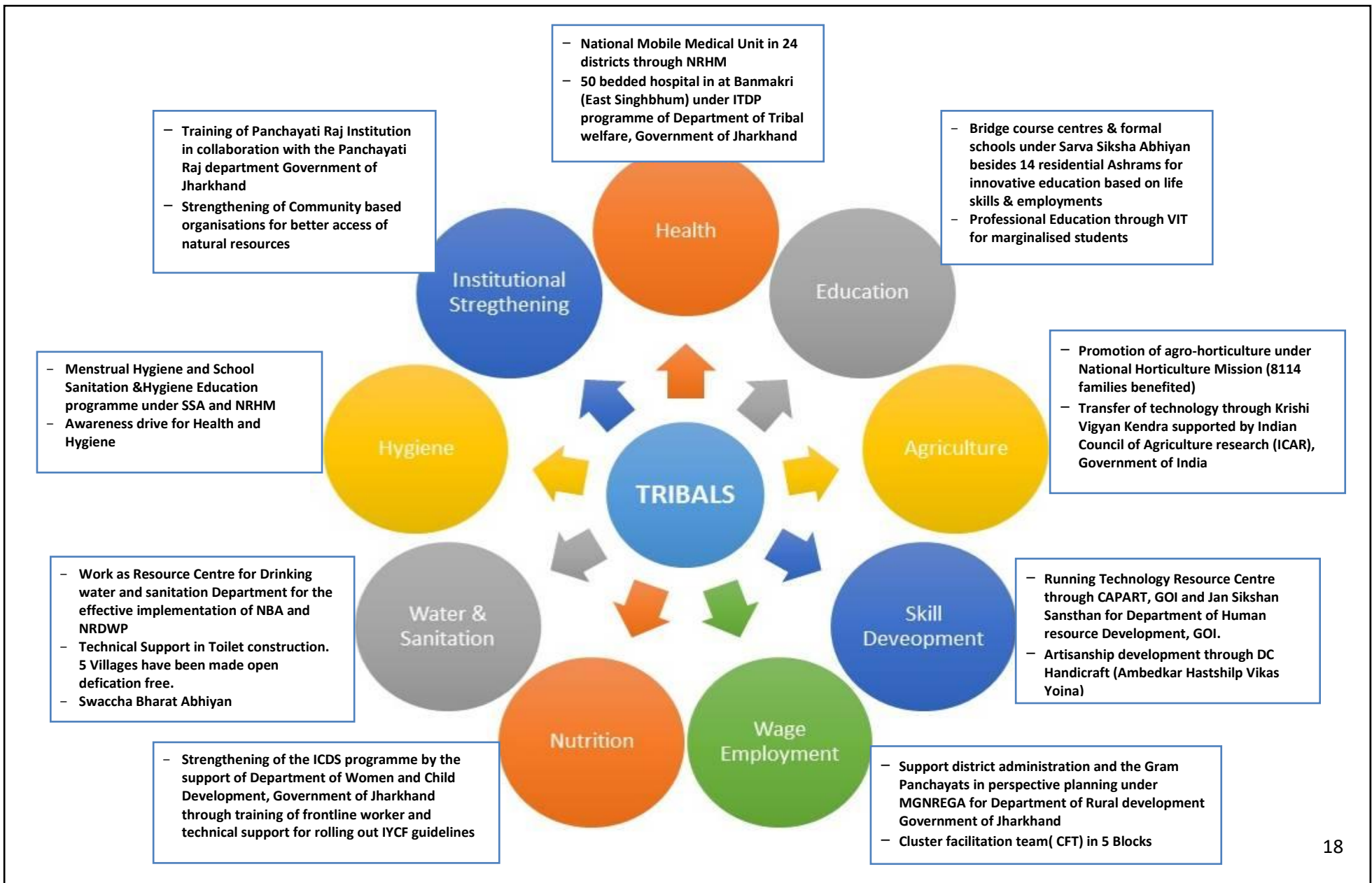
agro-horticultural practices and organic farming systems have been revived, thus improving the productivity of the small land holdings with these marginalized communities.

- ✚ **Preserving the roots:** In spite of all its efforts to introduce communities with the latest technology and developments in the outside world, the model has ensured that the tribals do not lose their traditional wisdom and rich cultural heritage. Platforms and occasions created for remembering their legends and leaders often help them to remain bonded to their roots. The organisation is also working with tribals to make value addition and ensure market linkages for products developed out of the indigenous technologies in these areas.
- ✚ **Raising political consciousness:** The participation of the tribal communities in the political process has not only created an environment of trust on the democratic system but also helped them to be the master of their own destiny. The rise of political awareness has resulted into a situation where the Panchayati Raj System has co-existed with the traditional self-governance system by taking the good aspects of both. This has also empowered the communities to raise their voice and opinion through the constitutionally recognised systems and ensure better implementation of government programmes and schemes.

THE IMPACT:

- ⊙ Increased avenues for employment of over 1,00,000 families leading to augmentation of income levels of around one lakh families of Jharkhand. More than 30000 youth have been self employed.
- ⊙ Sustainable agriculture by virtue of organic farming and scientific practices in more than 500 villages. Fruit plantation is being done in 8638 hectare of land.
- ⊙ Improved literacy rate, especially amongst girl child, more than 40000 children mainstreamed.
- ⊙ Better health, sanitation, hygiene and nutritional status. Till date more than 60 lakh patients examined through NMMU. Every day 3000-3500 patients are benefiting in Jharkhand.
- ⊙ More than 1000 women SHGs are involved in income generating activities and their products are sold under the brand name of “VIKAS” through different outlets.
- ⊙ More than 500 traditional artisans have developed skills for Handicraft promotion in the area.
- ⊙ Child trafficking and early child marriages have been reduced to a large extent by running 14 residential centres and Ashrams.
- ⊙ Reduction in cases of maternal and child mortality and morbidity
- ⊙ Better access to and implementation of government programmes and schemes.
- ⊙ Improved life styles due to positive changes in behaviour and practices
- ⊙ Strong self-governance mechanism leading to ownership of assets and facilities.
- ⊙ In the intensive operational area of around 2000 villages, people are availing Health facilities, all children are going to schools and incidences of violence has been reduced by left wing extremist groups.

LINKAGES WITH GOVERNMENT PROGRAMMES: It is all about having a joint venture with the government in grounding the various development programmes.



GENERAL INFORMATION:

Name:	Vikas Bharti Bishunpur
Established (year):	1983
Registration Details: (Act & reg. number)	Society Registration Act 1860, Reg. No.: 37/83-84 (Bihar) Society Registration Act 1860 Reg. No: 423/05-06 (Jharkhand)
Date of Registration:	22.04.1983
Type of Organisation (1)	Non Government Organization
Exemption-I.T/S-11	Under - 12A

Contact Information:

Registered Address:	Head Office: Bishunpur, Block - Bishunpur, District- Gumla- 835331 (Jharkhand) State Coordination Office : 19, Gramayatan, Arogya Bhwan-1, Bariatu Road, City :Ranchi-834009 State: Jharkhand, Ph: 0651-2545836
Chief Functionary	Sri Ashok Bhagat
Phone Nos:	06523-278400, 278445 (Gumla) 0651-2545836 (Ranchi)
Fax	0651-2546001
E-mail	vikasbharti1983@hotmail.com, vikasbharti1983@gmail.com
Website	www.vikasbharti.net

Vision/Mission Statement:

Vision: To ensure a deprivation-free and just society, where even the person standing last in the societal rungs experiences holistic development.

Mission: To work for the total empowerment of the weaker sections of the society

through confidence building measures; mustering co-operation from various spheres; and increased availability and accessibility to resources and services.

Institutional Strength

Vikas Bharti is running a number of institutions on a regular basis. These institutions contribute to various projects in providing technical support and ensuring quality of work for the organisation. These institutions are as follows:

- a. KVK Gumla for Agriculture demonstration and technology support.
- b. Jan Sikshan Sansthan: For vocational training on various cottage Industries, Handicraft works and Service sectors.
- c. Fourteen Ashrams, Shram Niketans and Vidya Mandirs for education of weaker section.
- d. Vikas Institute of Technology for higher education of weaker sections.
- e. Tribal Research Centre and Tribal Study centre for research, documentation, innovation and recommendation.
- f. Gram Takniki Kendra (Technology resource Centre) for preservation of traditional technologies, new innovations and dissemination.
- g. Food Processing Unit for facilitating people engaged in agro processing
- h. Herbal Plant farm for demonstration and promotion of various medicinal plants.
- i. ICDS Training Centre, Gumla
- j. MESO Hospital, East Singbhum.
- k. Jivan Jyoti Arogya Niketan Hospital for health services.

Partnerships: In his leadership the organization has expanded its outreach to all the 24 districts of the state. During the early days, the organization survived mostly on small government funding and donations. It was started in Bishunpur from a small hut and now has reached a stage where it is self sufficient with ample resources and infrastructure. The growth of the organization in terms of its presence and reputation took a new high after the formation of the new state of Jharkhand in the year 2000. Major breakthrough came when CAPART recognized the sincere and innovative effort of Vikas Bharti Bishunpur and selected it as Technology Resource Centre of the state. TRC status paved away for a huge opportunity for the indigenous people to become self reliant through skill training. Vikas Bharti also got the Krishi Vigyan Kendra for the Gumla district. Adoption of new agriculture technology became simple in the area due to the presence of KVK Gumla. In 2003 Vikas Bharti Bishunpur got the opportunity to set up Jan Sikhshan Sansthan (JSS) at Ranchi. JSS provides basic literacy to illiterates together with vocational skills to deprived youth . JSS offers vocational training on various cottage Industries, Handicraft works, Service sectors. At present Vikas Bharti Bishunpur is the biggest partner of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in running 28 mobile medical units in all 24 District of Jharkhand. The organization is also providing technical assistance to Government of Jharkhand for improving the health and nutrition status of mother and children through International support.

PHOTOGRAPHS



MESO Rural Hospital in East Singhbhum



Health camp in remote area through NMMU



On the spot technical inputs to farmer



Horticulture Promotion for income enhancement