

The Role of NGOs in Bastar and the Rural Economy

Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) occupy a pivotal position in fostering the socio-economic advancement of Bastar, a region predominantly inhabited by tribal communities in the state of Chhattisgarh. Owing to its geographical remoteness and insufficient infrastructure, Bastar continues to grapple with numerous challenges, including poverty, illiteracy, inadequate healthcare, and widespread unemployment. In this context, NGOs have emerged as essential agents of grassroots transformation.

Among them, the *Bastar Dhrarma khema Samiti* (BDKS) has played a vital role in empowering tribal communities through the promotion of education, skill development, and health awareness. We operate non-formal education centres, educational support, and conduct health camps—particularly in areas where government services remain inaccessible.

By promoting sustainable livelihoods, BDKS contributes significantly to the enhancement of the rural economy. We support local farmers and artisans by introducing improved agricultural techniques, forming self-help groups (SHGs), and facilitating market access for indigenous products such as tamarind, mahua, and tribal handicrafts.

Our initiatives also place strong emphasis on women's empowerment and youth training. Through vocational education, entrepreneurship development, and microfinance support, we seek to instill self-reliance and reduce outward migration. Furthermore, BDKS actively engages in the preservation of forests and natural resources, which are intrinsic to tribal life. We also advocate for the rights of marginalized communities through legal literacy and policy advocacy.

In conclusion, for the past 47 years, BDKS has served as a vital bridge between government institutions and remote tribal populations, promoting inclusive development and playing a transformative role in strengthening the rural economy of Bastar.

Fr. Tiju Mankottil CMI
Director, BDKS

Distribution of Educational Materials at Pangaras Village



On the occasion of Bishop Joseph Kollamparambil CMI’s visit, along with the Samanvaya students, a gathering was organized in Pangaras village to encourage parents to send their children to school. BDKS distributed study materials to the children, and the Samanvaya students performed a short entertainment program. It was a joyful event for the entire community.

Summer Youth Camp at Sangam

In collaboration with interdenominational groups, BDKS organized a three-day youth camp at Sangam. Around 60 young people participated. The goal of the camp was to bring youth together and inspire them to make positive life decisions.



Project Inauguration

A new project supported by DB Tech and the State Bank of India was inaugurated on June 3, 2025. The project will run for three years, aiming to train 225 students in solar installation and computer hardware.

Educational Aid for Higher Studies

BDKS has supported two more students pursuing higher education by providing textbooks, study materials, and assistance with tuition fees.



Cultural Evening – June 15, 2025



A cultural evening was organized for the people of the Mettuguda area. Village youth—both girls and boys—performed various cultural programs. A large crowd gathered to enjoy the occasion.



Drawing Competition

A drawing competition was held at Mattanar village school in the Backawand block of Bastar District. Around 50 students participated, and BDKS awarded prizes to the winners.



Kinder Mission Project



Twenty-four tuition centers are currently running in various villages across Bastar, serving a total of 240 students with regular academic support. In addition to studies, BDKS organizes extracurricular activities such as sports, games, one-day outings, and art competitions. In January, a teachers' gathering was also conducted to collect feedback for improving the program.



Adult Literacy Program



With the support of the Rotary Club, BDKS is operating three adult literacy centers—two in Bastar and one in the Sukma district. The program aims to provide basic literacy education to adult men and women.

State Bank of India Project

The State Bank of India is supporting skill training programs in computer hardware and solar installation. Our goal is to train 220 students during the year. DB Tech is providing regular guidance and support. The project commenced in June 2025.





Orain Educational Foundation

The Orain Educational Foundation, Kolkata, is conducting various training programs at the BDKS center in Jagdalpur. These activities will continue until November 2025, with a primary focus on General Duty Assistant (GDA) training and basic computer skills.

KNH and Christ University Project

The KNH and Christ University project at Kapsi is progressing well under the leadership of Fr. Ranjith, who continues to guide and motivate the staff. The project is currently in its final phase and is expected to be completed by 2027. Approximately 250 individuals have directly benefited from this initiative.

The Choice Foundation

The Choice Foundation project is being effectively implemented across ten villages in the Bastar District. Its primary objective is to raise awareness about human trafficking. BDKS is also working to establish a partnership with Childline services to strengthen this effort.



FVTRS Project



FVTRS, Bengaluru, is supporting BDKS in conducting skill training activities at our center. Currently, we are offering training in three trades: Computer Skills, Tailoring, and General Duty Assistant (GDA). Approximately 45 students are enrolled in these training programs.

Bosch Foundation

The Bosch Foundation is extending its support to our skill training initiatives by providing training materials and assisting with student placements. At present, 25 students are benefiting from this support. They also provided a valid certificate after completion of the course.



Stakeholders Project



of life for women and children.

Stakeholders from Raipur are supporting community development initiatives across ten villages in the Bastar District. The project is currently active in the Nagur Block of the Bastar Division and primarily aims to improve the quality



Inauguration of Solar Installation Training Programme



On 21st June 2025, we inaugurated the Solar Installation Training Programme. On this occasion, the DB Tech State Coordinator addressed the gathering and shared his valuable insights on the subject. He primarily emphasized the importance of placement opportunities and commitment to work.

Support from Jim Kobler, USA

The Jim Kobler family has graciously agreed to support Asha Ashram, Palligaoan, for a period, contributing to the well-being of the residents. BDKS is deeply grateful to the Jim Kobler family for their generous support.

Grace Foundation, Kolkata

BDKS extends sincere thanks to the Grace Foundation, Kolkata, for agreeing to provide support to the hostels in Junawar and Mardoom. They have also committed to supporting English language training for students at the upper primary level in village schools.