



Centre for Research and Community Action

CeRCA

ANNUAL REPORT

2021-2022

Index

Foreword..... 3

Research..... 4

Research on COVID-19..... 5

Emergency Response to COVID-19..... 6

Foreword

The years 2020 and 2021 have been marked not only by a devastating global health crisis in the form of the COVID-19 pandemic but also by the continued and compounding impact of climate change on our fragile ecosystems. While the pandemic forced humanity to pause and reflect on its relationship with nature, the signs of ecological distress have only grown sharper. The rise in global temperatures and the alteration of natural water cycles continue to disrupt life on land and in the oceans alike.

In the marine world, warming waters have accelerated coral bleaching, reduced dissolved oxygen, and forced fish populations to migrate towards cooler regions, thereby unsettling the delicate balance of aquatic biodiversity. On land, higher surface temperatures have intensified the frequency of tropical cyclones and erratic rainfall patterns. These events have not only damaged vegetation and agricultural productivity—affecting the size and quality of grains, pulses, fruits, and vegetables—but also eroded fertile soil, making survival even harder for small species unable to withstand climatic extremes.

The pandemic, in many ways, exposed the vulnerability of human society. It showed us how deeply our well-being is tied to the health of ecosystems. At the same time, it highlighted the urgent need for restoration. Ecosystem restoration is not just an environmental necessity; it is a moral responsibility. While natural processes of healing take time, collective human passion and coordinated action can accelerate recovery. Governments, institutions, and individuals must rise to this challenge with progressive policies, reduced carbon footprints, and stronger partnerships with marginalized communities, who bear the brunt of climate and health crises alike.

The path forward is not without difficulty. It demands higher levels of cooperation, knowledge-sharing, and resource mobilization across borders. As Mahatma Gandhi wisely said, *“The difference between what we do and what we are capable of doing would suffice to solve most of the world’s problem.”* The pandemic has reminded us of both our fragility and our resilience. Now is the opportune time to choose what is right over what is easy, and to work together for a future where ecological balance and human survival go hand in hand.

Dr. Shakuntala Pratihary

Research



Figure 1 Receiving Recognition for continuous Research work on Environmental Issues

The research on climate change and human capability was conducted in two Odisha villages—a coastal panchayat in Kendrapada and a tribal panchayat in Mayurbhanj. In Kendrapada, communities faced cyclones, saline intrusion, and declining fish stocks, while in Mayurbhanj, erratic rainfall and rising temperatures disrupted crops and forest resources. The study sought to understand vulnerabilities and adaptive capacities. However, the COVID-19 pandemic delayed fieldwork due to restrictions on travel and social contact. The crisis further exposed community fragility, reinforcing the urgent need for policies and collective action to strengthen ecological resilience and human capability in vulnerable regions.

Research on COVID-19



Figure 2 Inauguration of book on COVID-19 by Honourable Speaker of the Odisha Legislative Assembly

The COVID-19 pandemic of 2020–21 triggered an unprecedented disruption in the world of work, exposing the vulnerabilities of migrant workers in India. Our research focused on understanding the effect of the crisis on patterns of migration and its implications for sustainable development. The nationwide lockdown, loss of employment, and collapse of urban livelihoods forced millions of workers to return to their native villages, reversing years of rural-to-urban migration. This sudden movement highlighted the precarious nature of informal employment and the absence of adequate social security for migrant populations.

The study examined both immediate and long-term effects. In the short term, migrant households faced food insecurity, debt accumulation, and limited access to health services. In the longer term, the return migration put enormous pressure on rural economies, with agriculture and small-scale activities struggling to absorb the sudden influx of labor. At the same time, the research revealed instances of resilience—communities re-engaging with local resources, diversification of rural livelihoods, and renewed focus on self-reliance.

The findings underline the critical need for inclusive policies that integrate migrant workers into development planning, strengthen rural employment opportunities, and ensure social protection. Sustainable development in post-pandemic India must prioritize equity, resilience, and human dignity.

Emergency Response to COVID-19



Figure 3 Emergency Response to COVID-19 with the help of Action Aid

During the peak of the COVID-19 crisis, ensuring food security for vulnerable families became an urgent priority. In response, emergency relief measures were undertaken to provide basic ration kits containing rice, pulses, oil, and essential groceries to households in need. With lockdowns halting livelihoods and restricting mobility, thousands of daily wage workers, migrants, and marginalized communities depended on this support for survival. Distribution drives were carried out in coordination with local administration and volunteers, ensuring safety protocols were followed. This timely intervention helped mitigate hunger and distress, offering dignity and hope to families during an unprecedented humanitarian emergency.



Figure 4 Sharing Book with Mr Bishow Parajuli, India Country Director UNWFP

Centre For Research and Community Action Trust (CeRCA)

102, Indraprastha colony phase-2, Pokhariput, Bhubaneswar, Odisha, 751020

mail id: cerca.india@gmail.com

