

Sanjay *breaks* the barriers of disability

Sanjay a man in his early thirties from an economically underprivileged family resides in Siarimalia village of Kamakshyanagar. He was affected by polio from the childhood because of which he was over protected by the family members from the very beginning of his life. Due to poor economic conditions and ignorance he did not continue studies beyond primary level of education and spent most of his time idle in the house. However, he is very popular both in the village and in the school for his positive attitude and helping nature.



Sanjay working in his home factory

At the age of he started working as a daily labourer in a puffed rice farm. In January 2011, a community worker from *Aaina* visited Sanjay's household. He met Sanjay and his family members. Impressed by Sanjay's high spirit and dedication towards work, *aaina* staff encouraged Sanjay to start his own rice factory, Sanjay was not very comfortable with the idea as he lacked confidence and depended more upon his family members to run a business. The family members and neighbours welcomed the idea and knew Sanjay's capabilities. They all supported Sanjay to start the factory. Sanjay's father sold a piece of land where, finally Sanjay was successful in establishing his own factory. He sold *mudi* in wholesale to the local people.

In the mean time there were micro planning workshops conducted by *aaina* in Kamakshyanagar and Bhubaneswar.. Mr. Samir Ghosh was the resource person. Sanjay attended both the workshops. He learnt about profit and loss analysis, linkages with other businesses, better utilisation of raw materials etc. *aaina's* secretary Ms. Sneha Mishra, CORDAID director, Ms Hilde Marbus and Timo VSO volunteer at *aaina* also paid visit to him and encouraged him for his good work. Sanjay is currently a president of one of the SHG groups at Kamakshyanagar. He now feels more confident. He wishes to expand his business and use the skills gained so far.