

Serving the poor in Odisha

Giridhari Patra Fellowship (*Jeevan Mati Seva and Suraksha Samiti*)

IFA started supporting Giridhari about 10 years ago when some of us while visiting the Niyamgiri hills area in Odisha, were stuck by his abiding commitment to helping these tribal communities. His work is a mixture of direct help and empowerment performed through the organization that he has put together. JMSSS is active in helping people secure land rights as well as in opposing destructive land mining in their area. But Giridhari spends equal amount of energy in directly helping people in need. For this, in addition to his Fellowship funds, he solicits donations from wherever he can. This was particularly evident during the pandemic when he and his organization did a yeoman's job in providing rations, medicines and other help for their community.



**Giridhari and others from JMSSS
distributing rations during the pandemic**



**Preparing list of needy people to provide to the
District Collector for appropriate action**



**Giridhari In the collector's office after applying
for land title for 13 community members**



**Setting an example by donating blood.
Got 68 people to donate blood in two settings**



**Taking medical workers
to the community**



**Seeking out the sick for direct help
as well as getting state's help**



**Providing help with cremation
during the pandemic**

Giridhari and JMSSS are supporting the community in:

- Action against tree cutting by informing the forest dept.
- Campaign for community right to natural resources (*Jal, Jangal, Jameen*)
- Opposing mining in the Niyamgiri hills
- Obtaining pattas (land titles) including *Pehle Patta baad mein Vote* campaign

--IFA Liaison: Prithvi Sharma