

Led by Professor Nibedita Ray-Bennett, the ADN India Hub delivered the second outreach workshop on 5 October 2024 for the Ambassadors of the “Avoidable Snakebite Deaths” at Su Mondal Community Health Centre, Kodala Tehsil, Ganjam District in Odisha. The ADN India Hub is hosted by the Orissa State Volunteers Social Workers Association (OSVSWA).

ADN Ambassadors represent the high-risk groups carrying the snakebite burden in our Case Station areas.

Dr. Amarendra Mohapatra, ADN Advisory Board Membr, and Mr. Rajesh Patro, Case Station Coordinator, were the workshop's resource persons. The workshop lasted two hours and had four activities.



Su Mondal Community Health Centre

**Activity 1:** The resource persons shared the preliminary findings of the scoping study on the circumstances surrounding snakebite incidents from Kodala Tehsil (June – September 2024). This was delivered using the circumstances grid (see **Figure 1**).

While sharing the conclusions for each grid, the resource persons allowed time for the participants to ask questions and make the discussion inter-**Activity 2:** The resource persons shared three real-life scenarios so that lessons could be learned through interactive discussion. The real-life scenarios included **i)** sleeping outside without a mosquito net,

**ii)** mishandling a snake, and **iii)** walking at night without a torch. To spark discussion, each scenario had three questions, and the resource person then summarised the discussion for lessons to be learnt for each scenario.

**Activity 3:** The resource persons thanked the participants for identifying preventative measures and reminded them to share the circumstances grid information with their family members and neighbours. A handout on the circumstances grid in Odia was then distributed amongst the participants. The resource persons also reminded the Ambassadors to inform Mr. Rajesh Patro, Case Station Coordinator, if they encounter any snakebite incidents so that he can capture the circumstances of the bites. The resource persons then conducted the short-structured survey.

**Survey findings:** The workshop was attended by 46 participants, of which 32 were females and 14 were males. The participants were from three villages of CaSA area: Burujhari, Chachina, and Su Mandal. The survey had two questions.

**Q1:** How useful and informative was this session for you?

Forty-five participants said ‘very useful and informative’, and only one said ‘not at all useful and informative.’

**Q2:** After attending the session, how would you rate your confidence in the topics’ usefulness?

All participants (n=46) said “confident”.

**Activity 4:** Using materials supplied by the Madras Crocodile Bank Trust and Centre For Herpetology, the resource persons screened two films: 4 Deadliest Snakes of India ([4 Deadliest Snakes of India - Odiya](#)) and The Beauty of Snakes ([The Beauty of](#)

[Snakes Hindi 1920x1080.mp4](#) - [Google Drive](#)).

These films were in local languages, and the participants enjoyed watching them.

Professor Nibedita Ray-Bennett developed the materials and plan for the outreach workshop in consultation with Dr. Stephen Samuel, ADN's technical advisor and Advisory Board Member. Dr. Sameer Kumar Jena translated the circumstances grid from Fakir Mohan University into Odia.

Ophirex Inc. and Madras Crocodile Bank Trust and Centre For Herpetology's CSR Initiative of USF funded the workshop.

## Circumstances Grid Surrounding Snakebites

<b>Time of the bite:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>-Morning</li><li>-Evening</li><li>-Night</li><li>-<i>Other*</i></li></ul>	<b>Most common body parts bitten:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>-Hands</li><li>-Legs</li><li>-<i>Other body parts*</i>: nose, ear, gluteal region etc.</li></ul>
<b>Location of bite:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>-Paddy field</li><li>-Forest</li><li>-Street (while returning home)</li><li>-Home</li><li>-<i>Other*</i></li></ul>	<b>Activities during the time of bite:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>-No torch while returning home from work in the evening or at night</li><li>-Mishandling of snakes while trying to move a snake from home</li><li>-Stepping on the snake triggered the snake to bite</li><li>-Collecting firewood</li><li>-Working in the rice field in the morning hours</li><li>-Sleeping outside without a mosquito net</li><li>-<i>Other*</i></li></ul>

\*Resource person provided additional information from their experience.

**Suggested citation:** Ray-Bennett, N.S., Patra, R., and Dissanayake, C. L. (2024) Circumstances Grid Surrounding Snakebites in Khodala Tahasil, Ganjam: Preliminary Findings of ADN's Scoping Study. Avoidable Deaths Network, University of Leicester.

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