

WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

Sou. Manisha Raut, age 44 years old resides at Gholwad village, tehsil Dahanu of Thane district. After 12th std completed she has got married and fully engaged in household work like cooking, washing, cleaning, care of cattle, fetching water for drinking as well as other uses were major tasks, which she had to complete before, she went to own agricultural field scouting for work. She has 2 acre Sapota orchard. No any other income sources for her family. It means her family fully depends upon agriculture. Those were very hardy, unsatisfactory days to her family. There was no any approach of Government scheme.

One day Home scientists of Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Kosbad Hill came to Gholwad village and explained about self help group and training programme for groups conducted by KVK. But first time nobodies agree to start help group or become a member of self-help group. Simply Sou. Manisha Raut thought what KVK told about SHG will really came into existence?. Then one day, Sou. Manisha and other Neighbouring active women formed a Group namely Seema Self Help Group. Sou. Manisha was the secretary of this group.. First six month only saving the money and deposited in bank account of SHG. After six months, her group proposed for the bank loan and got loan amount Rs. 25,000/-. All members were very happy because small needs were quickly solved due to SHG.

During meeting of SHG, group members decided to making various fruit products particularly Sapota fruit products like chiku chips, chiku powder, etc because availability of fruits is easy in Gholwad village and obviously Gholwad village famous for chiku.

It is the good coincidence that KVK arranged fruit processing training programme at that time of group formation in the year of 1994. All the members were participated in particular training programme.

After getting training, the group decided to prepared Sapota products as a pilot basis. We surprised that by making chiku chips earned more money instead of selling of chiku fruits. For preparation of chips Sapota fruits should not be mature, actually it was dropped fruits. Those fruits skin peeled slice it vertically and dry in sunlight for 3 to 4 days. It is an easy operation for making Sapota fruit products. The 1 Kg chips getting from 10 Kg chiku fruit. It is an amazing that group got Rs. 125/- from one Kg chips whereas 10 Kg fruit got only Rs. 50/-. It means earned Rs. 75/- more than selling of chiku fruits.

Sou. Manisha was also doing some other occupations like Backyard poultry keeping, nursery management, vermicompost, etc who got training from KVK. One shop was also started in village. From that time she earned at least Rs. 15,000/- per month. She went her children to school regularly. Today, she has 60 poultry birds of black Astrolorp bird, RIR, Giriraj variety. Small fruit nursery unit having 8000 number of grafts/ seedlings, one vermicompost unit, one dairy unit having 2 hybrid cows of Holstein Freezer. Her husband also helpful in nature. Now Sou. Manisha Raut developed her own firm as "Sakhi Grihudyog" .

She has became secretary of the self help group availing the loans. She can now take care of her whole family. She doesn't need to depend on anyone for her financial requirement. She is getting income regularly.

The group has been major supportive force by encouraging her to takes the loan.

Monthly income of Sou. Manisha Raut.

Table: Monthly income from various activities.

Sr. No.	Name of activity	Occupation start from year	Monthly income (Rs)	
			Before SHG	After SHG
1	Sapota product	1994	2000	8000
2	Back yard poultry	1999	500	2700
3	Nursery	2000	800	2000
4	Dairy	2001	500	2500
5	Vermicompost	2001	-	-

She used vermicompost in own Sapota orchard. Now she is fully satisfied with her own earning. She purchased some assets like TV, Cupboard, etc. She has no words to express her fillings about KVKs valuable work.

Case Analysis-

Appropriate and timely interventions for poor disadvantaged women due to SHG and KVK interventions have saved whole family. It has created self confidence and provided a source of economic empowerment. The other important issue, which emerged, is the need for more of such timely interventions since it will enable many families to raise an improved economic status.