



Stories of Change

A Gallery of Case Studies



Voluntary Integration for Education and Welfare of Society (VIEWS)

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Kumari tailors her way to a better living

Forty years old A. Kumari hails from the Balibagada village in Chikalakhandi of Chhatrapur block. Like most women in the village, after completing her daily chores, Kumari used to sit idle or pass her time gossiping with other village woman and watching television. She happened to attend a meeting organized by VIEWS, where women were motivated to undertake different skill trainings to help them utilize their time in a productive manner.

The participants discussed and concluded that a tailoring training should be organized for the adolescent girls in the village. The locals offered their community Hall to start the training. As many as 37 girls enrolled in the training program and Kumari was one of them. At the end of three months Kumari had acquired the skills of tailoring and convinced her husband to buy a sewing machine for her which he did.

Now Kumari is able to stitch different types of garments like frock, school uniforms, blouse, petty coat, pillow cover etc. She now earns 150 rupees per day on average and has become an example to many other village women.



Greens from the nutritional garden

Jagatpalli in Bhikaripalli Gram panchyat of Chatrapur block is mostly inhabited by the Scheduled Caste community. Susuma Behera, one of the locals has a small land holding of about 80 cents in the village and uses the land to cultivate paddy purely depending on rainwater. If there is less rain, the land becomes dry and barren.

The poor family had no resources to dig a bore well for supply of water to their land which lay dry most of the year

Mangaraj Nag, the Community Development Co-ordinator of VIEWS during his visit to Jagatpally met Susuma and others.



He had a discussion with the locals and suggested vegetable cultivation in these barren lands . Susuma showed interest and requested for vegetable seed. VIEWS provided the seeds to Susuma and 15 other farmers who sowed vegetable seeds. They were taught how to prepare Handi khat and how to use it in the vegetable field. All the 16 beneficiaries took a collective decision to grow the vegetables and try their best to protect it from the attack of monkeys.

Susuma successfully grew the vegetables and earned money by selling them in the local market winning a lot of appreciation from the family and neighbors.

Enabling the differently abled

Two destitute and disabled women D. Buddama and O. Kamla from Markandi village of Rangeilunda Block were selected by the villagers as the beneficiaries for Micro Enterprises Development. When the project staff interacted with them and discussed various trades with them, considering their disabilities they were interested to prepare white phenyl.

On the day of the training they prepared 26 bottles each containing one litre. Few bottles were given to villagers to use as a part of market experimentation exercise

The product was sold with a profit of 30%. Now they have got order from the nearby town to produce as much as they can. This brought a new ray of hope in the life two women who were not recognized by the family and community. They now earn money with dignity.



Demand for organic veggies in local market

In Aladipur village of Kottur GP in Chikiti Block, most farmers had lost their interest to grow crops during Rabi for the menace of wild



pigs. Basudev Reddy aged about 55 years, an active farmer of this village used to grow vegetables even during Rabi but solely depending on Chemical fertilizers. With a large family of 10 members buying vegetables from the market was difficult with his meager income from agriculture.

Reddy used chemical fertilizers to increase the produce and to control pests and diseases through pesticides. His dependency on chemical fertilizer was very high. However things changed after Reddy attended a training programme by VIEWS on Preparation of

Organic manure and its benefits at Aladipur Community Hall, along with 24 other farmers of his village

Reddy, .Ch. Laxmaya and Mr. A. Tulsya showed much interest to practice bio-fertilizer to grow vegetables for self consumption.

After the training few households were provided vegetable seeds (tomato, Gawar, Lady-finger and bitter Gourd). In addition to the other households Reddy, Laxman and Tulsya cultivated vegetables using the Package of Practices of Organic manure. All the three farmers were happy to see the vegetables grown well even after not using the chemical fertilizer. All the three prepared Handi Khata and applied in their crops.

Unfortunately, the crop of A. Tulsya and laxmya were eaten by the wild pigs but somehow the crop of Reddy was saved and he took extra effort to watch over his crops . After consuming the vegetables at his house he also sold them in the local market. The taste of his vegetable was really much better than others. So, the demand in the market increased for the vegetables grown by Basudev. When other vendor in the market were selling lady finger, Gowar and Tomato respectively @Rs.30, Rs.25 and Rs.15 Basudev s veggies were sold @Rs.40, Rs.35 and Rs.20 in the same local market.

Though the production in using organic manure may be less than the production of using chemical fertilizers but the demand in the market and taste is much better. Reddy says “Jibamruta and handi Khata will surely keep the fertility of the land intact”.

The well that brought smiles



Palli is remote village of Govindnagar Gram panchayat of Chikiti block in Ganjam district. Like other villages palli was also facing the scarcity of water problem. With the only old well at the village drying up every summer, the hot summer was like a curse to the women who had to get water from nearby water sources. As many as 125 households depended on the well and the women had to wait for hours for their turn a get a pot of water out of the well. Despite bringing the problem to the administration, there was no result. When

IEWS began to work with the village , the pressing need was identified during the PRA exercise. People came forward to dig a well even if VIEWS partially supported. VIEWS supported RS.16000/- and villagers contributed Rs.20,000/- and dug a well in the village.

This well now has sufficient water not just for drinking but also for irrigation purposes in the nearby areas.



Support for the elderly

Fifty eight year old Apurba Behera - of Tareipatapur GP- Kanamuna of Chatrapur lost her husband 15 years ago in a boat accident at sea. With a large family of four daughters and a son, Behera singlehandedly brought up the family selling vegetables from door to door. She married off her daughters and her son- all of who settles with their own families. But now her health does not permit her to continue walking for long stretches from street to street...



IEWS had begun working in this area and Tareipatapur was one of the operational villages. When Mrs. Apurba met the CDC Mr. Mangraj Nag she shared her story of sorrow. Mr. Nag explained this to the village committee for help. Then by the recommendation of village committee On December 22, 2014, Mrs. Apurba was supported to run a Grocery shop in her house itself by the ICCO funded program of VIEWS as an ultra poor widow. She added a tiffin centre also to her business.

Now Mrs. Apurba Behera earns an average profit of Rs.150 to Rs.200 per day. She is grateful to VIEWS and ICCO organisation for giving her a new hope to ensure her livelihood.

Support to open a grocery shop

Ch.Kanakamma Reddy is the wife of Ch.Ramaya Reddy aged about 35 residing in village Aladipur in Katuru panchayata, Ganjam. Her husband is a differently able person and the family was very poor. Husband Ramaya was frustrated because he is not able to earn anything. On the other hand Kanakamma was working hard as a daily labour to earn a square meal in day for both of them and their only son. This family was identified in the baseline survey conducted by VIEWS.. The villagers requested our staff to support this family. After providing a confidence building training for the family, VIEWS supported them to start a grocery shop.

Ramaya now sells the goods and commodities sitting at home while Kanakamma goes to work as daily labour. They are now able to earn a better livelihood and they are a happy family now. .

They are earning Rs.150-200 profit per day from the grocery shop and Rs.150/- from daily labour..



Vermi-compost bed

After the intervention of SLIO project in the Ganjam district, a series of trainings were organized for people in the operational area.

Among them was a training programme on organic manure in the month of January 2015. Different SHG members had attended that training. During the training preparation of Handi Khata and vermi-compost was imparted. The women group of Chatrapur block took initiative to approach the district horticulture office and showed their interest to make vermin-compost. The Dist horticulture officer was very happy to provide them kits for the vermin bed costing about Rs.4000/- free of cost. As many as 24 women applied for the vermin bed and till today 17 of Jagat Palli, Bagadpalli and Narsinghpur have already started the vermin-bed. The remaining applicants will be provided the kits in the second phase.



A Kind Woman attained her dreams.....

Kalaga Kamma, a 50 year old widow from New Boxipalli village of Boxipalli Grampanchayat in Rangeilunda block lives with her youngest son.

Kamma used to earn her living selling fresh fish.

She hardly earned Rs 200 to Rs 250 on a daily basis –which was quite insufficient to, manage her day to day expenses and the study expenses of her young son who was studying in the college

There were days when she could not make any profit but suffer loss.

The staff from VIEWS came forward and convinced her to form a Self Help group. Then discussed with her neighbors about the same and formed the Sagar Jyoti Self Help with 10 women members from New Boxipalli village.

They started saving small amount of money every month and opened a bank account to save their money in the Bank.

Since the members could not pull in enough money, VIEWS supported them with a small grant. From this grant K. Kamma took a loan of Rs 5000 and invested in fresh fish business.

Today she earns around Rs 600 to 700 a profit per day.

It has not only helped her to manage her day to day expenses in a better way but also provide study materials to her younger son.

She has also been able to send her son to Bangalor for higher study.



“This would not have happened had I not joined the SHG. I AM VERY THANKFUL TO views and the constant support of the staff we have been patiently guiding us though difficult times,” says Kamma.

Self Help is the Best Help.....

Divya Jyoti Mahila Vikash Self Help Group was formed taking 18 fisher women in Markandi village, Indrakshi Gram Panchayat of Rangeiluda block.

Gradually the SHG members started savings in small amounts. They subsequently opened a bank account and saved their monthly savings in their group account. Later they took loan from bank, and distributed it among the members who individually invested in fish business and repaid as per their repayment schedule. After repayment they focused on their business and did not give time for group.

Subsequently the group defaulted and they did not get any support from any org. or bank. Most of them spent their income in their social festivals and health related issues. Such situations made them realize the importance of SHGs. At the same time the staff of VIEWS visited Markandi and held discussions with the DJMV SHG. They conducted meetings with the members of DJMV and planned the recovery of the SHG.

Different trainings were organized to motivate the members and on the ways to strengthen the SHG. As they belong to Fishery community they were already well aware about fish business. 7 members of DJMV SHG asked for financial support to run dry fish business. VIEWS assisted them 50,000 INR for dry fish business. The members took loan from DJMV and purchased raw fish, prepared dry fish out of it and sold them in the weekly market in groups.

Their earnings increased from Rs 200 to Rs 500 per head earning. They have also started are packaging and selling of fishes in Randha, Tulu, Berhampur and Ichhapur. The members have also ventured into preparing fish pickles and selling the product in the local market.

VIEWS helped them in different capacity building training including a training on fish processing, which has helped them to manage their business and to function the SHG properly.





About Us:

Voluntary Integration for Education and Welfare of Society (VIEWS) is a growing grass-root organization that believes the real change can happen when we become the change that we want in the world. We are everyday people development professionals, teachers, and homemakers, students from the community who want to give back to the community in its fight to overcome the underdevelopment, poverty, injustice, environmental degradation and climate change around us.

We have been engaged in a series of activities by engaging the community to address the most urgent issues being faced by Odisha. Our interventions are designed on need based and people centric priorities.

Vision: Empowering marginalized communities to improve their quality of life

Mission: Bringing holistic development through innovative solutions for a better society