

INTEGRATED ACTIVITIES IDEAL FOR EMPOWERING WOMEN

Karbat pada Kosbad Hill, under Kainad grampanchayat is one of the tribal village of Dahanu tahasil of Thane district. Most of the population of this village is marginal Farmers or agril. labour having low socio economic status i.e. below poverty level and low educational level.

They cultivate only rice under rainfed condition as mono cropping only in the Kharif season through out the year. In the rest of the season i.e. in Rabi & Summer, they have no work so that they went for collecting fire wood and sale thrown out prizes in urban areas.

Unemployment after Kharif season was the major problem. They were unable to cultivate the crop in rabi and summer season due to the following major problems faced by them

- i. Unavailability of irrigation facility and
- ii. Stray cattle menace.

As the land holding of the family is very less i. e. 0.2 to 0.5 ha. Marginal farmers from the village were not interested to spent money on making fencing to protect their crop from stray cattle. The cost of digging of tube well and fitting electric motors which is unable to do due to low economic condition.

Some of the farm women from Karbat pada village frequently participated in training program conducted by Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Kosbad Hill, like Nutrition of family, Grain storage, Nutrition Garden, Rice Cultivation, Back yard poultry, Vermicompost Making, Value addition and processing of Sapota, Mango, Chili, Tomato etc. Home Science personnel of KVK, Kosbad Hill frequently visited to that particular village and identified their problems. KVK Scientist interacts with the farm women to solve their problems. Some of the women from the village shown interest to do something to earn more to support their family but they didn't know what to do.

From the year 2000 KVK scientist used to advised them about formation of SHG which will help them to solve their problems for better prospects. But due to lack of self confidence and cooperation the women were hesitating to form SHG. Then KVK scientist took effort to built self confidence and cooperative approach in the women by continuously guidance about Formation and working of SHG At last in the month of October 2003, interested ten farm women from Karbat pada having close farm with each other farms, came together and form SHG named as **Adishakti Women's Self Help Group** with contribution Rs 50/- monthly.

Adishakti SHG opened Bank account in Central Bank of India, Kosbad Hill Branch with Rs. 500/- in December 2003.

In the month of November 2004, Adishakti SHG got revolving fund of Rs 8400/- which was utilized by them for their farm work. In the mean time KVK scientist advised the SHG member to protect their farm from stray cattle problem by making Fencing around the 4 acre land which is closed each other farm of the SHG member and Vermicompost unit. As per the plan provided by the KVK scientist, all the SHG member started the work of fencing and collection of farm waste raw material for vermicompost making on cooperative basis after completion of their daily household activities and own farm work during the month of August to October 2004. Revolving fund properly utilized for planned work. After that the members of group discussed with each other for selection of enterprise. KVK provided guidance to

functioning of group activities and also preparation of various projects with their micro planning.

Adishakti SHG member selected micro-irrigation scheme which includes vegetable cultivation. Under the guidance of KVK scientist they applied for the loan of RS 4.00 lakh in the month of June 2004 which was sanctioned in the month of November 2004.

From the loan amount Rs 4 lakh, they utilized 60 % for infrastructure development such as purchasing of Power tiller with accessories and 2 tube well, and 2 submersible pump sets with pipeline. Remaining 40 % amount utilized for recurring purpose of vegetable production, vermicomposting etc .

As a group activity Adishakti SHG in the year 2004- 05 started to produce vermicompost from their unit. A part of produce was utilized for vegetable cultivation and the surplus vermicompost was sold by Rs 3/ kg to local farmers. So for Rs. 19000/- earned through this activity.

From 2004-05 Adishakti SHG put their power tiller on rent basis with charges Rs 160/ hour. It contributed Rs. 75000/- amount credited to their loan account.

In the rabi season of the year 2005-06 Vegetable cultivation was done on 3 acres of land as a group activity by Adishakti SHG. They produce green chillies, tomatoes, brinjal, bottle gourd and merogold as a flower crop. Through this activity they got the net profit of Rs.35000/- and also used in their daily diet. The vegetable produce was directly sale to the consumer in local market. The interest of the SHG members increased as they get cash money in their hand by selling of vegetables.

In the same year 2005-06 Adishakti SHG has get opportunity to provide breakfast to 3 Anganwadies from Department of Integrated Child Development Scheme. From this activity they earned Rs 140,000/-

Now the group has been developed confidence and decided to do some another work having more benefit. They decided to utilize own resources like naturally grown wild date plam. They tapped 28 Wild Date palms by employing a tapper. The produce palm sold and earned Rs. 12000/- net profit in the four months ie January to April in the year 2006-07

Meanwhile, due to misunderstanding between each other, the group activity get affected and decrease the production which result in low economic benefit. At that time KVK Home Scientist solve the matter of that particular group by providing guidance about conducting two time meetings in a month for improve the understanding with each other and group activities which is helpful to other groups also. Due to conducting regularly meetings in month it helps to increase transparency in economic activity.

The various activities carried out by Adishakti group generated year round employment to 2 landless women and 3 men other than family members.

Keeping these activities of SHG, Thane Zilla Parishad nominated as ideal SHG of the district.