

Glimpse of hope-A case study

Kataraba is one of the revenue villages of Raising Panchayat of Nandapur block in Koraput district inhabited by 59 ST families with a population of 188. The sex ratio in the village is positive i.e. the number of females and male is 97 and 91 respectively. As a part of the interventions of Pragati SHGs have been formed to enhance the economic standard of tribal women as well as to enable them access their rights and entitlements under different Govt schemes and social security measures. Maa Laxmi is one of the women Self Help Groups of this village consisting of 20 marginalized women who were remaining within the four walls of home over a long period of time.

After the formation of the group the members only used to pull up their savings regularly, withdraw loan from different banks and invested that money in doing non profitable ventures. Due to the facilitation of Pragati staff, the SHG members came to know about NREGS (National Rural Employment Guarantee scheme). A meeting was conducted by the members in the NREGS which was followed by discussions in the Village Development committee. As identified it was construction their village which was in a ruined condition. It was very difficult to reach the village during the rainy season.

“We did not have any idea about the NREGS, but due to the guidance of Pragati staff we came to realize the sweet of our labor and plan, which shows a glimpse of hope to our groups”, says Rama Badanayak, president of the said

The members discussed the matter with the villagers and applied for job card and work in Panchayat office. After 15 days of their application they got a work order for construction of a CC road to their village measuring 140 meter and valued Rs1.5 Lakhs. It generated 857 man days of employment in the village. During the work they had demanded for the facilities that should be provided to them at the time of work such as drinking water, shed, crèche and first aid. They also got their wages properly @ Rs 70/- during the due period from the VLL Sadana Golari. The quality of work could be maintained as the SHG members monitored the work closely.

The SHG members as well as the villagers are now sensitized on their entitlements under NREGS. They have planned to mobilize for a pond to their village as identified in the Village Development Plan.

PRAGATI, KORAPUT