

## Tejaswini Village Women Empowerment Programme

*The Tejaswani rural women empowerment Programme aims at empowering poor women to make use of the economic, social and political opportunities for enhancing their well- beings. CARD in association with Madhya Pradesh Mahila Vitta Evam Vikas Nigam/ Tejaswani has been working in 2 locations, Padmi and Mandla in Mandla district.*

*There is strong input of CB through livelihood, vision building, leadership and bank exposure trainings. Health, education and gender are the other issues of empowerment. The project has established linkages with state level schemes of ; Indira Awas Yojna Training on Stitching, Organic farming & Soya Processing, Ladli Laxmi Yojna, SRI and Vegetable Cultivation, Plantation, Kapildhara/ Balram tal, Training-Mulberry, sewing machine distribution, etc.*

**Location: Ghughri**

**Cluster: Imlitola**

**Village: Bhokadevri**

This village is situated 25 km away from the location Ghughri. Within 'Tejaswini Village Women Empowerment Programme', there are 5 groups with 54 members. Earlier the women of Bhokadevri were very backward. They had orthodox thinking. After being part of the Tejaswini Project, they have started thinking broadly.

This year all the women who are members of the project have grown grains through SRI technique and have been benefitted by increased production. By seeing this many other women have been inspired to follow this technique. They have decided to use this technique in future also.



Narmada group of this village saved Rs 19,720 this year. They took the loan of Rs 14,000 from NABARD which was given to Parvati after the consent of all the members. With the help of this money she has started her own business and now she has repaid the whole amount of loan. She is financially more stable now.



Women are now becoming more aware and have started understanding their rights. They are now actively participating in gram Sabha.

**Cluster: Chivlatola**

**Village: Khudiya**

In village Khudiya there are 6 groups within Project Tejaswini. Earlier they used to concentrate only on group savings, but now they have started giving consideration to other important issues as well. In 2011, committee was formed with the help of women members in which they discussed about social, political and financial matters.

One of the groups is BPL which has already been graded and has received the cash amount also. Electricity problem was solved by an application given to Janpad panchayat by the women members.

Earlier, women used to walk 1-2 km for getting water. Then also they were not able to get sufficient water. Their applications in the panchayat were rejected many times. But they didn't stop trying. Finally they wrote an application to Janpad panchayat and got a hand pump digged.

**Location: Ghughri**

**Village: Naijhar**

Naijhar is situated 20 km away from the location. There are four groups namely Narmada, Sheetla, Rajkumari and Laxmi with 53 members in total. Total savings last year was Rs 33,325. All the group members do 70% of their work by exchanging resources among themselves. To increase their livelihood they are also involved in small businesses like fishery, growing and selling vegetables and even few of them are running grocery shops. Earlier women were financially dependent on their male counterparts but after joining this project they have gained self-confidence and are no less than anyone. Women have also increased their earnings by putting their shops in the weekly markets. They are able to repay the amount of loan taken from the group.

Group Rajkumari has received Rs 250000 from SGSY as revolving cash and has been put into use for various purposes. There were no bathrooms in the village. Project Tejaswini gave Rs 10,000 for this purpose. All the women members helped in the construction of the bathrooms. VLC meetings are being conducted on a regular basis. This village is moving forward on the path of development and success.





## Brighter scope for women due to efforts of village level community

**Cluster: Garaiya**

**Village: Pandkala**

Pandkala is situated 10km away from location Ghughri of organisation CARD. 70% residents of this village belong to Goda and Baiga race. Apart from handpump and road, no other facility is available there. There are seven self- help groups formed under Project Tejaswini whose meetings are conducted at different times on different days under the supervision of community mobilizer Shmt. Kusumlata, coordinator Vaishali and CA Suresh Dhaneshwar. VLC meetings are conducted on monthly basis in which they discuss issues related to their village.



In May's VLC meeting it came out that the payment of work done through Employment Generation Programme has been made in the accounts starting with zero balance. There were no proper toilets in the village. Women wrote an application in the Janpad panchayat. Now the villagers are happy due to sanitary facilities.

**Location: Ghughri**

**Village: Sajpani**

Women of this village were very poor and were not at all confident. They hesitated while talking to others. Kavita Bai, who is now part of Project Tejaswini and Women Farmers Empowerment Programme, has started keeping her points in front of others. Earlier she did not participate in group meetings but now she is regularly present in VLC meetings. She is now capable of understanding her rights and fighting for them. She lives in a joint family and faced many problems. But she never gave up and tackled all the problems bravely. And now she is happy after facing them.

She used traditional methods of farming, but after joining Project Tejaswini she adopted SRI technique for farming. No one was agreeing to use this technique. Even her family members resisted it. But Kavita Bai had confidence in this technique. Her agricultural production increased by 3-4 times.