

## CASE STUDIES

### *Now, Sunita and Sanjo have a say in their family decision making.*

Sunita Chadi, W/O Jaswant Chadi is a 31 year old woman belonging to a middle socio-economic family. Sunita has 6 children. Her husband is involved in the work of farming. Sunita herself is involved in the work of poultry farming. She is a member of an SHG and is regular in attending NFE classes. To strengthen her source of livelihood, she decided to go for goat rearing. The organization facilitated in the process of providing



her loan for the same. Now Sunita owns goat, through which her family is able to get 1 to 2 litres of milk daily. Earlier for the same amount of milk, she had to shell out Rs.1300/ month. Daily consumption of better quality of milk has helped in enhancing the nutritional level of her family. Moreover maintenance of goat is not a costly affair. Sunita is now timely repaying her installments of loan. She is very happy with what she gain through Cecoedecon's project.

**Sanjo Chari, W/O Balweer Chari** is a member of Tadkesheshwar SHG, belonging to the women of Nat Community. Sanjo is of 28 years and is married from past 10 years. Her husband is engaged in farming activities. They have 3 children; all of them are enrolled in primary school of Kotkhawda. Initially, when Sanjo has been linked to NFE, she did not even recognize a single letter or alphabet as she has never been to school. Before joining NFE, she has not been given any opportunity to gain education. She was only involved in household activities of cooking, cleaning and taking care of family members but has never been involved in decision making pertaining to her family. But now after her association with the SHG and NFE classes, where she has gained knowledge regarding budget and savings and acquired basic education like reading, writing and simple arithmetic, she is taking active participation in her family decision making and helping her children in their studies. Not only this, through Cecoedecon's Anti Human Trafficking Project, she has been provided loan for goat rearing. Now she owns a unit of goats and doesn't have to shell out money daily for milk consumption as she gets milk from own goat. Thus, all this has increased her savings leading to her enhanced and respectable space in her family as well as in the community.

***Mobility can create opportunity for life***

**Vinita Vijayram** is a leader of Manisha SHG, belonging to the women of Nat community of Kotkhawda. She is also in regular attending NFE. But if we go just 11 months back, we will see an altogether different picture of Vinita and her family. Earlier, Vinita would rarely step out of her home, her husband did not do any work for whole day and was



involved in alcoholism. Since joining the SHG, she says has been increasingly confident. She has been elected to serve as the chairperson of Manisha SHG. Now she is a confident speaker and advocate of her community needs at the gram panchayat level. Through the self help group network, Vinita has learnt not only about saving and investment but has also enhanced her communication, problem solving and leadership skills. Vinita feels the major benefit associated with SHG membership is the strength that the women have as a group. She says that women are no longer afraid to say what they think, and through the motivation they provide one another they can achieve much more as a group than as they can as individuals.

### ***Education is what Rinku, Megha and many other girl look upto....***

Rinku Dangiwal, D/O Naval Kishore Dangiwal is a 16 year old girl residing in Kothkhawada gram panchayat. Rinku dropped out of 4<sup>th</sup> standard from school and migrated to Mumbai. But even after coming back to Kothkhawda, she stayed out of the education system. Her family was not in favour of providing her schooling and education. She was involved in the domestic work of her household. The organisation persuaded her family to let her join the bridge



course through which she could be linked to mainstream education. Finally Rinku was sent to bridge course where she developed an interest in studies. Now after joining formal school system, she has now graduated from 8<sup>th</sup> standard and achieved rank iii in her class and continuing her education in 9<sup>th</sup> class. Like many other girls in class, Rinku also wishes to become a teacher in the future.

**Megha Patidar, D/O Arvind Patidar** is a resident of Kothkhawda Nat Community. She has been a drop out after passing 5<sup>th</sup> standard from school. Her parents did not wish to provide her education any further. But through the constant counseling and positive persuasion of her family by the staff and peer educators of UN Women AHTP, Megha has been linked to the bridge course. Initially she has also shown some resistance towards learning but through the regular counseling and guidance, she realized the importance of education for her future life. Soon, she bridged all the gaps, she has been facing because of dropping out of the school and again joined the school. This time she was admitted to 8<sup>th</sup> standard in Government girls school. She successfully graduated from 8<sup>th</sup> standard and now from the new academic session, has been enrolled in 9<sup>th</sup> standard in higher secondary school of Kothkhawda. Now, not only Megha, but her parents also wish that she completes her education and could lead a meaningful and dignified life.

### ***Horticulture- a step towards dignified life....***

**Nirmala Devi, W/O Premprakash** belonging to nat community holds some agricultural land.



Keeping in view her family's skills and available resources, she have opted for practicing horticulture in her farm. Through this project, organization has provided her plants for the same. Revolving fund of her SHG has also provided her loan for fencing the farm. The horticulture department of the state also came forward for mainstreaming this community and provided scheme of drip irrigation to the members of this community at a discount of

90%. Now, nirmala devi's family is actively involved in horticulture. The idea is to not only get involved in income generation activities but such livelihood options which are sustainable as well as dignified. Through horticulture, one could cultivate such crops that have high value in a limited are compared to other crops. In many ways, these initiatives have facilitated in the process of empowering the women and mainstreaming the community. At one level, it has helped in linking the community to government and its sponsored schemes and at other level it has provided the women alternative and sustainable livelihood options which has led to their economic and social empowerment.



**Babli Patidar, D/O Ramcharan Patidar** is a member of Nat Community residing in Kotkhawda gram panchayat. Earlier, Babli used to run a small grocery store in her own home, but it did not yield good returns, so she closed it down. When AHTP has been launched in Kotkhawda, she has been counseled to get associated with it as a peer educator. Her own interest to work for the people and change the face of her community motivated her to join the project. At present, as a peer educator, she has been making great efforts to mainstream her

community. After getting linked with the projects and attending various training programmes and awareness camps, she came face to face with various other income generating activities

which are dignified and provide a decent livelihood. One of those activities, which Babli could start is Horticulture, since she does hold some agricultural land. Through the medium of the SHG with which she is associated, she has been provided loan for the same. She has planted some citrus plants which do not require much water for growth. Babli is very hopeful that this medium of Horticulture would serve as a good source of livelihood generation for her and her family.

***Small but stable income also provides dignified life***

**Vandana Patidar, W/O Sonu Patidar** is a resident of kotkhawda. Earlier her family did not have a regular source of income. Her husband used to do labour work and generated a small amount of income for their family. But Vandana does own around 4-5 hens and for additional income, she used to sell eggs. Through UN Women AHTP, she has been linked to an SHG, where she has been saving Rs.100 per month. During the livelihood survey conducted by the peer educators, it came out that she and her husband were interested in setting up a shop of eggs, where they could sell raw as well as cooked eggs as there is a huge consumption of eggs in kotkhawda as well as within their community. Therefore, through AHTP, Vandana has been provided loan without interest, which helped her to set up her desired shop. Now, she and her husband, both jointly run their shop, which has been providing them a regular and stable source of income. Vandana is now regularly repaying the installments of her loan and is very cheerful about her new venture, which is not only providing her and her family a stable income but also a dignified life.



## **THREE NAT WOMEN DARED IT...**

Jyoti, Malti and Bhagyalaxmi are the names of women who dared to break all the stereotypes labeled to Nat women and in general to all the rural women. Among Nat community women are not allowed to step out but these three women not only attended the stitching center and Non Formal education Center of the UN Women supported projects but also went 15 km away daily to attend the Modlama Stitching center at Shilki Dungri, Chaksu. The center is supported by Ministry of Textile for skill development and employment generation to rural areas.

**Jyoti Chhadi** belongs to a poor family of Nat community. She has four children and her husband was engaged in selling eggs at Kotkhavda market at rented kiosk. Jyoti, with a hope to learn and earn something attended the NFE and stitching center at UNW supported project. She shown excellent performance and learnt everything. She took an amount of Rs. 6000 to scale up her husband's income and invested the amount in purchasing spices and eggs to start omelets and egg shop. They bought eggs and spices of Rs 6000 and started the business. The family income doubled within six months at present they are earning 450 daily and after six months her husband buy his own shop at Kotkhavda market.

Jyoti has increased her awareness and after having PDS card she regularly purchase the grain and other available things from PDS. Once when she went to buy the wheat flour, dealer denied and said that wheat flour has not been supplied this month. She asked to Sarpanch and confirmed that the flour has been supplied she argue with the dealer and finally he gave the wheat flour to all the villagers.

Jyoti attended Modalama Stitching center for two months and waiting for placement she also stitched some *Rajputi Dresses and Paticot* at Kotkhavda and these are purchased by the village women.

Jyoti Says that me and my husband both are sending all our children to a private school and hope that our daughters will become independent after getting education. Earlier we were not able to send them in school but now we have made our mind that we will not engage them in sex work. ....

**Malti** wife of Jasvant is 5<sup>th</sup> pass and residing at Kotkhavda for 9 years. She has three children and her husband is engaged in driving at Mumbai. She attended NFE and Stitching center at Kotkhavda and then moved to Madolama Center to upgrade her skills. She says that she can work either from home or go outside the village to earn. She sends all her children school going

children in a private school and opine that Cechoedecon has changed her entire life. She says that she will not ruin her daughters for the sake of culture or money and will teach them until they become independent in a dignified way.....

***Bhagyalaxmi*** is another woman who is 25 year old and belongs to Nat community. Her husband Amit is occupied at Mumbai and sells fast food at a kiosk. Before the project her two children were not enrolled at school and she never thought to send them in School but now her children are going to school and she herself attended Modalama Stitching center. She is willing to join employment generation activities. She says that we will not send our daughters in sex work and for this we are working hard to earn more...

## **THERE IS LIVELIHOOD SECURITY NOW...**

Un Women supported project activities have changed the destiny of many families from uncertainty to security... The families who were previously dependent on the income of their daughters are now trying to increase their livelihood options through various activities. Mostly women are encouraged to start their own occupations for a dignified life.

**Rupkali** is a woman who changed her entire life after association with a SHG. Her husband is handicape and is not engaged in any livelihood activity. Roopkali along with her daughter in law went for labor work within the village and running the house hardly. She heard about Cecoedecon and Peer Educators approached her for membership in a SHG. She was not having money to deposited but Peer Educators said that if you open an account and deposit two months installment we will provide you loan for a shop and you can repay the loan daily basis. Roopkali decided to link with SHG and Cooperative and also she linked her daughter in law. They took an amount of Rs. 20000. Raveena bought one goat and two baby goat while Roopkali started a grocer shop in a kiosk outside her house.

Raveen sold one baby goat in Rs. 2000 and also earned Rs. 5000 through selling milk. Roopkali started keeping dairy milk at her shop and these days her net profit Rs. 200 per day. They deposit Rs. 100 per day to Cooperative as the repayment of loan.

Their life has changed to a great extent now some portion of the house is *Pucca* and they think how to extend their income!

**Jamna and Sangeeta** are two sisters of Nat community residing in Kotkhavda. They have had no certain income for household and were dependent on daily wages. They took loan of Rs. 20000 from Cooperative and soon after Sangeeta died. Jamana asked to give some time for sangeeta's loan as she was willing to open a shop with Rs. 20000. She took a shop for 700 rents per month and started a grocery shop having all the essential items and dairy milk. Sangeeta's son helps her in running the shop and at present they are earning Rs. 700 per day. Jamna says that Cecoedecon has made her life worth to live and Sangita's son Aman is also settled now!!!

**Krishna** was a poor Nat woman with seven children and she has had no permanent source of income as her husband was engaged in property dealing business. It was hard for her to feed all the children two times with so little income. She heard about SHG and Cooperative and linked with SHG. She took loan of Rs. 25000 and started a vegetable shop. Her husband, children and she jointly run the shop and keep vegetables, fruits, cold drinks etc.



Krinshna told that presently we have rented shop but planning to buy our own so that the net profit can increase our income is Rs. 250 per day.

**Mintho Devi** is associated with NFE and Stitching center at Cecoedecon. She took livelihood training and thought to have some goats at home. With the loan amount of 10000 she bought one goat with one baby. Initially she sold 1 ltr. Milk per day and keep 1 ltr. Milk for children. She says that it not only increased my income but my children were not able to drink milk, now they have milk in their house. Mintho said that I was purchasing milk of Rs. 34 per day which was used for tea but now I am saving this amount. She also invested in poultry and bought 50 chickens in January 2014, she has been planning to sell some in June 2014 which will cost 600 Rs. Per.

Mintho is happy with this development and says that organization has given us to many avenues in a little time we will continue this journey of self dependency....

### **Feelings of Balwant, a Peer Educator belonging to Nat Community**

**Balwant Chari**, Peer Educator, In UN WOMEN AHTP, has attended a 3 day training



programme on Market Led Rural Livelihood, organized by MART , Ahmedabad. As per Balwant, the training programme was focused on 3M Model for livelihood promotion. The 3M stands for micro finance, micro planning and micro market. This model looks at 3 basic elements that can help development agencies and NGOs in assisting the start of economic activities, livelihood promotions based on their own potential for self help and in ways that are locally sustainable. According to Balwant 's learning in the training, 3M Model is a pro poor self sustainable

model as it relies on local resources, existing skills and local market without depending on any external agency for support. Balwant says that through this project of AHTP, he has got an opportunity not just to work for his own community but also to enhance his own learning and skills and by attending rural livelihood training programme in Gujrat , he is fortunate enough to talk to the experts working in the field of rural livelihood.

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**Manisha Vijayram, W/O Matri Vijayram** has been associated with the AHTP through NFE. She has been regularly coming to the NFE centre since the beginning of the project in Kotkhawda. Earlier, she did not even come out of her house, was kept in *ghoonghat* (veil). She was not allowed to talk to any one outside her family. But now, after 9-10 months, since she joined NFE, one could observe huge changes in her attitude. She actively takes part in each and every activity of AHTP, be it attending NFE classes or vigilance committee meetings or financial literacy camps. Not only she ensures her own attendance but also motivates other women from the community to attend such activities. She is also regular in SHG meetings and

enthusiastically participates in its various discussions related to savings, investments and enterprising activities. Her interest in education could be seen from the fact that whenever the NFE trainer gets a little late in reaching the centre, Manisha herself calls the trainer and asks why she is getting late for the classes! Now, Manisha helps her two daughters in their homework. Not only this, she is now motivating her husband to take up education and get involved in some dignified livelihood generation.

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