

“SHG IS LIKE MOTHER TO ME” – ANITA DEVI



Anita Devi
Village: Getalsud Jaratoli
Block: Angara
District: Ranchi
SHG Name: Neha Mahila Samiti
Village Organization: Getalsud Vikas Aajeevika
Gram Sangthan
Loan amount: Rs. 50,000.
Big loan: Rs. 30,000.

Born and brought up in a well to do family, Anita’s father was a driver in Veterinary Agriculture. Anita with her 5 other siblings was living a happy and satisfactory life. With the passage of time, little Anita grew up to a young girl. Her two elder sisters got married and then, it was her time to get hitched. In comparison to her sisters, Anita was an average looking girl. Thus, for finding an easy way of her marriage, her father chose a family, whose economic condition was not good.



Anita accepted her faith; however, she was not able to meet her daily basic needs. Her husband was a graduate, but was unemployed, her in-laws often remain ill. Thus, most of the income spends on their treatment and medicines. Even after marriage, Anita was dependent on her parents for the maximum needs.

Anita became mother of a son, but the condition was still the same and even got worsen. She used her sisters’ children old clothes for her son. Anita’s self-respect was stopping her from taking help from her parents and sisters and she was also worried about her son’s future. She didn’t want the same life which she was living, for her son.

In the year 2005, Anita with 10 to 15 women formed a SHG. Before joining, she only knows, SHG as a name and after forming she got to know about its details, how it works and its benefits. Anita’s SHG got a direction, when it came under the compliance of **Aajeevika programme of JSLPS**. *The group started meeting on the specific date and time in a month, discusses various topics, government programmes, maintain books of accounts and took mutual decisions, which was missing earlier.*



Anita took the first loan from the SHG, for treating her ill son. Afterwards, she took loan for farming. All-together, she took Rs. 50,000 as loan, in 7 times, in which Rs.30, 000 was a big loan. For improving their economic-condition, Anita wanted to do something but at the same time, did not want to ignore her household work. So, through SHG, she got trained in stitching and with the loan-taken, she bought a stitching machine and commenced tailoring business. Along with her, **her husband also got trained in farming through Aajeevika programme and learnt technical aspects of farming.** For Anita, SHG is like a mother to her, she told, *“Jab bacha rota hai, toh maa uski sari jarrurat puri karti hai, usi tarah jab hum mahilayein rote hai, toh samuh se hi hamari sari jarrurat puri hoti hai”*.

Anita also wants to help other women like her. She and her SHG members live with the objective of *“ghar-ghar, alakh jayenge, hum badlenge jamana”*. Anita is an Internal Community Resource Person (iCRP) and thus, she was sent to Andhra-Pradesh for getting training in effective functioning of SHG work. Till now, **she has formed 9 SHGs, trained 3 SHGs women and has audited the books of accounts of 2 SHGs.** Anita is good at managing books of accounts and thus, do audit of various SHGs. Anita’s father and her husband both are very proud of her. As now, they are living a happy life and are comfortably managing their household expenditure.