

Success story of SGSY-a case study of SHG Halqa

Swaranjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) is under implementation in J&K since 1999. The main objective of the SGSY is to bring the assisted poor families above the poverty line. This objective is achieved by organizing the rural poor into Self Help Group (SHGs). The SHG approach helps the poor to build their self-confidence through community action. Interaction in group meetings and collective decision making enables them in identification and prioritization of their needs and resources. This process would ultimately lead to the improvement in their collective bargaining.

In Block Marh five SHGs have been financed since inception of the scheme. Out of the five SHGs financed one is located village Halqa. This SHG named “Halqa SHG” was formed during the year 1999 with the objective of uplifting the economic status of rural women. It consists of ten poor women with Smt. Garo Devi as its president and Smt. Ratno Devi as its cashier/secretary. Majority of these women are schedule caste and after being thoroughly educated in all aspect of the SGSY by functionaries of Rural Development, pledged to work together for the upliftment of their economic condition.



They started with a contribution of Rs. 50 per month per women and developed the habit of cooperating with each other. The regular meetings of SHG, facilitated by the field functionaries of Rural Development, helped to facilitate proper understanding and establish rapport among themselves. They started giving internal loans to the needy members of the SHG and charged two percent interest on such loans. The group was linked with State Bank of India Branch Marh. The said SHG was put to first grading on 07-06-2000 and revolving fund of Rs. 10000/- was released by the Department of Rural Development. Bank also released matching share of Rs. 15000/- in favour of SHG.

Slowly and steadily the members of the group started intensive inter-loaning among themselves and on 10-01-2005 it was subjected to second grading. Immediately after second grading, the loan application of SHG for dairy unit was sponsored to SBI Marh. The loan case of the said SHG was sanctioned by the Bank on 17-03-2006. Accordingly the subsidy of Rs. 1.00 lacs was released in favour of the SHG. The first installment of loan amounting to Rs. 1.50 lacs was disbursed to the SHG on 25-07-2006 and second loan installment of Rs. 2.00 lacs was disbursed on 20-01-2007. The total amount of loan received by the SHG till date is Rs. 3.50 lacs. Twelve milch animals have been purchased by the SHG. Milk is being sold by them in the village itself and the members of the SHG are earning their livelihood. The group has started repaying the loan amount by a monthly installment of Rs. 15000/- per month and till date an amount of Rs. 1,66,000 has been repaid. Each member of the SHG is earning Rs. 1200/- per month after paying their loan installment.



The economic status of members of SHG is better than it was at time of group formation, the clear evidence of which is the confidence and exuberance displayed by them during their interaction with each other. Before they became the members of the SHG, their families was dependent on meager resources that their husbands could generate by virtue of their irregular labour wages. Now these ladies have become more or less self dependent and even contributing to the overall income of the family. The members of the group have become torch bearers and they are now advising the other people to form more and more SHGs to come out of the poverty and enhance their status of living.