

PROJECT UPDATE- YEAR 1

**Creating Sustainable Livelihood and Building
Resilience among Indigenous Women in MHOW, India**





Here's a look at some of the recent milestones we've achieved:

Support for Government Schemes: SEWA Sakhis are empowering community members by assisting them in accessing essential government benefits, improving their access to much-needed support.

Shop-cum-Processing Centre: A new hub of opportunity opened on 15th August 2024 in Choral Dam village. This vibrant space showcases community-made products like snacks, jute bags, and terracotta items, fostering local enterprise and economic growth.

Terracotta Training: Ten women have embarked on creating beautiful terracotta items, starting with Diwali lamps. They are honing their skills to perfect their craft, increasing their potential for sustainable income.

Climate Change Awareness: Awareness sessions reached 1,226 community members, focusing on critical issues like pollution, organic farming, and tree planting, helping to nurture a sustainable future.

Soil and Water Testing: In collaboration with local landowners, regular soil and water testing is being conducted to improve farming practices and promote sustainability in agriculture.

National Rural Livelihood Mission, Group Formation: Five self-help groups have been established, kickstarting savings initiatives and paving the way for loans that will support sustainable livelihoods.





Success Story

Empowering Livelihoods Through Self-Help Groups

Manisha Sonu Bariya's Journey to Economic Independence

Manisha Sonu Bariya, a 27-year-old woman from Bargonda village, lives with her family of four. As a landless agricultural labourer, she and her husband, who works as a manual labourer (Hammali), struggled to make ends meet.

Previously, Manisha was part of a self-help group (SHG) that had unfortunately ceased operations three years ago. Recognising the need for financial stability, our team revitalised the group, bringing the members together once again and encouraging them to resume regular savings.

A few months after the group's reformation, Manisha applied for and received a loan of ₹15,000. With this, she purchased four goats, one of which was pregnant. Over time, her herd grew to six goats, significantly increasing her assets.

In just six months, Manisha will be able to sell the goats, each expected to fetch around ₹6,000, providing her with a sustainable source of income. This opportunity has not only improved her financial security but has also empowered her with the confidence to build a better future for her family.





Success Story

From Unaware to Entrepreneur

Sarla's Journey with NRLM and Organic Farming

Sarla lives in a village in the Mhow block with her husband and five children. She works in farming, while her husband is engaged in labour work.

Until recently, Sarla was unaware of any government schemes. Through a community initiative supported by Action Village India, she attended information sessions on the National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM). She learned about the benefits of joining a self-help group, including the possibility of saving regularly, applying for loans, and receiving training for income-generating activities.

With support, Sarla joined a group and applied for a loan through a local bank. She used the loan to buy vegetable seeds and started her own small farming business. She also received training on how to make *five-patti kaada*, a natural bio-pesticide, and now avoids using chemical fertilisers on her crops.

She continues to receive guidance through local facilitators, and her family now benefits from improved food security and a steady income.





Success Story

Growing Change

Meena's Effort to Nourish Her Family and the Environment

Meena, a resident of a village in Madhya Pradesh, attended community sessions supported by Action Village India. Through these, she learned about the impacts of climate change and the importance of environmental conservation.

She was particularly drawn to the idea of integrating nutrition and sustainability into daily life. As a result, she planted mango, guava, and drumstick saplings on her land. These trees will provide fruit for household consumption and future income, while also contributing to environmental improvement by absorbing carbon dioxide and helping reduce the local impact of climate change.

Meena's decision to plant fruit-bearing trees has already inspired others in her community to explore sustainable practices. She continues to stay engaged with the local team and is enthusiastic about taking further climate-positive steps.





Success Story

Building a Future

Namita's Persistence Pays Off with PMAY

Namita lives with her extended family in a village where they rely on daily wage labour and goat herding. During a community meeting facilitated by Action Village India, she discussed her difficulty in accessing benefits under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY).

Although she had previously applied for housing assistance, her application had not been approved. Encouraged by the local team, she reapplied through the Gram Panchayat. When there was no progress, she followed up with the Sarpanch and Secretary on two occasions, accompanied by a local support worker.

Eventually, her application was approved and she received her first instalment of ₹25,000. Namita now feels more equipped to engage with local governance and access the support her family is entitled to.





Success Story

Shaping Clay, Shaping Livelihood

Lata's New Start in Pottery

Lata, 33, lives in a village in the Mhow block with her husband and child. Both she and her husband work as daily wage labourers. When a skills training opportunity was introduced in her village, supported by Action Village India, she enrolled in a 15-day clay pottery training held at the local Choral office.

Before training, she completed a consent form confirming her commitment to attend all sessions. During the training, she learned how to make lamps, bottles, jewellery, and decorative items. After the course, she began making Diwali lamps and other items from home and shared them with neighbours.

She also received information about the PM Vishwakarma Yojana, a government scheme offering toolkits and training support for traditional artisans. Although she has not yet been able to apply due to a temporary portal closure, she plans to submit her application once it reopens. Lata hopes to turn this skill into a sustainable livelihood and is thankful for the encouragement and resources provided.

