



Creating Sustainable Livelihood Opportunities and Building Climate Resilience for Indigenous Women and Girls

Stories of impact



Submitted by
Action Village India

Partner Organisation
Mahila Shram Sewa Nyas



Success Story

Chanchal Develops Computer Skills, Opening Pathways to Employment

“This training not only gave me employment but also changed my mindset. I feel self-reliant and hopeful for the future. I have become a support system for my family.”

Chanchal, from Basi Pipri village, had completed her graduation (B.A. and Master of Social Work) but did not have a job. Between managing household responsibilities and further education, she was seeking an opportunity to move forward and become financially independent.

Her turning point came during a women’s meeting where she learned about a two-month basic computer skills training, where she was encouraged by the team to enrol to enhance her employability.

Through regular attendance and dedication, she developed skills in typing, basic computer operations, and digital applications. Initially hesitant, she gradually gained confidence, becoming more comfortable using computers.

After completing the training, she secured a job offer and works alongside her studies. She earns a regular monthly income of approximately ₹4,500, supporting not only her education but also contributions to her family’s household expenses.





Before Construction:



After Construction:

Success Story

Empowered Voices: Kheraphali's Road to Change

In Kheraphali, a sub-hamlet under Manglia Village, reaching anywhere meant travelling through unsafe, unpaved, potholed paths, which caused great inconvenience to roughly 100 resident families. Women repeatedly asked for a proper road, but nothing changed.

The issue became urgent after a tragic incident in 2021, when Babulal, the husband of resident Resham Bai, lost his life after slipping and drowning in a nearby pond. Deeply affected, Resham Bai realised that poor road conditions and negligence were not just inconvenient but dangerous for the entire community.

Determined, Resham Bai filed a complaint through the Chief Minister's Helpline. When state officials followed up, the Panchayat Secretary falsely claimed the road had already been built and even submitted misleading photos. Resham Bai was pressured to withdraw her complaint with the assurance that it would be addressed, but still no road was constructed.

In 2024, during a meeting under the Udaan program, this issue was raised again before the Sewa Sakhi. Together, Resham Bai, women from the community and the Sewa Sakhi presented a written application to the Gram Sabha, demanding action. When officials argued that construction was impossible due to a lack of land, women went door-to-door, talking to families about the importance of the road. In an inspiring act of unity, the residents of Kheraphali collectively agreed to donate portions of their land to make construction possible.

Within 2 months of continuous follow-up, the road construction was approved and completed. Its completion has greatly improved mobility and safety, marking a significant achievement in collective action and women-led local governance.





Success Story

Journey to Self-Reliance - Basipiri's Story of Training to Independence

Dhankunwar Pawar, a resident of Basipipri village, had a keen interest in beauty parlour work from the beginning. When the opportunity for training was introduced by MSSN, she expressed her willingness to participate. She attended a two-month beauty parlour training program conducted in Badgonda. During the training, she learned various beauty services and received practical exposure to skills such as eyebrow shaping, facials, and basic makeup.

After completing the training, Dhankunwar started a small beauty parlour from her home in the village. In the beginning, the number of customers was limited, but as word of her services spread, her clientele gradually increased. Now, especially during festive and wedding seasons, she receives regular work and earns around INR 4,000–5,000 per month, which has improved her family's net income and supports household expenses. She expresses her gratitude and shares that the program provided her with an opportunity to learn a skill and start her own work.



Success Story

Deepika's Transition from Daily Wage Work to a Stable Business from Home

"This change has not only improved my income, but has also strengthened my confidence, self-respect, and decision-making ability. Today I feel more capable, empowered, and self-reliant."

Deepika Prajapati, a resident of Bagdonda Gram Panchayat, was earlier engaged in agricultural labour to support her family. While daily wages helped meet basic needs, the work was physically demanding, and income remained limited. Managing household responsibilities alongside labour work was both physically and mentally challenging.

Her journey took a turn when she attended a women's community meeting where the Beauty Parlour training Program at the Bagdonda training centre was introduced. Motivated by the opportunity to earn income from home, she enrolled in the 2-month training program. Through regular attendance, she learned various beauty and personal care techniques and gradually built her confidence.

After completing the training, Deepika started a small beauty parlour from her home. Initially serving a few clients, her customer base steadily grew as women from her village and nearby areas started accessing her services.

Today, she earns approximately INR 3,000 - 5,000 per month through her home-based enterprise. No longer solely dependent on agricultural income, her family's financial stability has steadily risen.





Success Story

Sapna's Story: Turning Seasonal Skills into Livelihood Opportunities

Sapna, a resident of Naharkheda village, previously balanced household responsibilities while engaging in uncertain daily wage labour. The irregular nature of work and income made it very difficult to balance both effectively.

During a community meeting, she learned about a food processing training programme at the Choral Training Centre and enrolled in a 10-day chips-making course. The training provided practical knowledge in preparing potato chips, potato papad, and sabudana papad, along with skills in maintaining quality, pricing, packaging, and small-scale production.

After completing the training, Sapna began producing potato chips from her home. Initially, starting on a small scale, her confidence grew, and the quality of her work improved. So far, she has produced around 65 kilograms of potato chips.

Today, she manages her household while running a seasonal income-generating activity from home during the potato and chips making season. This opportunity has enabled her to move towards self-reliance and explore stable livelihood options within her home environment. She looks forward to expanding her work further and building a better future for herself and her family.





Success Story

Pinki's Pursuit of a Promising Future Through Computer Skills

Pinki Bhuriya, from Teencha village in Mhow, comes from a family of nine with limited income. Her father works as an agricultural and construction labourer, her brother works in cleaning services, and the family owns only one bigha (roughly 0.6 acres) of agricultural land.

Financial constraints made continuing her college education a constant challenge. To support her studies, Pinki worked as a daily wage labourer during the holidays; however, the work was neither secure nor aligned with her future goals.

She learned about the Basic Computer Course at the Badgonda training centre and enrolled in the programme. Having never used a computer before, she was initially nervous, but through regular attendance, she learned typing, basic computer operations, and other digital skills that grew her confidence.

Upon completion, Pinki received a certificate and secured employment. Today, she earns approximately ₹4,000 per month alongside her studies. This regular income helps cover her educational expenses, contributes to household needs, and supports her younger siblings' education.

The training has strengthened Pinki's confidence and independence, enabling her to contribute to her family's well-being while pursuing her own educational goals. Today, she feels more capable, empowered, and optimistic about her future.





Success Story

Bhawna Builds Stability through Food Processing Skills

“This training has given a new direction to my life. Now I feel more self-reliant, capable, and confident.”

Bhawna Rathore from Naharkheda village previously depended on daily wage labour alongside home responsibilities. The irregular availability of work created financial uncertainty, making it difficult to manage household expenses.

Her situation changed when she enrolled in a 10-day potato chips-making training at the Choral training centre after learning about it in a community meeting. During the training, she gained practical knowledge of sorting, peeling, cutting, drying, weighing, pricing, packaging, and maintaining hygiene and quality.

Following the training, Bhawna started producing chips from her home. Beginning on a small scale, her production gradually increased with growing experience and demand. She has produced around 65–70 kilograms of potato chips to date.

She now earns a seasonal income of approximately ₹2,000 to ₹3,000, allowing her to better manage household responsibilities without relying on inconsistent labour work, bringing greater financial stability. She plans to expand her enterprise further to strengthen her family's financial condition.





Success Story

From First Lessons to New Opportunities: Monica Builds Self-Reliance through Computer Skills

Monica Bahadur, a resident of Ada Pahad village in Bassi Pipari, put herself forward to learn new skills through the computer training programme at the training centre to improve her livelihood opportunities.

Monica learnt basic computer skills, including Hindi and English typing and data entry work. Through regular practice and guidance at the centre, she gradually developed confidence in operating computers and handling digital tasks. Continuous practical exposure and support helped her become proficient in these skills.

Upon training completion, Monica began data entry work at a shop in Mhow town. She is earning around INR 6,000 per month and generating income that has not only become central to her family's livelihood but also solidified her financial independence. Today, she is not only supporting her family financially but is also inspiring other women in her village to learn new skills and pursue livelihood opportunities.



Success Story

Ghoda Khurd: A Small Success of Community Struggle

During a community meeting in Ghoda Khurd village, women raised a pressing issue - the shortage of water. The problem affected the entire village, disrupting domestic chores, animal care, and children's school attendance.

The Centre-In-Charge from MSSN and community members met with the Sarpanch to explain the gravity of the situation, to which the Sarpanch reassured action. Their persistence through regular follow-ups paid off. Within 15 days, a new hand pump was installed, benefitting 40-45 tribal families.

Additionally, after a recent budget allocation, the process of laying a pipeline from the water tank located outside the village will begin, providing the villagers with relief. The villagers expressed gratitude to the Sarpanch and the organisation. The water problem was resolved, making daily life easier.