

## **NAROTTAM LALBHAI RURAL DEVELOPMENT FUND**

### **Annual Report 2001-2002**

#### **About the Organisation:**

Narottam Lalbhai Rural Development Fund (NLRDF) is a Public Charitable Trust, created by the Lalbhai Group of Industries in Ahmedabad for the express task of directly intervening in the development process at the village level through specifically designed programmes. Established in 1978, NLRDF started work by 1979 in ten villages. From 1982, it has started work in twelve additional villages in the Khedbrahma Taluka of the Sabarkantha District, predominantly a tribal area. The present operation covers a total of 75 villages in the same district.

#### **Objectives:**

The broad basic objective of NLRDF in rural development can be summed up in the following words :

“Stimulating, initiating and setting into motion a process of development which, within a specific span of time would become self-sustaining and self-perpetuating, whilst monotonically reducing the relative disparities between various levels of the society”

NLRDF is structurally working under a Board of Trustees, the Chairman of which is directly responsible for the overall policy direction and guidelines for the Trust. The present Chairman is Mr. Arvind Narottam Lalbhai.

#### **SWA SHAKTI PROJECT :**

This project is sponsored by World Bank and International Fund for Agriculture Development (IFAD) implemented through Gujarat Women Economic Development Corporation with basic objective of Rural Women Empowerment through Self Help Groups. NLRDF is one of the implementing agency in Sabarkantha district active in Khedbrahma taluka. The project was initiated by forming of Self Help Groups (Women Saving Groups) in which various activities are involved like small savings, internal lending, opening saving bank account, dealing with bank, taking bank loan, maintaining accounts and group procedure etc. Along with self help groups the group members are given exposure in group activities, awareness campaigns, agricultural practices, cattle care, forestry health, panchayati raj, literacy, entrepreneurship etc. Various activities carried out under Swa Shakti Project and progress are described here under :

### **Self Help Groups (SHGs)**

NLRDF has formulated 40 SHGs in 27 villages of Khedbrahma taluka of Sabarkantha District covering 763 women members. Total savings mobilised upto 31.3.2002 by all the groups is Rs. 1,48,160. Credit through internal lending has been provided to 178 members to the tune of Rs. 58,100 for various purposes like purchase of seeds, fertilisers, cattle, engine repairing, payment of electric bill, illness, social functions etc.

### **Orientation Training :**

As a part of the project orientation training were done for each member of the group. 20 such trainings were conducted in villages. Each orientation training was for all members of 2 to 3 groups. In these orientation training SHG members were given basic concept of savings, credit, empowerment of women and related issues affecting women.

### **Awareness Meetings:**

Awareness meetings on different issues were organised in the SHGs. Issues covered were Health, Panchayati Raj, entrepreneurship, agriculture, cattle care, water etc. etc. Medical Officer from PHC, Officer from District Industrial centre, District Rural Dev. Agency, Social Welfare Officer, DDO, TDO, Project Administrator from Integrated Tribal Dev. project, CDPO, Forest Officer, remained present to discuss with women.

The first meeting was called at Khedbrahma temple. Remaining meetings were called at villages namely Kalol, Chada, Chikhala, Naka, Didhiya, Silvad and Valran. As resource persons in these meetings District Project Manager - Swashakti project, Extension Officers - Taluka Panchayat, TDO., DDO., Forest Officer, Social Welfare Officer, CDPO, MO of PHC., Gram Sevak, Project Administrator - ITDP., Soil Conservation Officer, Poultry Development Officer etc. etc. The resource persons discussed relevant issues with the members participated. Major issues covered were Gokul Gram Yojana, problems of drinking water, minor forest products collection, women nurseries, farm ponds, participatory forest management, schemes for widows, divorcee, destitute women, scholarships to students, rights of women, housing schemes, cattle loan, cattle insurance crop insurance, small trades and business, child care, nutrition, S.T.Ds among women and possible solutions etc.

Participants women took interest and active participation and discussed issues of their concern and were enlightened through the meetings.

### **Literacy :**

Level of literacy in Khedbrahma taluka is very poor. In tribal area and especially among women it is almost nil. Due to this reason literacy among women is given due importance. 324 women members of 25 SHGs are getting literacy through literacy classes run by group leaders or local girls. Internal monitoring is done through monthly

meetings. Evaluation of literacy work done under this project was carried out by Adult Education Department of Gujarat Vidyapith.

### **Agriculture and allied activities :**

Training in agriculture practice and cattle care were imparted to SHG members at Farmers Training Centre at Khedbrahma and in village as well. They were imparted training in improved seeds, crops giving higher yield at low cost, Better milk yielding cattle breeds, poultry farming etc. Women members were also sponsored for intensive training in poultry farming and cattle breeding.

Exposure visits to the progressive farmers and cattle breeding centres were arranged. SHG members were taken to a farm of Ms. Maltiben of village Pratappura in Mansa Taluka of Mehsana district, who showed methods of cattle management and methods of increasing milk yield and increased income as a result. Also Sabar Dairy was shown where they could see what happens after they give milk in their village dairy milk collection centre.

Three cattle camps for treatment of cattle and deworming were organised in villages to provide treatment to cattle without cost, with the help of expert veterinary doctors.

Details of the cattle camps are as follows:

Date of camp	Place/village	Cattle treated
17.1.2002	Naka	166 deworming
28.2.2002	Didhiya	170
22.3.2002	Chikhala	156

Plantation of different plants are done by women in their villages. During the year around 8000 trees were planted by women. Collection of Minor forest products like different useful leaves, bark, flowers, seeds, fruits, resin, gum also is done by women for income generation.

Women Agriculture Fair, organised under Netherlands project at Farmers Training Centre, Khedbrahma, was participated by 120 women members of 6 SHGs and gathered information regarding modern improved agricultueal practices.

### **Health :**

Awareness in health was done through meetings in which expert medical practitioners were invited to give talk on relevant subjects. In these health awareness meetings discussion took place on personal hygiene's, cleanliness, public sanitation, diarrhoea, malaria, paediatric diseases, skin diseases malnutrition, superstitions, local food items, vegetables and vitamins, balance diet, nutrition, STDs amongs women etc.

Breast feeding day was celebrated on 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2001 in Kalol Primary School. Medical Officer of P.H.C. and four nurses remained present and gave informative talk on importance of breast feeding. 150 women participated the celebration which was followed by an awareness rally in the village.

Celebration of Nutrition Week was done on 7<sup>th</sup> September 2001 in the village Community hall of Didhiya. Medical Officer alongwith health staff remained present and gave information on Nutrition. Around 150 women participated.

Also trainings were imparted to women in general health awareness, child care, kitchen gardening, skin diseases, local food, vegetables etc. Ten such trainings were organised in order to impart knowledge on health to about 300 women of 15 SHGs.

Blood test of all SHGs members were done to know their blood groups as well as anemia among them.

#### **Panchayati Raj :**

Meetings were organised at intervals to generate awareness among SHG members regarding Panchayati Raj, Gram Sabha, functions of Gram Panchayat, women's role in Panchayati Raj, what they can and would do for development of their villages etc. At present two SHG members of Kalol Naka are elected as members of village Panchayat body.

#### **Yuvati Shibir (Adolescent Girls Camps)**

In order to impart knowledge on puberty, changes with increase in age, sexual awareness, discussion on their problems regarding menstruation, etc. Yuvati shibir was organised for four days during 23.7.2001 to 27.7.2001 which was attended by 27 girls of Silvad, Naka, Kalol, Damavas alongwith our four women field workers. A follow up meeting for which was done on 18<sup>th</sup> October 2001 with the same girls at Khedbrahma. This yuvati shibir was organised jointly with Swa-shakti project and resource persons were from their Himmatnagar office.

#### **Micro Enterprise Development :**

Along with savings through SHGs, women are motivated for initiating micro enterprise. For giving them information on micro enterprise, opportunities, experts from ICECD, Ahmedabad were invited. The meeting was attended by 60 women members.

Women Entrepreneurship Awareness meetings were organised in 15 SHGs which were participated by 220 members. Training in micro enterprise development were organised for two days at Swashakti Office, Himmatnagar in which information was

shared on kind of units feasible in rural areas, selection of entrepreneurs, market survey etc. were taken care. Training Coordinator and field workers availed this training.

In order to support income generation activities among women efforts were made by creating positive environment and providing facilities and opportunities in understanding various Govt. schemes and filling up forms for availing loan and subsidies. 20 women were given information in assistance available from Taluka Panchayat for vegetables and grocery shops. Forms regarding small industries were filled in for 12 SHGs. 10 loan applications for cattle and 4 for business, 200 forms of loan application for cattle from Tribal Development project were filled in and forwarded.

### **Theme Camps:**

Major objective of theme camp is to take up one or more issues related to the women and their villages and express them through folk media for awareness followed by discussion by them. Two such theme camps, were organised under this project. One of such camp was organised with help of Astha Institute on Superstitions and family problems due to minor misunderstandings. The other camp was performed with help of a local group. In each theme camp members of SHGs from surrounding villages participated.

These theme camps were done at:

Chikhala Primary School on 25<sup>th</sup> January 2002 in which 350 people from three villages participated and a public program at Naka Milk Cooperative on 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2002.

### **Cluster Meetings:**

Under Swashakti project 40 SHGs have been formed in villages of Khedbrahma talukas. These groups have been distributed in three clusters according to geographical conditions. Instead of calling all the groups leaders for meeting they are called in cluster meetings. Four to five members from each group including group leaders are called for cluster meetings. Two cluster meetings of each cluster were done in villages. In these meeting the major issues on agenda were community assets and concept of Federation.

### **Training to Staff Members :**

Swa shakti project staff members were deputed for training in the subject which would be helpful to them in their work. Details is as follows:

Subject	Duration	Place
Watershed development	6 days	Alwar, Rajasthan
Accounts/record keeping	2 days	Shamlaji
Leadership/ Organisation	4 days	Shamlaji

**Training to Supervisor/Coordinator:**

Training of Trainers	21 days	ICECD,Ahmedabad
Women Empowerment	8 days	FWWB,Ahmedabad
Panchayati Raj	3 days	GLI,Ahmedabad
Cluster Formation/Federation	5 days	Pune
Health/Literacy	4 days	Shamlaji

**Monitoring and Evaluation :**

Over and above internal monitoring and evaluation, outside teams from different places – state level and central level – arrived and evaluated the working of the programme. On 1<sup>st</sup> June 2001 evaluation team arrived from Ahmedabad and remained in the field for whole day and visited 4 SHGs to study in depth. On 17<sup>th</sup> June 2001 an evaluation team (Ms. Sharmistha Chaudhary from NIPCCD, New Delhi, Ms. Manisha Sarkar from Gandhinagar and Ms. Shakuntalaben Mehta from Himmatnagar arrived and remained for whole day. They contacted groups and studied thoroughly. Both the evaluation teams were satisfied with the progress of the group. During 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> November 2001, Agriculture Finance Corporation,Ahmedabad team remained in the field and performed evaluation of all 40 SHGs. They were satisfied with the progress and achievements of the groups despite being in tribal area.

**Bio-Gas Plants:**

In order to protect environment and make economic use of cow dung and agricultural waste, bio gas plants are constructed for farmers having cattle. Bio gas plants are fed with cow dung and other agricultural waste. Farmers get gas for cooking and better quality of farm yard manure from the plant. Cooking becomes smoke free. Women have not to go for collecting firewood which saves time and energy

Bio gas plants activity is carried out through Gujarat Agro Industries Corporation. Government provides subsidies to the beneficiaries according to categories defined by them.

Category	Subsidy per plant	No.of Beneficiaries
S.C.	Rs. 3400	4 plants
S.T.	Rs. 5400	45 plants
General	Rs. 3300	61 plants

During the year 110 bio gas plants have been constructed in 20 villages of three talukas of Sabarkantha district. 87 plants have been constructed in Khedbrahma taluka, 17 in Vadali taluka and 6 in Idar taluka.

**Swarnajayanti Gram Swarojgar Yojana (SGSY)**

SGSY is sponsored by Gujarat Govt. and implemented through District Rural Development Agency (DRDA). Saving groups for women, men and combined are formed under this scheme by Voluntary agencies. It has been decided by Govt. as a policy that priority will be given to loans through SGSY by DRDA.

NLRDF has taken up this activity in 15 operational villages of Khedbrahma taluka and formulated 50 SGSYs comprising 472 members. Group members have started saving activity after formation of the groups.

**Khadi and Polyvastra activity:**

Production of Khadi and polyvastra during this year did not take place. From the stock of our Khadi and Polyvastra and out of stock purchased against our sales, sale was done mainly during the discount period which was as follows:

Khadi	Rs.	7,31,638
Polyvastra	Rs.	4,63,167

**Contract Person :**

Mr. B.M.Shah  
Executive Director  
Narottam Lalbhai Rural Dev.Fund  
Arvind Mills Premises,  
Naroda Road,  
Ahmedabad 380025

Tel. No. 2203314/2201288

**Administrative Office :**

Mr. K.P.Patel  
Manager(Rural Development)  
Narottam Lalbhai Rural Dev.Fund  
Anandji Kalyanji Blocks,  
Near Asarwa Rly.Station,Naroda Road,  
Ahmedabad 380025

Tel.No. 2201288/2202504