

NAROTTAM LALBHAI RURAL DEVELOPMENT FUND

ANNUAL REPORT - 2003-2004

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 villages of all 13 talukas of same district.

Swashakti Project:

Communication Skill Development:

A three days workshop on Communication Skill Development was organised during 3rd to 5th April 2003 in Shakti Bhuvan, Ambaji with the help of Swashakti Office, Himmatnagar. About 50 field supervisors and field workers women participated in the workshop. The participants realised that role-play can be more effective medium for communication rather than just lecture. On the last day night practical drama/role play was organised in village Baval. The same drama was organised in village Kalol on 22.4.2003 and video cassettes of the drama was shown to other SHGs.

Exposure Visit:

55 women of Vijay, Vikas and Saraswati SHGs of Didhiya village were taken to Patan district on 10.4.2003 for exposure. Bhadrana and Lolada villages were visited by them. The women of these two villages sell tea in packing. They do faming of Kuar Patha (allover) apart from manufacturing and packaging of potato wafer and items made of rice flour on the SHG name. Cluster Coordinator and Training and Activity Coordinator were also participated in the exposure. Visits to the Clusters of SAARTHI and ANANDI of Panchmahal district was also organised. Women got inspired by this kind of Prerna Pravas. Women came out of their routine life style of home and village. Another out district exposure visit was organised during 26th to 28th January 2004 for the Secretary

and President of the Clusters to the Clusters formed by Anandi and Sarthi Organisation in Panchmahal district.

Exposure visits were also arranged on 17.5.2003 and 10.1.2004 for the members of Tejasvi, Gayatri and Dhareshwari SHGs and women of Didhiya and Kalol

Cluster in the district to Collector Office, Social Defence Office, Sabar Dairy, Animal Husbandry departments, Poultry farm. The concerned officers gave details on various schemes of government related to the women. 80 women participated in these exposure visits. Some of them are doing income generation activities after these visits through activities like animal husbandry, poultry farming etc.

MED Training:

This training was organised in Himmatnagar for supervisors of Swashakti project. MED Consultant Mr. Dabhi remained present to guide them about how to start a business, how to invest and how to get loan from bank.

Leaf cup making Training:

Women were taught of making leaf cup by using the machine available in organisation. This activities is being done at Didhiya village.

Training of Tailoring:

Training was given for using sewing machine and four SHGs were provided sewing machines by NLRDF which help them in income generation.

Small business like provision Store:

50 women of SHGs in various villages after various training of capacity building, run provision stores independently. They arrange for loan through SHGs and Banks and get around 500 to 700 income per month

Selling of goods in Festivals:

Women of SHG buy beautification items from Ahmedabad at wholesale rate and sell them in their villages at retail rate and earn extra income. NLRDF has extended his services in find out the proper market for item in Ahmedabad.

Cluster Training Network/ Cluster Meeting:

On 26.4.2003 a meeting was organised for the Secretary and President of the 40 SHGs in Khedbrahma Temple for Cluster Network Training. Branch Manager of

Gramin Bank Khedbrahma remained present in the meeting and gave details on for which purpose they can avail loan from the bank and the procedure for loan.

Separate bank account in the name of two clusters i.e. Yogeshwar Cluster and Gayatri Cluster were opened in the bank.

Group Insurance Scheme:

A meeting was conducted for SHGs of Kalol Naka and Laxmipura in presence of representative of ICICI Bank for group insurance. More than 100 women were covered by group insurance scheme at lowest premium.

Para Health Worker Training:

29 women participants were deputed for residential 3 days para health training at Lok Swasthya Mandal, Shivrajpur during the the period 23rd to 25th May 2003. First Aid Kit was explained to them in usage of some basic medicines were taught. They were also provided kit of medicines at very low price. Women can utilise this knowledge by distributing medicine at reasonable costs and ORS packets in their village at the same time villagers will get primary treatment at their door and saving time and money.

Water Awareness Camp:

Mr. V.K.Suthar of Farmer Training Centre, Khedbrahma was the resource person for this training. He discussed about various methods of water conservation like check dam, bunding, storage of water near hand pump etc. He told that water can reduce many problems related to the environment.

Agriculture Training:

30 women of Chitrodi and Valran villages were trained through agriculture training by experts. Stress was laid on purchasing of good seeds, pesticides, fertilisers, care of crop, Various methods of agriculture like how to get maximum production with minimum efforts, how to know good quality seeds, crops with less water, use of organic methods of agriculture were taught. Similar type of training was organised in Kherivav village and representative from Farmers Training Centre, Khedbrahma gave information on the agriculture.

Documentation Training:

Swashakti Supervisors were covered by documentation training. Mr. Hetal Pathak guided on how to write report, how to keep record, how to update records etc.

Account Keeping Training:

This training was imparted to the President and Secretary of the SHGs during 15th and 16th Sept. 2003 at Khedbrahma which enable them to get familiar about all the aspects and importance of accounts.

Monitoring and Evaluation:

All the 40 groups formulated by NLRDF were evaluated by Monitoring and Evaluation team of Agriculture Finance Corporation during 7th and 8th October 2003 and second round on 20.3.2004 at Khedbrahma, where all the leaders were called along with their records. They expressed their satisfaction regarding working of the groups.

Another evaluation was done by Asmita Foundation during their visits on 16.12.2003, 27.12.2003 and 9.2.2004 at their village level where all group leaders remained present with all records and provided all information they required. In their criteria and parameters groups formed by NLRDF were the best groups among all in district. Out of 40 groups of NLRDF 38 groups were found in grade A and B in all parameters.

Poultry Farm Training:

Poultry farm training of 15 days was organised at Himmatnagar for SHG women of Chitrodi village. Various aspects related to the subject were covered e.g. rearing, care, sickness, types, diet etc. Women were provided 25 chickens by Poultry Farm to start this activity as small business to make income.

Soil Conservation Week celebration:

This programme was organised at village Didhiya. Importance of agricultural soil, types, characteristic, water saving, soak pit, well recharging, kitchen, horticulture, orchards etc. were covered in the programame.

Celebrations of Women's Day:

The women day was observed at Town Hall in Ahmedabad. 5 women from Didhiya Village SHG participated. SHGs become stronger through this sort of programmes because women reduce their stage fear.

Awareness Programme:

This programme was organised in collaboration with Jilla Udyog Kendra, Himmatnagar. B.D.O. of Swashakti Project, Ms. Manishaben gave guidelines

about various Govt. schemes related to women, M.E.D. This kind of workshop enable women to come forward and progress.

Bio Gas Programme:

Organisation has installed 107 bio gas plants till the end of the last year. Idar, Vadali and Khedbrahma talukas of Sabarkantha district were covered by bio gas plants. Using of bio gas can reduce sickness of eyes and lungs. Time saving is also done by using bio gas. Wood is not used as fuel. Slurry of the the plant is very useful manure in the farm.

Horticulture Project:

This project is run at Naka village of Khedbrahma taluka with the help of Tribal Sub plans department. 40 acres of land and 60 beneficiaries of tribals were covered with fruits plants as follows:

41	Beneficiaries	1271 Mango plants
17	Beneficiaries	714 Amla plants
2	Beneficiaries	112 Lemon plants

After 3 years more income can be get by this plants.

Practical Training of Students of Rural Studies:

Students from various Institutions like B.M.Shah Vidyalaya Jhilia, Sabar Gram Seva Mahavidyalaya Sonasan, Mahadev Desai Gram Seva, Gujarat Vidyapith, Ahmedabad, were deputed in our Organisation as a part of their studies for practical work experience. They have completed successfully their training here and passed their final year. This training is very useful to the student in his future job. A word of appreciation have received from the above institutions.

This year the NLRDF received students from

1. Shri B.M.Shah Maha Vidyalaya, Zilia,
2. Sabar Gram Seva Mahavidyalaya, Sonasan
3. Mahadev Desai Gram Seva, Gujarat Vidyapith.

Partnership in Sexual Health (PSH) Project:

With the support of Gujarat State Aids Control Society and through Project Support Unit, Ahmedabad, we run PSH project in Idar, Vadali and Khedbrahma areas of Sabarkantha district, to generate awareness and prevention about HIV/AIDS. Our target groups are Drivers, Commercial Sex workers. Following 4 main component are covered in this programme.

1. Condom Promotion
2. STD Care
3. Behaviour Change Communication
4. Enabling Environment

Trained staff in this field on various position like Out Reach Workers, Counsellor, Project Officer are working in this project.

Smokeless Chulha:

This project has been sponsored by the Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources, Government of India, through its Nodal Agency – Gujarat Energy Development Agency (GEDA). It is hoped to control the heavy felling of trees as the fuel consumed is comparatively less and the smoke created by the traditional chulha has posed a serious health hazard. Hence in view of this that the smokeless Chulha project had been initiated. NLRDF has distributed 500 portable chulhas to SC/ST families in Jamnagar district.

Field Offices:

1. Behind Gayatri Temple, Khedbrahma – 383255. Dist. Sabarkantha
2. P.S.H. Project, 1, Srinagar Road No.3, Idar 383430. Dist. Sabarkantha
3. District Training Centre, Sangh Building, Himmatnagar, Dist. Sabarkantha

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