

Study Report
On
Women of Rural Area of Sitamarhi (U. P.)
(Visited In Oct. & Nov.'06)

Report on visit to Sitamarhi by chairperson Draupadi Trust

Objectives of my visit:

1. Assess the area potential for planning for long-term self sustainability of the facilities being created by the NGO.
2. Work out suitable programs for women empowerment and income generation for local women/youth.

On the basis of above two objectives my suggestions are-

1. Make the population capable of having some sustainable and regular income, so that they are able to utilize the facilities by paying over a period of time.
2. Identify the area in which this effort can be initiated.
3. Identify the local population to work for self empowerment & not only depend on jobs.
4. To initiate some programs for the parents, especially women, so that the family does not grow up at different levels social/emotional being.
5. Training for local resource utilization will make them aware of their own economic potential.
6. To make any program for the women/youth to have some demographic information so that the programs suggested are suitable and beneficial to the locals and for the intervention agency
(Individual, govt. or other funding).

The best plan for women empowerment can be-SHG to SHE (Self Help Groups to Self Help Enterprises)

1. Training for Bamboo product - for innovation and quality production. Bamboo Board of India or other agencies with some consultancy support of product designers can help do the training.

Food Processing : Training for product such as achar, Chutney Paper etc. for women. Products can be short-listed after a little more info about local produce.

Tailoring and Embroidery: Training for stitching, embroidery & cooking for every girl, so that they become independent.

To suggest a home science course in school and a vocational training on a workshop basis be started.

Methodology - (a) Organize some awareness camps for women's govt. schemes. (b) From self help groups as per interest/talent or knowledge, location etc. Each SHG must have between 12 to 15 members doing a similar activity so that they can govt. support for consistent training, manufacturing, marketing etc.

Objective - Result to be targeted from the activities (benefits to stakeholders like beneficiaries, training agency, funding person or agency etc.

The issue of social worker - I have volunteers coming for internship with our Trust for short periods. I could identify one who can spend a week or two there and do initial legwork and data collection work. I recently received a mail from Julia Mohini (Punj) Schwarzenberger, who is keen to work for women empowerment.

Advantage with such persons is that they are hard-working, committed and can open new horizons for the products and the place.

My above inputs are based on a few basic points given below.

SWOT Analysis

1. Widespread poverty.
2. Lack of assured income generation means.
3. No visible govt. schemes running in the area for training for livelihood.

Report by Julia Schwarzenberger, a management trainee from Germany

On each visit the women were requested to organize themselves into a group of interested women and select one leading women responsible as the future link-person between the SHG and the NGO. On this basic information of willing workers, first further actions can be taken into account. To get this simple basic information sometimes it presents a difficult task. Apart from the fact that two villages did not respond to the requested list until now. After assuring their cooperation many times, there are general problems of communication and understanding. Not because of lack of language, but the difficulty to get direct and concrete answers on questions during the interviews. People behaved very impatient, talking at the same time about totally different subjects, instead of following a more effective way of "talk-listen-reply".

As a conclusion, the women in the four villages visited spoke of different problems which call for different solutions. The common factor however remained that the women are ready and willing to take up any type of work.

The next step would therefore be to evaluate as to which assistance would be available and useful to each of the villagers.

Recommendations:

- Selling local products in Ashram/Guesthouse and School (spare room available)
- Contact with Bamboo Board India (contact number already forwarded)
- Services (girl-guides, story-tellers, guest houses in village, presenting local folk-art)
- Awareness Camps
- Cottage industry tourism
- Display shops

Training available in DPM - School hall:

1. General Training in baskets
2. Food - Processing (local resource utilization)
3. Stitching/Painting/Embroidery/Tailoring
4. Ashram tourism tour guide training
5. "Sindoor" manufacturing

Problems:

- Irregular income situation
- Inability to calculate or determine
- Understanding of the problems

Suggestion:

1. All training should be based on local available resources
2. The financials of the above activities have to be calculated after discussing with the training and implementing agencies.



Local women with the woven product



Ideas to product innovation for Sitamarhi women



Local Women of Sitamarhi

Julia, Management Trainee, from Germany with the local women of Sitamarhi



महिलाओं की मदद में विदेशी बाला

सीतामढ़ी। जिले के पर्यटक स्थल सोतामढ़ी की ग्रामीण महिलाओं के उत्थान एवं उन्हें आत्मनिर्भर बनाने के लिए पश्चिम जर्मनी की एक 25 वर्षीय बाला जूलिया ग्रामीण महिलाओं से मिलकर उनकी समस्याओं से रुबरू हो रही है और उन्हें आत्म निर्भर बनाने के लिए जरूरी टिप्स दे रही है। यह विदेशी युवती जहां लोगों में आकर्षक का केंद्र बनो हुई है, वहीं जरूरतमंद गरीब महिलाओं में इसकी योजनाएं नई आस जगा रही हैं।



ग्रामीण महिलाओं में जगती रोजगार की आस

कंप्यूटर से लेकर हथकरघा तक की दी जाएगी ट्रेनिंग

महिलाओं को कंप्यूटर ट्रेनिंग, टेलरिंग, कढ़ाई, जड़ाई, अचार, नर्सरी, आयुर्वेद और हथकरघा आदि की उच्चस्तरीय ट्रेनिंग देकर उन्हें ऐसे कामों में निपुण बनाना चाहती हैं, जिससे ये महिलाएं अपने पैरों पर खड़ी हो सकें। इसमें उनकी संस्था द्रौपदी ट्रस्ट से भी पूरा

सहयोग मिलेगा। अमर उजाला से बातचीत में जूलिया कहा कि हिंदुस्तान व्यवसाय की दृष्टि से बूम मार्केट है। हिंदुस्तान के गांवों और जर्मनी के गांवों में कितना अंतर है इस प्रश्न के उ कि जर्मनी के शहरों एवं गांव खास अंतर नहीं है। वह खुद जर्मनी के एक गांव में रहती सुविधाएं शहरों में हैं वही सारी गांवों में भी हैं, लेकिन हिंदुस्तान में रहना बहुत ही कठिन है। यहा अभी पचास वर्ष पीछे है। या अधिकांश महिलाएं काम नहीं इससे उनके पास इनकम नहीं है। सबको काम करना चाहिए। हम चाा कि ग्रामीण महिलाएं प्रशिक्षित हों काम करें। सीतामढ़ी को पर्यटन के रूप में विकसित कर यहां रोजगार क अवसर की असीम संभावना है। उसके इस कार्य में दयावंती पुंज माडल स्कूल सीतामढ़ी की प्रिंसिपल डा. राजकुमारी एवं स्कूल के अन्य अध्यापक भी सहयोग कर रहे हैं।

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