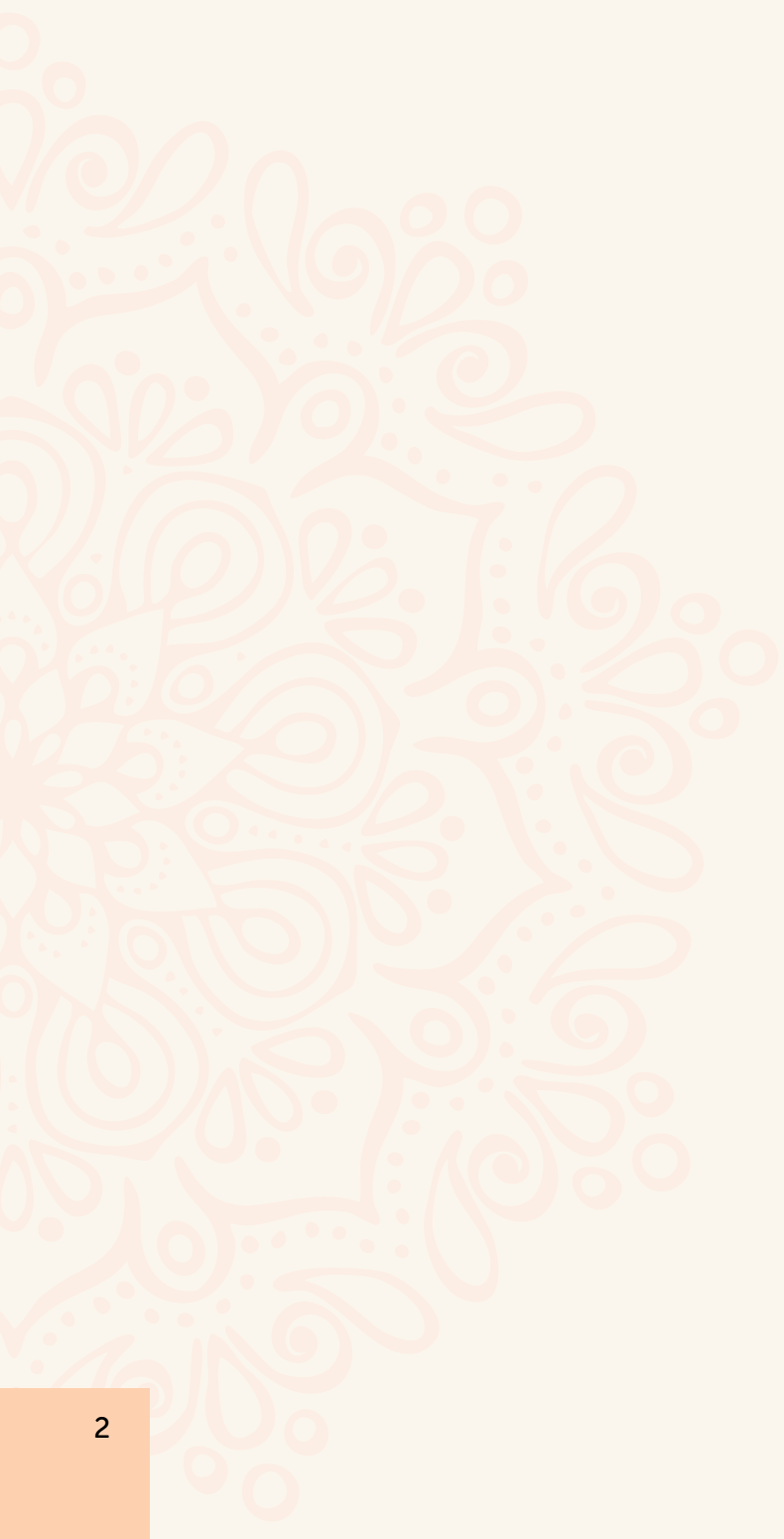


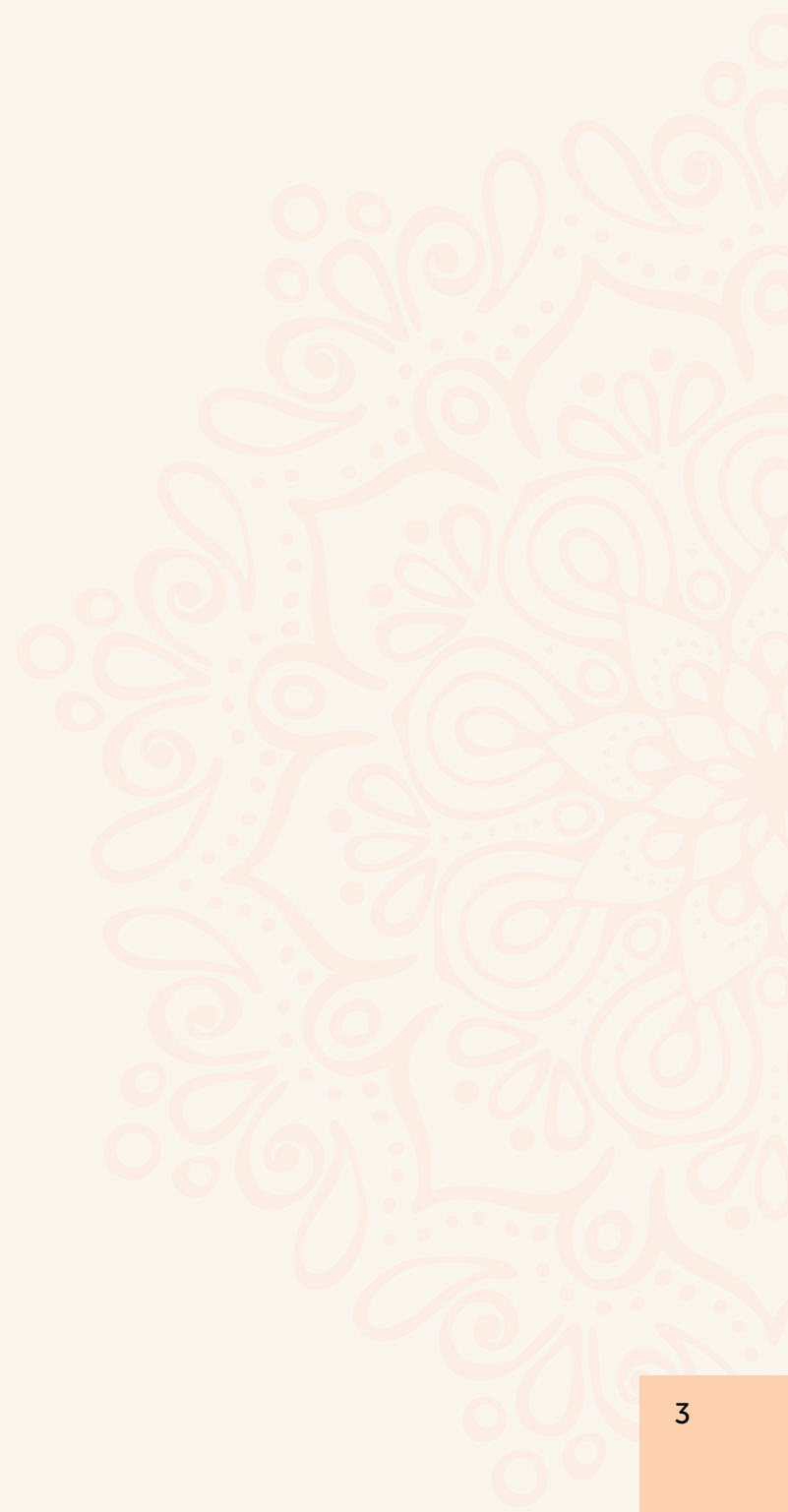


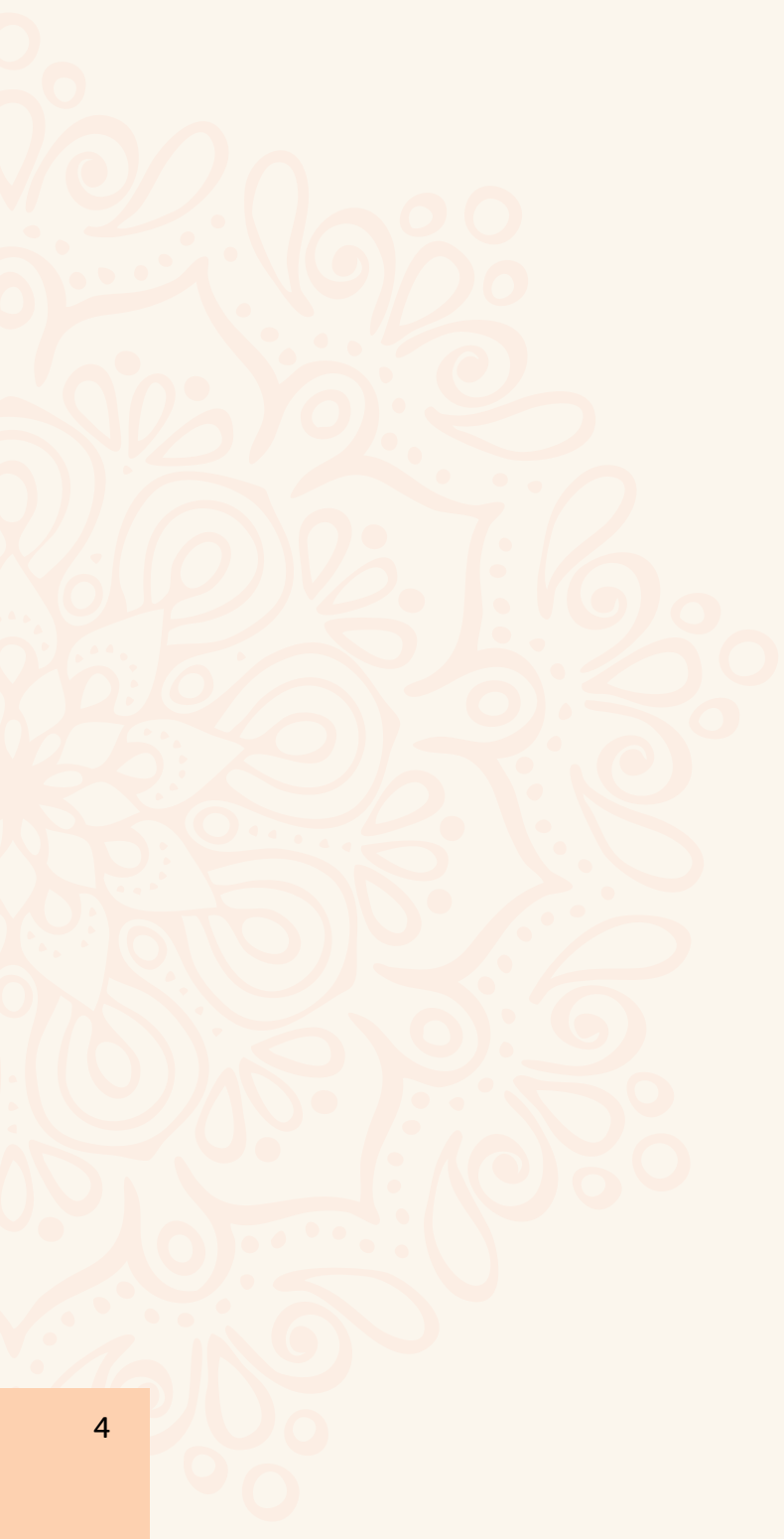
Echoes of Liberation



Unveiling Women's
Journeys in Rural Odisha







About



Empowerment of women is one of the key development initiatives of Department of Mission Shakti that helps women to achieve economic independence and social justice through strengthened women self-help groups (WSHG), transforming to community institutions. Odisha Livelihoods Mission (OLM) is an autonomous society of Department of Mission Shakti, Government of Odisha, responsible for implementing poverty reduction programs along with Gender Intervention program of Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana- National Rural Livelihood Mission (DAY-NRLM). Under the guidance of DAY-NRLM, OLM aims to mobilize all poor households into functional and effective SHGs and their federations. It strives to enhance its access to bank credit, financial services, technical assistance, and marketing support.

One of the significant impacts of OLM under the umbrella of Mission Shakti has been in uplifting women in rural Odisha and providing them access to the facilities and opportunities provided by the government. As on date, **5.32 lakh** SHGs have onboarded in OLM's program. Through the promotion of sustainable livelihoods and SHGs formation, the department has empowered rural women by creating a platform for them to actively participate in decision-making processes and gain control over their economic and social lives.



Message

Smt. Sujata R. Karthikeyan, IAS
Commissioner-cum-Secretary
Department of Mission Shakti
Government of Odisha



Mission Shakti endeavors to provide holistic development of women with enhancement of economic autonomy and leadership qualities. Its diverse intervention intends to establish and promote community structures, that supports women in enhancing their negotiation skills and take judicious decision in matters that impact them the most, in community as well as larger public spaces.

'Empowering Women through the Gender Transformative Model' (GTM) presents an insightful analysis of the program's impact in creating a gender-just society in the state.

This book is an attempt to delve into the inspiring stories of these women, whose journey of empowerment and transformation is a true reflection of the commitment and dedication of the initiatives taken by the GTM program.

This piece of work showcases, how access to resources, capacity building, and community engagement have served as catalysts for change, enabling these women to thrive in various spheres of life.

Sujata R. Karthikeyan



About Gender Transformative Model (GTM)

The Gender Transformative Model (GTM) is a unique step towards achieving gender responsive interventions in OLM's structure and system. It aims to empower Women SHGs to be conscious about their rights and act against any kind of gender-based discrimination and violence happening on them in private and public spaces.

The Gender Facilitation Center (GFC) intervention through this program demonstrates that community-based platform, supporting case management and linkage to Gender Based Violence (GBV) redressal has the impact of increasing both the proportion of women seeking redressal as well as actual reductions in GBV case. The GFC is based at Gram Panchayat Level Federation (GPLF) and managed by Gender CRP (GCRP) who is one amongst the community cadre of OLM. The GFC also facilitates in strengthening of community institutions i.e. Gender Forum and Social Action Committee (SAC) based at GPLF to shift practices and social norms through capacity building and engaging women's agency in grievance redressal mechanism process.

In driving the gender programme in the GPLF platform and more specifically understanding and managing cases of GBV, District Coordinator cum Counsellor (DCC) positioned at DMMU plays a pivotal role in building the capacity of GCRPs and mentoring them as gender champions. These GCRPs are backed by CRP-CMs and EC members of GPLF in dissemination of the message related to gender program.

The GTM model has proven its potential to provide a safe environment for women to come forward and report GBV cases and access to social entitlements. It further envisages to work towards improving women's mobility, increasing women's access to economic advancement opportunities, greater participation in decision-making and access to schemes and entitlements at scale thereby improving socio-economic status of women.



Preface

Shri Arindam Dakua, IAS
State Mission Director
Odisha Livelihoods Mission
Department of Mission Shakti
Government of Odisha



This book titled; '**Echoes of Liberation**' showcases the transformative journey of the Odisha Livelihoods Mission (OLM) of Department of Mission Shakti in partnership with PCI-India, the Technical Support Agency. Within these pages, you will discover the real-life stories of rural women and their families across fifteen districts whose lives have been positively impacted through the implementation of the 'Gender Transformative Model' (GTM) program.

This coffee table book stands as a tribute to the unwavering spirit and indomitable strength of rural women in Odisha. It is a celebration of their accomplishment, dream, and aspiration. We hope that their stories will inspire and ignite a passion for gender equality and inclusive development.

Through the powerful narratives and captivating photographs captured within these pages, we aim to provide a deeper understanding of the profound impact the program had on empowering rural women in the districts. The stories shared here highlight the significant role played by GTM in addressing gender inequality, creating inclusive spaces, and fostering collective action in achieving social justice.

I extend my heartfelt gratitude to all the individuals, organizations, and government bodies, who have supported this initiative and made it possible. Together, let us continue to strive towards a more equitable and empowered society, where every woman, regardless of her background, has the opportunity to flourish and contribute her unique talents to the world.

Arindam Dakua

Foreword

Shri Indrajit Chaudhuri
CEO & Country Director, PCI India

Photo

Dear reader, as you embark on this poignant journey, I invite you to embrace the power of these stories, reflect on the importance of gender equality and inclusivity, and be reminded of the transformative potential that lies within our collective humanity. May these narratives serve as a catalyst for change, urging us all to take action and create a world where every person, irrespective of their gender or background, can thrive and fulfill their dreams.

Within the pages of this book lies a tapestry of stories that will touch your soul, awaken your compassion, and ignite a flame of hope within you. It is an invitation to embark on a deeply human journey, one that will immerse you in the lives of remarkable women from rural Odisha, India, and the transformative impact of the collaboration between OLM and PCI through GTM.

As you delve into the narratives captured within these pages, be prepared to be moved by the raw emotions, triumphs, and challenges faced by these extraordinary individuals. These are not mere tales of distant lives; they are windows into the hearts and souls of resilient women who have dared to dream, overcome adversity, and reshape their destinies for a happy and safe life.

In their stories, you will witness the power of collaboration, the unwavering determination to defy societal norms, and the indomitable spirit that shines through even the darkest of circumstances.

My best regards to the courageous women portrayed here, OLM team, Mission Shakti Department-Government of Odisha, PCI-Odisha team for conceiving this piece of work which is a tribute towards transformation of women towards a gender just society and has the power to touch and inspire us all.

Indrajit Chaudhuri



Acknowledgement

Smt. Biraj Laxmi Sarangi
Project Director
PCI India

Photo

It gives me immense pleasure to introduce you to this creative piece i.e. Coffee Table Book, that embark the visual journey of a woman with inspiring narratives that showcase the power of collaboration, determination, and the human spirit.

I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks towards all those who have contributed enormously in transforming the journeys of women into stories.

First and foremost, I would like to thank the leadership of OLM i.e. State Mission Director for promoting this endeavor, Technical Expert IBCB-OLM for supporting us throughout the process, all the District Program Managers & Block Mission Management Unit for their facilitation, Gender CRPs for driving the process from ground, District Coordinator cum Counsellors of PCI for bridging the link of stories and last but not the least Auxin for co-creating and designing the stories handsomely.

Biraj Laxmi Sarangi



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Angul



Unveiling Fortitude: Triumph over Pain and Discovery of Hope

Rashmita Dehury from Angul district displayed remarkable resilience over 13 years, enduring severe neural damage in her hip area. This condition limited her ability to manage daily household tasks and sit comfortably. Despite her intense pain, she selflessly disregarded her well-being due to their tough financial circumstances. With her husband working as a private firm driver, earning just enough to support the family and their children's education, Rashmita consistently put their needs above her own.

As the pain became intolerable, Rashmita sought relief at Angul Government Hospital. The doctor quickly recommended surgery to alleviate her suffering. However, the high cost of the procedure posed a significant obstacle for Rashmita. Undaunted, she approached the doctor, seeking a temporary pain relief alternative while she worked towards affording the surgery.

In 2021, after learning about the BSKY (Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana) card from neighbors and acquaintances, the family decided to apply for it, recognizing its potential benefits, although their

knowledge about the card was limited. She was an active Self Help Group (SHG) member but her persistent pain occasionally caused her to miss some meeting, leading her to remain unaware of the BSKY card's advantages for a year. However, in January 2022, she confided in the Community Resource Person-cum-Community Mobilization (CRP-CM) of her CLF (Cluster Level Forum) and

shared her situation. The CRP advised Rashmita to re-engage with the SHG meetings, assuring her that it would provide comprehensive information about BSKY scheme. Following this advice, Rashmita resumed attending the meetings and through the guidance of CRP-CM, connected with the Gender Community Resource Person (GCRP). This encounter provided her with a detailed explanation





of the various benefits her family could get with the BSKY card which offers families health insurance coverage of up to INR 5 Lakhs, with a higher limit of up to INR 10 Lakhs for women for medical expenses in healthcare centers throughout Odisha. Despite Rashmita's joy at the prospect of receiving treatment for her pain, doubts about the scheme's authenticity lingered. Her husband shared similar concerns, fearing they might deplete their finances without government reimbursement. Paralyzed by fear, they hesitated to take action for a whole year.

With the persistent encouragement of the GCRP and CRP-CM and inspiring success stories from scheme beneficiaries, Rashmita gradually overcame her doubts. She took the first step by visiting Government Hospital but was later referred to Private hospital in Cuttack due to the former's limited surgical facilities.

Admitted on 11 February 2023, Rashmita underwent a two-day comprehensive full-body checkup. Her much-anticipated neuro-surgery took place on 14 February 2023, and she was discharged on 18 February 2023 with a bill of INR 2,07,680. A post-surgery follow-up incurred an additional cost of INR 2,93,320. Fortunately, the entire bill was covered by the government under the BSKY card scheme, ensuring Rashmita didn't have to pay anything for her treatment.

Four months after the surgery, her pain had completely disappeared. Grateful for her restored ability to manage her household tasks independently, she extends her heartfelt thanks to the CRP-CM, GCRP and other GPLF members for their invaluable support in this journey.

“

In January 2022, I crossed paths with Rashmita and learned about her medical condition. Surprisingly, she possessed the BSKY card yet remained oblivious to its invaluable features. Recognizing its significance, I urged her to join the upcoming SHG meeting, encouraging her to unlock the card's benefits for her pain treatment.

Deogarh

Breaking the Chains: Women Empowerment Amidst Domestic Violence



Domestic violence is a major issue across geographies despite class, caste, religion and educational parameters. Women often don't speak out about their experiences due to social stigma or fear of retribution, leaving countless women to suffer in silence. As Gender Transformative Model (GTM) program endeavors to bring attention to such cases, it has encountered the plight of Ragini Pradhan from Deogarh. Despite enduring a decade of physical abuse at the hands of her husband, who continually extorted money from her to fuel his addiction to liquor, the 40-year-old remains a survivor.

Ragini endured physical, emotional, and financial abuse, and her son also suffered from his father's violent behavior. He experienced deprivation of necessities like food and his education was hindered by the emotional trauma.

The Deogarh resident opened up about the financial extortion and physical abuse she undergone at the hands of her husband, recounting,

“

It was an uphill battle to make ends meet, especially with my husband being unemployed. Our sole source of income was derived from my in-laws' farm, which barely provided enough to survive. I used to approach my father for monetary assistance, but my husband forbade me from doing so and resented my visits to my parents' home. Every time he returned home inebriated, I suffered relentless physical abuse.

Thanks to the GPP (Gender Point Person) in CLF (Cluster Level Forum), Ragini found a way out of her silent suffering from domestic violence. The GPP connected her with Gender Facilitation Center (GFC), where she bravely shared her traumatic experiences with the Gender Forum members and Gender CRP (GCRP) in April 2022. Through extensive counseling, Ragini gained the strength to open up about her pain and follow the recommended protocol to overcome her challenges.



Furthermore, Ragini's husband and son received regular counseling to ensure that such incidents do not resurface. Previous police complaints against her husband received insufficient attention until the GCRP, Social Action Committees (SAC) and Gram Panchayat Level Federation (GPLF) intervened. Eventually, an FIR (First Information Report) was registered, and her husband was summoned for negotiation. Despite initial resistance, he admitted his wrongdoing after a thorough discourse and pledged to avoid further transgressions.

To empower Ragini and promote self-sufficiency, the GCRP facilitated her linkage with CLF's financial support. The CLF members also encouraged her to pursue her passion for stitching as a profession. With a grant of Rs.10,000/- from Vulnerable Reduction Fund (VRF), Ragini obtained a sewing machine and embarked on her journey towards economic independence in March 2023. She now earns a monthly income of Rs.2,000, which continues to grow steadily.

While the Gender Self-Learning Program (GSLP) educates on domestic violence, SHG (Self Help Group) acknowledges the importance of financial autonomy for survivors. Financial dependence and alcoholism are key factors contributing to domestic violence. To address these issues, engagement with district based de-addiction centers with the GPLF is crucial to tackle the root cause of domestic violence and the program intends to drive in that direction in future course.

Today, Ragini is deeply grateful to the GCRP, CRP, and CLF members for their unwavering support in her journey to escape abuse. Their intervention has been transformative, bringing positive changes to her life.





Gajapati

From Tragedy to Triumph: A Widow's Journey of Resilience

Prasadini Paik, a 34-year-old woman from R.Udayagiri block of Gajapati district, faced sudden and unexpected tragedy when her husband passed away, leaving her alone to care for their two young daughters. Overwhelmed by grief and shock, Prasadini struggled to cope with her new reality. Thanks to the timely intervention of Gender Community Resource Person (GCRP), Gender Point Person (GPP) and Self-Help Group (SHG) members, Prasadini received much-needed support, preventing her from being rendered helpless and allowing her to fulfill even the most basic duties, such as laying her husband to rest.

Prasadini's married life was filled with challenges. Despite her membership in the Maa Tarini SHG, her income couldn't support her family. Adding to her difficulties, her mother-in-law constantly subjected her and her husband to verbal abuse due to demand of a son hire and money. Prasadini persevered for her children, but her husband, battling

alcoholism and mental trauma due to poor financial status, tragically took his own life in December 2021.



The suddenness of my husband's suicide had left me feeling as though the earth had crumbled beneath my feet. I was lost and unsure of what the future would look like. However, for the sake of my daughters, I knew I had to keep moving forward and provide them with a better life than I had,

Prasadini.

In her moment of crisis, Prasadini discovered hope through the GCRP who learned of Prasadini's dire situation in January 2022, through the efforts of her SHG group's GPP. The proactive approach of GCRP linked with Gram

Panchayat Level Federation (GPLF) members who stepped in to immediate action by providing her financial aid from Gram Panchayat (GP) office. Prasadini received crucial funds for her husband's final rites through the GP's Harischandra Yojana, offering her much-needed solace during a tumultuous time.



Prasadini, being illiterate, had no awareness of government welfare programs like pensions, the National Family Benefit Scheme (NFBS), widow pension or her daughters' sponsorship through District Child Protection Unit (DCPU). As the sole provider for her family, she desperately needed guidance and support. Fortunately, the GPLF members guided by GCRP and Panchayati Raj Institution representatives (PRIs) stepped in, guiding her towards income-generating activities, helping her obtain her husband's death certificate, and applying for a widow's pension. Additionally, she was counselled seek loan from SHG than any Bank to start any livelihood means. And she received a prompt

loan to boost her goatery business from Cluster Level Federation's (CLF) VRF fund.

Initially deemed ineligible for the NFBS due to lack of a BPL card, her situation improved considerably when the matter escalated to Block office by GCRP. As suggested by Block Social Security Officer (BSSO), Sarpanch supported her by providing necessary document to get enrolled under NFBS. In addition, she's been actively participating in the gender program at Gender Facilitation Center (GFC) since January 2022, gaining valuable insights and knowledge on responsible parenthood strategies with a gender lens. With GPLF's assistance, Prasadini could access government



schemes i.e. widow pension, NFBS to meet her family's needs which took almost six months time since she applied for the same.

Prasadini is now planning for more promising business venture to save for her children's future, no longer living hand to mouth. She aims to sell the goats and use the money to open a shop and work as daily wage labour for extra income, a goal that once seemed unattainable. With GPLF's unwavering support, Prasadini's future is brimming with potential and renewed hope.



Ganjam

Finding Hope And Help In The Face Of Domestic Strife

Srijeeta Swain, a resident of Chatrapur block in Ganjam district, was known for her empathy and active role in her local self-help group (SHG). Despite her loving family and two children, her life was marred by the constant threat of physical abuse from her husband, who occasionally consumed alcohol.

However, in a traumatic turn of events, Srijeeta's husband's alcohol consumption escalated, resulting in a distressing change in his behavior. His addiction led to physical abuse against Srijeeta, compounding her difficulties as her husband had lost his job and sought money from her to support his habit. Despite her modest income as a daily wage laborer, Srijeeta refused to finance his addiction.

Despite Srijeeta's refusal to give in to her husband's demand for money, a heated argument erupted one evening, centering on accusations of theft involving 2000 rupees. He flew into a violent rage, subjecting her to a brutal beating, leaving her battered and bruised. At one point, he even choked her, pushing her to the brink of suffocation.

Shockingly, her in-laws ignored her plight, siding with their son instead of helping Srijeeta.

After a traumatic episode, Srijeeta endured a night of silence before heading to the police station to report her husband's abuse but ultimately changed

her decision due to concerns about the potential social stigma attached to such action. However, having previously attended CLF's Gender Forum meetings with the Gender CRP (GCRP) as an SHG member Srijeeta decided to turn to her for support in early February '22.



“

Initially, I thought of filing a formal police complaint against my abusive husband. But I didn't want to bring unwanted attention to my family. Instead, I turned to a trusted friend and fellow SHG member i.e. GCRP who connected me with village committee that helped me resolve the issue,

Srijeeta

In a precarious situation, Srijeeta turned to the GCRP for guidance while preserving her privacy. The GCRP connected with the Social Action Committee (SAC) on disagreement of Srijeeta to contact women helpline- 181 for support. The SAC recommended to involve village committee (Samaj) for a quicker resolution. The SAC members called the husband for a meeting where he apologized for his actions and agreed to address his alcohol addiction and improve their relationship, signing an undertaking in front of SAC, GCRP, and village committee members. The series of meetings with the couple consumed almost 15days time to reach to a desired output. The GCRP continued to monitor the couple weekly for 2-3 months i.e. until June '22 to prevent any relapse into abusive behavior. As on June '23, the couple lives happily, with no reported incidents of domestic violence by Srijeeta.



“

Despite initial concerns about his willingness to change, Srijeeta's husband proved to be very cooperative. Although he had a history of physical violence due to his alcohol addiction, he committed to seeking help and promised not to repeat such behavior again,

R Basanti Reddy, SAC member from Banabulapalli Village.



Jagatsinghpur

Reclaiming Livelihood: A Story of Fighting Injustice

Sandhyarani Swain, a 41-year-old Bank Mitra at Odisha Gramin Bank's Talapada GPLF in Jagatsinghpur district, is dedicated to helping Self-Help Group (SHG) members with their banking needs i.e. insurance, loans, and account opening. However, her life took an unexpected turn despite her kind-hearted efforts as a Bank Mitra. Sandhyarani had been cultivating a 30 Guntha farmland borrowed from Mr. Somnath Sahu (changed name) for the past 10 years. Before them, her late father-in-law had farmed the land for 40 years. In exchange, the couple paid the landowner 15 bags of rice annually, along with 30 kg of green grams.

A dispute erupted between the landowner and another villager who had bought a piece of land from the same landowner. The buyer, who had already paid for the land, was intent on acquiring it at any cost. Instead of resolving the matter with the landowner, the buyer chose to destroy the crop that Sandhyarani and her husband had been growing for the past 15 days.

Sandhyarani learned about the incident from one of her sons and she along with husband rushed to the

scene, where the aggressor threatened to run them over with a tractor if they interfered. Fearing for their safety, the couple had to retreat to their home. The loss of their crop and their investment took a toll on her husband, causing his blood pressure to rise due to the stress of the situation.

After consulting with a doctor regarding her husband's deteriorating health, Sandhya decided to



take action. She shared the incident details with the SHG group then to Gender Community Resource Person (GCRP) on 3rd August 2022. As suggested by GCRP, they organized a village meeting to seek a solution on next day. During the meeting, the

perpetrator was questioned about destroying the crops. It was revealed that the landowner's son had taken INR 1 Lakh from him, promising the land's ownership, which had not been transferred even after five years.

During the meeting, the perpetrator promised compensation for the damage but did not specify a timeline, leaving Sandhya frustrated and financially

vulnerable. She sought help from GCRP and Social Action Committee (SAC) who advised her to contact 181 (Women Helpline) and proceed to local police station for lodging FIR.

Following the FIR filing, she along with the SAC members made persistent attempts to get a positive response from police as things were stuck at their end. They reached out to 181 and the Inspector-

In-Charge (IIC) on a daily basis by phone to ensure efficient action. With regular follow-ups by the members and pressure from 181, finally police intervened and the issue was resolved within five days with a loud message by police that, the landowner wont harm Sandhya and her property in future and the compensation against the crop lost will be decided in village meeting .



“

Before reaching out to the GCRP, I had already tried to resolve the issue by seeking help from the police officials. However, my case wasn't being taken seriously. Yet, after the GCRP, SAC, and DCC's intervention, the case was solved in a mere 5 days, and the police too promptly took up the case,

Sandhyarani

Even though the loss was INR 30,000, the perpetrator agreed to compensate Sandhya with INR 20,000 during a Sarpanch meeting. He apologized and promised not to repeat his actions. Sandhyarani used the compensation on its receipt after one month to resume farming on the same land without further interference.

“

Upon hearing about the case, I realized the perpetrator was completely at fault. It was an open-and-shut case. With some intimidation, we were finally able to convince the perpetrator to return the due amount to Sandhyarani immediately instead of holding it off for months.

Inspector-In-Charge

Kalahandi



Escaping the Abyss: A Journey to Freedom

Sangita Jena, 30 years old, from Kalahandi district's Madanpur GP, married a daily wage laborer. Initially, life was good, but she soon discovered her husband's drinking habit leading to occasional domestic violence. He also commented on her looks saying, she is not a good looking person. Initially, she ignored it, attributing it to fate. Over the years, the distance between them grew, and they stopped being intimate, exacerbating their issues.

As domestic violence escalated, Sangita sought help from her mother, who dismissed the issue and advised her to compromise. The oppressive behavior extended beyond her husband to include her in-laws, who also subjected her to occasional physical violence.

After enduring four years of abuse, Sangita left her in-laws' house and sought refuge at her parent's home. Over the next two years, mother and daughter pondered over ways to resolve the conflict and retrieve the dowry. Uncertain about approaching the police, they faced further challenges as the in-law's family refused contact and showed no interest in reconciliation.

Hope arrived through the Gender Self Learning Program (GSLP) introduced at their Gram Panchayat (GP). Sangita's mother, a Self-Help Group (SHG) member, attended the CLF (Community Level Federation) meeting where the program's benefits were discussed. The focus was on protecting women from domestic violence under the Domestic Violence Act (PWDV Act 2005), enlightening Sangita's mother about the services offered at the Gender Facilitation Center (GFC).

Initially skeptical, Sangita's mother eventually confided in a fellow SHG member, who accompanied her to meet Gender CRP (GCRP) in September 2022 and registered a case at GFC. The GCRP explored solutions for Sangita and provided counseling, discussing whether to involve the Sakhi Center or the police. She also involved the Gram Panchayat Level Federation (GPLF) members and Master Book Keeper (MBK) in the process after getting consent from Sangita.

Fearing societal shame, Sangita's mother hesitated to involve the police but considered a visit to the Sakhi Center. She committed to reaching out to

the GCRP again after discussing solutions with her daughter. Complicating matters, the CRP-CM from her in-laws' village, part of the same GP, was present at the CLF meeting. They were aware of Sangita's situation and planned action.



Swiftly, the CRP-CM contacted Sangita's husband and in-laws, cautioning them about the complaint regarding years of abuse filed by Sangita's mother.

The CRP-CM hinted that Sangita's family might consider legal action soon and urged them to rectify their actions and reconcile before involving the police or Sakhi Center.



Initially resistant to taking Sangita back, her husband and in-laws reconsidered upon learning about the potential police involvement.

Accompanied by the Sarpanch and village ward members, Sangita's husband visited her, apologized, and, through their community institution (Samaj), pledged in writing not to mistreat her to avoid legal consequences. From reporting to the GCRP to receiving an apology, the

case was resolved within two weeks i.e. mid of October '22.

After the internal resolution, the GCRP monitored the case after 7, 15, and 30 days until 3 months

after closing. Sangita, now content with her family, witnessed positive changes as her husband addressed his alcohol addiction and transformed into a better person. The improvement in his behavior stemmed from overcoming his addiction, contributing to a positive shift in their relationship.



“When I first met Sangita's mother, she was skeptical about registering her daughter's case with the police. However, I helped her navigate the process while counseling her on the importance of getting in touch with the police as well as the Sakhi Center,

Asit Baran Behera,
Programme Manager, Model GPLF.



Kandhamal

Silent Strength: A Pregnant Woman's Journey towards Empowerment



Dipti, a 20-year-old from Chakapad Block in Kandhamal district, began her marriage with high hopes for a happy life. Initially, her time with her husband and in-laws was joyful. However, her husband's descent into alcohol addiction led to a drastic change. While sober, he was loving, but alcohol transformed him into an abusive partner, escalating both verbally and physically each day.

Pregnant Dipti left her in-laws to protect her child from her increasingly abusive husband. When she sought to return, her husband offended and wounded in his ego, refused to reconcile. Despite Dipti's hope for a change of heart, Bhola's unwillingness left her grappling with the impending challenge of single motherhood.

Fearful of involving the police, Dipti turned to Gender Facilitation Center (GFC), submitting a detailed application seeking community intervention for her predicament in March 2022. While the Gender Community Resource Person (GCRP) recommended law enforcement for a swift resolution, Dipti remained determined to seek help from (Gram Panchayat Level Federation (GPLF)



at the community level, aiming to avoid societal humiliation. The Executive Committee (EC) members of GPLF tried counseling her husband initially, but his inebriated and uncooperative state hindered their efforts multiple times.

As mediation attempts between the couple failed, the GPLF members suggested her to contact Sakhi Center or the 181- Women Helpline for comprehensive support. Though these options offered valuable assistance, Dipti hesitated due to her aversion to involving the police. Despite this, the GCRP and GPLF remained committed to supporting Dipti, actively exploring alternative ways to resolve her case.

“

I feared that being involved with police might complicate the case further, which is why I wanted the SHG to try and counsel my husband. However, my husband turned a deaf ear to all the efforts from the SHG members as well as the EC-GPLF,

Dipti.

After a week or two of unsuccessful attempts to resolve the issue through community support, the EC acknowledged the necessity of involving the police. With the GCRP and EC's support, Dipti, a pregnant victim, summoned the courage to visit the police station. Recognizing her vulnerable status, the IIC (Inspector-In Charge) promptly took up the case, initiating the next steps in the legal process.

Her husband was summoned to the police station, initially uncooperative but appearing the next day after a warning from the IIC. He agreed to a settlement, promising not to harm his wife again. The IIC directed EC & GCRP to follow up in 15 days to verify the cessation of domestic violence. Monitoring for over three months i.e. July '22, the community institution members confirmed positive behavioral changes in her husband. Dipti, now a proud mother, moved with her husband to Ganjam district for a fresh start as a daily wage laborer. GCRP continued personal follow-ups, ensuring the well-being and thriving of both mother and child.



“

After the GCRP called me up regarding the case and its sensitivity, given that the victim was pregnant, I ensured that the case was solved at the earliest. After more than an hour of counseling, the husband finally agreed to compromise and took his wife back. I am happy that he is now a changed man.

Inspector-In-Charge



Koraput

Breaking Chains of Poverty: A Family's Tale of Fortitude

Urmila and Bhairav, a hardworking couple from Koraput, Odisha, toiled in the fields to provide for their four children. Despite facing adversity, their resolve to ensure their children receive a quality education and shield them from the challenges of poverty remains unwavering.

To financially support her family, Urmila explored various avenues, borrowing small sums and leveraging her precious gold jewelry as collateral. Additionally, she attempted to launch a small business with six hens but encountered difficulties due to insufficient funds and resources to care for the birds adequately.

As a member of the Self-Help Group (SHG) and a position holder on the GPLF (Gram Panchayat Level Federation) Executive Committee, Urmila actively participated in meetings highlighting Government's livelihood programs for individuals with low income. Post a session, she applied for Community Investment Fund (CIF) of GPLF, to kickstart her hen-raising business, successfully securing 50 hens to boost her income with 20,000 rupees CIF support.



Urmila faced a new challenge of protecting her hens from local predators without the means to build a permanent shelter. Seeking help, she approached the Gender Community Resource Person (GCRP) who is also CRP-CM of her CLF to enroll her to Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) program, that had provision of tendering loan of Rs. 40,000 to construct a secure chicken coop. She did approach to GP & Block office prior to this incident for the loan with her MGNREGS job card but nothing worked on her favour.

With GCRP's assistance in February '22, Urmila submitted the necessary documentation and pictures of her incomplete hen coop but despite regular follow-ups, there was no approval update as referred to the Block office.

GPLF members insisted the GCRP to expedite Urmila's case at the Block office in phased manner. After 2 months, 50% of the grant, with installments of INR 8000, INR 16000, and INR 16000, was sanctioned. Currently, Urmila's family completed a permanent chicken coop housing an

impressive 200 hens. With her husband focusing full-time on the growing business, they now earn around INR 4000 per month by selling eggs and chicken within their local community. With their flourishing business, Urmila's family envisions expanding and establishing a chicken center for neighboring villages.

The relentless efforts of the GPLF members have not only boosted their chicken business but also enabled the family to generate additional income. They've successfully saved money in a bank account, invested in beneficial LIC schemes, and secured health insurance—recommendations gleaned from GCRP and Urmila's knowledge acquired through SHG meetings.

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Before we received this grant from the Block office, life wasn't easy for us as a family. We did everything in our power to ensure our kids were educated, but there was a need for more. Although I was aware of the government schemes facilitated for people like us, I needed someone to guide me. With the SAC, and GCRP's efforts, I could submit the necessary documents in time,

Urmila.



“

Upon hearing Urmila's plea from the GCRP, I requested the PO (Panchayat Officer) and GRF (Gram Rojgar Sevak) to fast-track her application. The family had been trying to get approved for the scheme for months, but after the combined intervention, the case was solved within mere time.

Purnima Khila,
MBK-GPLF



Malkangiri

Blind But Unbroken: The Inspiring Story of Triumph Over Adversity



Damayanti, from Khairaput block in Malkangiri district, entered a marriage marked by hardship. Despite marrying a man with an existing wife, she clung to the hope of escaping poverty and illiteracy. Initially, their union held moments of happiness, but it eventually soured as mistreatment from her husband intensified, turning her story into a less fortunate tale of enduring adversity. Moreover, Damayanti's prolonged wait for motherhood, spanning seven years, strained her relationship with her husband. Unable to conceive, she faced his increasing bitterness, manifested through domestic violence, insults, and blame for her infertility. The desire for motherhood became a source of anguish, exacerbating an already difficult situation.

Damayanti's hardships multiplied as she started losing eyesight in one eye. Though her husband initially accompanied her to the hospital, he eventually abandoned her as her vision deteriorated, leaving her completely blind. Adding to the cruelty, he sought a third wife upon realizing Damayanti could no longer bear him children due to her visual impairment, compounding the mistreatment she endured.



Soon, she sought support from her elderly and financially struggling parents, but they were unable to assist. Dependent on a disability pension for survival, her plight intensified when the government mandated an Aadhaar Card linkage with the scheme. Without an Aadhaar Card and grappling with the



loss of hearing in one ear, Damayanti found herself disoriented and unsure of how to navigate the new challenge. Despite the challenges, her mother, a member of the Self-Help Group (SHG), visited Gender Facilitation Center (GFC) and shared her daughter's plight with Gender Community Resource Person (GCRP) in May '22. Responding to the plea, the GCRP took proactive steps, engaging the Sarpanch and Social Action Committee (SAC) persistently to expedite Damayanti's case.

The GCRP escalated the matter to the PEO (Panchayat Executive Officer) as dint hear anything from Sarpanch and engaged the GPO (Gram Panchayat Office) for swift resolution. After a month and a half of persistent efforts and four meetings, she received a call from the block office, conveying the release of her seven-month pending pension, totaling INR 3500 in August '22.

“

I cannot express my gratitude enough towards the GCRP, SAC, GPO, and the PEO for their timely and unwavering support. When my husband abandoned me, I found myself in a state of despair, but my community members came to my rescue and stood by me like a sister. They worked tirelessly to ensure that I received my disability pension on time, providing me with much-needed financial stability,

Damayanti.

Though her disability pension and her parents' old age pension offer some assistance, it falls short of covering the necessary medical expenses for her eyes. While the GCRP and SAC proposed relocating her to a shelter home for enhanced care, Damayanti finds solace in staying with her parents. The persistent efforts by SAC & GCRP to reconcile with her husband for support and medical treatment was futile, as he callously rejected her presence in his life. Amidst her challenges, Damayanti maintains hope and expresses deep gratitude for the support she received from her peers and wants to remain with her parents.

“

Damayanti's case had been pending for more than seven months. However, as soon as I got to know about her situation via the GCRP, I ensured that the case was fast-tracked. In such cases, it is difficult for the victim to reach out to the concerned authorities, given her disability status. However, with the help of GPLF members, she finally received her pension.

Panchayat Executive Officer, Malkangiri.



Mayurbhanj

Hope: The Bee That Makes Honey Without Flowers

Bhajaram (changed name), a daily wage laborer, faced life's challenges while supporting his modest family – a beloved wife, dutiful son, and cherished daughter. Their tranquility was shattered by a devastating disease affecting Pramila, his devoted wife and active Self-Help Group (SHG) member. Despite her selfless community service, the illness struck hard, prompting Bhajaram to rush her to the Mayurbhanj district hospital in year 2020.

Referred to Cuttack SCB Medical College, Pramila's devastating diagnosis of advanced-stage blood cancer left Bhajaram and her in shock. The overwhelming cost of treatment strained their already modest income. Undeterred, he sought a loan from the SHG and assistance from close relatives, driven by a steadfast determination to rescue his beloved wife from the painful illness.

Fate dealt a cruel hand as Pramila, after a two-year battle with her ailment, succumbed to it in November 2021. The devastated family, mourning the loss of their cherished one, attempted to rebuild their lives. However, the debts incurred during Pramila's illness quickly accumulated, demanding urgent resolution.

Forced by financial hardship, he made the heartbreaking decision to pull his son out of school and have him work as a daily wage laborer. Despite their persistent struggles, a ray of hope appeared when an SHG member and Pramila's dear friend informed him about a bank account his wife had enrolled in under the Pradhan Mantri Jiban Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY) scheme. The scheme offered a death benefit of INR 2 Lakh to the beneficiary.



After submitting the necessary documents, Bhajaram faced a prolonged wait for updates on the insured amount. Then he reached out to Gender Facilitation Center (GFC) and Gender Community Resource Person (GCRP) for help in April 2022. The proactive effort of GCRP provided a ray of hope, advising him to meet with the Bank Manager and the local Sarpanch. Despite hurdles and a lengthy wait, Bhajaram's persistent efforts to secure the insurance amount eventually proved successful.

The Bank Manager meeting, facilitated by the local Sarpanch, Social Action Committee (SAC) and GFC, became a pivotal moment in Bhajaram's struggle. Moreover, the GCRP and SAC's unwavering support and guidance bolstered his resolve to secure his wife's money after three visits to bank and multiple follow-ups. It took him almost 2 months to get the insured money from the date of GFC visit.

Recognizing its significance for his children's future, the GPLF members supported him to wisely invest the money i.e in fixed deposit. Gradually clearing outstanding debts by his earning as wage labour, the family's future is pretty secure now. While the

irreplaceable loss of a mother remains, Bhajaram has embraced the roles of both nurturing mother and devoted father, fiercely committed to his children's

well-being. Currently as on May '23, his daughter is happily married, and his son works as a daily wage laborer by his side, sustaining their livelihood.



 Pradhan Mantri
Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana

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As soon as I learned about Pramila's death, I immediately knew I had to help the family. During our SHG meetings, Pramila shared with me that she has registered herself under PMJJBY. Given that the family was in dire need of money, this scheme provided them with 2 Lakh rupees which helped them immensely,

Parisima Mohanta, SHG Member.

Nayagarh



Empowering Women: Unlocking Government Benefits with SHG Support

Bandita Sahoo, a 65-year-old widow from Badagorada Gram Panchayat (GP), Nayagarh, was facing financial hardships after her husband's passing five years ago i.e. 2017. Living with her daughter-in-law and grand daughter, who is a child with cerebral palsy, the family struggled to make ends meet in absence of son who used to stay away is out of state due to work. They were unaware of government sanctioned widow pension and had no male members to assist them with the process.

During a Gender Forum Meeting (GFM) at the Community Level Forum (CLF), the topic of various pension schemes for women was discussed. This information reached Bandita's daughter-in-law, Arpita, through their Self Help Group (SHG) network. Arpita learned through CRP-CM, that the Gender Community Resource Person (GCRP) could help with her mother-in-law's pension. She contacted the GCRP in November '22, who offered assistance but discovered that they had never obtained the required death certificate for Bandita's husband.

“

Although I knew about the widow pension, I was unaware of the process involved. My son doesn't live here and works in Surat. Moreover, my daughter-in-law has to take care of her disabled daughter. So, we were in no position to get the widow pension process started,

Bandita.

The GCRP quickly realized that this could be a significant setback in the process of facilitating a pension for Bandita. So, she came up with a solution and quickly visited the hospital to get Bandita's late husband's death certificate, which was issued within 5 days. She also made efforts to ensure that the death certificate was available online by visiting the Panchayat Office as well as the Block Office. She discussed the matter with the Sarpanch and asked him to fast-track the application, given that Bandita had been devoid of her widow pension for 5 years. Once the death certificate was available online, the GCRP

submitted the pension application with all the mandatory documents required for the process at Block office. Meanwhile, the GCRP also applied for a disability pension for Bandita's granddaughter, who also was not enrolled yet due to lack of knowledge and support mechanism. After regular follow-ups by the GCRP to the Block office and Panchayat office, the entire process of facilitating the widow pension took close to 3 months.





Now, she receives INR 500 monthly, which aids her in reducing the overall financial burden that comes from health-related issues in her old age, like high blood pressure and chronic joint pain.

Bandita's story highlights the continued dependence of rural populations on male family members for handling formal procedures due to limited education and awareness. This especially affects women, particularly the elderly and individuals with disabilities, who often miss out on government benefits. Fortunately, thanks to the CRP-CM and GCRP, Bandita was able to secure her widow pension, providing a stable income for her family's needs, including medical expenses. The GCRP also ensured that Bandita's granddaughter received her disability pension on time. Through discussions at the CLF and GPLF (Gram Panchayat

Level Federation), the Gender Facilitation Center's (GFC) objectives were clarified, and the GCRP played a vital role in facilitating access to these social protection schemes.

“

We are very thankful to the GTM (Gender Transformative Model) program that intends to aid women on various schemes and programs and help them avail benefits to lead a better life. This is why Bandita's case was a successful one because the issue of a vulnerable woman got prioritized and followed up unitedly for resolution,

Block Social Security Officer, Odogaon.



Nuapada

Virtual Villains: When Cyber Crime Hits Home



In the internet era, cyber crime poses a pervasive threat globally. Rural areas, with limited education and awareness are particularly vulnerable. Malati Harijan, a 20-year-old from Gambhariguda in Nuapada, fell victim to this menace. Despite recent technological progress, numerous Indian villages lack essential education and resources to counter cybercrime, leaving them susceptible to deceptive tactics by scammers who exploit their lack of knowledge and trust. Malati's experience serves as a stark reminder of the severe consequences of cybercrime, including substantial financial loss and psychological trauma for unsuspecting victims.

Preceding the intervention of Gender Community Resource Person (GCRP), Community Resource Person cum Community Mobilizer (CRP-CM) and Master Book Keeper (MBK), Malati Harijan had already succumbed to cybercrime in October '22. Lacking education and awareness, she fell prey to a deceitful scam artist, resulting in the extortion of 28,000 rupees from her.

“

Malati recounted her ordeal and revealed, I received a message on Whatsapp claiming that I had won 2 Lakh Rupees and was instructed to call the given number to claim my prize in mid of August '22. After I called, the scammer informed me that I needed to pay 40,000 rupees to receive the prize money. Initially, I was skeptical, but I was too excited to let go of the opportunity. For the next three months, the scammer called me repeatedly, and I sent him money in small installments of 1500, 2000, and 3000 rupees. It wasn't until later that I realized I had fallen prey to cybercrime and lost a staggering sum of 28,000 rupees.

The CRP-CM learned of Malati's situation through her involvement in the Gender Self-Learning Program (GSLP), concluding its Cyber Crime rollout. Malati, expressing interest, disclosed her personal



experience with cybercrime during her participation in GSLP session. The Cyber Crime session rollout has been successfully executed in 71 Self-Help Groups (SHGs), impacting a total of 713 members in that panchayat.

Upon learning about Malati's cybercrime encounter, the GCRP advised her against complying with the perpetrator's demands and urged her to contact them for assistance. When Malati received another call, she promptly sought help from the CRP-CM and Social Action Committee (SAC). Intervening, the CRP-CM and some SAC members warned the scammer to cease targeting Malati and demanded the return of the 28,000 rupees. Despite the threat of police involvement, the scammer refused, abruptly ending the call and switching off his phone.

Regardless OF GCRP's urging for Malati to file a police complaint to recover her stolen money, her limited knowledge and fear of the societal stigma

associated with the police dissuaded her. Upon hearing about the incident, Malati's laborer parents returned from Andhra Pradesh but hesitated to file a complaint before police as well.

Through the GTM program, a government initiative promoting education access, equity, and quality, Malati gained valuable knowledge on various cybercrimes. The program effectively outlined risks like phishing emails and calls, enhancing her awareness of cyber threats. Following interventions from GCRP, CRP-CM, SAC, and the GP (Gram Panchayat), Malati recognized the pivotal role these organizations play in preventing financial loss and ensuring individual protection. Now well-equipped with information, she is committed to spreading cybercrime awareness, sharing her story to prevent others from falling victim to such crimes in the GP. The case was followed up until end of November '22 and later closed as no threat received by Malati as on date.



Rayagada

Finding Hope in Community Support: A Story of Overcoming Adversity



Snehalata Pattnaik, a 61-year-old daily wage laborer from Chatikona, Bissumcuttack block, in Rayagada, had been grappling with hardship since her husband's passing four years ago. With no familial support, she sought refuge at her daughter and son-in-law's home. Unfortunately, the son-in-law's health challenges add to their difficulties, and the family relies solely on meager daily wages, ranging from Rs. 200 to Rs. 250. This limited income makes it challenging for Snehalata to meet essential needs like medication and food.

Active members of the Self-Help Group (SHG), Snehalata, and her daughter knew about the old age pension scheme to alleviate their financial burden. Despite applying for the pension a year ago, the application remained pending. Despite numerous visits to the block office and Sarpanch at the GPO (Gram Panchayat Office) seeking information, there was no progress in the status of their application.

Despite frequent visits to the Block office and Sarpanch, Snehalata found no resolution and returned empty-handed. Frustrated with the lack of seriousness in addressing her case, she sought

help from the Gender Facilitation Center (GFC) and Gender Community Resource Person (GCRP) during Gram Panchayat Level Federation's (GPLF) Gender Forum Meeting in March 2022.

Empathetic to Snehalata's situation, the GCRP reached out to Sarpanch as in their conversation, she revealed that the Sarpanch had made false promises, seeking her vote, but failed to fulfill them after winning the election.





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As my knees weakened and my health deteriorated, I found it increasingly difficult to keep up with the follow-ups required with the Block Office or the Sarpanch. It was clear to me that I needed help, and the only person I could turn to was the GCRP and members of the SAC committee. Every penny counted for my family and me, and the INR 500 monthly pension promised a significant change,

Snehalata

Upon hearing Snehalata's plea, the GCRP pledged prompt action and visited the Panchayat office to inquire about her pension, but the Sarpanch was on leave. In the next weekly follow up the Sarpanch assured them he would check the files and provide an update on pension status. After a week, during

the GPLF convergence meeting, the Sarpanch confirmed that Snehalata's old age pension had been approved. He further conveyed that she would receive her pension for the current and previous months.

Receiving positive news from the Sarpanch, the GCRP promptly visited Snehalata to share that her pension had been approved, ensuring timely disbursement from May 2022 onwards. At over 60 years old, Snehalata now receives a monthly pension of INR 500, set to increase to INR 700 after turning 79 year. Thanks to the efficient efforts of the GCRP, SAC, and GPLF, the case was resolved within one month, from the initial follow-up on March 18th, 2022. With a steady monthly pension, Snehalata can now meet her daily needs and essential expenses such as medications and food.





Sambalpur

Struggle to Strength: Rebuilding Lives with Community Support

Nibedita Pradhan, a 26-year-old mother of two, enjoyed a blissful life with her husband in Sambalpur district's Jujumura block. However, after 7 years of marriage, she discovered her husband's escalating alcohol addiction, fueled by financial struggles, leading to episodes of physical abuse.

Her husband, seeking employment due to a lack of opportunities in their village, traveled to Sundergarh district as a daily wage laborer. Although she was saddened by his absence, she found solace in the temporary respite from the physical violence. Taking advantage of his work-related absence, she chose to visit her parent's house for a brief period.

Upon her return home in December 2022, Nibedita was confronted with an incomprehensible sight—a woman claiming to be her husband's new wife. Despite her attempts to persuade him, he insisted that the new woman was now a permanent part of their family, refusing to reconsider.

Hopeless, Nibedita, a member of Self-Help Group (SHG), sought support from fellow members. With their assistance, she attempted to reason with her

husband, but he remained firm due to financial support from his second wife. The following day, the SHG members convened a Village Committee meeting with more than 60 villagers, Ward members, and the Community Resource Person Cum Community Mobilization (CRP-CM) to address the issue. Despite a written warning issued by the Social Action Committee (SAC), comprised of both male and female members, Nibedita's husband refused to comply.

Then one CRP-CM introduced her to the Gender Community Resource Person (GCRP), who recommended to involve Sakhi Center. Upon telephonic discussion with Sakhi Counselor, the couple agreed to visit the Sakhi Center along with second wife for resolution. Few GPLF representatives also headed to the Sakhi Center in hopes of resolving the issue.





During the counseling session at the Sakhi Center, the couple and the second wife were educated about the emotional and physical consequences of domestic violence, along with the absence of legal rights for the second wife regarding the husband's property. They were made aware that his financial situation couldn't sustain both wives and children, including his aging parents. After a three-hour counseling session outlining the potential future challenges, the accused and the second wife agreed to dissolve their relationship. The Sakhi Center obtained his contact details for follow-up through the GCRP.

The case, registered in December 2022, was resolved within a week with the help of GPLF and GFC including the CRP-CM and GCRP. Additionally, the GCRP continued follow-ups for over a month, confirming that the family, now content and stable, implemented the decision made at the Sakhi Center. The second wife accepted the resolution and returned home. While Nibedita's husband hasn't entirely overcome his drinking habits, there has been a significant reduction following the GCRP and Sakhi Center intervention.

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Nibedita's case was a complicated one. Her husband wasn't ready to leave the second wife. However, after a long counseling session at the Sakhi Center, I was able to convince her husband to restart a life with his wife and let go of his second wife. I also informed him that his second wife won't get the same benefits legally as his first wife. Moreover, I also made him aware of the fact that as a Hindu man, there can also be legal consequences of marrying a second wife without divorcing the first one.

Sakhi Center In-Charge



Sundargarh

Surviving Struggles: A Mother's Journey to Justice and Healing



At 70, Madhusmita, blessed with four daughters and a son, sought solace and care from her children. After marrying off her four daughters, she lived with her 30-year-old son, a daily wage laborer with minimal education. His alcohol addiction transformed him into a sadistic tormentor, causing immense pain to his mother.

Madhusmita's son, who visited her every three days due to work, subjected her to physical and mental abuse fueled by alcohol for nearly a year. In February 2022, a Gender Facilitation Center (GFC) was inaugurated in her village. Learning about it from her neighbor, a Gender Community Resource Person (GCRP), Madhusmita confided in her, revealing the extent of her swollen body from the prolonged abuse.

Despite the GCRP's limited experience in the newly launched GFC, she provided counseling to her, alleviating her mental trauma with the help of some Social Action Committee (SAC) members. She also facilitated a visit to the local hospital for treatment of her injuries aided by the Gram

Panchayat Level Federation (GPLF) members. In May 2022, Madhusmita, feeling her issues were resolved, requested the closure of her case.

Seven months after closing the case, in December, 2022, Madhusmita approached the GCRP and SAC members, revealing that her son's abusive behavior had resumed, causing grave injuries. The GCRP, along with Master Book Keeper (MBK) from GPLF, Executive Committee (EC) members, Ward members, and CRP-CMs discussed the issue at a village meeting. The son, present at the meeting, fled upon learning of Madhusmita's intention to file a police complaint. Subsequently, they proceeded to the Sadar Police Station to file a written complaint against Madhusmita's son.

After filing a police complaint, the community members took her to the District Government Hospital for treatment. Fearing to return home, she followed the GCRP's guidance, seeking refuge at neighbors' homes for five days, including the GCRP's residence. Her second daughter eventually came to her rescue.

Following a police request for a home inspection, she returned home after almost 15 days of lodging the written complaint. Despite this period, her son remained elusive, in hiding due to police involvement.





On the 17th day, the police apprehended the perpetrator from his relative's house. Despite no FIR being lodged, they issued a warning, emphasizing the potential for arrest if such incidents recurred. Subsequently, the GCRP, SAC members along with the MBK, EC members, and community cadres, convened a meeting with her son. They explained the legal ramifications of his actions and emphasized the wrongfulness of his behavior.

With police intervention and counseling from the GCRP and SAC, Madhusmita's son vowed not to repeat his actions, bringing his mother back home. Over the next month, the GCRP consistently followed up, ensuring her safety. During this period, her son refrained from abusive behavior, working away from home and visiting only every 8th day. The GCRP, being her neighbor, maintained regular contact, facilitating assistance in applying for an old age pension and

a ration card. Despite her age, Madhusmita is now engaged in daily wage labor to contribute to her monthly expenses. The case got closed finally in March '23.



Glossary

NRLM	National Rural Livelihood Mission	GCRP	Gender Community Resource Persons
SRLM	State Rural Livelihood Mission	GFC	Gender Facilitation Centre
OLM	Odisha Livelihoods Mission	GoS	Gender Operational Strategy
NCRB	National Crime Records Bureau	GPLF	Gram Panchayat Level Federation
SMMU	State Mission Management Unit	GPP	Gender Point Person
DMMU	District Mission Management Unit	GTM	Gender Transformative Model
BMMU	Block Mission Management Unit	GFM	Gender Forum Member
DRP	District Resource Person	MBK	Master Book-Keeper
BRP	Block Resource Person	SAC	Social Action Committee
BSKY	Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana	SHG	Self-Help Group
CEO	Chief Executive Officer	PO	Protection Officer
CLF	Cluster Level Federation	DLSA	District Legal Service Authority
CRP-CM	Community Resource Persons cum Community Mobilizers	DSWO	District Social Welfare Officer
EC	Executive Committee		

Disclaimer

- Names of the subjects (GBV cases) in the stories have been changed to protect the privacy of individuals.
- Pictures used in the book are solely for the purpose of enhancing reader experience and may or may not pertain to that particular district. They have been shot at Deogarh, Nayagarh, Jagatsinghpur, Nuapada, Gajapati & Bhubaneswar.

