



Lalibhai Nandu Rathod

Life got better and better with time

Lalibhai, 45 was born and brought in a tanda(tribal settlement) named minchanal which is 30 km away from Bijapur. She was taught the lambani traditional craft by her mother which was must for all lambani girls.

At the age of 19 her parents decided to get her married and got her married to Nandu Rathod from the same Tanda who worked as a construction labour under a contractor.

Journey of her life was smooth till she had children. But with time the expenditure of the family increased as she wanted to give education to all three children- Vasudev, Danamma, Shivram. She tried working as a construction labour but that did not work out well for her as she had to look after her children and it did not earn her good money.

Sabala's intervention

She was looking out for a job that she could do from her house and would fetch her enough money that she could support her children's education. And that is when she got to know about Sabala from her neighbours. She approached Sabala asking for job work. She knew the craft very well. But Sabala trained her in improving the quality of the work and taught her the importance of quality. She started earning well and was very happy. Sabala gave her training about the bank account and savings which made her life even well. She built a house for herself which has 2 rooms.

As her income increased, her savings also increased. She was later trained about account keeping, fair trade and she participated in the design workshops that were conducted in Sabala. To increase her income, Sabala trained her for generating vermicompost (organic manure). Lalibhai being a

very active lady is interested to attend many more workshops and trainings to learn more so that she can earn better and support her family well.

She is an active member of a SHG in her village which has helped her in thrift and credit during her tough times. They talk about the village issues and participate in the Grampanchayat (local govt) election.

Lalibhai says “when I was working a construction labour, I was earning only Rs950 only and I literally felt very scared to think of educating my three children. But thank god sabala’s intervention changed my life forever. I have learnt to earn well and save a part of it in bank. And I feel proud that all my three children are literates. It all became possible because of sabala”

Observation

She has gained more respect in the society and people look up to her as a role model. Many other women in the tanda have realised the importance of their children’s education as they have seen her family growing up. Other people in the tanda feel that they are the live example.