

Livelihood by cosmetic shop after the water schem



It is said that two children are a gift from God. Shailu Kumari of Saptari's Surunga Municipality-2 also received a gift from God. Her son, daughter and husband completed her family. The entire expenses of this small family of four were borne by the farming.

Shailu Kumari had 7 katthas of land given to her by her parents. That land was their main source of income. But one day, something unexpected happened to Shailu's

family.

Ten years ago, in 2066 BS, Shailu's husband encountered a motorcycle accident which then led Shailu to lose 7 katthas of land given to her by her parents to pay for her husband's treatment. After that, Shailu's life began to take a turn for the worse. Shailu says, "I took my husband to Siliguri, India for treatment. The treatment cost more than Rs 1 million."

When asked what she resorted to after, Shailu says, "I bought paddy and started selling it after grinding it to run the house." When all the responsibilities of the house came on her shoulders, it became very difficult for her to run her daily life. Her family of four had just enough food for five months. I was worried day and night that my dream of educating my son and daughter would be shattered", Shailu added.

The Bhediya Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Scheme started four years ago at a time when there was difficulty to educate the children and run the daily for Shailu. Various committees and groups were formed under the water project with the help of financial support of Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Fund Development Board and facilitation of Sree Purraj Community Development Center (SCDC). The Shiva Sanyasi Women Technical Support Service Group under the livelihood program formed in Surunga Municipality-2 Bhediya proved to be a huge support for Shailu Chaudhary's life.

Shailu Kumari Chaudhary is one of the five members who have been running the business since the formation of the Shiva Sanyasi Women's Technical Group. Shailu Kumari says, "After the Bhediya Water Supply and Sanitation Project started and Shiva Sanyasi Women's Technical Group was formed under the livelihood program and I very enthusiastically became a member of that group." The group members meet on the 6th of every month.

"Sir and Madam from Sreepurraj Community Development Center taught us about how to become self-reliant by investing in savings and loans, how to operate group, many other information about water and sanitation, suitable business for rural women, women's rights, child care, women's reproductive health, and many more for self-reliance through various discussions. Which, of course, has been proven very informative and useful for all of us", she adds.

Inspired by the livelihood program of the Water Supply and Sanitation Project, Shailu Kumari became a member of Women's Technical Group and started saving Rs. 20 per month. She participated in various trainings too. Due to which she gained a lot courage and the ability to make decisions and speak for herself. After participating in a discussion on running a business by the Shreepurraj Community Development Center, she also planned to open a cosmetic shop.

Now Shailu Kumari Chaudhary earns Rs 500 to Rs 700 daily from the shop. As a result, it has become a lot easier for her to support the family's daily expenses. 'Initially, there was a problem of not being able to manage the shop, but now it has become easier with the necessary advice and support from Sir and Madam of Shreepurraj Community Development Center. I have expanded my business by taking a loan of Rs 7,000 from the group at a concessional rate," she said.

Even after losing the farm given to her by her parents while treating her husband, it has now become a lot easier for Shailu to run her household. "It's getting easier now and I think I am becoming self-reliant," she says. Her son is studying BBS and her daughter also passed her 12th standard. I am thinking of educating them further. Now the worry of how to make a living is gone."

Success story prepared by Sangita Giri Das, a livelihood expert of Rural Drinking Water and Sanitation Fund Development Committee and Laxmi Prasad Chaudhary on behalf of Sripurraj Community Development Center.