



Ministry of Rural Development
Government of India

SUCCESS STORY





SYED TAJUNNISA BI

Background

I was an ordinary house wife with Class V educational background. My husband, Syed Shafiq Allahshakhad, was running a pawn shop in the village. It was the only bread earning activity for the family. He then took up tailoring work, earning very meager amount, which was not sufficient for the family. I was from the traditional Muslim family where women are not allowed to go out, talk to people on the roads and attend meetings. I remained in the house after marriage. My husband did his Intermediate and stopped further education due to financial problems.



Joining the Group

In 1995, the women in the village formed the Noorani Group. I have convinced my husband and joined the group. My husband, like several other men, had very bad impression about the women groups. I had tough time in convincing him and explaining the positive side of the group and the advantages that a family could get from the group. He finally accepted and allowed me to be part of the group. After joining the group, I completed Class X and have basic computer training.

In the Group

As a member of the group, I began to play active role in every activity. This helped me to become treasurer of the village organization. Over a period of time, I was able to pick up and talk fluently in Telugu. My voice helped me get a place in the local mini-radio station as an announcer. During this period, I got an opportunity to visit Nepal as a programmer on behalf of the mini-radio station. Initially, my husband did not accept the proposal. It was with great difficulty, I could make my

Age : 35 years
Education : Class X
Village : Vorvakallu
Mandal : Vorvakallu
Group : Noorani Group
District : Kurnool
V.O. : Kranti Abhivrudhi Sangham

husband understand the importance of the Nepal assignment and get his clearance. My visit to Nepal was a memorable one as it was for the first time I stepped out of the country. It was a great thing for a woman, who could not step out of the house, had gone to other country. I feel honoured even today for the great opportunity that I could get and utilize.

After my return from Nepal, my husband asked me to stop going to the group again. People must have spoiled his mind about the group that made him to restrict my movements. It took a long time for me to convince my husband and get back to the



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group activity.

My active participation in various programmes had helped me to become the resource person. I was sent to Srikakulam district to train women groups on economic aspects. Today, I am able to move around and can handle the group activities and thus earn some money to support my family. My husband is now able to understand my leadership qualities and the importance of the group in shaping bright future for the family and for our children.

Experience & Exposure

I have toured over 100 villages in Srikakulam, Guntur, Kurnool and Rangareddy districts as group leader and resource person. In addition to this, my visit to Nepal stands as a special event. I am able to understand the

developmental activities that come through the groups. But for the group, I would have remained within the four walls of the house, looking at the husband who toils all through the day as tailor to make a living and support the family. It was very difficult for us to earn Rs 500 a month, before I joined the group. But, today, we are able to earn around Rs 4,000 a month, which is sufficient for our family.

Besides, the exposure I had and the experience that I have gained is invaluable. The group told me that the world is so large and one has to come out of the four walls of the house to experience, learn and live.

