



## **ROLE OF LEGAL LAND LITERACY IN EMPOWERMENT OF RURAL POOR WOMEN WHO HAVE FORMED SELF HELP GROUP (SHG)**

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Of the four economic factors of production land is the most productive asset. In rural life deep-rooted relationship is built between land and people for the cause of livelihood. But unfortunately after passing of seventy years of independence there is prolonged and wide spread ignorance of legal land entitlements and ownerships among the rural masses. In general land and its usage portray a patriarchal picture in our mind. In reality, women comprise almost half of the agricultural labour forces and keeps substantial contribution from sowing of seeds to reaping of crops. According to NSSO, 2010, in India 84% of all rural female workers are engaged in agriculture, producing about 60% to 80% of food and nearly 90% of dairy of dairy product, but only 9% own land. For this reason women have insignificant role in land ownership control and its usage. It is a proved truth that land productivity, overall growth and development of the family and food security will be far better if women are empowered by confirming land ownership and its control but they do not have the required levels of awareness on land rights and entitlements that could assist them in their vulnerable and deplorable situation. Promotion of legal land literacy amongst poor families would definitely help in reducing their vulnerability. National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM) the national flagship programme for poverty eradication helps women folk to enhance their livelihood activities and income through the formation and strengthening of women self-help groups and their federation. West Bengal State Rural Livelihoods (WBSRLM-Anadadhara) Implementing NRLM as Anadadhara in the state is sparing no efforts to capacitate these women and community institution on various issues and themes for bettering their livelihoods.

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LANDESA is a non-profit organisation working worldwide for securing land rights for the poorest. It is supported by the Land and Land Reforms Department, Government of West Bengal for executing the land literacy programme for the women patta recipients in some districts of West Bengal. In July 2016, LANDESA approached WBSRRLM to explore the possibilities of forming a suitable and mutually beneficial partnership for the benefit of the poor through women SHG members and their institutions. After due deliberations, it was decided that the joint initiative would be piloted in Birbhum (1-Santiniketan, Mohammad Bazar, Rampurhat-1 and Dubrajpur) and Malda (Habibpur, Manikchak, Kalaichak-1 and Harischandrapur-2) with scope for scaling up the learnings from these eight blocks to the rest of the state subsequently.

Joint Venture of LANDESA and WBSRRLM will widely spread out capacity building through cascade mode by developing trainers at different levels. Two members from each Upa-Sangha (ward level SHG Federation) and two from each Sangha (GP level SHG Federation) in the block will be trained for discussion and generating awareness amongst their peers. They will give clear cut idea about land entitlements; teach them the way of securing land rights and make them aware about the benefits that can be availed from legal land rights.

**Process followed to develop Pool of Master Trainers who will impart the relevant training to the above mentioned trainers.**

#### **Step -I**

Development of pool of Master Trainers comprising selected DLTs, ACs, BPM and DPM (SM&IB) through two days workshop at district level by Landesa .



One photograph of District level Workshop

Step –II:- One day training cum workshop for two Upa-Sangha leaders from each identified Upa-Sangha along with one Sangha leader who will impart relevant training to the SHG members afterwards with the help of concerned RI, BLRO, Landesa, DLTs., AC, BPM.



BLOCK LEVEL WORKSHOP CUM TRAINING

### Step –III

Trained Sangha Leaders and Upa Sangha leaders will impart the relevant training to the SHG members for creating their awareness regarding Land and Land rights.



The Upa-Sangha and Sangha Leaders are imparting the Land Literacy Training

The success of Land Literacy Training imparted by Upa-Sangha and Sangha Leaders at a glance:-

DISTRICT	BLOCK	PANCHAYAT	SANGHA SAMABAY NAME	NO OF UPA SANGHA	TOTAL NO OF SHG	TOTAL NO OF HH	TOTAL NO OF SHG ATTENDED UPSANGHA LEVEL TRAINING	NO OF SHG WOMEN ATTENDED UPA SANGHA LEVEL TRAINING
BIRBHUM	DUBRAIPUR	SAHAPUR	ATMASAMMAN MAHILA SHG COOPERATIVE SOCIETY LTD	11	232	2401	66	533
		JASHPUR	ATTAMARJADA MAHILA SHG COOPERATIVE SOCIETY LTD	10	149	1528	69	624
		PADUMA	MATRIMANGAL MAHILA SHG COOPERATIVE SOCIETY LTD	13	154	1590	94	842
		HETAMPUR	EKANTA APAN MAHILA SHG COOPERATIVE SOCIETY LTD	9	146	1487	82	770

	LOBA	SARBAKALYAN MAHILA SHG COOPERATIVE SOCIETY LTD	12	212	2165	109	1105
	CHINPAI	NIRJHAR MAHILA SHG COOPERATIVE SOCIETY LTD	11	173	1780	115	1025
	PARULIA	NATUN BHUBAN MAHILA SHG COOPERATIVE SOCIETY LTD	8	138	1415	117	1129
	BALIJURI	SABAI AMAR MAHILA SHG COOPERATIVE SOCIETY LTD	10	221	2290	82	797
	LN PUR	RABISASHI MAHILA SHG COOPERATIVE SOCIETY LTD	10	211	2205	119	1174
	GOHALIARA	UTSARGA MAHILA SHG COOPERATIVE SOCIETY LTD	10	150	1568	85	822
			<b>104</b>	<b>1786</b>	<b>18429</b>	<b>938</b>	<b>8821</b>

**The results obtained from the study made on empowerment of women through conferring legal land rights to them in the district of Birbhum.**

- **Family Affluence-** If women benefited with legal land rights family income increases 3.8 times.
- **Education-** Women empowered with legal land rights takes care of the education of children specially girl child thereby increasing the value of education and make them continue their education for long.
- **Futuristic Planning-** By empowering women with legal land rights rate of family savings can be increased by 35%.
- **Family Nutrition-** Legal land rights for women can decrease child mal nutrition by 33%.
- **Family Protection and defence-** Legal land rights can guard the women from being victim of family violence and exploitation thereby decreasing the level of victimization by 8%.
- **Family Health-** Legal land rights in the hands of women can decrease the tendency ill-health of children and other members by 10%.

Some Improvements after this training :-

- 106 Nos. application submitted for Mutation
- 21 Nos. application submitted for Patta
- So far 217 landless household (living with acute poverty) have been identified.

- 54 Nos. Plot information

### **List of References**

- 1) Annual Report of LENDESA
- 2) Annual Report of DRDC, Birbhum Zilla Parishad
- 3) Performances report of BDO, Dubrajpur Development Block
- 4) Land Literacy- Olafur Arnalds, Professor, Soil Scientist
- 5) Land Use- The Environmental Literacy Council