



First the staff of GMO visited the village and discussed about cotton bag stitching. They said to form a group of four members who have taken tailoring training in their village. She undertook the cotton bag stitching training and was interested to take it forward. She started to produce clean and quality cotton bags. Through this activity she got employment and earnings to support her house. She discussed about to other three women and formed the SPG group and all of them started to stitch cotton bags, so far 400 bags have been produced by the group.

Theory of change

These stories are explaining about 5 years of Okkuta's effort in making young women in communities to grow as Leaders and towards sustainability.

6. Lingamma

Village: Sangasandra

Occupation: Furnace works



Lingamma is a native of Sangasandra Village in H. Gollahalli Gram Panchayat in Mulabagilu Taluk. She is the wife of Anandachari. The couple have two sons. While the first son is studying in 7th standard the second son is studying in 5th standard.

Her husband is a furnace worker and also does gold smith works. Lingamma has obtained tailoring training and she stitches clothes at home itself.

When the GMO functionaries visited the village efforts were made to form CDC Committee and identify women who are interested to work. Lingamma was selected as the Vigilance Committee activist. After that she participated in several training programs and meetings and gained knowledge. She also established contact with several government departments; it also helped her to grow personally. She was identified in the village and encouraged her as a leader. This helped her to develop leadership skills.

She made efforts to get all the facilities that are available from the government. She now shares all the information with the community and ensured all the villagers will get the facilities. All these factors created a good opinion about her among the villagers. Thus, Lingamma is working for the welfare of the society apart from taking care of her family.

She participated in gender equality training programs and understood both boys and girls are equal. She also shared whatever she has learnt with the villagers in the monthly CDC Committee meeting. She also visits the anganwadi schools in the village often and try to create awareness among the students and the teachers by distributing informative posters. She has made efforts to educate the people that both boys and girls are equal and also adopted it in her family.

Works done as a leader in the community

- Helped 30 women of a folk dance group to register under the scheme. As a result of this each of the 30 women have received a

sum of Rs. 3,000 financial assistance.

- Helped 20 persons to get Labour cards.
- Helped 5 people to get insurance facility from the Samruddhi Cooperative Society. They shouldered responsibility during the COVID-19 Pandemic and worked under the MGNREGA program in their village. They encouraged 100 other men, women and youth also to work under the NREGA scheme.
- Helped 35 persons to get ration kits during the lockdown period. Has shouldered more responsibilities. Has developed capabilities so as to disseminate information about the various government facilities without anyone's support.

It is not a simple matter that a woman who was just a home maker developed interest to help the community and made efforts to establish contact with the various government department officials from the last four years. Lingamma has improved so much that she also visits other villagers and provide information to the villagers about the government programs and schemes. We wish her interest and efforts further develops.

7. Shylaja

Village: Kavatanahalli

Age: 42 years

Caste: SC

Family background: The functionaries of the Grameena Mahila Okkuta visited our village first and formed a Community Development Committee and held a meeting. Problems of the women and the village were discussed in the meeting. In the beginning I did not had any

interest to join the committee. But the GMO functionaries identified my interest in serving the community and supported me and made me a member of the CDC committee. While working for the CDC Committee I developed interest to work for the cause of women. After that I was made a member of the Vigilance Committee. I also gained knowledge about the rights of women and legal aspects and am sharing my knowledge with the community and help women who need it.

As Vigilance Committee member: Cooperation in the family and village helped me to carry on my work. I conduct monthly meetings my gathering the women in the village. I make a note of all the topics that we discuss in the meeting. I also share information regarding the new schemes of the government with the women and help them to get the benefits.

I also monitor incidents of domestic violence against women, child marriages and dowry cases in the village and try to solve the problems whenever I come across it. We discuss such issues in the CDC meeting and try to solve the problem. In case if the problem couldn't be solve there we will take the victims to the department's concerned and solve the problem and instill courage in them. Every day in the evening we used to see some quarrels. We visited the household a woman named Venkatalakshamma who informed us that she is being harassed by her husband both physically and mentally in the influence of alcohol. Her husband Venkatramanappa was counselled and he was informed that violence against women is punishable offence and he might attract legal action. As a result of this the family is now living peacefully without quarrels.

I usually make efforts to solve small problems in the village by discussing locally and with the help of the CDC members and other elders of the village.

Achievements as a leader: Removed silt from the tank in the village under the NREGA program with the help of 30 workers. Thus, 30 persons got labour, they were also helped to get job cards.

- Formed 20 Stree Shakti groups
- Provided a sum of Rs. 15,000 funds to 15 persons at the rate of Rs.1,000/- each under Revolving fund from Sanjeevini groups.
- Health cards to 20 persons
- PAN cards for 35 persons
- Visited the anganwadi and schools and created awareness among the children about gender equality, good touch and bad touch, through posters. Posters were also distributed to the schools.
- Submitted application to the DCC bank to provide loan facilities to 20 Stree Shakti Sanghas.
- 25 women were educated about the various schemes and benefits available from the horticulture and agriculture departments and were helped to submit applications to avail the benefits.
- List of 35 women from three villages submitted under the Sanjeevini Scheme for VRF fund. A sum of Rs. 3,000/- has been granted to each beneficiary.
- Created awareness about COVID-19 Pandemic in the community and importance of taking vaccination.

Gram Panchayat recognition: The Sanjeevini Okkuta Sangha selected me as community resource person. Now I am working the gram panchayat okkuta sangha.

Okkuta perspective: Overall Shylaja participated in all the meetings and training programs and shared her learnings in the community. The beneficiaries have obtained information about the government facilities and programs, its uses and benefits. She has grown as an important resource person now. About 40 women in 20 villages have grown as leaders. We feel proud to say this.

8. Lakshmi

Age: 29 years

Village: Kadaripura

Caste: SC

Family background: Lakshmi is a resident of the Kadaripura village in Kurudumale Gram Panchayat of Mulabagilu Taluk and w/o Krishnamurthy. The couple have two children. While the first daughter is studying in 1st standard, the younger daughter is still one year old. Krishnamurthy works at a granite factory and Lakshmi is a housewife. She is also involved in the Gram Panchayat Sanjeevini Stree Shakti Sangha, as a community resource person.

The GMO functionaries were the first to visit our village. They formed CDC committee and discussed about the grievances of the women in the village. They also informed us about the various facilities available from the government. The women of the village requested the functionaries to provide a CRC, which was granted and started functioning within a few days. Women who are a little educated and those have interest to work were identified to work as the CRC animators. As I was

interested I agreed to work as the CRC animator and worked for 2 years.

I used to conduct CDC meeting every month with 30 women. I used to share information about the various facilities available from the government department and used to follow up the developments. I led the women to several government departments and created awareness about various facilities. I took them to the district-level and taluk-level government departments and explain them about the various schemes and its benefits and also used to introduce them to the officials of the department.

I engage women in any program of the Okkuta and provide information about the programs at the CDC meeting, to those who won't participate.

Works done as CRC animator:

- Helped 32 people to get job cards from gram panchayat.
- In the village to plant saplings, pits were dug under the MGNREGA program and also done canal work in previous years.
- Registered 3 Stree Shakti sanghas and started accounts
- Visited schools and anganwadis and checked what type of nutrition is provided to the infants and mothers and how meetings are conducted.
- Visited anganwadi centers and explained the children about good touch and bad touch through poster display. Posters were also distributed to the anganwadi centers.
- Tailoring training was provided to 15 women under the Rajiv Gandhi Chaitanya scheme.

- Created awareness among the women about legal rights.
- Educated the women about ill-effects and legal consequences of conducting child marriages, domestic violence against women.
- Participated in the jatha held in Bengaluru demanding the government to prohibit sale of alcohol in the village.
- Helped 15 women who have availed tailoring training to get honorarium.
- Identified people who were selling arrack in the village and made efforts to shut it with the help of the women of the village.
- Educated the women to develop kitchen garden in front of their houses and explained its benefits.
- Conducted programs in the village by inviting judges and advocates, to create awareness among the people about various laws and rights.
- Conducted jatha programs in the villages to create awareness among the people against domestic violence and child marriages.
- Created awareness among the villagers about COVID-19 Pandemic and the importance and need to take vaccination.
- Helped 10 persons to get building construction workers' cards.
- Helped 12 people to get Atal pension benefit.
- Helped 10 people to get PAN cards.
- Helped five women to avail loans from the Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Development Corporation

Created an environment in the village where the women have gained courage to speak about their problems publicly. People are educated about gender sensitivity and equality and changes are visible in the community now. Being a CRC animator I could do all this work. I didn't hesitate though I faced many hurdles. I strived to get cooperation of the people and achieve this. I couldn't work for one year due to my personal problems. But from the last 3 months I am engaged in the Okkuta works.

9. Gayathri

Village: Vegamadugu

Age: 32 years

Caste: SC



Family background: Gayathri is a resident of the Vegamadugu village in Timmravutana halli gram panchayat limits of Mulabagilu Taluk. There are 5 members in her family. She has two daughters and one son, who is studying in 3rd standard. Her daughters are physically challenged (mentally retarded) and hence they are at home. Her husband is a painter by profession. Gayathri used to work as a labourer. From the last 3 years she joined the Okkuta and is engaged in solving domestic violence problems by discussing in the CDC committee meetings. In case if the problem is not solved at that level she will help the women to seek the help of the Santwana Kendra. She also disseminates information about the various government department facilities available for women.

Completed 3 years as Vigilance Committee member

- As a vigilance committee member now I have learnt how to mingle and speak in public and how to converse and also gained skills of personal growth. It has

helped me to gain courage, trust and confidence.

- As VC member helped several people to get benefits.
- Helped 100 persons to get job cards from the gram panchayat.
- Helped 150 persons to get jobs under MGREGA program.
- Helped 30 persons to construct soakpits
- Solved the pension problem of 12 persons by visiting the department concerned and interacting with the officials.
- Helped three women to visit the Santwana Kendra and educate them about domestic violence by providing legal knowledge.

After joining as a VC member I have participated in several programs and mobilized information about the various government programs available from various government departments and shared it in the community. I have also availed many facilities personally. From the 3 years' experience as vigilance committee member the Okkuta has helped me to get selected as the Kayaka Bandhu in the gram panchayat. I worked for 6 months as Kayaka Bandhu. The Okkuta has extended all required support and cooperation to me.

10. Radha

Village: Sonnewadi

Age: 37 years

Caste: SC



Family background: Radha is a resident of the Sonnewadi village in Mulabagilu Taluk. There are three persons in her family. She has two children. Her daughter is studying BA and son is studying in 8th standard. Radha has

shouldered the responsibility of running the family. She depends upon tailoring to lead her life and educate her children.

Radha is working as CDC committee member in our Okkuta from the last two years and is participating in the meetings and other programs. Our organisation has been involved in providing a livelihood for poor rural women by creating a small job opportunity. Under the program tailoring training is provided to the eligible girls and they are engaged in stitching cloth bags. The objective of producing cotton hand bags is to prevent the usage of plastic hand bags. Plastic is hazardous to environment and also human health. It has also helped the women of the village to get job opportunities.

Formed entrepreneurs groups in the villages and explained about all the rules and regulations to the members. Each group was named and the members were given skill development training like stitching cotton cloth bags and also explained the beneficiaries about its uses and importance.

Radha, who is a member of the small entrepreneurs group of Sonnewadi village has learnt to cut the cloth to stitch bags. She also participated in the tailoring training program conducted by the Okkuta. She has cut 400 meters of cloth and stitched 350 bags and has still continued her work. It has helped her to get a small job opportunity and has helped her to obtain a little financial progress.

Now it has become a livelihood source for Radha. "The Okkuta has helped me to find a small job opportunity which has become my livelihood," she said in the CDC committee. We wish her further progress and become a model for others.

11. Vijayalakshmi

Village: Sonnewadi

Age: 24 years

Caste: SC



Family background: Vijayalakshmi is a resident of the Sonnewadi Village in Sonnewadi Gram Panchayat, of Mulabagilu taluk. There are five persons in her family. Her father is employed in the Tahasildar's office. She has studied upto PUC. Her mother is a housewife and also works as a labourer. She joined the GMO four years ago.

The Okkuta is working for the cause of women. It works in the areas of domestic violence against women and livelihoods. The objective of GMO is to disseminate information to the rural women about the various programs and schemes and its benefits, facilities.

"I was earlier a member of the Community Development Committee. Later when I was doing the programs there, the Committee members recognized my work and selected me as Resource Centre activist.

The CDC meetings are held once in a month in the village. I conduct the meeting as the Community Resource Center activist. I try to solve the problems relating to child marriages, domestic violence, etc. In case if the problems are not solved at the committee level, we will try to take it to the department level and try to solve it.

- I have helped 50 persons to get NRM under the NREGA program and ensured that they get 7 days wages.
- Helped 100 persons to obtain job cards under the MGNREGA program, from the gram panchayat.

- Helped 20 people to get pension by solving their problem by approaching the department concerned.
- Visited the Deputy Commissioner's office and made efforts to help several people to get changes in the Aadhar card. Also helped 10 people to get Aadhar cards.
- Helped 30 people to get PAN cards.

I have been working with the Okkuta from the last four years. I gained knowledge about the

various schemes and programs available from the various government departments and disseminate the information in the community. I also help the women to get all the facilities and benefits from the departments concerned. Vijayalakshmi has grown as a worker. Her services was recognized and she was appointed as the 'Kaayaka Bandhu' of the Sonawadi gram panchayat, with the cooperation of GMO for six months. "The GMO has been very supportive for me in this regard," she says.



GRAMEENA MAHILA OKKUTA

Kolar District

Jatha programme to
Save Lakes / Tanks - 2021

“Promising Water for the Community”

11th & 12th August 2021



