



## **:Saraswathi Self Help Group Achieved within Short Period:**

**Summary:** Saraswathi Self Help Group bagged the best SHG prize at the state level. Revival of traditional art on the cloths, renting of agriculture equipment, production of local food varieties, value addition and sale are the activities involved in by Saraswathi SHG that made them go up the ladder of development.

Hulimane is a village in Siddapura taluk situated inside the forest. Houses are spread in the village scattered. MANUVIKASA NGO motivated the women in this village to form Saraswathi SHG. There are seven members in the SHG. In the last 6 years this SHG name heard at the national level at Delhi. This SHG has adopted lot of creative and innovative economic development and poverty reduction activities through micro-enterprise approach.

**Revival of traditional knitting:** Knitting on the cloths with different arts is a traditional enterprise in Siddapura taluk. Without knowing the skills by the new generation the knitting is unseen. Lakshmi Ganapathi and other members of the SHG decided to revive this traditional skill and pass on to next generation. Hence, taken up this as an enterprise. They are selling lot of cloths after knitting them with pictures in different patterns.



**Areca processing unit:** Areca growing farmers are more in Hulimane village. Labour problem is faced by the farmers to harvest areca, decorticating and boiling. Some farmers use to sell raw areca without processing due to labour problem and making less income. This is observed by the SHG decided and established a areca processing unit during 2017-18 and made available to the farmers on rental basis. This decorticating machine helped many farmers.

**Agriculture Equipment's Maintenance Unit:** After successful functioning of areca processing unit, SHG decided to establish an Agriculture Equipment's maintenance unit. They

purchased some of the equipment's such as Tractor, Paddy harvesting machine, ploughing instrument, tree cutting machine, Tiller, weed removal machine, etc. which is used by the farmers on rental basis. This facility helped the farmers not only in the Hulimane village, but also farmers in the surrounding villages. The total expenses for the establishment of unit was Rs.10 lakhs, wherein Rs.2 lakhs contributed by the SHG and remaining Rs.8 lakhs provided by the Agriculture Department as subsidy. Ms.Lakshmi, President of the SHG provided space for maintaining equipment's in her small shed as this unit is started recently during 2022.

**Preparation of Art Work:** All members of the SHG prepare house decorative items and sell those. Old cloths, fibre, fodder and other raw materials are used to prepare puppets, garlands, bags, mats, flower pots, etc.

**Value Addition:** Lots of jackfruit is naturally grown in the Hulimane village. SHG collects raw and ripen fruits and prepare various food items such as Chips, Papad and Jam. MANUVIKASA NGO provided training to SHG members on production of these products, packaging and maintaining hygiene during preparation. Last year (2021) 10 thousand papads, 80 kg. chips and 15 kg. jam was prepared and sold. Jam was sold at Rs.500/kg., Chips at Rs.400/kg and papad at Rs.2 per papad. They got an income of Rs.7,500 from Jam, Rs.32,000 from Chips and Rs.20,000 from papad, thus totaling the gross income of Rs.59,500. SHG say that 80% of the income is net income or say profit to the group. All are sharing these profits equally.

**Increasing Sales through new avenues:** SHG is always thinking to expand their production and sales business. It has registered under "Sanjivini" scheme of the state government (National Rural Livelihood Mission) and have obtained trainings. The SHG federation set up under the scheme at Grama panchayath level is providing loan facility to the member SHGs. In 2019, SHG participated in 'Saras Mela' organized at New Delhi and made an income of Rs.1.5 lakhs. Moreover, Saraswathi SHG bagged the prize as "State Level Best SHG" under the NRLM-Sanjivi scheme.



**Future Plans:** Areca processing unit is running successfully and profitably. They are thinking of making the Agriculture Equipment's unit also profitably. More preparations are being done by the group to ensure this. They are thinking to publish a handbill with the details of services

available in the unit and distribute to the farmers. They think if farmers access more services from the unit, there will be good income and profit. They want to establish an areca nursery as there is lot of demand for areca saplings in the village. Moreover, the members of the group is already having the adequate knowledge and skills of growing areca nursery. Further, they also wish to undergo trainings on tailoring and mushroom cultivation.

MANUVIKASA NGO is responding the aspirations of the group. Therefore, members feel that all their dreams come true. SHG is headed by Ms.Lakshi as President and Ms.Gayathri Ganapathi Naik is the Secretary. Gowramma, Pavithra, Shakunthala and Thungabhadra are active members of the group.

**Address:**

Lakshmi Ganapath,

President

Hulimane village, Bedakani Grama Panchaayath

SiddapuraTq., Uttara Kannada District