



Community-based and driven, empowering older people and strengthening family and community support mechanisms

With the support in the form of ration, clothes, medicine and even pocket money these old aged women are not seen as a burden to the family. Now, they lead a dignified life enjoying a cordial relationship with their relatives and neighbours. They express their sincere thanks to their respective sponsors with the support of which they are now protected from facing ill – treatment and are enjoying a dignified life.

Focused on the most vulnerable older people.

Periodic campaigns have been organised with the most vulnerable old women so that they can be ensured with their rights, become aware about the old age problems and lead a dignified life.

Intergenerational in its approach.

The groups are meeting regularly where different stakeholders and even their family members are present. In these meetings main stress was given on the problems the old age people are facing, the government support systems which are available for people of this age. It's the effect of these meetings that they old aged people are enjoying cooperation, respect and enjoying a symbiotic relationship.

Working towards sustainability and non-dependence on Sponsor a Grandparent funds.

As these people are old aged who presently lacks the physical strength to work so most of our focus is on strengthening the family bonds and supporting the family as a whole so that the lack of financial resources doesn't become the factor for ill – treatment of them. We are even providing them loans to start certain income generation activities in order to avail better living conditions. So, with the support for improving economic condition along with the motivating family to strengthen the family bonds, the families will be gradually self – sustained.

Working in partnership with other local organization:

Search for sponsors were going on till date 2 sponsors came forward to help 4 old women. We are also looking forward to get support from other organisations who work for addressing problems of old age.

Has an advocacy component

The old women and their family members who were facing the problems of old age got a much needed hand of support. With the help of series of awareness activities which includes wall poster, rally, and street theatre etc., the families not only came to know about various government support system but few of them started availing its benefits also.

With due support for their economic betterment along with series of awareness to have better family bonding, more knowledge and preparedness towards old age problem and with the series of advocacy to link them with government support system available, now the old aged persons are leading a dignified life and family are becoming self sustainable.

Stories from the Nishtha sponsored grannies

, Menoka Pramanik (spokesperson), wish you a very happy new year.

I have two sons, the younger one work as mason and normally able to get work for 15 days only. The elder one works as daily labour, in the village the work is normally not available for all days especially rainy season affects the most, so he has to go to city for work. The family have around 9 kattahs of land where whole family farms but the land are not that fertile and can only yield once a year. Most of people in the village have same condition as of mine. Mostly villages earn their livelihood by working as daily labour or are small farmers or few runs small business.

As the village is quite underdeveloped so there is not much source of entertainment and only the relatively rich people have a comfort of television. Most of the times we (I and other people of my age) spend time talking to the family members and other people of the paras (hamlets). Occasionally some programmes happen in the village where we enjoy participating.

If we fell sick there is not much of medical facility including specialist doctor having expertise or experience of dealing with old age problems. Presently, when we fell sick we go to the doctor who sits at Nishtha's centre and occasionally we have to seek treatment from outside.

We receive clothing, ration, medicines and even some pocket money from Nishtha which helps me and my family to lead a relatively dignified life.

The social workers of Nishtha visit us regularly and organise meeting with us and our family members. Because of this effort, the old aged women of the village have come together; we share our problems and found good friends who stand by us to give us moral support during difficult times. I wish apart from the few grannies which supported under this programme, if rest all the grannies of the village have been brought together then it would have been very nice and effective.

Case study of Nibashi Naskar (Narrated by Menoka, Spokesperson)

The husband's name of Nibashi is Late Nandalal. They have three daughters and two sons. They have a joint family. Her sons work as daily labours and do small farming. The younger son has one daughter and two sons while the elder son doesn't have any child. The wife of her elder son died five months ago and three months ago her husband also died. These incidents adding the growing age (presently she is 75) have given a quite big trauma to her.

She assists in the daily chores of the family. The condition of the family has improved as she gets ration, clothes, medicine and some money from Nishtha. Although she shares very good relationship with other members of the family but the support extended by Nishtha gives her a dignified life. We all are standing by her so that she can recover quickly from this set back.

Case study of Sukuali Pramanik (Narrated by Menoka, Spokesperson)

She has three daughters and three sons. All the daughters are married. The elder son is married having one son and one daughter. He used to drive auto rickshaw but presently he work as a daily labourer. The second son is married and is having son and one daughter. He stays out and does embroidery work. Sukuali stays with her younger son, her younger works in Kolkata but Sukuali doesn't know exactly the nature of work.

She took loan from Nishtha to do farming. After getting the loan and farming her family life is going on smoothly. She receives all the benefit of this programme. She was sick when she got an injury at waistline. She had to go to her daughter's house for treatment but now she is fine.