

The Tejaswinis in Making

Dear Sir ,

the story mentioned below is not a story from a storyteller's imagination. This is the true fact of SHG movement in a tribal dominated backward district of Orissa.

They are the Tejaswinis in making. The tribal women members near Kalinga Nagar area in Orissa, are being trained to undertake various activities to become self-reliant.

The Tejaswini training programme, aims at empowering women for a developed society by educating them about their role in sustainable industrialization and development of their own community and region as well as providing them with opportunities of alternative livelihood. After successful completion of the training programme, each participants is referred to as Tejaswini, and is thus considered empowered.

Women in rural and tribal communities both physically and culturally possess qualities which remain unexplored due to social practices, customs and most importantly lack of awareness. Wherever their inner strength, skills and creativities are tapped, it has given birth to a new society. Keeping this in mind the Tejaswini programme has been designed to bring out the hidden talents of rural women and to provide them support in terms of training and employment opportunities to make them feel and be empowered from within.

As a first step towards this, the women including the members of Panchayati Raj institutions of Kalinganagar locality in Jajpur district were given training in Gandhi Labour Foundation at Puri, on the issues of empowerment and sustainable development. Gandhi Labour Foundation, established in the year 1999 not only educates rural populace of the country to improve their skills but also imparts them knowledge on their rights and duties to make them better citizens and human beings.

In this initiative the participants were given information about new avenues of income generation, available assistance opportunities from industries and the government, procurement of raw materials, technical assistance and proper marketing of the products.

As a second and final step to identify the Tejaswinis of Kalinganagar, a five month long competition has been initiated on 16th November 2009 amongst the women community through their Self Groups to asses their creative and leadership qualities. Around 1000 tribal and non-tribal women are participating in this assessment process from 50 periphery villages of Kalinganagar through 65 women Self Help Groups.

Women from various villages like Ranipada Gram Panchayat, Trijanga, Dhuligada, Nadiabhanga and Gobarghati . PRI Members Mrs Prabhati Bala, Sarpancha of Gobardhanapur, Mrs Rasmita Sirika Panchayat Sabhya of Jakhapura Gram Panchayat, Mrs Golap Barika, Sarpancha of Olia Gram Panchayat, Mrs Golap Rana, Samiti Sabhya of Ranipada village, Mrs Bhobani Purty, Sarpancha , Pingala village, Mr Sridhar Prusty, Sarpancha of Dhuligada village, Mr Sunaram Jagarai, Samiti Sabhya of Trijanga Gram Panchayat, Mrs Lily Prabha Behera, Sarpancha of Mantira Gram Panchayat are the judges for the Tejaswini search program.

Dear Sir, the participation of a large numbers of women from hundreds of villages , mostly from project affected villages, proves that these people are in favour of industrilisation and their complete rejection of BVJM. BVJM has a nominal support, and in order to keep its unreasonable agitation alive is resorting to violence and is terrorizing the innocent villagers into supporting them. This agitation is only successful in putting a break to the pace of development and nothing else.

We hereby request you to take immediate action in exposing these anti developmental activities of BVJM and help us to be a part of developmental process and lead an honourbale diginified life.

1 - Maa Magala S.H.G. - Trijanga.

President - Razia Begam.

শ্রী মনজা মলিক মুহঃ হাজিরা মোম্বা
Razia Begam.



2 - Akhandale Swar S.H.G. - Trijanga

Sec - Sanjulata Das.

3 - Sec - Nagari Jamuda - Sargam Sakam S.H.G. Trijanga - 2

4 - Sec - Baha S.H.G. Trijanga - 2

5 - President - Suda S.H.G. Trijanga - 2

6 - Secretary - Sagen S.H.G. - Trijanga - 2

7 - President - Singbanga S.H.G. - Trijanga - 2

8 - Secretary - Janaki Hembam - Maa Durga S.H.G. - Trijanga - 2

9 - President - Maa Mangala S.H.G. - Trijanga - 1



10 - President - Usharmani Banik - Maa Jhikheti S.H.G. - Barigodha.



11 - President - Maa Mangalata S.H.G. - Barigodha.



12 - President - Maa Khandurai S.H.G. - Gopalpur.



