

Success Story of the Lakhpati Didi



1. BASIC DETAILS

Name of Lakhpati Didi	Khondram Ongbi Ranapati Devi		
Name of Self Help Group	Chaokhat Khongthang Self Help Group		
State	Manipur	District	Thoubal
Block	Lilong C.D. Block	Village	Khekman Lairembi Leikai

2. CURRENT LIVELIHOOD ACTIVITIES

Khondram Ongbi Ranapati Devi engages in various Livelihood Activities, including Weaving Phee and Phanek, traditional attire of the region, Piggery Farming, Vegetable Farming and also a Bank Sakhi (Cadre) of her Gram Panchayat.

3. A SHORT NOTE ON LAKHPATI DIDI'S TRANSFORMATION JOURNEY

Introduction

Ranapati, a 43-year-old resident of Khekman Gram Panchayat under the Lilong Block in Thoubal District, faced significant financial challenges. Her husband, without a permanent job, struggled to support their family, which included four children. The family often found it difficult to meet their basic needs and provide adequately for their children.

Joining the SHG

In 2021, Ranapati was introduced to the concept of Self-Help Groups (SHGs) by the Pradhan of her area. She became a member of the Chaokhat Khongthang SHG under the Pandam Village Level Federation (VLF). Joining the SHG opened up new avenues for financial assistance and skill development.

First Loan and Weaving Business:

Ranapati's first significant step was taking a loan of INR 20,000 from the SHG. She used this loan to purchase raw materials for weaving Phee and Phanek, traditional attire of her region. Her skill in weaving coupled with the demand and quickly turned this venture into a profitable business. This success provided her family with a stable source of income.



Fig: Ranapati in her Pig Farm

Expanding into Piggery Farming:

With the initial success in weaving, Ranapati sought to diversify her income sources. She took another loan of INR 20,000 through internal lending from the SHG and ventured into Piggery Farming. This new activity also proved successful, with livestock becoming a valuable asset for her family.

Additional Livelihood Activities:

Besides weaving and piggery farming, Ranapati also engaged in vegetable farming. This activity provided an indirect yet substantial income, further enhancing her family's financial stability. The combination of these livelihood activities ensured a diversified income stream.



Fig: Weaving Enna-phae

Family Collaboration:

Before joining the SHG, Ranapati's husband had no permanent job, making it difficult to provide for their children. However, with the profits from weaving and piggery farming, he started working alongside Ranapati. Together, they managed to turn their fortunes around, ensuring a better quality of life for their children.

Role as Bank Sakhi:

In addition to her entrepreneurial activities, Ranapati also became a Bank Sakhi (Cadre) for Khekman Gram Panchayat. This role involved providing banking services to SHG members, facilitating financial transactions, and promoting financial literacy.



Fig : Bank Sakhi, Ranapati, in her office's cabin

Her involvement as a Bank Sakhi has not only benefited other SHG members but also enhanced her own knowledge, confidence, and communication Skills.

Impact of joining SHG:

Ranapati's decision to join the SHG has brought about a transformative change in her life. The financial assistance, coupled with the knowledge and skills she gained, boosted her confidence and communication abilities. Her diversified ventures now bring in a monthly income of approximately Rs 30,000, significantly improving her family's quality of life.



Fig : Credit Outreach Programme conducted by Punjab & Sind Bank, Khekmans

Conclusion:

Ranapati's story is a powerful testament to the impact of Self-Help Groups. Her journey from financial hardship to entrepreneurial success demonstrates how access to financial resources, combined with determination and hard work, can lead to substantial personal and economic growth. Her success not only transformed her family's fortunes but also serves as an inspiration to her community, encouraging others to explore similar paths toward financial independence and empowerment.

