

## SUCCESS STORY

**Livelihood programme : Mushroom production**  
**Name of the group : Akash Women Self Help Group**  
**Address : Gopalpara, Tilabani, Block-Simlapal**  
**Name of the leaders : Mrs. Susama Chakraborty- Secretary**  
**Mrs. Papiya Chakraborty- President**  
**Mrs. Namita Chakraborty- Treasurer**



This is very interesting success story of Akash Women Self Help Group members of Simlapal Block. In this village most of the people are farmers having few land for cultivation and irregular rain fall, they used to face so many problems. Before group formation all the female members were just home maker, in fact they had lot of domestic work but had no scope to participate in any social development work or any livelihood activities and fully dependent on their husband's income, though it was too little to meet their family needs. In the course of time they came to know about Women Self Help Group promotional programme promoted by NABARD, Govt. of Indiathrough Gandhi Vichar Parisad, Bankura. NABARD and Bankura DCC members selected the Gandhi Vichar Parisad as Anchor N.G.O. in Bankura district for promoting and nurturing the Women Self Help Groups in the year of 2012. After that, supervisors of G.V.P. had conducted two or three meetings with all village members both male and female and then female members of the village formed their Self Help Group with 13 members on 26.03.2013. They had opened their WSHG Savings Account in the B.G.V.B. (Bangiya Gramin Vikas Bank). They had decided to save Rs 50/- by each member monthly. Then Gandhi Vichar Parisad organised two days trainings on Group Management and Accounts Management including leadership. The group maintained regular group meeting at least 3 in a month, regular savings, regular books& records keeping, inter-lending then in the year 2015, January they got Rs 65,000/- as C.C. Bank loan from B.G.V.B. and the amount used for cow purchase, grocery shop, readymade garment business, agriculture and family needs by the group members.

Group members were not satisfied because they wanted to do something different and earn themselves. Then they discussed with Gandhi Vichar Parisad members and decided to produce mushroom, but they did not have any technical knowledge about it. Gandhi Vichar Parisad had organised a 7-days training on mushroom production by an authorised trainer. All the members of the Akash WSHG had been trained along with few male members for support. The group took 2<sup>nd</sup> bank C.C. loan of Rs 1,95,000/- and they invested maximum loan amount in Mushroom production and rest for their family needs and other individual business.



Already they have produced 20 kg mushroom and waiting for next production, it is under process. This is very high food value product and having high public demand.



They sold it @Rs 150/- per kg outside and also the group members purchased themselves by @Rs 120/- per kg. When we asked them how their feelings at present, they replied that they are very much self-confident and encouraged specially the male members of their family are helping them too much even sometimes the male members are offering tea & snacks when they are in meeting at home. Few male members were present there, they told that the group members are very much active in their income generating programme and they do not wasting their time by watching T.V. and meaningless chattering, talking but they utilize the time fully in creative work, they also very happy to watch women group activities.

Now the group members are keeping regular contact with Block Office, Panchayat Office and bank and gradually they are becoming more self-confident and going towards self-reliant.

