

SSVK Stories of Hope



➤ Case study1 : Achieved the goal with the help of Gram Kosh (village fund)

During 1993-94 in Hasaulia village of Madhubani district conflict arose between landlord and labourers for wages. Labourers had boycotted the works of landlords for about eight months. They foiled all ill efforts of landlords with the help of their unity. Labourers slogan was; No reasonable wage, No work. Rameshwar Sadai, Domi Sadai, Laxmi Sadai, Nasiblal Sadai, Kaushalya Devi, Murty Devi and others were leading the labourers. The deepness of this conflict can not be known easily. Labourers remains jobless for eight months, faces the conspiracy of landlords, faces the different social, economic , legal and natural hurdles. In the period of crisis Gram Kosh(village fund) came to their rescue. Labourers feed their family with grains collected for village fund . Besides they meet their other requirements with the help of village fund. Finally landlords were compelled to bow before unity of labourers. Land remains barren and this hamper the economic condition of landlords. In reality they could not survive without the help of labourers . Finally there was an agreement between landlord representative and Mukhiya of panchayat Chandra Kant Jha and Labourer representative Lok Sakti Sangathan. Landlords agreed to give proper wage . Ultimately Labourers returns to their work when their demand were fulfilled,. It can be easily imagine that without the help of village fund Labourers were not in position to face the situation. They could not agitate for eight months. Without the help of village fund Labourers must have to face sarvation. Really village fund comes to their rescue and they successfully strive their struggle.

➤ Case Study 2: Land possession in Badki Nawani

There is a mushari in the village Badki Nawani of Jhanjharpur block in Madhubani district. Gram Kosh(Village fund) works in this mushari. Chedi saday and Madhuri Saday has taken the training of catalyst and organizer in the camp organized by samajik Shaikshanic vikas Kendra (SSVK) in 1994. There is one bigha 10 kattha land in southern part of village. This land was illegally grabed by landlord since long time . Peoples of mushari unitedly built their houses there . With the help of Gram Kosh they dig a pond in six kattha. These peoples has wages a struggle against bric kiln owners. For proper wages they had boycotted the work in klin and restricted the urban labourers to come here and work. Ultimately labourers wins their struggle . Mind set of labourers has changed after their training and establishment of village fund.

➤ Case study 3: Picture has changed

My name is Sanichari Devi. By cast I am an Mallah and belong to Haithiwalla village of Jhanjharpur block under Madhubani district. In 1995, I associated with Lok sakti Sangathan and began orgnisational work in the village.

Brahmans of our village used to oppressed us. They used to do our economic, social exploitation. They used us as bonded labourer. Exploit us by giving loan on interest. They used to beat us without any reason. But situation changed after formation of Lok Sakti sangathan in the village. Associating myself with sangathan I began to look after social problems and thereafter struggle began. Feudals worries began. Initially peoples of Mallah caste had not any ponds for fishries or to crop Makhana. Feudals had registered fake societies in the name of mallah people. Brahmans used to earn from societies formed in our names. They did not gave anything to us.

But formation of village Fund changed the situation. Between 1996 and 2002 about 2 Lakh 80 thousand rupees were deposited in village Fund. This perplexed the feudals. They feels that Sanichari Devi by orgnising people will take the control of pond. By conspiracy feudals devided us. Our community divided in two parts. Even village Fund divided in two parts. After this in association with Yogendra Mukhiya I began to work in new way. We set up new Village Fund. Lok sakti Sangathan began to gave more emphasis on organizing women. We deposited 90 thousand in village Fund.

Near our village there is a Mansaber pond in 28 acres.. This pond was in control of landlord ShivNandan Mishra and other feudals. Under the banner of Lok Sakti Sangathan we started our struggle for control of pond. I meet the official of Fishermen Societies with Yogendra Mukhiya. Our struggle got momentum. Feudals registered false cases against us. Our ten friends were made named accused. But feudals could not get anything due to our unity. They were compelled to withdraw cases in 2002. In the meantime I contacted the world Bank for lease of pond for 20 years. Till then in our village Fund one lakh rupees were deposited. After continuous struggle in 2003 we succeeded in getting the patta of pond for ten years in my name. This was achieved with the help of Lok Sakti Sangathan and village fund. After getting the patta, we women started fishries in the pond. We have to invest 20 thousand rupees every year for fish seed .

we are moving towards economic self dependence. Our yearly income is 50 thousand. With the help of Gram Kosh (Village Fund) we have purchased a big net to catch the fishes. After getting economic self dependence we are moving towards social self dependence. The whole picture has been changed due to village Fund. Previously, In absence of employment people of our village were compelled to migrate. But now they used to cooperate in our works. Bonded labour has been abolished. I have provided the benefits of govt. scheme to our villagers with the help of govt officials. Health sub center has been opened from MP Fund. Peoples are benefited from Sangathan. We are getting honour in society.

➤ Case Study 4: Village identity associated with the name of Tiliya Devi

My name is Tiliya Devi . I belong to Madhubani District. By caste I am a Mushhar. My village khari comes under Lakhnowr block. My husband name is Nepal Sadai. I had taken the training of Social Animator in the camp organized by SSVK in the year 1992. Several topics were discussed during the training. Discussion encouraged our self confidence. I have faced the social and family torture. Family had deserted me. Even my husband raised question on my character and deserted me. But I did not accept defeat and associated myself with social work. I organized village women and set up Gram Kosh(village Fund) for economic self dependence. The main aim was to get rid of moneylenders. Initially each family used to deposit ten rupees every month in village fund. In this way we have deposited one lakh in Village Fund. Village Fund used to help on occasion of marriage, for treatment etc.

In our village there was 9 acre land of bhoodan. This was in feudals control. We dalits tried to built our house on this land. After erecting huts we used to live there. But feudals burnt our huts. They beaten us and looted our livestock . After this they registered cases against us. In spite of all these I did not accept defeat. I continues to contribute to society. I was elected member of Panchyat Samitee in 2002. In a function Congress General Secretary Ms. Marget Alva said about me that only Tiliya Devi understood the meaning of struggle.

In 2005 I was nominated for noble peace award. Congress President Sonia Gandhi awarded me by Outlook Speak Award on 11 Sept at New Delhi. In my village besides Village Fund struggle is going on for parcha of 156 acres of land under my leadership. As yet we have get the parcha of 13 acres.

In this way with the help of our struggle families of our community has got honour in the society. We are living with dignity. Today our village khari is being known as Tiliya khari.

➤ Case Study 5: Success achieved through struggle

My name is Prithvi Sadai. I belong to village Danapur of Maruna block in Supual district. In the year 1993 I had taken the training of Social Animator at SSVK. After getting the training I returned to village and told our villager about Village Fund and then organized the Lok Sakti Sangathan. We set up Village Fund and collection started. Joint Account in the name of Sumitra Devi, Urmila devi and myself was opened in Bhaluahi Rural Bank.

Under my leadership struggle began against problems. There was 12 bigha Bhoodan land near Mushar tola in Danapur. 11 mushars has certificate of this land. But feudals of Brahmpur village has grabbed this land since years. Dalit families of the village in a meeting decided to liberate this land from illegal occupation. We decided to start struggle to achieve this goal.

After that we erected huts on this land and started to live there. Landlords registered cases against us. Cases began in Supual court. We get help from Village Fund. This case was started in 1995 and in the year 1998 judgment came in our favour. 30 thousand has been spend from village Fund in this case. With the help of village fund ,we dalits get this 15 acre land and today this land is in occupation of ten dalit families. Beside this there is houses of 28 families and two acres of land for which we are struggling.

Due to our struggle we had get dignity. Our self confidence has increased. I was unopposed elected Ward Member in 2001. With our help dalits are getting the benefits of govt schemes like Indira Aawas Yojna, Old age pension, Annpurna Yojna etc. We are dedicated to Lok sakti Sangathan and Village Fund.



➤ Case Study 6: Acquire the rights on land

Dev Sadai and Sudama Devi belong to village Fatki Mushari of Madhubani district. By caste both are dalit mushar. They jointly lead their village. Both has got training of Social Animator in 1992 at SSVK. During training process they were told about Village Fund, confidence building, struggle against social evils etc. After training they returned to their village and organized village Fund and Lok sakti Sangathan.

After this in the year 1993 struggle began for 30 acres of land. 51 peples get the parcha of this land in 1994. Previously there was only one handpump for 100 dalits family of this village. On the initiative of Lok Sakti Sangathan Villagers organised a meeting for health sub center and process began for the purpose. Debu Sadai, Sudama Devi, Tiripat Sadai took the leadership. With the help of Village Fund govt ultimately sanctioned health sub center for the village. Later on case of land was also resolved. After this landlord started their attempts to crush the dalits. In a meeting they said that how dalits has achieved all this. In this way one day they will grab our land also. However, they willingly provided land for health sub center. Now this sub center is functioning properly. After constructing the building of health sub center we have built the Panchayat Bhawan with the help of village Fund. Post office has been opened in the village. Feudlas were against this but with the strength of Lok Sakti Sangathan and village fund we succeeded in our purpose.

In the year 1997-98 struggle began for 56 acres of land under the leadership of Debu Sadai and Sudama Devi. As yet dalits have received the legal occupation of 30 acres of this land. With the help of village fund struggle is going on for the rest. In this struggle as yet 25 thousand has been spent from village fund. On the initiative of sangathan an embankment has been built from govt fund by investing 5 lakh rupees. Dalit dalan has been also constructed from govt fund. Two lakh 60 thousand has been spend on this. PDS shop was also opened in the village in 1998 in the name of Sudama Devi.

In this way villagers are getting the benefiats of govt. scheme under the leadership of Debu Sadai and Sudama Devi. Villagers have got their dignity and the whole world of dalits has been changed with the help of village fund.

➤ Case Study 7: Consiparacy failed

My name is Khikhar Sadai. I belong to village Barmottar of Maouna block under Supaul district. I have taken the 20 days training of Social Animator in 1993 at SSVK. During training period we were told about Village Fund, Confidence building]and struggle against social evils and migration. After getting the training I returned to my village and organized a meeting of villagers. I told them all things and inspired them to form village fund. In this meeting two women Reshma Devi and Dulari Devi were elected. Joint account in their name opened in Regional Rural Bank, Muraina. We began to put the collection of village Fund in this account. Tthis way, we have deposited about 40 thousand. There was ten acres of land of ceiling act. This land was under the illegal possession of village strongman Umanath Yadav. We, mushars were landless. In 1997-78 we captured and built our huts on this land. Then landlord registered a case against us. Ten people were made accused. Case linger to ten years. In the process about 30 thousand were spent from village Fund in case. Finaly court judgment came in our favour. Some part of this land we have left for cultivation. On the rest huts has been constructed. Previously landlords used to oppressed us but now we are free. We lives with social dignity. With the help of village fund and Lok Sakti Sangathan social and educational situation has changed enormously.

In 2001 I also won the election of ward member. Associating with panchayat I delievered the benefits of govt schemes like Indira Aawas Yojna, Old age pension, Annapurna Yojna, Job card etc. to the villagers. With the help of village fund we waged a war againsed bonded labour and moneylenders oppression. Our struggle will continue ahead with the help of village Fund .

➤ Case Study 8: Get the Benefits of govt. schemes

My name is Mungia Devi. I belong to Mushar community of Madhubani district. I am from village Koilbigha which comes under Banki block. No. of dalit mushar families in my village is 266. I have taken the training of social Animator at SSVK in 1992. During training period we were told about Village Fund, Confidence building and struggle against social evils and migration. After training I returned to my village and set up village fund . Before this dalits used to take loan from people of upper caste in lieu of bonded labour. We were compelled to do work even in illness. After formation of village fund a joint account in name of Surat Lal Sadai and myself was opened in Punjab National Bank, Madhepur. With the help of this amount I started struggle against bonded labour and moneylenders. In the process of land struggle as yet we have spend about 73 thousand rupees. Presently there is 65 thousand rupees in our village fund. Besides in our village there is a lake of Bihar govt. in ten acres. we were prohibited from fishing in this lake.

Geographically our village used to be surrounded with water for six months in a year. In a way we live on an island. In the year 1995 We started struggle for chaur which was in illegal occupation of feudal Ram Prasad Mukhiya. Our struggle began against him. He brings goons from outside and tries to torture us. After this legal battle began. We won the legal battle. Now I used to feed my family by fishing in chaur. I am also operating village fund. I was unopposed elected panchayat member in 2001. In the year 2006 I was elected Panch unopposed. I provided the benefits of govt. scheme to the dalits. Due to my endeavour dalits are getting the benefits of govt schemes like Indira Awas. Annapurna, Maternity benefits etc. In gist economic, social and educational status has changed with the help of village fund. We get rid of bonded labour, moneylenders and migration. We are living with dignity.

➤ **Case study 9 : Became self dependent**

Mrs. Kavita Devi and Mrs. Bhulukan Devi belongs to Godhanpur village of Madhubani district. This village is in sukhet panchayat of jhanjharpur block. There are 190 dalits families in the village. Mrs. Kavita Devi and Mrs. Bhulukan Devi had taken the training of social Animator in the year 1992. Previously members of their community used to weave Mothia ka pariya by taking loans on heavy interest rate from money lenders. Money lenders used to take monthly interest at rate of Rs. 5 to 7 per hundred. Defaulters were compelled for bonded labour and used to be harassed. After taking the training these both women returns to their village and founded village fund by collecting amount from their community. They struggled against the exploitation of moneylenders. Today 80 thousand has been deposited in village fund. Govt , has given them parcha of bhoodan land. But they could not take possession of the land. Feudal of the village has captured the land. They used to oppress dalits. Compelled them to do bonded labour. They provide only two ser paddy(dhan) in lieu of labour. Not only this but they also used to physically assault them. Womens of the village with the help of their struggle acquired four bigha of land in 2002. They got proper rights. But feudals lodged cases against them. Even then these womens does not accept defeat. Ultimately in 2006 they won the legal battle. All the people of community helped them in this battle. With the help of administration dalits has built their huts on this land. Now these womens are free from the clutches of moneylenders with the help of village fund. They are living with dignity.

➤ **Case Study 10: Protested Unitedly**

My name is Gulam devi. I belong to village Sukhet of Jhanjharpur block in Madhubani district. There are 112 mushar dalit families in my village. We have got the 5 acre 17 kathha of land from Bihar Govt. in 1979 under ceiling Act. We started farming on this land. After five years, feudal Nasib Lal began to threaten us and told us that he is owner of this land. He threatened us to left the land otherwise he will shoot us. He physically assaulted us by employing goondas. He filed 10-12 case against us in Jhanjharpur court. Before this I had taken the training of social Animator along with Wasath Sadai at SSVK. After training we set up village Fund. Joint account in the name of Gulab Devi and Kushma Devi had been opened in the bank. With the help of village fund we raised our voices against the oppression of feudal. In court cases 87 thousand has been spend from village fund. Besides village fund village women were with us. One day feudals registersd a case against us and daroga beaten us by lathi. Womens comes in front against this and teach a lesson to policemen. In the court proff was in our favour. Ultimately with the help of village fund of Lok Dakti Sangatan we acquired 5 acres 17 kathha land and pond of 2 bighas. We also got the legal rights. From this struggle we have got the social-economic status. Now we are living with full dignity.

➤ **Case Study 11 : Became free from clutches of money lendes**

My name is Reshma Devi. I am 53 years old dalit mushar women. My husband name is Maksudan Sadai. I belong to village Devoka of Saharsa district. This village is under Navhatta block. Previously under social and family pressure I was living a simple life. Village feudals used to repress us. Moneylenders also used to exploit us. Geographical situation of my village is different from others. My village is an island situated in middle of Kosi. Peoples of my community are socially, economically and financially very weak. Village is surrounded by water for 4 manths in a year. Every year we have to bear loss of flood. With a view to get rid of these problems I associated myself with Lok Sakti Sangathan. After taking training from SSVK, I founded village fund in my village. Joint Account in the name of Saharsa district. This village is under Navhatta block. Previously under social and family pressure I was living a simple life. Village feudals used to repress us. Moneylenders also used to exploit us. Geographical situation of my village is different from others. My village is an island situated in middle of Kosi. Peoples of my community are socially, economically and financially very weak. Village is surrounded by water for 4 manths in a year. Every year we have to bear loss of flood. With a view to get rid of these problems I associated myself with Lok Sakti Sangathan. After taking training from SSVK, I founded village fund in my village. Joint Account in the name of Sakuntla Devi and myself has been opened in Rural Bank, Nauhatta. Presently, a sum of rupees 67,993 has been deposited in this account. With the help of this fund we had get rid of moneylenders. Besides, we had struggled for proper wages. We get rid of bonded and child labour. Wages has been raised from two kg of cereals to three kg. At the time of flood dalits gets financial help from village fund at the interest rate of Rs. two per hundred. In this way due to our endeavour there is betterment in living conditions of dalits. Dalits are living with dignity.

➤ Case Study 12 : Secured self dignity

I, Indu Devi and Sumitra Devi belong to village Pathrahi of Madhubani district. It is under Behat panchayat of uteri block. 86 dalit families resides in our villages.

Both of us has taken the training of Social Animator at SSVK in 1997. After training we set up village fund. Inhabitants of dalit basti had also organized Lok Sakti Sangathan. I along with Sumitra Devi take the leadership of the organization. With our endeavour 16 thousand has been deposited in village fund.

There is a pond in three acre area near our village. An ex Minister of Bihar Govt has illegally occupied this. Besides, he has also captured 5 kathha land on main road. He restricted our cattles to drink water from this pond. We dalits had started a movement against this illegal occupation . We had already put an application before District Magistrate of Madhubani and C.O. of Lakhnair block regarding this pond and land.

Under the banner of Lok Sakti Sangathan we want to gave momentum to our struggle. From our endeavour dalits had get the benefits of govt. schemes. 40 families gets Indira Awas, 30 pepole gets old age pension and ten physically disabled has get govt assistance. With the help of Lok Sakti Sangathan Harijan dalan was constructed in 2003. In 2004 building of middle school was construted. With the help of our endeavour dalits has got dignity. Educatonal standard has improved. About 90 boys and girls of our community are getting education. For further improvement in economic condition we are trying to strengthen village fund. We had get rid of moneylenders with the help of village fund. Drunkness has decreased. Bonded labourer had been freed. We are trying to provide more help under the banner of Lok Sakti Sangathan and village fund.

➤ Case Study 13: Gaine dempoyment and dignity

I am Rukmini Devi. I belong to Khari Ramtol which comes under Lakhnair block. Late Moti Ram was my husband. I had taken the 20 days training of Social Motivator in 1993 at SSVK. During training we were told about confidence building, village fund and govt. schemes. After training I returned to village and tried to apply these things. I told the villagers about village fund. After this women started to cooperate. We opened village fund. Joint account in the name of Domen Devi and myself was opened in Bank of India. At that time we had taken Rs. ten from each family. Presently, there is 45 thousand in the account.

In Lakhnair there is a landlord Lokpat Singh. He had illegally captured the village pond of six bigha area. In the flood of 1993 kamala embankment had errosed near our village. Errosed area was filled with sand and soil. This was Bihar govt land. With the help of Lok Sakti Sangathan in the year 2005 we built our huts on this land. Before this we were on kamla embankment . Yadavs of our village with the help of zamindars started to harass us. They pressed us to leave the land. They threatened to register case and physical assault. We faced these threats with the help of Lok Sakti Sangathan. At that time landlord used to gave us 1.5 kg. of cerals as wage. We protested this and stopped to work in their field. Ultimately they were compelled to gine proper wage. Now we get three kg. of cereals and breakfast. In this way under the banner of Lok Sakti Sangathan our life has changed. Dalits are living with dignity. I had applied for parcha to District Magistrate, Madhubani and C.O. of Lakhnair. For proper implementation of govt scheme I regularly meet the block official so that dalits can get the benefits.

➤ Case Study 14: Freed from oppression

My name is Domen Devi. By caste I am a chamar and resident of Marauna Kamrail Tola of Supaul district. I had taken the 20 days training of social Animator at SSVk in the year 1993. During training we were told about confidence building, village fund and to wage a war for abolition of superstition, bonded labour and child labour. In gist it was an initiative for exploitation free society. After training I returned to village and set up village fund. There are 188 chamar families in my village. I organized a meeting and told them about village fund. After this a joint account in the name of Birendra Ram and myself was opened in Kosi Rural Bank, Muraina. Presently 65 thousand rupees had been deposited in this account. From this amount we provides loans for marriage, treatment, employment and business. In this way villagers get rid of village moneylenders. Moneylenders used to take interest at the rate of Rs. ten per hundred. Village fund provides this at the rate of mer rely one or two rupees. Our village remains surrounded by water for six months in a year. Due to this geographical situation farming cannot be done at time. Ultimately in search of job villagers used to migrate. State of education in the village is also in bad shape. In all the bad times villagers get the help of village fund. Besides, funds amount is also being spent in land struggle. In Kamrail panchayat there is 360 acres of Bhoodan land . Vimal varma, Baldeo Yadav, Ramchandra Yadav had illegally captured this land. Previously we dalits do farming on this land. But these three feudals had tried to grab this by force. They physically assaulted us. They had fired arrow on Mahendra Sadai of mushar community. In his treatment 19 thousand had been spend from village fund. S.D.O. of Nirmali has cooperate with us. We lodged a case and ultimately all the three feudals were booked to jail. We won the case in 2003. After this seven among ourself got the rights of this 14 bigha land. In this way dalits had got the dignity with the help of sangathan. In the year 2001 I even elected ward member. After then I used to intervene in gont process so thst dalits can be benefited from govt. schemes. Oue struggle for betterment will continue and my cooperation for this will be always available.

➤ Case Study 15: Struggles continues

My name is Laxmi Sadai. I belong to village Partaha which is under Navhhatta block of Saharsa district. I and Dhanik Lal Sahu had taken the training of social Animator in 1995 at SSVK. During training we were told about eradication of social evils and superstition. We were told about why dalits are socially and economically weak and how their conditions can be improved. How bonded labour and child labour can be abolished. During training with a purpose to acquaint ourselves with the condition of village we took padyatra. After taking training I returned home and organized a meeting of villagers. I told them reasons behind their exploitation and poverty. After with help of villagers founded village Fund. We opened a joint account in the name of Gulab Devi and Dhanik Lal Sahu at Nawhatta branch of Kosi Rural Bank. At present an amount of Rs. two lakh and 80 thousand had been deposited in the account. Villagers at the time of urgency are being provided loan from this account. They get loan from this account for the purpose of marriage, treatment as well as for migration in search of job. They have to pay interest at the rate of Rs. two per hundred. Our struggle for possession of 44 acres of land is going on with the help of village fund and Lok Sakti Sangathan. Yadavs had illegally captured this land. We have harvested wheat crop on this land. In the process Yadava clashed with Mushars. In this struggle I lead the Mushars. Landlords of Muzaffarpur were cooperating the Yadavs. But they could not succeed due to our unity. Yadavs came thrice for harvesting with weapons but we did not allow them to do so. Later on Yadavs registered false cases against 25 Mushars. But in 2004 we won the case. We have got the paper of 30 acres of land out of 44 acres from circle office. On the rest 14 acres struggle is going on. In this way with the help of village fund and Lok Sakti Sangathan our social and economic condition has changed. Process of change will continue ahead.

➤ Case Study 16: Conspiracy failed

My name is Gita Devi. My husband's name is Shiv Shanker Sadai. I belong to Kankpura village of Madhubani district. My village is in Jhajharpur block. There are 152 dalit families in the village. Feudals are in good numbers. I had taken the 20 days training of Social Animator at SSVK in the year 1992. During training we were told about village fund. After training I returned to my village and founded village fund. At that time we collect five rupees per family for village fund. In the process we have faced the hurdles of village moneylenders. Previously villagers used to take money from these moneylenders. Moneylenders were in anger because after formation of village fund their business was closed. Feudals divided us when I was organizing the villagers. We quarrel among ourselves. It has retrogressive effect and villagers stop to contribute in village fund. Taking the advantage of this situation feudals increased their repression. In changed situation once again villagers became vigilant. They meet and restarted village fund. Women too cooperate. After this I approached block office and works for providing the benefits of govt. scheme to the villagers. Villagers being benefited from scheme like Indira Aawas, Annapurna, old age pension, maternity benefits etc. I am a matriculate and so my confidence level is comparatively high. On strength of organization I had been elected Aagansevika. I had collected the proofs of bhodan land. These proofs reveal that feudals had illegally captured 20 acres of this land. After the revelation we started struggle for this land. Between 1992 and 2008 feudals had clashed five-six times with us. But as yet we could not get full success. On 25th July, 2008 there was a big clash. Feudals started sowing dhan on this land. We collectively opposed. Administration also cooperates us. Feudals lodged cases against 12 peoples. Our agitation is going on 11 pieces of land. We have got possession of 4 bighas. We are in total with us. In this way our struggle is going on with the help of village fund and Lok Sakti Sangathan. We are collecting proofs of land. Dalits had got dignity with our struggle.

➤ Case Study 17 : Employment provides dignity

My name is Garmi Devi. Late Moti Sadai was my husband. I belong to village Shirpr of Madhubani district. It comes under Lakhnair block. There are 85 dalit families in our village. Village feudals used to oppress. We were victims of Mahajani system. We used to get one and half ser lorhi for as our wage. Due to this we face trouble to feed our family. Feudals kept a number of dalits as bonded labour. In the year 1992 I along with Asharfi take the training of Social Motivator at SSVK. During training we were told about village fund. Besides we were told about social evils like superstition, bonded labour and child marriage. We were trained to improve our confidence level. After training both of us returned to village and set up village fund. Joint account in the name of Amelia Devi and Budhni Devi were opened in Madhubani Rural Bank. Deposits in bank started. At present we have deposited 45 thousand in this account. We lend money from this fund to the villagers for the purpose of marriage, treatment and migration at the rate of Rs. two per hundred. In the village there is a pond in 4 bigha area. Previously, this was in control of feudals. One day three of us went to this pond for fishing. Asharfi Sadai and Ramchandra Sadai were with us. Feudals stop us from fishing. But we protested. Later on we got possession of pond with the help of village fund. We gave money to fishers society from village fund and started fishing. Till today we have earned Two lakh from this business. Now we are in better economic condition. Villagers of our community are getting the benefits of govt. scheme with our help. We have opened a primary school with two teachers in our village. Two teachers are in school. For school building we have received 3 lakh 80 thousand from block office. One person has donated 6 katthas of land for the purpose. But now we have to build the building by 2009. There are 127 students in the school. In this way we are living with full dignity. With the help of village fund and Lok Sakti Sangathan we are in better status.

➤ Study 18 : Life changed

My name is Domi Sahu. I belong to village Purni Pokhar. I had taken the training of Social Animator in 1995 at SSVK. During training we were told about emancipation from debt. We were told about social evils. After 20 days training I returned to my village and set up village fund. Joint account were opened in the name of Ramashish Kamat and myself at Jhanjhapur RS post office. Today 3 thousand is in this account. With the help of village fund our struggle is going on. One more account of village fund is at Central bank. In this account we have deposited 22 thousand. With our endeavour we have built a community hall. Villagers are getting the benefits of govt. scheme like Indira Awas, BPL, old age pension, maternity benefits. Solar light is available in our village. In the flood of 1987 our houses were fully damaged but we have rebuilt our houses. Struggle for pacha of land is going on. Besides we are trying for Indira Awas. In this way with the help of Lok akti Sangathan and village fund our life has changed. We are living with full dignity.

➤ Case Study 19 : Struggle is going on

My name is Dhakni Devi. I belong to Kiratpur village of Darbhanga district which comes under Chanpatia block. There are 155 families in my village. I had taken the training of Social Motivator in 1994 at SSVK. During training we were told about village fund. Besides, we get training to build confidence. We were told about emancipation from social evils and ways of social development. After training I returned to my village and organized a meeting of village men and women. In the meeting we decided to set up village fund. Joint account in the name of Umesh Sadai and myself were opened in Rural Bank, Rasiari. At there is 83 thousand and 200 hundred in the account. Villagers get money from this fund for the purpose of marriage, treatment and migration at nominal rate. Village fund is also used in our struggle. Before this we were in grip of money lenders. They used to lend us at the rate of Rs. ten per hundred. Due to our economic constraint we failed to repay then they used to capture our land. Forcefully take away our livestock. Compelled our wards to work as bonded labour. Dalit children were unable to take education. But after formation of village fund situation is changing. We continue our struggle for three years with help of village fund. After this our wage was raised and we are getting three ser cereal in place of two and half ser. Though, this increased wage too is not just. Our village is surrounded by Kamla-Kosi and so we are compelled to face flood every year. During flood we could not get job. In this crisis we used to take money from village fund. With the help of Lok Sakti Sangathan and village fund we are struggling for 9 bigha 18 dhur land. We have got control of seven bighas of land. Indira Awas has been built on this land. In this way with the help of village fund and Lok Sakti Sangathan situation has drastically changed. Now we are living with dignity.

➤ Case Study 20: End of Oppression

My name is Ameriki Devi. My husband name is Jagdish Sadai. I belong to Sohrai village of Madhubani district. By caste I am mushar. I had taken the training of Social Animator at SSVK in 1992. During training we were told about village fund, social dignity and development schemes. We get training to build self confidence. Training makes me vigilant and started social work. Struggle started for occupation of Gairmajaura land. Along with me Phoolian Devi, Kuma Kumari and Shribatti Devi led the movement. With the help of organization villagers get rid from exploitation of landlord Looto Singh. We face legal battle. We stopped to work on landlord land. For months we did not work. Landlord has not any proof of land. He was claiming on pond. This pond is in 2 bigha 18 kattha area. Pond is filled by sand. Landlord registered cases against 18 people of mushari. In court battle we spend 75 thousand from village fund. Ultimately we get control of pond and land. With the help of CASA pond was drilled in 1996. Villagers were provided food for work. Now pond is in our possession and we used to do fishing. In the flood of 1995 the whole village was displaced. At that time SSVK continues its Khichari programme for two months. Flood affected people were provided chara, rice, plastic, medicine, ration, and blanket with help of Swiss Red Cross. 100 houses were built. With the help of village fund we get economic self dependence. In addition we get social dignity. We get rid of bonded labour and moneylending. Our endeavour will continue. We provided benefits of govt. scheme to the villagers from block office. In 2005 I was selected for Noble peace award. I got encouragement from that. I will continue my work.

➤ Case Study 21: Village Fund helps in troubled times

My name is Sukumari Devi. I belong to Dayakhad village of Madhubani district. My village comes under Gangapur panchayat. I had taken the training of Social Motivator at SSVK in 1992. After training I returned to my village and started village fund. Setup villager organization and started social work. Landlords and farm labourers clashed on the question of wage in 1995-96. Harassed by landlords excesses I left my village and take shelter on Kamla embankment. Uniting ourselves we declare to raise the wage. We pledged to not to do work on landlords land. At that time we were getting 900 gram cereal and breakfast. We have to work for eight hours. We demanded just wage. After this clash occurred with landlords. Landlords started to threaten us. At the time of Holi they threaten for bloody holi. After this dalits organized a meeting and with their family and cattle moved to Jhajharpur to sit on dharna before SDO office. When we go 2 kilometer ahead some noble persons of village requested us to return to village. Now we are being 40 rupees along with three kg cereals. On embankment we face several types of problems. We were compelled to drink dirty water. Five years

old daughter of Ramphal Sadai went to a pit to quench her thirst and fell into it. She died on spot. Then we contacted Deepak Bharti, Secretary of SSVK. He approached officials. After this two handpump were setup. In summer our huts used to be damaged by purba hawa. We became tired of repairing our huts. During flood erosion started near our huts. Administration warned us to leave the locality. After this we applied for rehabilitation before SDO of Jhbjharpur. but no action has been taken. Compelled by situation with the help of Lok Sakti Sangathan we settled ourself on the land of sanyasi of Daiyakhwarward, Kailsh Giri, and Govind Giri on Feb 3, 2003. This land of one and half acre area is at Kalambagh. We built our huts are till today are living here.

Landlord had illegally grabbed 20 acres of land here. We have already complained about this to DM. but as yet no action has been taken. Kaish Giri has illegally got its registration on his name. In 2005-06 we had to clashed with kailash Giri. He lodged cases against 12 people. Legal battle is going on till today. Our 6 people were jailed too. In this struggle 78 thousand has been spend from village fund. We have fought an another battle too. Rajsthani karahs owner used to do farming by using tractor at 55 km of kamla embankment. We protested against this. In association with villagers Deepak Bharti, HariNarayan Harsh, Sukumari Devi, Yogendra Sadai, Yogendra Mahto, Anadi Devi and Purba Chaupal stopped the tractor. After this landlords contractor Papu came and asked the reasons to stop the work. Deepak Bharti told him that if we will use tractor then what will be the fate of labourer. Small farmers and workers are already jobless. In discussion situation aggravated. labourer tries to beat tractor driver. Then Deepak Bharti told them that driver is also a labour. We had no quarrel with him. Our agitation is against the govt. demand is with govt which has permitted to do farming by using tractor without considering the fate of labourer. Deepak Bharti told the contractor in open words that 70 percent work must has to be done by labourer. Otherwise we stop the work. Chairman of Bihar Legislative Council Prof. Jabir Hussain and Leader of opposition Sushil Modi cooperated with us. We filled a PIL in High Court. Contractor tries to break our unity by giving lust of money. In spite of this our struggle goes on. Agitation spread to other districts like Darbhanga, Saharsa, Supaul also. Govt has sanctioned 14 houses under Indira Aawas Yojna. Village fund is working successfully. With the help of fund we had got the dignity.

➤ Case Study 22: Mushars gets their rights

My name is Ashok Dalit. I belong to Lalpur village of Saharsa district. I associated with Lok Sakti Sangathan and SSVK. in 1994. Take the training of social Animator at SSVK. During training we were told about village fund, social dignity and govt. schemes. We get training to built self confidence. During training about who should be master of the land. Different Acts were discussed before us. After being inspired I returned to village Lalpur. 150 mushars lives in my village. I organized a meeting and setup village fund. Joint account in the name of Anupi Devi and Phoolia Devi was opened at Mithila Rural Bank, Jamalpur.

Geographically our village is situated on the bank of kosi. There are seven rivers between the both embankment of kosi. Our village is in middle of this. During flood and rainy season only medium of traveling is boat. Our village used to be surrounded with water for six months in a year. In our village there was dominance of yadavs. We were facing exploitation of feudal since several years. Near my village there was 65 acres of land of ceiling Act. It was in illegal occupation of Bahubali yadav of Narainpur village. Mushars started their struggle on this land in 1999. Bahubali with the help of goons physically assaulted us. Jivan Manjhi was severely beaten. They also thrashed women. From both side case were lodged in Saharsa court. Cases continue till 2005. we spend one lakh 25 thousand on cases from village fund. I was leading this struggle. My life was in danger. 144 proclaimed on this land. cropping stopped from both side. But later on defying 144 we cropped on this land. Struggles begins again. Court ordered the circle office for enquiry. Enquiry findings reveals that Bahubali has not certificate for even a kattha of land. Court ordered for three years of jail for him. After this District Magistrate given the authorization of this land to 55 mushars in 2006. Till then we are cropping on this land. This is our great success. In 2001 my wife won the election of panchayat samitee by two third majority. After this in association with block offices we tries to provide benefits of govt. schemes to village mushars. Due to these reasons Lok Sakti sangathan and village fund is strengthened. After this I was appointed Panchayat teacher as I have already possess Master degree. This is the story my social and personal struggle. Our status has changed with the help of Lok Sakti Sangathan and village fund. Now there is no fears of feudals. We are living with dignity and freedom.

➤ Case Study 23 : Change takes place due to ground level struggle

My name is Pabia Devi. Anirudha Sadai is my husband. I belongs to Dhooni village of Darbhanga district which comes under simri panchayat of Kistpur block. There are two hundred dalit paharwar in my village. I had taken the training of Social Motivator in 1994 at SSVK. During training we were told about emancipation from social exploitation, village fund, eradication of superstition and other social evils. After training I return to my village and told all these things to villagers. Villagers got inspired and after a meeting we setup village fund. Joint account (No. 207) in the name of Dahauri Devi and myself was opened in Mithila Rural Bank. We also organized the village level branch of Lok Sakti Sangathan. After this we fought land struggle from 1997 to 2000. Our people was in possession of pacha of 10 acres of Bhoodan land since long time. Accurate year is not in my knowledge. Baleshwar Yadav has illegally captured this land. Two more people were associated. We started struggle for this land. With proof we put our claim. We also file a case against all the three illegal occupants in Saharsa court. Between 2001 and 2006 we spend one lakh 25 thousand on this case from village fund. ultimately court delivered the judgment in our favour in Dec.2007. On the basis of judgement we applied in circle office. Now with help of administration we have built our houses on 4 acres of land. Struggle is going on for occupation of rest 6 acres of land. We are also struggling for 16 acres of another land of ceiling act. This land is in illegal possession of yadavs. With proof we are struggling on administrative level for this land. In this way our social status has changed to a large extent. We got economic independence and are living with dignity.

➤ Case Study 24 : Gained freedom

My name is Sita Devi. Umesh Sadai is my husband. I belong to village Muzaual which comes under Narkatia Madaria panchayat of kishampur block(Distt. Darbhanga). I had taken the training of social animator along with Phooldas Devi at SSVK. in 1993. During training we were told about emancipation from social evils, confidence building, bonded labour, atrocities on women etc. After training both of us return to our village and organized a meeting of villagers. Told every thing to the villager and then we setup Gram kosh(Village Fund). Joint account(Account No. 3974) in our name was opened in Mithila Rural Bank. Geographical constrction of village is too much straineous . Inside kosi embankment 75 acres of land is in diara. Dalits were allotted the parcha of that land in 1990. Vidya Nand Yadav used to forcibly cultivate that land. Organising under the banner of Lok Sakti Sangathan mushars of the village started their struggle for the rights on the land in 1997. Our friend Sikia Yadav was shotdead by Vidyanaad Yadav. Goons assaulted us. case was filled in Saharsa court. Vidya Nand yadav named our 80 peoples as accused. Lakhs from village fund had been spended in case. But ultimately we won the case in 2002 . Judgement came in our favour. With the co operation of administration we had already occupied 40 acres of that lans. For rest 30 acres our struggle is going on. From our side Umesh Sadai had contested the Mukhiya election but feudals captured the booths. and he couldnot won. In spite of thiswith the help of Gram kosh and Lok Sakti Sangthan our struggle is going on. Our status has changed and we are living with diginity and freedom.

➤ Case Study 25: Struggles is going on

My name is Jivendra Ram. By caste I am a chamar and belong to village Parmanadpur of Madhubani district. After passing my inter exam. I take the training of Social Animatnaor at SSVK. in 1994. After training I decided to work for a new society. I dedicated myself for eradication of social evils. I get too much inspiration from te training. After returning home I organized a meeting of villagers. shared all information with them. I told the villagers that we people are poor. We are homeless. If we work unitedly then we can achieve all those things from which we are deprived. Villagers appreciated my views. We formed the Gram kosh. We opened the account in Tamurai post office. After this our struggle and reformation process starts.

We decided to take possession of Mahad pokhra (pond) of village. Indra Nath Jha and others had illegally captured its. Previously it was in possession of zamindar Jagdish Jha of Parmanadpur. We take the possession of pokhra and built our hut. Cases were loadged against us. We are jailed several times. We had to mortgageed our utencil and livestock. Indra Nath Jha conspire to unite yadavs against us. He promised them to lend land. But due to our unity he could not succeeded in his his conspiracy. Till now we had spend 4lakh in cases from Gram Kosh. But our possession on Pahar pokhar is continuing thogh as yet had not got the parcha. Family members of zaminsars are posted on high offices. They create administrative hurdles. Due to this as yet only three four houses under Indira Aawas yaojna had been built. But our struggle is going on.

➤ Case Study 26 : Organisation came ahead for help all time

My name is Laxmi Sadai. I belong to village Debuadih of Darbhanga district. My village comes under Ganoon panchayat of Ghanshyampur block. There are 375 mushar family in my village. I had taken the training of social Animatar at SSVK.Jhanjhrpur in 1993. During training we were told about Gram kosh, confidence building, social evils, superstition, bonded labour and child labour etc. After training I returned to my village and organized a meeting of villagers and gave them all informations. Then, we setup Gram Kosh. open account at Mithila Rural Bank, Korthu. we had deposited 50 thousand in this account. Gram kosh lend us money for treatment, marriage, migration etc at the rate of only two per hundred. We are getting rid of money lenders. Struggle for land started in our village in 1995. Near Mushars houses there was 25 acres of Gairmzarua land. our forefathers used to cultivate this land. But since last few years it was in illegal possession of zamindar Dharnidhar Jha. He was a judge of Patna high Court. We had to give half crop to him. After organizing ourself we stopped to gave crop o him. One day ha came to village and asked the reasons behind this. We told them in one voice that land belongs to Bihar govt. so we will not share the crop. After three days three thousand goons of judges attacked the village. We fled away with family. Goons looted our houses and livestock. They destroy the property of about three lakhs. Three days we returned to village. Went to harijan thana. Told all things. After this administration came into action and posted two dozen forces near our houses for a month. In the meantime zamindar loadged cases against 25 dalits. We decided to fought the case with the help of Gram Kosh. Five lakhs of gram Kosh had been spend on cases. We are jailed thrice for six months. Initially, administration was not cooperative. Later on we succeeded. 16 pepoles among us get the parcha of 15 acres of land. For the rest ten acres struggle still continue. Now we are too much vigilant. Our people Ramshankar Sadai won the election of UpMukhiya.Badri Sadai along with me became teacher. With the help of gram kosh we had taken on lease a pond . We earn 80 thousand in every two yaeers from this pond. In all our social, economic and educational status has improved. Now we are living with diginity and freedom.

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Photos Documentation of SSVK Stories Of Hope



“What option did I have? It is our matter... That’s why I took all the difficulties. There can not be development without struggle.”



“Once you have knowledge, why should you depend on what others say? You start thinking for yourself.”





"I am only one but still I am one. I cannot do everything, but still I can do something; I will not refuse to do something I can do".

