



**Govt. of West Bengal
Office of the District Magistrate
NREGA Cell, Purulia**

**A CASE STUDY
ON
NREGA
(S.C./ S.T. WOMEN INVOLVEMENT)**



Prepared by :

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&
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DOCUMENTATION OF CASE STUDY UNDER NREGA

Name of the Scheme:-Choubey Sayer at Mahadebpur under Ana Gram Panchayat with in Para Block



Scheme Details : Plot no 2707: JL No – 128

Sanctioned amount : Rs. 2,38,000.00 ; Expenditure : Rs. 2,38,000.00

In a land where there is little or no opportunity of employment and where agriculture depends on the vagaries of monsoon object poverty could be seen everywhere at Mahadevpur in Anara Gram Panchayat. In order to increase employment, resultant effect of which would give rise to production and income, the above mentioned scheme was taken up at Mahadevpur under NREGA by Anara Gram Panchayat. The population here comprises of SCs and STs mostly.

Although mentioned as a pond in the land record the so-called Choubey Sayer was a barren land before this NREGA scheme started. The condition of the soil was mixed in nature. In the process of re-excavation of this Sayer a total no. of 3326 mandays were generated through which an approximate no. of 180 families of two adjacent mouzas / village viz. Mahadevpur and upper Baishyakuli were benefited directly and about 36 families were benefited indirectly by being able to use the water of the bundh for irrigation. Most noticeable feature of this project was the number of women that took part during the excavation. About 50 % of the total labour forces were women. This was remarkable in another way when we came to know that women here traditionally preferred to stay at home while the men went to far away lands for jobs.

Lack of irrigation facility was a major problem for the cultivators of this area which led to low productive single crop cultivation and concurrent large scale migration of labour to nearby industrial and colliery belts. Eventually the standards of living of this people were very low. Far worse the socio-economic position of the women was dismal for they had to suffer every humiliation and plain without being able to raise their voices because they were not the

bread earners of their families. Child marriage, dowry, domestic violence was common among them and each case woman was the silent sufferers.



After the successful re-excavation was done, Choubey Sayer provided water for various purposes, primarily for irrigation of about 6 acres of surrounding land area. This irrigation facility not only increased production level and multiple crop cultivation but also turned few barren lands into cultivable ones where for a start pulse has already been grown. All these achievements have turned the socio-economic condition of the women living here on its head. With the grater involvement of women in the project has come greater access to income, contribution and nourishment of their families' resultant effect on which can be seen in the self confidence that these women have gathered in the past few days. They now are not merely silent watchers but active participators in the decision making of their family affairs. Women who actually run the houses have become more keen to send their children to schools rather than watching their husbands forcing their children to go for work. With the help of Panchayat and Block two SHGs (all women members) have spring up recently with a view to not only generate production and income but also to spread awareness about social cause, health and hygiene issues and ill-practices in the name of tradition. The women here have learnt to become organized unlike pre-NREGA situation and have realized that united they would be much better off in solving their own problems.

The achievement has considerably reduced the so-called migration of labour towards the east. Agriculture activity has provided employment thereby raising the standard of living of the people residing here.