Know the changes through ‘Community Documentation team’

Hope you all will recall the ‘Making an Impact’ Articles in which the details about the ‘Gender Self Learning Programme’ (Making an Impact-45) and about our ‘District Level Facilitators’ (Making an Impact-101) were dealt in detail. The link of the booklet on Gender Self Learning Programme (GSLP) is shared here once again hoping reach of this module to maximum number of people.

Link: http://www.kudumbashree.org/…/vflw6_gslp%20module-nov-2018.…

How to measure ‘women empowerment’? We can measure the impact of our micro finance or microenterprises development projects by analyzing quantitative data, sales volume and numbers. But the empowerment achieved by women through our ‘Gender Self Learning Program’ and other women empowerment activities can only be measured qualitatively.
Quantitative measurement like the number of training classes held or the number of women attending the classes will be a measure of empowerment. On realizing this, we formed and entrusted a small team of women and that's our documentation team for gender. They will attend GSLP training classes, listen to the discussions and will identify and document the stories of transformation.

This 32 member team started their activity by participating in discussions and documented the stories of transformation of the Kudumbashree women. It is through these stories documented by the community documentation team of Kudumbashree, we can get glimpses of the self confidence and self pride gained our members. The team documented the stories of transformation through passive participation in the discussions. Hope you all will recall one such story mentioned in 'Making an Impact Article-44'. Let me share yet another life experience shared by a member of our 32 membered community documentation team. Hereby sharing the life story of Shalini, a Kudumbashree woman who was part of the Gender Facilitators from the NHG and they now made her the member of the women Volley Ball team.

Once, she wasn't able to wear the dress she wished to put on. Now, she is wearing the attire she likes to have on. Even though, her husband was against her at first, later he also started supporting her. Though health issues came to her life as a villain, she was able to fight back and move forward. Shalini, who was once confined to her home is now actively participating in training activities of the Gender Self Learning Programme throughout the district and is meeting more and more people.

Shalini along with two other members of her NHG launched a catering unit. This self employment is bringing income to her now. Shalini has now became the pride of her place. She conveys the change that happened in her life to others through her interactive sessions/ training. The participation of Shalini in Gender ‘Street discussions’ was praiseworthy. This GSLP project and DLF fraternity had brought out changes in the life of Shalini, bringing more freedom and happiness.

(Story of Shalini is written by Sreethu, our documentation team member)

We are compiling more such motivating stories of the self determination of the women, especially of those who overcame stages of suppression, prepared by the community documentation team and the same will soon be published as a book. Once it is published, I would share the same here.

Through the paths Shalini crossed

Shalini was brought up under the guidance of her stubborn father and mother. She was the elder one among three children. Her parents behaved more strictly to her than to their other children. She had studied till pre-degree class and later got married. When they went to purchase her wedding dress, her fiancee asked her not to wear Churidhar anymore. She was not able to take any decision for herself. The life at her spouse's home was not that comfortable for her. It was a joint family. Her husband had three younger brothers. Shalini was the eldest ‘in law’ of that family.

The household chores started during the morning would come to an end only by late night. Her life was literally confined only to that home. It is after having kids, she became the member of a Kudumbashree Neighbourhood Group. She was happy spending time with her fellow NHG members. She was brought to the team of Gender Facilitators from the NHG and they now made her the member of the women Volley Ball team.