

Women from the self- help groups take a lead in village development

The Self Help Group in Halasi provided women an opportunity to actively be involved in community development. The women in the village were able to assist in the improvement of education, the closing of village liquor stores and improve drinking water supply and

Halasi, a village from Nilanaga district

Swayam Shikshan Prayog (SSP) in Halasi supported the village women to start Self Help Groups (SHGs). These women through the SHGs, came together training and retraining women to provide them updated skills and experience.

Through the SHGs women actively solved their financial problems and became infused with confidence which in turn increased their participation in community development. The education in the village improved and the liquor store closed. Children also began to eat more nutritiously and women became independent through entrepreneurship.

Improvement in education

The school in the village had irregular attendance by both the children and the teachers, with student absenteeism on the rise. The women from the SHG decided to discuss the issue with the principals and teachers. Such discussion allowed women in the village to become involved in decision on education, and a solution was reached whereby women would send their children to school regularly and teachers would be present at school on time. As a result of the discussion and decisions the situation in the school improved greatly.

Abolition of liquor and improvement of drinking water

The village's drinking water supply because of a damaged pipeline was unclean and dirty. The women in the SHGs meet together with the Sarpanch (village head), Gram Sabha on this issue and found a solution to the dirty drinking water. As the quality of drinking water improved the village women together with Sarpanch also closed the local liquor stores. The villagers following such action took a collective decision and set up an anti-drinking committee. Such a committee was given the support of the government officers, police and social experts, and drinking was abolished from the village together with all past 20 liquor stores.

Increased business

As the availability of water increased, so did the quality and quantity of vegetable and fruits, and the dairy business. The SHGs were instrumental in providing women and voice and platform to take action in the community, empowering them in decision and providing them an opportunity to influencing and change community conditions.