

Transforming Lives of Single Women

Case Study Documentation



Centre for World Solidarity

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Introduction

In 2015, there were over 71 million single women in India. Over the last ten years, there has been a 39% increase in single women in India. Women above the age of 20, who are yet-to-be-married, widowed, divorced, separated and deserted by their husbands, were regarded as eligible for this census. As per Census 2011's marital status data, more than 75 per cent of divorced, separated and widowed persons in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana were women.

The most prominent increase in single women was seen in the 25 to 29 age group. This indicates that the marriage age for women has gone up. The average age of marriage was 19.3 years in 1990 and became 21.2 years in 2011. The 2011 census revealed that single women in India, in the 20 to 24 age group, have increased over the years, which is also indicative of the fact that more marriages are breaking down. The greatest percentage of single women is among widowed women.

Problems that single women face in India

Whereas marriage comes with its share of benefits and problems, being single also has its pros and cons. However, in a country like India, which is by and large unkind to single women, our women face more trials and tribulations than women of first world nations, where there's more of gender equality face. The challenges Indian single women face, are multifarious.

Financial Insecurity: Whereas upwardly mobile women from progressive families may have been imparted a good education and have been encouraged by their families to pursue lucrative careers; there are also millions of single women in India at grass root level, who have sadly been denied requisite education, which is why they have had no option whatsoever but to go on to take on low income jobs. Worse still, there are some very conservative homes where women aren't allowed to work. Indian women have always been disfavoured as far as inheritance of property is concerned, more so among traditional families. Because of all these reasons, the majority of Indian women are in a weak position. Single women don't enjoy the benefit of living in a double income family or being solely financially

supported by their husbands. So, financial problems hit them hard if they aren't earning well and/or haven't inherited property.

Safety: As many Indians live in a joint family, the safety and security issues of single women are less predominant here. However, as nuclear families are gaining in popularity, many women do face problems with respect to safety, especially single women who travel to other cities for work.

Harassment by Society: Very unfortunately, single women are stigmatised in India. Never married women are regarded as having some 'defect' for not having found a husband. Although this is true the world over, it is especially significant in the Indian scenario where marriage is regarded as a woman's ultimate goal.

Divorced and separated women are often considered as characterless for being selfish enough not to have stayed in a marriage, no matter how hopeless that marriage might have been. Widowed women, especially in rural areas are succumb to social atrocities like being forced to live on a meagre diet, being forbidden from enjoying life, having to wear white and not often being socially allowed to get into a relationship or remarry. Single women of all kinds, are vexed with many personal questions regarding their single status.

Sexual Harassment: Men often prey on single women, as far as sexual harassment cases are concerned. Though women of all relationship status are the brunt of sexual harassment, men erroneously think that single women may more easily yield to their advances as they assume that they're starved of a relationship and will therefore even be ready to be with an unattractive and obnoxious married man who is old enough to be her father or grandfather.

Loneliness: Many single women face issues of loneliness, though there are many married women who may face the same. If single women feel confident of them and are psychologically strong, they are far less likely to feel lonely. Having an active social life, on both, the personal and professional front helps to ward off loneliness.

CWS has been working for empowerment of single women for the past ten years with four partners- **DROPS** in Kadapah, **MMD** in Srikakulam, **DAWN** in Guntur and **SWARD** in Medak district.

The situation and status of single women have improved with specific context to these four districts where CWS and partners have formed village level sanghas only with single women to discuss on issues and how to overcome problems of single women but not on thrift and credit. Later these sanghas got federated at block level forming mandal level federation of single women and forming district level federations and finally they got federated at state level. These federations got strengthened on leadership skills, schemes and entitlements for single women, land and housing issues of single women and now they are dealing single women issues till district level by themselves as they become confident and articulate about their issues.

The state level single women federation several times met Telangana government various state level depts. like Social Welfare, BC Welfare and SC/ST welfare for enhancing pension and for land and housing rights for single women. Now Telangana govt., has recognized and extended pension of Rs. 1000/ per month to all 'single women' and Telangana is first state to extend pension to all single women but in other states the pension is given to only widows.

This publication is about documentation of case studies of single women who were most vulnerable to all kinds of exploitation, now got empowered in a period of 5-10 years by our intervention and with little economic support now they are able to lead their lives with confidence and they are encouraging other single women to lead their life without any fear. These single women are working towards reducing stigma, cultural and social norms which discriminate single women.

Case Study No.1

A Positive Change in Family

Name of the client	Dharmavarapu Pentamma
Age	44 Years
Caste	Rajaka (BC)
Education	Illiterate
Name of the village	Komarathi, Narasannapet mandal
No of family members	1 Male – Age: 26 years
Children Education	10th Class

Ms Dharmavarapu Pentamma, aged 44 years, a project beneficiary, widow, living along with a son and her mother in Komarathi village in Narasannapeta Mandal, got married at her age of 17 years. Pentamma's husband was a crapulent, regularly on drunken stage and he sold their own assets of houses and lands, due to his habit, his health was severely disturbed and died at her age of 27 years, she blessed with a son with a poor mental ability, she supported her son until to complete his 10th class, but he did not pass in the class and joined in a hotel as hotel worker, due to his mental sickness he also failed at work, then Pentamma maintain her family through caste profession i.e. dhobi, but many times she failed in her caste profession due to ill health and continue her life basing on daily finances, whenever she go



to her work, she earns the money and pay to the financiers.

She participated in many trainings and meetings of SWEP Project at MahilaMargadarshi, heard about the experiences of the single women who has taken financial assistance from the project and requested for the support in the year 2014-2015, she involved in IGA training organized by MahilaMargadarshi and selected to take petty shop business according to her location.

She got financial assistance from SWEP Project Rs. 5000/- in the month of September 2014 and add another Rs. 3000/- from her own money and started a petty shop at her home with vegetables, she slowly developed her shop at her home and started earning a regular income from the shop and stop taking money from the middlemen, her mother and son supported her while she went for purchasing of items for the shop, now she is earning Rs.200/- as an income per day and maintain her family with confidence.

Case Study No.2

She Became a Leader...

Name of the client	Potunuru Ammalu
Age	38 Years
Caste	TurpuKapu (BC)
Education	10th Class
Name of the village	Yarabadu, Narasannapeta mandal
No of family members	2 Female
Children Age	18 and 15 years respectively
Children Education	1st year Degree and 8th Class

Ms PotnuruAmmalu, age 38 years, living single along with her two girl children at Yarabadu village in Narasannapetamandal, she married Mr Satyanarayanaat her age of 19 years, and blessed with two girl children, Satyanarayanadied due to jaundice at her 26 years, he drunk arrack during jaundice without taking any medical treatment,



then Ammalu faced problems with in-laws, hence, she left in-laws home and came back to her mother's home and living with her two girl children.

She continue her life as a agriculture labourer at Yarabadu village and Mahila Margadarshi identified that she studied 10th class and interested to do something for the people, then she joined as a project beneficiary of Single Women Empowerment Project of Mahila Margadarshi and involved in trainings and meetings organized by the organization since last two years.She promoted as a ASHA worker for Yarabadu village and earn limited financial support from the department side.



She interestedly practicing the things what she learnt from the organization, she followed the leanings' and implement the same in the village like identified the issues of single women and discussing the same with the Chief Functionary of Mahila Margadarshi and got solutions for the same with the support of Project Coordinator. After she participated in two days capacity building training of Mahila Margadarshi and she turned as a complete leader in taking the community issues to the Government officials, she explained about the issues of single women and the demands with the officials during district level lobbying and advocacy workshop organized in the month of January 2015.

She got financial assistance Rs. 5000/- from the organization and add another Rs. 5000/- to it started a petty shop at her home for maintenance of the family, Mahila Margadarshi identified her interest and forward her application to the RWSS for working as a SwachhtaDhoot for Yarabadu village.

She earned Rs. 200/- to 250/- per day from the petty shop and continue her life with the income and continued the studies of her children with the counselling of the Chief Functionary of Mahila Margadarshi.

Case Study No.3

Vegetable Cultivation Led to Improving Family Health and for Economic Growth

Name	Unkili Sunitha
Age	33 Years
Village	Nizamabad
Community	Segidi (BC)
Status	Widow
No. of dependents	4 members, father, mother and 2 children
Type of IGA support	Vegetable cultivation and Vending
Amount of Financial support from the project	5000/-
Beneficiary Contribution	3000/-
Total Investment for IGA	8000/-



Ms., Sunitha, 33 Years from Schedule caste community living in Nizamabad village, Gara Mandal was identified as a Single Woman Empowerment Project beneficiary. She got married at her age of 19 years, she has 2 children one elder son and one younger daughter. Sunitha's husband died in the year 2006 due to current shock at her home, during the time her children ages were 3years and 11months respectively. At the time of the death of Sunitha's husband, they were having 20 cents land for cultivation and for their





livelihood after his death she stopped the cultivation because she was not aware of cultivation, the land transferred to Sunitha's name after death of her husband. Since 2013 her father and mother came to Sunitha's home and live along with her, she depended on agricultural labor work for her family maintenance, but she was having work only during the agriculture season, she troubled financially in remaining days for her livelihood.

She joined as a project beneficiary in the year 2013 in the village sangha, she participated village sangha meetings regularly. She involved in two days business triggering and skill mapping training and involved in two days skill development training for IGP supported single women organized through SWE Project and also involved in "processing of chilies and preparation of different varieties of chilly powders" with the support of NABARD. MahilaMargadarshi supported her financial assistance of Rs.5000/- in February 2015 for vegetable cultivation on her land and its vending, she added Rs.3000/- to that amount for purchasing of seed and preparation of land and cultivation for vegetables. Now she got various vegetables from her land and her father support her in vending in the local market and she is vending the vegetables at her home. Now she is getting regular income and able to lead her family without trouble for livelihood. She is confident at provide education to her children till completion of graduation.

Case Study No.4

Education is Priority.....

Name	Labba Nirmala
Age	37 Years
Village	Komarathi
Community	Segidi (BC)
Status	Widow
No. of dependents	Four daughters
Type of IGA support	Petty Shop
Amount of financial support from the project	5,000/-
Beneficiary Contribution	6,000/-
Total Investment for IGA	11,000/-

Ms. Nirmala, 37years from Komarathi village Narasannapetamandalwas identified as a Project beneficiary in the year 2013,she studied 10th class, got married with Ramadasu at her age of 16 years and blessed with 4 daughters, Mr. Ramadasu maintained a petty shop at the time of marriage, his family members depended on him.He died due to kidney failure,



then Nirmala's family became helpless, she again started petty shop with meagre amount of support from her brothers, she faced many financial issues due to lack of sufficient income.

In the year 2013 Mahila Margadarshi identified Ms. Nirmala as a project beneficiary and she participated in many activities of MahilaMargadarshi. The organization recognized her issues and gave financial support of 5000/- from the project.She added Rs.6000/- to



that amount and improved her petty shop in the village, gradually she has been improving her business it supported her in increasing her regular income.

Ms. Nirmalahas been providing education to her four daughters based on the money she earns from petty shop. Her elder daughter completed her MBA and now preparing for competitive exams, second daughter completed Polytechnic course and now she is studying Engineering, third daughter studying 10th class and younger daughter studying 8th class. She wants to educate her children as long as to continue their studies.

Case Study No.5

Education is Priority.....

Name	Kantipaka Santamma
Age	43 Years
Village	Ampolu
Block	Gara
District	Srikakulam
State	Andhra Pradesh
Community	SC
Literacy Status	Illiterate
Social Status	Widow
No. of dependents	One girl
Age of the Children	18 Years
Type of IGA Support from Mahila Margadarshi	Vegetable vending
Financial support	5000/-



Ms. Kantipaka Santamma, 42 Years belongs to Schedule Cast community in Ampolu village of Gara Mandal was identified as a Project Beneficiary in the year 2009. She is an illiterate woman, got married in the year 1994 i.e. at the age of 22 years then blessed with one Girl Child. Her husband died in the year 1999 due to cerebral malaria, then she

continued her life as agricultural laborer. When she could not find agriculture works she used to do curry leave vending. In the year 2009, Santamma identified as project beneficiary, and she was facing problems due to lack of sufficient income. After she became a project beneficiary, Mahila Margadarshi identified her skills as leader, initially she was assisting in gathering single women for meetings in her village. Mahila Margadarshi identified her interest and utilized her services in formation of village sanghas and organizing its meetings. With the support of Mahila Margadarshi she leads the village sangha



properly, organizing regular monthly meetings. She attending number of trainings and workshops conducted by MahilaMargadarshi. Then she elected as a leader for Mandal Samakhya of Gara. She also participated in health trainings and project partners meets conducted at CWS.

She got financial assistance of Rs.5000/- from MahilaMargadarshi for vegetable vending. She started vending vegetables around the village initially and getting daily Rs. 100-150 on an average. Later she added Rs.5000/- to her business and purchased vegetables and was selling in nearby villages. Presently, she is continuing vegetable vending in nearby villages and earning Rs. 500-700/- per day, it enhances her economic status. She took decision and continues the education of her girl child, now, she studying graduation in Government College and getting scholarship as the girl belongs to Schedule Caste.

Santamma involved as member in Mandal Samakhya of Gara, as actively working with Mandal Samakhya she was sharing the information with the village Sangha members regarding updates of meetings held at Mandal Samakhya and also participated in District Samakhya Meetings regularly, she involved in trainings, meetings and workshop held at Mahila Margadarshi regularly and accepted to change her life in a better position than her past.

Case Study No.6

Name	Korada Dhana Lakshmi
Age	41 Years
Village	Madapam Village, Narasannapeta mandal
Community	Vyshya (OC)
Status	Widow
No. of dependents	3 Male (sons ages of 25, 23,20)
Type of IGA support	Petty Shop
Amount of Financial support from the project	5000/-
Beneficiary Contribution	5000/-
Total Investment for IGA	10000/-



Ms. Korada Dhana Lakshmi, aged 41 years, living in Madapam village of Narasannapeta mandal, belongs to Vyshya community which depended on business, according to community customs she won't go for other livelihood works. She got married at the age of 14 years with her uncle (mother's brother), after marriage Dhana Lakshmi's family shifted to Visakhapatnam for business.

Due to health issues, her husband died at her age of 28 years in Visakhapatnam. The maintenance of the family was difficult to her during the time, so she came back to Madapam again for livelihood which was her maternal uncle's village.

During the implementation of Single women empowerment programme Mahila Margadarshi identified Dhana Lakshmi as a project beneficiary, she attended all the Village level meetings which were held in Madapam village, slowly she shows her interest on the project and became a leader in the village as well as promoted as Mandal Samakhya Leader for Narasannapeta Mandal. She discussed



her financial issues with the Chief Functionary of Mahila Margadarshi and requested support for livelihood, she also attended Samakhya meetings regularly and discussing on issues of Single Women in Samakhya.

According to the advice of other single women, she involved in business triggering and skill mapping training for selected IGP support of single women organized by Mahila Margadarshi and then select as a beneficiary for financial assistance, for the year of 2013 – 2014. She was given an amount of Rs.5000/- as financial assistance for petty shop in the month of September 2014, she added her contribution Rs 5000/- and started a petty shop in the village for her livelihood, slowly she has been developing her shop and getting profit of Rs. 150/-per day, the elder son of Dhana Lakshmi helps her in brining material from market for improving the shop in the village.

Now, her income is increased due to run her petty shop successfully and she cleared all her debts, she proudly says her family was improved economically because of she is a project beneficiary, now, her son joined in paper mill as a worker and starts his earning and providing additional support to her family, now, Dhana Lakshmi's family financially satisfied and living well.

Case Study No.7

Name of the Single Woman	P. Padma
Age	41 years
Caste	OC
Address	Chinna Gundaevelli Village
Mandal & District	SIDDIPET, Telangana State



Padma is from an agricultural family from RavuRukula village. She is the eldest of three children of Mrs. Lalitha and Mr. Srinivas Reddy. She has one brother and one sister. Her family owned 2 acre of cultivable land. Padma studied up to 3rd class in the village and discontinued. She used to accompany her parents to help them in farming. She was married to Mr. Narayana Reddy from an agricultural family of ChinnaGundevelli village. Narayana Reddy is the second son of Mrs. Balamma and Mr. Ram Reddy. He has one elder brother, one younger brother and one sister. His parents owned 3 acres of land. Padma used to look after all the household work. Padma's sister-in-law got married and her mother-in-law died of ill-health. Few years later Padma's brother-in-law is also got married. Padma gave birth to a girl child who is named as Priyanka. Her father-in-law Mr. Ram Reddy had distributed their 3 acres of land among his three sons, one

acre each. Mr. Ram Reddy had died of cardiac problem. After his demise the three brothers were started living separately. Mr. Narayana Reddy and Padma got one acre of agricultural land and a single room dwelling with shell roof as their share and they continued the farming. Padma's husband died of electric shock at the farm land, while her daughter is only 6 months old. Padma became alone with has the responsibility of her daughter. As she is not good at farming leased out the land to brother-in-law and started making beedis to meet their day to day expenses. She had admitted her child in a school. Brother-in-laws are not of any help for her moreover they used to make sarcastic comments. Owing to traduce and discriminative attitude of the people in the village she was confined to her house and without anyone's help used to manage herself and her daughters education.

Meanwhile Single Women's Group was formed in the village in which she joined in the same and attends meetings regularly. Discussions held at the meeting helped her to become confident and ability to take care of her tasks. She has purchased a sewing machine with the financial assistance of Rs.5,000/- (Rupees Five Thousand Only) from SWARD under the livelihood improvement opportunities of Single Women. Padma's daughter is pursuing her undergraduate course in a private institution. Now by sewing the cloths and making beedis she is able to endure her financial needs. She expresses her gratitude to the SWARD which has made her life happier and helped to sustain financially through Single Women Empowerment Project.the SWARD which has made her life happier and helped to sustain financially through Single Women Empowerment Project.

Case Study No.8

Name of the Single Woman	K. Leelavathy
Age	42 years
Name of the Husband	Late K. Chandram
Caste	BC (Goud)
Address	Siddipet Village
Mandal & District	Siddipet, Telangana State

Leelavathy is the eldest daughter of seven children of Mrs. Siddavva and Mr. Muralidas, who are the residents of Siddipet town and are in to Hotel business. She has 4 sisters and two brothers. She was married to Mr. Chandram, a toddy topper (tap juice from palm tree), of Konne village, at the age of 14 years while she was in school studying 9th standard. Her husband was a drunkard, used to



suspect her modesty (behavior of having sexual relations with other men), abuse and thrash her regularly. Leelavathy bear the entire burden and remained silent as she was helpless. After one year she gave birth to a male child, named, Prashanth and after another year she had another male child, named, Vamshi but there is no change in her condition. Another two years passed and now she had a girl child, named as Akhila. Chandram continued pounding and yelling at her, hence complained with village elders to do justice. Even with their advice Chandram had not altered his behavior.

They shifted to Hyderabad for improved livelihood opportunities. Chandram was spending all his earnings for consuming alcohol and was not giving any amounts for basic amenities; hence Leelavathy started working as daily wage laborer to make both ends meet and helped her children to pursue their studies. Few years passed by, the situation became nastiest which pushed them back to their village Konne. Chandram's behavior had become even more worse, frustrated Leelavathy attempted suicide by jumping in to a well, the people nearby stopped her and handed over to her in-laws. Her in-laws and others have warned Chandram to behave himself but in vain. Once she was

whipped so badly as to become unconscious, her parents came to visit and taken her to their home along with children. At that time Leelavathy was one of the members in Single Women Group at her village formed under Single Women Empower Project (SWEP) being implemented by SWARD.

She admitted her children in a school came out of her parents' home and began living separately with her children. Her elder son studied up to intermediate, younger son is an undergraduate and daughter was still studying. At this juncture she heard that her husband Chandram was hit by a lorry and succumbed to injuries, on hearing the news Leelavathy collapsed though he never was responsible towards his family and made them happy but the feeling of having father for the children was ensuring.

In this situation one of her friends instilled confidence by informing about SWARD and took her to the office at Mythriivanam, Siddipet. Leelavathy attended Single Women Group meeting once, witnessed several people alike, convinced by the discussions held, she attended the meetings regularly, became self-reliant and leader of the group. She developed in to active member in the group and speaks on issues. Leelavathy became member of Astha Sansthan, National Forum for Women by paying Rs.12/- towards membership fee. She was given Rs.5000=00 (Rupees Five Thousand Only) as loan with which she purchased a sewing machine and started stitching, embroidery, hemming cloths and improved her earnings.

Leelavathy managed to come out of clutches of difficulties with the help of Single Women Empowerment Project activities implemented by SWARD. Within few years she got married her elder son Prashanth, who had two children whereas her daughter Akhila had pursued MBA and is also married.

With her capability Leelavathy was elected as mandal level Samakhya Leader followed by District level Samakhya Leader and aspiring to become State level leader. She had been addressing the issues of her contemporaries and infuses optimism. She had attended Grama Jyothi meetings, worked with SWARD for some time and became Resource Person for the SWEP and organized meetings at assigned villages. All the Single Women with SWARD have congratulated Leelavathy for her achievements and she is the inspiration for all.

Case Study No.9

Name of the Single Woman	N. Sattavva
Age	31 years
Name of the Husband	Late N. Ravi
Caste	BC (Kuruma)
Address	H. No. 7-77 Ensanpally Village
Mandal & District	Siddipet, Telangana State



Sattavva is the elder daughter of Mrs. Lakshmi and Mr. Narsaiah, who are residents of Ensanpally village in Siddipet mandal and district. She has one sister named, Nagamani. Sattavva studied up to 5th class and discontinued. At the age of 15 years she got married to Mr. Ravi who was a Mason. She had one brother-in-law who was also a mason whereas her father-in-law was an agricultural laborer. Her mother-in-law was a mischievous lady.

Everything was fine for one year, Sattavva became pregnant and all were happy.

For the reasons unknown her mother-in-law was not serving enough food for her, more over complain with her son for some or the other reasons and he used to thrash her. After some time Ravi became sick and was on medication, he never shared anything but on insisting he informed that he was feeling weak, consulted a doctor, who put him on medicine.

Suspecting, Sattavva made her husband to undergo pathological diagnosis and came to know that he was HIV positive. Later it is found that he was HIV positive even before marriage un-disclosing the same to others they got him married. This led to conflict between the two

families and Sattavva went to her natal village to live with her parents, this ended in separation of the couple without legal divorce. After few months she gave birth to a male child named as Naveen but her husband and in-laws had not visited them. She was not even invited for her brother-in-law's marriage. Sattavva's husband, Mr. Ravi had tried to marry again but in vain as someone from the village used to inform bride's parents about his HIV status. Sattavva began working as daily wage laborer and make beedis to take care of self and raise her child.

While her son was 5 years old, she had joined in Single Women Group formed with the support of SWARD under Single Women Empowerment Project (SWEP) and participated in all the meetings with great enthusiasm. She was given an amount of Rs. 5,000=00 (Rupees Five Thousand Only) towards loan under the livelihood opportunities improvement of Single Women program by SWARD, she added some more amount and purchased a sewing machine. From then onwards she had been stitching cloths and leading her life with dignity. Her son is in 8th standard and Mr. Ravi died of AIDS related disease. Sattavva participated in the funeral and stayed with her in-law's till the completion of all his last rites. All the members of the Single Women Group discussed with her mother-in-law and convinced her to allow Sattavva and her son to live with them and she yielded. Since then she had been living with her in-laws and continued stitching cloths. One year after her father-in-law's demise her father is also passed away. Her in-laws were having 2 acres of land and a dwelling. Her brother-in-law got separated from the family leaving Sattavva, her son and mother-in-law. Sattavva was given 1 acre of land and half portion of the dwelling. Sattavva and her mother-in-law have been receiving Social Security Pension (Widow Pension) of Rs. 1,000/- (Rupees One Thousand Only) each per month. They are now leading a happy life with the pension amount, earnings on land and tailoring.

Sattavva joined Single Women Group as deserted wife but now she is single woman as widow.

Case Study No.10

Name of the Single Woman	G. Bhagyamma
Age	38 years
Name of the Husband	Late. Ramulu
Caste	BC (Mudiraj)
Address	H.No. 5-100/24, Raghavapur Village
Mandal & District	Siddipet, Telangana State



Bhagyamma is the younger daughter of Mrs. Lakshmi and Mr. Narayana, who were residents of Rampur. She had one brother, Rajaiah who was married to Bamma and had two children by name Swathi and Ravi. They all were working as agricultural laborers as they had no properties. Bhagyamma studied up to 5th standard and discontinued. She was married to Mr. Ramulu at the age of 12 years; her in-laws were Nagavva and Yadaiah. She had one sister-in-law who was given in wedding to the resident of Karimnagar.

The couple was living happily with her in-laws. Bhagyamma was polio affected with lame of leg, hence used to take care of household work. Occasionally her mother-in-law reproach for her inability to perform quickly owing to the debilitated leg. She became widow at the age of 15 years as her husband died in an accident. She had no children.

Bhagyamma was blamed for no fault of her by her in-laws and neighbors who made her depressed. Bhagyamma's mother and father were deceased due to ill-health and cardiac arrest respectively with a short gap and her brother was unable to provide any support. She had no other option but to live with her in-laws. Whenever she goes out for any work, suspecting her modesty, they used to interrogate and abuse her of having illicit relation with others as she was very young.

To avoid annoyance she began going out with them as daily wage labor and continued to perform household works. Few years passed by her father-in-law had died of ill-health and within a year her mother-in-law too had bereaved while she became alone at the age of 29 years. The government had allotted a house to her mother-in-law in which she had been living.

Bhagyamma had joined in the Single Women Group supported by SWARD under the Single Women Empowerment Project (SWEP) and had been leading her life with poise. She practiced stitching cloths while working as daily wage laborer. She obtained an amount of Rs. 5,000=00 (Rupees Five Thousand Only) towards loan from SWARD under the livelihood improvement opportunities program of Single Women with which she purchased a sewing machine and began to do tailoring. She used to attend all the group meetings and trainings; while she was able to live in dignity she became bedridden with severe pain in loin and knees. Group helped her in visiting doctor and taking medication. She recovered from pain but is unable to continue stitching. Even worse was she had undergone hysterectomy.

In this pathetic situation the Single Women Group admitted her in a charitable institution, Christian Girls Hostel at Gadicherla where she was provided with enough care and treatment for recovery. She was given an opportunity of working as Aayah in the same institution who had endowed her with food, shelter and clothing. She gained courage and able to lead her life on her own. She participate in all the meetings of the group without fail and expresses that she owes a lot to the SWARD and her fellow Single Women.

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Case Study No.11

Name of the Single Woman	T. Kanakavva
Age	39 years
Name of the Husband	Balaiah
Caste	SC (Madiga)
Address	Tornala Village
Mandal & District	Siddipet, Telangana State

Kanakavva is the younger child of Mrs. Narsavva and Mr. Mallaiah, who were residents of Tornala village. Kanakavva's parents were daily wage laborers, had no property and were poor. She had one brother, Ramaiah who was married and had two sons. Kanakavva is an illiterate and was married at the age of 12 years to Mr. Balaiah, aged 25 years. Her husband and in-laws were also



laborers. Kanakavva had to work at home and go out for work along with mother-in-law. Kanakavva became menarche one year after the marriage; she was not matured at the time of marriage. Since then she was asked to sleep with her husband in a separate room, she was not aware of biological needs and conjugal relation of the couple and her husband used to thump her for not cooperating with him. Then onwards Balaiah began consuming alcohol and smack her regularly. She was scared of being with him, she could bear with him for 5 years, at the age of 18 years she gave birth to girl child named Bhavani. There was no change in her husband's behavior and her mother-in-law suggests her that all this is common between wife and husband; one need not share such things with others. Whenever Kanakavva could not go for work due to weakness or ill-health her mother-in-law avoid meal and reprimand her, unable to tolerate anymore she went to live with her parents.

At the parents house her sister-in-law denounce for no fault of her even though she had been working along with others in the house as they had no other source. Within few years both the mother and

father of Kanakavva had passed away. Her husband married again, since then her situation became even worse. She had no support of anyone hence came out of her parents house, took a small room on rent to live in, continued to work as laborer for taking care of self and raise her daughter. Kanakavva tumbled from height in to a pit, badly hit in the waist and was unable to work. Bhavani daughter of Kanakavva studied up to 9th standard, discontinued for their inability and supported themselves by making beedis.

Kanakavva had joined in the Single Women Group in the village, formed with the support of SWARD under Single Women Empowerment Project, after recovering from pain in the loin; she used to attend all the meetings, gained courage with the help of the group and speak with buoyancy. She was given an amount of Rs.5,000=00 (Rupees Five Thousand Only) as loan under the livelihood opportunities improvement of Single Women program by the SWARD with which she commenced selling vegetables going around in the village which were brought from Siddipet town daily. In the beginning she earned Rs.100=00 per day. Bhavani attained 18 years, the age for marriage but she had no savings to meet the expenses of marriage. She came to know about a probable guy working as attendant in a Government Hospital and shared their helpless situation for offering dowry and incompetency to meet the expenses of marriage ceremony, the boy had agreed to bear all the expenses of both sides.

Once Kanakavva took her daughter Bhavani to the meeting of Single Women Group, in which Mandal Parishad Development Officer (MPDO) had also participated. While discussing the issues of Single Women, Kanakavva's daughter marriage was discussed; the MPDO shared about Kalyana Lakshmi Pathakam, suggested Kanakavva to apply for the same and explained the process. Later her daughter got married, applied for the financial support under the Kalyana Lakshmi Pathakam and had received an amount of Rs.51,000=00 (Rupees Fifty One Thousand Only) through cheque which she had given to Bhavani after taking Rs.5,000=00 for herself to repay the loan. Bhavani had given birth to a girl child and all the expenses were born by her husband. Kanakavva participates in all the meetings of the group, state that she was obliged to the SWARD and is leading her life in good spirits.

Case Study No.12

Name of the Single Woman	V. Sadhana
Age	35 years
Name of the Husband	Late. Bhaskar Raju
Caste	BC (Mudiraj)
Address	H.No. 5-63, Pulluru Village
Mandal & District	Siddipet, Telangana State



Sadhana is the only daughter of Mrs. Manemma and Mr. Narsimlu, belonging to an agricultural family of Karimnagar. Sadhana had two brothers, one is elder and the other is younger to her. Sadhana's parents took some land on lease for doing agriculture as they do not have their own and were bothered of low yielding. Her elder brother got married and had two children. Sadhana studied up to 10th standard, 3 years after her brother's marriage at the age of 16 years she was married to Mr. Bhaskar Raju, an agriculturist and political activist from Pulluru village. Mr. Bhaskar Raju had one sister. He was a gentleman, affectionate with his wife but Sadhana was often offended by her mother-in-law, after a year they had a son, named as Nihar. Two years passed by and she gave birth to a girl child, named Sneha. They rear their children without any problem in spite of having some financial difficulties. Mr. Bhaskar Raju was always busy with his political activities, with no other income sources than agriculture

which is not lucrative. Her son, Nihar got admitted in to school at the age of 5 years and she was busy with her responsibilities of house hold work and daughter. At this juncture, her husband Mr. Raju met with an accident and departed while travelling in a car along with his political allies.

As Mr. Raju was active worker in the ruling TelanganRashtraSamithi Party, Honorable Minister for Irrigation Mr. Harish Rao visited his family for offering his condolences and gave a cheque for Rs.1,00,000=00 (Rupees One Lakh Only) as support for children education and for her. The cheque was deposited in the bank in the name of their children. Sadhana had faced many complications after the death of her husband besides the torture by her mother-in-law.

Sadhana joined in the Single Women Group formed in the village with the support of SWARD under Single Women Empowerment Project (SWEP). She used to participate in all the meetings and clarify her doubts regarding the activities of project and various support services. She also joined in the Self Help Group (SHG), improved her knowledge and was offered the position of CI in Indira KranthiPatham (IKP) as she is bright. She maintained accounts of the group and document minutes of the meeting, activities, if any of the GramaikyaSangam of IKP.

She took loan an amount of Rs.5,000/- (Rupees Five Thousand Only) from SWARD under livelihood opportunities improving program of Single Women and purchased a sewing machine. With income from stitching cloths and other income she was able repay the loan acquired from SWARD along with loans taken by her husband while continuing her children education. They had sold out land for the marriage of her sister-in-law as there is no male person in the family to do farming and the remaining amount was kept in the name of her children and self as fixed deposit with the bank. At that time her son was in 9th standard and daughter was in 6th standard. Presently she is purchasing paddy from farmers on behalf of Mahila Samakhya. Sadhana along with her children and mother-in-law is leading self-sufficient and happy life. She gained nerve and became self-reliant for which she affirm that it happened only with the support of SWARD and is grateful for the same.

Case Study No.13

Name of the Single Woman	A. Bala Lakshmi
Age	36 years
Name of the Husband	Late. Srinivas
Caste	BC (Munnuru Kapu)
Address	Ensanpally Village
Mandal & District	Siddipet, Telangana State



Bala Lakshmi is the only daughter of Mrs. Manemma and Mr. Narsimlu belonging to an agricultural family of Ensanpally village. Bala Lakshmi had two brothers, one is elder and the other is younger to her. Bala Lakshmi studied up to 10th standard, at the age of 16 years she was married to Mr. Srinivas resident of Siddipet. Mr. Srinivas had only one sister, who was married and had two kids. Her in-laws are in business, they own a Medical Shop (Pharmacy). After one year of marriage Bala Lakshmi's husband was hit by a car in an accident and died, at that time she was carrying for 5 months and is in second trimester. Bala Lakshmi had faced many complications after the death

of her husband besides the being abused by her in-laws; they had not even given proper food for her.

Bala Lakshmi went to her parent's house for delivery; it is the responsibility of the parents of the lady for the first delivery as per prevailing custom. All the members in the family have provided appropriate care ensuring her to feel happy. She gave birth to a male child; none from the in-laws house paid visit in spite of being invited and had not even attended to bless the child on cradle ceremony hence she remained with her parents. The child was named as AmruthSai. Few months later she had joined in the Single Women Group formed in the village with the support of SWARD under Single Women Empowerment Project (SWEP). She used to participate in all the meetings, learned about various support services for the Single Women, gained courage and became optimistic. She joined in the SakshraBharathi Project as Coordinator for monthly honorarium of Rs.2,000/- (Rupees Two Thousand Only). But the honorarium is paid once in 3 to 4 months due to which she had to face difficulty to meet her expenses. Her brothers got married, had their own responsibilities, she felt uneasy to ask for any support for her needs. Hence she decided to improve her income sources with tailoring and undergone training.

She took loan an amount of Rs.5,000/- (Rupees Five Thousand Only) from SWARD under the livelihood opportunities improvement program of Single Women and purchased a sewing machine and a Pico machine. With income from stitching cloths, embroidery, doing Pico and others she was able make her child study. Her associates in the Single Women Group had discussed with her mother-in-law of her right to property and able to secure one acre land and Rs.1,00,000=00 (Rupees One Lakh Only) cash for her. Cash was deposited with the bank in the name of Bala Lakshmi and land in the name of the son she being the mother as guardian. As of now without the support of her in-laws she is leading self-sufficient and happy life. She avows that it is all because of the support of SWARD and her colleagues hence is thankful to them.

Case Study No.14

Name of the Single Woman	B. Nagavva
Age	42 years
Name of the Husband	Late. Anjaiah
Caste	SC
Address	Gopulapuram Village
Mandal	Chinna Koduru,
District	Siddipet, Telangana State



Nagavva is the only daughter of Mrs. Gundavva and Mr. Ramaiah, residents of Rampur village. Nagavva had one brother, younger to her. Nagavva's parents were daily wage laborers and all the family members were illiterate. With that diminutive amounts they got from wages raised their children and got them married. She was married at the age of 14 years to Mr. Anjaiah of Gopulapuram village, who had one elder and one younger sister. Her in-laws, Mrs. Narsavva and Mr. Sayanna, husband Mr. Anjaiah and sister-in-laws were illiterate and were laborers. They own a small two room house. Nagavva had experienced many a difficulty at her in-laws house, at this tender age she had to perform the entire household job and go to work along with her mother-in-law. In spite of all the burdens her in-laws used to scold and bash her for some or the other reason. Her husband was

puppet in the hands of her in-laws.

Nagavva became pregnant and gave birth to a male child, Ashok. All the members in the family used to pamper the child as he is heir of their family. Two years after having son, she was blessed with a girl child named Sumalatha. Anjaiah was addicted for liquor and often thrash her for no reason. She had faced many problems, after six years to her fate she gave birth to one more girl child named, Mounika. After some time her husband was crushed to death under a falling tree. Her in-laws became old and were unable to go for work and all the burden was on Nagavva. She continued to work as laborer and with that minimal amounts she was managing to meet the household expenses and taken care of her children education. Her son, Ashok studied up to 7th standard and discontinued to help her in the work, whereas both her daughters were continuing their studies.

Few months later she had joined in the Single Women Group formed in the village with the support of SWARD under Single Women Empowerment Project (SWEP). She used to participate in all the meetings, became brave and optimistic. She took an amount of Rs.5,000/- (Rupees Five Thousand Only) loan from SWARD under the program of improving the livelihood opportunities of Single Women and purchased two goat kids. The goat kids have grown and gave birth to 4 kids within a year. She sold out two big goats for an amount of Rs.20,000/- (Rupees Twenty Thousand Only) and still she had 4 goats. With the initiative of her group members she was appointed as cook in a government school. The group had also helped her in receiving an amount of Rs.1000=00 (Rupees Thousand Only) as Widow (Single Woman) pension from the government. After cooking food at the school she comes back to her house, take care of in-laws, take out goats for pasture.

Her son is working and her daughters are pursuing their studies viz., elder daughter is in 12th standard and younger daughter in 7th standard. Nagavva become self-sufficient in leading a happy life. She affirm that only with the support of SWARD and her equals she was able to overcome all the hurdles hence is thankful for them.

Case Study No.15

Name of the Single Woman	A. Sharada
Age	42 years
Name of the Husband	Late. Bapuji
Caste	BC (Dommara)
Address	Prashant Nagar Viallge
Mandal & District	Siddipet, Telangana State



Sharada is the eldest daughter of Mrs. Komuravva and Mr. Ilaiah, residents of Prashanth Nagar. She had five sisters and three brothers. The family had to face lot of problems financially owing to large number of members and small amount of income. Bapuji, a Police Constable belongs to Islam religion loved Sharada and married. He was already married a woman of his religion and had six children. As his family felt demoralized of his marriage with Sharada they have not allowed her to be with them, hence he took a house on rent and put her in that house.

Among five sisters of Sharada, two were married and three were in to their caste profession of prostitution. With the earnings from the three daughters they used to manage their lives. All the three brothers were married and had two children each. Few years later her brothers and their wives, who were infected with HIV, have died with AIDS related diseases and their six children are with her parents. Sharada

was happy with his spouse and had four children, viz., two sons and two daughters, named Kiran, Shirisha, Mahesh and Shravani. Bapuji used to live with his family and frequently visit Sharada's house, took enough care and support her. As their marriage was treated as immoral by his parents and elders her right to property is not recognized. Hence he had constructed a small house for her, in which they are living.

Bapuji died of cardiac arrest while the children are still young. Sharada had to face many difficulties to nurture the children and for their education.

She had joined in the Single Women Group formed in the village with the support of SWARD under Single Women Empowerment Project (SWEP). She used to participate in all the meetings, became bold and optimistic. She took an amount of Rs.5,000=00 (Rupees Five Thousand Only) loan from SWARD under the program of improving the livelihood opportunities of Single Women and by adding some more amounts she started a Grocery stores. With the income from business she was able to support her children education and meet all the household expenses.

Both the daughters have studied up to 12th standard. Her daughters were got married, who are living happily with their families. Elder daughter had two children and younger daughter had one girl child. Her elder son is graduated and joined the police services, working as gunmen with Deputy Superintendent of Police. Elder son, Kiran is married after getting job and had one son and one daughter; he is in Hyderabad with his family. Sharada's younger son is pursuing his undergraduate course, 2nd year degree. Her business is improved now and she became financially stable.

Sharada is now self-sufficient in leading a happy life. She states that this has happened due to the Single Women Group with the discussions held in the meetings and capacity building programs organized with the support of SWARD and her colleagues she was able gain nerve and overcome all the hurdles hence is grateful for them.

Case Study No.16

Name of the Single Woman	G. Radha
Age	32 years
Name of the Husband	Late. Raju
Caste	BC (Padmashali)
Address	Lingareddypally Village
Mandal & District	Siddipet, Telangana State



Radha is the eldest daughter of Mrs. Lakshmi and Mr. Mallesham, residents of Lingareddypally village. She had three sisters. Radha has studied up to 10th standard. Her father was a weaver, who used to make Saris, Lungis, Towels, etc., and sell them in nearby villages moving door to door on a bicycle and her mother used to make beedis. Radha used to help her father in weaving. The family had to face lot of problems financially owing to large number of members and small amount of income. They had no other property other than a small dwelling. Radha's paternal aunty's husband had passed away, who had one daughter and one son, daughter got married and son, Mr. Raju was a tailor. He was unproductive wanderer; his mother thought he might be prolific if married and has some responsibility, hence requested her brother Mr. Mallesham for the alliance with Radha. Radha's father opined that he would be relieved a part of his burden even if one his daughters get married hence agreed. Radha

got married to Mr. Raju at the age of 16 years but even after marriage Mr. Raju had not altered his behavior and used to torture her. He was also alcoholic and create nuisance at home. Keep the shop always closed and opens when he needs money and stitch cloths. While Radha was carrying, Mr. Raju suffered from high fever and diarrhea; he was taken to hospital as he was not recovering, where he was tested HIV positive, few days later he had passed away. At that time Radha had also undergone HIV screening and found to be positive, shocked to know that she is infected with HIV, went to her parents in dismay. She used to be dreary and do not share anything with them and gave birth to a girl child, named Sony. The economic condition of her parents further devastated with the addition of Radha and her child.

At this moment she had joined in the Single Women Group formed in the village with the support of SWARD under Single Women Empowerment Project (SWEPE). She used to participate in all the meetings. Training on HIV/AIDS and discussion on various issues helped in becoming bold and optimistic. As Radha has skill of weaving she took an amount of Rs.5,000/- (Rupees Five Thousand Only) loan from SWARD under the program of improving the livelihood opportunities of Single Women with which she purchased thread, weave saris and sell to her known contacts. Knowing her awful status SWARD had given an opportunity to document the activities in the office, where she worked for one year besides weaving saris and stitching cloths. Sony's poor health condition and Radha's sisters' education have driven them in to troubles. While working with SWARD she came in contact with the personnel working for Aasha Jyothi organization, who helped her in being placed as Warden for their Child Care Centre. She was offered rent free accommodation, a salary of Rs.8,000/- (Rupees Eight Thousand Only) per month and sponsor supporting her daughter's education besides providing treatment for her and her daughter. Her daughter Sony is in the 10th standard now. She is happy with the children at the Centre.

She has also purchased 120 square yards of open plot for residence and is confident of owning a house in the near future. Radha is able to lead her life independently with good health. She is obliged to announce that this has happened due to the Single Women Group, the discussions held in the meetings and capacity building programs organized with the support of SWARD. She expresses her indebtedness to her colleagues and friends who helped her to gain nerve and surmount all the obstacles.

Case Study No.17

Name	Sujatha
Age/Sex	37/F
Address	Pedapudu Village, Amarthaluru mandal, Guntur District



Family Background: Sujatha have two sons and two daughters, her husband worked as a agricultural worker, she is the only daughter to her parents that's the reason she was married at younger age, their life continued happily but later on the quarrels' have started among the couples and the small quarrels lead them to divorce and she came back to her parents house where her parents have not insisted her to go back to her husband. She stayed at her parents with her children, she realized that what she had deprived of and she stopped coming out from the house and continued with depression, the DAWN organization people have contacted her, counselled her and sent her back to her husband but she again returned back when her husband started torturing her.



Economic Situation: She belongs to a very poor family even though her parents are not financially stable they earn their living working as daily laborers, the DAWN organization felt that it is not good for her to depend on her parents. DAWN organization has identified her and initially they supported her psychologically and counselled her. Then the organization has made her to apply for Ration card and Aadhar card. She got loan amount of Rs.10,000/- and she started a small hotel and the organization have also facilitated her to construct a toilet along with other organization, DAWN organization also helped her in getting of Rs.500/- through Karmika Vidya Peetam (local NGO). She was suggested that she could discuss in the meeting if she had any problems.

Follow-up: Family follow-ups were done to Sujatha like in Village level, Samakhya level and in District level follow-up. She was made to attend all the meetings in turn she started to come out of her psychological fears and problems.

Case Study No.18

Name	Byula
Age/Sex	30/F
Address	Kometipuram village, Battiprolu mandal, Guntur District
Children	One girl child



Family background: B.Byula was married to Ramesh in the year 2005 her parents gave half an acre of land as dowry during her marriage and her in laws and husband was taking care of her very well as she has property. They lived happily and she got pregnant but during her pregnancy time all work has to be done by herself and she started headache and was consulted the Doctor. The doctor advised her to take medications for her illness and said that she is having some psychological problems and her born children will also have some problems if born her husband and in laws have insisted and forced her to get aborted her pregnancy, also they started beating, scolding and tortured her in all ways. She came back to her parents' house due to unable to bear her husband and in laws torture.

Economic Situation: Byula was very happy when she was with her

parents but after her marriage she got some health problems and her husband not supported her in her pregnancy and never gave money for her medicines, after she returned to her parents, her father started tension thinking the condition of her pregnant daughter, due to his tension he got paralysis, we can imagine the condition of any family in which the head of the family is bedridden. Byula was depressed and stopped coming out of her house.

Follow-up: DAWN Organisation had identified her as a single woman and made her treated in the Guntur government hospital. She delivered a girl child, both mother and child are healthy she was given treatment for her psychological diseases also. DAWN was also working on traditional agriculture in Battprolu village the organization had consulted the Agriculture Officer and assisted Byula to get a job as Outreach worker. Now Byula is earning, she is sending her daughter to school, her father is also getting treatment for his paralysis he is now happy on the condition of his daughter who is confident on her own.

Case Study No.19

Name	Pedapudi Sarada
Age/Sex	49/F
Address	Pedapudi Village , Amarthaluru Mandal , Guntur District



Family Background:

Pedapudi Sarada got married at her younger age, parents felt that it is a good opportunity for them as their son in law is having Government job. He works as a RTC Driver. He daily comes after duty in a drunken condition, he is of sadist behaviour they got three children, one son and two daughters, her son born with mentally unstable and her husband always says that the son was not born of him and scolded her always by

saying that she is having extra martial affairs, her husband never cared her nor his children, due to this she was totally disturbed, due to his negligence towards her and her children she lost her son, her son was expired due to non availability of treatment, he used to blame her whenever she talks to anyone or neighbours, she suffered a lot with him, he always warns her not to tell anyone about the situation. She was totally helpless and due to this she suffered a lot mentally and physically, her husband expired due to heavy consumption of alcohol.

Economic Situation: Sarada had no financial problems at her parents' house but from the day she was married she always had financial

problems her husband never supported her or the children, after his death her economical condition was worst she was not in a position to provide food to her children, she always felt disappointed with her condition, then she received the support from NGO who helped her in getting Pension.

Follow Up: DAWN Organisation had identified her as a single woman, and she dared not to come in the society even though she is literate. The DAWN organization has met her when she was mentally exhausted. The organization had supported her in getting his husbands pension, they have encouraged her to attend the single women meeting they gave her moral support now she is working by selling petticoats, saree falls etc which was provided by the DAWN organization. She made her daughters to get married but her one daughter's husband expired then the widow daughter is staying back with her, she has sent her daughter to work as a nurse in a private hospital, she is confidently attending all meetings in Hyderabad also, now she is helping other women by providing them moral support and encouraging them to live life by facing all the challenges that come in our lives. She is encouraging other women not to suffer with any type of problems or troubles that come in the lives she is telling that all the confidence she gained was only from the CWS trainings. Women have trained to have dare and confidence in all fields of life.

Case Study No.20

Name	Kakarlamudi Sudha Rani
Age/Sex	26/F
Address	Pedapudi village, Amarthaluru mandal, Guntur District



Family background: Sudha Rani got married at the age of 18 years, she gave birth to a boy and when she was again pregnant she and her husband was underwent PPTCT test and her husband was found HIV+ but she got HIV-, they have suffered a lot mentally, but her husband assured her not to disclose to anyone about the condition and promised her to take care of her very well. They were in a dilemma, she was in confusion she cannot go back to her parents as they are poor and other four children are depended on her parents, but her husband is in good financial condition and she decided to stay with him bearing any difficulties. When her husband's health deteriorated he was referred to Tenali Hospital by Health worker, but due to negligence her husband did not take medications and later he was expired.

Economic Situation: KarlamudiSudha Rani's husband had always cared them without any difficulty, she never got any need to work but after her husband's illness and his death she has started to work in their agriculture fields, she was exhausted mentally and physically, but the responsibility of her children made her to work.



Follow-up: After Karlamudi Prasad's death the NGO had identified her and visited her to counsel her then she said that she had faced all the experiences that has to faced at the age of 60 but she experienced in her 24th year of age like the customs of widow etc, she expressed her fear of her being infected with HIV she swept a lot in fear later she was counselled and referred to Tenali Government hospital to get HIV test but she got HIV- in the reports for which she felt happy.

When she visited the hospital there she left the premises after giving blood sample due to her fear, later Single women coordinator Ch. Jhansi collected the report and intimated the report to her that she got HIV- in the reports at that time Sudha Rani felt very happy, but again she expressed her doubt that her children might have affected, then Ch. Jhansi explained her that when the mother is negative then the children will not get the infection, Sudha said that when her husband was suffering with HIV he had skin allergy and he asked the children to scratch the itching and he used to feed the children also and she felt the fear of the children may have transmitted the disease, later the children were also got tested and found negative, she said that God has helped her and saved her to serve her children and to take care of them. DAWN organization along with CWS had provided her training in Clothes stitching, now she is also getting pension which was facilitated by the DAWN in getting the pension to her, her in laws started abusing her because they did not want to share their property with her, but the DAWN organization also counselled her in laws and now all are staying together happily, she is getting pension and she stitching the clothes earning her livelihood and living happily with her children. She said that all the help was provided by DAWN and she is always thankful to them.

Case Study No.21

Name	Sujatha
Age/sex	35/F
Village	Vemuru
Mandal	Vemuru , Guntur district



Family Background: Sujatha has two children her husband works as a secretary, they had a happy life, but soon her husband encountered some health problem, she approached the DAWN organization for advice, she told them that she was not aware of where to take her husband for his health problem. They have agreed to help her and took her husband to Tenali government hospital but they referred him to Guntur government hospital there his treatment started.

Economic Situation: Sujatha's husband works as a secretary having good financial position, but due to health problem they incurred huge amount for his health in private hospitals, forced them to take loans, after she exhausted of money she approached the DAWN organization learning about the single woman scheme. He had gone through tests after admitting in the hospital.

Health Status: Sujatha's husband was admitted in hospital to get better medical services there he was declared by doctors as HIV+, his heart has a hole and his kidneys were failed, he will not live for many days. Then Sujathawas counselled and gone through blood tests and found HIV- We have counselled her to take precautions, later her husband expired.

Follow-up: DAWN organization condole her on her husband's death, they encouraged her to live confidently as she got HIV- in tests, theyfacilitated her to get her husband's death certificate from the hospital. The DAWN Director has approached the officials and helped her to get her husband's job to her. Now she is living happily with her children, she is a woman who never came out of her home but now with the encouragement of DAWN organization she is working and sending her children to school for education.

Transforming Lives of Single Women

Case Study Documentation



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