

## 1. Proactive Efforts of Shramik Mitra

Under the Migrant Worker Support Program, several village level awareness programmes are being conducted by SSK Lalgopalganj.

This is the narrative of the case of Phoolchand, a resident of village and post Mansurabad, Allahabad district. Phoolchand is 45 years old and a mason by profession. Phoolchand does not have any children and his family consists of him and his wife. Whenever he finds some time from his household duties he engages in activities to assist other labourers. One day while visiting the village one of the PEPUS' team member met with

Phoolchand. He was briefed about the services provided by the SSK by the team member and was impressed by the information. He expressed his wish to assist PEPUS by saying that when the organization is committed to help us workers I would like to



assist the organization in every possible way. Subsequently with his support several awareness meetings were conducted by PEPUS in Phoolchand's village. In these meetings information on subjects including opening a bank account, social security, insurance, schemes of the labour department, health ,education, migrant workers ID cards, Iqarnama, vocational training for youth etc. was given. Phoolchand attended every single meeting and motivated his friends to attend too. Valuing his inclination, SSK selected Phoolchand as a Shramik Mitra. Now, besides his own, he also visits nearby villages for imparting information to the migrant community.

Phoolchand has been a committed Shramik Mitra and till date he has got as many as 237 migrant worker registered with the SSKs and has distributed them their ID cards. Additionally, he has facilitated bank account opening process for 45 members of the community, has got 26 workers registered with the labour department, got 18 renewals done and has assisted several workers in filling up the forms for receiving bicycles from the welfare board. If he comes across a case of nonpayment of wages he sends the affected worker to the SSK on the legal clinic day to get help in securing the wages.

Phoolchand asserts that PEPUS has raised the level of awareness of the migrant community and he is himself trying to assist the organization in its noble efforts for benefiting the migrant workers.

## **2. March Towards Livelihood Development**

Under the Migrant Worker Support Program, for migrant workers' and their families' work security ,several village level awareness programmes are being conducted by SSK Lalgopalganj in 50 Panchayats of Kaudihar block covering 200 villages. As an effect of the efforts made till now, migrant community have started to express their belief that the awareness created in the migrant community is the result of PEPUS' activities.

In the course of village level meetings it was found that the only income migrant families has, comes from the remittances of the migrant member of the family. The income from migration runs the migrant household. As migrant workers are employed only for 6 to 7 months in a year they have to resort to incurring debt

from local moneylenders or depend on the advance payment from the brick kiln owners or the contractors to run their household in the period of unemployment.

This amounts to constant indebtedness of the family and a large portion of their income goes in repayment of debts. To counter the problem of indebtedness and changing the financial conditions for the better PEPUS initiated formation of Swajeevika Vikas Samuh with the women of the migrant families from last six months. The first SVS in the region was formed in village Sapatua , it comprised of 11 members and was named 'Jai Maa Ambe' SVS and initial saving amount was set at Rs. 100 per month. The SVS started holding monthly meetings. Inspired by these developments another SVS—



Durgeshwari—was formed with 11 members and the initial savings was set at Rs. 100 just like the preceding SVS. Savings are being deposited regularly in both the groups and SVS have started crediting process with its current assets.

Impressed by the ongoing SVS other women are inclined to join in. Moreover, it is reported that SVS formation is being deliberated in nearby villages also. The fact has come to light that SVS has the potential to become a welcome alternative to the regressive practice of receiving debt from moneylenders or to taking advance from the brick kiln owners. Besides this , the asset that the SVS is accruing can be used fruitfully in future. This progressive step taken by the women is an indicator of optimistic thinking and reflects the determination of the women of migrant families.

The morale of SVS members is high and they assert that the intervention of PEPUS is in communities interest. They further attribute a large part of their development to the environment created by PEPUS and hope that the efforts will continue.

### 3. Aid for Cremation Secured Through SSK'S Initiative

Under the Migrant Worker Support Program, several village level awareness programmes are being conducted by SSK Muratganj on the behest of PEPUS.

Through village level meetings migrant workers and their families are being provided information about several social security and welfare schemes. The awareness built is enabling them to benefit from different schemes.

This is the narrative of the case of Mr. Ramsajiwan , resident of Gram Panchayat Parsara,Muratganj, Kaushambi who was registered with the labour department with the help of Shramik Mitra Sukhlal in 2012. However, the timely renewal could not be done due to which he was unable to benefit from



any of the welfare schemes being provided by the labour department. One day, a village level meeting was being conducted in Parsara—Ramsajiwan's village—by the Field Worker Mr. Ram Naresh. In the course of meeting, information was being provided on the labour department's schemes and programmes. During the discussion on the subject, Shramik Mitra Sukhlal informed Ram Naresh about workers in the village who are already registered with the labour department. Upon knowing this RamNaresh elaborated on the process of renewal in the labour

department and also discussed 15 welfare schemes available after timely renewal. Thereafter, Sukhlal assisted the workers in his village, that were already registered in getting their renewals done. As a result of these efforts renewals were completed by 26/12/2014. Ramsajiwan happened to be one of those workers who got their renewals facilitated. Ramsajiwan was a seasonal migrant Labourer, apart from this he also worked under MNREGS while at home. The family was supported by Ramsajiwan's labour. Faced with sudden death of Ramsajiwan his family was devastated. The family came to the brink of starvation as late Ramsajiwan was the sole bread winner. His wife Naiki Devi was crying in despair.

Sometime after Ramsajiwan's death Shramik mitra Sukhlal came to the SSK with the BoCW ID of late Ramsajiwan and asked for assistance. The coordinator Mr. Shivmangal was informed about the circumstances after which he instructed Sukhlal to get requisite documents including the Death Certificate, a copy of the Family Register and a letter from the Gram Pradhan verifying the Death of Ramsajiwan and take them to the labour department at Manjhanpur alongwith the BoCW ID of Ramsajiwan. The person to be contacted at the labour department was Mr. Dharmendra who was duly contacted by Sukhlal. He checked the documents and asked Sukhlal to deposit a photocopy of the bank passbook of late Ramsajiwan's wife with an affidavit. He was told that after completion of the process the family of deceased would get a sum of Rs. 115000 as cremation aid. The process was duly completed by Sukhlal and the said amount was credited to Naiki Devi's account on 11/9/2015. Naiki Devi acknowledges the assistance of SSK she received in getting the aid for cremation.