



Completion Report

IND-CHR-WIG-P01, Northern India
Reporting Period: November 2016 to April 2017

Hope and Respect for Widows - India

Budget: \$23,980 fully funded.

Update:

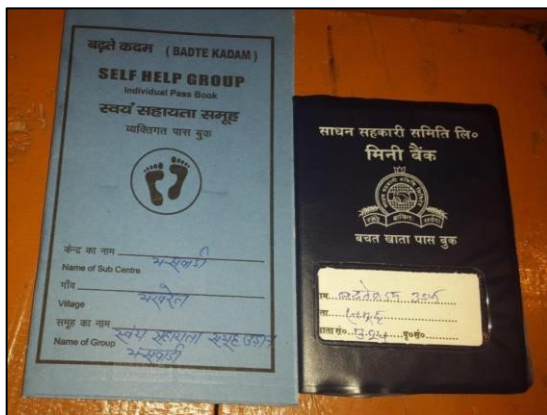
This project has empowered 40 widows economically in several remote villages in Uttarakhand, India. Widows have been provided with goats, seeds and assistance in farming and breeding. They have had business training and were introduced to markets for their produce. Fees have been paid for one of their children to attend school.

The project began in April 2016, with a survey of eight villages. From these eight villages, an initial 22 widows were selected to participate in the program. Another 18 widows were brought in after six months, to allow time for learning and adjustments in the program. All 40 women are the poorest of the poor, with no income of their own and have been subjected to abuse from the community. Many of them are blamed for the death of their husband and seen as a curse.



Recipient of a pair of goats.

In total, 17 widows were given a pair of goats. All 40 widows were given seeds for growing vegetables according to their land area and quality of soil. The women have been organised into two self-help groups and they are successfully running a savings program together. They were initially given a small sum each to establish the savings group and have been contributing from their earnings each month. This means that they have money saved for emergencies so that they do not need to beg or borrow from others. At each meeting, they are trained in farming, animal husbandry and business. In between the monthly meetings, a worker visits each widow separately and checks on her goats and crops and provides advice and support.



Each widow receives a savings passbook.

Our partners have shared many positive impacts since the program was implemented. A widow whose husband died in a road accident 2 years ago was cheated out of her insurance money and fell into a deep depression. She didn't leave the house and her children were not being cared for. She was included in the program but at first, she would not respond to the team assisting her and just kept asking why this had happened to her. The workers persevered and continued to visit and support her. Her brother helped her sow the seeds and care for the goats and she is now a dynamic member of the savings group.

The women are working hard and the group morale has lifted significantly as they again find purpose and confidence in their abilities. Thank you for your part in giving these women a future!