



# Encourage the community: Never Giving Up

Madhumaya's relatives and family were skeptical of her abilities because of her intercaste marriage. Her husband, on the other hand, was always encouraging her not to give up an opportunity.

Madhumaya was only 17 when she had a love marriage. She was then unable to continue her studies to help her husband. She spent her days doing the housework. Those were difficult days for the teenager, Madhumaya. But her never-give-up attitude helped her stay motivated. She worked at a brick factory for two years and managed the savings. However, she had work shifts beginning early in the morning, allowing her to devote adequate time to her children. Thus, she quit the job.

Madhumaya, who lives in Padampur, Banganga—10, spent her savings on a buffalo calf, which she used to prepare the kitchen garden. She

planted seasonal vegetables and sold some in the neighborhood. She again managed some savings, which motivated her. Hence, she continued the kitchen garden but abandoned the idea of buffalo farming after visiting one of her friends in the neighborhood. Her friend had started pig farming and was earning well.

Madhumaya, who is currently an active member of the Chautarfi Self-Help Group, bought one pig with her savings. She built the pig sty with the materials she had on hand, learning how to do so from YouTube. It helped her with the extra expenses. She now has four pigs, and she has named each of them.

Madhumaya would wake up early, do the house chores, and start working in her vegetable garden. She was doing well and didn't have to wait for her husband's salary to fulfill small necessities. However, she felt the desire to expand her farm, but she could not afford it with her savings. She decided to wait.

As said, there is a key to every problem, and Madhumaya experienced it. Her daughter joined the Bal Bagaicha program, where 36-year-old Madhumaya learned that one of the parents can take the farm training. Madhumaya got hopeful. She immediately approached the Siddhartha Social Development Center (SSDC) representative with the help of her daughter and shared her interest in the training. SSDC enrolled her in three days of training under the Ghar Bagaicha program. Madhumaya learned about the techniques of animal farming, the cultivation of rice, wheat, and mustard, and the planting of seasonal and non-seasonal vegetables in the kitchen garden. In addition, she also understood market planning and financial management. After training she has started keeping the tracks of the financial details.

Madhumaya was supported with the sum of Rs. 40,000 from SSDC under the Ghar Bagaicha Program upon the completion of his training. She spent the money to buy five goats and construct two goat lockers. She now has 15 goats, 2 ducks, and 10 chickens. In addition, she used her savings to prepare the fish pond, which now has 150 fish and is 1 kilometer away from her house. She prepares composite fertilizer using the decomposition method that she learned from the same training.

Madhumaya had to bear losses last year because of the flood. She had sold the paddy rice because she was unaware that it could be used for pig food. But she is well prepared this year. She's already saved paddy rice for pig food, as well as grains for chickens and ducks. She is optimistic about making extra money with the mustard farm.

Madhumaya has had additional income-generating experiences in the last six months. The relatives who doubted her currently approach her for expense management techniques. Hence, she happily shares her ideas. What makes her prouder is that she has constructed a cement house with the income she generated with her hard work.

