



Support and strengthening women collectives for catalysing transformation in Hazaribagh district of Jharkhand

PRADAN and SHARE & CARE FOUNDATION has partnered to reach out to 4,000 poor and marginalised women from vulnerable communities, mainly tribals and dalits (45%) and other backward castes (55%), in Hazaribagh district of Jharkhand through this one year project centred on gender based initiatives and access to entitlements. **The project aims to strengthen women's collectives to mobilize the marginalized women into Self Help Groups (SHG's) and facilitate these primary groups and their tertiary organisations like Clusters, Village Organisations (VO) and Federation.** It is through these collectives that women's understanding of gender discrimination and ability to take reformative action would be enhanced. It will also enhance individual women's access to government programmes and schemes, especially those impacting their economic situation like food security, livelihoods, social security and also those affecting longer term wellbeing like early childhood nutrition and care and primary education.

Specific objectives or purpose of the project are:

- a) Organize poor and marginalized women into SHGs.
- b) Introduce group norms, systems and processes and book keeping practices
- c) Train SHG group accountants and introduce computerized accounts systems for maintenance of SHG financial records
- d) Financial inclusion through bank linkage of SHGs through opening of savings accounts.
- e) Strengthen SHGs, Clusters/ Village Organisations
- f) Strengthen the SHG Federation as an institution of the poor.
- g) Intensify and modernise crop-based agriculture- introduce a diversified farming system to increase factor productivity, minimise risk and thereby ensure food security and enhanced incomes leading to livelihood augmentation and strengthening.
- h) Enhance women's enhanced understanding of gender discrimination and reduce discrimination between girls and boys

The support from **SCF** will strengthen and develop independently running primary support groups and their associations at the level of cluster of villages and block level. These organisations help and support individual and groups of women to deal with injustice, discrimination and facilitate access to rights and entitlements on a sustainable basis. We are grateful to SCF for supporting us in strengthening collectives of marginalised women in the remote rural areas of Jharkhand.
