

## Towards Dream of Futrure

My name is Chellakilli and my husband's name is Venkatraman. We have two children. My girl child is 13 years old and she is studying eighth standard. Our boy child is eleven years old and he is studying fifth standard. Our family belongs to a below poverty line category. My husband used to go on his bike and sell clothes in nearby villages during Diwali and Pongal celebration days other auspicious days. Due to insufficient income, I and my husband would go to work in the Karnataka plantation area during the last week of January till the first week of May. During that time, our children will stay in the government hostels. I always leave my children in hostels and would feel bad about the lack of security and other facilities for the children in the hostel. At work sit my husband used to move top of the tree for pruning of silver oak tree branches and I used to collect the branches in the ground. It was risky occupation and most of the time we lead our life with minimum facilities and unhealthy nutritional foods. We are migrating for want of regular income and employment during the non agricultural season. In this scenario, last year I have enrolled myself as a member in Kalanjiam promoted by the DHAN Foundation with funding support of Please Sound and its sponsors.



Through the Kalanjiam programme I learnt and develop habits of the practice of group savings. Every month I used to save small amounts as a savings in the group in my name and get eligibility to take small loans from groups to full fill my family needs. From the Kalvarayan SHG Federation I have received messages from my cluster associates, garments sewing training program has been started to women start the self employment. The training porgramme on tailoring was organized and I actively participated in the training. It was three month duration training programme. The basic level is three months and followed that advanced training on stitching of Sudithar and bridegroom blouse, etc. Through the training program, I learnt to stitch blouse, salwars, shirt and pant and also received a certificate after theory and practical examination.

This certificate helped me to receive subsidy for tailoring machine from the BDO office of Kalvarayan hills. I got INR 8000 worth of sewing machine with 10% of my own contribution. Now I have decided to stop, migrate from that onwards and started concentrating on tailoring business. My business was very useful for me in my village. Two members from my own village

come to me for practice and learning tailoring. I earn some amount by helping them in tailoring. I even stitch the clothes for the village people and I started earning sufficiently to run my family needs.

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