



Suman Rana: A Successful Entrepreneur, Mother and a Homemaker

Suman Rana from Pasiyahi Khurd village (Jaunpur District, Uttar Pradesh), lives in a joint family where her family was content with their existing setup; however because of the increasing cost of living and fewer number of earning members, Suman felt slightly inadequate. She was unable to contribute in her children's education and also was not able to fulfil their needs. She would help her husband in the field but that wasn't sufficient to raise the family income. This was the primary force which drove her to attend TARA Akshar+ programme. She attended TARA Akshar+ classes for two months at the centre near her house and subsequently attended Gyan Chaupali for six months.

The bane of being referred to as an 'illiterate' was lifted. After TARA Akshar+, she was able to read and write and do basic calculations. She recollects that once she attended a session on entrepreneurship in Gyan Chaupali, where they were acquainted with types of small scale businesses that they could involve themselves in. After attending that session, she was filled with an urge to start her own business. Moreover, after attending financial literacy sessions, she was able to open her own bank account, save money and also take a loan from the local Self-Help Group. Suman's brother already owned and managed a poultry farm in her native village. She decided to start her own poultry farm business, like her brother which later grew both in size and profits. Within the initial period of starting the enterprise, Suman endured many hurdles. She took some time to understand the intricacies of running one's own business, yet she strived through the entire process, worked hard and brought laurels to her family. Apart from her brother providing her information, Suman also attended a training workshop in Varanasi. As she started earning profits from this endeavour, she took a loan from her brother and constructed two large enclosed structures and put in more chickens and hens. Her business grew threefold and now she has become the primary income earner of her household. She keeps a record of what goods and items are needed for the farm and herself buys it from the market in Varanasi. Suman's primary motivation to study in TARA Akshar+ was to help her children in their education. As a result, she was able to teach her children at home. She was now aware of what activities went on in their school.

Suman says, "After TARA Akshar+ came to my village, I diligently studied in it and after becoming literate; I got the confidence in myself that I can achieve a lot in life. At the end of Gyan Chaupali, I became well-informed about many things in life such as savings, transactions, financial literacy, sanitation, health and women empowerment etc. Today I am self-sufficient, an entrepreneur and a homemaker, I owe all to TARA Akshar+."