

# CLAIMING GENDER PARITY THROUGH INFORMED COLLABORATIVE ACTION

## *Introduction*

This is the story of women forest community to claim Gender parity by Collaborating action with Informed knowledge in Madanapur Rampur block of Kalahandi dist, facilitated by Seba Jagat.

## *What Happened*

This is the story of women from Jurakhaman village (Meaning Dense Forest). The village was established by Forest Dept way back in 1955. The families didn't have any rights resulting they were unable to access any Govt entitlements. After a protracted struggle, following due process, 53 families received 326 acres land. After implementation of FRA, the communities benefited from land development and Housing schemes.

Then, started the women's movement by establishing Jailaitamu Women Association with a simple but effective idea of contributing a fistful of grain by each member during their meetings. The grain thus collected was distributed to families in distress to ward off Hunger and Hunger related issues/ deaths. With their collective actions, they have started establishing their rights, like promoting Girl's Education, curbing child marriage till attaining legal age, fighting the scourge of alcoholism often leading to Domestic Violence, lack of access to health and Hygiene, being forced to Tattoo their faces under the garb of tradition following very unhygienic and primitive methods often causing infection and health issues, being confined to home and lacked voice/ decision making both at home and community.

Gradually women associations took active role in Forest protection initiatives to protect, conserve and preserve their Forests and sustainable use of Forest produce (NTFP). Understood the importance of having thriving forests for their livelihoods and Economic wellbeing and protected them from Illegal activities/ poaching.

The women's association was named "Niyamagiri Surakshya Samithi" and started actively working towards strengthening Village and Panchayat Institutions after forming Block level organisations.

### *Conclusion*

Through their informed Collaborative action, the women association gained confidence and Leadership qualities. Started participating in community decision making processes and advocating for their rights. It became a platform to support each other and address issues like alcoholism, domestic violence, gender inequity etc.



*Scan the code  
to read the story*

