

Story of
Lalita

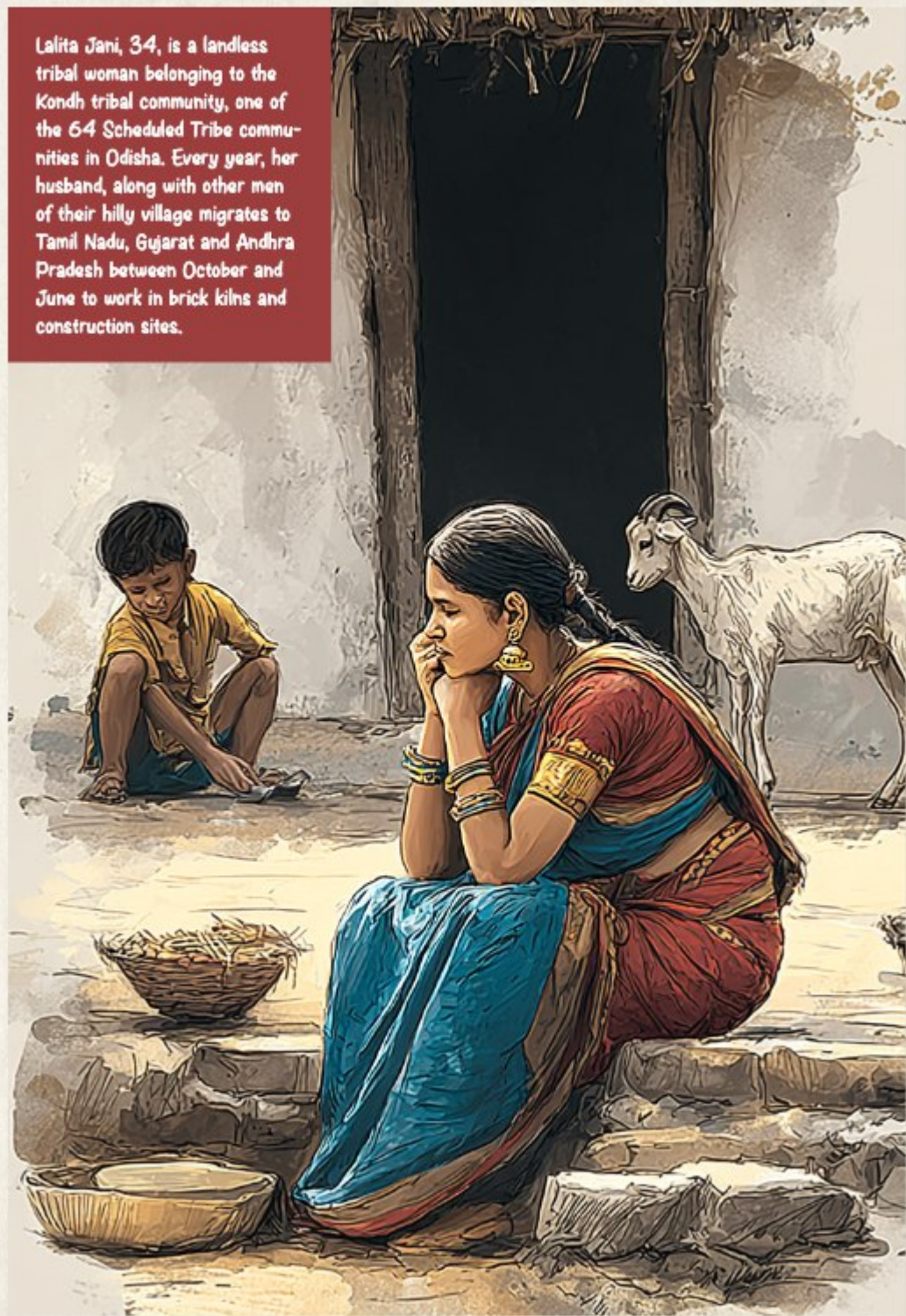
INCLUSION AS A RIGHTHOLDER



Playbook series for rightholders under
Dharti Aba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyaan
(DAJGUA)

**Common
Ground**

Lalita Jani, 34, is a landless tribal woman belonging to the Kondh tribal community, one of the 64 Scheduled Tribe communities in Odisha. Every year, her husband, along with other men of their hilly village migrates to Tamil Nadu, Gujarat and Andhra Pradesh between October and June to work in brick kilns and construction sites.



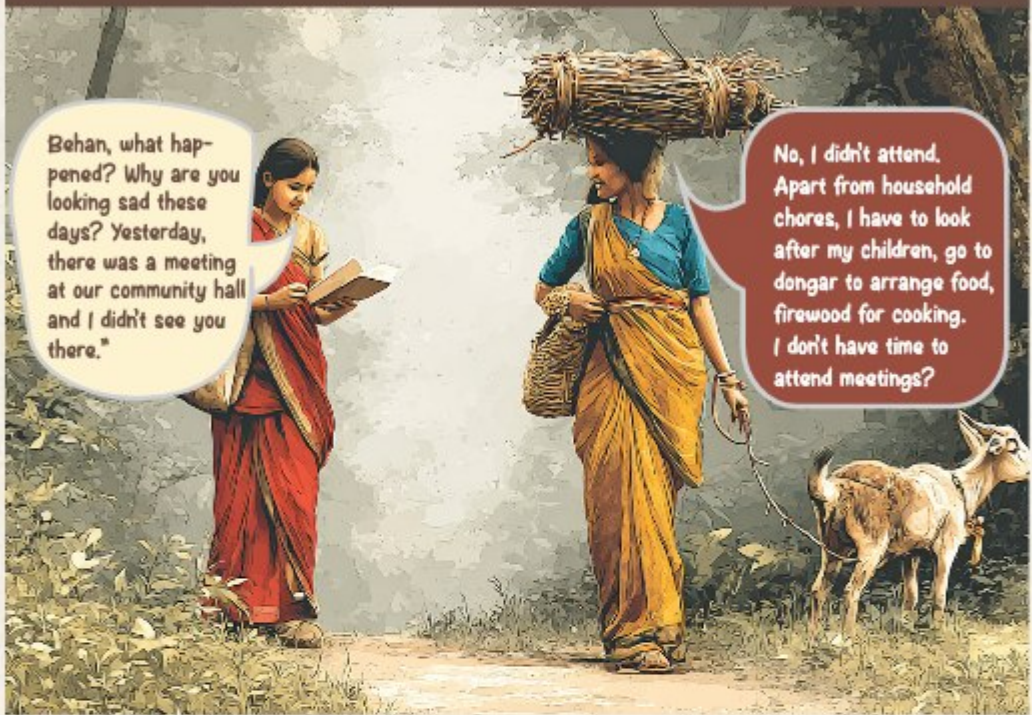


In the absence of her husband, the sole responsibility of the family is on Lalita's shoulders --- from firewood to food. She takes care of the big family and works hard to have two square meals a day.



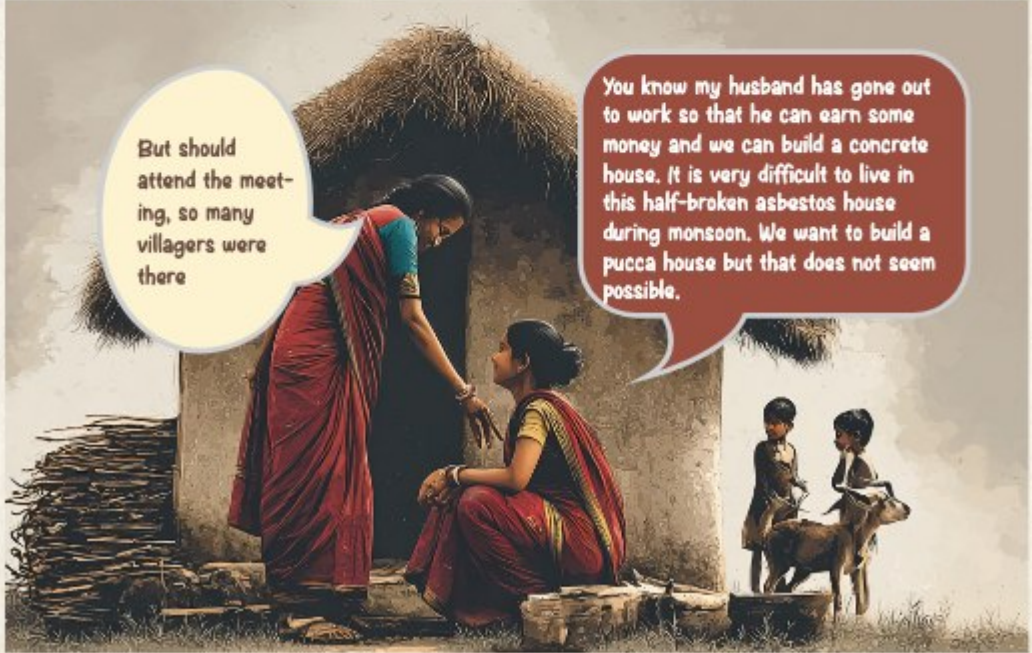
She manages to earn a meagre amount by collecting and selling non-timber forest produce --- tendu, sal, siali leaves, mahua, jhuna and honey. She also works as an agriculture labourer in other's farms. She and her husband dream of building a concrete house so that her children do not have to sleep on the wet floor and under leaking asbestos roofs during monsoon. As their earning is not sufficient to fill their stomach, their dream is just a dream.

One day while returning from the forest with firewood and her goat, Lalita ran into Kabita. Kabita was an active member of the community and regular participant in the local panchayat meetings and camps.

An illustration of two women in a rural setting. On the left, a woman in a red sari (Kabita) stands and looks at a book. On the right, a woman in a yellow and blue sari (Lalita) carries a large bundle of firewood on her head and leads a goat. The background shows a dirt path and some foliage.


Behan, what happened? Why are you looking sad these days? Yesterday, there was a meeting at our community hall and I didn't see you there."

No, I didn't attend. Apart from household chores, I have to look after my children, go to dongar to arrange food, firewood for cooking. I don't have time to attend meetings?

An illustration of two women in a rural setting. On the left, a woman in a red sari (Kabita) stands and leans towards a woman in a red and blue sari (Lalita) who is sitting on a wooden log on the ground. They are in front of a small, dilapidated hut with a thatched roof. In the background, two children are standing near a goat.

But should attend the meeting, so many villagers were there

You know my husband has gone out to work so that he can earn some money and we can build a concrete house. It is very difficult to live in this half-broken asbestos house during monsoon. We want to build a pucca house but that does not seem possible.



Arre behan, you don't have to worry. In yesterday's meeting the discussion was on this only. There is a new programme to make your dreams come true.

Every other day, the government is launching schemes for villagers. But do you think poor people like us, living on the hills, will benefit?

Yes, the new programme DA-JGUA is different as it has been prepared keeping all these issues in mind. It is especially for tribal/ indigenous people so those living in remote villages can get the benefit.

Ok. I will attend the meeting

We have another meeting at the community hall tomorrow. Come and attend. The facilitator from the government will explain to you in detail.

The next afternoon, after finishing their household work, women and men head to the community hall to listen to the facilitator, who spoke about the new programme, DA-JGUA. Listening to him, Lalita felt hopeful that her dream would materialise.



It was easy to understand as the facilitator spoke in our kui language.

So, what are you thinking?

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पंच.क.	०१/०५/२०१६
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After the meeting, they are returning to their homes.

Don't you remember what the facilitator said? You have to go to the sarpanch (PR member) with all your valid documents (ID proofs). He will help you apply for a house under DA-JGUA programme

I want to avail the programme to improve my life. Do you know whom I should approach?

Let's go to meet the sarpanch tomorrow.

Next day at Panchayat office

गर्भरदि शंरुडा के

लएक्यान दिताजो (ससबी जयोरका)

Pradhanji, I want to apply benefits under new DA-JGUA programme. I have brought all the documents needed.



Pradhanji looks at all the documents.

You have brought all your ID proofs, but your Aadhaar card has not been updated for the last six years. First, go to Jan Sewa Kendra and update your card then you can apply in the scheme



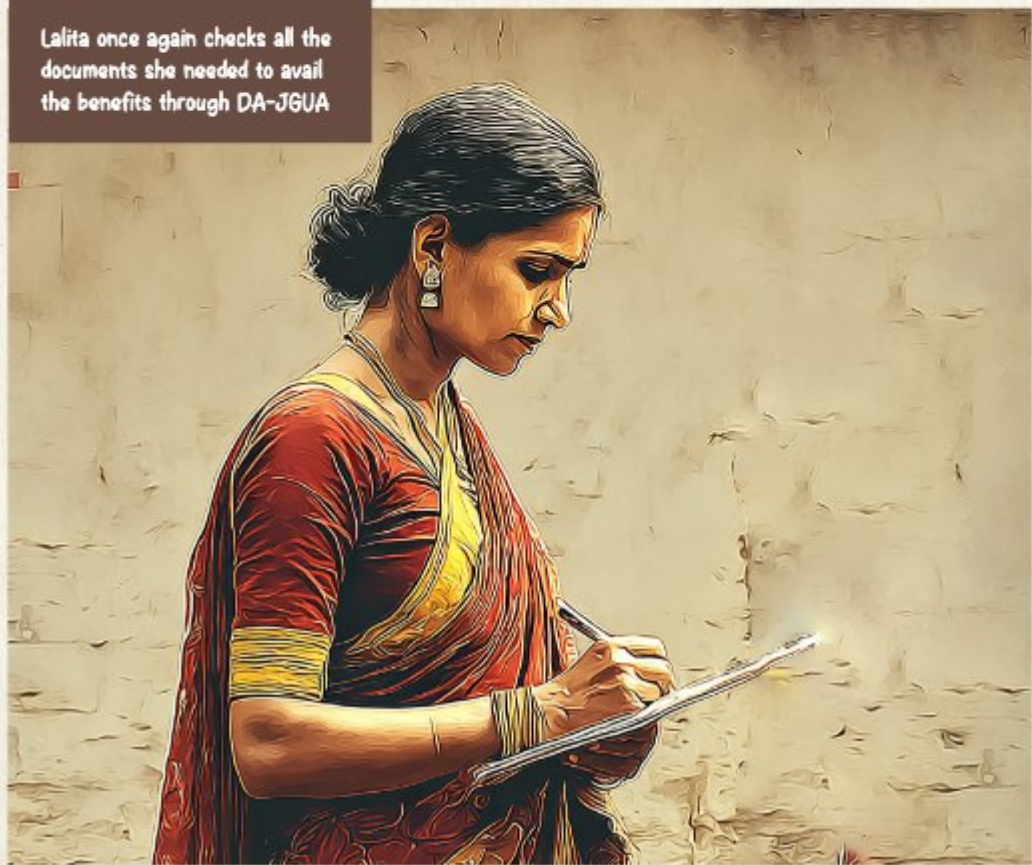
Lalita went to Jan Sewa Kendra (JSK) at the block office to update her Aadhaar card. Place holder for Jan Suvidha Kendra and update process




After a few weeks.

Behan, your Aadhaar update has been done, you can now use it for five years. After that, you have to again update your Aadhaar card.

Lalita once again checks all the documents she needed to avail the benefits through DA-JGUA




She reaches Panchayat office and requested Pradhanji to help her in applying for DA-JGUA programme.




I have told the office to help you apply for the programme. Next month, you will see your name in the list.

After a month, both the women visit to Panchayat office and see their names in the list pasted on the wall.



Arre, this DA-JGUA programme has given us hope for the development of our community. We can demand upgradation of the anganwadi centre, an all-weather road, drinking water facility and mobile connectivity. But, for that, we all have to demand unitedly.



Behan, I am happy that my name is on the list of pucca house recipients. Now, my family will have a concrete house. I want to tell my husband, he will be very happy. But, we don't have mobile connectivity in this village. How can I speak to him?



परीद्वारा				
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How?

We will all attend the next Gram Sabha meeting

Acknowledgement

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Common Ground is a collaborative systems change initiative in the domain of environmental governance and rural livelihoods in India, jointly led by several organisations and anchored by a secretariat organisation, called Living Landscapes. Common Ground leverages the unique opportunity presented by the Commons to address three interconnected crises of our time – livelihoods, climate, and social equality – by integrating a socio-ecological narrative into mainstream development models. Through a collaborative action framework, Common Ground focuses on ‘field setting’, so that entrepreneurial action by multiple actors is accelerated and multiplied, seeding the ecosystem with institutional apparatus and a distributed network of change leaders, to set the stage for sustainable impact beyond the scope of any single initiative or organisation. To know more [click here](#).

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