ETTUMANOOR BLOCK PANCHAYATH

Success Story

Smt. Vijayamma T R, Aymanam Grama Panchayath, Ettumaoor Block, Kottayam

Registration Id: KL-10-002-003-006/618

"Mighty *Women*"

Nine women who belongs to the 6th ward of Aymanam Grama Panchayath in Ettumanoor Block demonstrated their will by successfully constructing a house for a helpless IAY Widow Beneficiary. Construction sector is a field untouched by women. Under the PMAY (G) mason training programme, these nine women underwent mason training and constructed the house of Vijayamma Kunnumpuram and created history.

For many years Vijayamma, who belongs to scheduled caste category has been dreaming of a house of her own . She kept alive the dream in her mind even through the course of her daily struggles. In the year 2015-16, the Ettumanoor Block Panchayat allotted a house under the "IAY house building scheme" to Vijiayamma. Being a widow

and dependant on her only son Vijesh, who is a daily wage worker, Vijesh's negligible wage was not adequate to satisfy even their day to day necessities. Under Indiara Awaas Yojna scheme the first installment of fund was given to Vijayamma, but due to pathetic financial situation and repeated occurance of personal tragedies, she couldn't start the construction. She became distraught and became hopless and abandoned the dream of a house of her own. In the year 2017, with the help of State government's Life Phase I programme, next installment was given to her and the house construction resumed. But again tragedy was no far behind when the distructive flood which occurred in August 2018 destroyed and washed away the partially completed house including the basement. This situation further affected Vijayamma and her family mentally and left them desparate and forced to leave the idea of a house of their own. At this time Ettumanoor Block Rural Development officials and people's representative approached her and gave her confidence and took up the responsibility of constructing a house for Vijayamma.

In the year 2019-20, a meeting was held by Aymanam Panchayat President on PMAY (G) mason training programme. In this meeting, it

was decided to train nine women who are also MGNREGS workers. Vijayamma and her son participated as trainees.

They attended the training with great enthusiasm. A sector, which is tough even for men, like concreting and metal works were completed successfully by these nine women and they proved their mettle. Within 45 days they completed the task of constructing Vijayamma's house. These nine women labourers believe that the new skill they achieved in the area of building construction could be used in the NREGS scheme for getting a better wage to improve their lives. It was a memorable event in their life and they heartly thanked the Projected Director, Block Development Officer , Housing officer,VEO and other RD officials for giving them this great opportunity. They were brimming with confidence and now they are planning to enter the construction sector with great enthusiasm. The PMAY mason training programme has empowered these ordinary women to master and confidently step into a sector earlier monopolized by men.