
Growing Hope, Harvesting Change: Meet Parvati

1 message

Dear Friends,

On our recent trip in India, we had the privilege of speaking with Parvati Devi, an extraordinary woman from Laxmipur village. Her journey from struggle to self-sufficiency is one of courage, community, and transformation. Today, we want to share her story with all of you.



I am Parvati, from Laxmipur village. After getting married, I moved to Laxmipur village, but life was very difficult. We faced many challenges, including a lack of food and basic necessities. To survive, we used to collect firewood, walk five to six kilometers to sell it, and then buy some ration with the money. At home, we would cook whatever we could—mostly maize and millet.

In those days, we were scared to venture out alone. After selling firewood, we would also collect small clay lamps (dhibri) from the soil, clean them, and sell them once a week to earn a little more. But everything was done by ourselves—whatever we could gather and eat, we had to manage with that.

We often fell sick due to a lack of proper nutrition, especially anemia, and

frequent illness became common. Hunger made us weaker. But things started changing in 2021 when the Savera Foundation came to our village. The brothers and sisters (volunteers) guided us, and the whole village came together to participate in shramdaan (voluntary labor) to improve our situation.

We worked together to build a pond, stopping water from draining away by constructing barriers and small dams. The organization also supported us by providing seeds for kitchen gardens. With their guidance, we started growing vegetables, making vermicompost, and using protective nets.

Now, we grow our own food and even sell the surplus, earning around ₹500 to ₹1,000 a month. Our families eat fresh, homegrown vegetables instead of buying from the market. The self-help group we formed has made a huge difference—we share resources and work together.

I have two daughters; one is in her fourth semester at college (21 years old), and the younger one is in high school (15 years old). Now, not only are our children getting an education, but they are also healthier because we eat nutritious food. Since we started consuming homegrown vegetables, we haven't fallen sick as often. Every year, we sell ₹50,000 to ₹60,000 worth of vegetables.

We are truly grateful to those who showed us the way and helped us move forward. We hope to continue progressing, step by step, ensuring our children stay healthy and excel in their education.



In Parvati's words, "My strength is not measured by the weight of the wood I carried, but by the courage to take a step toward a brighter future for myself and my children."

More about Social Capital Initiatives' (formerly Asia Initiatives) mission and work is on our [website](#) and on our [Youtube](#) channel. We would love to hear your ideas and suggestions about our work so please do reach out, and join us on future trips to our field sites!

Geeta and the Social Capital Initiatives Team

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