Dindayal Antodaya Mahila Bahudeshiya Sahakari Samiti Maryadit

Garratola (Cooperative Society, Garratola)

Objective:

"To enhance the skills and capacity of each member of the Cooperative Society towards the better sustainability in the society by



History

Through various projects, the formation of SHG's, men's support group, coaching centers were formed to cater the basic needs to uplift the people in Garratola, like education, health and awareness programs on various social issues. The work was carried through watershed project, fish farming, goat rearing etc. The thought of having a **BIG** organization of the women was at the back of the mind but to bring it to the fore was the responsibility of the **think-tank**.

Every time a thought remained in the minds 'after the project ends what next'! The **BIG PICTURE** was still blurred. As time passed by after much evaluation and monitoring of each project activity and the outcome of the projects a thought arose of long term **"Economic Sustainability"** where the women hold the responsibility of managing the organization and slowly but steadily the idea grew and in 2018 the Co-operative Society was born!

The main purpose of the co-operative society is to provide micro credit in order to have a sustainable future. The women envisaged such a platform and were happy to have their own co-operative society, from where they can avail of the micro credit with a reasonable interest rate and march towards a better sustainable future.

Dindayal Antodaya Mahila Bahudeshiya Sahakari Samiti Maryadit, Garratola

(Co-operative Society) is an initiative of the Economic Justice Project (EJ Project). It was started in the year 2018. The Co-operative Society carries its own bye laws and functions accordingly. The main objective of the Co-operative Society is **"to enhance the skills and capacity of each member of the Co-operative Society towards better sustainability in the**

society by addressing the social and economical issues".

The activities of the Co-operative Society are:

- > To provide the micro credit schemes
- > To provide trainings on economic and social issues
- > To generate income through multiple businesses
- To increase the memberships through Self Help Groups



From the start till now this Co-operative Society has grown in membership and spread in the field areas. As per the data up to 31st May, 2022 the membership in the Co-operative Society is 382, with 34 SHG's in 20 villages. The members are grouped into SHG's and they carry out their individual and collective businesses. The Co-operative Society has 11 Board Members and one staff (accountant) in the cooperative office. The micro credit loan procedure is discussed and passed at the Board meeting by the all the members.

Individual & collective businesses of the members of the Co-operative Society:



The various individual businesses which the members

undertake, are: agriculture, pig farming, goat rearing, vegetable cultivation and selling, chicken farm, tailoring, brick making and selling, petty shop, welding

workshop, cosmetic shop, tent, fish farming, rental tractor, rental concrete mixture machine, rental vehicles, grain cultivation and seasonal business like ice cream selling. The collective business carried out by one SHG is catering.



Co-operative Society businesses:

- Rental Vehicle
- Paddy seeds selling (seasonal business)
- Potato seeds selling (seasonal business)
- Rental Chairs





Trainings for the members of the Co-operative Society:



Through Economic Justice Project different trainings are organized for the Board members, SHG office bearers and other members of the Co-operative Society. The trainings conducted were on themes such as administration, business and marketing, life skills education, leadership, orientation on the benefits of the cooperative society, diversifying the

business, risk management, financial record keeping and many more related to the cooperative rules and regulations.

Participation in campaigns:

The women took part in celebrating International Women's Day, International Girl Child Day, Adivasi Divas (Tribal day), Dr. Ambekar Jayathi and other locally related programs, which are in line with women and girl child and children.





Exposure visits: The members of the Co-operative Society were taken to different places for exposure programs like sapling cultivation center, plate making centre and vermi compost making center in order to make them acquainted with these and to broaden their thinking capacity before taking up new business activities.

Outcome: The members of the Co-operative Society have been strengthened with

different skills in managing the business. Along with the economic program the members attend to the social issues in their locality. They are able to diversify their business and have a standard income for the sustainability of the family. The women are able to take decision for themselves, family and the society too. They are able to understand the benefits of joining the Cooperative Society, which becomes one of the main sources for income generation.

Economic Justice Project Garratola, CEIN.

