



# Make a Dream house

Sky Art Micro Enterprises Group is a Hollow bricks manufacturing and construction unit. The unit is located at Madakathara GramaPanchayath of Thrissur district of Kerala. The group consists of seven members of Kudumbashree network and started their Unit on 24 July 2017. Mrs. Soumya Mathai is the President and Mrs. Jinsy Shaji is the Secretary of the unit. Mrs. Elsy Mathai, Mrs. Chinna Ayyappan, Mrs. Padmavathy Chandran, Mrs. Sunitha Surendran and Mrs. Gracy James are the other members of the group. The initial capital investment of the unit was Rs.2.5 lakhs.

The group members are from economically backward families who lives in proximity to the unit. The motivation for the formation of the group was from the experience in MGNREGS (Mahatma Gandhi National Employment Guarantee Scheme). Idea of such type of group has been emerged from Kudumbashree training attended by the members. It was such a good opportunity for the aspiring individuals. Hollow bricks project is the ideal enterprise for setting up a small scale unit in the construction industry. Also it can be initiated as a home based unit. Sufficient workplace is needed for starting this unit. Also, a home based business initiative allows operating with low-cost investment.

The group members successfully completed the training of house construction and they are skilled labour as well. They got an opportunity to construct three houses with their own hands except for roofing, electrical and Plumbing works under LIFE project.

Under the present condition, the unit could produce 250 cement blocks per day while using single phase connection and single block producing machine. Raw materials are supplied from Grama Panchayath at free of cost through MGNREGS for LIFE Mission Project. Cement Blocks are supplied to LIFE beneficiaries at free of cost. Unit members get wages as per MGNREGS scheme. Now the group members are suggesting a request to charge an amount of Rs.10 per cement brick to meet their additional expenses (Electricity charges & water charges). Group ensures some quality /durability test of the product. The Grama Panchayath is awarding road concrete work (below 3 metres width road) to the group without tendering. They have successfully completed the concreting of 6 panchayath roads till date. Each person is getting Rs.750 per day for road construction as skilled labour. They have successfully completed the construction of 3 houses under LIFE mission.



### **Reason for success?**

Unity and cohesiveness is the reason for our success. Women are not willing to come over the construction areas and participating in the hard work and challenging job. Our willingness to take the challenges drive us forward.

### **Challenges faced?**

The main challenge is space constraint for build cement blocks. There is no required place and Shed. Water scarcity is another challenge. The manual machine is now using and needed extra hardwork.

### **Turning point in business?**

Members those who stand very backward do not even think about business. They decided to start manufacture of cement bricks with the work experience from the employment guarantee scheme. They have no competitors in the market.

### **Future plan/ambition?**

We plan to provide cement bricks for the entire beneficiaries under Government housing scheme in our Block Panchayath.

### **Most happy moment?**

Handing over of key of the first house constructed by our group is an unforgettable moment in our life. This was the proudest moment as well.

### **Message to aspiring women?**

Always show willingness to take challenges that it will be the driving force that lead us forward.

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