

# The GEN Initiative Ltd (GEN) - Progress Report - Spring 2015

## Feedback from the Sixth Annual Stakeholder Meeting

### Held in Tapukara, Rajasthan, India

[www.gen-initiative.org](http://www.gen-initiative.org)

#### About the Annual Stakeholder Meet

Each year GEN and End Poverty hold a Stakeholder Meet over two or three days in February / March. Its purpose is to consult with villagers about progress in the last year and to discuss plans for the coming year. The 2015 Stakeholder Meet was held in EP's office in Tapukara on 23 & 24 February 2015. The focus of Day One was on Village Development Groups. The focus of Day 2 was on Education (KSP) and Craftwork (ACC).



#### Day 1 Village Development



Plenary session on village development

#### Day 2 – Education



Plenary session on education

#### Day 2 – Craftwork



Plenary session on craftwork

#### Feedback on Village Development Groups (VDGs)



After the plenary session on village development, small working groups were formed to discuss particular issues in more detail.

#### VDGS have had a number of successes:

- The EP fruit tree saplings distribution programme has been very successful. Farmers are now developing over 66 small orchards
- VDGs have helped villagers to obtain 'Adhaar' or Personal Identity cards which are key to accessing Government services and benefits.
- VDGs have provided covers for hazardous open wells in several villages.
- VDGs have secured the provision of several handpumps for water supply.
- VDGs have organised minor road repairs.
- VDGs are planning training for members and exposure visits so they can find out about good work being done elsewhere

#### Feedback from parents and teachers on the Education Programme (KSP)

- The one-year education programme (KSP – education for unschooled adolescent girls) is very well regarded by villagers.
- There is demand for more KSPs and for a longer duration.
- KSP has helped children become more responsible, as well as better educated.
- Parents consider that educating the girls close to home is a big benefit.
- Girls who have attended KSP can and do pass on the benefit of literacy to other family members



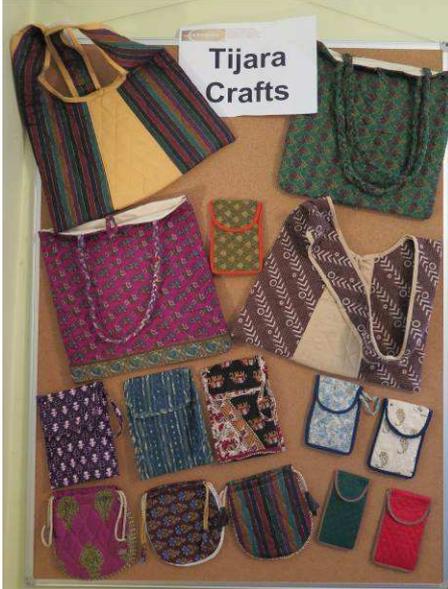
Nirm, a KSP teacher from Hamiraka village reports the conclusions of her Working Group on Education

Vikram Khan (right) says about the KSP education for unschooled adolescent girls: “There is always positive change if children are educated. The girls learn how to read newspapers and letters. They gain by good eating habits and planting beneficial plants. They can do anything they want.”



Vikram Khan, a parent from Dholi Pahari village

### Feedback on Craftwork Programme (ACC)



The photo (left) shows some of the range of craftwork products produced in the Tijara villages - shoulder bags (square and triangular), large (passport size) pouches small (phone or camera size) pouches and draw string pouches. The range also includes: tablecloths, place mats and yoga mat bags. New products recently launched include pouches for tablets (such as the iPad). EP has recently started to sell to the Indian market on the Internet through the Internet portal ‘Jabong’ (look for the range of ‘Meo homecrafts’). EP recently opened a new craft centre in the village of Shekhpur. The centre run by Suraj (pictured, right) concentrates on making shopping bags.



### Feedback from Workshop on Impact Evaluation held after the stakeholder meet

A GEN / EP in house Workshop on Impact Evaluation was held on 28 February. Funding bodies are increasingly looking for evidence of the beneficial impacts of the programme they fund. The Workshop goal was to further develop our approach to impact assessment of all projects in the EP/GEN portfolio in order to ensure a shared understanding and approach that will improve the quality of our work and meet funders expectations

**Approach** – i) Use log frames as basis for measuring economic and social impact of each project where it exists (KSP) or identify what more needs to be done to complete a workable log frame (ACC, VDGs, rural tourism). (ii) Explore for each project more systematic ways of measuring and recording impact, including what more needs to be done to complete log frames where these are incomplete.



Left - The EP field team – Satvinder, Fateh, Pooran, Rakesh, Dayal Singh plus Ajay from EPs Gurgaon Office