

### **SELF HELP GROUPS - WOMEN EMPOWERMENT**

To empower women, to make them capable is to ensure their financial independence to a certain extent. There was a greater need to make women more confident, bring them together to share their joys & sorrows, exchange ideas etc.

The Rural Empowerment and Community Health (REACH) program began in 2007 with this objective. Spreading awareness about health, hygiene and literacy along with skills-training, which can help generate some income are some of the objectives behind the formation of self-help groups as part of this program. Currently, 345 In Ratnagiri and 250 in Sindhudurg such groups are operating in various villages. Collective farming is one of the successful activities of the group and they are all overjoyed with the fruits of their labour. These women have now learned to prepare simple local delicacies, sewing, making creative envelopes/bags from paper, manufacturing purses, simple jewellery etc. It has given them a source of income, a sense of independence and made them financially strong to a certain extent.

These self-help groups are formed to empower women from remote villages. Till today program has covered villages from Chiplun, Sangmeshwar taluka. Foreign delegates visiting in the institute every year also participate the activities of these groups by visiting their villages and observing the skills developed by them. These UK team visits have motivated many of the women to become entrepreneurs.

#### **Names of the villages are**

Dervan, Kudap, Sawarde, Durgewadi, Nandgaon, Kutare, Chiplun, Kondmala, Kapsal, Burambad, Tural, Arawali, Asurde, Agawe, Dahiwali, Kharawate, Kamathe etc.

The rural women have now experienced the advantages of these self-help groups so they gladly participate in the monthly meetings, pay their contributions, keep records, take loans from the group in case of urgent needs, regularly pay interest etc. Periodically health camps, cancer screening camps, Health Awareness sessions are organized by B.K.L. Walawalkar Rural Medical College.



**Kokare self-help group-Group farming & Papad making**  
**British team taking interest in knowing the products manufactured by Self-help groups**





**Health checkup for self-help group ladies**



**Paper bags preparation**



**TRUSTEE VISIT TO SHG**  
**NUTRITIONAL**  
**RECIPE DEMONSTRATION**





**British Paramedics Visiting Self Help Group In Villages**



**British Medicos Appreciating The Items Manufactured By Self Help Group Women.**



## REACH Activities



**Summary of REACH program and coverage of Villages from Ratnagiri district.**

<b>Year</b>	<b>No. of villages</b>	<b>No. of self-help groups</b>	<b>Participants</b>	<b>Faculty and staff participated BKLWRMC</b>
2021	20	345	3523	5
2020	20	340	3454	2
2019	20	334	3589	10
2018	22	318	3302	6
2017	20	302	3087	7
2016	22	297	3089	5
2015	22	273	2730	4

**Summary of REACH program and coverage of Villages from Sindhudurg district**

Names of the villages are Halwal, Vagade, Kankawali, Sonawade, Bharani, Jambhawade, Ghodge, Harkul

<b>Year</b>	<b>No. of villages</b>	<b>No. of self-help groups</b>	<b>Participants</b>	<b>Faculty and staff participated BKLWRMC</b>
2021	8	250	3249	4
2020	8	248	3227	2
2019	8	234	3082	10
2018	8	223	2965	6
2017	8	212	2855	6
2016	8	207	2805	8
2015	8	184	2563	5