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Village Pharmacies and Organic Farming

These experiences come from direct practice of our organization KASARIAN-KALAYAAN or SARILAYA for short which when translated, literally means gender liberation.

WHAT:

Piloting of 1) Village Pharmacies run by women & 2) Organic Farm initiated by women

WHY:

The idea about village pharmacies was a result of a series of focused group discussions right after a drought in the country. Health is wealth. Women wanted easier access to safe and affordable medicines. The village pharmacies are just a starting point towards a community managed health program . In a way, it can be considered as a health cooperative.

The organic farm was a direct offshoot of a series of sustainable development dialogues we conducted and was validated by the result of a participatory rural appraisal. Its short term goal is to provide food for the family of the cooperators. Its long term goal is to bring back the rich productivity of the land and thus reduce. The incidence of poverty in the community. Integrated into this is the aim of affirming women's important role in food security.

WHO:

Grassroots women assisted by women professionals in the field of health, education commerce and agriculture

WHERE:

Two rural villages and four semi-urban / resettlement villages whose population ranges from 2,000-10,000.

WHEN:

The village pharmacies have been on-going for two years, the farm for a year.

HOW:

Health surveys and village forums were conducted before specific women were given Pharmacy aid training and management committee training. Regular monitoring and Inventory as well as assessments have been done. Other trainings on basic health skills as well as other healing modalities were also provided.

For the farm ,discussions on sustainable agriculture, organic fertilizer making, seed Selection and storage ,mulching ,etc. were provided. An agronomist was hired to monitor progress.

RESULTS:

These two projects have in a way made women acquire new professions in the community. They of course have also provided a good service to the community. In terms of monetary gains, some of the village pharmacies are already able to give some training.

The small farm experience has made initial breakthroughs: from chemical based farming to organic farming, from mono cropping to multi cropping and from one planting season to two planting seasons.

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