

## Success Story of Lakshmi Mahila SHG Of Dhumli Village

This is the story of Lakshmi Sakhi Mandal, one of the pioneer women SHGs to have contributed greatly to the erstwhile State sponsored Sakhi Mandal Scheme.

Lakshmi Sakhi Mandal comprises of 12 members all of whom belong to backward communities. Adversity brought them together and these strong willed women started a shop at the Gramhaat located at the Tourist spot of Dhumli Village. The capital for the shop was raised by utilizing the group's monthly savings which begun with a per member contribution of Rs.100/- each. The shop sells items such as artefacts made of China Clay (*Chinai mitti*), handicraft items, cutlery, etc. These items are sourced from nearby towns' viz. Rajkot, Surendranagar & Junagadh. While a few members work at the shop, the others remain associated with daily wage work and agriculture activities. The GramHaat shop which otherwise started as a leisure time activity for the members has now become an important source of sustainable income for supporting their families.

One of the Member Ms. Rekhaben says excitedly, "As Tourism grows, our Gramhaat will also progress."

The members of Lakshmi Mahila SHG have now become pillars for growth and sustainability for the rest of their family members.

In Bhanwad Taluka, more than 4400 women are included in SHG who have saved Rs. 80 lakhs and have done the internal landing of around Rs. 50 Lakhs and have proved to be a supporting hand for their family.



