



## SKS ULTRA POOR PROGRAM February – March 2011

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Meet **Sadai Mandi**, member of SKS Ultra Poor Graduation Pilot from Laxmipur (GP Boipariguda). A Scheduled Caste Ultra poor member; Sadai is a case of '**downward transition**'. She finds it hardest to come out of chronic poverty: but her strong will to Graduate keeps her moving forward.

She was treated by Lepra Society, Jeypore for 6 months against chronic Leprosy and is not responding to any

**The power of staying alive and fighting Leprosy; is it costing earth?  
Our mission is to work along with her to graduate!**

drugs. Her husband is a daily wage earner and is

taking care of assets (2 sheep) provided by SKS UPP. She has two daughters and a son to take care. She could save Rs.700 in the UP Center. In spite of all adversity she is determined to rebuild secure livelihoods. We facilitated subsidized government rice card and pension. In this month, UP Center Members, are helping her redraw the Livelihoods Action Plan to prevent the possible downward transition. Nutrition, additional support through Working Capital Stipend, Training Loan and Bank Linkages is being envisaged. In her case, ultra poverty is the sum total of multiple factors that include health and longevity, nutrition, income and more than anything self confidence. SKS UPP is redesigning traditional approach to **Graduation** taking cue from such case studies. After all for us graduation is **non - negotiable**.

### Yemen Ultra Poor Graduation Pilot Team visits Koraput Ultra Poor Branch

on a cross learning program, thanks to BDI and CGAP sponsorship. It was rich mutual learning as both the Asian Nations share same structural reasons for ultra poverty.

The divide between “haves and have nots” is no different story for both of our Nations. It is highly appreciable that Yemen is making sincere effort through its Pilot for creating a model of evidence based solutions.



Asia contributes to 70% of world ultra poverty. Asian countries need to converge more strongly for a meaningful impact on Millennium Development Goals and eradication of poverty from the face of the earth.

The wavelength is well established between global network partners for synergetic learning. – **Yemen Team with our Health Field Organizer**



**What is difference between our ultra poverty and that of yours as experienced in this visit?**

*Yemen Team took little time to reply:*

“Nothing much intrinsic difference except that ours is *desert ultra poverty* and yours is *forest ultra poverty*! Bottom line indicators are nevertheless same, like chronic hunger, state apathy and denial of opportunity. Both of us have common goal to eradicate extreme poverty from our mother lands. “





*He runs one of the biggest MFIs in the world. Yet: SKS Ultra Poor Mission would not have been anywhere close to where it is today, earning global reputation, if it were not for his bold vision of ultra poor inclusive growth. We firmly believe in carving growth path for bottom line poor.*

#### Vikram in conversation with the Bare Foot Tribal Doctor:

SKS has created this last mile connectivity called **Bare Foot Tribal Doctor** for health care; otherwise poor tribals have to go miles to fetch a paracetamol or diarrhea pill.



**Rice Line Scheme, Barefoot Doctor Service, tribal friendly savings products, innovative livelihoods interventions, Training loans and Bank Linkages for micro loans** are assimilated well in our ultra poor mission

Our Tribal Ultra Poor Program Center members in the remote tribal village shared their **transition stories** with Vikram, who runs one of the biggest



Micro Finance Institutions in the world. Yet he appreciated tribal poor women accessing SBI Bank linkage program as first step towards graduation from extreme poverty and chronic hunger. ***Our strongest belief is in coexistence of all stake holders in a healthy development environment and philosophy of growth and welfare.*** Sriram of Unitus – Sorenson's Ultra Poor Initiative has joined Vikram in the visit.



**They save Fistful of Rice everyday as envisioned by you:**

Dr. Vikram Akula, Author of – “**A Fistful of Rice: My Unexpected Quest to End Poverty Through Profitability**” looks at real time rice bank operated by tribal ultra poor as first step towards food security, during his visit to Koraput Ultra Poor Center in Odisha.

Our ultra poor members have cumulatively saved 6 quintals of rice and have underwritten food security for 800 members and their families for the next 30 days through “**community rice banks**”.