



Swayam Krishi Sangam Ultra Poor Program

Indicators

Villages covered	- 205
Targeted villages	- 100
Control villages	- 105
Members targeted	- 426
Assets worth INR	- 2.9m

Team

Field Force -	10
Branches -	1



The Ultra Poor Program is the light house of Swayam Krishi Sangam, a not for profit NGO operating from Hyderabad, India.

In absolute and relative terms India has the highest number of extreme poor (<1 US\$ a daily income) in the World and 'newly hungry' are added every year more than the rest of the world combined. The Ultra Poor are faced with multi dimensional deprivation, caught in spatial poverty traps.

The SKS Ultra Poor Program, scientifically targets the bottom of the pyramid extreme poor, employing participatory identification tools. Our intervention logic is based on seamless and integrated services in the thematic areas of social, health and economic advancement to the identified extreme poor households with the aim of mainstreaming and reconnecting them to lost livelihood opportunities through a road map of their choice. The identified partner households are invariably women headed and most of them are destitute or below destitute.

The graduation path is closely tracked with information loops capturing quality life and household performance indicators. SKS Ultra Poor Program is deeply grounded in the philosophy and methodology of *handholding* to *hand in hand* to *shake hand* within a time frame. The single most important criterion of the measure of impact of this Program is *an orderly transition into self propelled and secured livelihoods with elevated social and health awareness levels*

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Ultra poor program - Interventions



Intervention 1: Livelihoods

Includes the selection and transfer of livelihood assets and Incubation in asset management, such as live-stock-rearing or running a general store. This is followed by comprehensive skills training and access to savings services



Intervention III: Social Development

Provides partners with the opportunity to conduct group meeting and discuss important social concerns in an open forum. The forum is also used to create awareness about various government programs targeting the ultra poor and increase their participation in these programs



Intervention 2: Health Development

Includes monthly visits by a trained health professional, information sessions, health screenings, and health training for selected ultra poor members to create a cadre of paraprofessionals and barefoot doctors within the community



Intervention IV: Financial literacy

Provides partners with basic knowledge on financial literacy by guiding them on maintaining cash-flow, budgets, setting up goals and savings. Also sensitizes on opportunities to grow, providing information on various financial institutions and products available within their reach

Vikram Akula. Founder and Chairperson



"SKS NGO has mission to work along side the ultra poor (<1 US \$ a day income) located at the bottom of the pyramid." SKS Micro Finance has outreach to 60,000 villages in 18 States in India and SKS NGO envisions to be coterminous in these villages with a mission to eradicate ultra poverty. For us micro finance is not the last word in poverty eradication and ultra poor can not take the rigors of the micro finance unless they graduate to smoothen consumption and stabilize incomes. On graduation, through our ultra poverty specific interventions, they are free to access micro finance or state sponsored Bank linkages.