

Every Cloud has a Silver Lining

It is a sunny winter morning when the three children of Jatyani are hurriedly finishing



Jatyani with her prized handmade products

their breakfast to run off to school. Jatyani Sarabangage, a thirty five year old woman of **Janakpur village in Subarnapur district of Odisha**, rushes inside a room to get their bags. This is the scene at Jatyani's home every morning, and she loves it. Some years back, Jatyani in her dreams could not imagine sending her kids to school. The family is very poor, both Jatyani and her husband are daily wage earners. The family suffered from acute food insecurity round the year, leading them to destitution. The couple had no option

but to migrate to a distant state, hoping to lead a life with dignity and free from hunger. Very soon, she realized that they jumped out of a frying pan into the fire. Jatyani in particular faced many problems and harassment. Moreover, the children were left without care and exposed to many ills. They decided to go back to their village for better or for worse.

On their return, Jatyani learned about Lutheran World Service India Trust's endeavour to form womens' Self Help Group for their socio-economic upliftment. She could see a silver lining and joined the group, she took loan from the group and started goat rearing. As the goat rearing was successful she bought 1.5 acres of land. No longer they have work as daily labourers, but invested their time and energy in ploughing the land. She grows 10 quintals of paddy each year in the land, which ensures the food security of her family.

Along with her husband, she initiated a small scale business of making and selling bamboo baskets. Through this, she takes care of the other needs of the family. She along with the other members of the SHG think of new business ventures which will help them economically.

The couple is determined to continue the education of the children. The young daughter of Jatyani aspires to be a teacher, while the two sons vie for a government job. On seeing the children do well in their studies, Jatyani's husband is confident they would be able to fulfill their aspirations.

Jatyani and few other women thank LWSIT for being the ray of hope in times of absolute destitution.