

**'From Destitution to Well being- a rugged road walked...'**



**Happy Nirmanti**

Kamala a toddler, with a bowl in her hand unsteadily walks towards Nirmanti Sud's hut...she is hungry for some puffed rice, and she knows where best to get it. Yes, the puffed rice made and sold by Nirmanti is the best in the village.

But things were not so rosy for Nirmanti in the recent past. Nirmanti, a widow,

approaching 65 years of age, of Gunchitara village in Balangir, has no one to look after her, she has none in the village whom she can call her family. Her only son alongwith his family, is settled in Raipur, who seldom visits her and also does not support her monetarily. As she does not own a land nor she is of the age to work as a landless labourer, hence she was left next to destitution.

When everything in her life was grey and dismal with no hope, Lutheran World Service India Trust (LWSIT) lit her life, for her LWSIT became synonymous to the maxim hope for the hopeless.

LWSIT was the implementing agency for government funded Watershed Project in Balangir (along with few other districts). In the project had provision to provide support to marginalized and landless families who were not directly benefiting from the watershed project.

Once she approached LWSIT, she was given a grant of Rs 3000 to start her own business on puffed rice. With the seed money (which included her meager contribution too), she started preparing and selling puffed rice, in her village. With each passing day, her product gained immense popularity in the village that she failed to meet the

increasing demand. At times, she feels that another helping hand would help her to meet the increasing demand of puffed rice. Today, she takes good care of herself and doesn't wish to recall the days of destitution, whenever a LWSIT staff goes to visit, she blesses them immensely and doesn't forget to offer a bowl of puffed rice to them.