

Dream came true for Mrs Girija

I am wife of Late Babusapalya, Koila village Bantwal Taluk. I am 66 years old. I lost my husband two years back. He met with an accident and lost one leg. He was bedridden for 8 years. My husband was a mason. When I married to him there were 6 members in the house. We were tenants of a land owner. We were working in the field of land owner. Later we applied for a house site with the Panchayath. Panchayath allotted a house site and we built a house. Along with agricultural labour work, I rolled beedies for extra income. I have 4 children. As children grew, my husband purchased 1.66 barren land. We dug a small open well. My husband planted 125 areca plants, 25 coconut plants, banana, pepper, cashew etc. Though there was water in it, it began collapsing. My husband wanted to build it with protective wall. He even brought stones. But unfortunately he met with an accident and lost one of his legs. He was bedridden for 8 years and eventually died. I have spent a fortune for his hospital expenses. The well remained as it is for about 15 years. I was eager to repair it and could not do so due to financial crunch' Mrs. Girija narrates her story.



She came into contact of DISHA and became a member of FDG- **Pingarashakthi**. She attended the meetings and programmes regularly and motivated to involve in water, soil and biomass conservation activities. Through the intervention of Mrs Vinoda, DISHA field staff she was able to get her BPL card and widow pension. "I had a long pending wish to repair my open well. In one of the meeting of the FDG my name was



suggested for renovation of well. Finally my dream came true. My family worked hard to complete the work. I used cement rings to prevent caving in and now it became a pucca structure. I am hoping to water my plants and increase my income". Girija beams with smile.

Narrated by: Vinodha, Field Organizer ,DISHA Trust.