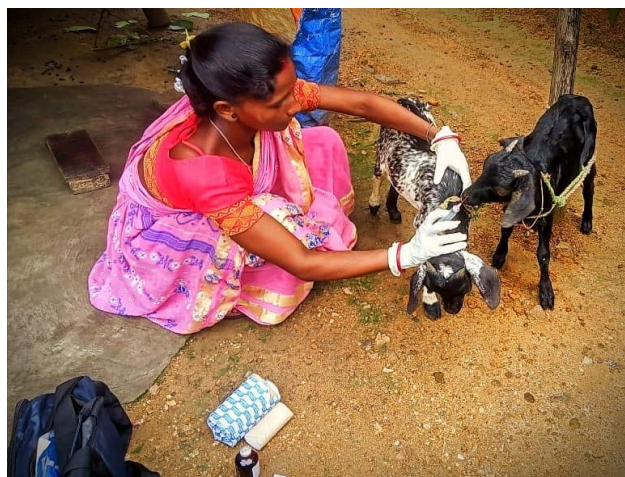




# Success story of Kabita Soren from an ordinary House-wife to Animal Health Worker in Saltora Panchayat

- **Name** – Kabita Soren
- **Age** – 27 Years
- **Village** – Shiyarbedia
- **Panchayat** – Saltora
- **Block** – Saltora
- **Family Members** : 4 members
- **VCSC Name** – Bir Baha Nagorik Sangathan



## Background :

Kabita Soren is a woman from an impoverished Adivasi (tribal) family, living with her husband and two children. Her husband, who is a daily wage labour, was struggling to cover all the family's expenses. Discussing the financial difficulties with her husband, Kabita decided to contribute financially to the family's well-being. She had long dreamt of becoming self-reliant, but poverty had previously prevented her from achieving her goal.

## The Opportunity: The Sufala Project of DRCSC

At that crucial time, staff members from the DRCSC Sufala Project arrived in her village to conduct a survey. Their aim was to identify and guide poor families lacking good opportunities for income generation and to ensure the food, nutrition, and livelihood security of the resource – poor population through sustainable management of natural resources and community – based initiative. The Sufala Project's staff there formed a group in the Adivasi locality of Siyarbedia village, and Kabita Soren became an active member of this team.

Through the Sufala Project, Kabita received various types of training, including:

- Nutrition Gardening
- Livestock Rearing
- Climate Change Adaptation in Farming
- Sustainable Agriculture
- Animal Health Worker, etc

Initially, she pursued training at the Livestock Department of West Bengal, but the results were not fruitful, leading to her disappointment.





### **Becoming an Animal Health Worker :**

However, Kabita remained actively involved with the Sufala Project, regularly attends weekly meetings in her community. She was given the responsibility of an Animal Health Worker. She received practical training as an Animal Health Worker. The training equipped her with the knowledge and skills for basic veterinary care, including administering vaccinations and deworming of livestock. Her primary duties included ensuring the proper care of all livestock within her group and village, checking that they were vaccinated on time and given deworming medicine. She also maintained contact with the Prani Bandhu, Prani Mitra, Prani Sebi to increase the vaccination of livestock and liaison with ARD of block to ensure overall support at field level. Initially, Kabita faced scepticism and lack of support from her community. This is a common challenge for lay animal health workers, who sometimes face opposition from professional veterinarians or the community not immediately recognizing their legitimacy.

### **Current Success and Impact**

Currently, Kabita, along with her team, regularly vaccinates the livestock of all members and provides treatment for various diseases. This work now provides her with a monthly income of Rs 500 – Rs 700. She dedicates this money to her children's education.

Furthermore, animal owners in the village seek Kabita's advice. Following her suggestions, all group members are now regularly using elevated Goat shed (macha) and maintaining Azolla pits for livestock feeding.

As a result of Kabita's efforts, the members of her team have become much more aware of livestock rearing practices, and the livestock mortality rate has significantly decreased.

Kabita and her entire family are now very happy and credit her success to DRCSC. Kabita is determined to continue this noble work with success and pride by remaining associated with the Sufala Project in the future. Kabita's case demonstrate how empowering a beneficiary with relevant skills create a sustainable, locally available solution to animal health service gaps, leading to improved food security and household income for the entire community.

