

CASE HISTORY



One can hear the *Sewing Machines* running endlessly. To someone not accustomed, it could be an irritating and disturbing noise, however to *Athokpam Ebecha* it is more like the music of life. For *Athokpam Ebecha*, 36 of Kakwa Makha Leikai a mother of three, these machines are the sole means of livelihood for her family of six providing her about ` 20,000 per month.

Few years back her family faced lots of hardship in the course of their survival when her husband, a bus driver, met with an accident and became bedridden. Her family cannot even have two meals a day and children stopped going to school.

To come out from the clutches of poverty and hunger, *Ebecha* began to do any available jobs. She even did odd jobs in hotels, as mason, etc. She ran a Pan shop, but it could not meet the basic needs of her family.

During that time, she joins Chanura and expanded her pan shop with the first cycle loan. Meanwhile She learned embroidery from her newly married sister-in-law who owns a *Sewing Machine*. *Ebecha* started working with the machine in her spare time when her sister-in-law was engaged in other works. This new learning brings self confidence to her to establish her own business. She took loan from money lender, bought the machine and started her business.

By her second cycle loan she repays the debt. With third cycle loan amount she bought another *Sewing Machine* and started working with her daughter. She now even has a helper in the business, which she pays ` 2000 per month.

She invested capital to her husband for doing piggery to supplement their family income. The once dropped out children continue their study in private schools and able to provide private tuitions.

To cope up the present power shortage she owns a generator and run the business effectively. She wants a bigger place to convert into training cum production centre.

She concludes with a smile on her face, “*With the help of Chanura, I now own two Sewing machines, married a daughter, laid foundation for my new house and I am free from money lenders.*”