

CASE HISTORY



A LIFT FOR MANGLEMBI AFTER MICROFINANCE.

The year of suffering is evident in the contours of her face. To Arambam Manglembi, 50, a resident of Khurai Puthiba Leikai, a day of misery is nothing out of the ordinary! Set deep in her gaunt, unsmiling face, her eyes speak volumes of what she cannot articulate in words and harbor her pain in silence alone. Mother to three sons and life with an alcoholic husband, things has not been easy for her post marriage.

She could hardly earn ' 20 per day by weaving the loom. Day after day she went through difficult hardship and even went without food for days. No help was coming from her intoxicated husband and instead he created even more chaos to the family in his drunken stupor. Manglembi, being the only bread earner of the family of five, even though her toil, failed to meet the most basic needs of the house. Teary eyed, she recalled that one day her little son out of hunger asked her if he could have the scraps left over by the neighbour's dog.

Hunger and regular quarrelling with her alcoholic husband even pushed her to the brink of contemplating suicide. However, then appeared a light at the proverbial end of the tunnel when she was introduced to Chanura.

A new hope of survival sprouted with the first loan of ' 5,000. She stopped working for the paltry profits her employer paid; she was given thread free of cost by the *Mahajan* in exchange for her labour and would give her a slight percentage after selling the clothes she made. Now, she has started her own business and able to make ends meet. "*Chanura saved our lives*", she says with a smile.

With her second loan of ' 10,000, Manglembi's income increased to ' 80 a day and when she received the third loan cycle of ' 20,000, she was able to send her children back to school. Her hope rests on her children getting jobs by giving them an education.

"*I cannot imagine where I would be today without Chanura*", a visibly changed Manglembi echoed. Today, Manglembi makes an income enough to support her family by herself and is making plans to further expand her business.