

Kalpana Joshi - Unit ID: 2275

Kalpana Joshi lives in Gebua village of Kotabagh block in Nainital, Uttarakhand. She is 33 years old and lives with her husband and two children. Her husband is a marginal farmer with a total land of 1.25 hectares in which the family mostly grow food crops and vegetables for their own use. Any surplus from the harvest is sold in the local village market. The two children study in the local Government school.

Kalpana along with her neighbors used to go to the nearby forest for four days in a week to collect fuelwood. An entire day would be wasted on this task due to the distance. She had to get food ready very early in the morning for the family before they went to school or work. After which she would leave to the forest. Returning from the forest late in the evening was dangerous.



In 2016, Kalpana got an LPG cylinder under the Ujjawala Yojna scheme but she decided to save the LPG for cooking only when she had guests. Refilling these LPG cylinders were an added expense for her family and hence she continued to use firewood.



In 2017, a SUVIDHA case worker conducted a village meeting and explained about a Biogas project. She was informed about IndiGo passengers making small contributions to poor families to have a better way of life. Kalpana was one of the first women to get a Biogas unit constructed. She had 4 cows and enough land near the kitchen for a Biogas.

Since she started using her Biogas unit in March 2018, she has got her LPG cylinder refilled only once till today.

Kalpana had learnt to stitch before she got

married and hence one day when her son came home from school in a torn shirt, she came up with the idea to start stitching again. As there was no need to go to the forests for firewood, she had ample time on her hands.

Today she earns Rs. 3000 to 4000 every month by stitching clothes for people in her village. Recently she also got orders for stitching uniforms. She has also started helping out her husband in the farm. When there is no agriculture work her husband uses the opportunity to work in a factory at Kashipur.



Because the biogas units need small repairs and to be monitored, the case worker has hired Kalpana to be the Village volunteer. She maintains a Logbook to record actual usage and repairs occurred.

Kalpana was given training in simple repairs and SUVIDHA have given her the basic tools and instruments to repair the stoves. She undertakes minor repairs in the village and charges a small amount for her effort, and also to replace the parts she uses — knobs, gate valves, pipes, etc.

For major repairs, the End Users call the case worker directly. The case worker assesses the damage and arranges for a Mason (preferably the same one who built the unit) along with the materials.

Kalpana says “With an increase in our financial sources, we are now able to transfer our kids from Govt School to an English Medium school. It has been my dream to hear my children speak in English. Their monthly fee is Rs. 2300/- which is not at all a burden for us. We are very grateful for this Biogas project.”