

KAMLA FOUNDATION UK

MICRO ENTERPRISE PROJECT – CASE STUDIES

Study 12



Bio Data

Name: Mrs. Umayal

Age: 35

Status: Widow with 3 daughters.

Background: Raised from poor Family. No education.

MEP: Nursery Raising

I was born into a poor family in a village in Sivagnagai District. I was married at the age of 16. My husband was a labourer but died of illness. At the time I was working in a nursery run by the Forest Department. When it was closed down, I lost my job and we were faced with extreme poverty.

My neighbours suggested I joined the Self Help Group (SHG) promoted by Ford Trust. In May 2009, I started my own nursery with a grant of INR. 5000 from the MEP scheme run by the Ford Trust, Maruthangudi and supported by Kamla Foundation, UK. I raised seedlings with the help of other village women. Now I am selling different species of saplings to the local villagers and also to other villages. It gives me a comfortable income for my survival and also for development. I earn INR. 1500 to 2000 per month by selling saplings raised in my nursery and plan to expand the nursery in future.

I am very thankful to Kamla Foundation and also to Ford Trust who have assisted me at a critical time.