



REPORT ON EMPLOYMENT-ORIENTED TRAINING ON **MAKING WOOD FROM COW DUNG**

Organized by: Sandhan Trust

Duration: 8th January 2025 – 12th January 2025

Location: Doomarkachar

Participants: 8 Women from Self-Help Groups (SHGs)

Introduction

In an effort to promote eco-friendly entrepreneurship and sustainable livelihoods, Sandhan Trust organized a five-day training program on making wood from cow dung for 8 women from Self-Help Groups (SHGs) in Doomarkachar. This initiative aimed to provide women with an alternative income source while promoting environmentally sustainable practices.

Objectives

- ❖ To train women in the technique of making cow dung wood.
- ❖ To create employment opportunities through eco-friendly products.
- ❖ To promote sustainable alternatives to traditional firewood.
- ❖ To empower women by linking them to local markets and industries.

Training Structure & Activities

Day 1: Introduction to Cow Dung Wood Making

- ❖ Overview of benefits and market demand for cow dung wood.
- ❖ Discussion on raw materials required (cow dung, natural binders, molds).
- ❖ Demonstration of basic preparation techniques.

Day 2: Practical Training – Preparation of Cow Dung Wood

- ❖ Collection and proper drying of cow dung.
- ❖ Mixing cow dung with natural binders for enhanced durability.
- ❖ Shaping and molding the mixture into wood-like structures.

Day 3: Drying and Strengthening Techniques

- ❖ Understanding the proper drying process for high-quality wood.
- ❖ Methods to improve strength and longevity of cow dung wood.
- ❖ Use of natural preservatives to enhance product durability.

Day 4: Market Linkages and Business Development

- ❖ Discussion on pricing, packaging, and marketing strategies.
- ❖ Identification of potential buyers (local industries, fuel suppliers, eco-friendly markets).
- ❖ Exploring government schemes and funding options for small-scale production.

Day 5: Final Product Evaluation and Certification



- ❖ Review of the training and assessment of products made by participants.
- ❖ Feedback session to discuss challenges and solutions.
- ❖ Distribution of certificates to participants.

Impact of the Training

- ❖ 8 women successfully learned the cow dung wood-making process.
- ❖ Increased awareness about eco-friendly fuel alternatives.
- ❖ Women expressed interest in scaling up production and forming a collective.
- ❖ Plans initiated to connect trainees with local buyers and industries.

Challenges Faced

- ❖ Limited initial understanding of the product's market potential.
- ❖ Need for more advanced drying equipment to improve production efficiency.
- ❖ Challenges in securing investment for large-scale production.

Conclusion & Way Forward

The five-day employment-oriented training on making wood from cow dung was a significant step toward women's empowerment and environmental sustainability. Sandhan Trust plans to:

- ❖ Assist trained women in setting up small-scale production units.
- ❖ Facilitate market linkages and funding opportunities.
- ❖ Conduct follow-up sessions to ensure long-term success.

Acknowledgment

We extend our gratitude to trainers, self-help group members, volunteers, and supporters for their efforts in making this initiative a success. Sustainable innovation leads to empowered communities!
