

## **NORTH EAST NARI SHAKTI STEPS TOWARDS SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT: BANNING OF ALCOHOL AND OPIUM - A INITIATIVE OF NERCRMS - A REGISTERED SOCIETY UNDER THE AEGIS OF NEC, MINISTRY OF DONER**

Relevant for: Developmental Issues | Topic: Rights & Welfare of Women - Schemes & their Performance, Mechanisms, Laws Institutions and Bodies

Old Tupi village is inhabited by Nocte tribes in the Tirap district, Arunachal Pradesh, and had 120 households. The village is located on the highway connecting Khonsa and Longding districts. Previously, women were not allowed to speak in public meetings due to a traditional belief in the village. As the state government passed a law for the reservation of panchayat seats for women, they campaigned for election, but after the win they require regular support of their husbands for work.



Women groups of Old Tupi

After the North Eastern Region Community Resource Management Society (NERCRMS) intervention in the village in 2014, the village women were encouraged to express their ideas and opinions in the NaRMG meeting. The village organised five SHGs and all members were urged to think about how to improve the village for future generations.

Previously, the village was 80 percent drunk and opium addicts. Domestic violence and family disputes were commonplace in every house. A significant change occurred as a result of the NERCRMS intervention. The formation of self-help groups (SHG) was brought to the attention of the women. The five SHGs were formed: Mosom, Rango, Biyang, Khuhatey Motey, and Kashik. The SHGs met as a group and decided to prohibit the sale of alcohol and opiates. As a result

they enacted a law that says anyone who buys or sells alcohol and opiates must pay a heavy fee of Rs. 5000. After two and a half years, the village is free of alcohol and opium. Domestic violence are almost over and men are preoccupied with their respective jobs.

The Gaon Bura and some educated elderly people who worked for the government are assisting the women in this transition. Initially, it was not accepted by the male population, and there were arguments and fights, but with strong supporters and good guidelines behind them, it led to social development across the village.

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## **MG/RNM**

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