

From a small scale mobile vegetable vendor to a shop owner

Singaraj from Ramayanpatty village of Dindigul Kolping Region is a member of St. Antony's Kolping group. He narrates his association with Kolping & the support system it offer to improve socially & economically.

"I joined Kolping 18 years back and our group is actively involved in all Kolping activities. I live with my wife and three children and I am the only bread winner of my family. I used to take loan from the money lenders for an exorbitant rate of intrest and sells green vegetables in a bicycle in-and-around the villages of Dindigul town. With the meager income I get, I was finding it very difficult to maintain the family and educate my children. My health also did not cooperate to pedal bicycle for long distance. The doctor advised me to take rest & refrain from bicycling. I was in great dilemma on how to feed my family and educate my children. Amidst these difficulties, I continued to save a small amount in the group and attend all the meetings & trainings.



Singaraj busy handling customers at his shop

During the visit of the Kolping Coordinator to my group, he came to know my problem. Considering my health condition he gave me an idea to set up a small vegetable vending shop in the near by market where I can sit in one place and look after the same business.

The Coordinator also enquired with the local authority and made arrangement to avail a small place in the market on daily rental basis without any advance. Since I had a good savings, I approached my Group for a loan of Rs. 20,000/- to set up the vegetable shop. Realizing my situation the group sanctioned the loan amount. I started the vegetable shop in the market place.

My wife on her part after completing the domestic work and sending the children to school supports me in purchasing vegetables from the whole sale market. She also helps me in the shop by arranging the vegetable, weighing them to the customers.

During the past years I was well acquainted to many of the neighboring villagers while selling vegetables. This gave me a good identification to my shop and I could maintain a very good relationship with all the customers and my business was gradually growing. I'm able to make a daily profit of Rs. 400/-. Apart from this business, every year I use to take auction of the fish ponds in our villages. This also gave me and additional income to my family.

With this income I take care of my health, my family and provide good education for my children.

Now I am proud to say that "through Kolping programs and trainings I have been redeemed from the financial clutches and attained self sustenance in all aspects".