



THE  
**Heart**  
PROJECT



## ***"HEART" PROJECT IN Madhya Pradesh, India.***

The HEART project was suggested by the Indian "experts" we know well because it was identified as a desperately needy area for development. TEAR Australia agreed to be the agency to channel funds to EFICOR without administration charges as WT agreed to meet all the financial components for this project. The Heart Project is in its fifth year of implementation. The final year will start in 2020.

20 operational villages that were desirous of participating were chosen. During the last 5 years, there were many inputs; there were many exposure visits, training given, seeds supplied, saplings given - to build capacity and enhance leadership. Village Development Committees were formed. Disputes were dealt with, problems were solved. Now some 4,582 men women and youth have become involved and benefited. Some 45 of these were people with disabilities.

When the program started, these marginalized low caste tribal people were totally ignorant of what they could achieve and what was available to them regarding health and education. The "Heart" project has given strength to these communities, so that people are much better fed, healthier and not migrating for work. Substance abuse has hugely reduced.

Appropriate consultation took place from the very beginning, the formation of Village Development Committees (VDC) and the process of advocacy by the specialist field staff have meant that roads have been constructed, electricity has been provided to some places, trees have been planted, improvement in animal husbandry, kitchen gardens have enhanced nutrition, agricultural production has improved. Health outcomes are much improved. The 20 villages have become models for change for other villages also.

The project community is so much stronger. They no longer rely on field staff to go to meet with officials, the power of money lenders has been broken, yields have increased - giving far greater food security. Smoking (nicotine addiction) is almost eradicated in many villages. Some issues - such as the cultural system of betrothal and marriage at a very young age will take a lot longer to deal with.



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**World Transform**  
Christian development for the needy

## STORIES

Umesh together with his wife and 3 children have 2 acres of land on which they grew less and less maize each year. This forced Umesh to migrate in order to earn some extra money. Now he grows Okra on a quarter of an acre as a cash crop. Already most family debts are paid off. Due to training and exposure to new seed and planting techniques the maize production is greatly boosted in the rest of his land.



Thabdi is a widow with a huge debt. A goat was purchased for her. She reared it and the goat has produced many offspring. The sale of goats has enabled her to clear nearly all debts. Her flock is doing well and is a good business.

Soukari has a wife and four children on 1.5 acres of barren and stony ground. He joined the VDC farmers group who helped him to clear and level his land and with new seeds, good preparation, new sowing techniques he now has "bumper" crops.



*Our qualified community development team is thoroughly Christian, and this is very openly known, however they do take care to do their work in Jesus name without using the program as the incentive to "convert" people.*