Bichalidaag village, fully surrounded by forests and mountain, is situated 16 Km away from the block headquarter *Manika* under *Latehar* district. *Latehar* is one of the poorest district in India and also known for *Naxal* insurgency. The flow of life does not move here in a natural way and most of the time disrupted by *Bandhs* called by the *Naxal* groups. The status of social service delivery is also not smooth because even government machineries do not reach to these far flung places. People do not have adequate access to the basic amenities like health, education, transport etc. even if some have, the quality of those are measurable. Roads do not exist, Primary Health Centers do not have doctors and medicines, Government middle school remain closed for 3-4 days in a week because of shortage of teachers, Mid Day Meal scheme struggles.

Brahmadeo Singh is a resident of *Bichalidaag* village and lives with his family of 5, himself, his wife, 2 daughters and 1 son. In this village about 60-65 tribal families reside in several *tolas*. Main occupation of the residents of this village is agriculture and manual labour. In a situation of drought, people are forced to migrate to nearby cities in search of job. Plight and hunger become their destiny if there is a monsoon failure in consecutive years.

Under such a situation, like many other farmers *Brahmadeo Singh* was looking for some alternative source of livelihood which could give their life a stability, but he used to believe that his destiny will be no different from other resource poor farmers like him. In the mean time *Brahmadeo Singh* attended a village meeting and came to know that Vocational Education and Training Programme (VET) is being implemented in their area by *Bihar Pradesh Yuva Parishad* (BPYP) in association with Centre for World Solidarity (CWS). VET is a series of vocational courses designed for rural youths on the trades they are close to, agriculture and allied activities.

Lac (natural resins) cultivation is known to the people of this area, they recall that 12-15 years back there used to be lac in the area and they use to make good money selling lac. But suddenly lac became completely vanish from the area because of reason not known to them. Lac seeds (brood lac) also became unavailable in the area leading people discarding the practice of lac cultivation. However the area has sufficient lac host plants (*Palash, Kusum, Ber*).

Lac cultivation is one area in which VET has provision for training. *Brahmadeo Singh* applied for the 15 days course on lac cultivation and lac seed production.

Brahmadeo Singh learned how to do the pruning of lac host plants, inoculation of lac insects, pest management, lac cultivation technologies, post harvest management etc. He understood the scientific techniques like using the net for inoculation of lac seeds into the host plants, removing the seed lac (*Funki*) after 15 days, application of medicine on time etc. *Bihar Pradesh Yuva Parishad* (BPYP) continued the handholding with making the brood lac (seeds lac) available to

the trainees and lac farmers. *Brahmadeo Singh* initiated lac cultivation with 15 *Palash* lac host plants and successfully completed first cycle. Gradually he increased the number of host plants and presently he is doing lac cultivation on 150-160 host plants. By selling lac and brood lac, *Brahmadeo* have made an income of Rs25000/- in this year. this cash income has given *Brahmadeo* good confidence and now he is in a better position to meet the need of his family. *Brahmadeo* says that lac cultivation is an activity which he can continue simultaneously with his main activity which is agriculture. Fortunately he did not face any crop failure since he is doing this but with staunch knowledge, he is now confidence to cope with the challenge.

Lac cultivation has successfully reduced the days of migration for *Bhahmadeo* and his family. Gradually he believes that with more number of host plants under cultivation, there will be no need to migrate for him in the future.