

Edition: June 23, 2022

Second  
Chance



# Newsletter



*Image copyright UN Women India*

## Edition At A Glance

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# Second Chance Education (SCE)

In 2018, UN Women initiated the development of the Second Chance Education and Vocational Learning (SCE) programme that would provide marginalized women who have lost out on an education with pathways to employment through a tailored learn-to-earn approach. The ongoing programme is aimed at empowerment of women who, owing to poverty and gender-based discrimination, have been denied access to opportunities at an early age.

The programme undertakes a holistic approach to empowerment using the pathways of **learning, employment** and **entrepreneurship**

SCE is being implemented in 12 districts across 4 states of India – Bihar, Maharashtra, Odisha and Rajasthan, covering 200 villages.

## Key Highlights

Figures between March - May 2022

**347** Placements

**1026**  
Women Mobilized

**337** wrote school exams

**70** Gender sensitizing Training

Women entrepreneur supported through SCE

**63** Individuals

**12** Groups

# Women's Entrepreneurship



## Women Self Help Group opens Rice Mill in Maharashtra

*Self Help Group posing with the machines received to build the Rice mill*

In 2017, 10 women from Nandurbar district of Maharashtra formed a Self Help Group (SHG) to start a home-based business. However, due to lack of finances, they were not able to make their dreams a reality. Cut to May 2022, under the Second Chance Education program, the group has opened a Rice Mill. The Development Support Center (DSC)\* provided the Self Help Group (SHG) with equipments to run a functional rice mill this included a milling machine and four solar dryers.

Though the income is seasonal and depends on the production of rice in the region, the women are self-dependent.

\*DSC is a resource organization that provides knowledge-based support to Non-Government Organizations (NGOs), government agencies, and other stakeholders in the field of natural resource management and has been associated with Chaitanya.

# Second Chance Learners



*Learners all set to give NIOS examination in Odisha*

## **Women from Odisha took it upon themselves to give education, a second chance**

**74** women wrote NIOS examination from Mayurbhanj District of Odisha. These women are a part of the Swangsiddha federation of Jashipur, Maya block of Mayurbhanj. The learners arranged a bus to travel to their centres which were far from their native place. Showing support to women education, the families of these women took care of their children and other household tasks while they were away writing papers.

From Dhenkanal district, 22 women travelled to various districts covering a great distance to write their secondary and higher secondary examinations. They opted for subjects like Political Science, Odia, Sanskrit and Heritage and Culture. Women writing exams at Bhubaneswar and Cuttack even arranged for their own lodging.

# Women in Workforce



*Candidate recruited by Reliance chemotex working in the factory.*

## Vocationally trained, female earners of the household

Through the Second Chance Education program, 24 women from Kishanganj in Bihar have been employed as Thread workers at Reliance Chemotex in Udaipur. Apart from a decent salary, the company has offered free lodging and an allowance for food. This is direct recruitment and none of the women underwent any vocational training. Initially, families of these women disapproved their going to another state to work. After a discussion with PRADAN team, the families agreed. A very important element of placement under the SCE program has been about taking the families of the women entering workforce into confidence which has led to a very low dropout rate.

Till May 2022, 185 women have joined Sahana Clothing as Sewing Machine Operators from Gaya in Bihar, Rayagada, Mayurbhanj and Dhenkanal in Odisha.



*Basanti operating the sewing machine at Sahana Clothing in Tamil Nadu*

**Meet Basanti Puala** (20) - a native of Sindhubai village in Rayagada district of Odisha who had never received any formal education. Before moving out to earn a livelihood, Basanti lived with her parents, and 5 siblings (4 sisters, 1 brother) in a very small house.

Initially, to support her family, Basanti joined the workforce as a daily-wage laborer and thereafter as a maid in Kerala. However, both these jobs paid her, meagerly and often her salary was delayed for months. Following her return to Odisha, In April 2021, she joined a three-month course in tailoring at Deen Dayal Upadhaya Grameen Kaushal Yojana (DDUGKY) training center at Bhubaneswar. Post completion of the course, she underwent a three-month training.

Basanti has been working as a Sewing Machine Operator (SMO) at Sahana Clothing Pvt Ltd, a garment manufacturing company in Tiruppur, Tamil Nadu since December 2021.

Basanti now has been supporting her family financially and wishes to help her siblings to become independent. She has become an inspiration for her community to enter the formal work sector. Taking her lead, many women have joined Sahana Clothing and work with her.

# Virtual Webinar



UN Women India @unwomenindia · Mar 15

Happening today - 12:00 noon to 01:00 pm (IST)

Listen to our panel and join in with your Qs - on 'Empowering women entrepreneurs in rural India: challenges and opportunities'

Webinar by @unwomenindia & @AshokaIndia

Panel 2: [unwomen.zoom.us/s/95681508231?...](https://unwomen.zoom.us/j/95681508231?...)

ASHOKA

Second Chance

UN WOMEN

WEBINAR

WOMEN ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

JOINTLY ORGANISED BY UN WOMEN AND ASHOKA LIVELIHOODS FOR ALL

MS KANTA SINGH  
DEPUTY COUNTRY REPRESENTATIVE,  
UN WOMEN INDIA

MS KALPANA PANT  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,  
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MR JAGAT BARIK  
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PRADAN

MR JIVAN SINGH  
THEMATIC LEAD  
ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT,  
MANJARI FOUNDATION

MS DHAJU GADHI  
SCE PROGRAMME PARTICIPANT  
(SHG MEMBER)

Panel 2: 12:00 noon - 01:00 pm: Empowering women entrepreneurs in rural India: challenges and opportunities

On March 15, 2022, UN Women India and Ashoka Livelihoods under the Second Chance Education Program jointly organised a webinar focusing on Women Economic Empowerment and Entrepreneurship. The webinar focused on challenges and opportunities to achieve the setting up of and expansion of group enterprises of women in rural areas. And, discussed on the successful ways of Bridging the Gender Gap in Rural-Urban Livelihoods' Spaces

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