

April 2021



Monthly Newsletter

Featuring Second Chance Education (SCE) programmatic highlights and updates in India for April 2021.



What is Second Chance?

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 THE MOST MARGINALIZED 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. THE SCE PROGRAMME ENABLES AND OFFERS WOMEN OPPORTUNITIES TO (1) RE-ENTER INTO FORMAL EDUCATION, (2) UNDERTAKE VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND (3) RECEIVE ENTREPRENEURSHIP TRAINING AND SKILLS AND 4) POTENTIAL EMPLOYMENT. SCE OFFERS A COMPREHENSIVE SOLUTION BY ADOPTING A HOLISTIC APPROACH, LEVERAGING PARTNERSHIPS AT ALL LEVELS, USING INNOVATIVE PEDAGOGIES AND FINANCE TO ACHIEVE ITS OBJECTIVE. SCE IS BEING IMPLEMENTED IN 12 DISTRICTS ACROSS 4 STATES OF INDIA - BIHAR, MAHARASHTRA, ODISHA AND RAJASTHAN, COVERING 200 VILLAGES.

Featured Inside

- Key Highlights of the month •
- Partner in Focus •
- Case Study: Illu Malli's Story •
- Social Media Outreach •





Key Highlights



Skilling Programme and Placement



This skilling programme for women was organized by B-ABLE India (BASIX-Academy for Building Lifelong Employability Limited) in collaboration with PRADAN (Professional Assistance for Development Action). The programme involved acquiring specialized skill-set in - fabric assembly, design and tailoring. Upon successful completion, the women have been placed with various institutions such as Sahana Clothing Pvt Ltd, Tirupur (Tamil Nadu).



Banking Sector Training



Eight young women joined a Banking sector oriented training in Bhubaneswar, with support from partner organizations PRADAN (Professional Assistance for Development Action), B-ABLE India (BASIX-Academy for Building Lifelong Employability Limited) and Aaina NGO. This training activity was carried out as part of the SCE programme in Dhenkanal (Odisha).



Breaking away from gendered roles..



Two candidates joined a specialized training programme for security guards in Nalanda (Bihar), at the Orion Institute, with support from B-ABLE India.





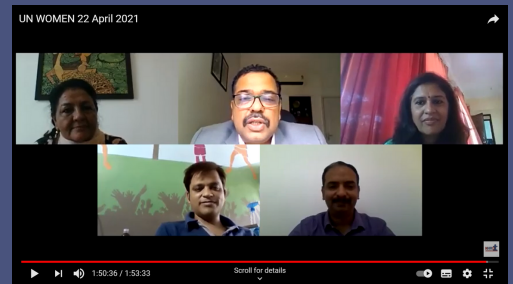
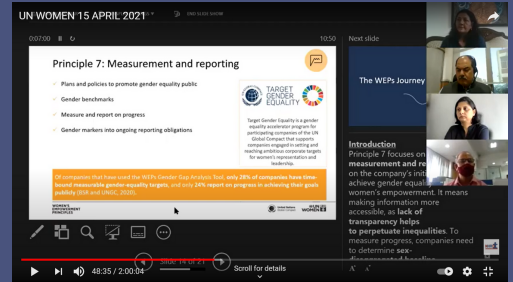
Key Highlights



Webinar Series



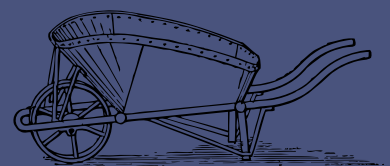
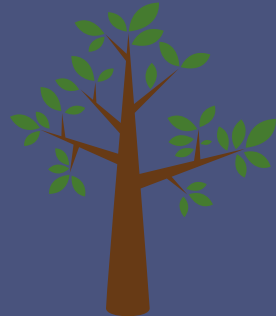
UN Women India and implementing partner **NHRDN (National HRD Network)** organized the Fifth Round Table on – “Women at workplace promotes inclusion and makes business sense!” on 15th April, 2021 and 22nd April 2021. **Mr. Dharm Rakshit, Head HR, Hero MotoCorp** and **Mr. Alok Shopurkar, EVP and Head-HR, HDFC Asset Management** – were part of each of the panels respectively. **Ms. Kanta Singh, Country Programme Manager, Second Chance Education (SCE) Programme, UN Women India CO** and **Ms. Suhela Khan, Country Programme Manager, WeEmpower Asia, UN Women India CO**, were also part of the panel of speakers. [*Click on each of the images on the right to watch the recorded webinars*](#)



Group Enterprise Activity..

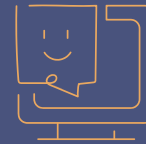


An off-farm produce group was formed in Rayagada (Odisha) in order to manage production, supply and distribution of Tamarind. This FPO (Farmer Producer Company) was also set up to build a linkage with the market, alongside establishing a sustainable business. In order to generate working capital, they have been working with Mission Shakti and ORMAS (Odisha Rural Development and Marketing Society). They are also in the process of procuring machinery and setting up a fully functional warehouse for better management.

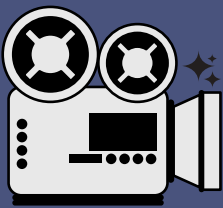
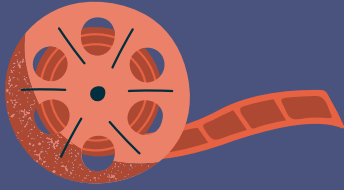




Key Highlights



SCE films...



The Folklogue team visited SCE programme locations in Rajasthan, Odisha, Maharashtra and Bihar, in 2019. Through our collaboration with Folklogue Studios, we bring you a series of brilliant first person narratives and short films. These are stories of women, who are 'agents of change' within the UN Women's Second Chance Education and Vocational Learning (SCE) Programme in India. The main purpose was to generate awareness on the fact that women and young women may have lost their chance to be in school/university, and/or may not have had the chance to enhance their skills through vocational training due to multiple and intersectional burdens. [*Watch the third film in the series by clicking the screenshot on top.*](#)

Partner in Focus

X - BILLION SKILLS LAB (XBSL)



"As the world of work evolves in wake of technology and innovative business models - it is imperative that job seekers, irrespective of their socioeconomic background have exposure and access to 21st century workplace skills in order to build meaningful careers. We are privileged to be able to partner with UN Women to train women from lower income communities so that they are equipped with the necessary skills to seek career opportunities and higher income."

- Samyak Chakrabarty, Founder and M.D, X Billion Skills Lab

In an attempt to explore mentoring and on the job training opportunities - the SCE programme and X - Billion Skills Lab (XBSL) are working on a pilot to provide essential 21st century soft skills to women and girls in Mumbai, Maharashtra. The work of X Billion Skills Lab, recognizes the dynamic business landscape, taking into account the evolution that technology and innovation can bring about. As such, academic and technical skills no longer suffice, there is a need now for employees to bring forth their creative intelligence to be able to successfully fulfill their roles and responsibilities.

The pilot initiative is working directly with 22 women and girls. These women and girls are currently undertaking self-paced courses on Smart Thinking, Storytelling, Managing Workplace Emotions, Collaboration, Understanding Your Purpose, Productivity Hacks and Habits, Negotiation, Creative Problem Solving and Entrepreneurial Mindset. Following the completion of training, XBSL will works towards sourcing paid internships and /or jobs for those who qualify, based on an assessment and interview. Furthermore, the trainees also benefit from mentoring sessions based on their interest and skills, and receive a certificate upon completion of the programme.



The screenshots above have been taken from the 'Animated Modules' section of the - [XBSL website.](#)



Illu Malli's Story...



Hailing from Bhilwara, Rajasthan, **Illu Malli works as a Nurse in Brijesh Bhangar Memorial Hospital, Bhilwara.** She has completed her bachelor's in general nursing and has been working for more than five years.

During the outreach activity for the upskilling programme for nurses, **Learnet Skills** had conducted a meeting with the hospital to discuss the training programme and the course modules. The hospital management nominated 15 nurses and 10 successfully completed the training program. Illu Malli completed the training course in one attempt and scored well in the final assessment.

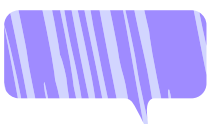
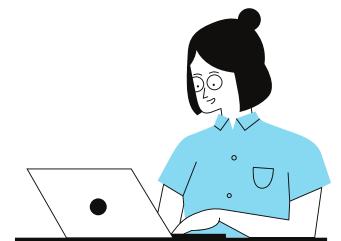
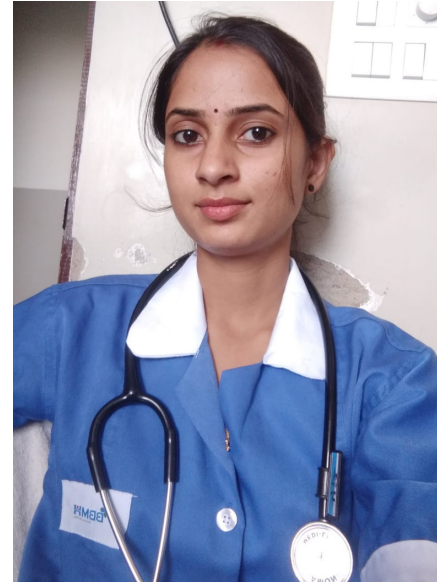
Malli shared that she wanted to enroll herself in the programme, in order to obtain accurate knowledge about COVID-19. Since the onset of the pandemic, multiple interpretations about the virus were being circulated. Being a healthcare worker and a practicing nurse, she believed it was important to have complete information about the virus. Since no such training had been provided before, Malli decided to register for the programme considering its relevance and significance.

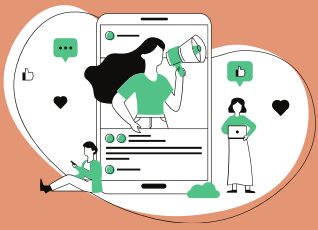
Malli shared that the training course provided her with significant information with regards to infection control, self-preparedness, and necessary precautions to be taken to avoid infection from the virus while ensuring that the patient gets appropriate treatment.

She wanted to register for the training program despite long working hours and hectic schedules so that she could make use of the theoretical knowledge - to treat and manage patients more effectively. After registering, the team at Learnet Skills were in constant touch with her and provided assistance for easier navigation through the course modules.

She studied the modules during the short breaks or post working hours. She particularly found Module 3 (Role of Nurses in handling Covid-19 Patients) and Module 4 (Taking care of yourself) especially beneficial. Any queries about the virus and use of personal protective equipment were resolved after the completion of the training course.

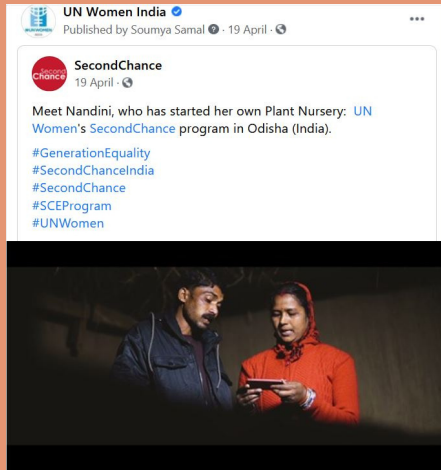
Malli believes she has benefited immensely from the training programme in terms of her skill-set and efficiency at the workplace and she also noticed similar changes in the behavior of other healthcare workers, who had successfully completed the training. She is grateful that the hospital nominated her for the training programme and supported her in completing the same. She is our 'Agent of Change'!





Social Media Outreach

Over 25k Impressions on Twitter with 700+ engagements and a reach of over 7k on Facebook, for the month of April 2021.



Follow our global social media platforms..




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 Also visit our learning platform <https://india.mylearningpathway.org/en>

