

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Featuring Second Chance Education (SCE) programmatic highlights and updates in India for the month of May 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.

WHAT YOU'LL FIND INSIDE:

- KEY HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MONTH
- PARTNER IN FOCUS
- CASE STUDY: ANJU'S STORY
- SOCIAL MEDIA OUTREACH





Key Highlights



Webinar: Women in the Workplace



Dialogue on Increased Participation of Women in the Workplace

Women in Leadership

Companies led by women have traditionally fared better than their counterparts during the times of financial crisis. A study by Pew Research Centre on women and leadership suggests that there is little difference between men and women in key leadership traits. For instance, the ability to innovate and intelligence.

WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP : PROMOTES BUSINESS SENSE : PROMOTES INCLUSION

- Mr. Suman Mitra, Vice President - HR, BOSCH India



The UN Women India and NHRDN (National HRD Network) joint webinar - 'Dialogue on Increased Participation of Women in the Workplace: Women at Workplace promotes Inclusion and makes more Business Sense' - brought together diverse voices from the private, civil society and health sectors. Speakers and participants discussed a wide range of issues such as critical role of Gender Equality, Women Empowerment Principles, Corporate Social Responsibility, Unpaid Care-Work, work force disparities created by the pandemic, Women entrepreneurship in the agri-sector, among others.

Marketing Tamarind: Group Enterprise



This is a follow-up story/update from our last SCE monthly newsletter (April, 2021). The all women group enterprise from Rayagada (Odisha) has produced nearly 3.5 tonnes of Tamarind. They have also been able to successfully carry out marketing activities through TDCC (Tribal Development Cooperative Corporation of Odisha) and Pragati FPO (Farmer Producer Company). The group has completed manual deseeding of nearly 500 kgs of tamarind. The group enterprise will receive a sanction of approximately INR 2 lakhs from ORMAS (Odisha Rural Development and Marketing Society) after a preliminary assessment.





Key Highlights



Sphurti Guest Speaker Series



The Sphurti Guest Speaker Series - is a platform that brings together best practitioners from skill development, vocational education, training employment and entrepreneurship. This initiative has been launched by the Skill Development, Employment and Entrepreneurship Department, Government of Maharashtra, with the support of UN Women's SCE programme in India. Dr R.S. Praveen Kumar, I.P.S., Secretary of Social and Tribal Welfare Educational institutions, Telangana - was the first guest speaker for the series.



COVID19 relief efforts

To support the COVID19 relief efforts, the BHP Foundation donated US\$2M to the Indian Red Cross Society. This donation was made in order to enable the Indian Red Cross Society, secure and deliver critical medical supplies and services, including the distribution of oxygen concentrators and cylinders, vaccination programs and hygiene materials, to those most-at-risk.

"In 2020, in response to emerging #COVID19 impacts and potential escalation in India, UN Women's Second Chance Education and Vocational Learning (SCE) Programme in India, enabled the up-skilling and certification of 10,000 nurses and nurse assistants, building health care capacity and job continuity. The BHP Foundation has supported UN Women's delivery of the SCE Programme since its inception, to assist vulnerable and under-represented women and young women to achieve their aspirations."



Click on the image above to access the official press release.





Key Highlights



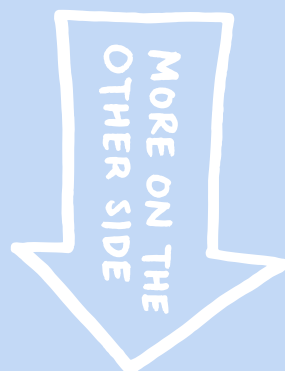
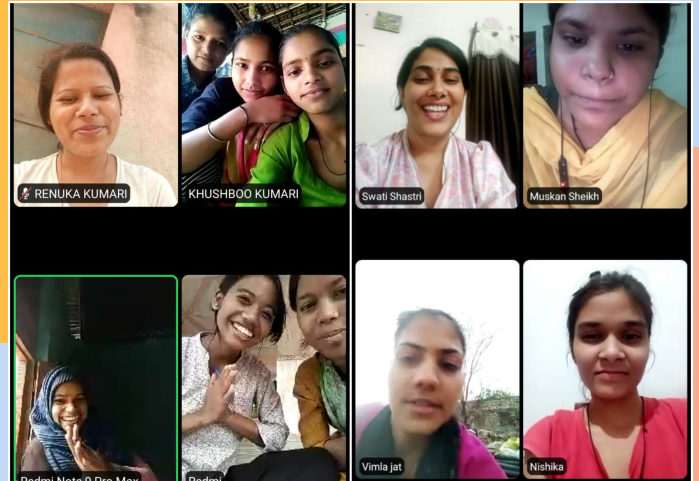
The multi-cropping ace...

Meet Sita Devi, from Dighalbank block, Kishanganj District (Bihar), cultivating a range of vegetables such as bitter gourd, cucumber, sponge gourd and chilies, in approximately 1.2 acres of land. She is our multi-cropping ace and #AgenofChange, as part of the SCE (Second Chance Education and Vocational Learning) Programme in India. She is has been able to sell her produce directly in the local market.



Virtual Training

Five day virtual skills training sessions were conducted by B-ABLE India (BASIX-Academy for Building Lifelong Employability Limited), as part of UN Women's SCE programme. The virtual sessions were held in order to mitigate closure of training centres. B-ABLE was established in 2009, with a vision of skilling people, enhancing livelihoods and transforming lives. It is the Vocational Training arm of the BASIX group and a training partner of the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC).





Partner in Focus



AlterEGO Accelerators

Four young women aged between 19 – 25 years were trained and certified as Debt Recovery Agents – which will help them build a career in Banking and Financial Services. This was achieved with the partnership of PRADAN (Professional Assistance for Development Action), Chaitanya Foundation, and Odd Ventures Foundation. The certified women have been placed as Tele-Callers with Sigma Outsourcing Services Pvt. Ltd. in Andheri (Mumbai) with an average salary of Rs. 1.5 lakhs per annum. The activity was carried out as a part of the SCE programme in Mankhurd, Mumbai. The highlights of the program were:

- Stepping stone towards building a career in the Banking sector
- Coverage under Employee State Insurance Scheme
- Coverage under Provident Fund
- Financial inclusion - as the women have been able to open their first-ever savings bank account

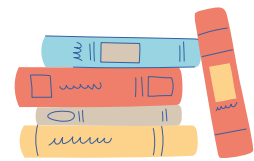


Odd Ventures Foundation is the philanthropic arm of AlterEGO Accelerators. The focus areas of Odd Ventures Foundation are Skilling and Livelihoods, Market Linkages and Micro Enterprise Creation, and Social Impact Investing.

“The DRA training and certification has opened up avenues for the girls in the Banking sector. They will become a beacon of hope and inspire their peers to become financially independent.” – Komal Sen, Founder – Odd Ventures Foundation.



Anju's Story



Anju Sen, aged 29, is differently-abled, as both her legs are affected by polio, rendering her immobile. Her father is a farmer, mother is a housewife, and her brother supports their father as a farm hand. Anju relies on her brother and father for mobility.

Many parts of India (rural and urban) do not have infrastructure, that has been created keeping in mind the needs of differently-abled citizens. When Anju could not pass her secondary exams in 2008, the shame of being carried around coupled with the feeling that she was a burden to her brother and father, led her to eventually drop out of school. Anju’s father, who never had the opportunity to complete his studies, understood the merit of education. He ensured that Anju’s brother passed his secondary school education and wanted the same for his daughter. The family motivated Anju to sit for her exams again but Anju was reluctant, as she did not want her father and brother to carry her to school everyday, which was approximately 8 kilometers away from her village. Neither Anju nor her family, was aware of the open schooling system in India.





In 2018 Anju's mother joined a Self-Help Group (SHG) in their village. In December 2019, during the implementation phase of the Second Chance Education and Vocational Learning (SCE) programme in India the SCE implementing partner, Manjari Foundation's team of Educators and field workers visited their village and neighbourhood to mobilise SHG women. During one of their sessions, the team discussed the possibility to study from home via open schooling. Anju's mother who attended these sessions, convinced Anju to talk to the educators. Anju had now been out of the formal schooling system for more than 10 years.

When Anju interacted with the educators and field workers, she felt motivated to sit for her exams again and complete her education. She now had the option of being able to study at home. Anju enrolled for the Secondary School Examination through the National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS). She visited the SCE Women Empowerment Hub, with the help of her brother and father, for assessment and admission procedures.

She attends the classes being organised at her village regularly along with 20 other girls, and till date has not missed a single class. She opted for five subjects - Business Studies, Hindi, Social Science, Painting and Home Science and wrote her exams in November 2020. She has submitted her Tutor Marked Assignment to NIOS and her Practical Exam file is also ready. Anju wants to start tutoring kids in her village and earn her own living. The SCE programme is supporting Anju at every step of the way, to fulfill all her dreams. She is our #AgentofChange!



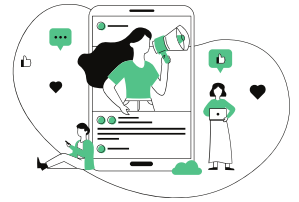
Anju Sen's journey has also been featured on #PopKastwithGarima EmpowHER Edition Season 3, by Garima Surana. Click on the image above, to listen to the entire podcast episode on Spotify.

Watch the teaser trailer for the podcast episode by clicking on the image above.





Social Media Outreach



Over 28k Impressions on Twitter with 600+ Engagements and a Reach of over 5k on Facebook, for the month of May 2021.




Follow our global social media platforms...

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

