



SEPTEMBER 2021

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Featuring Second Chance Education programmatic highlights and updates in India for the month of September 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

- *Spotlight: field visit to Odisha*
- *In conversation with SCE participant Srimati Pingua*
- *Key highlights of the month*
- *Social media outreach*



SCE INDIA SPOTLIGHT: FIELD VISIT TO ODISHA



In Odisha, the SCE programme is being implemented at 3 districts in 4 blocks namely Dhenkanal (Kamakhyanager and Kankadahad), Rayagada (Kolnara) and Mayurbhanj (Thakurmunda). The programme is being implemented by PRADAN (Professional Assistance for Development Action) as the lead with consortium partners Aaina, Development Alternative, B–Able and Shristi in Odisha.

During her first official visit to Odisha (21st to 23rd September, 2021), UN Women India Country Representative Susan Ferguson met with government officials and women on the ground, and stressed on the importance of education and skilling of women and girls for building back better.

- In Odisha, till date 1202 women and girls have enrolled out of which 889 women and girls have completed their secondary or higher secondary education.
- 695 women and girls are enrolled for trainings across various skills and 114 women and girls, across the three districts have been placed in jobs such as home nurse, textile and garment factories.
- Till 2021, 1863 women which includes 899 women in Odisha have started their own businesses, using micro-financing from Self-Help Groups (SHG) and personal funds.
- From Odisha, 68 nurses and nurse assistants were also trained in Covid management and response.



"I would like to work in a hospital someday, so that I can financially support my family. I am learning medical technician skills, nursing, computer skills and English."

Tapaswini Barik, 22, is a nursing trainee with the SCE programme in Odisha. She is enrolled at the Vignyan Bharati Charitable Trust Skill Development Cell.
Photo Credit: UN Women India/Prashanth Vishwanathan.

Read a brief summary of the visit (on the UN Women Asia Pacific website) by clicking on the image below.



8252 women which includes 3100 women from Odisha have learned about using quality seeds, pest management and organic farming techniques. 60 agri-entrepreneurs in Jalgaon and Rayagada districts have reported a 300-per cent-increase in daily income, using new solar dehydration technology to preserve seasonal food products for year-round consumption.

UN Women Representative in India, Susan Ferguson, and SCE Country Programme Manager, Kanta Singh, with local women and girls in Urbengi village, in the Dhenkanal district of Odisha. Photo Credit: UN Women India/Prashanth Vishwanathan.



Srimati Pingua, seen here at the Women Empowerment Hub in Dhenkanal district of Odisha, India.
Photo Credit: UN Women India/Prashanth Vishwanathan

IN CONVERSATION WITH SRIMATI PINGUA



At age 38, Srimati Pingua rejoined formal education through UN Women's Second Chance Education Programme, along with her two daughters. She recently passed her 10th standard examination, which marks the completion of secondary school in India, and received the certificate from UN Women Representative in India, Susan Ferguson, during her first official visit to Odisha.

Q: When did you join the Women Empowerment Hub/SCE programme?
I joined the programme in February 2020.

Q: What kind of skills are you learning here?
Alongside being enrolled in formal education, I am also learning how to use the Computer and the Internet.

Q: What kind of work did you do before joining the Women Empowerment Hub?
I continue to work as an Angwadi Worker (AWW).

Q: How have the Women Empowerment Hub and the skills you are learning there, helping you?

I have learned new things like the computer. I am also more confident now when it comes to talking in front of everyone. These skills will also help me in getting a promotion at work.

Q: How has Covid-19 impacted you in the last year and a half?

My children's education was affected and financially we were also impacted due to the lock-down as my husband did not have a regular source of employment.

Q: Why is it important for women to have formal education or find jobs and have their own income?

It will help every woman to become financially independent.

Photo: Srimati Pingua, receives her secondary school examination (completion/pass) certificate from UN Women Representative in India, Susan Ferguson, during her first official visit to Odisha.
Photo Credit: UN Women India/Prashanth Vishwanathan



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A formal education helps women become financially independent and find jobs.



KEY HIGHLIGHTS



Naveen Patnaik @Naveen_Odisha
 Glad to meet @unwomenindia country representative Ms. Susan Jane Ferguson. Highlighted #Odisha's sustained efforts to empower women, increase their participation in technical education and enhance employability. Sought UN Women's cooperation for re-skilling and upskilling women.
 8:55 PM · Sep 21, 2021 · Twitter Web App
 177 Retweets 10 Quote Tweets
 1,337 Likes

During her visit to Odisha, UN Women India Country Representative Ms. Susan Ferguson met with the Honorable Chief Minister of Odisha, Shri. Naveen Patnaik. The CM highlighted Odisha's sustained efforts to empower women, increase their participation in technical education and enhance employability. He also sought UN Women's cooperation for re-skilling and upskilling women.

UN Women India Country Representative Ms. Susan Ferguson and SCE Country Programme Manager, Ms. Kanta Singh met with OSDA (Odisha Skill Development Authority) Chairman, Mr. Subroto Bagchi, during the field visit to Odisha in September, 2021.



The UN Women India team also visited the World Skill Centre in Bhubaneswar (Odisha, India) and met with Mr. Reghu G., I.A.S, Director of Employment and Technical Education and Training and CEO, OSDA (Odisha Skill Development Authority).

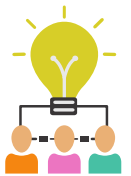


KEY HIGHLIGHTS

123 women participated in the Empowerment and Entrepreneurship Development initiative for Women Entrepreneurs organized in Baran (Rajasthan), as part of the SCE programme. Training modules have been developed by the Indian Institute of Management (Lucknow) and the Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI). This training (Sept to Oct 2021) will enable women to develop their businesses, increase their livelihood, alongside learning new technology.



The SCE programme team with support from the District Administration in Mayurbhanj (Odisha) organized a block level entrepreneur training session for women. 25 women attended the training.



13 young women from Rayagada (Odisha), have recently begun their on-the-job training at the Continental Hospitals in Hyderabad. They have completed their GDA (General Duty Assistant) training at the Vigyan Bharati Charitable Trust Skill Development Cell (Bhubaneswar, Odisha).



The webinar - 'Build Back Better: Equal Spaces for Women in the Workforce' was held on 30th September, 2021. This webinar aimed to discuss the challenges that Indian women face in the workplace and the opportunities that diverse stakeholders such as the government, the private sector, the civil society, and the community can provide for women to thrive in the workforce. To make substantial strides in increasing women's economic empowerment, a gender lens needs to be incorporated at every stage in the policy making and implementation phase.

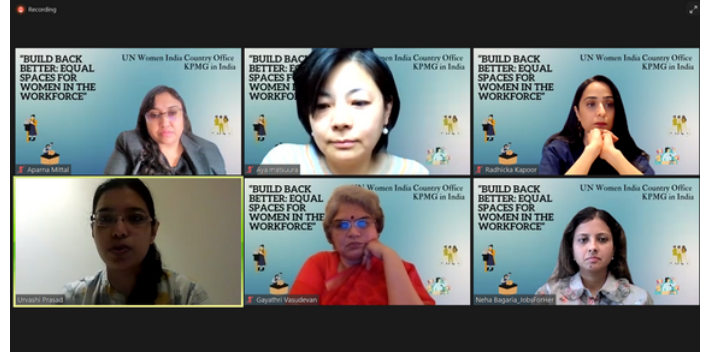
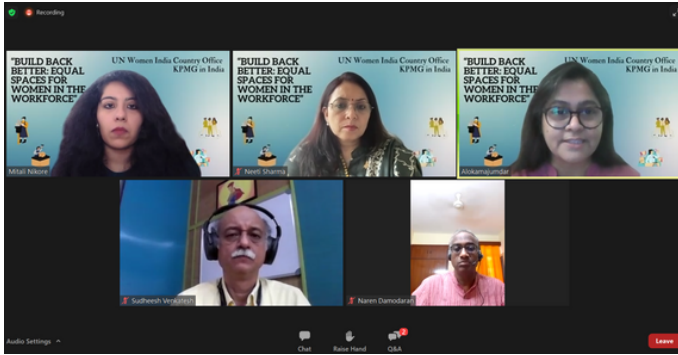
UN Women India Country Office
KPMG in India

September 30 2021
10:00 AM - 1:40 PM

Build Back Better: Equal Spaces for Women in the Workforce

- Session 1: India's Female Labour Force participation: A SWOT Analysis
- Session 2: Creating Equal Spaces for Women: Best Practices and Way Forward

#BuildBackBetter #GenerationEquality



SOCIAL MEDIA OUTREACH



Over 22K Impressions on Twitter with 1K+ engagements and a reach of over 21K on Facebook, for the month of September 2021.



UN Women India @unwomenindia · Sep 20

DYK5: @UN_Women's Second Chance Education and Vocational Learning (SCE) Programme in India. #SecondChanceIndia #SCEprogram #GenerationEquality @BHPFoundation @PRADAN_India

UN Women's Second Chance Education and Vocational Learning (SCE) Programme in India

Provided skill training to 3,021 women, of whom 2,408 have completed their training and 443 are now employed.

Source: Internal UN Women - SCE India Programmatic data
Photo Credit: UN Women India

SecondChance and 9 others

UN Women India @unwomenindia · Sep 22

The @unwomenindia team visits Urbengi village (Dhenkanal, Odisha) - interacts w/ women farmers to learn about their journey w/ @UN_Women's @SCEprogram in India; interacts w/ local institutions to understand the sustainability aspect. @PRADAN_India @aaina_ngo @BHPFoundation

Susan Ferguson and 6 others



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