

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Featuring Second Chance Education programmatic highlights and updates in India for the month of October 2021.



Women make their way through agricultural fields/land in Chittorgarh, Rajasthan (India). Photo Credit: Ruhani Kaur/UN Women India

What is Second Chance?



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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.



Spotlight: field visit to Rajasthan



The UN Women India team along with colleagues from lead partner PRADAN (Professional Assistance for Development Action) visited Chittorgarh in Rajasthan (India) from 4th to 6th October, 2021. The field visit involved - interactions with the implementing partner organization team on the ground - Manjari Foundation, interactions with women and girls at the women empowerment hub in Chittorgarh, a visit to the spice enterprise/processing unit in Munga Ka Kheda village, interaction with women farmers, discussions with community and field cadres at the women empowerment hub, interaction with skilled candidates and individual businesses/entrepreneurs, visits to agricultural land and farmers' plots, among others.

Photographs (clockwise) - Susan Ferguson, UN Women India Country Representative, with women and girls at the WEH in Chittorgarh; women at work in the Spice Processing Unit; Susan Ferguson, UN Women India Country Representative and Kanta Singh, Country Programme Manager, Second Chance Education, interacting with local women; UN Women India team and colleagues from PRADAN, interact with women at the Spice Processing Unit, who are seen here sorting through dry red chillies. Photo credits: Ruhani Kaur/UN Women India



Hira Chatiya (in white), SCE programme farm educator, with women farmers in Chittorgarh (Rajasthan). Photo Credit: Ruhani Kaur/UN Women India

IN CONVERSATION WITH HIRA CHATIYA

“

I am 32 years old; people have trouble guessing my age because of my height. I am from Munga Ka Kheda village, in Chittorgarh. I was married as a child in 2004, but got divorced soon after, as my in-laws did not want me to study further and wanted me to focus on household chores, instead. I had to take control of my own life. I completed my Bachelor of Education (B. Ed.) in 2012 and my M.A. in 2011. I have had no gap in my education. I also appeared for the RPSC exams (state-level examination conducted by the Rajasthan Public Service Commission). Recently, I have appeared for the Rajasthan Eligibility Examination for Teachers (REET), more specifically for the Social Studies subject. I am quite hopeful about the results and intend to keep trying harder until I crack any exam for a local government job.

In the meantime, I am involved in other work, for example, my association with the Manjari Foundation, in the agriculture sector, alongside undertaking NREGA work (Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act). These are all opportunities to gain more knowledge. It has been 2 years since I started providing agricultural training work. This has enabled me to help and work with 65-70 local women, in my village. I have also assisted women with organic farming initiatives. Systematic use of plant medicines, increases production and more production leads to greater benefits. I have had practical hands on farming experience prior to this; my parents were farmers as well. I have thought about moving out of the state, but I am slightly apprehensive. Through the government jobs, I have been applying for, I might end up getting posted in the same district (where I am currently residing). I would prefer that.

"Previously we would focus on growing only wheat and maize, but with SCE's intervention, we understood the financial benefits of growing seasonal cash crops too. By introducing these seasonal cash crops, the women were able to yield larger results and in some cases, double their income."

HIRA CHATIYA, FARM EDUCATOR



Hira Chatiya, SCE programme farm educator, with local women in Chittorgarh (Rajasthan). Photo Credit: Ruhani Kaur/UN Women India

KEY HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MONTH



#WORLDTEACHERSDAY - TAKE 1

On 5th October 2021, we featured Anju Salvi's story on our social media platforms. Anju Salvi is an SCE on-ground educator. She has successfully enrolled 90+ students into the programme, whilst being a hands-on teacher and forever learner. We salute women like Anju, who stride tirelessly towards a more gender-equal world. **Click on the image to the left to catch a glimpse of her journey.**



#WORLDTEACHERSDAY - TAKE 2

Ramat Khan is a Community Educator with UN Women's Second Chance Education programme. During the Covid-19 pandemic, Ramat continued to teach, sometimes via phone or home visits, while taking precautions to stop the spread of the virus. On World Teacher's Day, 5 October, we celebrate teachers like Ramat Khan who are shaping the future of generations to come. **Click on the image to the left to read the interview.**



FELICITATING NIOS LEARNERS

The UN Women India Country Representative, Susan Ferguson, handed over exam completion certificates (senior secondary education or high school exams) to NIOS (National Institute of Open Schooling) learners, at the Women Empowerment Hub in Chittorgarh (Rajasthan). This interaction took place during the UN Women India team's official visit to Rajasthan (an SCE programme constituency).



ON THE GROUND! - TAKE 1

The UN Women India team visited the Women Empowerment Hub in Chittorgarh (Rajasthan). 350+ learners have used the hub to access digital spaces which played an important part in bridging the education gap during COVID19.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MONTH



ON THE GROUND! - TAKE 2

The UN Women India team also visited the Spice Processing Unit at the Munga Ka Kheda village in Chittorgarh (Rajasthan). Here, women manufacture and package turmeric, red chilly and coriander powder, among others. All ready to be shipped. This is an example of a group enterprise unit, under the SCE programme in India.

#INTERNATIONALDAYOFRURALWOMEN

On the International Day of Rural Women (15th October, 2021), we celebrated and brought to the forefront three stories. The first image/infographic below, is that of Laxmipria Mahanta, 30, from Urbengi village, in the Dhenkanal district of Odisha. She joined the SCE programme in India in January, 2020. Laxmipria Mahanta is a farmer, who largely grows seasonal crops. The second image is that of Nandini Mahanta from Thakurmunda in Odisha who went on to successfully set up her own plant nursery. The third image is that of Sukanti Mahanta, a farm entrepreneur, who also contributed towards community awareness on organic fertilizers. **Click on the second and third images below to learn more about their inspiring journey(s).**

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

"I have been able to improve on farming and cropping methods, alongside increasing the yield per year. The extra income has gone towards my child's education, housing, health and I have also purchased a plot of land in my name."

LAXMIPRIA MAHANTA

Farmer with the SCE Programme, Dhenkanal, Odisha, India

Second
Chance

PHOTO CREDIT: UN WOMEN INDIA/PRASHANTH VISHWANATHAN

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KEY HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MONTH



TAILORING CLASSES

28 women enrolled in a tailoring course through a lab that has been set up at Thakurmunda block, in the Mayurbhanj district of Odisha (India). This is a four month training programme.



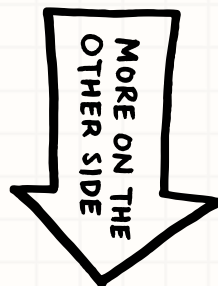
SMO TRAINING

7 young women (from Mayurbhanj district) have joined the SMO (Sewing Machine Operator) training course, in Bhubaneswar, Odisha.



SKILLING PROGRAMMES

Young women from Rayagada (Odisha), have relocated to Bhubaneswar (Odisha) to join tailoring courses (through Sahana Clothing Pvt. Ltd.) and technical trade (facilitated by Dinabandhu Foundation).



Social Media Outreach

Over 14k Impressions on Twitter with 500+ engagements and a reach of over 12k on Facebook, for the month of October 2021.



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

Lastly, here is the SCE programme India webpage -
<https://asiapacific.unwomen.org/en/countries/india/economic-empowerment/sce>

