

FEBRUARY 2022

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Featuring Second Chance Education programmatic highlights and updates in India for the month of February 2022.



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Photo: Women Empowerment Hub (WEH) in Chittorgarh, Rajasthan (India). Credit: Ruhani Kaur/UN Women

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.



Key highlights of the month

Retail management

Eight candidates enrolled for a specialized training and orientation programme in Nandurbar, Maharashtra. This orientation programme has been created for SCE programme participants selected for retail management positions/jobs.



Entrepreneurship activities

Young entrepreneurs at Head Held High's MIC centre in Rayagada (Odisha), completed 10,000 masks in 15 days. This was in addition to 5000 masks completed, as part of the first consignment.

Head Held High (HHH) is a Civil Society Organisation working towards eradicating poverty. Through a multi-pronged approach using Make India Capable (MIC) and Global Action on Poverty (GAP) initiatives, the agency strives to eradicate rural poverty in India. MIC is a core initiative of HHH that transforms the lives of poor villagers, who have not attained formal education, and makes them capable for work, entrepreneurship, and further education.

UN Women has partnered with HHH under the third component to replicate HHH's successful entrepreneurship model in the SCE programme states. Under the MoU (Memorandum of Understanding) one MIC centre has been established in Rayagada, Odisha (India) where 30 women and girls are undergoing training.





Key highlights of the month

SMO training

22 SCE programme candidates enrolled for the SMO (Sewing Machine Operator) training at G S Techno Innovations, a DDU-GKY centre in Nawada, Bihar. The Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY) is an initiative by the Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India. The DDU-GKY aims to skill rural youth, who are economically marginalized, and provide them with jobs with regular monthly wages and above the minimum wage.



Skill based training programmes

18 SCE programme candidates have relocated to Himachal Pradesh, for various skill-based training programmes, including on the job training at Vardhman Textiles.





Key highlights of the month



#AgentOfChange - Rinku Devi

Meet Rinku Devi (from Gaya, Bihar), who completed her class/grade 10th examinations, through the SCE programme, from NIOS (National Institute of Open Schooling). She has also started a grocery store in her village, which is doing well. The income has enabled her to provide medical care/treatment for her husband, alongside sending her children to school.



In conversation with SCE participant - Laxmipria Mahanta



Laxmipria Mahanta, 30, is a resident of Urbengi village, Dhenkanal district, Odisha. She joined the SCE programme in India in January, 2020. Laxmipria Mahanta is a farmer, who largely grows seasonal crops.

What kind of crops do you grow?

A: Mainly seasonal crops – i.e., Brinjal (egg plants/aubergine), Bitter gourd and Cabbage

When did you join SCE programme?

A: January 2020

How has the SCE programme helped you with your farming or livelihood? What did you learn here? How much did it improve your crop yields and income?

A: I have learnt the Single line trellis technique while planting crops. Through the programme, I have also benefited from learning other techniques alongside training on Package of Practices (POP) to enhance agricultural productivity. I have been able to earn (INR) 90k per year through growing vegetables that are available in three different seasons.

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What can you now do with the extra income?

A: I am now able to spend the extra income on my child's education, housing and health and I have also purchased a plot of land in my name.

How has Covid-19 impacted you for the last year and a half?

A: It has affected the way in which the produce is marketed, my children's education, banking facilities and access to timely ration (household supplies).

Why should more women benefit from SCE programme?

A: The SCE programme offers support on my aspects such as – employment opportunities, understanding of gender, knowledge sharing and economic empowerment.



Social media outreach


Over 9k Impressions on Twitter with 400+ engagements and a reach of over 10k on Facebook, for the month of February 2022.



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

