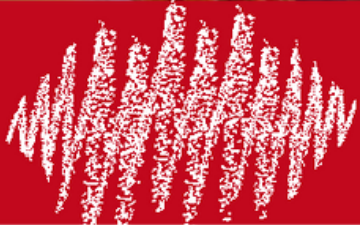




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Second Chance

Key Highlights from four states

Figures are of July 2022*

35

women
have been
given
placements

1167

Women
Mobilized

181

new learners
enrolled in
NIOS

15

women
completed
vocational
training

Women entrepreneurs supported through SCE

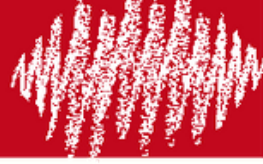
4

Individuals

30

women in
Group
enterprise

*Second Chance Education programme is being implemented in 12 districts across 4 states of India – Bihar, Maharashtra, Odisha and Rajasthan, covering 200 villages.



This month

Review meeting: UN Women and NIOS

UN Women and National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) on July 14 held a review meeting to discuss SCE (Second Chance Education) -NIOS collaboration and scaling up good practices.

The SCE Programme expands UN Women's ongoing work and aims to offer pathways for vulnerable young women and women to access formal education and to employment/entrepreneurship opportunities.

The programme also attempts evidence-based advocacy through engagement with national policy makers and financial frameworks that enable marginalized women to access formal and vocational education.

NIOS and UN Women are working in partnership since 2020 in various areas, which include:

1. Bringing more and most vulnerable women and girls into the folds of formal education.
2. Establishing gender sensitive systems and procedures at the institution to the ground level.
3. Putting in place policies for gender mainstreaming & inclusion in NIOS.

Check out the media coverage [here](#)

Women entrepreneurs at work



Sangita from Mayurbhanj preparing puffed rice to sell



Malati from Mayurbhanj showing her mushroom cultivation bed

SCE Retreat in Delhi

Second Chance Education team retreat was held on **July 28 and 29, 2022** to discuss scale-up and sustainability of the programme with the implementing partners at India Habitat Centre, New Delhi.



"Chid Labour to Sewing Machine Operator"

Remanti Pirbaka (21) started working as a daily wage laborer at a very young age to support her family and earned INR 15,000 to 20,000 per annum. She now works as a tailor at a factory.

She wished to provide better for her family, especially for the education of her younger siblings and was looking for stable financial opportunities. This is when she heard about the Second Chance Education Programme and visited the Women Empowerment Hub at Jaykaypur. Soon she enrolled herself in a vocational learning course of tailoring and underwent a two-month rigorous training.

Women in workforce

During her training, her accommodation and food was free of cost.

After completing her training, she was placed in Sahana Clothing and earns Rs 8,000 INR per month.

Every month Remanti send INR 5,000 to support her family including her parents and three younger sibling (two sisters and a brother) who live in their native village of Anakabadi in Kolnara block of Rayagada district in Odisha,

Women's Entrepreneurship

Meet Mamata Giri, Foodpreneur from Odisha

Mamata Giri (40) is a food entrepreneur who lives in Chamakpur village of Thakurmunda block of Mayurbhanj district of **Odisha** with her family including her husband Ravindra Giri and four daughters, aged between 7 to 17.

Mamata's journey started some eight years ago when her husband's Pan Shop was not able to provide enough for the family to send their daughters to school. That's when Mamata pitched the idea of selling **Jhaal Mudhi** (puffed rice), a popular snack, to her husband who willingly agreed. Ever since there has been no looking back for the family.



In pic, Mamata Giri | PRADAN

Mamata says that while they were earning a monthly income of INR 6,000 to 7,000 from the Pan Shop, by selling snacks they generate INR 10,000 to 15,000 every month which has helped them to have a better lifestyle.



In pic, Mamata Giri with her husband and daughters | PRADAN

The income from the sale has been able to support the family to provide education to their daughters who are now enrolled in school. Initially, Mamata was only selling Jhaal Mudhi in the weekly markets and village fairs but with growing necessities she decided to make it a full-time job, and bought a hand-cart to sell the snacks and added six more snacks items like **Pampad, Masala Matar, Jhaal Buta, Homemade Mixture** etc. The husband-wife duo has now been thinking to expand their business and establish a brick and mortar shop.

How has Second Chance Education helped?

Mamata participated in a competition organized by our implementing partner PRADAN called Kaun Banega Business Leader (to promote entrepreneurship among rural communities of Thakurmunda) and was among the top five finalists based on her clarity of business plan, influence and connectivity in marketing and business networks, willingness and passion to undertake the proposed activity and most importantly communication skills and ability to become a leader.

Our implementing partner PRADAN organized this competition to co-create ideas, unleash the entrepreneurial energies of women and enable them to set up enterprises. PRADAN has been helping Mamata and her business to reach their true potential by training her for marketing, business networking and working to get her communication skills even better.

Second Chance Learners

10th fail to Prani Mitra with Odisha Livelihood Mission

Sushanti Jiraka (24) lives in Goudaguda village of Khedapada panchayat in Kolnara block, Rayagada district, Odisha with her parents and younger siblings (a brother and sister). After completing her class 10 with many financial hurdles, she now works as a Prani Mitra with Odisha Livelihood Mission (OLM) at panchayat-level.

Sushanti being the eldest child always had many responsibilities since both her parents worked in agricultural field. She was left to take care of the household, her siblings, and help her parents in agricultural work. And, despite all of this keeping her occupied from dawn to dusk, she wished to complete her education. However, she was not able to pass her class 10 examination and her family had no financial resources to keep her in school.

Thereafter seven years went by and Sushanti's dream of education had lost all hopes until she attended the mobilization drive by the implementing partner of Second Chance Education Programme.

However, road to self-dependence was still not going to easy for Sushanti, once again her family had no financial

resources to contribute to her education but this time she was adamant, she convinced her family and soon enrolled in the programme. Many a times, she had to skip classes as she had no money to travel to the Hub centre. Her travelling cost was derived from the money she made through stitching clothes and that at times was not enough.



In pic, Sushanti Jiraka | PRADAN

Soon overcoming all these hurdles, Sushanti completed her class 10 with flying colour and got a job which now is not only contributing to her financial growth but has turned her into a confident woman, well-respected and appreciated in her community and family.



Mobilization activities at various aspirational districts



Team on the ground

Investment in women's education is an investment in future and sustainability

Deepak Kumar, Pradan

Under Second Chance Education programme we have been able to support women and girls of rural areas to complete their education, get enrolled in skill training and then avail employment, and also to come with their innovative ideas of enterprise and established it.

We have sensitized many women about benefits of education through mass and door-to-door campaigns with the help of community leaders and institutions. Women between the age group of 14 to 53 years old, have enrolled themselves in this programme.

We believe, when a woman is provided a non-discriminating environment, helpful and supporting teachers, they inspire to grow in life. Since the inception of Second Chance Education we have witnessed a lot of change in the behavior and attitude of women after completing their education and skill trainings.

They display greater power of decision-making, can negotiate with their families, and articulate their problems and solution and acknowledge their right to education and welfare. We have seen women, fight their battle for self-dependence and opt for higher education and infact move to other states for jobs to other states.

There has been a boom in women-led enterprises in rural areas which is also contributing to the state's economy and the financial growth of families of these women.

Gender training has been an important element of our work under SCE, through them we have seen women realizing their dreams and working to fulfill them. Today, these women earn somewhere between Rs INR 7,000 to 17,000 per month and economically contribute to their family's welfare which has led them to gain respect in their community as well.

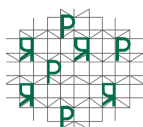


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<https://www.unwomen.org>

Implementing partner



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For enquiries about the SCE program, reach out to suhela.khan@unwomen.org (Country Programme Manager - UN Women)