Housewife to proud owner of three businesses, journey of Urmila Devi

Urmila Devi (36), a womenprenuer from Sondhi Village of Gaya in Bihar lives with her husband and two sons. Proud owner of three small-scale businesses - a grocery shop, vegetable cultivation, and cow milk rearing.

During her journey to be self-dependent, Urmila faced a lot of criticism from society and at times her family, who were not very supportive of her ideas initially. Often, she was told to stick to roles of her gender and not enter man’s world, but with her grit and determination she today stands tall and is not just respected at home but in her society.

Urmila joined the Second Chance Education programme in 2020, where she enrolled herself in NIOS to complete her secondary examination. Post her passing the examination with flying colours, she started attending training on entrepreneurship skills and modern farming techniques by PRAN. Today, Urmila is able to provide for her family and has successfully enrolled her sons in a good school.

Urmila now wishes to study further and take her business to larger scale, add more financial resources.

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11 women, between 18 to 25 years from Dhenkanal in Odisha have joined SAHI Exports in Cuttack for Sewing Machine Operator training.

Munni Kumari and Shivani Kumari from Kishanganj in Bihar have joined Aditya Birla Hospital in Pune as General Duty Assistant (GDA) on a salary of Rs 18,000 INR and Rs 13,000 INR respectively. They completed their GDA training from DB Tech Patna. They enrolled for the training post completing their secondary examination.
In persuasion of knowledge, Naseha Begum has become a role model for many

Naseha Begum’s queries were full of disbelief and uncertainties. She still couldn’t quite believe that she could study from home and complete her school education that she was forced to abandon 10 years ago. Naseha, a resident of Patharghatti panchayat from Dighalbank Block of Kishanganj in Bihar learned about the Second Chance Education (SCE) programme during the orientation and mobilisation of the village organizations in her village, and Naseha immediately registered her interest. It took some time for her to register for the programme as the project had just begun in the Bahadurganj Women Empowerment Hub (WEH) and the admission process was still not active.

Naseha had quit her education after she passed class 10 owing to financial constraints but she nursed her dream of continuing her education. However, as the years went by, she lost the enthusiasm to pursue her dream. Naseha, however, has been a very active participant in the formation of Self Help Groups and village organizations in her village and religiously attended general meetings of community members to understand various projects and works to be done in her village as she loved “acquiring knowledge from the various activities”.

This is how she ended up at the orientation of the SCE programme. When the village organizations was being briefed by a PRADAN Staff on the project, the 25-year-old listened in with great enthusiasm. “It was very tough to convince my family members,” she says, “My brother is still against me for restarting my education.”

Soon, she had taken admission through the Bahadurganj WEH. She was overjoyed to learn that she would be able to study from her native place and that she will be supported by her local community educator. During the admission process, Naseha did not choose the easy subjects, rather she chose those subjects that would help her get a job.

Naseha is a great example for women who have lost their urge to complete their education after a certain age. She not only restarted her education but also inspired her friends to register for the SCE programme.

“My family would rather get me married as I am of marriageable age. But my dream is to get a job before I get married,” she says.

“The SCE programme has given me hope that I will finally be able to fulfil my dream.”
"Earlier People didn't want girls to study, they married the girls at young age thinking it would free them from the burden of having a girl at home", - Mina Devi #Education4All #Padegiketitohgeybadegibeti
Watch her journey with @SCEprogram youtube.com/watch?v=KHQRcL...

With our @SCEprogram, 40 women from Koraput District in Odisha recently joined tailoring training at @RSETIMoRD (Rural Self Employment Training Institutes). #womenempowerment #Shecanlear #Shecanearn @skilled_odisha

In 2021, an oldest candidate of 60 years and youngest candidate of 16 year got a #SecondChance under @SCEprogram to write and pass NIOS examination (@niostwit). SCE works in #Bihar #Maharashtra #Odisha & #Rajasthan #Education4All #shecanlearn


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