

## **CSV Supported & Usha International Sponsored Silai School Training Program (Wardha District)**

Ecological Science and Technology Division (ESTD) of "Centre of Science for Villages" (CSV) is working on a system of converting Cotton in to cloth and apparel. A method of growing cotton in an organic manner is being optimized; the organic cotton is then spun in to yarn and weaved to make cloth called Khadi. There is great demand of readymade apparel in young men and women.

This system approach will be beneficial in following categories

- i. Cotton Growing Farmers
- ii. Women Spinning cotton in to a yarn
- iii. Weavers converting yarn in to fabric
- iv. Women stitching cloth in to apparel and
- v. Youths selling cotton yarn, cloths and apparel

For executing above concepts CSV got associated with number of institutions which are expert in different domains. For giving training to women in the subject of Stitching CSV collaborated with Usha International. This collaboration could be materialized because of good offices of Prof. Nishikan Mukerji, Vice Chairman of CSV. He established contacts with the top management officials of Usha International located at New Delhi. They in turn sent their field staff to CSV for doing actual work in the field. The program is being implemented as a part of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) activity of Usha International.

### **Concept of Usha International:**

One of the important mandates of companies like USHA International Ltd (UIL) is to reach out to remote/non-electrified villages of the country, by starting the "**Silai Schools**". Silai Schools are community based initiatives with the aim of empowering a village level woman entrepreneur to teach sewing to village women within the community space.



## **Vision of Usha International:**

The broad vision of the Silai School project as conceptualized by UIL is to reach the most remote villages of the country through its Silai School programme. The programme would reach out to the most marginal communities and would focus on women who have an inclination towards sewing by imparting sewing skills to them and encouraging them to train other village girls and women. This programme would be operationalised on a pan India basis and would be necessarily “inclusive” in character, thereby implying that the programme would be implemented for the most marginalized irrespective of caste, class, religion or creed. The broad aim is to establish around 1000 Silai Schools and the entire work would be planned and implemented as a movement across the country.

## **Structure**

As discussed earlier the programme would be implemented in a partnership model. The performance of each of the partners would be critical to the success of the programme. Each of the partners would have a specific role to play. The broad structure of the programme implementation plan (PIP) would be as follows:



## **Roles and competencies**

The idea of partnership emanates from the fact that like minded institutions join hands to achieve a common goal drawing on each others strengths. The roles being envisaged based on the proven competencies are as follows:

### **Role of the NGO**

- a. Be a facilitating factor for village entry.
- b. Facilitate in establishing a rapport between UIL (sales staff) and the villagers.
- c. Help in the identification of the Silai School teacher.
- d. Facilitate the training of the women in a cluster by motivating them to converge at a common point for training.
- e. Arrange for training venues in a village and manage logistics for bringing the Silai School teachers to the training venue.
- f. Motivate the village women and girls to come to the Silai School for learning.
- g. Monitor the progress of the programme and communicate the same to UIL through regular reports.

## **Role of UIL**

- a. Provide the sewing machine to the village entrepreneur
- b. Conduct the sewing training for the Silai School teachers.
- c. Create the course for the sewing learners from the village.
- d. Conduct Sewing Machine service training

## **Criteria for selection of villages**

**The selection criteria for the villages where the Silai Schools is to be started is given below:**

- a. A village with a population of minimum 500 people
- b. Short-listing of those villages which have been identified by Government of India as "poor" / BPL\*, through Census / NREGA / NCAER data
- c. Stress on non-electrified villages or village with less than 6 hours power supply
- d. At least 10 villages should be chosen in a block, for training and monitoring to be more cost effective.
- e. Progressive and supportive community members
- f. Ready availability of space for Silai school, *pro bono* contribution by community
- g. Substantial availability of potential learners.
- h. Availability of woman who knows sewing and is willing to teach.

## **Criteria for the selection of woman teacher**

- a. The woman should be from the village and should be respected by the village community.
  - b. The woman should preferably be a married woman in a village. She could also be single (widow, abandoned, marginalized).
  - c. She should have a basic literacy / numeracy level, required for sewing.
  - d. She should have a flair for sewing. There could be women in the villages who stitch clothes for their family members. Women who know how to use a sewing machine would be preferred.
  - e. She should be confident to teach.
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## Criteria for the selection of the site for the Silai School

- The site should be centrally located and easily accessible to the villagers.
- The site should not have any religious or political affiliations.
- The site should be spacious and well lit.

For giving training to trainers (ToT) in the subject of stitching and other technical issues related to Sewing Machine, 10 women were identified by CSV staff and the training was conducted during 19<sup>th</sup> March 2018 to 25<sup>th</sup> March 2018. Training was provided by Mr. Paresh Nagpure (Coordinator, Usha Social Services), Mrs. Sunayana Randive (Master Trainer) and Mr. Shaikh Shah Alam (Technician) associated with Usha International, New Delhi.

Sr. No.	Name of Trainees & Village	Aadhar Card Number
01	Mrs. Jyoti Maddhukar Petkar, Mandva	784219682629
02	Mrs. Jyotsana Arun Raghatate, Salod (H)	207350482640
03	Mrs. Asha Shankar Nehare, Piper (M)	900097577606
04	Mrs. Sheela Umesh Donarkar, Umari (M)	953505010510
05	Mrs. Asmita Gajanan Borkar, Piper (M)	731725650114
06	Mrs. Savita Prahlad Shendre, Mahakal	390162959746
07	Mrs. Manju Kisanji Magar, Satoda	861236708790
08	Mrs. Savita Anil Kotangale, Pavnar	923004266300
09	Mrs. Vishakha Dilip Kambale, Kanhapur	684745342055
10	Mrs. Maya Rambhau Deolikar, Seloo	-----

## Module of Training:

Day One (19<sup>th</sup> March 2018) and Day Two (20<sup>th</sup> March 2018): Trainees were trained to fix different parts of Sewing Machine in to a functional unit.





