

## **Creating Decent Work Opportunities for Young Urban Women from DNT Communities in Urban Areas of Jaipur, Rajasthan (Phase-II)**

**Submitted By**

**ActionAid Association**

### **The Context**

Rajasthan has nearly 32 communities that are classified as DNTs. represent a vibrant yet historically marginalized segment of the society. Their unique ways of life, intertwined with nomadism and traditional occupations, have contributed significantly to India's cultural and social fabric. However, centuries of systemic exclusion, colonial stigmatization, and subsequent socio-economic marginalization have left these communities struggling for recognition, rights, and resources. They were categorised as criminals under the Criminal Tribal Act of 1871 and despite the law being repealed, they are still identified as former criminal tribes and face prejudice. This has led to their socio-economic and educational backwardness.

### **Challenges faced by DNT communities**

- **Social Stigmatization:** DNTs communities face discrimination, marginalization and stigma associated with their identity which led to social exclusion, deprived from various social security entitlement and govt. programmers.
- **Limited Education:** Many Young women from DNTs communities have limited access to education and most post-secondary education. Studies reveal that the literacy rates of DNT women are alarmingly low. 62% of DNT women never attended school (Idate Commission-2017). One of ActionAid's study reveals that in Rajasthan only 14% of women completed primary education. These restrict them to access and avail employment opportunities. Also, there is the gender role to discourage them from pursuing formal education.
- **Lack of Skill Development:** There are often a few opportunities for vocational training or skill development tailored to their needs. This limits their ability to engage in the better paying jobs or entrepreneurial activities.
- **Economic Barriers:** DNT Women have limited access to financial resources, including credit and savings. This makes it difficult for them to start small business or invest in income generating activities.
- **Legal and Policy Issues:** Despite various govt. initiatives aimed at supporting marginalised communities, women from DNTs may not get benefit from these due to bureaucratic hurdles, documentation process or lack of awareness on their rights.
- **Vulnerability to Exploitation:** Economic insecurity are making young women vulnerable to exploitation in informal labour markets, where they face wage discrimination and poor working condition. Many often the young women and children go for begging to earn their bread and butter which led to exploitation.
- Girls from DNT communities often become victims of forced and child marriages.

DNT women and girls suffer the most from hunger, carrying the burden of finding food for their families. Earlier, they are mostly into the traditional occupations as the alternate sources of income for them are limited due to lack of resources and lack of skills. More recently, due to the loss of traditional livelihoods, women from DNT communities work as informal workers. They work as vendors, construction workers, labourers, domestic workers, rag pickers, sanitation workers. They are also street performers, wedding and religious events performers, beggars, ironsmiths, sellers of wares door-to-door, repairers of tools like knives, sellers of wares on local trains, herders of cattle and sheep, transporters of farm produce, etc. Working in the informal sector, these women face another level of marginalization as workers who are not covered under social security nor do they have job security or fair wages.

**With this backdrop, ActionAid Association, with the support of Mukul Madhav Foundation-MMF and Finolex pipes initiated the project to increase livelihood options and improve wellbeing of YUWs from DNT communities in Jaipur through skilling, input support and linking with various social security schemes and entitlements. The phase-I of the project has been completed and ActionAid Association is planning to strengthen the livelihood initiatives further during the second phase.**

#### **Achievements in Phase-I (July to November 24')**

ActionAid Association with support from Mukul Madhav Foundation and Finolex Pipes worked for mapping and skilling of 19 YUWs in tailoring, providing livelihood input support to 5 YUWs for initiating paper plate making activity and linking YUWs with entitlements from 2 urban areas of Jaipur.

#### **Key Achievements in Phase-I (July to December 24')**

- Under skilling program, 19 YUWs from Kalakar colony were enrolled in basic tailoring training course. Upon completion of training, each one was provided with a sewing machine and accessories for doing tailoring work.
- 5 YUWs from Gujjar ki Thadi location were provided training on paper plate making. They were further supported with a paper plate making machine and raw materials for making paper plates.
- Application for Caste Certificate of 350 DNTs were submitted out of which 50 DNTs have been issued the certificate by government. ActionAid facilitated the issuance of caste certificates for DNT families, enabling them to access land rights and other government benefits.
- Land Patta Distribution: ActionAid played a pivotal role in securing homestead land pattas for 39 DNT families, that provides them legal ownership of land where they are residing leading to long-term security and economic opportunities.
- Linking 24 Women to E-Shram & ABHA Insurance: ActionAid successfully linked 24 women to critical government programs (E-Shram, ABHA Insurance, Ration card and Vishwakarma yojana), granting them access to social security benefits and healthcare coverage.
- Eviction Prevention for 318 Families: ActionAid's advocacy secured a NoC from the Jaipur Development Authority, halting the eviction of 318 DNT families in Kalakar Colony and ensuring their continued residence and security.

## **Proposed Phase – II project**

The 2<sup>nd</sup> phase of the project aims to expand the skilling and livelihood initiatives for DNT women who have completed basic training in tailoring and have started paper platemaking as a small-scale business. The objective is to enhance their skills, provide market access, improve financial independence, and ensure long-term sustainability of their ventures.

### **Objectives:**

- 1) Strengthening tailoring skills of YUWs through advance tailoring training program, formation of their collectives and expanding their market linkage/access.
- 2) Enhancing livelihood security of 5 YUWs by scaling up their existing Paper Plate making collective livelihood activities.
- 3) Capacitating YUWs with financial and digital literacy to manage finance effectively and get benefit through digital platforms.
- 4) Creating YUW leaders from DNT communities and building and strengthening DNT YUW forums/agencies of YUWs thereby improving their wellbeing.

### **Expected Outcomes**

- 10 YUWs have livelihood security through improved tailoring skill and increased market linkage.
- 5 YUWs have livelihood security through intensified paper plate making activity and increased market linkage.
- At least 30% of YUWs supported for livelihood activities have 20% increased income.
- 30 YUW leaders are created and capacitated with 2 YUW forums in 2 project locations.
- 10 positive case studies shared in social media and report.

### **Proposed Activities**

**Objective 1) Strengthening tailoring skills of YUWs through advance tailoring training program, formation of their collectives and expanding their market linkage/access:**

**Activity 1.1 Advanced tailoring training to 10 YUWs:** during the 2<sup>nd</sup> phase of the project, advanced tailoring training will be provided to 10 YUWs from among the YUWs who have been provided basic tailoring skills in phase-I of the project. This will strengthen their tailoring skills further and enable them to diversify their products and increase income opportunities. Further, one collective of these 10 YUWs will be formed in form of SHGs and linked to government programs so that they can participate in various exhibitions organised by govt. departments. They would also be linked to livelihood and skilling schemes of state and union government through which they can get credit benefits to strengthen their livelihood activity. Robust market linkage will be facilitated for selling of stitching products of YUWs. They would be linked to local wholesalers who can give bulk orders of stitching of dresses to the group. All these would lead to increase in sales and sustainability of the group.

**Objective 2) Enhancing livelihood security of existing Paper Plate making collective livelihood activities:** in the 2<sup>nd</sup> phase the project aims to scale-up the paper plate making activities by YUW collective of 5 members who had initiated paper plate making activity during phase-I with skilling and input support. This group will be provided technical and input support during the 2<sup>nd</sup> phase that would help in stabilise the production as well as grow the business further. The project would facilitate market linkage of product by mapping and linking with

shops/market agents in local market that would. The YUW members will be helped to calculate production cost, income and profit.

**Activity 2.1: Input and equipment Support to paper plate making unit:** the project will procure and provide tools and equipment such as paper presses, die to the paper plate making unit which are essential for making paper plates. The project will also facilitate inputs support – one time- for the procurement essential raw materials such as paper, packing materials etc. to the unit.

**Activity 2.2: Paper plate training on quality and maintenance:** The paper plate collective will have continued training on the quality production, and maintenance of the machines procured during the project period. This will allow women to be self-reliant in working and maintaining the machine as well as ensure quality production of paper plates.

**Activity 2.3: Exposure visit:** The project will facilitate exposure visit of the collectives to other units that make paper plates to interact with the groups and understand machine maintenance and quality production.

**Activity 2.4: Market linkage support:** The project will also facilitate robust market linkage of the paper plates produced by the collective. They would be linked to local wholesalers who can give bulk orders for shops or events. All these would lead to increase in sales and sustainability of the group.

**Objective-3) Capacitating YUWs with financial and digital literacy to manage finance effectively and get benefit through digital platforms.**

**Activity 3.1) Financial and digital literacy training to YUWs:** training/interactive sessions will be organised for YUWs from tailoring stream and from paper plate making group on calculation of investment, product cost, income and profit, how to do loss and profit analysis, how to keep financial records, inventory etc. and also on digital literacy to access online selling, how to avoid cyber-crime. Financial and digital literacy would help YUWs understand the benefits of various financial schemes of banks, livelihood schemes of government, using various digital platforms for applying for or registering for government entitlements and getting benefits from non-formal entities etc.

**Objective 4) Creating YUW leaders and building and strengthening YUW forums/agencies of YUWs thereby improving their wellbeing:**

**Activity 4.1 Leadership Training to YUW leaders from DNT communities of 2 project locations:** the project will identify 30 YUWs leaders including leaders from YUW livelihood collectives from 2 locations of the project and provide them leadership training in order to enable them to form and lead the agencies of YUWS/YUW forums in respective areas and also at Jaipur level, dialogue for effective gender responsive public services, dialogue on providing decent work environment, provide peer education on financial/livelihood activities and address issues of gender discrimination. The objective is to build a supportive community among YUWs from DNT communities that encourages ongoing learning and collaboration. We envision creating an agency/forum of YUWs who can share resources, experiences, and advice long after the program has concluded. By fostering this sense of community, we hope to create an environment where women feel comfortable discussing financial matters and seeking help when needed. Ultimately, our goal is not only to improve individual wellbeing but also to contribute to the overall social and economic empowerment of women in DNT communities. The YUW leaders will provide peer education on how YUWs can get decent work opportunities through individual and collective livelihood activities, on financial literacy etc. This program will also lead to dialogue with administration of gender responsive public services in respective locations.

4 leadership trainings will be provided to 30 YUW leaders during the project period. The module of leadership training will be developed with support from eminent resource persons who would also be invited to moderate the trainings.

**Activity 4.2: Amplifying success stories:** the project will collate 10 positive case studies of DNT Livelihood enhancement in social media and report.

### **Project Management**

One Project Coordinator will be engaged to implement the project at community level. The state head will support the project coordinator in major activities. The project coordinator will be responsible for coordinating with skilling institute for organising advanced tailoring training program. She/he will coordinate with the paper plate making machine company for providing periodical technical input to YUWs for operating the machine. She/he will do mapping of market agencies, wholesalers and other market agents for expanding market linkage of groups and their products. The State head and project coordinator will coordinate with government departments for linking the collectives/SHGs with govt's livelihood and skilling programs. The Accounts person of the state office will do the bookkeeping. The materials will be procured as per procurement policy of ActionAid Association. The partnership unit will follow-up with state and project team on a monthly basis and ensure periodic review of the project and donor compliances. Finance and program reports will be developed and shared in each quarter and a completion report along with fund utilisation will be shared at end of the project.

**Budget and Timeframe: Please see attached Budget**

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