

## **GTZ SME Financing & Development Project**

The PSMS Special Value-Added Activities under the GTZ SME Financing & Development Project aimed to empower women workers in the readymade garment industry in the Banganga slum area of Indore, Madhya Pradesh. Here are the salient features and outcomes of the project:

### **Key Features:**

1. **Microfinance Facility:** The project extended microfinance services, including savings, credit, and insurance, to 171 individual women households.
2. **Credit Provision:** A total of Rs. 26.62 lakhs in credit was provided to women borrowers, with individual credit limits increased significantly.
3. **Capacity Building:** The project organized 11 seminars, workshops, and workers' meetings to enhance the skills and knowledge of women workers. Training programs covered various aspects such as account keeping, financial literacy, small business unit development, leadership development, and garment manufacturing.
4. **Market Linkages:** To boost economic opportunities, the project forged market linkages through seminars, workshops, and individual contacts, facilitating interactions between buyers and sellers.
5. **Income Enhancement:** As a result of credit and other linkages, the income levels of individuals increased substantially, with over 50% experiencing income growth.
6. **Employment Generation:** The project led to the emergence of 85 women entrepreneurs engaged in readymade garment activities, contributing to increased employment opportunities.
7. **Technological Advancement:** Women workers benefited from technological improvements as they upgraded their skills and started using improved tools and machines.
8. **Self-Help Groups (SHGs):** Eighteen SHGs of SME women workers were formed and provided with support for efficient management.
9. **Business Expansion:** Many members utilized loan amounts to invest in new machinery and tools, resulting in the expansion of their businesses.

10. **Diversification:** Some women started accessory supplying and machine repairing service units, demonstrating diversification within the industry.

### **Project Outline:**

The project aimed to provide financial services and business development support to unorganized women SME workers in the readymade garment sector, particularly in the Banganga slum area of Indore. The Priyasakhi Mahila Sangh (PSMS) played a crucial role in implementing these activities.



### **Objective of the Project:**

A. To provide adequate credit facilities to readymade garments women workers. B. To impart training for skill enhancement and awareness among women workers. C. To establish supply chains for procuring raw materials and finished products. D. To institutionalize SME women workers into Self-Help Groups (SHGs).

### **Outcome of the Project:**

The project successfully achieved its expected outcomes, including providing credit to 171 women households, establishing market linkages, creating 18 institutionalized women worker SHGs, increasing income levels, and expanding employment opportunities. It also enhanced the skills and capacity of women workers and improved their livelihoods.

### **Conclusion:**

The project, implemented by PSMS in collaboration with GTZ, successfully empowered women workers in the readymade garment industry. It not only provided financial assistance but also focused on skill development, market

linkages, and the establishment of SHGs. The project had a positive impact on income levels and employment opportunities for women in the target area.

PSMS expressed its gratitude to GTZ for the support provided and expressed its willingness to continue working towards the betterment of underprivileged sections of society. PSMS hoped for future financial assistance and technical guidance to further uplift the livelihoods of marginalized communities.

In summary, the project exemplified how microfinance, capacity building, and market linkages can significantly improve the economic prospects of women in the SME sector, leading to higher income levels and enhanced social status.

