

IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT

Swavlamban: Project for livelihood regeneration and sustainability

01 Project Details

Project Number:	10219
Project Title:	Swavlamban: Project for livelihood regeneration and sustainability
Project Duration:	Dec 2018 - Nov 2021
Approved Budget:	Rs. 293 lakhs
Major Stakeholders:	Project team, Master trainers
Location:	Leh-Ladakh, Aurangabad and Kupwara
Implementation Agency:	Mahila SEWA Trust
Assessment Agency:	SoulAce

02 Background

Mahila Sewa Trust, a public charitable organization dedicated to serving impoverished women and their families in India's informal economy, has long championed the cause of economic empowerment. Partnering with Bajaj Finance Limited, the Trust launched the "Swavlamban" project to address the pressing challenges faced by marginalized communities, particularly women, in regions such as Jammu and Kashmir and Maharashtra.

Recognizing the limited income sources and advancement opportunities available to these communities, the project provided practical solutions for economic empowerment. Through skill development training in sectors like food processing and garmenting, it aimed to foster economic independence.

The project established grassroots leaders and community resource centers, benefiting 12,300 women. Activities included training, leadership development, and support for home-based workers, all aimed at promoting economic independence across villages and blocks.



03 Key Activities

Capacity Building Initiative

- Facilitating SEWA team visits quarterly in Ladakh.
- Training MT and grassroots women in Garmenting, Food Processing, Weaving, Advanced Garmenting, Crafts, Basic Computers, Managerial Skills, Agriculture Trade, and Water Harvesting.
- Organizing trainees into producer collectives/SHGs and registering district-level associations as legal entities.
- Providing technical handholding support for integrating groups into the supply chain.
- Mainstreaming production supply chains to link with markets through business plans.
- Establishing forward linkages via branding, exhibitions, local bazaars, and tie-ups with retail chains.

Community Empowerment Activities

- Village meetings and mobilization of members.
- Member education and leadership training.
- Exposure visits and training of trainers on Sustainable Agriculture Practices.
- Training women farmers in Sustainable Agriculture Practices.
- Refresher training for master trainers.
- Development of MIS & Documentation for project monitoring and evaluation.

04 Key Impacts

Program Impact on Participant Skills and Independence

- **99.2%** of respondents reported an improvement in their decision-making skills due to the program intervention.
- Among respondents, **75.7%** mentioned being able to complete bank transactions independently, while **23.1%** required assistance from others.
- **98.3%** of respondents were capable of travelling independently to nearby villages or towns for marketing purposes.

Training Impact on Skill Development and Confidence

- Respondents received training in technical/ vocational skills, business skills (**88.6%**), and managerial skills (**44.9%**).
- **99.7%** of the respondents feel very confident in carrying out business activities as a result of the training program.

Impact of Marketing Linkages on Sales and Brand Recognition

- **98.6%** reported a significant increase in sales as a result of improved marketing linkages, while **98.3%** noted a rise in income due to these market connections.
- Among respondents who received marketing support for Self-Help Groups (SHGs), **98%** perceived their product to have built a brand name to a larger extent.

Financial Contribution to Family Expenses

- In terms of covering family expenses, **99.5%** of respondents can cover them with their income.
 - **98.6%** of respondents can make a considerable contribution to their families.
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Improved Behavior of Students

- The intervention resulted in improved student behavior, including enhanced discipline, decreased fights, and reduced use of profanity.
 - **79.3%** of students showed increased confidence and positivity, indicating improved overall well-being, mental resilience, and self-esteem.
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Key Stakeholder Satisfaction

- Stakeholder feedback highlighted student satisfaction, noting the establishment of a safe space with counsellors.
- Teachers expressed satisfaction with increased student confidence and improved discipline.
- **72.5%** of students rated the mental health promotion program as excellent, **25%** as very good, and **2.5%** as good, indicating high satisfaction levels.