



**Community Empowerment for**  
**women and out-of-school girls**

**at**

**Nathupur Pahari, Gurugram**

**Implementation Partner : Ritinjali**

Nathupur Pahari is a slum in Gurugram inhabited by immigrants who earn their livelihood either by working for construction projects in Gurugram or as domestic help. While most men in the community have had access to some form of education (at least till class 8) the women have either never been to school or dropped out very early to support their families in whatever way they could.

In 2016, Ritinjali started an Integrated Programme  
for women and out-of-school young girls in the  
community

- Income generation
- Basic and functional literacy
- Life skills training
- Health education
- Training in reproductive health, child care and counselling support

Aim

- Combat illiteracy through alternative education opportunities
- Be self-sufficient by developing capacity in sustainable income generating activities
- Promote gender equity and justice in the community
- Enlighten women to their rights under law

## Hughes grant utilized for

- Building of a semi-permanent structure in the community that functions as the work-space.
- Equipping the work space with cupboards, lights, fan , table, chairs etc
- Launch of pilot phase of the programme
- Hiring of a trained and experienced product creation specialist
- Purchase of the raw materials required for the creation of the products.

## Vocational Training and Income Generation

- Classes twice a week
- Basics of knitting, stitching, sewing , embroidery and craft – creating opportunities to supplement the income of the families
- Integration of Vocational training and functional literacy / numeracy lessons
- Observed that opportunity to earn quick money seemed to be the impetus to learn new skills
- Investing in education and dedicating time to perfecting a skill not of interest to women
- Objective to impress importance of education to increase employability
- Focus on group discussions, activities and counselling for a holistic and far-sighted approach to their learning



## Product creation

- Product creation on going process
- Targeted a specific calendar of events planned for the year



- Embroidered cards, dinner and tea napkins, mufflers, handmade paper bags were some of the intricately handcrafted products put up for sale at various events
- 17 women and out-of-school girls were paid about INR 200 - 350 per week ( from November 2016 – March 2017 ) for the products created by them.
- Proceeds from the product sales amounted to roughly INR 10 lakhs which was used partly to pay the women and partly to provide them with lunches on the days they were in the centre

## Literacy classes

- Help women to achieve basic and functional literacy
- Lessons tailor made to help women use information in their day-to-day life
- Learning to write one's name, identifying numbers and basic addition and subtraction
- Tool-kit consisting of alphabet books in Hindi & English, notebooks and writing material
- As an incentive, women provided lunch 5 days a week



## Health sessions

- Importance of sanitation & hygiene
- Awareness on causes and cure of common rampant ailments like diarrhea, scabies, infections etc
- Pediatrician conducted sessions every fortnight on causes, measurement and care of fever
- Digital thermometers distributed to 35 women who were part of the health education programme



## Family Life Education

- Sessions through games and activities
- Topics discussed
  - early marriage,
  - planned pregnancies,
  - children's education,
  - gender equality
  - communication with spouse





## Outcome

35 women enrolled under the programme for about 4.5 hours per week

- able to use a pencil and identify alphabets in the Devnagri script
- Able to write their name from memory
- Women who were able to identify numbers and carry out basic addition and subtraction functions are learning to multiply and divide
- All mufflers required for inventory are now being made solely by women at the centre
- Become financially independent and supplement their family income on a regular basis
- Centre has become a safe haven for women to discuss their problems and queries
- Able to seek health advice
- Counselling about nutritious food and good food choices