

**RELIEF ORGAISATION FOR HANDICAPPED (ROH)  
HINDUPUR**

**PROGRESS REPORT**

**Introduction:**

Rearing silkworms, weaving silk sarees and various activities along the chain are the major providers of employment in the drought affected Hindupur area. However the presence of persons with disabilities in this sector is very less as found out by ROH during its pre-proposal survey as only those who belong to these families work on weaving. Considering the potential of this sector to offer opportunities for work with little or no education, ROH chose to conduct skill trainings for the persons with disabilities which was supported by Ashraya Foundation. Initially six persons have been selected for the training and they were provided hands-on training on both powerloom and handloom.

**Inauguration of the training:**

The training programme was inaugurated formally in the month of February. However it took some time to set the power looms and hand loom into working condition and hence the actual training started from 24<sup>th</sup> of March, 2008.

**Training duration:**

The training was chalked out for 6 months duration but it went upto the end of October taking almost 7 months to run through the first batch of trainees.

**Trainees:**

Six persons were selected for the training selected based on their disability as the activity requires moderate to hard work. Hence the trainees were with physical disability and hearing impairment.

**List of Trainees:**

<b>Sl. No.</b>	<b>Name of the trainee</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>Disability</b>
1.	Bhaskar	25	Orthopedically Handicapped
2.	Nagalakshmi	25	Orthopedically Handicapped
3.	Sreenivasulu	30	Hearing impaired
4.	Lakshminarayana	38	Orthopedically Handicapped
5.	Radhamma	28	Orthopedically Handicapped
6.	Gopal	38	Orthopedically Handicapped

**Installation of looms:**

Two powerlooms and a handloom were procured locally from the weavers colony of Muddireddipalli near Hindupur and then installed at the ROH training centre. Powerlooms were given electricity connection by applying for a special connection from electricity department.

**Modules of training:**

Trainers were drawn from local weavers and a detailed programme of training was chalked out by taking their inputs. The programme involved orientation of different parts of the powerloom and handloom, precautions of operation, maintenance aspects, raw material procurement, feeding into the machines, various designs of the sarees, marketing aspects etc. The training time was divided into 3 parts wherein first half would be on powerlooms, second half on handloom and remaining one month working at a local facility as a learner. All the trainees could pickup the skill of weaving sarees but it was felt that more time is required to practice and perfect the art.

**Work places visited:**

To provided field-level experience some of the weaving units were visited nearby Hindupur town and the trainees were explained about how they operate and various procedures they follow.

**Completion of the training:**

The training has been concluded by the end of October after the trainees completed the on-field work.

**Present status of the trainees:**

All the trainees have started to work with various units located in Weavers colony. They spend about 8-10 hours a day and get about Rs. 100-150/- per day which gives them about Rs. 3000-3500/- a month sufficiently meeting their family expenditure. All the six trainees are working and spending their time in a constructive manner.

**Conclusion:**

The training has given new personality to the trainees in their outlook and how society views them besides enabling them to earn on a regular basis thereby boosting their confidence and status in society.

**PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE TRAINING**



Handloom being setup



Training on handloom



Powerloom being run



Saree being woven on powerloom



Jari (raw material) for saree fed on powerloom



Saree coming out of the powerloom





Trainees testing their hands on powerloom



Trainees testing their hands on handloom



Bhaskar running the handloom unit



Bhaskar running the handloom unit



Lakshminarayana at his weaving unit



Nagalakshmi at her workplace