

Relief Organization for Handicapped, Hindupur, AP: Silk Weaving Vocation Training Center (\$3,180 Total Funding)- Phase I

- a. **Project Context:** Disabled persons face limitation in getting employment as many of them drop out of school at their early age or lose interest in continuing further education after 10th or 12th because of poverty, mobility problems and lack of cooperation and improper course structures. As a result, their options for employment get diminished due to lack of qualification and they settle for menial jobs. Hence there is a focus on self-employment and vocational training that will not only embolden them with skill but also enriches knowledge on collecting resources for self-employment. Weaving saris from silk yarn is an artistic expression of the skill that rural weavers exhibit on account of their inherited profession. It occupies a distinct and unique place in the Indian economy, besides being the largest generator of non-farm rural employment. Hindupur which lies in drought-hit Anantapur district with menial agricultural income has many households working in the family profession of weaving supported by people who cultivate silk worms, mulberry (feed for worms). It is one of the hotspots of silk sari weaving providing direct and indirect employment to about 7000 families topping in market share in the country besides the ranks of Kanchipuram, Chirala, Dharmavaram etc. The industry employs people with little or no education and spins out large amount of income to the families through handlooms and power looms aided by liberal policies of the government. However true to the impression in the community that disabled people are not suitable for work, this industry also doesn't employ too many of them; in some cases sparsely employed by virtue of being the family member. Hence as things stand, skill training, support for self-employment, finding niche in the marketing aspects will make disabled persons also compete in this sector with others. Being a major source of livelihood, it has scope for employing disabled persons with little or no education and get subsidized support with government's pro-active schemes. Persons with partial blindness, moderately physically handicapped and hearing impaired can be trained in these skills. A monthly income for labor work stands at Rs. 100 per sari with an operational capacity of 40 saris a month in power loom and 500 per sari in handloom with 8 saris a month correspondingly. Considering the scope and viability of this activity it is proposed to set up a training facility in power loom and handloom for training youth with disabilities from poor families and enhance their livelihood opportunities.

b. **Project Objectives**

- i. To set-up one unit of power loom and handloom each (In Phase II to be taken up in 2008, we will expand the center to 6 units based on measured success of Phase I by June 2008)w
- ii. To provide employment opportunities for persons with disabilities and provide stable earning environment in the weaving sector

c. **Project Expenditure (Phase I)**

i. ***Capital Expenditure***

#	Description of Item	Amount (Rupees)
1	Power loom unit – 1 machine as one unit @ 65,000 a machine (as used commercially)	65,000

2	Handloom unit – 1 compartment @ 10,000 for each compartment	10,000
Totals		Rs. 75,000
		\$1,875

The source for purchase of capital equipment is from agencies based in Bangalore and handlooms assembled locally.

ii. b. Recurring Expenditure (Annual)

#	Description of Item	Amount (Rupees)
1	Salary for Instructors @ Rs. 4,000/- per month for 1 person for 6 months	24,000
2	Raw material (Silk yarn, Jari etc. from Twisting units) @Rs. 1700/- per month for 6 months	10,200
3	Power cost for power looms and other consumables @ 1000 x 6 months	6,000
4	Rent for training centre @ 2000 x 6 months	12,000
Totals		Rs. 52,000
		\$1,305

- d. **Impact Summary:** The training center will train 20 persons with disabilities including women in the categories of partial blindness, hearing impairment and orthopedically handicapped. The training content will be designed in consultation with leading weaving industries in Hindupur. The duration of the training will be for 6 months followed by support for placement and financial facilitation for next 6 months. After graduating from the training program, candidates will be supported for availing credit support through banks or other subsidized schemes. The average monthly income for the trained candidates would range from Rs. 4,000-5,000 in case of employment in existing industries or in excess of Rs. 6,000 depending on operational capacity when self-units are set up.