



Fusion Micro Finance: Microloans having a huge impact in empowering women: A story which became the inspiration for many.

Jharkhand, 13th March 2023: Microfinance is one of the most common financial schemes to empower women across the country. Microfinance institutions allow low-income households to avail the benefits of financial services without any collaterals. The vision behind such a program is to provide equal access to micro-finance services such as credit, savings, and micro-insurance to low-income customers that could help them to begin with or expand their existing businesses.

Microfinance helps women boost their courage and self-esteem to overcome the challenges caused due to lack of financial assistance and help them become self-reliant and independent. One such distinguished example is of Payal Verma, a homemaker who turned into a businesswoman.

Payal Verma is a 27-year-old resident of a small village of Jharkhand, Daltonganj. As a homemaker, Payal was always concerned about the financial expenditure of the family as her husband's earnings were insufficient to support the family's basic expenses.

Few years back, she availed a loan from Fusion Micro Finance to start her fish farming business. With the initial amount taken, she built a fish tank for selling fish in her neighbourhood and to the villagers. After receiving profitable results in her business and timely repayment of the loan, she remained associated with Fusion and took additional loans to expand her business to the neighbouring villages and local markets.

Payal and her husband with Fusion's support were not only able to break the vicious circle of poverty but also managed to uplift the standard of living of their family by enabling their children good-quality education from private school and expanding their business.

Expressing her gratitude, Payal said, *"Fusion has changed our lives for the better. It not only helped me in establishing my business and managing finances but also encouraged me to take an active part in decision-making, providing me with courage and self-esteem to lead a pathway of success".*

Microfinance helps in empowering women as well as enables women to participate in activities that elevate their social status. Microloans foster economic growth and gender equality. Additionally, it provides women with the capability to work on their own and family's well-being.

Background Note:

Fusion MicroFinance: Fusion MicroFinance is a registered NBFC – MFI which operates in a Joint Liability Group lending model of Grameen. It aims at reaching out to the unbanked population and provides financial services to women entrepreneurs belonging to the economically and socially deprived section of the society. The company believes in robust business practices, transparent policies and aspires to create value and balanced growth for all its stakeholders while keeping clients at the centre.

Microfinance Industry: As on September 30, 2022, the microfinance industry served 6.2 crore unique borrowers, through 12.0 crore loan accounts. The overall microfinance industry



currently has a total Gross Loan Portfolio (GLP) of INR 3,00,974 Cr. GLP as on September 30, 2022, showed an increase of 23.5 per cent YoY over INR 2,43,737 Cr as on September 30, 2021. The sector comprises RBI-regulated microcredit providers including NBFC-MFIs, Banks, Small Finance Banks, Business Correspondents, and others.

MFIN (Microfinance Institutions Network): MFIN is a premier industry association comprising 56 NBFC-MFIs and 44 Associates including Banks, Small Finance Banks (SFBs) and NBFCs. By virtue of bringing all microfinance entities under one common umbrella, MFIN acts as a bridge between them and the regulators to build a dialogue for greater transparency, better policy frameworks and stronger client protection standards for responsible lending, thus enabling the microfinance industry to partake in meeting the larger financial inclusion goals.