

Centrum Microcredit: Fulfilling Dreams of Aspiring Women

Durg, Chhattisgarh: Microfinance has been playing an essential role in uplifting the lives of many aspiring women by helping them become financially independent. The growth story of Sarla Bai Sahu, a resident of Durg, a small village in Chhattisgarh, is no different.

The family faced a financial crisis as both Sarla, and her husband were unemployed due to lack of opportunities in their area. While they lived in a joint family, it was tough for them to make ends meet.

In order to support the household requirements, the couple decided to start a small store outside their home. With an initial investment of Rs 2,000, they started selling necessary essential items from their store. Over time they realized that there is a great demand for food items and grocery items. However, due to lack of funds, they were unable to keep all items.

They were starting to lose hope when one-day Sarla stumbled across Centrum Microcredit and their financial offerings through one of her friends in the village. Aiming to resolve her financial problems, she immediately became a member and took her first loan of Rs.20,000.

Sarla's step to join Centrum Microcredit proved to be a life-changing decision. With the help of the first loan, she immediately bought all the products required at the store. Gradually the income improved, and she successfully repaid her loan.

Soon after, she took her 2nd and 3rd loan to further scale-up her business. Gradually, with hard work and determination, she was able to turn her small store into a full-fledged grocery store.

Today Sarla and her family is leading a respectable life in society and are even able to provide education to both her children. She is obliged and thankful to Centrum Microcredit for supporting her like many other women in their hour of need.

Attributing her success to Centrum Microcredit Sarla Bai says, ***"I can proudly say that I now contribute to my joint family's income. I am now able to provide a good education to my children and working hard to secure their future. I thank Centrum for making my family self-sufficient"***.

Centrum Microcredit Limited is a regulated Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC) – MFI. It provide micro credit and other relevant financial services to the un-served and under-served women in urban, semi-urban and rural areas. Their aim is to create positive social and economic impact in the lives of low-income households.

The Indian microfinance sector has come a long way. Early estimates show that the industry / sector would have closed Mar'19 with a credit portfolio outstanding of nearly Rs 2,00,000 crore serving over 50 million end clients (of which 99% plus are women and for most of whom this would be the first credit facility in their life) across 30 states through an employee strength of over 1 Lakh. For an industry almost written off in mid-2011 after the Andhra Pradesh (AP) crisis, this is no mean feat indeed.

NBFC-MFIs are the only regulated financial institutions in the country which give unsecured loans to the borrowers from low income households. These institutions fill an unfunded credit gap for women who do not have the wherewithal to provide collateral or security of any sort. The aim of NBFC-MFIs is to build sustainable livelihoods. Through providing last mile financial services even to clients in remote rural areas, these institutions promote the Government's financial inclusion agenda.

NBFC-MFIs are an important partner for Prime Minister MUDRA Yojana and almost 50% of the loan disbursements under this programme have been done through microfinance companies. NBFC MFIs are registered with the Reserve Bank of India and are stringently regulated right from the size of loan, the tenure, the rate of interest and a Fair Practices Code (FPC) and an Industry Code of Conduct (CoC) which governs their functioning. The Reserve Bank conducts regular supervision of all NBFC MFIs.

For further information please connect with:

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