

Centrum Microcredit: Boosting Micro-Entrepreneurs in Chhattisgarh

Bilaspur, 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 Sushma Vastrakar, a resident of Bilaspur District of Chhattisgarh is no different.

Her husband’s meagre income was insufficient to support the rising needs of the family of four. The family was barely able to save, with the education of her children being impacted as well. With the little money, she could save, Sushma bought a sewing machine and started stitching garments, to help generate an additional income in order to support her family.

The family was going through a challenging phase when, unexpectedly, life took a positive turn. One day, Sushma came across a loan officer of Centrum Microcredit, who thoroughly explained her about joint liability group loan and how it can help her.

After a few rounds of discussion with her family and friends, she decided to join a joint lending group and applied for her first loan of Rs. 50,000. She invested the loan amount to buy two more sewing machines and also hired two of her friends to support her business. Together they started stitching women’s apparel.

Gradually, the business started to grow, and she became financially independent to provide support to her family. Her business and the opportunity to earn an additional income brought in a lot of excitement and hope in her life.

Currently Sushma is going through her second loan and planning to buy an all-in-one Sewing, fall, pico, and zig-zag embroidery machine to further expand her business.

Her family is now leading a respectable life in society. She is delighted that she has become a successful entrepreneur and at the same time, able to can fulfil her duties as a mother. 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 Sushma Vastrakar says, “I am grateful to Centrum Microcredit for helping me fulfil my dreams and having made a big difference in our quality of life. I am proud of my association with Centrum Microcredit as their timely loans helped me build my life from scratches.”

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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