

## Svatantra Microfin: A Ray of Hope for Aspiring Women Entrepreneurs in Tripura

**Tripura, 7<sup>th</sup> October 2021:** Microfinance has been an effective mechanism in providing financial support to women entrepreneurs across the country. It has played an essential role in improving the lives of many aspiring women in Tripura by helping them become independent. The entrepreneurial journey of Pabitrasari Molsom, a resident of South Baramura, Tripura, has been an inspiring story to other women in her neighbourhood. Her story of courage and determination took her a long way from pushing her family from poverty to financial stability.

Pabitrasari Molsom was married off at a very early age. Her husband was a factory worker and earned a minimalistic salary which was insufficient to support the basic needs of the family. In 2020, the lockdown resulted in a sudden shutdown of the factory. This left Pabitrasari's husband jobless. Expenses were rising, debts were high, and financial crisis had made their survival difficult.

To support her family grief situation, she decided to step out of her house and open a small grocery shop in the local market. While Pabitrasari was exploring avenues as a solution to her problem, she was introduced to a nearby Self-Help Group by one of her neighbours. Understanding the financial support needed for her business, Svatantra Microfin instantly offered a microfinance loan amount of Rs 40,867, from which she spent Rs 20,000 in buying grocery items and setting up the shop and the remaining amount was used for the monthly rent expenses.

To ensure customer retention, her husband decided to introduce home-delivery services in the village. Within three months, her business flourished, and she was able to improve the economic condition of her family. She feels happy she didn't give up when her family was facing serious financial crisis. The shop has now become a steady source of income for the family.

Pabitrasari says *"I would like to extend my gratitude to Svatantra Microfin for being a constant companion in the growth and development of my business."*

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**Svatantra Microfin is a next-gen microfinance** entity offering differential banking solutions, leveraging technological innovation to bank the unbanked. It aims at encouraging entrepreneurship where traditional banking systems cannot penetrate. The organisation is based on the tenets of entrepreneurship, transparency, and disruption through innovation. It is one of the first microfinance institution to receive the Non-Banking Financial Company – Microfinance Institution (NBFC-MFI) license from the Reserve Bank of India. Also, rated A+ (CRISIL) and graded M1 (ICRA) Company.

As per industry data, Microfinance loan portfolio stands at INR 2,37,369 crores as on June 30, 2021, serving 5.68 crore unique borrowers with 10.30 crore loan accounts.

NBFC-MFIs are the only regulated financial institutions in the country that 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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