

## Livelihood programmes at Najafgarh

Women in the Indian Society very often do not get equal opportunities for their education and development. Training in cutting, tailoring dressmaking and screen printing was offered to unskilled and unemployed housewives at Najafgarh. After six months of training most of them became confident in their work. To assist them further, we established a dressmaking unit with all necessary tools and equipments. Today, thirty-five women are employed in this unit and earning a regular income. They take orders from outside especially for making variety of dresses and school uniforms and each one of them earn around Rs.2000-2500 per month. In the same way, a screen-printing unit also was started in the same place to give employment to those women who got training in screen-printing. In this unit, around ten women are earning a substantial income from taking up printing orders from the public.

Few young girls took great interest in beauty culture training at Don Bosco Yuva Kendra and after completing their training in this field, they established their own units in the town, earning a substantial income for their families. All these types of training and employment programs have not only increased their earning capacity and exposure, but also has inculcated in them the sense of business entrepreneurship.

New opportunities are thrown open to them to increase their capacity of learning and earning. They have learned to interact with people more easily and to express themselves more naturally. The result is that they take active participation in all women's programmes and community exercises. They also get an opportunity to mingle with others, to express themselves better, thereby building their confidence and self-respect and reducing dependency on other family members.

Today, we see that the shy and unexpressive house wives have become more independent, self-reliant and self-confident. The same programme is extended to near by villages.

