Helping Women achieve dignity through stitching at Mother Teresa Women Development Centre, Puducherry

Project Context:

Mother Teresa Women Tailoring Centre was started in 2012 by Jesuits of Chennai Mission to empower the women who are socio-economically deprived and vulnerable sections in and around Puducherry. Women face significant unemployment due to factors such as illiteracy, poor socio-economic conditions, poverty, gender discrimination, and caste discrimination. One major issue is that many women have spouses who are addicted to alcohol, leading to discord and dysfunctional family dynamics. This situation creates a lack of role clarity within families, where husbands often do not assume responsibilities, and wives are not allowed to take on these responsibilities. The impact of these challenges extends to children, who may become school dropouts, experience family disharmony, and face early marriages. This project is dedicated to supporting women, as they are particularly vulnerable and encounter numerous challenges in their pursuit of a decent livelihood. To address these issues, the centre offers tailoring training to enhance and develop employability skills. This initiative has had a positive impact, with many women eager to participate and reporting progress in improving their social status by acquiring tailoring skills.

Rationale:

To address this. women still face challenges in earning income and improving their economic situation., the Jesuit Chennai Province started a training centre in a rental place to help women find jobs. The goal is to offer skills training in tailoring so that these women can become self-reliant. By establishing the Mother Teresa Women Tailoring Centre, which has been providing tailoring, aari work and other stitching training to improve their job skills. This initiative has had a positive impact, encouraging many women to join and enhancing their social status through tailoring skills. To tackle these barriers, the Jesuit Chennai Province intends to create a training centre at the Mother Teresa Women Tailoring Centre. This centre will help women generate regular income. It will accommodate 40-50 women in employment programs and will take tailoring orders from small businesses, garment shops, schools for uniforms, and accessory shops for handbags and masks. This training centre will provide support for women to earn a steady income every month, helping them lead a decent life and support their children

Beneficiaries:

- Women, and their families from marginalized communities in Puducherry.

Objective of the project:

- To construct a new training centre at the Mother Teresa Women's Development Centre.
- To provide employment opportunities for the women who complete their training through the training centre.
- To book many orders to produce ready-made clothes, cloth handbags, dress materials etc., especially for children and women.

- To regulate stable income for women to support their families by making tie-ups with manufacturing companies.

Activities of the Project:

- To install machinery at the training centre for producing quality goods.
- Identify and admit women who are willing to learn and imbibe employability skills.
- Every year 40 women are given training on employability skills like tailoring skills, embroidery, and handicraft skills along with life coping skills.
- Trainings and workshops are organized on employment opportunities, entrepreneurial and marketing skills.
- The training centre liaisons with small industries, garment shops, schools for uniforms, and accessories shops to book orders.

Expected outcome of the Project:

- Women become independent with what they earn. This can also uphold the dignity and respect of society.
- The tailoring training centre will help improve the dignity of women.
- Women earn money to make their families financial stability.
- Women get to be the decision maker in the household.

Possible Collaboration:

- Build a tailoring unit specifically for women.
- Procure raw materials and other essential operational components.
- Corporate partners can strategically support us by assisting in skill development.
- Volunteers with relevant skill sets can teach and help students enhance their skills for a better future.
- Provide training in leadership, decision-making for women, financial management, and marketing strategies.