



WOMEN'S  
ORGANISATION FOR  
RURAL  
DEVELOPMENT

GURU  KRUPA  
Foundation Inc

TAILORING SKILL  
AND LIVELIHOOD

PROJECT  
COMPLETION  
REPORT

2019-2023

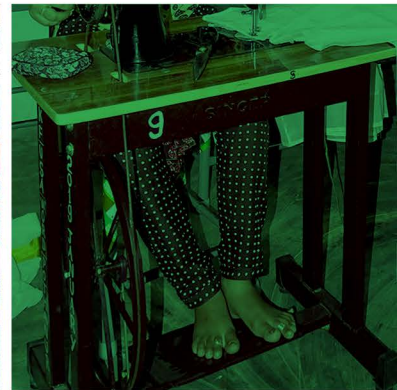


JOURNEY OF RURAL WOMEN

# DREAM OF STARS

# Integrated Completion Report

Journey of Rural Women -Tailoring skill  
and Livelihood - Vennandur Block,  
Namakkal District, Tamil Nadu, India



Funded by

GURU  KRUPA  
Foundation Inc  
USA

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# Situation before the Skill Programme

## Economic and Social Context

Namakkal District is an area severely affected by drought, lacking irrigation facilities. The primary occupation of the rural population is agriculture, with a significant number of landless agricultural laborers. Following agriculture, the textile industry is the second largest employer. In Vennandur Block, three spinning mills and one textile industry employ a significant portion of the local population, including 1235 adolescent girls out of a total of 2854 identified in the area.



## Labor Violations and Health Issues

The textile industries in Vennandur Block frequently violate labor laws and workers rights. Adolescent girls, some as young as 12, work 12-hour days under poor conditions, which leads to numerous health issues including respiratory problems, anemia, and menstrual complications. The living conditions in these mills are appalling, with overcrowded accommodations, poor sanitation, and inadequate food. The mills also exploit these young girls through the “Sumangali Thittam” scheme, effectively a form of modern slavery, and expose them to risks of sexual abuse and harassment.

## Educational and Employment Barriers

Extreme poverty, lack of vocational skills, and limited alternative employment opportunities force families to send their children, especially daughters, to work in the mills instead of pursuing education. The long distances to higher education institutions further contribute to high dropout rates after primary or middle school. Consequently, many girls remain unaware of their rights and entitlements, perpetuating the cycle of exploitation and poverty.



# Beginning of the Skill Programme

In 2019, with funding from the Guru Krupa Foundation USA, the Women’s Organisation for Rural Development (WORD) launched two tailoring skill centers in Thengalpalayam and Vennandur villages. The centers aimed to provide vocational training to married women and adolescent girls who had completed higher secondary school. Each center offered a six-month course covering basic to advanced tailoring skills, including the use of power and overlock machines. The initiative was widely advertised, and women enrolled through WORD’s mobilization efforts.

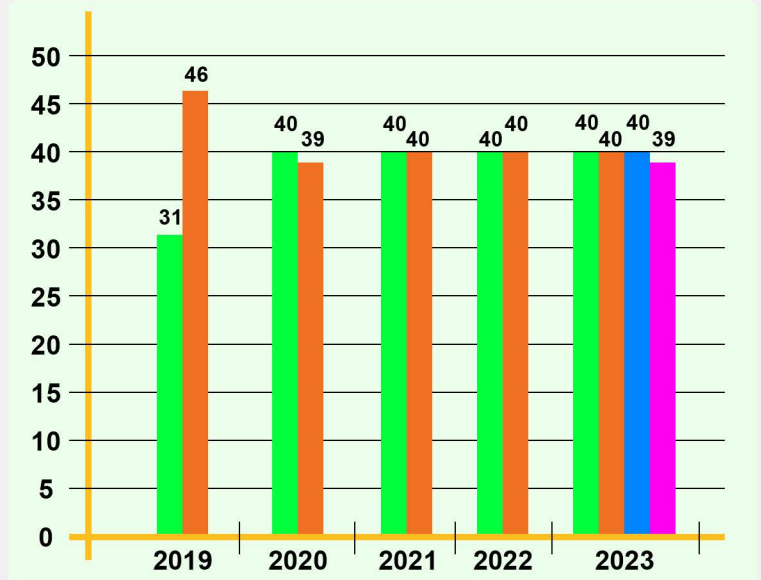
# Progress of the Programme

## Training and Outreach

Over five years, 396 women and adolescent girls completed the tailoring program in Vennandur and Thengagalpalayam.

The success of these centers led to increased demand, resulting in the establishment of two additional centers in Mallasamudram and Olapatti villages in 2023.

By the end of December 2023, a total of 475 women had acquired tailoring skills.

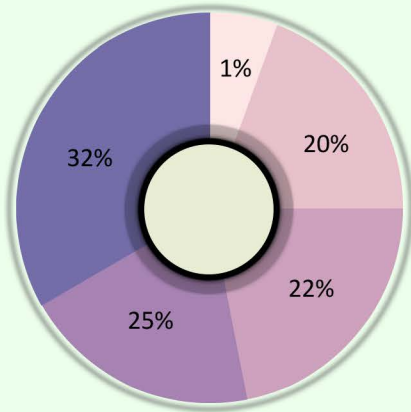


■ Vennandur      ■ Thengalpalayam  
■ Mallachamudram      ■ Olapatti



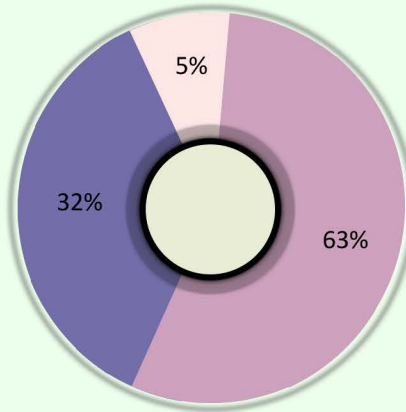
# Demographic Breakdown

**Educational Background**



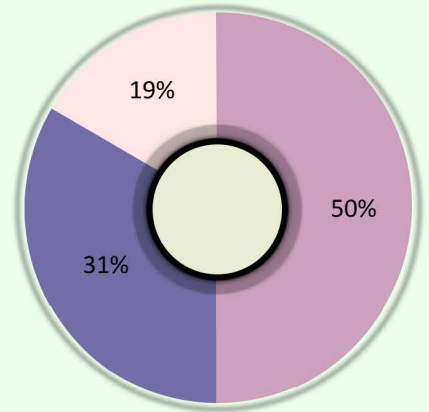
- Illiterate
- Below S.S.L.C.,
- S.S.L.C.,
- H.Sc.,
- Under Graduation

**Age Distribution**



- 18-30 Age Group
- 31-40 Age Group
- 41-45 Age Group

**Employment Outcomes**



- Job Order
- Garments
- Self Employed



# Impact of the Programme

## Social and Economic Benefits

01

### SKILL DEVELOPMENT

Rural women gained access to vocational training within their communities.



02

### EMPLOYMENT

Many women secured immediate employment or job orders upon completing the training.



03

### EMPOWERMENT

The program significantly boosted the self-esteem and confidence of participants.



04

### ECONOMIC INDEPENDENCE

Women began earning and saving money, contributing to their families' incomes.



05

### MOBILITY AND AUTONOMY

Participants gained the ability to travel independently to purchase materials and manage their sewing businesses.



06

### TECHNICAL SKILLS

Women learned to maintain and repair their sewing machines, with some purchasing power machines from their savings.



# Outcome of the Programme

- Tailoring skills provided livelihoods to nine widows and three destitute women, significantly improving their living conditions.
- 69 unmarried women gained financial independence, aiding their future prospects.
- The majority (409) of trained women improved their standard of living through additional income from tailoring.

## Conclusion



The tailoring skill program initiated by WORD, with the support of the Guru Krupa Foundation, has made a substantial positive impact on the lives of rural women in Namakkal District. By providing vocational training, the program has empowered women, improved their economic status, and enhanced their overall quality of life, demonstrating the critical role of skill development in poverty alleviation and social empowerment.