

National Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation

Technology Upgradation Scheme – Sivasagar, Assam

SUCCESS STORY

Scheme Name	Technology Upgradation of Cluster
Cluster Name	Handloom Weaving Cluster
Year of Sanction	2019-20
Amount Disbursed	Rs. 38 Lakh
No. of Members	75
Implementing Agency	Indian Institute of Entrepreneurship (IIE), Guwahati



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(NBCFDC) under its Technology Upgradation of Cluster Scheme sanctioned the project for 75 women members of **Handloom Weaving Cluster**, which is implemented through Indian Institute of Entrepreneurship (IIE), Guwahati, Assam in 2019-2020 to provide technological support to the enthusiastic weavers in the District-Sivasagar, Assam.

Under this scheme, NBCFDC distributed 75 Jacquard Looms along with necessary equipment and accessories (Jacquard Machine, the loom, the frame and yarn) to the individual members of identified 08 Self-Help Groups (SHGs) under this cluster namely Ankuran SHG, Sneh Bandhan SHG, Jyoti SHG, Kalpataru SHG, Nayana SHG, Pahi SHG, Bhiuwan SHG and Dkihowporia SHG.

As a result of such measures, the handloom sector of the area saw significant improvement as the new equipment efficiently lessened the time required for weaving a particular piece of cloth, in comparison to the previously followed method of weaving. Today, about 90% of these jacquard handlooms are fully functional as the weavers use it as full time means to earn their livelihood. About 60 out of 75 weavers have been able to significantly improve their weaving skills. Hence, they have been able to attract high customer demand with orders numbering upto 500 "gamochas" (traditional towels) per month and monthly income being upto Rs 8000/- per month.

The continuing demand for such handloom-products from the locals has encouraged the weavers to proudly display their works at the local expos held in the district. They have also been able to establish connections with shops in various cities of Assam like Jorhat and Guwahati, which regularly order handloom-woven clothes from these weavers.

Today, the weavers of the cluster continue to weave with utmost dedication. In addition to supporting the financial requirements of their own livelihood, they have been able to contribute in preserving the age-old tradition of weaving traditional clothes, thus preserving the cultural glory of Assam.

