



### **Skill Enhancement for Livelihood Development**

**D**evelopment Alternatives, in partnership with UNICEF has undertaken the project 'Linking Adolescent Girls and Boys of Jhabua to Livelihood through Skill Enhancement for a Better Future'. The project envisions enhancing the aspirations of adolescent youths of Jhabua (Madhya Pradesh) through skill development, employment generation and establishing linkages with different livelihood opportunities.

Till date, the project has reached out nearly 100 adolescent girls who are receiving skill development training on Sewing Machine Operator (SMO). Mobile repairing and assistant beauty therapist are other new courses that have been initiated in the district.

As an activity under this project, a one-day exposure visit was organised to a Pratibha Syntex Pvt. Ltd. - garment-making company in Dhar (Madhya Pradesh). A group of 44 adolescent girls, trainees under SMO course at DA's vocational training centre located in Meghnagar block in Jhabua, visited the factory to understand elements of garment making sector.

The trainees not only understood the technical nuances, but also were overwhelmed with the confidence of the women workers who shared their stories on how their social and economic status improved when they learnt the new skill and utilised it to enhance their income. Trainees were also amazed to witness that how efficiently and effectively women workers were running and managing the automated machines.

The company also offered employment opportunity to the trainees at their company and gave assurance to build their carrier in the garment making sector.

DA's approach in this project has been at two levels - firstly, it conducting a scoping study to identify the gaps map the opportunities; secondly using its expertise to work in areas of capacity building and employment generation, DA plans to train the youths in various and link to various livelihood opportunities. This will enable youths to be self-reliant and lead a dignified life. Under a planned strategy, guardians of the trainees were also invited to accompany the trainees for the visit so that they can act as support structures for them to build their careers in the sector. DA has been building partnerships with potential employers to facilitate collaborations and build a conducive environment for establishing livelihood linkages.

Many trainees have shown interest in building their career in the garment making sector. Some of them want to be a part of this company and develop skills and expertise in this sector.. From the valuable inputs received, some of them want to set up their own enterprise.