

RESHAM SUTRA

PROBLEM:

The Unnati solar powered Tasar yarn reeling machine from Resham Sutra has revolutionized the lives of women in the tribal villages of Saraikela Kharsawan in Jharkhand state. Prior to this, the only earning option for the tribal women was collecting tobacco leaves from the forest area and working occasionally on the farms (usually during ploughing and harvesting season).

India is the leading consumer of silk in the world, and the second largest producer as well. Two kinds of Tasar silk are produced in the country - Tropical Tasar and Oak Tasar, with Tropical Tasar being produced exclusively in India. This gives India a unique benefit, as there is a growing global demand for this material. However, it is still unable to meet the demand fully, since the production processes used traditionally are incapable of producing large quantities and high quality outputs.

This opens high potential to enhance the local livelihood options by using improved production equipment such as the solar

powered Tasar yarn and fabric equipment. This is highly beneficial, particularly for the forest based and remotely located producers. Analysis of previous trends show that every kilo of Tasar silk produced has resulted in, on an average, 6 person-days of employment. To leverage this enormous potential, Resham Sutra worked with the local government to set up the Unnati silk centres in Jharkhand.

INTERVENTION:

The geography of Tasar silk rearing coincides with the tropical forest areas in the states of

Jharkhand, Bihar, Chattisgarh, Odisha, Madhya Pradesh, West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra. This overlaps with some of the lowest per capita income geographies and most naxal affected parts of the country, including Jharkhand. The Self Help Group (SHG) based rural production model has been tried in the state's rural areas and has worked very well.

After Resham Sutra introduced women to its solar silk reeling machines; Unnati, Buniyaad and Dyna Charkha, the women have not looked back. What started small has now culminated into a bigger movement of change for the tribal women. More than 900 women from 32 Self Help Groups (SHG) have already been trained by Resham Sutra across its 20 training centres.

IMPACT:

The results are life changing. There is a multi fold increase in the productivity level and subsequently the income of these women. Earlier they would barely manage to earn a few hundred rupees for the art but after being trained to operate the efficient silk reeling machines, their annual earnings now are touching INR 5000. These women now also have a role in the family's decision making conversations. The development has also fuelled their dream of providing better education to their children, who are now enrolled in schools. Resham Sutra is now working with these women to integrate them into the silk farming process as well.

ABOUT THE ORGANIZATION:

RESHAM SUTRA innovates renewable energy based Rural Livelihood enabling machines. It helps rural Silk yarn producers and fabric weavers to install higher productivity machines. This increases their income and reduces physical and mental stress.

