

## TEENAGE GIRLS EARN SELF-ESTEEM AND SELF-WORTH THROUGH SKILLS TRAINING

### - A Case Study of teenage girls from Bandameedapalli village

Bandameedapalli is a small remote village situated at about 100 km. from Anantapur in Kundurpi mandal – a remote mandal headquarters. There are 218 families in the village, out of which about 85% are poor, with only 1 to 3 acres of dry land. So they are forced to work as wage labourers.

The teenage young school drop-out girls from these poor labour families had to work as wage labourers in their village and sometimes even in surrounding villages to meet the family needs. Some of them were interested in learning tailoring but they had no opportunity, as there was no training facility for tailoring in the village. Their parents, who were daily wage earners could neither take the initiative and arrange training for them nor afford the costs involved.

“I am very happy that I am earning money without going outside the village for hard manual labour work”

Vijaya Laxmi – A teenage girl

So some active teenage girls took the initiative, discussed with other teenage girls in the village and formed “Sri Chaitanya Group” with 30 girls. AF staff conducted a meeting with these girls and their parents and

finally it was decided to try and establish a tailoring centre in the village with AF’s support. Each girl contributed Rs.300/- towards the salary of the instructor. The villagers provided a rent free room for the centre. The response from the young girls and their parents was overwhelming, as this was precisely what they were looking for. So AF started a tailoring centre in October, 2007. All the 30 girls were trained in the first batch of 4 months duration.



Further AF staff played a key role in linking them up with a garment business promoter from Bangalore, who will supply them

ready-to-stitch garment, pieces. They will be paid wages @ Rs.10/- piece and each girl can stitch 8 to 10 pieces per day.

Now the girls are earning about Rs.80/- to Rs.100/- per day by stitching the garments on contract with the business promoter. They are expecting to earn Rs.120/- to Rs.150/- per day in the next 3 – 4 months as their skills and efficiency increases. These girls have several reasons to rejoice (1) Their family income has increased, (2) the drudgery of physical labour has reduced, (3) their self-worth and esteem has increased and (4) their morale is high, (5) they can look for better grooms and a better married life.

“After my marriage I can manage my family without depending on my husband’s earnings”

P. Geetha – A teenage girl

Already about 400 girls have been trained in 12 centres across AF’s project area. Out of them 65 girls have been linked to garments industry, who get contract jobs from business promoters from surrounding towns and Bangalore city also. 15 girls have been linked to the job of stitching uniforms for RDT school children. 45 girls have setup their own business in villages. Further AF is making efforts to link the remaining girls to the garments industry.