



# The Harbinger of **CHANGE**

Changing societies. One life at a time.



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# The Harbinger of **CHANGE**

Changing societies. One life at a time.



We at Samarth-Jyoti, believe that a better society is built on an empowered foundation. No wonder, we've focussed our efforts in mobilising the society at the grass-root level. Keeping in sync with this vision, our initiatives have tried to give a direction to those who seek a bigger objective in their lives. Primary Education, Vocational Training, IT Literacy & Remedial Classes have played a significant role in shaping the lives of thousands from the underprivileged section of the society. We believe, to change societies & communities, it is important to touch one life at a time.





## AN INTRODUCTION



UNO MINDA, a conglomerate engaged in the manufacturing, development and sales of diverse auto components for global and domestic automotive market, believes in doing its bit for the society. Samarth-Jyoti, a Corporate Social Responsibility initiative from UNO MINDA, is dedicated towards making the lives of the underprivileged a little better. Mr. Nirmal Kumar Minda and Mrs. Suman Minda beside being industrialists are also philanthropist and social workers who have helped transform thousands of lives. Samarth-Jyoti, established in 2012, has played a pivotal role in bringing a positive change in the lives of the marginalised section. With a strong inherent desire to encourage and empower the community, Samarth-Jyoti believes in engaging people with a strategic approach. A host of programmes for the underprivileged in various sectors like capacity building, education & community volunteering programmes have helped Samarth-Jyoti emerge as a lighthouse for progress for many. Reason why, Samarth-Jyoti is considered as a harbinger of change, even in most parts of the country.

Samarth-Jyoti is guided by the vision to enable and empower every member of the society particularly the disadvantaged, to live with dignity & happiness.



# VISIONARIES



**NIRMAL K MINDA**  
Chairman and Managing Director - UNO MINDA Group

Samarth-Jyoti was founded as an initiative to empower women, adolescent and young children, especially from the underprivileged strata of the society. This initiative aims at improving their quality of living, by providing them with basic needs, making them self-reliant to enable them earn a livelihood. So far thousands of people have imbibed from Samarth-Jyoti and have transformed their lives through the support, which gives me reason to be immensely proud. There have been countless instances, where people have shared their success stories and acknowledged our contribution in making their lives better. Nothing can be more rewarding than going through these instances. During one such interaction where a woman was showering us with praises and gratitude, stated that "You're like a destiny sent for us. After all, you've transformed our lives and shaped our future." What can be a better way of making us feel special and humble at the same time! Instances like these, make us feel blessed, as we are able to help people to lead better life through our initiative. Also, it further motivates us towards fully achieving our goal. Our objective is to offer skills to the deserving and the needy, educate women and children and in turn make them self-reliant with a livelihood. Today, Samarth-Jyoti marches ahead with a conviction and a message for all our team members. Let's carry on with this noble act and try to help as many as we can in carving a future for themselves.



**SUMAN MINDA**  
President and Chairperson - Samarth-Jyoti

It was during visits and interaction with the people living in villages, surrounding big cities that first motivated us to roll-up our sleeves and get to the basic ground work that is quintessential for Rural life-Education and Skill Development. It is on these two pillars of growth that we have laid the foundation of Samarth-Jyoti. The inherent desire to help people earn a livelihood, be self-reliant and happy in their lives is the guiding light for the initiative. Women and young children are often lag behind in the journey of progress. Keeping this in mind, we started remedial classes and skill development centres in seven places across India. Today these first few steps that we took are helping people walk on a path of possibilities that can lead them to a better future.

Earlier when I used to look at the struggle of women, their everyday challenges and lack of education; My heart goes out to them. Samarth-Jyoti has given them a platform to imbibe skills, improve their current knowledge to take charge of their lives. It makes me feel content and glad to see so many kids and women, young mothers and even older generation benefiting from this initiative.

We provide quality education to the underprivileged section of society who have the spark but lack the means to fuel the fire of their dreams. Visiting the centres, I feel a surge of warmth and humility, realizing how our efforts are headed in the right direction, changing one life at a time.



# VISIONARIES



**SUDHIR JAIN**  
Executive Director - Group CFO, UNO MINDA Group

UNO MINDA, as a group is known for its commitment to sustainability and community development, which we believe go hand in hand following a humane approach to expansion and growth of everyone associated with the group. Stretching our efforts in community development, we have now achieved a figure of seven centres of skill development and positive growth. Spread across Haryana, Tamil Nadu, Uttarakhand and Maharashtra, these centres educate and train thousands of children, women and men from underprivileged sections. At UNO MINDA group, we endeavor towards creating a framework with values that drives our group ahead. Following the same philosophy, we have focused on women and children as the two sections that are most marginalized as well as most influential catalysts of change in society. We firmly believe that a financially independent and confident woman can uplift her family and an educated child can brighten his entire family's future.

Thus, as a group we are committed to continue and channelize our efforts to educate and train as many people as we possibly can. And as they say, good efforts multiply exponentially, so let us direct our energy and expand this circle of goodness.



**RAJIV KAPOOR**  
Executive Director - Group HRM, UNO MINDA Group

Samarth-Jyoti, the name itself implies empowerment. It is the light of strength, change, positivity and a brighter future for many. In the few years of its existence, it has transformed stories of sorrow into stories of growth and joy. Each time a woman gets trained and gains financial independence with the help of Samarth Jyoti, we see her entire family getting empowered. Every kid who proudly presents his report card to his parents, is a promise that the future would be a bit brighter. Thus one by one, Samarth-Jyoti is transforming families, villages and towns of our Indian society into a universe, which gives equal opportunity to all, a possibility to grow and lead a life of dignity and contentment.

You might wonder what it holds for us, the people of UNO MINDA. Well, every time we touch a life, it touches us back with all its warmth and joy. The shy smiles, the glowing faces, the bright celebrations; all these are our rewards. I and my entire team are now part of all these families, guided by Suman ji and Nirmal ji. Together we make this one big family where everyone is working for the growth and betterment of the other and every moment of happiness is a shared moment of glory for all. I hope and wish that this family of ours will continue to grow in size, happiness and progress.

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENT



**GAURAV KUMAR**  
Head - Group CSR, UNO MINDA Group

It is with pride and satisfaction that I share the Harbinger of Change with you. UNO MINDA Group and its philanthropic arm Suman Nirmal Minda Charitable Trust have come a long way since inception. For years now, we have dedicated our efforts in uplifting the community that surrounds us thereby empowering it. Bringing change is never easy, especially in a diverse society. But when you see the efforts changing lives around you, every effort, every extra hour, every extra drive feels like a natural and rewarding journey. Thousands of women have benefitted from the Trust's initiatives till now. The training has not just helped in skilling them; instead it has given a new persona and identity to the women. People who were low on confidence, who used to stammer talking to strangers, today have their own shops turning into successful entrepreneurs.

Similarly, children who were denied the right to study and grow, got a helping hand and a friend in Samarth Jyoti, which not just assisted them in studies through extra classes but also helped reduce the financial burden on their families.

The positive change we are able to usher in, gives true meaning to our lives. I want to extend my sincere thanks to the board members for enlightening and guiding us to do better. Heartfelt thanks is also conveyed to the CSR committee for easing the operations. A special word of gratitude to my peers and colleagues too.

# PEOPLE SPEAK

## **ANADI SINHA** CSR functional committee member

CSR is an enabling force for social advancement hence is always an integral part of our business. As a responsible industry member, we are committed to supporting various social causes as per the need of the communities. Our programs really help us to build strong rapport with the stakeholders. Till date we have reached thousands of lives and we will continue with our commitment and efforts to reach more people in future also.



## **RS YADAV** CSR functional committee member

UNO MINDA since its establishment has tried to help the community that surrounds it. With the creation of Samarth Jyoti, our determination and efforts have become manifold, specially for the youth and women. Our team members maintain personal contact with the beneficiaries and ensure that each emotional and resource challenge is addressed to the best of our capability.



# PEOPLE SPEAK



**HK LAL**

**CSR functional committee member**

Samarth-Jyoti is a light, which has spread happiness in the lives of all those who come in contact. It motivates people to gain knowledge & learn new skills while getting their inherent qualities honed & upgraded. Many people have already got benefitted & improved their quality of life through the programs offered. I believe Samarth-Jyoti will continue to touch new heights & become the most preferred centre in education, IT Literacy & vocational training.



**NS YADAV**

**CSR functional committee member**

Samarth-Jyoti, a CSR initiative of UNO MINDA group is dedicated towards improving quality of life of the people by providing Education, IT Literacy & Skill Enhancement Support in different parts of India. Need based programs motivate people to join & learn the techniques and use them to improve their quality of life. Life skills training along with other programs make them feel motivated & more confident to change the social status. I personally wish Samarth-Jyoti, to spread its wings across the nation to make more & more people happy.



**ANIL PRASAD**

**CSR functional committee member**

A nation progresses when the citizens grow and contribute in its progress. We at Samarth-Jyoti are committed to provide a platform to every member of the society through quality education and skill development programs. Our objective is to make every individual self reliant and contribute in the development of society and country.



**ALOK KUMAR**

**CSR functional committee member**

At UNO MINDA Group, we are committed to the development of the society. Corporate Social Responsibility is not just a duty for us but something that makes us proud and content, every single day. Under the umbrella of Samarth-Jyoti, we are helping people change their lives with Education, Health and Skills.



**RAJ G DHAINJE**

**CSR functional committee member**

Passion, Dedication & Social Accountability are the key pillars of UNO MINDA group and Samarth Jyoti. Corporate Social Responsibility is not only compliance for us but it is in our DNA. Every day we are reaching needy and deserving through Samarth Jyoti and helping them build a society, which will take our nation to a new horizon. I am proud to say that we are enjoying good support from the senior management and local villagers in this noble initiative.



## TOGETHER FOR A BETTER TOMORROW



### CORE VALUES

#### DISCIPLINE

A well behaved manner that follows sincerity

#### DEDICATION

A complete commitment towards our work

#### DETERMINATION

Well planned learning process with deep earnestness

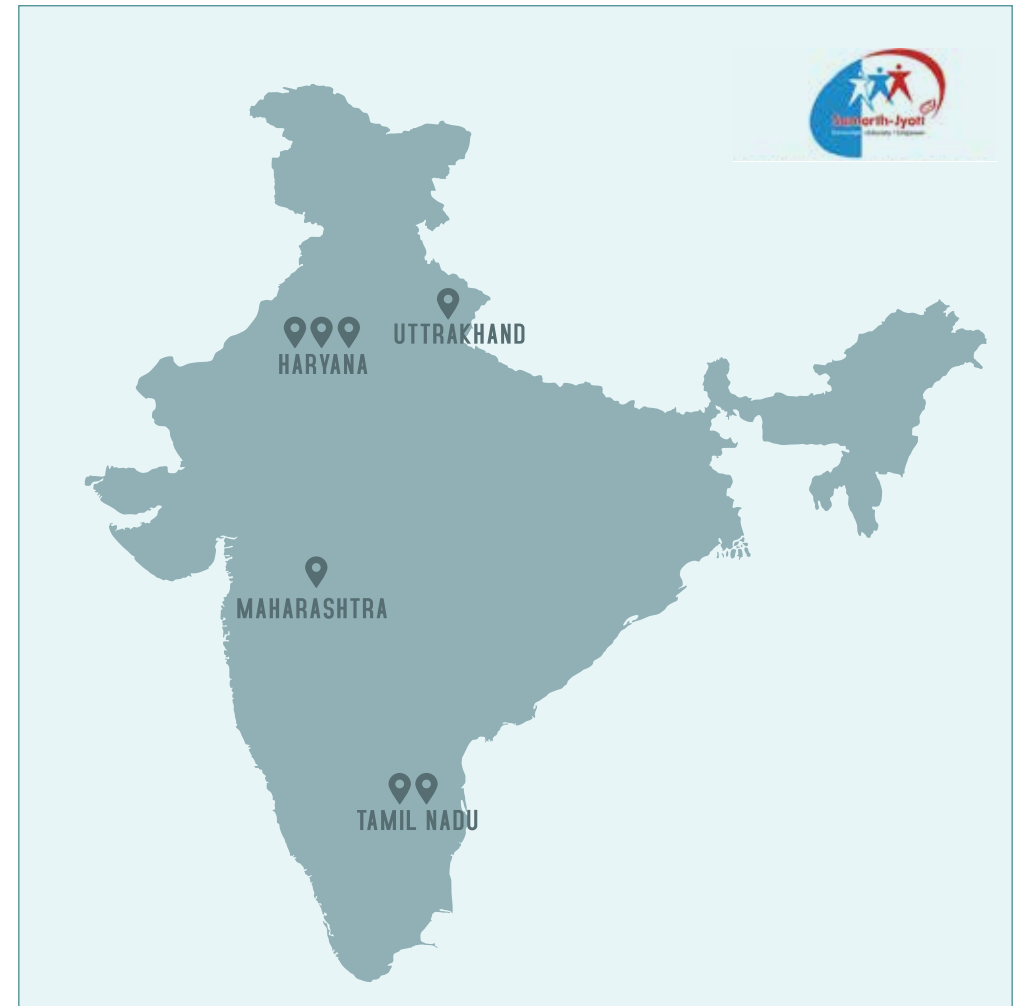
#### DEVOTION

A deep love towards the whole programme & its activities

#### DESIRE

An undying wish with surety to meet the goal & being triumphant

## OUR PRESENCE



Samarth-Jyoti operates in four states with seven centres, headquarter at Naharpur, Manesar, Haryana. Each state has a competent team to ensure programme effectiveness with proper monitoring mechanism. Our overall approach is to encourage, educate and empower the people in need.



# OUR PRESENCE

## NAHARPUR, HARYANA

- Primary School (Informal Education)
- Vocational Training Program
- IT Literacy Program
- Remedial Class

## NAWADA, HARYANA

- Remedial Class

## KARNAWAS, HARYANA

- Pre-Primary School
- Remedial Class

## AWAS VIKAS, UTTARAKHAND

- Vocational Training Program
- IT Literacy Program
- Remedial Class

## MAHALUNCE, MAHARASHTRA

- Vocational Training Program
- IT Literacy Program
- Remedial Class

## MATHAGONDAPALLI, TAMIL NADU

- Vocational Training Program
- Remedial Class

## VADAKKUPATTU, TAMIL NADU

- IT Literacy Program
- Remedial Class



# A FEW SUCCESS STORIES OF SAMARTH-JYOTI

## STITCHING A TRANSFORMATION





## MADHU- a topper in class and now in life too

Madhu, as she is fondly called by her friends at the Samarth-Jyoti Centre, is a woman of indomitable spirit. Her children study at the Samarth-Jyoti School. As she used to drop them in the morning, she used to see women coming to the centre to learn stitching and tailoring. One day, after gathering courage to take out time from her punishing routine, she approached the centre and formally took admission in the course. She picked up the skills quickly and started practising at home. She came first in her batch, while her children came first in their classes. Soon, she was able to open her own shop in the market, enabling her to earn around Rs. 15,000 a month. She is using her husband's mobile internet to learn new designs and trends and plans to learn computers soon. Finally, besides being a mother and a wife, she is also a woman who can choose to decide for herself and her family.

" The first frock I made after learning stitching from Samarth-Jyoti Centre was a green frock. I made this umbrella cut frock for my younger daughter Unnati. She was so happy to wear it that now that she has outgrown this dress, she still at times wears it and dances around me. I have named my shop after my daughter - 'Unnati' "



## ASHA- dexterous hands and a dreamy heart

Asha always wanted to be of some help to her mother. She learnt basic stitching from a family member while she was still in school, but that only helped her mend some old clothes in the house. As soon as her schooling got over, she took admission in the stitching and tailoring course at Samarth-Jyoti.

The shy, introvert girl had a determined mind and a firm heart, set on helping her widowed mother. As soon as she cleared the stitching and tailoring course, Samarth-Jyoti staff got her work to stitch the Samarth-Jyoti school uniforms. This aided her family's financial condition and gave her the much needed comfort that she was able to contribute to her family's needs.

Today, she has learnt computers, skills of a beautician, advanced stitching and tailoring, which she continuously perfects with her work. Today, she has learned to respect herself. She is aiming to become a fashion designer, noticing latest trends and designs on television, on the streets and imagining them in her dreams.

"I always wanted to hear it from my mother that after my father, there is someone in the family who is able to help her. Finally, she has that comfort with my contribution. I don't want to depend on my husband at a later stage for every single penny, I want to help him with my abilities as well, which i gained at Samarth-Jyoti and for which i will be forever grateful."



## RANJEET- SHIFT+DELETED his problems and ENTERED a new phase of life



Just how difficult it can be for an unskilled person from an outside state to come and survive in a big town, is hard to imagine for us but let's look at it from the point of view of Ranjeet.

Ranjeet came to Manesar from Bihar few years back and started working as a security guard. He was earning Rs. 10,000 a month as a guard. His family back home had a lot of expectations from their eldest child whom they had sent to the city to earn for the entire family.

Despite living like a miser, only spending on essentials, he could only save and send around three thousand a month to his family. And then Ranjeet decided to upgrade his skills and learn computers. But every course he could find had a fee of around five thousand attached to it, which was beyond his reach.

Then Ranjeet learnt about the course offered at Samarth-Jyoti, where he not just got admission in a computer course at a nominal cost but also got to choose his batch as per his job timing.

The moment he finished the course, with the counselling by Samarth-Jyoti team, he appeared for an interview of a security supervisor. Today, he is much better placed with a job that pays more, has more perks and opportunities for growth.

" When I appeared for the interview, I was asked a lot of questions relating to my studies of computers, most of which I could answer. Today, I earn Rs. 13,000 along with free food and stay. I am able to send almost Rs 10,000 to my family every month. You can't imagine how much it means to my family and for this I will always be grateful to Samarth-Jyoti and their teachers."

## BABITA- a mother's struggle that led to the discovery of her potential

The pain of a mother when she is not able to get enough food for her children is incomparable. Babita has lived through it and has worked hard to reach a position where she doesn't have to say no to her children's childlike wishes.

She learnt stitching and tailoring from Samarth-Jyoti, practising at home on her own old clothes. Day and night, she worked to hone her skills and soon became one of the best students of the batch. At the same time, she also took the course of beauty culture and started saving to open her own shop.

Some two years back, she started her own Beauty Parlour & Boutique along with little knickknack and accessories. Her growth story didn't stop here. She decided to help a needy lady who used to come to her shop to ask for some small work to get food for her children. Babita taught her basics of stitching and tailoring, gave her work and at the right time, suggested her to join Samarth-Jyoti.

"The first customer who walked into my shop was a little girl of 8 or 9 years. She bought small earrings for herself for Rs. 10. I still have those ten rupees saved and kept in the temple. I can't express the true gratitude I feel for the help and guidance I got at Samarth-Jyoti. I wish all women in need get the same helping hands."





## ROOPA- Sacrifices to a discovery of self

Sometimes being the eldest means sacrificing your own rights to care for the younger. This is exactly what happened with Roopa who could not go to the school so that she could take care of her younger siblings and ensure their welfare.

After her marriage, her loving husband encouraged her to learn some skills and to become self-reliant. She started a Ladies Salon after learning whatever little her willing neighbours could teach.

But her inefficiencies brought the salon to a close. Her mother couldn't see her daughter failing in her initiative and found out about Samarth-Jyoti. On her mother's persuasion, Roopa joined the beauty culture course at the Samarth-Jyoti Centre.

During the course, she also learnt how to speak to a customer. The teachers also helped her explore pocket-friendly yet good quality products that she could buy for her own salon.

Moreover the Samarth-Jyoti staff could ignite the spark to learn more in Roopa, which she has kept alive by attending seminars, using internet and going through picture books etc.



## An Inspiring Story of MRS. YAGAMMAL

Here's an inspiring story of Mrs. Yagammal. 39 years old and a very hardworking lady, Mrs. Yagammal, with her story elucidates that with dedication & commitment, one can shape their dreams into reality. From a small village in Karnataka, she shifted to Mathagondapalli after her marriage. Blessed with a son & a daughter, they used to depend on her husband's meagre earning. Her husband used to sell provisions, from a rented shop, to make their ends meet. In a way, they had a hand to mouth existence. But then, this didn't help her in providing quality education to her children. And it was her long cherished dream to see her children excel in academics and in turn, bagging lucrative jobs. Though she used to help her husband in the shop business, it didn't improve their financial condition much.

This is when she got in touch with Samarth-Jyoti. She enrolled herself in the Cutting & Tailoring session and passed the exams with flying colours. A feat that owes thanks to her commitment and dedication.

She started stitching in a small rented shop, which in turn, helped her in understanding the basics of the business. But soon, with the help of a loan of Rs. 50,000/- from a Self Help Group, she built her own shop and procured her own machines.

Today, she owns 7 sewing machines and has also employed a female member, to help her manage the business. The business grew at a steady pace and today, she earns around Rs. 10,000 per month. In addition, she also stitched the uniform for one of the Minda Industries Staff member. Today, she continues to inspire other females to be part of the Samarth-Jyoti family.



## SHOBHA- Strong Shoulders for her Siblings

She was just eight when her father was found murdered; without a reason or premonition, a pause came into her life. Her mother with the responsibility of her two daughters found herself alone and struggling to make a living. Shobha was pining to help her mother when she learnt about Samarth-Jyoti. She decided to learn the skills that could help her stitch a new story for her family. She joined Samarth-Jyoti after her school education till 12<sup>th</sup> standard and started learning stitching and tailoring. After getting grade A in both theory and practical, her confidence was also on level A! Taking help of her mother, she purchased a sewing machine and is now earning approximately Rs. 5000 per month, working from home. Today she is financially independent, full of confidence and is making her dreams come true through her younger sister who is preparing for higher education.

*"I have a feeling of contentment in my heart that I am able to help my mother in running the house. My younger sister would go for higher studies and I am proud to stand as her support and play my part in the story of my family"*



## DURGA:

### From the brink of despair to the edge of a new beginning

Durga's Family of six used to survive on Rs. 7000 a month. Continuously being dragged into the loan trap, living had become a nightmare for her. Just at the right time she learnt about Samarth-Jyoti. She and her husband realized that this could be the turning point in their lives but they didn't have enough money even for the nominal fee of Samarth-Jyoti Course.

She spoke to the course instructor and looking at her financial condition, he helped her reduce the fee by half. Durga completed both the basic and the advanced course from Samarth-Jyoti. Her education and empowerment didn't stop here; how to speak to the customer, goal setting, time management and ever enhancing her skills were also taught to her at the center after she completed her course. The trainers at the centre also gave her tips and suggestions on personality development. Even today when she faces a problem, she approaches her trainers. Seeing her dedication and skills, her husband saved enough to buy her a sewing machine.

With her machine by her side and skills in her hands, there was no stopping her. She started stitching blouses and dresses and soon started teaching basic stitching to other women as well. Today she independently earns Rs. 2000 to 6000 per month and is ever enhancing her skills.

*"Recently I have also learned how to stitch Navvari Sari, quelling and pouch making at the Samarth-Jyoti Center. I feel an inner peace that I am able to help my husband and earn for my children. I have also started getting bulk orders from boutiques. None of this would have happened had I not been accepted in Samarth-Jyoti. I owe my confidence, my happiness, and my family's contentment to Samarth-Jyoti."*



## SANGEETA- a journey from mundane to magical

It is not always a financial crunch that takes women to despair. At times it is the need for a social recognition within the family and the society that holds them back from having self respect. This is exactly what happened with Sangita. Her formal education was till class 12th after which she married into a financially stable and loving family. Though her routine was fairly busy with house work but the desire to learn and earn kept her feeling low and left out.

A chance encounter with the trainer of Samarth-Jyoti got her thinking about learning stitching and tailoring. Her mother-in-law also agreed with her plan that if nothing else, her daughter-in-law would be able to stitch clothes of the family.

Sangeeta finished her basic and advance course from Samarth-Jyoti and also learnt how to use her newly earned skills to start her own business. From etiquettes to work culture and shop management, Sangeeta learnt more than what she could have asked for. She also learnt how to take full benefit of the internet.

The staff and trainers at the centre motivated Sangeeta to open her own shop and soon Sangeeta was a proud owner of a tailoring shop, being operated from her home. Today her image in her family has completely changed and she is looked at by neighbors and relatives with wonder and respect. Her monthly income has touched Rs. 6000 and soon she is going to open a readymade cloth counter within her shop.

*"In the beginning I was little slow in learning, but the trainer taught me without losing her patience and cool. And today she says I do the best finishing out of the entire batch. Samarth-Jyoti has not just helped me earn but has also made me learn about my own potential."*



## ARCHANA- Rediscovering her spirit & zeal with Samarth-Jyoti

Archana was completing her graduation when her father, who was a teacher, passed away suddenly. With three siblings and an ailing mother, she found herself struggling to make the ends meet. Somehow she completed her graduation along with a degree of B.Ed and was married in a family of nine members. Her married life was a struggle with her in-laws mentally harassing her. Her husband worked in a distant town called Rudrapur and couldn't save her from the atrocities. She and her daughter tried to make peace with the family for years and then one day, when Archana could take it no longer, she took her daughter's hand, caught a bus and reached her husband's place in Rudrapur. After getting to know her story, her husband agreed to her suggestion of living like a nuclear family. Soon afterwards, she heard about Samarth-Jyoti and learnt stitching and tailoring from the centre. Finally able to financially assist her husband, Archana opened a shop and started earning around 8,000/- a month. Along with her self-confidence, she is also thankful to Samarth-Jyoti for teaching her customer management, which has helped in managing the business better. From having a banner for her shop to a lower pricing of her clothes, Samarth-Jyoti has helped her at every step. And the assurance that she can consult her ma'm at Samarth-Jyoti has helped her face many challenges successfully.

*"I always wanted to become self-reliant like my father. I learnt how to give more than I take from the society from him. I am happy that with Samarth-Jyoti's help i can help not just myself but also others"*



## SHAKUNTALA: The stitching of a success story

Shakuntala never got a chance to sit on a school bench. Daughter of a poor family and also married to another poor family, she's the mother of three sons. Goes without saying that life was not easy for Shakuntala. The fact that her husband was against her wish of going for work didn't help in making her financial condition better. Often, this used to result in quarrels between her & her husband. Owing to the shortage of money, every penny was spent after a lot of thinking and debate. And then one day, she got to know about Samarth-Jyoti, from her friend. A meeting with the instructors helped her learn about the tailoring & beauty industry. But then, she didn't receive much encouragement from her neighbours, or even her husband. People even mocked her saying that the illiterate woman who can't understand an inch-tape will stitch clothes now! Despite living under the shadow of criticism, she didn't lose heart. Soon, she started working in a boutique shop. Initially, she used to earn only enough to pay her fees and buy threads and raw fabrics. But then, in return, she got a feeling of accomplishment, after learning something new. Her learning was helped by the encouragement she received from her teachers. The same teachers helped her set up her own shop, guiding with relevant knowledge. Today, she owns a parlour and a boutique and is an independent working woman. With money to call her own, she also has the liberty to spend, as she wishes to. She also has spare money to spend on her kids, something that makes her truly happy. But the biggest change was seen in her husband. Now, he supports her at every step, doesn't restrict her movement, and at times, if the need be, takes monetary help from her.

"In the beginning I was little slow in learning, but the trainer taught me without losing her patience and cool. And today she says I do the best finishing out of the entire batch. Samarth-Jyoti has not just helped me earn but has also made me learn about my own potential."



## SAHIL: Guided by the light of education

This is the story of Sahil from Gujriwaas Village. Since he belonged to a very humble family, he was dependent on a government school, for his education. But his life changed for the better, when the Samarth-Jyoti team met his father, Mr. Sanjay Kumar & informed him about the Samarth-Jyoti coaching classes and regular academic services for the underprivileged. Hoping for a better future, he soon got enrolled in a school run by trust. Anxious and nervous, Sahil started feeling more comfortable in his new school. Soon he made lot of friends and started opening up to others with the efforts put in by his teachers. His father said that there were evident changes in him, his personality, his confidence and his ability to speak to others on various topics. He started scoring good grades in academics and also started participating in extra-curricular activities. Today, he owes his new found confidence and knowledge to Samarth-Jyoti. This is another testimony to the fact, how Samarth-Jyoti helps in providing a platform for the needy to perform better in life.

"A child is the dream for any parent. Every father wants to do the best for his child but like me, not every father can afford expensive schools and tuitions. What Samarth-Jyoti did for my son was more than I could I have ever asked for. I am grateful to it for shaping my son's present and my family's future."

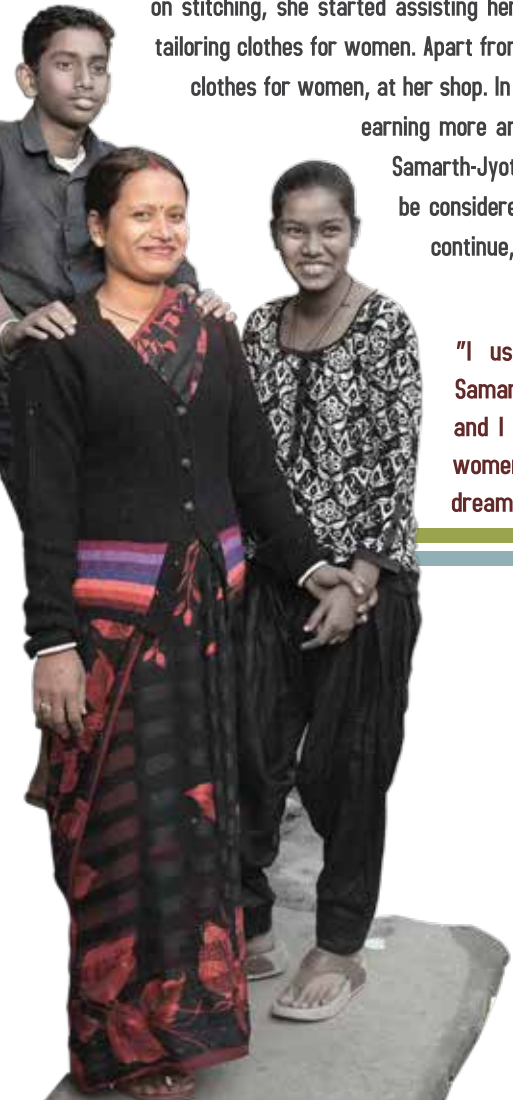


## KUSUM- Becoming her life-partner's strength & courage

Kusum Sikdar was born in a financially weak (poor) family. Her condition worsened after marriage. Her family increased as she soon became the mother of two daughters and a son. She's educated only till class 8th and her husband is a tailor. After marriage, even though she got busy with her household chores, she nurtured a dream of stitching her own clothes. Soon, she got to know about Samarth-Jyoti and their classes on various skills. What interested her the most was the nominal fee charged by Samarth-Jyoti for the classes. The private stitching classes offered at other places were unaffordable for her and was the reason behind postponing her dream. Soon, she enrolled her name at Samarth-Jyoti.

Her husband, happy with this, also encouraged her a lot. Confident with her new-found knowledge on stitching, she started assisting her husband in his tailoring shop. Soon, she got busy in tailoring clothes for women. Apart from stitching clothes, she also started selling readymade clothes for women, at her shop. In turn, working together, both husband and wife started earning more and living a comfortable life. She owes this success to Samarth-Jyoti & wants to send a message to all that no work should be considered as small. If one has the dedication and courage to continue, chances are, they will always be successful in life.

"I used to walk 4-5 kilometers everyday to reach Samarth-Jyoti centre to learn stitching. I never lost hope and I never gave up on my future. I want to tell all the women like me to carry on and never give up on their dreams."



## SOWMYA- The pillar of strength for her family

Sowmya is a soft spoken yet hardworking woman. Her husband was a daily wage earner, some six years back, he met with a major accident and was permanently disabled. He was the sole bread earner of the family and suddenly Sowmya and her eight year old daughter were left to somehow fulfill the basic requirement of the family. Sowmya had studied only till class 10th so she could only find a job of a daily wage earner, earning as less as Rs. 60 a day. Even this meagre amount she couldn't earn every day. Her daughter's education, her husband's medicine, everything was suffering along with her. She then met the Samarth-Jyoti staff and came to know about the stitching and tailoring course. She joined the course and passed both theory and practical examination with grade 'A'. She didn't have money to procure the machine and other material to start a tailoring business. Again with the help of the Samarth-Jyoti staff, she applied for a sewing machine from the government. The interview was tough but she cleared both the interview and a practical exam and was finally allotted a stitching cum embroidery machine. Today Sowmya has become an example in her village earning both the respect and admiration of everyone.

"I am currently earning Rs. 5000 to 7000 per month. I have even applied to the government for bulk order of uniforms. Now I can support my family and take care of their basic needs. I would say that every woman struggling in life like I was, should go to Samarth-Jyoti to find guidance and support."





## VISHAL: The spark of brilliance, fanned by a little help

A labourer by profession, Rajkumar could barely afford to arrange two meals and a roof for his family of six people out of which four are school going children. His wife also worked as a domestic help for several families to barely scratch a living. In such circumstances Vishal, their son shone like a hope of bright future with his consistent good grades in his school. Vishal was in class VI when his parents, Mr. Rajkumar & Mrs. Geeta Devi realized that they won't be able to afford sending him to private tuition any more despite his apparent brilliance in studies. Just when they were about to give up, a teacher who knew about Samarth-Jyoti, helped them get a fee waiver and support from the centre.

Vishal was a shy kid who used to stammer a bit. Initially he had no friends in his remedial class where he got admission with the help of Samarth-Jyoti. Month after month when he got good results and started impressing his classmates and his teachers with consistently good performance, he became a magnet for all his classmates.

"Today, everyone in our village knows us as Vishal's Ma and Papa. It is a pride when everyone tells us that your son is brilliant in studies. If Samarth-Jyoti had not helped, our son would have dropped out of studies and would have become a labourer like me.

## HIMANSHI- A mother's hope of a brighter future

A child is as strong as her mother. Himanshi's mother, Rajkumari, is a widow with the responsibility of five children. With not even a roof to call her own, she settled with her elder daughter who is married and lives in another town. Her self-respect and desire to not to burden her daughter made her do all kind of odd jobs. From cleaning houses to helping out in other people's functions, she could manage money for food but didn't have any spare to pay for the education of her children. One day Rajkumari heard about Samarth-Jyoti and contacted the staff to seek aid for children's education. The teacher she met heard her patiently and decided to find a way to help her. He presented her case to the board and she was given aid for her children's education. So much so that Himanshi, her brightest child, got a hundred percent fee waiver and is now excelling in her studies.

"I am nine year old and I study in class III. I want to study a lot and grow strong and educated so that I can help my mother. I want to learn everything quickly and grow up faster!"





# PHOTO GALLERY



**NATIONAL AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN CSR & SUSTAINABILITY FOR  
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**MANUFACTURING TODAY AWARD FOR  
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