

Vedanta Iron Ore Odisha Inaugurates Tailoring & Slipper-Making Units, Strengthening Skilling and Entrepreneurship for Women

As part of its commitment to empowering rural women through sustainable livelihoods, Vedanta Iron Ore Odisha (IOO) has launched two new initiatives under Project Jeevika: the Vedanta Tailoring & Training Centre in Nadidihi village and a Slipper Making Unit at Indira Colony, Rengalbeda. These initiatives aim to promote skilling, entrepreneurship, and self-reliance among local women, with 20 women currently enrolled and benefitting from these programs.

The inauguration ceremony was attended by Ms. Anita Sahoo, CDPO Koida, Mr. Sambit Nayak, Head CSR & ER, Vedanta Iron Ore Odisha, along with ward member and community members from Nadidihi and Rengalbeda. The programs focus on building vocational skills, enhancing employability, and providing the tools for women to create sustainable incomes and contribute economically to their communities.

The **tailoring training program** spans two months with an aim to equip women with essential skills to open their own tailoring units. Vedanta will further support participants by facilitating linkages with government initiatives such as Mission Shakti, under the Women and Child Development Department, helping graduates of the program to start and sustain their own businesses.

The **slipper-making unit** offering hands-on training in production techniques and marketing strategies. With guidance and post-training support, participants will benefit from linkages to Mission Shakti and similar programs. This slipper-making unit is projected to generate approximately ₹20,000 in monthly income for the Self-Help Group (SHG) involved, fostering economic independence for the participants and their families. The initiative is being run in partnership with Self Help Groups 'Shrushti', which aims to empower women with vocational and skill training to further establish micro-enterprises.

Ms. Anita Sahoo, CDPO Koida, expressed her admiration for Vedanta's community-focused initiatives: *"I extend my heartfelt congratulations to Vedanta for their outstanding initiatives focused on strengthening and empowering rural women through the tailoring training program and slipper-making unit. Through impactful programs in skill development, entrepreneurship, and livelihood opportunities, Vedanta is making a significant difference in the lives of women in our communities. I am truly impressed by the efforts made to provide sustainable skills that pave the way for self-reliance and economic independence. Vedanta's commitment aligns closely with our mission, and I am pleased to offer my support as we continue to explore further government linkages and opportunities for collaboration. Together, we can ensure that these programs reach even more women and foster lasting change."*

Mr. Navin Jaju, CEO - Vedanta Sesa Goa also spoke on the occasion, highlighting the significance of Project Jeevika for the community: "At Vedanta, we believe in 'giving back' to society by fostering an ecosystem of growth, especially for women in rural areas. Through Project Jeevika, we aim to equip women with skills and empower them to build their own futures. This initiative is part of our larger commitment to driving inclusive growth and supporting sustainable livelihoods, contributing to an #AtmanirbharBharat. These programs are helping create self-sustaining communities and real opportunities for economic independence."

Biswanath Sahoo, COO - Vedanta Iron Ore Odisha, "Project Jeevika is about creating sustainable livelihoods at the grassroots level. The Tailoring and Slipper-Making Units are key initiatives in this mission, providing women with vocational training that enables them to start

their own businesses. We are committed to supporting these women through skills training, resources, and continued guidance to ensure their long-term success.”

The Vedanta Tailoring & Training Centre and the Slipper Making Unit exemplify Vedanta’s dedication to Transform Communities through skilling, community partnerships, and sustainable economic development. These programs add to Vedanta’s broader portfolio of community initiatives that drive long-term change and upliftment across India. These initiatives are further complementing Vedanta’s recent community engagement including free school bus service, setting up of mushroom cultivation unit, free health care services, drinking water facility and remedial classes for children in rural areas.