

Exemplar PRFR - Prosperity

Step 2 – The Story of your Project . . .

12. Please enter a concise summary of your project below, so that it could be used in publicity material.

The project was developed to help women, in this impoverished locality, where a lack of education & job skills leads to unemployment, dependence on others, resulting in loss of self-esteem & abuse.

The women approached the club to help them set up a training centre so they could augment their family's income by learning a skill & using it effectively. The Vocational Training Centre with a tailoring unit opened on March 8th, International Women's Day (IWD).

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13. Why did your Club/Region/NA/Network choose this project? What issue did you tackle with this project?

The families in the area are desperately poor. The women told club members they needed to supplement the family's income to provide a better life for their children.

These women & children had no access to good quality education & were not able to finish their studies due to circumstances at home. Lack of job skills leads to unemployment & dependence on others for their existence, resulting in loss of self-esteem and abuse from their husbands. The club has been working to address this issue. The Soroptimist club had previously been working to address this issue by setting up an after-school club & sponsorship programme for children. As a result the women approached us and appealed for help developing an income generation scheme.

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14. What did the project involve?

Club members spent time with the women finding out what sort of income generation scheme they wanted. After discussion with the women, club members thought that starting a vocational training program would be a good way of helping them become economically independent. It took a year to research & plan, involving all members of the club. With a sizeable donation from a kind hearted donor, the club started the training unit teaching tailoring skills. The club sought the help of an NGO/Trust working in the area. The Trust provided accommodation for the training unit & oversight for running the unit. The club purchased five sewing machines & fund the employment of a sewing teacher.

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15. **What was the result of this project?**

30 women completed the first course. The course is one year. At the end of the course, the women learnt to tailor skirts, children's clothing, blouses. The club realised that giving training alone was insufficient to improve their circumstances. Wholesalers were approached, who agreed to send some of their basic sewing jobs to the women. The club bought heavy duty, industrial sewing machines to assist with this so they could take on more work. This project has gone a long way to empower the women to become independent and hold their heads up with pride as they can provide a better future for their family.

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Quote from beneficiary

One of the club members said "The joy on the faces of the women as they sat for the first time in front of the machines was what we were looking for when we started the course."

"We are enthused by the success of our tailoring unit and would like to implement more economic empowerment programs for the women and girls. Our plans for the future include Eco-friendly sanitary napkins, computer training and communication and leadership skills."