

Saidanpur – Activities at Bank-e-loom 2017

As you know I am working towards sustainable livelihoods in our ancestral village Saidanpur. My organisation Awadh Mango Growers Association (AMGA) is working actively with the DEF team.

Saidanpur village Barabanki district of Uttar Pradesh specialises in zari and applique cut-work on sarees, scarves and shawls, among other products. Barabanki and its adjoining area is home to around 50,000 weavers and 20,000 looms. Most of these weavers have not completed school, and live in joint families where almost every member is involved in the process of weaving. These weavers receive wages from middlemen and master weavers, and their average daily income is less than Rs. 100. Project Bank-e-Loom, initiated by DEF at our premises aims to safeguard the interest of weavers. Functional literacy is less than 60% among the population of 3.3 million.

Digital Empowerment Foundation in partnership with various government bodies and CSR groups has initiated Digital Cluster Development Programme, which primarily involves inclusive and decentralised use of Information Communication Technology (ICT) and other digital tools in critical aspects of handloom cluster development, especially improving and scaling up weaving skills, designs, marketing and entrepreneurship, besides creating sustainable livelihood options for the youth in the clusters. The development focus of the model allows us to integrate both the social and economic capital needs of the targeted artisan communities towards inclusive growth.

One of our AMGA recent initiatives is to start the first food processing self help group - got the first level training done and first batch of jams and acharis sold at mango festival, have developed a brand for them. Working on the further training with food processing department. There is scope to set up a unit at the village as this is primarily an agricultural belt and lots of fresh produce.

In collaboration with the Digital Empowerment foundation we have enabled a computer centre to be set up at the village which is currently training youth and disseminating other training particularly the British Council's English and Digital Learning Program.

Through our intervention, we are trying to provide jobs to weavers and eliminate the middlemen by directly connecting them to consumers.

Regular interventions, setting up a library and linkage to other organisations is what the focus for the work in the village is

Read about the Bankeloom project here - <https://defindia.org/the-weavers-of-barabanki/>



Girl students learning sewing skills as part of a tailoring batch at Baank-e-loom. 82 girls have been successfully trained at the Center till now. Centre started in December 2017



212 students including boys and girls have been trained in English speaking at Baank-e-loom till now.



Baank-e-loom has 256 potential Entrepreneurs, who have registered with us, including teenage girls and homemakers – who would like to earn sustainable livelihoods for themselves and their families.



Students watching and trying to understand mehandi designs on the internet at Bank-e-loom.



The CIRC in Saidanpur under the Bank-e-loom project, organised a training programme, in collaboration with Ministry of Food Processing and AMGA. The training was attended by an SHG of girls, who were taught how to make pickles and jams out of mangoes. Once registered with FSSAI, the girls will go on to start their own enterprise.



Menstruation and menstrual waste are still taboo topics in many parts of India, especially in rural areas. Amidst this environment, a small village in Uttar Pradesh has taken a huge progressive towards dealing with menstrual waste and raising awareness about menstruation.

Glimpses from #MHDaY awareness workshop organised at Bankeloom in collaboration with FICCI FLO, [WaterAid India](#) and KHEL



