



Transforming Lives through Skill Enhancement

A graduation ceremony was organised for 120 girls and boys who have been trained under the project “Linking Adolescent Girls and Boys of Jhabua to Livelihood through Skill Enhancement for a Better Future”. It was held at Pragati Sansthan in Meghnagar block of Jhabua district on 25 September 2019. This project was started in October 2018 and is funded by United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), Madhya Pradesh.

The chief guest for the event was Michael Steven Juma (Chief Field Office, UNICEF, Madhya Pradesh). Other esteemed guests included Sanjay Singh (C4D Specialist, UNICEF, Madhya Pradesh), Sandeep Khanwalkar (Senior Programme Director, Development Alternatives), L.P. Singh (Recruiter Manager, Pratibha Syntex Limited) and Suresh Inwati (Senior Horticulture Development Officer, Petlawad).

UNICEF and Development Alternatives have come together to enhance the skills of adolescents, ensuring a better future for the young boys and girls of Jhabua district. In this programme, adolescents are guided to learn different skills and are also acquainted with livelihood opportunities.

For the programme, a study was initially conducted to find out the interests, aspirations and skill level of the adolescent boys and girls in the district and to investigate the market requirements. According to the results of the study, a target of 200 adolescents was set. The aim was to provide them with skill training in four sectors - Assistant Beauty Therapist (ABT), Tally, Mobile repairing and Garment stitching.

Thereafter, 121 students were trained in ABT, 140 in garment stitching, 44 in Tally and 20 in mobile repairing. Therefore, more than 200 adolescents were trained. Furthermore, 138 trainees are gainfully employed in their skill areas and 67 trainees are self-employed.

Along with these courses, two other initiatives were also started – ‘Strengthening Aspiration of Youths at Observation Homes’ which focused on skilling youths who were earlier involved in criminal activity and ‘Aspiration Mapping’ which aimed at not only developing skills but also assisting the youth in creating a vision for their future.

In his address at the graduation ceremony, Sandeep Khanwalkar remarked, “This skill development programme has changed the life of many adolescents, it has not only made them independent but has also made them confident. They can express their thoughts, take decisions of their own and envision a future. Thus, this has brought in a wave of change in Jhabua district.”

The closing note was given by the chief guest, Michale Steven Juma, “The skills imparted through this course have hugely impacted the lives of the adolescents in Jabua. They have gained the confidence to embark on the journey of life and have even started earning well to help out their families financially.”