

## Inauguration of Slipper-Making Unit



Women working at the slipper-making unit in Sonbhadra

**M**aa Durga Self Help Group, supported by Development Alternatives (DA) inaugurated and operationalised a slipper-making unit in Dumar Village of Sonbhadra on 1st March 2024, marking a significant milestone for the Self-Help Group.

DA successfully implemented this initiative under its Integrated Village Development Project, HRIDAY, with the support of LIC Housing Finance Limited. The primary objective of inaugurating this unit is to develop women's entrepreneurship through enterprise development. Development Alternatives is supporting 10 Self-Help Groups, one of which is the 'Maa Durga Mahila Self-Help Group', in achieving the same objective.

This SHG led slipper-making enterprise will hold immense significance. It will go beyond merely creating footwear but will stand as a beacon of economic empowerment and resilience against adversity. In Sonbhadra, where poverty and limited opportunities persist, especially for women facing barriers like education and healthcare, this initiative spearheaded by 12 determined women, will mark a notable shift.

Their journey begins with a simple idea: utilising basic skills to establish a sustainable livelihood. Inspired by their cultural heritage, these women will embark on a journey of mastering the craft of slipper making, honing



Women of the Maa Durga Self-Help Group in Dumar Village, Sonbhadra, proudly displaying the products they have made at their unit

their skills through trial and error. Additionally, they are actively engaging in marketing their products in rural areas, such as Rural Haats.

These slippers will embody more than mere utility. They will symbolise pride and empowerment for their creators. By harnessing their skills and talents, these women will not only achieve financial independence but also gain a newfound sense of dignity and self-worth. No longer confined to the margins of society, they will emerge as entrepreneurs, challenging stereotypes and breaking barriers. Their enterprise will not only contribute to the economic and social fabric of their communities but also serve as a testament to the triumph of the human spirit over adversity.