

Rani Mistri training in ULBs of Jharkhand – leading to women empowerment

Summary:

Rani Mistri is the unique movement which started from the Rural Development Department, Jharkhand, where these Mistris used to construct toilets in rural areas. It was taken forward by Urban Development Department, Jharkhand with the convergence of NULM and PMAY (U), resulting in trained Rani Mistris to get engaged in construction sector including PMAY (U) which reflected the identity and self-confidence of women empowerment.

Objective:

To empower women by training them to construct houses under the PMAY (U) and subsequently help them independently take up the work.

Key Stakeholders:

- Government of Jharkhand
- Urban Development Department, Jharkhand

Implementation Strategy:

- With the success of sanitation movement wherein a huge number of female beneficiaries/ SHG members/ female labours got training for toilet construction for making the ODF district, Rani Mistri term was accepted by the society and that gave motivation to the women. In this context, many of the Rani Mistris are motivated to work as mason in construction sector particularly in housing. Directorate of Municipal Administration has issued direction to all ULBs to facilitate and train interested female masons. Various ULBs of Jharkhand has started to train the Rani Mistri in convergence mode from NULM/ Skill Mission/ Civil Society like Mahila Housing Trust.
- District administration decided to create a pool of Rani Mistris in areas which faced shortage of trained masons. Training was conducted over four days, the first of which on theoretical orientation, while the remaining three days were dedicated to practical training amid the communities.



Resource utilisation:

Urban Development Department, Jharkhand with the convergence of NULM funding and PMAY (U) helped in training Rani Mistris.

Impact/ Outcomes:

- The State has trained more than 55,000 women to become toilet masons, along with the skills to extend their abilities to other building opportunities.
- PMAY (U) converged it with NULM and other social schemes and helped women getting trained as mason/ plumber/ electrical worker etc.
- Government of Jharkhand recognised the importance of 'Rani Mistri' and released a GO to train more women. Initially, only few women came forward to take training to construct houses. But gradually it was accepted by women and was considered as one of the important facets of their life, as it helped in improving their livelihood and building confidence. This has also helped to tackle the gender-based barriers in the community and overcome the social stigma attached to patriarchal norms.



Challenges/ Lessons learnt:

Convergence with other schemes, dissemination of the experiences of the women workers with others and clear indication of the potential opportunity for women has been some of the factors for achievement of this initiative.

Replicability and Sustainability:

This movement reflects the identity and self-confidence of women empowerment. Many women have undergone training as a mason along with skill to build other building opportunities. This has helped tackle the gender-based biases in the community. This initiative has helped in creating livelihood opportunities for women and has set an example for other States to address the need for formalisation of women construction workers and train them to bring them at par with their male counterparts in this industry.

Fact Sheet:

Thematic area	Training of women for house construction
First-year of the program	2018
Responsible institution	Government of Jharkhand
Target audience	Urban poor women
Coverage	Jharkhand State

Sources:

Government of Jharkhand, n.d., *Harnessing Housing under BLC, Jharkhand – PMAY (U)*; <https://swachhindia.ndtv.com/heres-what-vice-president-venkaiah-naidu-wants-india-learn-odf-jharkhands-women-masons-28855/>