

Drishtee Rural Apparel Producer Organization, Bhagalpur (Bihar)

Rupa Devi lives in Chanderi village of Bhagalpur district in Bihar with her two daughters. She was abandoned by her husband in 2011 and she decided to take care of her daughters on her own.

In March, 2011, she joined stitching training program of Drishtee Foundation in Sabour block of Bhagalpur. Later on in February 2012, She became a producer of DRAP (Drishtee Rural Apparel Producer Organization) where her skill



continuously got upgraded as work at DRAP grew. Drap production centre was established in Bhagalpur city and she used to travel 8 kms daily to learn and earn. In 2012-2013 she used to get Rs. 50/- for each garment she stitched and hence she used to earn Rs. 2500/- per month. In Jan 2014, Drap production centre got shifted from Bhagalpur city to Sabour block which was very near to her village. Her determination to learn and running the economy of household drove her to become a regular artisan at the production centre. She became an employee of Drap on payroll of Rs. 4000/-. Her commitment has inspired many other young girls of Chanderi village to follow her footsteps.

Her next milestone is to become the production supervisor and training more women producers. One of her aspiration is to get her kids a computer system. Her husband and in-laws have started making attempts to get her back to be a part of joint family.

On being asked what lies next, Rupa says, “I want to make this production centre bigger both qualitatively and quantitatively, along with my fellow producers. We wish to increase our productivity and earning. Moreover, I would also like to learn how to run such kind of production centre and understand the market”.

Drishtee Rural Apparel Producer organization has such 30 odd women producers in Sabour production centre.