

Khadi set to get boost with Solar Charkha, Amravati

Problem Statement



- ▶ The charkha, or a spinning wheel was operated manually previously.
- ▶ There was no common facility centre for value addition on yarn for converting fibre to fashion.
- ▶ Sloppy marketing of khadi products has always been a challenge in the age of cheap machine-made clothes.
- ▶ The Khadi products are original and handmade, so the price is high, while there are a lot of products in the name of khadi available at a competitive price.

Key Intervention



- ▶ The solar charkha cluster replaced the old charkha, which was operated manually; now the spinning is done through clean solar energy.
- ▶ The common facility centre was established for converting fibre into fashion products under the Green Fab Solar Khadi Processing Cluster SPV, situated at Dharni TQ, set up under the MSICDP scheme of the Government of Maharashtra.
- ▶ This CFC provides crucial technical support to the Amravati Solar Charkha Cluster project by catering to the pre-spinning and post-weaving needs. Due to the CFC, the cost of production came down.
- ▶ The branding of their products is done under 'Greenfab,' and products sent to various exhibitions in Maharashtra.
- ▶ A tie-up done with Kutir, Nagpur, for the sale of solar khadi products through their store.

Impact



- ▶ The cluster is one of India's first decentralised clean-energy-powered social enterprises working in the khadi and village industries sectors.
- ▶ The cluster is operated by more than 300 women and acts as an empowerment programme for women from villages.
- ▶ This is the first PPP project of its kind in India to be commissioned in Vidarbha and run entirely by women.
- ▶ The CFC cluster which has a sliver plant, facilities for fabric dyeing, bleaching, finishing, digital printing, block printing, R&O, a testing centre, and manpower training.

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“Due to solar charkhas cluster, a lot of manual work is reduced. One technical person is needed to manage the machine.”

*-Mr. Pradeep Chechare
Resource Officer (Khadi) MSKVIB,
Amravati*