

KAMLA FOUNDATION UK
MICRO ENTERPRISE PROJECT – CASE STUDIES

Study 8



Bio Data

Name: Mrs. G. Uma

Age: 39

Status: Married with two children.

Background: Poor washer man family

MEP: Screen Printing and Net Bag Making unit

I was born into a poor Washerman family in a Village in Pudukkottai District. I was married to my relative who is a small farmer with small landholdings. We have two children and live with my mother-in-law. Due to an inadequate income we had to face poverty and distress. At that time I joined a Training programme on Jute Bag Making conducted by Ford Trust some 4 ago. With their guidance I underwent the Screen printing Training in Algappa University Centre for Women Studies at Karaikudi. With a little support of INR 5000 from the local Bank, I started this unit without any knowledge of Business and Marketing. Initially I faced some losses but learned how to run a business.

In 2008 the Founding Director of Kamla Foundation visited the unit being run in my house. Later, I approached the Ford Trust for some assistance for purchase of raw materials. Kamla Foundation provided INR 4000 through the Ford Trust MEP Scheme. I invested this amount in the unit. Now I have employed two girls trained by the Ford Trust. I am earning INR. 150 to 200 per day after the payment of wages and other overheads.

I am now regarded as a “brave woman entrepreneur” in the local area. My sincere thanks to Kamla Foundation and to Ford Trust for their kind help and follow up assistance and guidance for my business.

My children are also doing well; my daughter is studying an Engineering Course and my son is doing a Masters Degree.