



## Accomplishing along with mission during hard time

**Muktaben Raiyani**, 42 years old lady with a very humble background in village Lোধika of Rajkot district. So far she was living a typical village life in a traditional way. But four years ago she joined "**Anokha Sakhi Mandal**" of the village and started saving contribution of Rs.50/-per month under the DAY-NRLM scheme floated by Gujarat Livelihood Promotion Company Ltd (GLPC). Initially she got inspired from other women for the cause of micro finance activity to render mutual support from the savings. The women members were meeting regularly on monthly basis and discussed issues pertaining to productive activities for income generation and additional financial support for their families. Once, the official from **DRDA** visited the village and advised the women of the group to join the skill training programme conducted by the Rseti and other organisations by which they can acquire skills and augment their family income. **Muktaben** joined stitching classes for a month. She wanted to start sewing work along with her domestic duties. Till then she had sewing machine and acquired skill for sewing but not getting enough job work against her investment in a small village. She was bit disappointed with her decision as she could not get enough business for couple of month till March,2020. Meanwhile, due to **COVID-19** pandemic, demand for masks shoot-up. The need arose for mass production of masks to fulfill the heavy demand. This was the right time to contribute for the productivity and for the society. One of the official from the local, GLPC office approached Muktaben along with other members of "**Anokha Sakhi Mandal**" and asked for the job work to produce 500 masks urgently. Raw materials were provided to the group. Initially they were not clear about the exact nature of job, but thought as they are sitting idle it is better to get engaged in some work. They accepted the offer and did the job work in a time frame. since then these **20 women** and other women of neighboring villages are working day and night for the production of the masks and have delivered more than **35000 masks**.



**Muktaben** and other women of the group are tirelessly working in this activity under the guidance of the NRLM team. They strictly observe social distancing norms and follow other protocols as per guidelines of the Government. During this time of crisis their skills and entrepreneurship blossomed to the fullest. This job work fetched them about 1 lakh rupees during this period. This has built confidence among these women, **Muktaben** her co-worker **Bhavnaben Dang** and other women of the group are happy with hard earn money during this time of crisis. They are optimistic for such kind of job work in the days to come.

- Keep social distance
- Wear Mask
- Stay fit to Prevent **COVID-19**

Gujarat Livelihood Promotion Company Ltd. Rural Development Department.