

# LEARNINGS FROM SCOPING VISIT

## Raipur & Rajnandgaon districts

February 4 - 6, 2020



### BROAD GOAL OF SCOPING

To observe different SHG groups and understand what are the methods adopted by members to produce soaps within groups, and what kinds of production training have the members experienced.

#### Day 1

Visited a **multipurpose unit in Raipur city** where several women from the same VO were recruited to produce different products. We observed SHG women producing soaps in bulk for Bihan Bazaar, Khaadi Gramdudyog et al.

#### Day 2

Visited an **SHG group** in Rajnandaon where a **master trainer** was supervising the production for Saras Mela in Jodhpur. The trainer also took us to a practical training session of phynail-making. We spoke to the trainer about her experience in training, producing and selling soaps.

#### Day 3

Visited a **SHG group** in Mungi village in Raipur where a group of women produce soap amongst other things like shampoo, candles etc. We spoke to them about their experience in producing and selling soaps.

### WHAT DID WE LEARN?



#### SOAP CAN BE EASILY PRODUCED

If women can get basic raw materials then the process is not hard for them, and they can produce soaps in bulk. NEXT STEP: figure out how to group women across SHGs at VO level



#### GROUP-BASED PRODUCTION WORKS BETTER

The SHG women we met stated that working in groups helps speed up the process, and they can produce in larger quantities. NEXT STEP: figure out how to map out group-dynamics and interactions



#### BACKWARD & FORWARD LINKAGES ARE IMPORTANT

Need links to raw material sources as well as ready/recurring demand from suppliers. NEXT STEP: find vendors who would buy soaps from the women we train, and sources for raw materials



#### ROLE OF DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES

Video tutorials can be shared across members via Whatsapp or they can even contact the trainer for quick tips. NEXT STEP: Develop digital training modules that are easy to understand and are interactive



#### PACKAGING OF SOAPS

Packaging costs bump up the price of soaps - expensive if branding/paper packaging is used. Plastic packaging a cheap option. NEXT STEP: Look into cheap and sustainable soap packaging options