

Komal's Story

Komal is sitting in front of a cupboard in a small village shop, in which many clothes are haphazardly filled and in the above rack, various types of *gota-kinari* rolls are kept. Her feet moving fast on the sewing machine as she is sewing something. She has a measuring tape hanging around her neck and a smile on her face. Komal, 19, has been a student took training from the Sewing Training Center run by CULP at Gram Panchayat Rajwas, located in Niwai Tehsil of Tonk district, who is using the training to improve the economic condition of her family.



Komal comes from a family always facing financial difficulties. It was not possible for her father to support a family of eight with just three *bighas* of land; on top of that, her mother's frequent illness forced her and her four other sisters to do household chores at an early age.

In such a situation, Komal got her name enrolled in the sewing training center of Rajwas. Mother did not want it because after the marriage of her two elder sisters, the responsibility of household work was now on Komal. Eventually mother was persuaded and Komal started learning sewing regularly at the centre.

Now, two months had passed since she started learning sewing, one day she talked to her aunt and with her aunt's help she bought a sewing machine and started practicing on it. After completing the course, she took a small shop in the village on a rent of Rs 500 per month and started to get sewing work. In the first month she earned Rs 2700. Gradually the work increased and she also paid the money for the machine, she had borrowed from her aunt. With her sewing earnings, she not only pays the rent of the shop but also bears the expenses of the house and her mother's medicine.

Seeing his work, women from nearby villages and helmets also get clothes stitched from her. Although other girls in the village also stitch cloths, but due to her expertise in *Rajputi* dress, she gets good work from which she earns ten to twelve thousand rupees in a month.

Komal now wants to expand her work further and wants to involve other women, so that they too can help their family financially.