



# *Success STORIES*

FROM ROOTS TO FRUITS

2014-2024



# NEEV

## IIT GANDHINAGAR

COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROGRAM







Over the past decade, NEEV has been a shining example of IIT Gandhinagar's commitment to meaningful community engagement. Rooted in the values of inclusivity and empowerment, it has improved lives across villages through skill-building, entrepreneurship, and livelihood projects. NEEV's evolution from nurturing small businesses to introducing advanced digital skills and artisanal craftsmanship highlights its adaptability and far-reaching impact.

It stands as a testament to what can be achieved when an academic institution embraces its social responsibility with dedication and vision. I am immensely proud of the collective efforts of our faculty, staff, students, and partners who have made NEEV a beacon of hope and opportunity in our surrounding communities. As we celebrate this decennial milestone, I am confident that NEEV will continue to grow, leaving an indelible mark on several lives in the years to come.

**Prof. Rajat Moona**  
*Director, IIT Gandhinagar*







Since 2014, starting with grassroots entrepreneurship, NEEV has empowered individuals to take bold steps toward self-reliance through vocational training, women's empowerment, digital literacy, and artisanal livelihoods, impacting over 6,000 lives across 40+ villages. Through resilience and innovation, NEEV has adapted to changing times, including overcoming the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic by providing critical resources and training.

Its initiatives for women, such as the sewing livelihood project and the awareness programs on health and financial literacy, have been the cornerstones of empowerment. As we celebrate 10 years of NEEV, we reflect on its inspiring journey and look forward to nurturing more dreams and cultivating a brighter future.

**Prof. Gopinathan Kalon**  
*Faculty-In-Charge, NEEV*







It is with immense pride and joy that I present this commemorative booklet celebrating 10 years of NEEV, the community outreach wing of IIT Gandhinagar. Over the past decade, NEEV has grown from a seed of an idea into a transformative initiative, empowering thousands through programs focused on skills development, entrepreneurship, and resilient livelihoods.

This booklet captures the essence of NEEV's journey — stories of determination, collaboration, and impact. As you explore the stories of transformation, I invite you to celebrate not just the milestones achieved but also the enduring spirit of compassion that defines NEEV. Here's to a decade of making a difference and to many more impactful years ahead.

**Ms. Soumya Harish**

*Program Manager-II, NEEV*

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## *Celebrating 10 Years of NEEV: From Roots to Fruits*

This is the story of NEEV IIT Gandhinagar. What began in 2014 as a modest initiative has grown into a transformative journey of empowerment, growth, and resilience. The idea then was simple: to nurture local entrepreneurship. Partnering with I Create India, we started training grassroots entrepreneurs. Small beginnings led to big dreams—a security guard opened a canteen, a janitor bought a rickshaw, and women launched beauty salons. Each story added a stepping stone to our vision.

When we moved to our permanent campus in Gandhinagar, our neighbours—villages like Palaj and Basan—brought new opportunities. With state-of-the-art labs and dedicated partnerships, we introduced vocational courses in carpentry, wiring, and welding. 2016 marked a turning point. For the first time, women from Palaj created curtains for IITGN hostels. This small project planted the seed for women empowerment at NEEV, a journey we've nurtured ever since. Our partnership with the Desai Foundation grew stronger. Together, we expanded programs to include sewing training, beautician training, computer skills, and more. Soon, NEEV's impact reached beyond Palaj and Basan to other nearby villages. Women began crafting conference bags, stoles, and pouches—merging creativity with livelihood opportunities.

When the pandemic struck, NEEV adapted. Women produced masks for the community, and we distributed essential ration kits. With safety measures in place, we continued to offer skill training—adding new courses like chocolate-candle making, specialised sewing courses, Tally Skills Course, and Desktop publishing. During this time, we also played a crucial role in health awareness too—conducting mask distribution drives and oximeter training sessions to support affected families.

Keeping pace with changing times, NEEV soon introduced advanced programs—Website design using WordPress, and Graphic design using Canva, while also including AI tools in all of its technical courses, in addition to all its regular programs. These courses are opening doors for youth to explore careers in today's digital economy. For women, our awareness sessions on menstrual health, savings, and banking have been empowering steps toward self-reliance. Career development programs and entrepreneurship programs are helping youth dream bigger and take bold steps forward. Through our sewing livelihood project, women now produce artisanal products that tell a story of resilience and creativity. From tote bags to cushion covers, every stitch reflects the dignity and confidence NEEV aims to foster.

Since 2014, NEEV has carried out over 170 projects, positively influencing the lives of more than 6,000 individuals across 40+ villages. Yet, beyond these numbers lies the true essence of our journey—the empowerment, self-reliance, and opportunities that have blossomed through this initiative. NEEV represents the collective efforts of IIT Gandhinagar's leadership, faculty, staff, students, and the invaluable contributions of partners and supporters such as the Desai Foundation, Milacron, GSPL, GIDC, I Create, SAP SoSa, and Masibus. Together, they have made NEEV a pillar of inspiration and progress for the communities it serves.

This booklet brings together selected stories of impact and success from the last decade, showcasing the breadth and depth of NEEV's transformative journey. While it offers a glimpse into the lives changed and dreams nurtured, it represents only a fraction of the many stories that define NEEV's journey. As we celebrate 10 years of meaningful impact, we honor the past, cherish the present, and look forward to cultivating a brighter future together.

NEEV Team  
December 2024



## 2014-2024 Success Stories



**Vibhadevi Rajput** from Palaj village transformed her life after completing the Sewing Course and Entrepreneurship program with NEEV.

Initially, she focused on sewing but later expanded to training others even hiring two women for support. She earns ₹30,000 - ₹40,000 monthly. She covers her shop rent and bills while paying her team ₹3,000- ₹6,000 based on their work.



**Komal Mori** completed the Beautician course where she learned various skills like hairstyling, mehendi, and makeup, all aligned with her interests.

After joining the course, her skills and expertise significantly improved, leading to an increase in her customer base. Today, she earns ₹4,000-₹5,000 monthly, contributing to her family's income.



**Prajapati Ronak** shared that he completed the CNC training. He is currently doing an internship at Roop Ultrasonic, Sector-26, Gandhinagar, where he earns approximately ₹11,000.

He expressed that this course has been highly beneficial for him.

## 2014-2024 Success Stories



**Rajal Vaghela**, a resident of Basan village, shared that the tailoring course has empowered her to become self-reliant.

She now brings ready-made garment work from Ahmedabad, including plazzos, pants, and tops, and is capable of stitching blouses, kurtis, and more from home. Her current monthly income is ₹22,000-₹25,000.



**Chandrika Patel** completed the Trainer's Training Course, and has been working at NEEV's production unit since then.

She enjoys learning new skills while working and has gained a lot from this experience. The work has been very beneficial for her, and she is eager to continue learning and exploring new opportunities in the future.



**Vikram Thakor** from Vadodara leveraged NEEV's courses in Entrepreneurship, Website Development, and Social Media Graphic Design to establish his own social media agency.

He manages pages with 90K+ followers and runs an NFC card business. As a Social Media and Graphic Design Trainer at NEEV, Vikram has enhanced his confidence and expertise, achieving remarkable success.



## 2014-2024 Success Stories



**Monali Prajaptati** from Chiloda enhanced her basic beautician skills through NEEV's course, significantly improving her expertise.

She now offers services like waxing, facials, threading, and bridal makeup from home. Earning up to ₹20,000 monthly during peak seasons, she has achieved self-reliance and comfortably manages her household expenses.



**Rekhaben Thakor** a resident of Dholakuva, expressed gratitude towards the NEEV for introducing the sewing course in her village.

She shared that learning this skill has been immensely beneficial to her. Currently, she works from home, stitching blouses and handling small tailoring tasks, earning ₹4,000-₹5,000 per month, which helps her support her family.



**Priyanka Prajapati** from Kudasan, after completing the Beautician Course, developed a keen interest in becoming a Hair& Make-up Artist.

She continued her learnings at professional beauty salons, and now she is independently taking up orders on her own earning very well. NEEV has played a key role in her personal and professional growth.

## 2014-2024 Success Stories



**Mittal Soni** from Sargasan, after completing courses in Entrepreneurship and Chocolate & Candle Cake Making, started her own business.

Initially operating from a shop, she expanded to offer Western wear rentals along with chocolate and candle products. Her income now ranges from ₹10,000–₹15,000 per month, and she sees great future opportunities.



**Chetna Chavda**, a B.Com graduate from Palaj, fulfilled her long-time goal of learning Tally through Tally Skills Training in May-June 2022.

She quickly secured a job in Gandhinagar, where she has been working for over a year. The job offers flexibility, allowing her to balance part-time work with household responsibilities effectively.



**Virendrasinh Parmar**, a resident of Lavarpur village, shared that he completed the Entrepreneurship program with NEEV.

Previously, he used to do small-scale photography work. After completing the course, he started his own photo studio, and recently launched a motor driving school and earns ₹30,000 to 35,000 per month.



## 2014-2024 Success Stories



**Minaben Luhar**, a resident of Dholakuva, previously used to assist her husband with blacksmithing work, but after completing the sewing course by NEEV she also started tailoring.

She now stitches ghagras, blouses, and handles repair work, earning ₹7,000-₹8,000 per month. This has not only benefited her personally but has also significantly increased her family's income.



**Chetna Parmar** from Prantiya joined tailoring course in Chiloda, learning to stitch blouses and dresses, which now earns her ₹3,000-₹4,000 monthly.

With enhanced skills and confidence, she currently serves as a Training Assistant for a new tailoring batch in Prantiya, effectively teaching others and inspiring her community.



**Satyajit Bihola** from Palaj attended Entrepreneurship Development Workshop in June 2022. Inspired by the training, he started and ran a fast-food outlet for over 2 years having earned ₹65,000-₹70,000 monthly after expenses showcasing his entrepreneurial spirit.

He is currently a real estate agent, looking forward to developing his business in this sector.

## 2014-2024 Success Stories



**Riddhi Parmar** from Prantiya enhanced her skills through Beautician course, transitioning from beginner-level to professional expertise.

She now earns ₹20,000 each season and regularly takes orders for eyebrows and mehendi, significantly improving her income. Riddhi attributes her financial growth and professional success to the training and support.



**Parvatiben Thakor** from Basan village, previously working in the fields, enhanced her tailoring skills through a course, especially in cutting and finishing.

She now stitches blouses, does fall and interlock work, and earns ₹2,000-₹3,000 per month. This additional income has greatly benefited her family.



**Prem Thakor** from Palaj completed courses in Data Entry, Tally, and Graphic Design. These courses have greatly benefited him, and now he works as a Data Entry professional at Namtech.

His monthly salary has increased to ₹15,000, showcasing significant growth in his career.



## 2014-2024 Success Stories



**Sakshi Patel** shared that she completed a beauty parlour course in Chiloda, as she has a strong interest in the field.

Currently, she works on sider makeup and mehndi assignments, earning between ₹10,000 and ₹15,000 monthly. She also mentioned running her own beauty parlour in Sector 26, Gandhinagar.



**Tarika Raval** from Gandhinagar completed the ToT in Stitching and Entrepreneurship courses.

Post-training, she launched her online business selling dresses, kurtis, and tunics, many of which she stitches herself. The income supports her family and fuels her growth. She is deeply grateful to NEEV for this opportunity.



**Kanji Desai** from Basan attended Computer Hardware Training in November-December 2022 while unemployed.

After completing the course, he began freelancing as a hardware technician, earning ₹4,000 a month. Now employed full-time at a printing press, he continues freelancing to supplement his income, showcasing his dedication and skill development.

## 2014-2024 Success Stories



**Surekha Vaghela** from Lekavada village did not know anything about sewing before she attended Stitching Skills Training Course conducted within the village during October-December 2022.

During the course, she learned how to sew cushion cover, saree fall, blouse, purse and many more things. She has now also purchased another interlock-fall machine and earns Rs. 8000 to 10,000 per month.



**Vidhya Vaghela** from Palaj completed the Stitching Course and currently provides stitching services at NEEV's production unit.

She specializes in making products like bedsheets, pillow covers and bags, earning ₹5,000 per month. This income has been very beneficial for her. Vidhya enjoys working with the team and appreciates the excellent facilities provided to her.



**Amardip Solanki** from Mota Isanpur completed the Data Entry & Typing Training Course.

The course enhanced his skills, which he now applies daily in his job at the Sachivalaya. Grateful for the growth, he encourages more people to connect with NEEV for similar opportunities.



## 2014-2024 Success Stories



**Meena Rathod** from Mota Movada village attended an Entrepreneurship Workshop and inspired by the knowledge gained, started a small business.

The workshop provided valuable insights on decision-making, pricing, and strategy. Now, with seasonal work, she earns around ₹3,000 to ₹4,000 monthly, helping her grow her business.



**Mehul Thakor** from Vadodara near Dabhoda greatly benefited from Entrepreneurship Program. Initially working as a teacher, he established his own tuition classes, now educating over 30 students.

Also, after completing the Social Media and Graphic Design course, Mehul receives graphic design related work from his village and nearby areas, leading to an additional increase in income.



**Surendrasinh Rathod** mentioned that he lives in Palaj and learned wiring for the first time through a NEEV course.

He initially handled small wiring projects in his village. Now, he works on a contract basis at IIT Gandhinagar, earning well through a shift-based job. He also continues to provide services within and around his village adding to his income.

## 2014-2024 Success Stories



**Pinal Darji** completed the Trainer's Training in Sewing, where she learned to create new products and improved her finishing skills.

Post-training, she opened her own shop near Sachivalay in Gandhiagar, offering services like blouse stitching and fall interlock. She now earns a monthly income of ₹10,000.



**Hetasvi Parmar** from Palaj completed a Stitching Course in Chiloda and has been providing services at NEEV's production unit for the past 6 months.

Since joining NEEV, Hetasvi has seen an improvement in the quality and finishing of her work, further enhancing her skills and earning potential.



**Harish Thakor** from Prantiya village attended Spoken-English Training Course in May-June 2022, followed by NEEV's Basic Computer Skills Training Course.

He is now working as an executive with TATA AIA insurance in Gandhinagar. Both the basic computer skills and the spoken-English training have helped him immensely with his job.

## 2014-2024 Success Stories



**Mahira Pathan** from Pethapur completed the Beautician course, where she developed a strong interest in Mehendi art.

After joining the course, her practice improved, and the quality of her work saw a significant boost in finishing. Today, she takes Mehendi orders during the season, earning enough to cover her personal expenses, thanks to the skills she gained from NEEV.



**Jalpa Malakiya** from Palaj village attended Stitching Course. Since then, she has started making blouses, earning around ₹4,000 a month.

This income has significantly contributed to her household, providing a boost to the family finances while allowing her to work from home.



**Kaushik Raval** from Lekavada completed the Social Media Graphic Design course.

After the course, he started working as a freelancer, designing visiting cards, flex banners, and logos, earning a monthly income of ₹4,000. He is currently studying in college and this extra income serves useful for his travel and other monthly expenses.



## 2014-2024 Success Stories



**Bhumika Chauhan**, a resident of Dehgam, shared that she completed a data entry course.

Following the course, she secured a job in data entry with a salary of ₹13,000. She mentioned that the course provided her with significant benefits and opportunities.



**Urmila Patel** from Sargasan, Gandhinagar, participant of Chocolate & Candle Making project in 2023, is a homepreneur who earns through regular orders of chocolate and candle.

She even has a youtube channel @urmiskitchen through which she shares her recipes.



**Krunal Vaghela** from Palaj attended the Entrepreneurship Program, which provided him with valuable training and mentoring into launching a business.

Post this, with handholding support from NEEV, he started with selling premium sportswear online, moving on to putting-up stalls at events, and now has his own sportswear shop in Sector-7, Gandhinagar making great strides in his entrepreneurial journey.

## 2014-2024 Success Stories



**Usha Vaghela** completed the Advanced Stitching Course and the Trainer's Training Course. Soon afterwards, she began stitching dresses, bags, blouses, salwar kurta and so on at the NEEV production unit, earning a monthly income of ₹8,000.

With this income, she purchased a sewing machine, mobile phone, and is able to cover her personal expenses independently. She also takes stitching work from her village.



**Surekha Rohitji** from Dabhoda completed the stitching course and the Training of Trainers course, which greatly improved her knowledge about product specific design and costing.

Now, her blouse-making enterprise is thriving, earning her around ₹5,000 a month, which helps support her household expenses.



**Daxa Chavda, Daxa Rot and Pravin Rot** from Palaj, former school teachers, leveraged learnings from Basic Computer Skills Course and Entrepreneurship program to open a play school in their village.

The workshop helped them plan finances effectively, and computer skills enable efficient record management. With 40 enrolled kids, they confidently manage and foresee growth for their venture.

## 2014-2024 Success Stories



**Kajal Thakor** a resident of Basan village, shared that she completed a tailoring course.

After completing the course, she is now skilled in stitching blouses, salwars, and dresses. She currently earns ₹6,000-₹7,000 per month.



**Divya Bihola** from Palaj has completed multiple courses, including Beautician and Nail Art.

She started her own business as a Beautician and Nail Artist, offering services such as sider makeup, mehendi, hair styling, waxing, and facial. She earns ₹4,000 from beautician services and ₹4,000 from nail art.



**Vishnu Desai** shared that he lives in Palaj and completed a basic computer course.

He is currently working as an office boy in the accounts office at IIT Gandhinagar, where the course has been very helpful. He mentioned that his salary increased as a result and expressed gratitude to NEEV for the opportunity.



## 2014-2024 Success Stories



**Chandrika Thakor** from Vadodara has transformed her life through Stitching Course.

Initially unfamiliar with sewing, she now stitches dresses, blouses, and handles fitting work. This newfound skill has increased her income to ₹5,000-₹6,000 per month, enabling her to support her household independently.



**Anandi Thakor** shared that she completed the tailoring course offered in Basan village. Following this, she started making bags and pouches in NEEV's production unit.

Later, she pursued the advanced blouse course, which enhanced her skills in stitching blouses, kurtis, and pants. Currently, she stitches blouses and kurtis from home, earning ₹4,000-₹5,000 per month.



**Rajeshri Parmar**, a resident of Prantiya, shared that she completed a tailoring course. She now stitches blouses, dresses, salwars, and performs fall and interlock work on sarees.

This work helps her earn ₹2,000-₹2,500 per month, enabling her to purchase essential items for her family. She also mentioned that this opportunity has significantly boosted her self-confidence.

## 2014-2024 Success Stories



**Saniya Pinjariya** from Chiloda completed a tailoring course, enabling her to stitch dresses for family and neighbors, earning ₹1,500-₹2,000 monthly.

Despite social restrictions in her community, the course empowered her to step out, gain skills, and improve her social interactions. She expressed heartfelt gratitude to NEEV for this transformative opportunity.



**Nehal Chauhan** from Lekavada joined Stitching Skills Training Course (October-December 2022) with no prior experience.

Encouraged by her mother-in-law, she learned to sew blouses, saree petticoats, bags, and cushion covers, now earning ₹2,000 monthly. Confident in her skills, she plans to secure job-work from Ahmedabad-Gandhinagar to boost her income.



**Jagdish Chauhan** from Alampur, a B.Com student, completed the Social Media Graphic Design course.

He has worked with several clients and is currently earning an income of ₹5,000-₹10,000 per month.

## 2014-2024 Success Stories



**Kanchan Thakor** from Dabhoda improved her stitching skills through course. Although she had some basic knowledge earlier, the training enhanced her finishing and techniques.

With this newfound expertise, she started her own stitching work, increasing her income to ₹2,000 per month. Kanchan appreciates NEEV's role in helping her become self-reliant.



**Ambika Vaghela** from Palaj has completed the Stitching and Training of Trainers courses.

She has worked in NEEV's production unit and earns a monthly income of ₹8,000 by providing stitching services such as blouses, dresses, and kurtis.



**Tejal Bihola** from Ratanpur village near Gift city, Gandhinagar, was a participant of Chocolate & Candle Making project in 2023.

Now a home based chocolatier, she earns an average of Rs. 3000/- per order, thus contributing to her economic empowerment.



## 2014-2024 Success Stories



**Janak Rathod** from Piplaj joined Stitching Course in Pethapur with no prior knowledge of sewing.

Through the training, she gained valuable skills and even purchased a sewing machine. Despite her family's modest financial situation, she now handles numerous stitching tasks for her household, resulting in significant savings.



**Jaimini Parmar** from Palaj completed a stitching course and now provides services to NEEV, making sling bags and pouches.

This work has helped her earn an income and improve her skills. With the income, she purchased a sewing machine and also supports her household, contributing to her family's well-being.



**Mittal Chauhan** from Lekavada village attended Beautician Skills Training Course conducted within the village itself during October-December 2022.

She is now able to provide grooming and hairstyle services from her home, and earns around Rs. 5000/- per month.

## 2014-2024 Success Stories



**Thakor Hemanshi Shaileshji** shared that she completed a tailoring course.

She now stitches blouses for people in her vicinity and earns approximately ₹1,000 per month.



**Diwan Anisha**, hailing from Pethapur, began her journey with NEEV as a student. Over time, she transitioned into a Training Assistant role and now serves as a Beautician Trainer.

Through NEEV, she gained valuable knowledge, built her confidence, and continues to receive unwavering support. Anisha credits NEEV for empowering her professionally and personally.



**Nirmala Vaghela** from Borij, Gandhinagar was participant of Chocolate & Candle Making project in 2023.

Now earns regularly through bulk orders and also trains other people in chocolate and candle making, truly taking her skills forward and empowering other women.

## 2014-2024 Success Stories



**Urvi Patel** shared that she attended a Chocolate, Candle, and Cake-making course, which she greatly appreciated.

She mentioned learning valuable skills and starting a small business making chocolates and cakes, which now helps her earn money. Urvi praised the trainers and staff for their detailed teaching and alternative tips, noting the course as one of her best decisions.



**Gayatri Rathod** successfully completed Stitching Course, where she learned a wide range of skills. She now stitches chaniya blouses, tops, and handles fitting work.

This has led to a noticeable increase in her income. Gayatri expresses her gratitude for empowering her with these opportunities.



**Dhara Vaghela**, a homemaker from Lekawada village was a participant of Chocolate & Candle Making project in 2023.

She earns an average of Rs. 10,000/- through orders and stall put up at exhibitions in Gandhinagar, thus helping her to contribute towards her household income.





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