

BUILDING HEALTHY CITIES



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Indore Workshop Report: Livelihoods Training



March 2021

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ACRONYMS

BHC	Building Healthy Cities
CURE	Centre for Urban and Regional Excellence
JSI	JSI Research & Training Institute, Inc.
NGO	nongovernmental organization
USAID	United States Agency for International Development

Building Healthy Cities

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INTRODUCTION

In Indore, India, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID)-funded Building Healthy Cities (BHC) project is jointly implemented with Indore Smart City Development Limited with the objective of making the city a “healthy, liveable Smart City for all.” One BHC project initiative is to increase community and nongovernmental organization (NGO) participation in the planning, implementation, and monitoring of public programs related to the social determinants of health (e.g., environment, urban planning, water and sanitation, education). The goal of the activity is to strengthen civic involvement of urban poor and marginalized people, including women and children, in Indore. BHC partnered with the Centre for Urban and Regional Excellence (CURE) for this work.

With the rise in COVID-19 cases in 2020, Indore was placed under lockdown. While necessary to prevent infection, the lockdown resulted in large losses of jobs in all sectors and the absence of market activity, which directly and adversely impacted the vulnerable communities that BHC and CURE were working with. The temporary closure of all activities and businesses mainly hurt daily wage earners and contractual laborers; they were either out of jobs or saw a sharp drop in their earnings. In addition, most of the salaried factory workers were not eligible for paid leave.

These job losses and hardships compounded issues already documented in Indore's [systems map](#), particularly those disparities highlighted in the “Left Out” loop narrative, and “Conflicting Messages” where well-meaning regulations can have a negative effect on livelihoods, which feeds back into greater wealth disparities.

Under these circumstances, some BHC project funds were shifted towards addressing new community concerns due to COVID-19. Part of these funds were set aside for livelihoods training workshops to equip women and girls with creative skills which could be used to generate income from the sale of the product created and services rendered. Support for this work embodies BHC's [three core values](#), as it used data collected by citizens to define an empowerment activity that works across sectors to improve the health and wellbeing of women and their families in Indore.

This report details a series of eight livelihoods training workshops conducted by CURE, in partnership with BHC, between January and March 2021.

WORKSHOP DESIGN

CURE worked with partner NGOs to hold conversations with women in each of the eight focus communities (Amar Tekri, Arjunpura, Indira Ekta Nagar, Kadav Ghat, Luniyapura, Narwal, Rahul Gandhi, and Sikandarabad) on what kind of livelihoods training they would like to receive. Several options were suggested, including stitching/tailoring, beauty parlor services, spice making, pickle and wafer making, paper bags, disposable plates, computer training, imitation flower and jewelry making, and sanitizer and soap-making.



NGOs and CURE conduct interviews and polling to determine livelihoods training topics.

Photo credit: CURE 2020

CURE and NGOs then conducted a poll to determine the preferred training topic in each community. The top options selected by the communities were stitching/tailoring for three communities and training to be a beautician in five communities.

During consultation with USAID, concerns were raised about the high COVID-19 risks associated with beauty parlor services. Therefore, tailoring and cloth bag making were selected as the livelihoods focus for all eight communities. This was a timely choice, as Indore is also promoting the use of cloth bags in place of plastic bags for grocery and other items to protect the environment from plastic waste. There is likely to be increased demand for cloth bags and similar items in the city and beyond.

A series of one-day stitching/tailoring trainings were then conducted, with one training in each community. A total of 116 women and girls participated in the trainings, ranging in age from 10 to 45 years old.

WORKSHOP SUMMARY

Stitching/Tailoring Introduction

At the beginning of each training, the participating women and girls received instruction on general stitching and tailoring techniques that can be applied to a number of fabrics and purposes. Participants practiced what they learned.

Cloth Bag Making

The newly learned stitching and tailoring skills were then applied to making cloth bags. Participants were given a bag template and materials, and created their first product. BHC will be the first of hopefully many clients for the women trained at the events; the project is in the process of placing an order for branded cloth bags. This will give the newly minted businesswomen the opportunity to practice developing quotes and completing orders on a set timeline for a client. The bags, once in use, can then serve as advertisements of their product.



CONCLUSION

The livelihoods trainings are only one of multiple BHC activities conducted with CURE in Indore. To learn more about our participatory research activities, or the project as a whole, visit [JSI.com/buildinghealthycities](https://jsi.com/buildinghealthycities).

PARTICIPANTS

Summary of Participant Details by Community

Community	Number of Participants
Amar Tekri	13
Arjunpura	21
Indira Ekta Nagar	16
Kadav Ghat	15
Luniyapura	13
Narwal	15
Rahul Gandhi	11
Sikandarabad	12
<i>Total</i>	<i>116</i>

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