



"Swayamsiddha Pariyojana"

-MICRO-CREDIT PROJECT FOR THE BLIND WOMEN

Christoffel Blindenmission - CBM - and Blind People's Association (India) - BPA(I)'s Initiative

Introduction :

The Swayamsiddha micro-credit project has been launched to ensure the blind women to be self-reliant through their social, economic and cultural rehabilitation.

Under this scheme, effort is being actively initiated to make any blind woman having due certification in between the age 18 and 60 residing in Gujarat State to be self-reliant by granting micro-credit (small loan) upto Rs. 15,000/- and in special cases upto Rs. 25,000/-

This Swayamsiddha micro-credit project aims at extending loans for the following purposes to the women with visual impairment and blindness :

- i) *To setup/expand/develop/make sustainable any business or economic activity by providing initial as well as working capital and necessary guidance.*
- ii) *To promote pursuing of entrepreneurial and managerial training.*
- iii) *To encourage higher education, professional and/or technical and/or vocational training among blind women.*
- iv) *To encourage developing multiple skills in blind women for capacity building.*
- v) *To promote and support their skills in arts, performing arts and crafts.*
- vi) *To encourage and support any activity that enhance their presence in employment and self-employment that aim at turning them into self-reliant individuals*
- vii) *To assist their efforts in improving, modifying and maintaining their housing conditions and amenities*
- viii) *To meet mentor's expenses for developing specialized skill in any trade and/or technical activity or coach's expenses for sports at abilympics*
- ix) *To assist in any activity that leads towards economic, technical, social and cultural rehabilitation and integration in the society.*

For any of the purpose(s) mentioned above every visually impaired women applying for the loan is given maximum amount upto Rs. 15,000/- repayable in 36 equal installments with interest @ 6% per annum and in special cases upto Rs. 25,000/- repayable in 48 such equal installment with the interest at the same rate. In special cases, with the prior consent of the Ad hoc Management Committee for this project any two or more women with disabilities, one of whom shall be visually impaired can also apply for individual loans for their joint venture for the recognized purposes.

The visually impaired women will be granted loans subject to the following terms and conditions :

1. *The applicant for loan shall be made on the prescribed form. The applicant can obtain loan upto Rs. 15,000/- (Rupees Fifteen Thousand) and in special case upto Rs. 25,000/- (Rupees Twenty Five Thousand).*
2. *The loan taken shall be repaid alongwith interest in 36 installments (in special cases in 48 installments)*



3. *The rate of interest shall be 6% per annum on the reducing balance of loan and that shall be added to the principal amount of each installment. The date on which the loanee to commence repaying installments shall be subject to the decision of the Ad hoc Management Committee for the micro-credit project and accordingly the installments be paid every month in between 1st and 7th dates of each month of the accounting year (April through March). If there is a public holiday on 7th or bank remains closed for whatsoever reason on that day, the installment be paid on immediately next working day of the bank.*
4. *In case of delay in repaying installment, the loanee shall have to pay additional interest @6% p.a. on the due amount of principal plus interest for that delayed period.*
5. *If any loanee repays installments regularly till the maturity on the loan on prescribed dates she shall be entitled to rebate of 2% in rate of interest that has been paid. (Thus, the effective rate of interest for the loanee paying installments regularly will be 4% only) The amount of such rebate shall be adjusted at the time of paying the last installments of the loan.*
6. *If there is delay in repayment of consecutive two installments, the Ad hoc Management Committee for Micro-Credit Project may take steps against the loanee and the sureties/guarantors to recover instantly/immediately the entire due amount of principal alongwith interest on it.*
7. *Every Loanee shall have to open her Savings Account in any one of the nationalized or cooperative Banks for the transactions pertaining to the loan.*
8. *The Ad hoc Management Committee for Micro-Credit Project may consider to grant again a second loan to the loanee who has totally repaid previous loan.*
9. *There shall be at least two sureties/guarantors to the persons applying and getting loan who have to submit their consent letters and shall have to fill up their complete details.*

The women desirous of applying for the loan can obtain application form and other prescribed formats free-without any price from the Blind People's Association (India)'s micro-credit cell and can fill up them or can get them filled up with the help of any member of her family, or relative or any friend. Such applicant shall have to give names of at least two sureties/guarantors and their complete details. Each of these sureties/guarantors shall have to submit in writing a consent letter in the form prescribed for it by the Ad hoc Management Committee for micro-credit project.

If the application form is complete in all respects and if it is verified then only the loan will be granted on finding it appropriate. It is expected that the applicant, the persons who fills the application form on her behalf and the sureties/guarantors shall give their unstinted cooperation in compliance of the procedure as prescribed by the Ad hoc Management Committee for this project sanctioning the applicant's loan.

However, though this project is restrictive to the residents of Gujarat State only, any other visually impaired women of the prescribed age range may also apply for any of the specified purposes.

It is hoped that the maximum number of women with visual impairment aptly come forward to get the benefits of "Swayamsiddha" Micro-Credit Project for the Blind Women for making their lives self-reliant and helping to their families and the community.

"Swayamsiddha" Micro-Credit Project Ad hoc Management Committee