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A high employment rate in the rural areas has the potential to transform rural economies, and the lives of individuals and families. ACF's Skill and Entrepreneurship Development Institute provides training, and builds capacities of youth in various trades, opening up avenues for self or wage employment. These trainings – from computers, to mobile repairing to videography and editing – have found many takers among unemployed youth. ACF now runs 13 Skill Training Institutes across locations. Students receive training in 17 different technical trades and we have been able to place more than 70% of the students in jobs or in self-employed vocations each year.



Top: Students at SEDI, Chinndwara. Above: Students training in the Computer Hardware Maintenance and Repair course at SEDI, Darlaghat.

Teams from the ACF run Skill and Entrepreneurship Development Institutes make regular visits to the various villages to reach out to village youth with information about the various courses offered at SEDI, and its scope for enhancing livelihoods.

During one such visit, they met with Kavar Pal in village Bambawar in Dadri, Uttar Pradesh. He belonged to a poor rural family, struggling like many others, to earn a livelihood.

Since returns from his small piece of land were low, he had started an STD-PCO shop to make ends meet. However, earnings from both avenues were erratic throughout the year. He desperately wanted some work that could offer him a steady and regular source of income. When he heard of SEDI and its various courses, he was quick to recognize the opportunity. He soon enrolled himself in the two-month intensive Mobile Repair and Maintenance course.



Kavar Pal in his role as a trainer at SEDI, Dadri

He passed the course, but instead of launching himself immediately, continued practicing and honing his skills at home for one more month.

He also took this time to scout the market, and soon located a suitable place to start his enterprise. His mobile repairing shop at Harish Chand Bagh in Dadri was set up, and slowly picked up business.

But he did not stop there. He continued his association with SEDI and ACF. When an opportunity for a course trainer came up, he applied and was selected for the post. Today, Kavar Pal is a faculty at SEDI, Dadri, teaching students of the Mobile Repair and Maintenance Course, earning Rs. 7000/- as his monthly emolument. His business too adds in an equal amount every month.

In a short span of time, Kavar Pal has transformed himself from a village youth struggling for a livelihood, into an entrepreneur and trainer, earning a good income. When asked about his new role as a trainer, he said, "By being a trainer, I am not only able to train other youth at SEDI but am also able to enhance my own capacities. This role has helped me develop my confidence to interact with people across all levels." He is justifiably proud of his role and contribution in improving the lives of rural youth.

Kavar Pal is just one of the many examples of change facilitated by SEDIs across locations. His story just goes to prove that meaningful support combined with an *I CAN* spirit can bring in significant change in lives of individuals and communities.
