SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 1
NO POVERTY
Indicator 1.4.1 | Local Start-up Assistance

Many families around the Vizianagaram campus live on uncertain daily wages. For a young woman who left school early, a practical trade can make the difference between depending on others and earning her own income. Centurion University of Technology and Management, Andhra Pradesh (CUTM AP) uses its campus facilities, staff and partnerships to give people from the local community **free training in skills they can turn into work or a small business of their own**.

1. Free Sewing Machine Operator Course for Local Women

The University's flagship community programme in 2025 was the **Sewing Machine Operator (SMO) course**, run in the campus Apparel Production Lab with **Gram Tarang**, the University's skilling arm. The course is open to **unemployed women and school or college drop-outs from nearby villages**, and none of the trainees is an enrolled CUTM student. It is offered **completely free of charge**: there is no fee for training, machines, materials or certification.

Four batches ran through the year, each lasting **75 days**, Monday to Saturday from 9:30 am to 4:00 pm. In all, **131 women completed the course and received CUTM Certificates of Completion**.

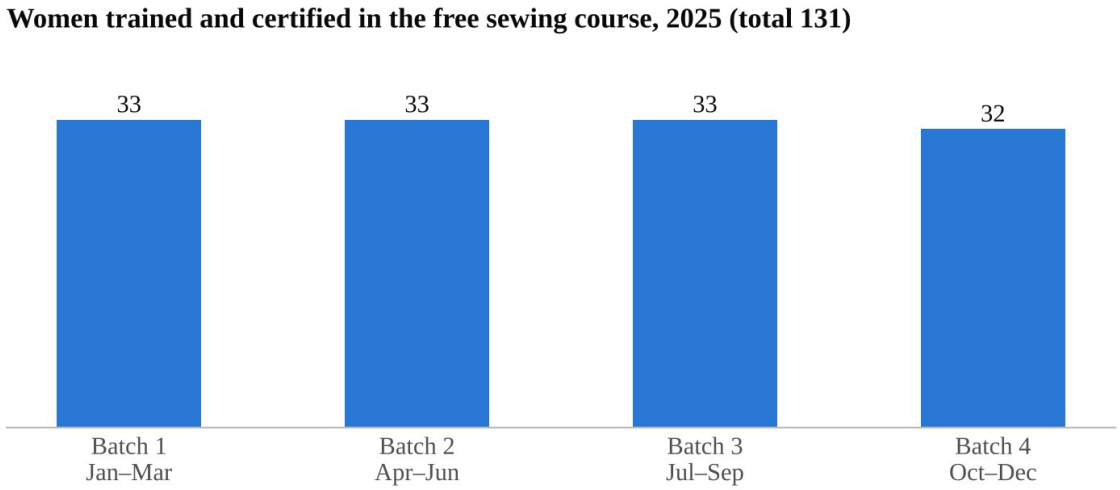


Figure 1: Women trained in the free Sewing Machine Operator course, by batch, 2025

Table 1: Sewing Machine Operator course batches, 2025

Batch	Training period	Trainees certified
Batch 1	6 January – 21 March 2025	33
Batch 2	7 April – 20 June 2025	33
Batch 3	7 July – 19 September 2025	33
Batch 4	6 October – 19 December 2025	32
Total	300 training days	131

1.1 What the Trainees Learn

Each trainee works on her own **industrial JUKI sewing machine**, with cutting and pressing tables, steam irons and dress forms, so she learns on the same equipment used in garment factories. The course covers machine operation, measurement and cutting, stitching of garments and quality checking. It also includes **soft skills and financial literacy**: how to open and use a bank account, how to save, and which government schemes support women entrepreneurs.



Hands-on practice on industrial sewing machines



Trainees learning garment stitching in the Apparel Production Lab



Trainees of the Sewing Machine Operator course



Certificates of Completion presented to trainees

Figure 2: The free Sewing Machine Operator course for local women, 2025

1.2 From Training to Income

The course follows a full cycle: **village mobilisation, enrolment, training, assessment, certification and livelihood linkage**. Graduates can take up wage employment in garment units or start home-based tailoring, earning from stitching for neighbours, schools and local shops. For 2026 the University plans to track trainees' placement and earnings at three and six months, link them with garment units and with banks and government schemes for tailoring-unit loans, and help them form self-help groups to take bulk orders such as school uniforms.

2. Training Infrastructure Open to the Community

On **1 September 2025** the University signed an MoU with the **Jaquar Foundation** to set up a plumbing and sanitation skills lab on campus, with training of trainers and certification aligned to the National Skills Qualifications Framework (NSQF). Under the agreement the lab may also run programmes for people who are not University students, opening another trade to local youth.

3. Business Knowledge for Rural Entrepreneurs

The University also opens its campus to the wider community as a meeting place for enterprise. At the **2nd Rythu Sammelanam** on 8 November 2025, held free of charge, **around 400 farmers and 100 school students** met 13 companies, 8 farmer producer organisations and 2 government departments at **41 stalls**, learning about government schemes, market links and ways to add value to what they produce.

Table 2: Community skills and enterprise support at CUTM AP, 2025

Programme	Who benefits	Free or paid
Sewing Machine Operator course (4 batches)	131 unemployed women and drop-outs from nearby villages	Free
Plumbing and sanitation lab (Jaquar Foundation MoU)	Local youth and trainers	Free
2nd Rythu Sammelanam	About 400 farmers and 100 school students	Free

4. Conclusion

By opening its labs, machines and trainers to women and young people from neighbouring villages at no cost, CUTM AP turns its campus into a place where local people can learn a trade and start earning. The 131 women certified in 2025 are the first step; linking them to jobs, credit and markets in 2026 is the next.