

## HUNAR

It is a unique and innovative Project, launched by Bihar Education Project Council, in collaboration with National Institute of Open Schooling, Govt. of Bihar in 2008-09. The Project was aimed to providing free of cost, skill training to 13,678 poor Muslim girl child in the age group of 11-14/16 years, mostly out of school concerning all Districts of Bihar, in '6' selected courses of NIOS like Cutting Tailoring & Dress making, Beauty Culture, Basic Computing, Preservation of Fruits and Vegetables, Early Child Care Education (ECCE), Hindi and English Typing. The objective was to bring them back into the educational mainstream and ensure their socio-economic & educational empowerment.

The innovative feature of the Project was the involvement of Community, through its faith institutions. Leading Socio-Religious and Educational Organisations of the community were involved in implementing the scheme. Madarsa, Maaktabs and other educational institutions, run and managed by community, were used to provide door step access to training/educational centres, set up under this scheme.

The first phase of Hunar was successfully completed in June, 2009. At the end of training, these girls appeared for a Public Examination and were given certificate by NIOS, after passing the examination. The Govt. of Bihar, provided the seed

money to the girls who had passed the examination under Project Auzar – under which they were given Rs. 2400/- , for purchase of equipments/tool etc., to utilise the skill training given to them.

2<sup>nd</sup> phase of Hunar was launched in October 2009-10, and it's scope was expanded to cover 50,000 girls, from the entire state - 50% of the girls were taken from minority community and remaining 50% were used to be include other marginalised sections like SC/ST/EBC. Under first part phase-II of Hunar, 12,300 girls have already completed training and have appeared in the exam in June, 2011, held by NIOS. They ae being given Capital Grant by Govt. of Bihar under Project – ‘Auzar’.

The Second part of the Phase – II of Hunar is being implemented by newly set up Bihar Board of Open Schooling and Examination (BBOSE). Phase-III of Hunar, has also been announced by Govt. covering 50,000 girls in 2012-13, to be implemented by Bihar Education Project Council (BEPC) and Bihar Board of Open Schooling and Examination (BBOSE), in collaboration.