



Big Changes for Women in Rural India

In rural communities outside of Mumbai, job opportunities for women are few. Selling wild flowers or seasonally working in the fields is how many women try to support their families. When Merry Rodricks heard of the **opportunity to form a cooperative** in her community and work with MarketPlace: Handwork of India, she took action and invited her neighbors to join her. She registered the cooperative with the government and traveled five hours each day on her motorbike to the MarketPlace office, where **she was trained in how to sew garments**. Under Merry's leadership, the group is growing and is well on its way in becoming self-sufficient. **The women's lives and those of their families are changing enormously** through these new skills and source for sustainable income.