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## I am Gurpreet, I am a Sewing Machine Operator

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Name : Gurpreet Singh

Age : 26 years

Job Role : Sewing Machine Operator

Income, per month, before skilling : Fresher

Income, per month, after skilling : Rs 12,500

**“Today, I am not only able to support my family, but I am also supporting my brothers and sisters in completing their education. I will be ever thankful to IL&FS Skills and the Ministry of Minority Affairs for helping me acquire skills that have helped me procure a job today, and, most importantly have increased my self-confidence.”**

Gurpreet’s father was a farmer and agriculture was their only source of income; due to industrial activity around Punjab, their land turned infertile, resulting in decreased productivity of good crops. Therefore, Gurpreet’s father started working at a petrol pump through which he earned Rs 3,000/- per month only. For a family of 7 members, the amount was not enough and most of the days the family used to sleep hungry. As soon as Gurpreet completed his schooling, he did not pursue further studies, but instead started looking for a job, but, unfortunately, the young lad was not successful

Then one day, through community mobilization, he came to know about the Skills for Jobs programme at IL&FS Institute of Skills (IIS), Ludhiana, and called the concerned toll free number to get further details. He was made aware of the Learn and Earn scheme of the Ministry of Minority Affairs, post which he immediately got himself enrolled for a Certificate Programme for the course of a Sewing Machine Operator (SMO). At the end of the training, he cleared his assessments with flying colours and was offered a job with the Trident Group at a salary of Rs 12,500/- per month