CREATIVE Handicrafts, situated at Mahakali Caves road. Andheri (E), is an organisation for, of and by destitute poor. women. Their mission is to improve the quality of disadvantaged people, especially women, by empowering them to become economically independent.

Their objectives, amongst many, are to provide opportunities for under privileged

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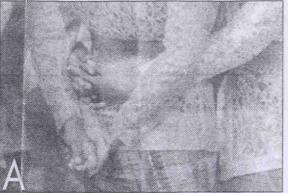


women for entrepreneurship and community businesses and to extend relief to the

The history of Creative Handicrafts takes us back to days in 1984 when Sister Isabel Martin, after completing her assignment as the Novice Mistress, joined Jeevan Nirvaha Kendra, a project of the Maharashtra Kalyan Seva Mandal. This was an eye opener for her towards the harsh realities of slum life.

Her next step was to stay in the slum communities, living exactly their kind of lives for 10 years. During her association with JNN and stay in the slum communities, she was brought in close contact with the mothers of the children of slums and found that their husbands were unable to provide economic and social stability.

Economic self-sufficiency



was the need of the hour and this is how the idea of starting a women's Self Employment Centre started. Being an artist, Sister Isabel had the necessary knowledge of design-

ing and creating soft toys and handicrafts. Thus the Women's Self Employment Centre found a niche for itself in the local and International market. In 1984 the first cooperative society was established.

ing the organization to help them establish a slum in their area. Today, this is the center to impart knowledge to the that produces the maximum. members, as most of them

training, after completion of education of the children is which they form a self-group concerned, a few preschool of 15-20 wherein they start nurseries have been orgaproduction. The organization nized along with regular helps them organize the medical camps. A creche is product unit and the mem- opened for the children of bers themselves are the workingwomen at the proowners of such units. The duction centre and one child members also enjoy the leaves and other benefits as per the rules and regulations formulated by them, which, programme. mind you, are not at all strict! The organization does not make any profit at all.

The women do the product pricing and deliver these at the head office from where they are sold at the same prices. However, the centres make a small con-A few women from a far- tribution from their income pay a visit yourself." Inquiaway slum, Jeri Meri, came for the overhead expenses ies: 832 4692 to Creative Handicrafts ask- of the organization. It can be

called "very fair trade"

The organization also tries Women are first provided are illiterate. Whereas the each of all the members of Creative Handicrafts is covered under the sponsorship

> According to the director Johny Joseph, "Creative handicrafts is an organiza tion striving for the last 1! years to empower women You can not do justice it under standing our organi zation, it's systems and un derlying values unless vo

Komal Jai