

## Case Study 2023

### From Uncertainty to Empowerment

### Rajesh's Journey Toward Livelihood Security

**Background:** Rajesh, a 23-year-old resident of Kamatalav in Dholera Block, spent three steady years working in the diamond polishing industry. For a young man with limited formal education, the job offered him stability and a modest but consistent income. However, this sense of security was disrupted during Diwali in 2015, when the diamond factories in the region abruptly shut down for an extended period. With no alternative skills or formal training to fall back on, Rajesh was left facing an uncertain future.



In the months that followed, Rajesh returned to his village and began helping his family with agricultural work during the seasonal cycle. However, the instability of agricultural income, coupled with a lack of direction, left him feeling unsure about his long-term prospects. Despite these challenges, Rajesh had always shown a keen interest in repairing batteries, radios, and other electronic devices—a talent he often explored informally. Yet without formal training or certification, he could not translate this interest into a sustainable livelihood.

**Turning Point:** Rajesh's circumstances began to shift when he was introduced to Mahiti Trust's work in the region. A staff member, Vipulabhai, informed him about a skill development opportunity at the **Canara Bank Rural Development and Self Employment Training (RUDSET) Institute** in Nadiyad. The program offered structured vocational training in **electronics repair**—a field aligned with Rajesh's passion and one that promised strong demand in the growing digital economy.

Recognizing the opportunity to transform his interest into a profession, Rajesh applied for the training program along with several other youth from the Bhal region. He enrolled in a 30-day course focused on repairing televisions and DVD players. During this time, Rajesh not only gained hands-on technical knowledge but also formed strong bonds with his peers. He especially appreciated the supportive environment and the dedication of his instructors, who ensured that each student grasped the concepts thoroughly.

**Achievements and Progress:** Impressed by his enthusiasm, dedication, and natural aptitude, the RUDSET Institute selected Rajesh for an advanced 10-day course in **Colour TV repair**. The institute's director commended his performance, highlighting his potential for excelling in the field.

Upon completing the additional course, Rajesh received certification and returned to his village with newfound confidence and purpose. He has since begun offering electronic repair services locally, starting with small tasks like fixing TV remotes. His outreach has gradually expanded to neighbouring villages through word-of-mouth and informal advertising.

Rajesh now aspires to establish his own repair business or secure employment in a larger city where demand for his skills is higher. With the training and recognition, he has received, he is steadily progressing towards self-reliance and economic stability.

**Reflection:** Rajesh's journey is a testament to the transformative power of vocational training when aligned with a person's inherent interests and supported by community-based initiatives. His story highlights the critical need for accessible, skill-based education in rural areas, particularly for youth who face job insecurity due to shifts in traditional industries. Programs like those offered by RUDSET Institute, in collaboration with grassroots organizations like Mahiti Trust, play a vital role in empowering individuals with practical skills, boosting their confidence, and opening doors to sustainable livelihoods in emerging sectors of the economy.