

## **Maria Dias- from Destitution to Economic Independence at age 56!**



Maria Dias was leading her life comfortably and without any thought about the financial aspects to take care of the family, until the day her husband abandoned her and her two sons. Her life came to a standstill and she was all alone as her relatives turned a blind eye to her predicament. Looking at her children's plight, she started working on the first job she could get, as a caretaker.

She became friendly with a neighbor who was selling rosary, candles etc., in front of a church and started helping her out. Maria's children were not interested to pursue their education further and started working as daily workers. Though she was earning some money from helping the neighbor, the fire to do something on her own was burning inside her.

She heard about the I Create Snehdeep training at Vadodara and attended the workshop to learn more about starting a business.

Following the workshop, she did a market survey and found she could sell religious trinkets in fairs, in front of churches etc. She also found that these things cost less in Mumbai than in the local market. She started her purchases from Mumbai and started her business selling them regularly in the evenings, keeping her job as a caretaker in the morning. Her hard work paid off and she has already started earning 2 to 3 thousand more every month.

I Create has assisted her with Rs.20,000 through MAGIC funding to help her start and expand her business.