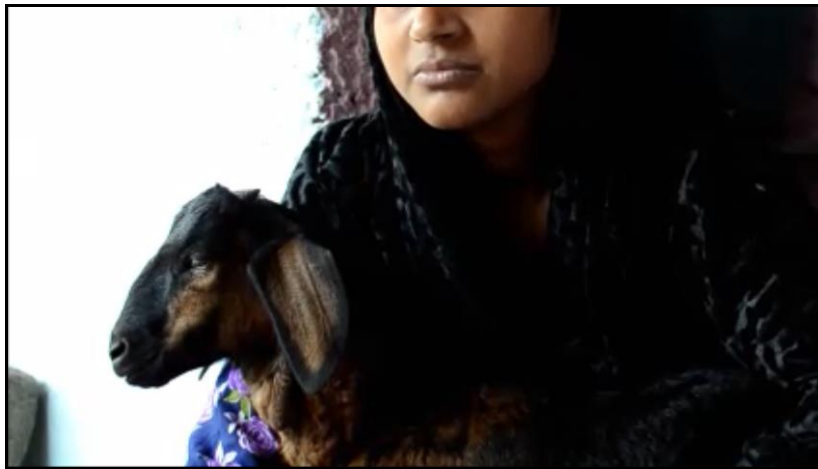


Selvi, 21 – Homeworker in Ambur, India



“I have been stitching uppers for the past two or three years. Before I was stitching big uppers, but now we get only small uppers. They (the intermediary agents) give only 5-6 rupees (6-7 pence) for a pair. They get 8-10 rupees (9-11 pence) from the factory. If we ask them for more, they say that they can only pay that much. They say, “If you are fine with the rates, you work, otherwise don’t. We can find other workers.” We get rice, pulses and sugar from the government ration shop (subsidised by the government). We survive on that. Sometimes when we have no work, we take loans. The work is hard. When I stitch uppers, the thread cuts my fingers. Sometimes it bleeds. I also get pain in my shoulder. Other workers also complain that they get chest pain. Despite all the difficulties we continue to work.”

