

Self Employed Women's Association (SEWA - www.sewa.org)

Self Employed Women's Association has been working with the poor women from the informal sector of the economy, for more than four decades now, organizing, mobilizing and capacitating them, for full employment and self reliance through an integrated approach. Today, SEWA reaches out to more than 1.9 million women in India, who are also the members of SEWA.

The main objective of SEWA is to empower the poor, marginalized and semi skilled women of the informal sector so as to make them self reliant. By self - reliance, it means that women should be autonomous individually & also economically along with decision making ability. The skill, ability and capability of the poor women are being identified during the surveys and training's done. SEWA always focuses more on skill building programs with the objective of not only making them competent enough to compete in the mainstream markets, but also motivate them to become entrepreneurs and not limit themselves to being only producers or laborers. Their self confidence and dignity rises as they become self reliant and start supporting the family income. SEWA gives an opportunity to the poor and marginalized women to take up alternate sources of livelihood, as a source of income, apart from the traditional livelihood of the family as many times, these livelihoods are seasonal, and may not provide regular income for the family. For example, agriculture is subject to many uncertainties and vagaries of nature, and if the women can sustain the family income, through other means, it helps the family to emerge out of the vicious cycle of poverty.

SEWA has, over the years, based on the demand from its members, established many organizations/units, which maybe legal entities in their own right. The members themselves are the owners, managers and supervisors of the unit. Listed below, is a short brief on the SEWA units, which may require interns to work with them.

1. Waste-pickers Cooperative - Gitanjali

The 'Shri Gitanjali Mahila SEWA Industrial Stationary Producers Cooperatives Ltd' is an Indian cooperative established in 1995 and involved in the manufacturing of various paper products made from recycled waste paper. The objectives of the cooperative are to reduce and recycle waste, to provide an alternate livelihood and to teach new skills to waste pickers who are members. The waste pickers are mostly women, who pick out recyclable materials from mixed waste to create hand crafted products. Among the products of the cooperative there is a wide range of paper products made from the waste materials such as notebooks, diaries, pens, paper bags and innovative jewelry. Workers not only play a vital role in society by keeping the surroundings clean and tidy, but they also earn an income for their families. The cooperative is promoted by SEWA, which has been involved in the organization of waste-pickers work since its creation in 1972.

Currently, the Gitanjali Cooperative requires students/interns for the following areas:

1. Develop a strategy for inventory management
2. 2) Working Capital Management
3. 2) Website for Sewa Gitanjali
4. 3) Develop a software for financial transactions

Agri producers company - Rudi

RUDI MULTI TRADING COMPANY LIMITED (Rudi)

RUDI Multi Trading Company is established with an objective to internally generate funds for the rural producer groups so as to enhance the quality, capacity and efficiency of production through the use of better technology for farming, warehousing and post-harvest processing of agro commodities. This will help in scaling up the profit margins by way of bulk procurement and a well organized sales and distribution network. The profits will then be shared by the members of the rural self-help groups, which will bring a positive change in the economic condition of marginal farmers and workers who are struggling to survive and are below the poverty line.

Rudi requires, for interns, to conduct market surveys in some of the rural districts, which are a part of its outreach. work to be done, for internship, as follows:

SEWA Manager Ni School

Founded in 2005, SEWA Manager Ni School (SMS) is a branch of SEWA. It consists of a full time team of eleven and a cadre of 1,500 master trainers. SMS has 50 Community Learning Centers where trainings are carried out and has partnered with various other organizations - ranging from the Indian Institute of Management-Ahmedabad and the World Bank Institute.

It is the only training institute in India which works towards building the capacities of the micro enterprises of the informal members, where courses are designed based on social and economic situations. The training courses are conducted in Ahmedabad as well as decentralized in various Community Learning Centers. The trainings are highly interactive and utilize practical cases and examples from the trainees' own enterprises. Various methods and tools - from short films in their native languages to simple pictures and diagrams - are employed to ensure that the illiterate and semi-literate women can understand and relate to the material.

SMS requires interns to do the following:

- 1) For Documentation especially for Facilitating certification of our modules
- 2) Preparation of business plan of activities for community learning and business resource centers
- 3) For Capturing case studies of successful entrepreneurs

SEWA TRADE FACILITATION CENTRE

SEWA Trade Facilitation Centre is a unique company of SEWA's self-employed artisan women members. It is jointly promoted by "Banaskantha DWCRA Mahila Association" (BDMSA) and "Kutch Craft Association" (KCA). Rightful by its name SEWA Trade Facilitation Centre facilitates in building the capacity of the women artisans to access newer markets and upgrade their skills and produce base accordingly to be able to compete in the market.

Over 3500 artisans are active in a year. To facilitate handicraft activity, run it as a commercial operation and compete in the mainstream market, the SEWA Trade Facilitation Center was established in the year 2003. Over 3200 artisans are shareholders of STFC, and are involved in every stage of its decision making.

STFC follows a unique model wherein the kits are transported to groups in rural group for value addition (like embroidery). A decentralized model enforces quality checks at the group level and enables involving far-flung households who otherwise lack a reasonable means of livelihood.

Hansiba is the flagship brand of STFC products. Named after SEWA's senior most artisan, it is an enchanting new brand of ethno-modern fashion that fuses the splendor of Indian culture with contemporary style.

Hansiba sells embroidery through products. Hansiba offers a variety of apparels, home furnishings and accessories with hand embroideries/embellishments. Hansiba branded products are primarily sold through the STFC's retail outlets in Mumbai and Delhi.

STFC requires interns to work in any of the areas where STFC is currently focused, ranging from brand building to marketing strategies.