

## Testimonials from our Trainees

"I got to know that whatever I have been doing daily till now was not properly planned and prioritized. After attending this training I have learnt the importance of time, how to plan my work, set goals, how to achieve goals on time. This training helped me to realize how I can manage my time in a more better and efficient manner. I would like to take this opportunity to thank SEWA Manager Ni School for conducting this training. I have really learnt a lot." - **Sister Sonam Dolur - SABAH Bhutan**

"After this training i learnt how to manage my time starting from morning till night. After returning to Bhutan I will keep all the tips in mind and follow time management. Also I will teach others in my group the importance of time management." - **Brother Namagay Dema - SABAH Bhutan**

" After this training I learnt how to manage time, complete work within set deadline, set goals, prioritize the goals, work in a group, trust others and not be negligent." - **Sister Choten Dema - SABAH Bhutan**

"After this training I understood the importance of time. After going back I will prioritize my work and plan properly." - **Sister Karma Tshomo - SABAH Bhutan**

"We have undergone training on preparing pickle earlier but we did not learn anything about group management or business plan which I feel is very important to learn. I learnt how to prepare business plan and how to become leader. I feel there is a lot to learn in order to grow. I also realized that one can make more than just pickles, there are so many item that one can prepare. I run a small shop and sell only Murabba. But I learnt that by only selling murabba I will be unable to meet my needs. I need to sell minimum three items to make a profit or else I will need to close my shop." – **Sister Mariam – Food Processing**

"I have never worked in my life and by undergoing the training here; I feel I can do a lot of things. I plan to go back and talk to the sisters and form a group and start working." – **Sister Zainab – Garment**

"I am not doing any work. But after the training we discussed within ourselves that we will form a group and start some work." – **Sister Nadera – Embroidery**

"I have attended training earlier also. After attending the training, I have learnt about savings, the importance of forming a group and working in a group. I have 5 members group and now I feel that I need to increase my group members thus enabling us to work more." – **Sister Zainab – Master Trainer Embroidery**

"I have taken training on stitching and used to work in the night at home stitching. I used to take orders from houses nearby. I was not aware that once can form a group and work together. If we work in a group we can get more orders as a result earning more than what we earn now." – **Sister Khadija – Embroidery**

"I learnt about food processing as I thought it will be useful and used to feel that being a woman it is very helpful to learn about food processing as it will always help us. What I learnt is that it is not only important to work for self but also can work for other sisters. I can help them, talk to them, train them and make them become independent and self reliant. I also learnt that it is necessary to know about others likes and dislikes and get orders accordingly. I thank SEWA for giving me an opportunity to come here to attend training. I have learnt so much and want to come back to learn more." – **Sister Foruzan – Food Processing**

“I currently work with only 5 members in a group and have started work since a month only. What I learnt is that i need to involve others and strengthen the group. If the group size increases we can work more and earn more. It is my responsibility as a leader to think differently, involve more members and make them independent.” – **Sister Fatema – Team Leader - Garment**

“I have only taken training on stitching. But here I observed that there are so many different types of training that we can undergo such as leadership, group management. There is more to learn apart from stitching. We are all illiterate but realized that we can be trained too. The modes of training used at SEWA Manager Ni School is very helpful and easy to learn.” – **Sister Fawzia – Garment**

“We have 6 members in our group. We get orders and distribute the money that we get. Here learnt about management and the different kind of activities that the members can be involved in. We will go back and inform other members regarding the different activities so that they get work.” – **Sister Arezo – Garment**

“I have taken training on food processing. I was not aware of topics such as marketing or leadership or business plan. I have learnt so much in the last 15 days. I will go back and create a group and start work. I want to get trained further on business plan and want to learn how to make a plan which will be helpful” – **Sister Zraghana – Food Processing**

“I learnt how to form a group and work in a group. How to identify a leader and what are the qualities that a leader possesses. After I return we will form groups and become self reliant and independent.” – **Sister Sonita - Garment**

“I learnt about how to form groups, how to form members, to sell as per the demands of members. We have a very small group of 5 members and I have realized that we need to increase our group size. This will not only help us to get more orders but also earn more. Currently working in a shop but after creating a group we can start our own business. Put the shop on rent, buy machines and do more work.” – **Sister Feroza – Garment**

“I have taken training earlier but not learnt so much on so many different topics. I want SABAH to grow more, leant how to form members & group. I really leatnt a lot and all the master trainers gave very good training.” – **Sister Nazifa – Master Trainer – Food Processing**

"I could see women at SEWA are so thankful to SEWA where ever we have gone. Capacity of women is built in such a way that women are now community resource persons and providing hand holding support to women like them in other states and countries, they are managing enterprises. We heard about the process of work from the women and we were impressed with the growth. We could hear from the women how empowerment of women has come through SEWA and that has sustained the efforts of SEWA. - **Ms. Mrinalinee Khanikar**

“I really liked the decentralization approach demonstrated by SEWA. Even at district level the team is empowered, takes decisions and initiatives. I really liked the concept of Gyan Vigyan Kendras and the concept of livelihood, skills development and trade facilitation center.” - **Mr. R.P. Nepal**

“I really liked the systematic process that SEWA adopts. I have observed that SEWA does not compromise on the process, and that is the key to ownership and success. I liked how the needs of the villagers are identified and linkages formed. Solutions are delivered to the villages. SEWA visits villages, identifies needs and helps to deliver.” - **Mr. M. Zimik**

"We started with Self Help groups then formed clusters at district level. But somehow things get stuck at certain level and does not meet expectations. At SEWA we observed that the thinking is beyond the project, the vision is broad, thinking is out of the box bringing sustainability of the community. SEWA has established a way of synchronizing activities from bottom level. At North East we need to shift from project paying to sustainability. We need to build market linkages. We need to start from few sectors like animal husbandry, agro techniques and then move on to other sectors." - **Mr. Dhrubajit Sarma**

"Here at SEWA, I learned that demand of members is your project and for us, our project is guidelines of the project. In North East, women are just the sellers while here at SEWA, women are producers and managers. We need to build the capacity of people in North East in such a way so that they also can become producers and managers." - **Mr. T. Chang**

"Here members at SEWA are business oriented while in North East people are master of none and jack of all trades. During our visit to SEWA we could understand, to work as per specific needs is helpful. We have natural resources available and the climate is also good. One needs to build on it and know how to manage & use these resources for advantage of members. We also build linkages but those linkages are heavier. So now we need to build the linkages which are workable for our members." - **Dr. P. Bhuyan**

"We do form SHGs and federate them at village level but our SHGs are not sustainable. We have to form SHGs beyond project guidelines. Culture here and in North East is completely different and so are the demands. We have to know their demands and deliver as per the demand. The project can be designed as per the demand of the members." - **Mr. A. Ray Choudhury**

"I really liked how all women at SEWA have sense of ownership. We could see members at SEWA are very much motivated. We also want to link up different activities to different departments, that's where we can partner and want SEWA to build our capacity." - **Mr. R. Kotsu**

"I really liked and learnt a lot from the record keeping training. We currently do not keep any record of materials, inventory, accounts of costing, profit or loss as did not feel it was necessary to maintain. If anyone was to ask me regarding whether I have made a profit or loss I wouldn't have a clue to the same. But now I feel that is really essential to keep record of all costs that have been incurred. We so far sell at more or less the same price as SABAH. But now we will need to take out costing of the product, keep record of the raw materials procured by us and consider all the costs before deciding the final selling cost." - **Sister Parveenbibi – SABAH Pakistan – CFC Trainer – Embroidery**

"I will be able to conduct leadership training as the trainer explained in a very nice manner. I also learnt how a leader should be, the qualities that a leader should possess, to work with the team, how to take the team forward, to be confident & increase their faith, to be fearless, to understand the team and provide team support on a continuous basis. The different stories used during the training were very effective and had a deep impact on learning." - **Sister Naseem Muhammad Rafique – SABAH Pakistan – Stitching member**

"After undergoing quality training at Radhanpur I learnt that it is good to interchange work within different units such as embroidery, stitching, designing etc. We do not keep a check on the quantity of stitched material, the design is proper or not, how is the finishing of the product, etc. After the training I have realized it is very important to keep a check on quality and monitor the quality of finished goods. I plan to give codes to everything to keep a track and effective monitoring." - **Sister Nimoo Bhoora Lal – SABAH Member – Stitching**

“When we first came here we were not familiar with SEWA culture and SEWA way of working. As we spent time with the sisters, I learnt a lot and became confident. I am confident that I will go back and share all the information with rest of the members. I really liked the atmosphere at Radhanpur the way people behaved and how closely they worked together. I really liked the museum, the way in which old artifacts have been displayed; I feel that we can also create a similar museum at Pakistan and preserve our culture / tradition.” **Sister Saeeda – Member SABAH Pakistan**

“I am an embroiderer worker and doing embroidery work in Pakistan. When we visited Radhanpur, I noticed a lot of difference in the style, design and pattern of work. I am interested to combine both the designs and create better design. In our visit to Surendarnagar, I learnt the process of making salt and realized a lot of effort goes into the preparation of salt. In Pakistan there is a place called Umarnot where there is natural salt available but we were unable to do anything about it as we were unaware of how to process which we learnt here.” **Sister Seeta – Member SABAH Pakistan**

“In our visit to Ganeshpura, I really liked the way in which vermicompost is prepared. We will go back and tie up with an agricultural university to provide us training and the raw materials needed to prepare. I also like the end to end manner in which RUDI operates. In Pakistan, all the stock is purchased either by broker or the vendor. We do have a center in Pakistan however it is male dominated and as a result all the benefit is taking by the males working there.” **Sister Miteri – Member SABAH Pakistan**

“I am very happy to bring the team here. Honestly I was very apprehensive to bring them here for the very first time as was not sure how much they would learn, respond, react and understand. But now am sure they will learn and want to do something. They all are able to communicate what they think and am very proud that without their leader present they are able to speak, which is good. They, who could not leave their villages on their own, are now not dependent on leader.” **Sister Suriya – Production In-charge**

“We met the team of Hariyali and got to learn about cooking stove and the solar lantern. Similar work is also going on in Pakistan. We really require solar lantern in Pakistan but we observed that the solar lanterns designed here are keeping the needs and requirements of the members such as health of members, safety of children.” **Sister Jamila – Member of SABAH Pakistan**

“I really liked the way in which SEWA works, I will go back and talk to people. There are so many groups but not linked to SABAH. I will try and link as many groups as possible with SABAH.” **Sister Hajani – Member SABAH Pakistan**

### **Sister Shobha – Stitching Coordinator**

“I check the quality of work done by the sisters. After undergoing training at Radhanpur, I realized that quality is a very important aspect. It is not only important to check the quality of work of others but also necessary that the work done by me is also checked. I further learnt that we can also exchange our work internally. I also learnt how a leader needs to be, how to work together in a team, how essential it is to communicate in order to get work done and to overcome the hindrances.”

### **Sister Roopkamal – Stitching Member**

“The training methodology adopted by SEWA SMS is so simple that even an illiterate sister is able to learn and grasp quickly. I wasn’t aware of costing before I came here. I did not realize that we need to consider the tiniest of the costs and there are so many aspects that needs to be considered while deciding on the price. I used to do simple costing only. Now after attending the Costing training, I realize how to think of the bigger picture. I am very confident to go back, relook at all the facts, do the correct costing, pricing and will be able to run a successful business with profits. I was unable to talk or express anything in the beginning of the training but now am very confident after attending Communication training and this will help me to perform my work more effectively and efficiently”.

### **Sister Bidya — Cluster Coordinator**

I used to work without any proper planning but now I have realized that planning plays a very important role. I will go back and do a proper planning in order to get work done effectively and in a proper manner. There are 1400 sisters in my cluster and after Group Management training, I understood the importance of group, I will explain the importance of working in a group to the members and form a group. Understood the importance of 5'W' and how to use in business. I have obtained a thorough understanding of business plan, I will prepare the business plan for my village along with timelines and action plan.

### **Sister Chimi – SABAH Team – Weaving**

“I liked costing training a lot, learnt how to interact with customers, understood how market works. I liked the methods used in training and the manner in which the master trainers trained.”

### **Roshaneh Zafar – Founder, Kashf Foundation, Pakistan**

“I liked the way community is involved in each activity. This gives members sense of ownership and motivates them to take the work further”

### **Sister Tenzin – SABAH Team - Weaving**

“I got to understand how to do costing, how necessary it is to keep all the costs in mind and now we will be able to do proper costing considering all the costs incurred. I liked the training on group management and will create groups once back in Bhutan.”

### **Javeria Ejaz – Assistant Manager, Business Incubation Program, Kashf Foundation, Pakistan**

“All the sessions in your training are interlinked and so are in the flow which makes understanding easy for grassroots”, said.

### **Kamran Azim – Chief Operating Officer, Kashf Foundation, Pakistan**

“The best thing about your training is each activity has its own learning. And there was not even single point at which we can criticize the Master Trainers. The master trainers played their role beautifully. We will also adapt the technique of summing up all the sessions and activities the way it is being done at SEWA”,

### **Vimladevi – Team Leader – Parsa Gyan Vigyan Kendra**

“We learnt the importance of working as a TEAM. The advantages that we gain if we work together. We understood that if working alone we may be unable to achieve and complete all the tasks at hand. But if we work together as a team we can complete tasks on time as well as do more amount of work and earn more.”

### **Shivanikumari – Spearhead Team Member – Parsa Gyan Vigyan Kendra**

“It is for the first time that I have travelled outside of Bihar and visited a new city. There’s a trend in Bihar that women do not go out of their village. When I visited SEWA I observed that women in Gujarat do not sit at home, they go out of their houses, are involved in different activities and work towards being self reliant and independent. My aim is to return home; to visit all the villages gather all the women, make them understand the importance of team, share with them all my learning’s from Gujarat, encourage them to come out of their comfort zone teach them to be independent, to grow and start doing some work. To become self reliant and bring in income to support their family. I also understood the concept

of Doori-Najdeekee meaning how our family or our village can help us achieve something. As well as how people sitting at a distance like the DDO or any government official also can support us”

### **Rukhmanidevi – Spearhead Team Member – Parsa Gyan Vigyan Kendra**

“When I visited the villages in Gujarat I observed that all women are self employed. I was very impressed with my visit to SEWA Trade Facilitation Center. I learnt how women work, the different kinds of stitching and embroidery that can be taught, how the entire cycle works, the way in which we can get work from private companies and as a result generate livelihood for women. On my return I will form a group, share with them my learning’s and observation, train them and start a stitching unit.”

### **Sunitadevi –Team Leader – Parsa Gyan Vigyan Kendra**

I observed how a group functions and how working together – being as one can benefit all of us. I liked the concept of Rudi and the manner in which work is distributed in terms of packaging, marketing and selling. The responsibility is well defined for each person. I plan on going back and adopting the same system in my village. If women of Gujarat can go out market their products and sell. So can we.”

### **Rajawantidevi – Spearhead Team Member – Parsa Gyan Vigyan Kendra**

“I learnt how to do business, how to represent oneself and how to carry oneself in terms of dressing, speaking. What are the different avenues where one can sell, how one can sell. How one can increase the sales gradually and achieve growth and profit. All this is simply possible by working as a group in our Gyan Vigyan Kendra.”

### **Sunainadevi – Spearhead Team Member – Parsa Gyan Vigyan Kendra**

“I learnt how to plan my activities and prioritize work as per timelines. It is very important to delegate tasks as per the abilities of members as it is not possible for me to perform all the tasks at hand. However there are some tasks which I need to perform myself and cannot delegate. I must have trust and faith in my members. We must give a chance to our members to grow, to give them responsibility of achieving their tasks and targets. It is very necessary for me as a leader to be aware of my entire team member’s qualities, what work they will be able to perform and how to assign work to them as per their capability.”

### **Kinakshi Khound – Tingalibari village, Kokila Vikas Ashram Gyan Vigyan Kendra.**

I am a member of SEWA for the past two years. However, I was not aware of the depth in which SEWA works. I got a chance to attend a ceremony wherein Shree Elaben was being honored – Indira Gandhi National Peace award. It is then I realized what kind of an organization I am associated with. I have increased the membership of SEWA by forming 80 SEWA members. I feel so privileged and am very proud to be associated with such a renowned organization. As soon as I heard that there was training organized for a month in Gujarat, I was so excited and wanted to be part of the training as I knew I could learn so much. The challenge was to try and convince my husband and my family to allow me for this. I have a four year old child and it was a challenge for me to leave the child behind at home for such a long period. I convinced my husband to look after our child as it was vacation period and since I was persistent, he agreed. He was not very sure of what I would learn during this month long training in Gujarat. Now, he calls me daily at night and is very happy to know that every day is a new learning for

me which would benefit my family and also my community members.

### **Sevika Basumatary – Organiser, Kokila Vikas Ashram Gyan Vigyan Kendra.**

In our training while visiting a district we interacted with farmer groups and learnt how the group functions, procures good quality seeds & fertilizers, are up-to-date with information on various government schemes and get marketing facilitation through Rudi support. While in our village in Assam a small farmer like me never comes to know of any such information. I would now go back and form a group of small and marginal farmers like me. All of us would be able to get to voice out our opinions get knowledge of the various government schemes, would be able to procure good quality seeds and fertilizer.

### **Sumu Bhuyan – Lahkargaon, Kokila Vikas Ashram Gyan Vigyan Kendra**

We visited Anand district and in one village while interacting with the weavers, we saw that they are able to produce 3-4 towels in a day and the color combination being used is very attractive and innovative. The Ghamcha that we make has very intricate designs but we are currently able to make only one gamcha in a day. We also need to incorporate and improve our color combinations. When we saw the looms being used by the weavers, we were very impressed, we would like to upgrade our looms too.

### **Asinta Horo – Organiser Kokila Vikas Ashram Gyan Vigyan Kendra**

We interacted with the members of the savings group – how they save, how they take internal loan..This is amazing. They don't need to borrow money from any money lenders or private companies. In Assam, we have to borrow money from private companies who come and give us loans but they charge very high interest rates. In addition the repayment structure is very stringent as the installments need to be paid on weekly basis. As we are all into seasonal business, we find it very difficult to give the regular installments. Also if we are not able to pay our installments, they take away our cycle or our cows and buffaloes. When I go back, I will encourage members to our own savings group; save money, and start the internal lending system in our group. This not only helps us to get easy loan but also the interest earned goes to us only!!.

### **A team from Uttarakhand, May 12, 2012**

#### **Ms. Sombala Sharma, District Management Unit, Aajiveeka Pariyojana, Uttarakhand**

During our Exposure visit and interaction with members, I could learn that SEWA acts as a mother. If there is any problem faced by the members or the structures created by the members at the grassroot level, then SEWA holds members' hands and provide them support in terms of trainings and gives inputs and direction as and when required. We also would like to work with our members in the same way rather than staying bounded by regulations of the projects. This approach would surely help our members in becoming sustainable.

#### **Mr Shankarsingh Samant, Manager, District Management Unit, Aajiveeka Pariyojna, Uttarakhand**

The most motivating aspects during the visit were unity amongst members, understanding and the bonding that members' share and their confidence level. During the interaction I could learn that members themselves are

involved in Business Planning process and therefore are in a better position to implement the same, which leads to success of their enterprises. The trainings that members are provided here are not bookish but they get practical training which SEWA Manager Ni School provides and the training support stays with them till the time they implement it. Once we go back we would also start working with integrated approach and try to strengthen our business plan.

### **Ms. Kosha Bhatt, Chair person of the federation, Tihri, Uttarakhand**

After visiting SEWA, I can say that I have learnt so many things here. If we can replicate even 20% of what we have learnt here, then we will consider our visit as successful. I am very impressed seeing the organizing and strength of women here. We right now have membership base in few villages. But once we go back we would try to organize more people from every possible village of our district. I got immense pleasure seeing how illiterate women can run and manage a Tree Growers' cooperative. We always believed that managing structures is a task that educated people can only do. But this is a learning that I take back and would like to invest in training the grassroots members and turn them into managers, just like SEWA Manager Ni School does.

### **Munnidevi Semwal, Chair person of Alman Swayat Sahmahiti, Chamoli, Uttarakhand**

I am amazed to see how women treat SEWA as their family. They carry out the activities under the guidance of SEWA, just like they do any other routine activity for their family. The three things that impressed me are; 1) Milk cooperative, 2) STFC and 3) Strength of organizing. Once we go back we would also organize more people. One more thing that I was happy to see is that there is no problem of drinking and abusing women and children. In our part, this is a big problem.

### **Mr Bhupinder Singh, District Management Unit, Aajiveeka Pariyojna, Uttarakhand**

The every center I visit, I see the miracles everywhere. I had recently visited Badrinath and Kedarnath. But the joy and pleasure that I got after visiting SEWA is definitely more than I felt after visiting Badrinath and Kedarnath. The women here are so empowered and the story of the struggle of each woman has taught us the different lessons. As I am too closely involved in working with Milk Cooperative, I would also apply the same mechanism that we learnt here at SEWA in our cooperative.

### **Sisters from Afghanistan shared on May 9, 2012**

#### **Hamida Mohammad Zamir**

I have seen different activities of SEWA and have taken trainings on food processing. I learnt how to make pickles and jams. I also learnt how to market them, produce as per the demand. One another important learning that I am taking back is on how to work in a group, how to do collective production and can take up large orders. Through this training, I would be able to increase my earnings, and thereby will be able to educate my children. This will bring a improvement in our lives. I plan to teach other sisters in Afghanistan all that I have learnt at SEWA. This will help bring change in their lives too.

## **Safoora Mir Alam**

I have learnt a lot during my visit to SEWA. I have taken training in stitching but after coming here, I learnt a lot from the garmenting training. I can now stitch pants and shirts quite well and can apply fashionable buttons too. With my improved skills, I will be able to get more work when I go back home and obviously will be able to earn more. I am very thankful to SEWA for providing me with this wonderful training.

One more important thing that I learnt here is on how to choose a good leader. What are the qualities in a good leader? Now when I have to elect or select a leader, I would look for those qualities and then only give my preference.

### **Bibi Mallika Din Mohammad**

I am very thankful to SEWA and MOWA who are training poor women like us. I am a widow and have to take care of my life on my own. In the past year, I have taken training with Baagey Zanana in Afghanistan and now with this training at SEWA, I will be able to earn more income. My life has definitely improved after getting associated with SEWA and Baagey Zanana.

### **Izatmaji, MOWA**

SEWA has been providing trainings to several women in Afghanistan. Many batches have come to SEWA in India too. Our sisters who traditionally know about stitching, get an opportunity to work on modern machines, which are used by factories. With this type of garmenting training, 250 sisters have got placement in factories and they are happily producing good quality garments.

### **Sisters from Kyrgyzstan, March 2012**

#### **Ms Altynai Karasaeva, Regional Center of Expertize Education and Sustainable Organization**

After the training, I understand Indian practices in poverty reduction. In India the emphasis is at the grass-root level. Kyrgyzstan can make use of the India's practices in terms of poverty alleviation particularly those employed by SEWA.

#### **Ms Gulzhan Kudaiberdieva, Private enterprise/home-based worker**

The association of SEWA is excellent. I learnt a lot about networking and developing membership. After going back to my country I would also like to open shops for selling our products just like SEWA. I wish the best for SEWA in all its pursuits."

#### **Ms Zhanna Saralaeva, Department of Ethnic, Religious Policy, and Interaction with Civil Society under the Krgyz President's Office**

For building association one needs ideology and philosophy which SEWA has incorporated. I would use the experience from SEWA in building stronger network and associations.

### **Ms Nelly Simonova, Public Foundation, Club of Private Investors**

I really liked the spiritual development among the SEWA members and the ability to mobilize resources is very commendable. I would also like to create a bank and develop mutual support schemes in my country after I go back. I wish success and prosperity to all the members of SEWA.

### **Ms Shahirbubu Abdudaeva, Private enterprise/home-based worker**

We have 8 women who are working with us. The main problem we face is lack of business management skills. We work with 9 villages and get 20tons of milk everyday. The cooperatives want to expand and the training I received her will help me. But what I loved the most about SEWA was how it inspires women to enter into economic activities based on their skills.

### **Sisters from Nepal, December 2011**

#### **Seeta Sulu: Jhaukhel cluster leader and knitting home-based worker**

I learned how to proceed in my work and the way of doing things. Organizing has many advantages and the biggest advantage is that the most difficult job can be accomplished very easily when there is unity among the members. To move ahead in life, women have to save and have a life plan. Hard work can convert a barren land into beautiful one. The practical approach adopted in training members was something that I liked very much during the training. I would go back to Nepal and organize my members and start a branch like SEWA.

#### **PurnimaShrestha:Artisan member, stitching**

I liked the training given by SMS very much. The methodology adapted was very unique. We understood concepts with the help of games and visuals. Moreover every member got an opportunity to express herself. This has lifted the self-confidence of women to a great extent. I learned how to form groups and the way a leader should work for the group, how to develop schemes to uplift the women. I also learnt how to solve the problems of the village people. I am very thankful to SEWA that I got this opportunity to learn so many things which will be of great importance in my life.

#### **Dev Maya Limbhu: Sample Weaver & leader for weavers' group**

The most important thing that I learned that by being a part of the union enables one to have a powerful voice. I learned many new things in the training since I have not taken any training so far. I liked the PRA training in which the issues of the farmers were addressed quite well. I also learned how to do basic accounting. I am extremely thankful to SEWA Manager Ni School for giving such excellent training.

#### **Ushaben**

I heard a lot about SEWA in Nepal but it is only after I visited Radhanpur district my belief that organizing has great powers has grown stronger. I am the only member in my village working for SABAH, but if I need to do more work in SABAH then I need to organize more members in my village.

## **Sisters from Pakistan, 2011**

**Ruqia Anwar:Coordinator, SAARC Business Association for Home-based Workers, (SABAH)**

Initially I was not very clear about planning things but the training on time management imparted by SEWA Manager Ni School has given me a vision on how to plan things. I learned how to make business plans for the crafts, taking note of the smallest details that cannot be overlooked. It gave me a much clearer insight on how we could link our craft to the market. The process followed at SEWA Trade Facilitation Center is excellent.

**Shahidaben: Organiser, Sindh Rural Support Organization (SRSO)**

I make lot of field visits but after attending this training I realized the importance of doing Participatory Rural Assessment. Unless one understands the requirements of the women to the core, one cannot work well. I realized that training for women needs to be done on a regular basis to upgrade their skill set and bring them to the forefront. Awareness workshops are necessary to be conducted in every village.

The Sun spreads its light in all the four directions but the training that we got from here has opened up fourteen directions in our minds. We were just like stones when we came here, but the SEWA members have polished us so well that we turned into diamonds.

Looking at the unity here I would like to say that India, Pakistan, Nepal are all siblings of the same parent who have been separated owing to the political differences.

**Madihaben: Textile Designer, Hardeep Rural Development Enterprise**

I learned the functions of STFC, the role of SEWA in the lives of women, supply chain for crafts, the importance of time management, and the market of craft based products. I love SEWA's approach on self-ownership work. The supply chain at SEWA is extremely well organized, hence when I go back to Tharparkar I would want to implement what I learned. I feel that I have learned so much in a few days. When I arrived, I felt that there were too many training days, but now I feel the number of days for training were not enough. There is so much to learn. The manner in which women work collectively and bring their work to the markets is amazing.

## **Sisters from Afghanistan, March 2011**

**Aamedajan**

I could understand activities deeply. All subjects were very important for us. All trainers were good. I wish to take computer education and English speaking training. Management, costing and marketing are important for our federation.

### **Makaijan**

I am not able to read and write but this training will be very important for my saving activity.

### **Nafishajana**

All teachers were good. Now I understand planning, marketing, government, food processing, saving activity. Garment making is the subject of my interest. I got strong information and learning in this subject. Training would be helpful to me in my work further.

### **Zafiyajan**

I liked business planning, group meeting and management. Costing would also be helpful in activities. Loan for business is too important as our members can not expand their business due to lack of finance. I avail good experience from exposure of district association. We will surely explore this for Afghani members.

### **Sister Adiza Lausah Yakubu: Executive Director – Africa 2000**

“No large capital is required to start business.” I had heard a lot about SEWA and on visiting, I realized why it is so. Looking at the weaving centers here, and the beautiful designs I do feel we need to revive our community weaving class. I also feel that organic farming can be started. We are still young. We have to go miles. I have a vision of 15 years. By next year we would have young people coming back and not migrating any more. The entire journey has been very educative for all of us.

### **Zaharawa Imran: Field Worker**

The sense of belonging of women that SEWA is their own association is very commendable. They take pride in introducing themselves as the share holders of the company. The meeting with Jalpaben in the food processing center was very interesting. The fact that she started on a very small scale and made it big is learning for all. Never could we think that a face pack could be made from the skin of fruits. That experience was amazing. She makes use mangoes, gooseberries to make different products like juice, jam etc. “Asal “caning center was wonderful place to visit. I also learnt how the intermediates in marketing are eliminated and this attracts better prices for the farmers. The centers are very well kept.

### **Safiya Alhassan: Secretary of Pagsung**

“It was a great opportunity for us to come and learn about SEWA. I have been impressed by the work done by SEWA. I really appreciate the patience planted in the organizational work. I also learnt how to handle people and will implement this and impart the knowledge to my fellow women so that Pagsung will be raised high as SEWA.