

Summary Report Bihar team Exposure Visit

Duration of Visit: September 22 2013 to October 10 2013

Background of Participants:

Eight participants from “Parsa Gyan Vigyan Kendra – Bihar” had attended the 15 days program at SEWA - Gujarat. The team consisted of three Spear head team members and five team leaders.

SEWA has partnered along with local organization – Nari Gunjan for implementing the various activities in Bihar. Nari Gunjan is a women’s organization started in 1987. Nari Gunjan has many Kishori Shiksha Kendra (adolescent girls), Anand Shiksha Kendras (ages 4-8) and Prerana Residential Hostel and is also involved in providing vocational trainings to sisters especially from Dalit community.

Parsa Gyan Vigyan Kendra is a community-owned, community-managed resource centre that would help enhance employment and livelihood activities of the rural poor from the surrounding area. The goals are to increase outreach of its services within a community and to help increase users income through technology and innovations.

Objective of the Training:

The objectives of the training programme was :

- To understand the different structure of SEWA, the associations & cooperatives
- To understand how member’s are formed and the way in which they work together
- To understand how SEWA operates, planning of various activities and implementation
- How to be responsible and take ownership of activities

Summary of Training:

The fifteen day training was structured to make the participants fully aware and learn from the institutions and organizations that SEWA was able to build in the past forty years. The objective was to understand how the livelihoods of the women have increased thereby helping the quality of life of their families to improve.

The emphasis of the visit was to have an overview of SEWA and interact with various structures formed by women – groups, associations, federations, food processing, bank, garment and embroidery, tree growers’ cooperatives. During their visit, the team interacted with various artisans, group members enabling them to know about the different trades.

The team also learnt about the training process and interacted with the master trainers. They also learnt about SEWA and SEWA’s sister organization like Mahila SEWA Cooperative Bank, RUDI which is Rural Distribution Initiative for Agro commodities, SEWA Trade Facilitation Center, visited their shop Hansiba, visited Anand Community Learning Center, and the eco tourism center



The group was impressed by the kind of work being done by SEWA members. They shared that once they return to their villages, they would visit the villages and share their experiences. They would also want to organize a group of women who would come to Gujarat to learn different techniques of stitching and embroidery.

The team was also given training on Community based organization management training where the objective was to develop leadership trait, organising people skills, strengthen interpersonal relationships amongst the members of the community. Group management training was conducted with a focus understand the formation and management of Groups. Training on Achievement drive was given to make them understand how goals need to be set and the necessity to prioritize goals.



Outcome:

- The team got clarity on SEWA structure, how it functions, how members are formed and the manner in which they work towards earning their livelihood.
- The team understood the role and importance of a team leader and how critical their role is in the Gyan Vigyan Kendra.
- After visiting SEWA Trade Facilitation Center, a few members from the stitching team were very motivated to get trained on stitching and embroidery.
- The women from Food Processing group were interested to be further trained on food processing so that they could return and start up new business avenues.
- They understood the entire concept of livelihood, how it can be achieved and the benefits that not only the women but the entire family can reap.
- They wanted few members to be trained as Master trainers by SEWA Manager ni School.
- Once they went back they wanted to involve more members in the daily activities of Gyan Vigyan Kendra.
- The team understood concept of being self reliant, confident and independent.
- The team was very surprised and got very motivated to observe how women here step out of their houses, travel, manage business, sell, earn and look after their household.

Way Forward

The team proposed that following the visit, the team would carry out the follow up activities.

- ✓ Share their experiences with other sisters in Bihar.
- ✓ Hold workshop on group management.
- ✓ To show advantages of being a part of the group and inspire more women to join the Gyan Vigyan Kendra.
- ✓ To expand the food processing business and implement what learnt.
- ✓ Training on different activities by SEWA Manager Ni School such as food processing, embroidery.

Feedback from Participants:

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-Najdeek 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."

