

**SEWA Managerial Ni School Training for Weaving and Food Processing:  
Tarayana Foundation- Sabah Bhutan**

**Date of Training: 20<sup>th</sup> November to 18<sup>th</sup> December 2012**

**Background on Tarayana Foundation**

*Tarayana Foundation, a non-profit organisation, was established in 2003 by her Majesty the Queen, Ashi Dorji Wangmo Wangchuck to help bridge local needs of disadvantaged remote communities with larger national initiatives. It works to uplift and enhance lives of vulnerable individuals and communities in Bhutan with the Motto of Service from the heart.*

*The Tarayana Foundation was established to help underprivileged communities achieve self-sufficiency through small and targeted interventions. Using the process of true local empowerment, the vision of a happy and prosperous Bhutan and the mission of helping vulnerable disadvantaged populations, The Tarayana Foundation hopes to preserve its own core values of compassion, dignity and integrity.*

**Objectives for Training**

- *Provide exposure to SEWA's different projects and sites including: formation of modules and discussion with SEWA leaders and project beneficiaries to ensure the participants are able to follow SEWA's experience in motivating women and creating a movement*
- *Identify approaches and select strategies to fight against social and economic challenges*
- *Enhance knowledge by sharing and observing how SEWA operates*

**Programme for the Training:**

1. *Visit to Gandhi Ashram and SEWA Bank*
2. *Training on Food Processing and Weaving*
3. *Training at Anand Weaving and Food Processing at Ahmedabad*
4. *Economic situation of the village, an overview of unorganized sector; Overview of Informal and Formal Sector and Micro Enterprise Development and Entrepreneurship*
5. *Community Based Organization Management*
6. *Self Help Group Management*
7. *Visit Radhanpur: Hansiba Museum; Understanding the function of District Association and Craft Process*
8. *Financial Management*
9. *Workshop on Preparing a Business Plan*
10. *Presentation of the Business Plan*

**Feedback from Participants**

- *“Overall the participants were excited to replicate their new skills, experience and knowledge in Bhutan” (Bhutan Group)*
- *“Friendly and familial gestures were observed without any discrimination, as members are found eating through a common plate. Such gestures by trainers helped us in overcoming communication problems. It made all further communication easier and friendly gestures were observed and practiced between the two countries: Bhutan and India” (Jangchu)*

- *“SEWA Manager Ni School was interesting. The food processing, costing, maintaining various registers, etc. were all informative. The base training was good. We liked the visit to “Pij” (Peace Centers). It was easy to understand since teachers/trainers were supportive. It will not be possible to replicate all of this in Bhutan; however, we will try and practice once we return and see what is available locally” (Jangchu)*
- *“My exposure and knowledge has been enhanced by the Master Trainers representing SEWA. For the literate participants, the experience must have been even more impactful. I have gained a great deal of information and we will try to practice ‘SHG formation Business Plan with mission, vision, objectives, etc. in our area’. If I face any problems while working in the field, I will solve the problem with the help of my local SABAH Bhutan team members“ (Chimi Lhaden)*
- *“It was a nice learning experience. Upon return, I shall try to build capacities of others. I have received the skills that I have been anticipating.” (Tshering Dorji)*
- *“My name is Jigme and I am illiterate. I want to thank SEWA a lot for delivering such an important training to us. I live in a remote area and have never had a chance to have this type of exposure. Now I can share this information among others in the villages in my area. Food Processing was an important aspect and I will practice with the materials available in my area.”*
- *“We have learned a lot. We knew nothing earlier about costing, business plan development, weaving, and the other valuable information shared with us” (Sonam Chaden)*
- *“We have gained a great deal of knowledge. The meaning of SEWA is to support the poor and without SEWA’s support we cannot do anything. All SEWA trainers supported us very well. We never knew what our costs before the training and we misunderstood the term ‘profit’ that has been clarified for us. Now we will implement what we have learned during the past month in our communities.” (Damcho Lhamo)*
- *“Thanks to SEWA for inviting us. I would like to thank you all for providing us a chance to be here with you. Thanks to all the Master Trainers. We shall implement the lessons we learned here especially the food processing that will be implemented immediately when we return. Costing will help us out a lot as well.” (Pema)*