

A. News from SETU Africa

Dissemination workshop in Ethiopia

A two-day dissemination workshop was organized by VimoSEWA in Addis Ababa on 24-25th February 2016 at the Women in Self-Employment (WISE) centre. This was a part of the SETU Africa programme, and was the final workshop in Ethiopia. It was based on the following objectives:

- Sharing of experience from the SETU Africa partnership
- Sustainability of the association with Ethiopian Civil Society Organisations (CSOs)
- Mechanisms to carry forward the partnership between Ethiopian and Indian CSOs.

This workshop was attended by 31 representatives from different Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) and different government agencies of Ethiopia

Mr. Ashok Kumar, Charge-D' –Affaires and First Secretary of the Embassy of India to Ethiopia, inaugurated the workshop and gave the key note address about “ The History of India- Ethiopia Solidarity: India’s perspective on strengthening cooperation and collaboration with Ethiopia. Dr Gennet Zewide, former Ambassador of Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia to India, was the Chief-Guest of this workshop. Dr Zewide spoke on the age-old relationship between India and Ethiopia, which is growing in “leaps and bounds” and going from “strength to strength”.

Ms. Mirai Chatterjee, Director, SEWA Social Security, shared about the SEWA’s experience on working with informal sector women workers in India and other countries through different initiatives including SETU Africa. She shared that the issues of informal sector workers in Ethiopia are very similar to those of India. She said that we mutually learned several things from each other in the last 3 years of engagement.

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Ms. Tsigie Haile, Director of WISE, shared about the different activities held under the SETU Africa programme and different initiatives to implement it in Ethiopia. Different participants also shared their learnings and experiences of this project.

The workshop concluded with the identifying the following areas of cooperation-

- Establishing a women's bank based on the experience of SEWA Bank, and extending different financial services like pension and financial literacy, in addition to saving and credit services in Ethiopia
- Developing microinsurance products based on VimoSEWA's experiences
- Establishing child-care centres for children under six years of age
- Promoting women-to-women trade between Ethiopia and India
- Strengthening two-way capacity-building Initiatives from SEWA to Ethiopian organizations and from Ethiopian organizations like WISE to SEWA

B. Voices from Africa

Women in Informal Employment: Globalising and Organizing (WIEGO) team visited SEWA

Several common issues emerged from different African countries in the SETU Africa programme. Most of it needs some local institutional intervention, but several issues need policy-level advocacy to bring impact at national level. SEWA is working with the organization Women in Informal Employment: Globalising and Organising (WIEGO) for policy-level advocacy on different issues of informal sector workers at the international level. WIEGO (<http://wiego.org>) is a global network focused on securing livelihoods for the working poor, especially women, in the informal economy. We all agree that informal workers need voice, visibility and validity. WIEGO creates change by building capacity among informal worker organizations, expanding the knowledge base, and influencing local, national and international policies. Some of the partner organizations of the SETU Africa programme in Tanzania and South Africa are active members of this movement.

A team from WIEGO visited SEWA to know more about our work in India and also in other countries, including about the SETU Africa programme. The team includes Ms. Gisele Yasmeen – incoming Director of the WIEGO Social Protection program, Jane Barrett, incoming Director of Organization/Representation programme of WIEGO, Marlese von Broembsen, Director of Law Program, Vanessa Pillay, Africa coordinator for the Organization Representation program,, Laura Morillo, Latin America coordinator for home-based workers and Jacqui Fendall ,Financial Controller of WIEGO.

The team visited and learned about different programmes and activities of SEWA and participated in different events organized by HomeNet South Asia (HNSA) regarding the discussion on global value chains and role of women informal workers in it. They also learned about the SEWA Social Security programme including health and child-care activities. Child-

care has emerged as one of the needs from Ethiopia, and we decided to include this as part of worker's right to social protection, and also the global campaign coordinated by WIEGO.

In future, the SETU Africa team, with the partner organizations in different African countries, will actively engage with WIEGO and will work on these issues.

WISE- COADY association

The inaugural ceremony for the establishment of the Coady alumni was conducted on March 29, 2016 at WISE Training Center in the presence of Dr June Webber, Director of the Coady International Institute.

The alumni members are graduates of the Coady international Institute being trained in-campus courses in Canada, Antigonish and elsewhere but having Ethiopian nationality. Membership is voluntary and the group is informal.

The main objective of the alumni is for knowledge sharing (impact, challenges, unique aspects, etc), influencing, and creation of opportunities for future learning; maintaining relationship among trainees and for networking with other Coady alumni in other countries.



The program was organized as part of the EMPOWER project supported by the Canadian government and 25 Coady graduates were engaged during the celebration. Besides, a term of reference was endorsed that has been enriched by feedback from Dr. June that brought added value to the event. The program was commenced by the concluding remarks of Dr. June Webber that showed the way forward for future partnership. Membership is open for those interested.

C. News from SEWA

SKOCH award conferred to Traditional Crafts Heritage Project of SEWA Cooperative Federation



“Reviving Crafts and Heritage and Providing Sustainable Livelihood to the Artisans” project, funded by Rural Electrification Corporation of India, supported by the National Culture Fund received SKOCH Technology Award under the category of skill development.

Total 850 artisans from 5 districts of Gujarat participated in the skill upgradation training in various crafts, and 50 artisans are now master crafts-persons with expertise in their own craft. As a result, artisans have now access to new technology, markets and traditional designs which enhances their livelihoods.

Efficient waste management Solution in Munger district

India is facing a sharp contrast between its increasing urban population and available services and resources. Solid waste management (SWM) is one such service where India has an enormous gap to fill.

According to *Municipal Solid Waste Management and Handling Rules -2000*, solid waste management is in the obligatory function of urban local bodies. Each municipality is responsible for organising waste management in the areas of: waste segregation and storage at source, primary collection, street sweeping, secondary waste storage, transport of waste, treatment and recycling options for solid waste and final disposal. In actual practice, the solid waste management is given the last priority and the duties are either not performed or poorly performed consequently the city has to face numerable problems related to environment and sanitation.

To address this challenge, SEWA Bharat has partnership with ITC, an Indian conglomerate under the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model, in October 2015 to develop a “solid waste management model” in Munger district of the Indian state of Bihar. SEWA, ITC and the local Municipal Corporation signed a tripartite MOU to jointly work toward making a cleaner and greener city with adoption of the 3R principle of “Reduce, Reuse and Recycle”.

Over the period of six months, SEWA Bharat’s team has been able to provide door-to-door service of waste collection from 4500 households from Munger district.



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