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# Cottage Enterprise for Paper & Textile Recycling

## A Climate Smart Livelihood for Women Empowerment in Bhutan

### The India-Bhutan Exchange of Recycling Art



## The India-Bhutan Exchange of Recycling Art, organized by SAFE in partnership with RENEW



### Why Exchange ?

**E**xchange isn't a year in your life. It's a life in a year... such is the significance of exchange programs with participants from two countries, and worldwide exchange programs have deeply contributed in building friendship and new knowledge among participants across borders.

The Group Exchange 'Recycling Art', Training program put up together by SAFE (India) & RENEW (Bhutan), from **27th August-5th September 2018**, in Kolkata, unfolds the enormous impact of such exchange programs on the future roadmap of the project, **"Cottage Enterprise for paper & Textile Recycling-A climate Smart livelihood for Women Empowerment in Bhutan"**; supported by India Bhutan Foundation.



The joint endeavor of both the organizations, works to develop livelihood opportunities for the common women in Bhutan by instituting cottage enterprises for paper and textile waste recycling.

**S**ince year 2011, 'ResolveTrash2Cash', the Integrated Solid Waste Management Program, ISWM of SAFE is effectively recycling tons of waste and creating livelihood opportunities for marginal poor in city like Kolkata. In year 2014, SAFE received, UNFCCC, **Momentum for Change and Lighthouse Activity Award** for the success of the community based innovation in ISWM. Recently, during year 2017-18, SAFE received **UNEP 10YFP Award** to scale up the initiative as an integral part of sustainable lifestyle and education for India and Bangladesh. In year 2017-18, SAFE receives support from **India Bhutan Foundation** to scale up the community based cottage enterprise on paper and textile recycling in Bhutan in partnership with RENEW.

## The Exchange Training Program

The Group Exchange Training program on art of recycling held between expert artisans and master trainers of SAFE & RENEW, created opportunity to learn new skills, technology and idea mapping exercise towards enterprise building.

**Participants from RENEW, Bhutan :** Karma Loday Dema, Zangden, Wangmo and Tashi Wangmo

**Participants from SAFE, India :** Provash Biswas, Mitu Mistri, Maya Ghosh, Ajay Barui & Rekha Mondal

### Exchange Training event conducted in 3 phases :

(I) Paper Recycling

(II) Textile Recycling

(III) Exposure Visits

#### Phase:I Paper Recycling

- Processes of different types of handmade paper making from waste paper, learning the techniques of operating hydro-pulper, developing colours and designs.
- Combined tutorial on Paper pulp and paper mache art and this part of training included waste paper recycled into different types of handicrafts and daily utility products.
- Training included items like cygnus and woven Paper Basket, Gift boxes, Folders and Files, Photo-frames and many more products, which has potential demand in market.



Paper recycling (Paper mache) ongoing training at SAFE workshop, Kolkata, India



Paper recycling (Paper pulp) ongoing training at SAFE workshop, Kolkata, India



Textile recycling (Weaving) ongoing training at SAFE workshop, Kolkata, India

## Phase :II Textile Recycling

Training areas in this phase included exchange of weaving techniques and using waste cloth to make high-quality utility products.

- The training curriculum included procedures of recovering the textile wastes for making designer bags, wallets, purses, garments etc. Pattern making, stitching and weaving skills remained important areas for learning.



- Manufacturing of **Heat Retentive Cooker (HRC)** also known as 'Magic cooker', using textile waste a significant product inclusion in the training event. The processes also included the demonstration of the HRC use. This innovative energy efficient 'Magic cooker' made from cloth, cooks food and helps keep food warm for 8 hours. HRC technology was given by GIZ Bangladesh to SAFE.





Exposure visit for team at Textile Market, Kolkata, India

### Phase : III Exposure Visits for Trainees

Exposure Visits for women team from Bhutan organized under the spectrum of the Group Exchange Training program, the team members visited SASHA craft outlet and other textile and paper (handicraft emporiums) in Kolkata, India.

#### Master Trainer from Bhutan, Tashi Wangmo

“It's a lifetime opportunity for all four of us, and apart from me, other team members eventually have first time stepped out of Bhutan. The training program has been an extremely enriching experience and we wish if such events are organized more frequently. I thank SAFE for organizing such training programs with high level of excellence and also thank RENEW my organization for encouraging us and IBF for supporting the project”.

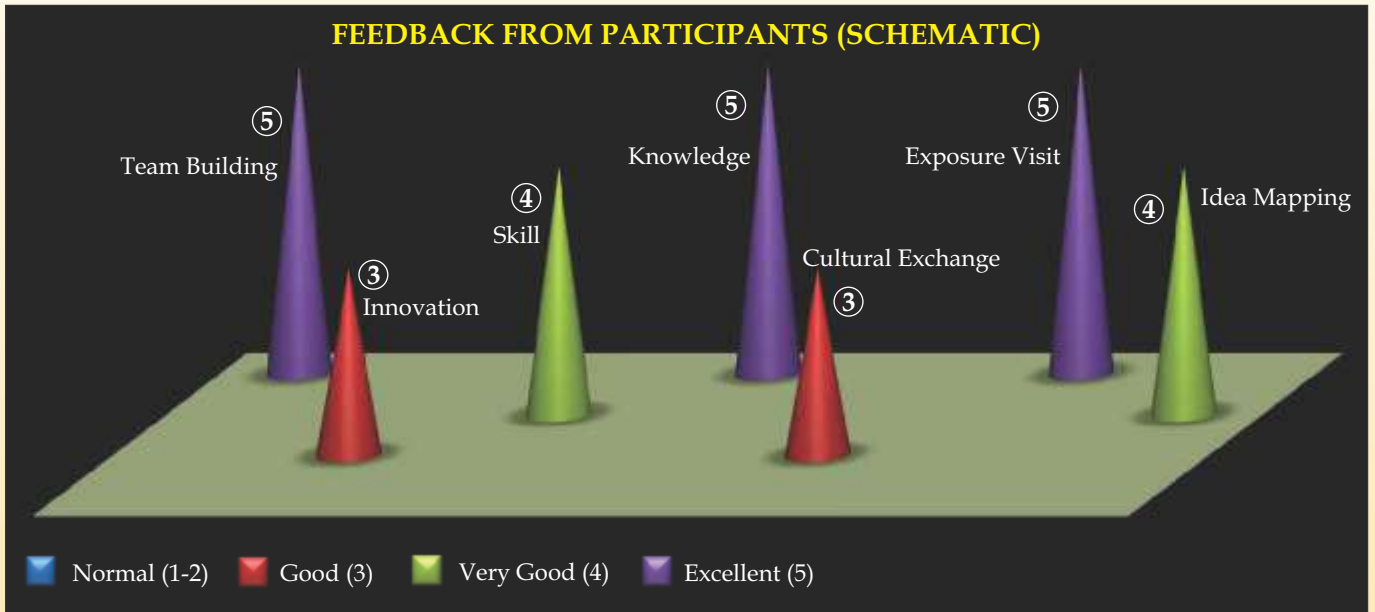
#### Master Trainer from India, Maya Ghosh

“We are proud to have a team from Bhutan, and feel delighted to train them in different aspects of recycling art. During the training program, I learnt Bhutan is a beautiful country, and we wish to go there once. As trainer, I must appreciate the team members from Bhutan for actively taking part in this hectic training regime and everyone is so talented and hard-working”.



Exposure visit for team at SASHA, Kolkata, India

**FEEDBACK FROM PARTICIPANTS (SCHEMATIC)**



**South Asian Forum for Environment, SAFE**, a registered non-profit civil Society organization working at science-society interface for Environmental conservation and Poverty Alleviation in South Asia. SAFE envisages achieving Sustainable Development Goals through community based interventions.



**Respect, Educate, Nurture and Empower Women, RENEW** Founded by Her Majesty the Queen Mother Sangay Choden Wangchuck, in 2004, RENEW (Respect, Educate, Nurture and Empower Women) is a non-profit organization dedicated to the empowerment of women and children in Bhutan. RENEW aims to shape the future role of women in Bhutanese Society.



**India Bhutan Foundation, IBF** was established in August 2003 during the visit of the present King (then Crown Prince) to India with the aim of enhancing people to people exchanges in focus areas like education, culture and environment protection. Ambassador of Bhutan and India are the Co-Chairpersons of the Foundation.

