

Palak Patel

Project Manager - SEWA

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To be associated with an organization where my decade of skills & experience can be utilized to achieve results to support sustainable development goals (SDG) and where I can learn and grow for a longer period of time.

Work History

2019 - **Project Manager – SEWA (Consultant)**

Current SEWA, Ahmedabad, Gujarat

Project – Digital Financial Inclusion for Informal Sector (World Bank Group)

- Providing Financial and Digital literacy to rural women in six states.
- Fintech intervention green livelihood initiatives, agro-produce Rural Distribution Network, artisan support programs, microenterprise support programs, new-age initiatives such as rural homestays with Airbnb, e-commerce partnership, and other initiatives. Supporting SDG 1, SDG 4, SDG 5, SDG 8, SDG 10.
- Digitizing record keeping for small Micro Entrepreneurs with the help of Digital applications.
- Monitoring evaluation of project indicators by Documenting success stories, blogs, and Reports.
- Financial and Budgetary controls

Project – SEWA bazaar

- Providing market to SEWA's social enterprises and Micro Entrepreneurs by connecting to offline and online markets like GeM. Supporting SDG 1, SDG 5, SDG 8.
- Data analysis and Business planning, linking with FICCI and other Digital Platforms

2019 - **Manager Projects**

2019 Shilpi Foundation, Ahmedabad, Gujarat

- Looking after operational part of skill development program DDU-GKY for Rural based youth which is designed and monitor under Ministry of Rural Development Supporting SDG 4.

2017 - **OPERATIONS MANAGER**

2019 Grassroot Trading Network for Women (SEWA), Ahmedabad, Gujarat

Project – Surya Pani (SEWA-GIZ)

- Project designing, execution, implementation, monitoring with Research and development.
- **Implementation of Agriculture solar pumps with piloting different financial model in SHG and JLG groups in Gujarat**
- Monitoring and Evaluation of project, Scalability, and Viability of financial models
- Experienced in working with International and National development organizations and financial institutions like the World bank, IFC, NRDC, ICICI bank, YES bank CSR, GIZ (German government entity). Supporting SDG 1, SDG 5, SDG 7, SDG 10, SDG 13.

Finance & Operations Manager April'16 to August'17

- Point of contact with lender partners financial institutions Government Bodies &

Borrowers for Priority sector lending and subsidies.

- Project handling under CSR activities, Project budgeting
- Implementation of operational strategies and procedures related to microfinance loans, procurement. Supporting SDG 7, SDG 10, and SDG 13.
- Field monitoring visits & spot checks of financial systems, Documentation are being maintained under Project compliance and reporting

Coordinator & Accountant April 2012 – March'17

- Micro-finance loans under SHG models - overall Portfolio size was Rs 25 Cr.
- Coordination with District Associations (9) in Gujarat for Ground level activities focusing on global goals & Sustainable Livelihood of SEWA members.
- Coordination with Local Coordinators and Finance Personnel for timely reporting & MIS.
- Project Budgeting, Project Evaluation, Reconciliations & Stock valuations, payrolls, event, meeting organizer

Education

2019 – **MA: Gender and Development Studies**

2021 IGNOU - Ahmedabad, GJ

2013 - **PGDBA: Finance**

2015 Symbiosis Distance Learning - Pune, MH

2011 **PG Diploma: Banking, Insurance and Financial Management**

GLS CME - Ahmedabad, Gujarat

2007 - **Bachelor of Commerce**

2010 Gujarat University - Ahmedabad, GJ

2017 **DIPLOMA & CERTIFICATE Certificate in Rural & Agriculture finance Program**

Boulder Institute of Microfinance With FAO & ITC - Turin, Italy

Certificate in Human Resource Management

Ahmedabad Management Association - Ahmedabad, GJ

Accomplishments

1. Livelihood for Salt Farmers (YES Bank–CSR Project, Project cost: 3 Cr, Duration: Dec 2016 – July 2017)

YES, BANK, GTNfW and SEWA BANK are desirous of undertaking the CSR Program under the focus area Livelihood Security enabling 600 poor salt farmer women to purchase solar pumps for salt production in the Little Runn of Kutch. Designed Product where CSR funds were utilized in giving Interest subsidy to salt farmers taken loan of credit.

Times of India paper link (With Name mentioned):

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/ahmedabad/women-show-solar-power-is-worth-its-salt/articleshow/63224681.cms?from=mdr>

2. Powering Agriculture – (With GIZ-IGEN, Project cost :1 Cr, Duration: September 2016-March 2018)

GIZ and SEWA to pilot different financial products, that can help small and medium farmer's access irrigation by acquiring solar powered water pumps, in a cooperative/Mandlee/JLG format, and on a sustainable basis. Project was implemented in Districts in Gujarat. Operation Monitoring, and documentation (Including making a video on impact, case studies and final report) is handled – link to the Project video is as below; <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ewz9XcuUI8w&feature=youtu.be>

3. Soft loan with Micro Financing for livelihood Purpose (Duration: April 2012-March-2017, Fund: Rs 25 Crore)

Managed portfolio by collecting needs from 9 districts, MIS, disbursement clearance, monthly reporting of 25 cr portfolio, collections and repayment. Repayments schedule were designed, group insurance and renewal every year.

4. Other work with international collaborations

- Developing case study with the NRDC India team to capture an impact by adapting clean energy products
- Closely worked with FED EX- US team for Problem-solving part in terms of servicing and after-sales services.
- Running Awareness campaign on adaption of cook stove program supported and launched by World bank.
- Documentation for World Bank Procurement program with one of the SEWA's sister organization called SEWA manager ni School.

Skills & Professional Traits

- Strong leadership and motivational skills and ability to work in a fast- paced environment.
- Multitasking, exceptional time management & organizational skills.
- Enthusiastic self-starter who contributes well to the team.
- Excellent oral and written correspondence with an exceptional attention to detail
- Technical Skill: Budgeting, Cash Flow Valuation, Financial Projections, Financial Modeling

Participation in national & international workshops, conferences

- Participation in Solar Power Irrigation Pump -Empowering agriculture - 1 week at Vaishali Patna. Organized by GIZ - IGEN (Indo- German Energy Program)
- Participation in USAID -PACE conference at India Habitat center, New Delhi.
- Participated as a speaker at DDW - clean cooking workshop at Asia Clean energy forum 2018, Manila Philippines

Languages

English	<div><div></div></div> Very Good
Hindi	<div><div></div></div> Excellent
Gujarati	<div><div></div></div> Excellent

References

On request