**MT Case Study Template + Checklist (B2 level)**

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| **CASE STUDY Symbat, Dana, Diana** | | | | **points** |
| **1** | **Title** | Self-employed women’s association (SEWA) | | **1** |
| **2** | **Case Study**  **Short description**  **(with objectives)** | This section provides an overview of the SDG being addressed, the specific goal/s within that SDG.  Describe the specific case or example that you are analysing in relation to the chosen SDG. This includes details such as   * the location, * stakeholders involved, * timeframe. | **GOAL/S:**  5  Our sdg is  GENSER EQUALITY. It means empowering all women and girls by ensuring equal access to opportunities, eliminating discrimination, and promoting women's participation in decision-making processes across all sectors of society.  -And our CASE STUDY IS  SELF EMPLOYED WOMEN’S ASSOCIATION. SEWA promote gender equality and protect the rights of self-employed women. This includes campaigns for fair wages, safe working conditions, and access to social security benefits.  It is the single largest Central Trade union registered on 12th April, 1972 with a membership of over 2.9 million poor, self-employed women workers from the informal economy across 18 states in India.  It has given new and innovative ways to fight poverty and vulnerability. SEWA's involves organizing and mobilizing women in the informal sector, including street vendors, agricultural workers, and artisans, to collectively advocate for their rights and improve their socio-economic conditions.       The SEWA approach is to address the needs of the worker as a laborer, as well as a woman.their goals are full employment and self-reliance.  Also addresses multiple goals within SDG 5, including:  1. Goal 5.1: End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls.  2. Goal 5.5: Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic, and public life.  Location: India, primarily in the state of Gujarat  Stakeholders Involved: Self-employed women, SEWA members, SEWA leadership, government agencies, NGOs, local communities |
| **3** | **Challenge/s** | Challenges can arise from various factors, including external circumstances, internal constraints, or unforeseen complications. | 1. \*External Circumstances\*:     - Political Economic factors:.    External regulations and government policies may impose restrictions on SEWA's advocacy initiatives or limit the organization's ability to influence policy changes favoring gender equality. SEWA must navigate complex political landscapes, engaging in strategic partnerships and lobbying efforts to promote legislative reforms that benefit self-employed women.     -Limitations imposed by society- Structural inequalities and gender norms within Indian society contribute to the marginalization of self-employed women, leading to their exclusion from formal labor protections and social safety nets  2. \*Internal Constraints\*:     - Resource Allocation Funding constraints present a critical challenge for SEWA, hindering its ability to expand program reach and address emerging needs among self-employed women. Scarce resources force tough decisions on resource allocation, potentially leading to missed opportunities and underinvestment in critical areas. Staffing and capacity issues may arise, impacting SEWA's ability to deliver services effectively and sustain organizational growth. Dependency on external donors exposes SEWA to risks of fluctuating priorities and funding cuts, threatening its autonomy and long-term stability. To address these challenges, SEWA must diversify funding sources, enhance financial management practices, and advocate for increased government and donor support for women's empowerment initiatives.  \* ﻿ Long working hours with low returns  The Self-Employed Women's Association (SEWA) has long grappled with the issue of long working hours coupled with low returns among its members. Many women in the informal sector, particularly in agriculture and home-based industries, face extended work hours to make ends meet. | **1** |
| **4** | **Solution/s**  **(and recommendations)** | Solution refers to a proposed course of action or strategy designed to address a specific challenge, problem, or issue identified within the case. Solutions are developed based on the analysis of the case study findings and are aimed at achieving desired objectives and outcomes. | 1:SEWA can work to improve access to finance for self-employed women through microfinance initiatives, savings and credit groups, and partnerships with financial institutions. Access to affordable credit enables women to invest in their businesses, expand their operations, and build financial resilience.  SEWA Bank, or the "SEWA Cooperative Bank," was established by India's Self-Employed Women's Association (SEWA) in 1974. It caters to the financial needs of women in the informal sector lacking access to formal banking services. The bank's mission is to provide tailored financial products and services to empower these women, enabling them to save, invest, and access credit for economic betterment. Beyond economic empowerment, SEWA Bank also fosters social and political empowerment by granting control over financial resources. Its impact on women in the informal sector has been significant, enhancing financial security and reducing vulnerability. SEWA Bank's innovative approach to financial inclusion has garnered international recognition, inspiring similar initiatives worldwide. Through its efforts, SEWA Bank contributes to gender equality and inclusive economic development, positively impacting lives and communities.  2: SEWA can enhance its advocacy efforts and drive social change by forming strategic partnerships with civil society organizations, women's rights groups, and grassroots movements. Collaborating with like-minded organizations enables SEWA to leverage collective strengths, expertise, and resources, creating a unified front against barriers to women's empowerment in the informal sector. By pooling resources and sharing knowledge, SEWA and its partners can develop more effective strategies for challenging societal norms and reshaping the landscape of women's empowerment. Together, they amplify advocacy efforts and mobilize support for systemic change, fostering a more inclusive and equitable society.  3: Developing a strategic plan is crucial for SEWA's resource allocation and mission achievement. It provides clear direction, outlining long-term goals and priorities. Aligning resources with strategic priorities ensures efficiency and effectiveness, avoiding duplication and maximizing impact. In essence, strategic planning is essential for SEWA to allocate resources effectively, achieve goals, and empower women in the informal sector.  4:Skill enhancement programs are essential for improving the productivity and efficiency of women in the informal sector. By offering training in specialized skills relevant to their work, such as advanced agricultural techniques or modern tailoring methods, SEWA can empower its members to increase their output within the same time frame. These programs provide women with the opportunity to acquire new skills and techniques that can enhance the quality and quantity of their work. For example, training in advanced agricultural techniques can help women farmers improve crop yields and reduce wastage, leading to higher incomes. Similarly, learning modern tailoring methods can enable women to produce higher-quality garments in less time, increasing their earning potential. Skill enhancement programs also contribute to women's economic empowerment by making them more competitive in the marketplace. With improved skills, women are better positioned to access higher-paying jobs or start their own businesses, thus increasing their financial independence and security. | **1** |
| **5** | **Outcomes** | Evaluate the outcomes and impact of the strategies and interventions on the targeted SDG. Provide evidence-based analysis of progress made, successes achieved, as well as any limitations or setbacks encountered. | 1: Increased Recognition and Inclusion: Through advocacy efforts and capacity-building initiatives, SEWA can contribute to increased recognition and inclusion of self-employed women in policy frameworks, programs, and decision-making processes. This can lead to improved access to essential services, social protection, and opportunities for advancement.  2: Enhanced Economic Empowerment: By providing training, market linkages, and entrepreneurship support, SEWA can empower self-employed women to enhance their economic status and improve their livelihoods. This can result in increased income, employment generation, and poverty reduction among women in the informal sector.  3: Reduced Gender Disparities: Through gender sensitization, advocacy for legal reforms, and targeted interventions, SEWA can contribute to reducing gender disparities and promoting gender equality within the informal sector. This can lead to improved social cohesion, reduced gender-based violence, and enhanced well-being for women and their families.  4: Empowerment and Leadership: Through capacity-building initiatives and advocacy efforts, SEWA can empower self-employed women to assert their rights, participate in decision-making processes, and take on leadership roles within their communities and organizations. This can lead to increased confidence, agency, and social cohesion among women in the informal sector. | **1** |
| **6** | **Q&A Session** | **Allocate time for a question-and-answer session.** | 1. How has SEWA directly impacted the lives of self-employed women in the communities it serves?  2. What skill development has led to notable economic empowerment for self-employed women?  3. What challenges has SEWA faced in addressing gender inequality, and how has the organization adapted its strategies to overcome these challenges within the unique contexts it operates?  4. How do you think, did the SEWA's policy advocacy efforts contribute to sensible improvements in the legal and policy frameworks supporting self-employed women? | **1** |
| **7** | **Applicability** | **Would it be applicable in Kazakhstan / Central Asia?**  **Why yes/no?** | Yes, we can implement project like indian SEWA in our country and the whole central-asian region. The number of self-employed women in Kazakhstan increases annually but we still don’t have any associations or organisations that would stand for their professional rights.  It is crucial to consider differences and similarities with India to implement the same project in Kazakhstan/Central Asia successfully.  To similarities we can include the same problem of gender inequality that appears in various forms, like payment gap between men and women, different career opportunities, gender-based stereotypes and prejudices.  But  mainly, we have significant differences in culture, economy and government policy. It includes:   * Religious Diversity: While India is known for its religious diversity with a majority Hindu population, Central Asia has a significant Muslim majority. Understanding and respecting religious and cultural practices is crucial for any project implementation. * Social Norms and Gender Roles: Cultural attitudes towards gender roles and women's participation in the workforce can vary. SEWA's strategies would need to be adapted to align with the specific cultural expectations and norms in Central Asia. * Economic Structures: Central Asian countries have different economic structures compared to India. Factors such as the dominance of certain industries, levels of industrialization, and the overall economic development may influence the feasibility and impact of SEWA-like projects. * Dependency on Natural Resources: Some Central Asian countries heavily depend on natural resources, such as oil and gas. Economic conditions and opportunities in these sectors may differ significantly from those in India. * Global Economic Partnerships: Central Asian countries might have distinct economic relationships, especially considering their geographical location and interactions with neighbouring countries and global partners. This could influence the funding and sustainability of projects. Also, Central Asian countries may have unique geopolitical considerations and diplomatic relations, potentially affecting the ease of international collaboration and support for projects.. * Gover nmental Systems: India and Central Asian countries have different forms of government and political structures. This can affect the ease of implementing projects, obtaining support, and navigating bureaucratic processes. * Labor and Social Policies: Variations in labor laws, social policies, and government support for marginalized groups could impact the implementation of initiatives focused on the informal sector, particularly for women. | **1** |
| **8** | **References** | **Provide a list of all sources.** | <https://www.sewa.org/about-us/>  <https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/@ed_emp/@emp_policy/documents/publication/wcms_234890.pdf> |  |
| **Content: Clarity of Message / Relevance / Organization** | | | | **1** |
| **Delivery: Vocal delivery / Body Language / Eye Contact (NO READING)** | | | | **1** |
| **Engagement: Confidence / Persuasiveness** | | | | **1** |
| **Visuals / Design: Pictures, Diagrams, Notes (NO SENTENCES)** | | | | **1** |
| **Overall: 10 points** | | | |  |