



EWOK

Enabling Women of Kamand



A Biannual Newsletter

March 2018

EWOK Education

New classes started to impart training in basic IT & Internet skills and Spoken English.
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Workshops and events held to impart information, increase exposure and reward achievements.
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Edition Spotlight

A new year has commenced that has been filled with action for EWOK! We have initiated several new projects, established much better communication with the local women. In general, we feel that we are finally on the right track to help local women fulfill their goals.

We hope you enjoy EWOK's new logo. We held a contest among the campus residents, and Ms. Monika Kashyap, personal secretary to the

Director, IIT Mandi came up with the winning concept. Dr. Priscilla Gonsalves took home the prize for a tagline that embodied EWOK's work.



A space to call our own!
Women of Kamand valley and visitors from IIT Mandi at the inauguration of the EWOK office at Salgi.

In an attempt to make EWOK more

accessible for local women, we have shifted to a new office strategically located in Salgi on the main road that runs like the main artery through all the panchayats that EWOK supports. This space is modest and cosy amidst the dwellings of EWOK's women. They can now just drop in to work out their ideas, enhance their skills or just stop by for a chat.

About EWOK

EWOK is an initiative to bring opportunities to the hardworking women of Kamand valley, enabling them to develop employable and marketable skills and access relevant information.

Lend us a hand

If you wish to donate or know more, please contact us at

ewok@iitmandi.ac.in

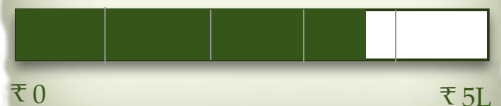
You can sponsor specific activities as follows:

Computer Training: ₹ 15000 for a 3-month batch

Awards and Recognition: ₹ 10000 per year

Seed grants: ₹ 500 - ₹ 5000 per business

Fundraising



Unveiling of the EWOK logo.

L-R: Urmila, Sandhya (EWOK Core), Ms. M. Kashyap (Winner - Logo Design), Dr. P. Gonsalves (EWOK Chief Advisor & Winner - Tagline), Dr. R. Thakur (EWOK Mentor)

Women's Day 2018

EWOK Education



Many of the women wished to be able to operate a computer and speak English more confidently. EWOK realised

that the lack of these skills was impeding their success for searching for jobs. These skills will also enable them as educators at home. In collaboration with NIIT Foundation, EWOK has started Basic IT and Spoken English classes that are being immensely enjoyed by the women. By the next issue of the EWOK newsletter, we hope to have graduated 2-3 batches of women and girls!



EWOK Events

In the past 6 months EWOK has organized and participated in several events and workshops that aimed to increase exposure of our beneficiaries as well as celebrate various occasions like National Handloom Day and Women's Day.

A glimpse in pictures.



The EWOK team spoke on the handloom culture in the Kamand valley at the National Handloom Day 2017 celebrated in IIT Mandi.



A peer workshop in tailoring where sartorial enthusiasts from the local community and campus exchanged notes.



Dharma Kumari, EWOK Entprising Entrepreneur of 2017

Founder, Dharma Beauty & Tailoring Services



Girja Devi, EWOK Emerging Entrepreneur of 2017

Co-founder, Bingal Dev Bhoomi Mushrooms



Local farmers turn up in large numbers to learn about schemes from the Horticultural Dept.

EWOK Updates

A quick look at the various ventures that were started in the past year and how they fare!

* **The H.P. Govt.** has provided us funding to set up as an incubator for rural dev projects.

* **Bingal Dev Bhoomi Mushrooms** continue to produce fresh organic mushrooms to meet the high demand of the mushroom loving Kamand valley. Girja and her husband are currently keeping their production to a manageable scope as they steadily increase their expertise.



* **Mamta Devi Laundry Services(MDLS)** steps in to fill in a void in laundry services in the area. MDLS is currently providing this service to the South Campus residents of IIT Mandi and is planning an expansion of services.

* **Dharma Beauty & Tailoring Services** continues to steadily increase customer base.

* **Uhl Handicrafts** is still operating on very small scale due to various reasons. EWOK will be looking into providing more guidance to help them expand to an income generating level.

* **Guddi Devi Tiffin Services** ran well for 9 months but had to close down since the subscription did not increase. She hopes to find a suitable opportunity in catering and EWOK is by her side.

* **Shakeela's Boutique** failed to take off. It seems that at this time with four young children at home and all her homemaking and agricultural duties, Shakeela is not in a position to devote time to keep the business running.

Looking ahead

As was projected previously, EWOK is looking more actively into agri based ventures. Having joined hands with the IIT Mandi Botany Lab, we are focussed on working on interests of farmers in the area, both men and women. Efforts have already begun to create interest groups. EWOK will guide interested farmers to govt. organizations which can help in capacity building.

In our new location, we have been delighted to meet ambitious young women who have pursued their graduation in technical subjects like B.CA. In the coming months we hope to provide them with some hands-on training and internships that will enable them to become website and content developers. These women are starting to manage and expand EWOK's information portal.



Prof. B.Dev, EWOK donor, in conversation with Nirmala from Spoken English course!

We are excited at the progress we have made in reaching out to local women and helping them achieve their goals. We are very grateful for your continued support. It would be our pleasure to welcome you to visit us anytime!