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Sanand in Gujarat to get India’s largest skill institute for informal sector women

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Illustrative image: Women trainees learning practical technical skills in an industrial training workshop.

Ahmedabad: The Self-Employed Women’s Association (Sewa) will break ground on Monday on “Kaushalya”, one of the country’s largest residential institutes set up to prepare young informal sector women as “future workforce” and the demands of Industry 4.0. The campus covers 8.15 acres at Manipur in Sanand. It will train 1,000 women a year in 20 technical laboratories, four digital labs and specialised simulation yards. The institute will focus on the 40% of Sewa members aged 18 to 35 across the country.

Developed with ITEES Singapore, training covers six sectors including electric vehicle maintenance, solar technology, high-tech electronics repair, healthcare, hospitality, and beauty and wellness. The project is backed by the Bagchi Foundation, set up by philanthropists Susmita and Subroto Bagchi.

Subroto co-founded Mindtree and previously chaired the Odisha Skill Development Authority. Susmita Bagchi said her association with Sewa began more than 30 years ago after discovering the organisation through a Chikankari exhibition. In 2023, after meeting Sewa leaders through Ahmedabad University, discussions on women’s skilling gained momentum and evolved into the Sewa-Bagchi Skill Institute initiative.

The foundation chose Sewa for its shared vision, execution capacity, scalability and governance, according to a press release. Susmita is the former chairperson of Odisha’s Mo School Abhiyan and a Social Stock Exchange board member.

Reema Nanavaty of Sewa said training must match economic growth and equip young women in the informal sector with relevant skills so they can find better, decent and dignified work.

Source: The Times of India — Ahmedabad News
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