Walmart Foundation and Swasti Health Resource Center Announce More Than 12,000 Women Trained in ‘Women in Factories’ Program in India
16th Dec 2014
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Print Coverage

Edition: New Delhi

1. The Hindu Business Line: Quality of plastic and metal products better in India

Quality of plastic and metal products better in India

SANGITA HRIDYANGA

The American multinational retail giant Walmart, which sources billions of dollars worth of merchandise from around the world including India and China, is looking to source plastic and metal products from India.

“India has traditionally been strong in plastics, however, India is getting better in plastics than China, both in terms of quality and cost parameters,” said Mr. R Subramaniam, Chief General Manager, Walmart India.

Some of the other categories that Walmart sources from India for its stores across the world are home decor, pet consumables, apparel, stationary, and seasonal merchandise such as Christmas and New Year decorations.

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Nancy Kielty, vice-president, global sourcing, Walmart, said: “We are committed to the communities and people in our supply chain, so it is important to us that this training empowers underserved women around the world to handle their personal and professional lives better. The initiative has been focused on women’s economic empowerment (WEE) initiatives, which aims to train nearly one million women and increase sourcing from women. Walmart Foundation has committed more than $78 million in grants toward programmes to empower women.”
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Nancy Kiety, vice-president, global sourcing, Walmart, said: “We are committed to the communities and people in our supply chain, so it is important to us that this training is helping to empower women around the world.”

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**Important messages in the articles**

- The programme launched by Swasti in association with Walmart Foundation teaches critical life skills related to communication, hygiene, reproductive health, occupational health and safety, identifying personal strengths and gender sensitivity.

- Speaking at the conference, Nancy Kielty, VP Global Sourcing, Walmart, said that Walmart is committed to the communities and people in its supply chain and that it is important for Walmart Foundation that this training helps to empower women around the world.

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12. Spasht Awaz: Thousands of women trained to be self-dependent

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Bengaluru, Dec 18: Walmart Foundation, the CSR arm of world’s largest retailer, on Tuesday announced training of more than 12,000 women in 30 factories across three states—Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Gujarat —while another 12,000 will be trained before 2018. The programme, “Women in Factories”, was launched in the country with Swasti Health Resources Centre in 2012.

Nancy Kiety, vice-president, global sourcing, Walmart, said: “We are committed to the communities and people in the supply chain, so it is important to us that this training is helping to empower women around the world.”

The US-based retail giant offers this programme under its larger Walmart Women’s Economic Empowerment (WEE) initiative, which aims to train nearly one million women and increase sourcing from women. Walmart Foundation has contributed more than $70 million in grants toward programmes to empower women.
Quality of plastic and metal products better in India

Walmart India official says Indian merchandise scores high on cost too

SANGEETA CHING IPA
Bengaluru, December 19

American multinational retail giant Walmart, which sources billions of dollars worth of merchandise from around the world including India and China, is looking to source plastics, iron and steel products from India.

"China has traditionally been strong in plastics; however, India is getting better in plastics than China, both in terms of quality and cost parameters. India is also stronger when it comes to metals such as iron and steel products, which we source from here," Ashwani Sharma, Chief Merchandising Officer, Walmart India, told BusinessLine.

Some of the other categories that Walmart sources from India for its stores around the world are: home decor, pet consumables, apparel, jewellery, stationery and seasonal merchandise such as Christmas and New Year decorations.

**Farmer training**

Walmart India owns and operates 20 Best Price wholesale, cash-and-carry stores in India since it opened the first one in Amritsar in 2006. Sharma said 95 per cent of the merchandise for the Best Price stores across the country are locally sourced and the rest comes from outside India.

"We sell everything from consumer products and electronics to pet supplies and, at any given point in time, the total merchandise value stocked per store is Rs15-20 crore," he said. The retail giant has trained 14,000 vegetable and fruit farmers, who are its suppliers across India, in good agricultural practices. This has helped them increase production as well as transition from growing everyday vegetables such as onion and potato to exotic produce such as zucchini and broccoli, that command better prices.

**Women in Factories**

The company aims to train nearly 1 million women in farms and factories and increase sourcing from women-owned businesses. The Walmart Foundation has partnered with Bengaluru-headquartered Swasti Health Resource Centre to train 12,448 women who work in 30 garment factories in Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Gujarat in life skills. And these are plans to train another 12,500 women by 2018.

Nancy Kiely, VP Global Sourcing, Walmart, who was in Bengaluru for a national conference on Women in Factories, said: "We are committed to the communities and people in our supply chain, so it’s important to us that this training empowers underserved women around the world to handle their personal and professional lives better. "We believe women in factories programme, besides India, we are working with women in Bangladesh, China, El Salvador and Honduras to meet our goal of reaching 50,000 women working in 150 factories."

Walmart plans to source $20 billion worth of merchandise from women-owned businesses in the US and has committed to double its sourcing from 20 women-owned businesses around the world.

In India, Walmart sources from Welspun, a women-owned business.
17. Raj Express : Walmart's Women in factories programme

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Speaking at the conference, Nancy Kielty, VP Global Sourcing, Walmart, said: "We are committed to the communities and people in our supply chain, so it is important to us that this training is helping to empower women around the world. We are thrilled with the progress made by Swasti here in India and reaching a milestone of more than 12,000 women trained."
Pradesh Today: Walmart Foundation to train 12,000 women

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- The announcement was made at the ‘Life Skills Education for Women in Factory’ conference held in Bangalore.
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Bengaluru, December 15

American multinational retail giant, Walmart, which sources billions of dollars worth of merchandise from around the world, including India and China, is looking to source plastics, iron and steel products from India.

"China has traditionally been strong in plastics; howe- ever, India is getting better in plastics than China, both in terms of quality and cost parame- ters. India is also stronger when it comes to metals, such as iron and steel products, which we source from here," Ashwani Sharma, Chief Merchandising Officer, Walmart India, told Business Line.

Some of the other categories that Walmart sources from India for its stores around the world are home decor, pet consumables, apparel, jewellery, stationery and seasonal merchandise, such as Christmas and New Year decorations.

Farmer training
Walmart India owns and operates 26 Best Price wholesale, cash-and-carry stores in India since it opened the first one in Amritsar in 2004. Sharma said 95 per cent of the merchandise for the Best Price stores across the country are locally sourced and the rest comes from outside India.

"We sell everything from consumer products and electronics to perishables and, at any given point in time, the total merchandise value stocked per store is Rs 60-70 crore," he added. The retail giant has trained 14,000 vegetable and fruit farmers, who are its suppliers across India, in good agricultural practices. This has helped them increase production as well as transition from growing everyday vegetables such as onion and potato to exotic produce such as zucchini and broccoli, that command better prices.

Women in Factories
The company aims to train nearly 1 million women in farms and factories and increase sourcing from women-owned businesses. The Walmart Foundation has partnered with Bengaluru-headquartered Swasti Health Resource Centre to train 12,793 women who work in 20 garments factories in Kamarajar, Tamil Nadu, and Gujarat in life skills. And there are plans to train another 30,000 women by 2020. Nancy Kirby, VP global Sourcing, Walmart, who was in Bengaluru for a national conference on Women in Factories, said, "We are committed to the communities and people in our supply chain, and it's important to us that this training empowers underserved women around the world to handle their personal and professional lives better. $6 million has been allocated to our global 'Women in Factories' programme. Besides India, we are working with women in Bangladesh, China, El Salva- dor and Honduras to meet our goal of reaching 60,000 women working in 150 factories."

Walmart plans to source $20 billion worth of merchandise from women-owned businesses in the US and has committed to double its sourcing from 50 women-owned businesses around the world.

In India, Walmart sources from Welspun, a women-owned business.
Walmart’s programme on critical life skills trains 12,000 women in India

The Walmart Foundation and Swasti Health Resource Center (Swasti) on Tuesday announced that over 12,000 women working in 30 factories across three states — Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Gujarat — have been trained as part of a programme it has been conducting along with Swasti from 2012. The training programme in India, launched by Swasti with funding from the Walmart Foundation, reaches critical life skills related to communication, hygiene, reproductive and occupational health and safety, identifying personal strengths and gender sensitivity.

The Women in Factories programme is part of the larger Walmart Women’s Economic Empowerment (WEE) initiative, which aims to train nearly 1 million women, increase sourcing from them, and in doing so, improve their lives. Since its launch, the WEE initiative has helped provide job training, market access and career opportunities to women across the globe.

Walmart and the Walmart Foundation have contributed more than $9 million in grants toward programmes to empower women. Of this, about $5 million has been spent in India, one of the countries included in the global Women in Factories programme.

Nancy Kiely, vice-president, Global Sourcing, Walmart, told reporters “We are committed to the communities and people in our supply chain. So it is important to us that this training is helping to empower women.”

The programme would touch 60,000 women in 150 factories in India, Bangladesh, China, El Salvador and Honduras by the end of 2016. To date, over 40,000 female factory line workers have been trained in the types of skills needed to be successful in the workplace, at home and in their communities.

In addition, a Women in Factories curriculum developed by CARE with funding from the Walmart Foundation, is being made available to any factory or organization interested in providing job readiness and life skills training to its workers. By making this curriculum available at no cost, the training will enable greater impact by reaching more workers throughout the global supply chain.

Chandra Shekhar Gowda, director, Swasti Health Resource Center, said: “We have so far trained 12,448 women. Including men, the number of trained people goes up to 14,488. By 2016, we would have trained 24,500 people.”
Walmart Foundation to impart life skills to 12.5L women

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Wal-mart Foundation will train 12,500 women factory workers in India by 2016.

The Foundation has tied up with Swasti Health Resource Centre (Swasti) and has already trained more than 12,000 women working in 30 factories in Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Gujarat.

The training program launched in India by Swasti with funding from the Walmart Foundation, teaches critical life skills related to communication, hygiene, reproductive health, occupational health and safety, identifying personal strengths and gender sensitivity.

‘Empowering women’

Speaking at “Life Skills Education for Women in Factory” conference here on Tuesday, Nancy Kiely, VP Global Sourcing, Walmart, said: “We are committed to the communities and people in our supply chain. So it is important to us that this training is helping to empower women around the world. We are thrilled with the progress made by Swasti here in India and reaching a milestone of more than 12,000 women trained.”

The Women in Factories program is part of the larger Walmart Women’s Economic Empowerment (WEE) Initiative, which aims to train nearly one million women, increase sourcing from women, and in doing so improve the lives of underserved women.

Walmart and the Walmart Foundation have contributed more than $79 million in grants toward programs to empower women.
27. The Hindu: Life-skills trainings to women in 30 factories

Life-skills training to women in 30 factories

Staff Reporter

BENGALURU: Wal-mart Foundation, the philanthropy arm of retail major Wal-mart, and Swasti have trained 12,488 women in 30 factories across Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Gujarat as part of the “Women in Factories” programme. The programme that was launched by Swasti in 2012 with funding from Walmart Foundation, teaches critical life-skills related to communication, hygiene, reproductive health, occupational health and safety, and gender sensitivity.

Commenting on the programme, Nancy Kiely, vice-president global sourcing, Walmart, said: “We are committed to the communities and people in our supply chain, so it is important for us that this training is helping to empower women around the world.”

As part of the initiative, Swasti will train another 12,500 people by the end of 2016. The NGO has so far trained 8,000 women from 15 factories in Bengaluru. Wal-mart Foundation launched the programme in 2011 to train 60,000 women working in 150 factories in India, Bangladesh, China, El Salvador, and Honduras by the end of 2016.
Programme to Train, Help Create Community Leaders

Express News Service

Bengaluru: The past few months have been a life-changing experience for Nethra from Baghur.

An employee of a garment factory, Nethra has moved from being a simple employee to a community leader and even takes classes on safety for children in her local school.

She is one amongst 10,448 women across the states of Gujarat, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu who are being given life skills training by Swasti Health Resource Centre, which is being funded by Walmart Foundation. Globally, the Foundation aims to impart skills to 60,000 women across 350 factories as part of its ‘Women in Factories’ programme.

There are two levels of modules in the course. The first module is a 15-hour foundation course while the advanced module is between 80-106 hours in duration. This module includes effective communication, health and hygiene as well as safety. We have implemented the programme across 30 factories in Phase I and trained 12,448 women and 14,481 people including men till date,” said Christel Stokar Cordeiro, director, Swasti, at a conference held in the city on Tuesday.

Walmart Foundation and Swasti now aim to impart training to 12,500 more women by 2018. “We also have the trainer programme where we work with leaders in each factory so that they can carry out training for other staff members. Our aim is to become independent from any factories we work with, within 38 months,” she added.

Nancy Kiely, vice-president, Global Sourcing, Walmart, said: “We will be making the curriculum for these courses available to all companies free of cost so that they can carry out these programmes too. Globally, the foundation has allotted 70 million dollars to the ‘Women in Factories’ programme, which is being held across India, Bangladesh, Costa, Honduras and El Salvador,” she said.
29. Dinamani: Event Private company should come forward to Lift women skill development

Important messages in the articles

- Speaking at the conference, Nancy Kielty, VP Global Sourcing, Walmart, said: “We are committed to the communities and people in our supply chain, so it is important to us that this training is helping to empower women around the world. We are thrilled with the progress made by Swasti here in India and reaching a milestone of more than 12,000 women trained.”

- The training program in India, which was launched by Swasti with funding from the Walmart Foundation, teaches critical life skills related to communication, hygiene, reproductive health, occupational health and safety, identifying personal strengths and gender sensitivity.
30. Eenadu: Skill training program for women

Important messages in the articles

- The Walmart Foundation and Swasti Health Resource Center (Swasti) announced more than 12,000 women in 30 factories in three states - Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Gujarat - have been trained since the program launched with Swasti in 2012.

- The training program in India, which was launched by Swasti with funding from the Walmart Foundation, teaches critical life skills related to communication, hygiene, reproductive health, occupational health and safety, identifying personal strengths and gender sensitivity.
Important messages in the articles

- The Walmart Foundation and Swasti Health Resource Center (Swasti) announced more than 12,000 women in 30 factories in three states - Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Gujarat - have been trained since the program launched with Swasti in 2012.

- India is just one of the countries included in the global Women in Factories program, which is on track to meet its goal of reaching 60,000 women working in 150 factories in India, Bangladesh, China, El Salvador and Honduras by the end of 2016.
Important messages in the articles

- Mr. Chandra Shekhar Gowda, Director Swasti Health Resource Center, said: “The Walmart Foundation’s commitment to economic empowerment of women through a partnership approach is impressive and we appreciate the partnership and support provided to Swasti by Walmart Foundation to successfully implement this training in India.

- The announcement was made at the ‘Life Skills Education for Women in Factory’ conference held at NIMHANS Convention Center in Bangalore.

- The Walmart Foundation and Swasti Health Resource Center (Swasti) announced more than 12,000 women in 30 factories in three states - Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Gujarat - have been trained since the program launched with Swasti in 2012.

- The training program in India, which was launched by Swasti with funding from the Walmart Foundation, teaches critical life skills related to communication, hygiene, reproductive health, occupational health and safety, identifying personal strengths and gender sensitivity.
Walmart and the Walmart Foundation are committed to helping people live better through philanthropic efforts that draw on the strengths of Walmart in the arenas of sustainability, economic opportunity, and community.

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The training program in India, which was launched by Swasti with funding from the Walmart Foundation, teaches critical life skills related to communication, hygiene, reproductive health, occupational health and safety, identifying personal strengths and gender sensitivity.
34. Samyuktha Karanataka: Women’s Economic Empowerment initiative

Important messages in the articles

- Speaking at the conference, Nancy Kielty, VP Global Sourcing, Walmart, said: “We are committed to the communities and people in our supply chain, so it is important to us that this training is helping to empower women around the world. We are thrilled with the progress made by Swasti here in India and reaching a milestone of more than 12,000 women trained.”

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Online Coverage

1. The Economic Times


2. Business Standard


3. The Hindu Business Line


4. The Financial Express

http://www.financialexpress.com/article/industry/companies/walmart-foundation-to-train-12000-women-in-30-units-across-3-states/19991/

5. Deccan Herald

http://www.deccanherald.com/content/448104/walmart-foundation-impart-life-skills.html

6. Free Press Journal

http://freepressjournal.in/walmart-foundation-trains-12000-women-in-india/

7. knoxvilletimes.com

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