

# Advantages of Cooperatives



The cooperative helps the organization of unions in:

- ◆ Higher wage Campaigns.
- ◆ Model for others to emulate.
- ◆ 40% of India's exports were contributed by the Informal Sector in 95-96 & 96-97

# Information & Cooperatives

The co-operative can help the trade union to consolidate by giving work to victimised until they can be restored to their rightful place.





# Alternative Employment

Cooperatives are also a vital means of creating alternative employment opportunities



Cooperatives increase the bargaining power of the workers.

# Knowledge is Power

**Cooperative goes deep into the trade of any industry and therefore has a thorough knowledge of how the economic system works**



**Knowledge is invaluable to the trade union in formulating its strategy**

# People Power



**Cooperatives can provide an alternative structure, which can solve deadlocks in negotiations. One of the main functions of the trade union is to bargain for a better deal for its members. Often resulting in deadlocks. The cooperatives can then provide a via media or an alternative solution which is acceptable to both sides.**



# Partnership for Progress

**When the cooperative become a part of the trade union it changes the image of the union and helps it to make alliances and sometimes even to win over ‘enemies’**



# SEWA's Vision

**The combination of trade union and cooperative power makes it possible not only to defend members but to present an ideological alternative.**

- ◆ **Poor women's cooperatives are a new phenomenon. SEWA has a vision of the cooperative as a form which will bring about more equal relationships and lead to a new type of society.**
- ◆ **The trade union helps to articulate and reinforce the cooperatives' identity.**

# The Secret of Success

**Cooperative's success depends on establishing integration among its members.**

- ◆ **Cooperatives which are formed after trade union mobilisation are much quicker to acquire this cohesion as the workers already have a feeling of unity based on common struggle.**
- ◆ **Interaction between a trade union and cooperatives can be a continuing process of mutual support.**
  - ◆ **During the course of trade union organisation, issues emerge which are taken up by the cooperatives.**
  - ◆ **During the establishing of cooperatives, issues emerge that are taken up by union.**



# Union + Cooperatives = Empowerment

The trade union keeps it radical and the cooperative conservative.



- ◆ Challenges:
- ◆ Growth.
  - ◆ Structural
  - ◆ Leadership.
  - ◆ Initiating new areas of work.