Developing Training Modules for Stuffed Toy Making

Client: SEWA Trade Facilitation Centre
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Background
This project was initiated by SEWA Trade Facilitation Centre (STFC) and funded by the Gates Foundation. The purpose of the project was to cultivate skills of female prisoners in stuffed toy making and make them capable to earn their own livelihood. This was undertaken as a voluntary project.

Objective
The aim of this project was to create soft toys and teaching modules for the female prisoners of Sabarmati and Baroda Jail (Gujarat, India). Since training had to be conducted for people with no experience and skills, the entire process of production had to be simplified.
Several prototypes were developed to evaluate the cost, material requirement and difficulty level. Once the toy forms were finalised, a training kit was assembled for each variation. It included paper templates, cloth, and other tools and material required for making the stuffed toy.
Training

The inmates were taught with the help of paper templates provided. Once they were comfortable with the process, they developed multiple pieces for each form.

Eventually, the toys were retailed at the STFC store “Hansiba”. It was ensured that the inmates receive part of the sum collected through sale.

Learning

This project allowed me to understand the importance of visualisation and iterative prototyping to develop products. It was also a great teaching experience.