



Neelam CHHIBER, Co-Founder, Managing Trustee

Social Entrepreneur of the Year, India 2011, Schwab Foundation
WomenChangeMakers, The Womanity Foundation, 2013

Industree Foundation

In India, 400 million people live in poverty¹ and 75% of women work in the lowest paid agricultural sector².

Only 55.6% of the Indian population participates in the formal labor market, of which only 18% receive paid wages or are salaried³. Women remain a minority in this tiny cosmos of secured income.

Industree Foundation groups together women micro-entrepreneurs in companies owned solely by them, and lead them to a long-term sustainable income growth. The ownership ecosystem empowers women to become responsible for their future, working hand in hand with conscious consumers.

Since 2000, Industree Foundation has impacted 30,000 women artisans, and promoted 3 producer companies that export goods to IKEA through their Next Generation sustainability project.

Mission

By 2020 Industree aims to create employment for 30,000 rural women and youth. This will indirectly impact the incomes for an additional 300,000 women in compliant value chains in fashion and lifestyle products.

Bio

Neelam CHHIBER is an industrial designer, a graduate of The National Institute of Design (NID). She is the Co-Founder of **mother earth™** and Industree Foundation, hybrid impact models that build an ecosystem for women and youth micro-entrepreneurs. This allows financial inclusion, training, design, enterprise incubation, and access to capital and markets. She has 30 years experience in providing design solutions for crafts in wood, metal, natural fibers, ceramics, and textiles.

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¹World Bank 2014

²Government of India (GOI) 2014

³World Bank 2010