

Towards a Just, Dignified and Secure
FUTURE OF WORK



Lessons from India



SEWA

Self Employed Women's Association

In order to understand and effectively respond to the challenges emerging from the transformations in the world of work, the ILO formed the Global Commission on the Future of Work in August 2017. To highlight the concerns of the informal sector in India and the Global South, SEWA was nominated as a commissioner on ILO's Global Commission. SEWA commissioned a series of in-depth original studies on specific topics of interest relevant to the Global South by subject-experts to inform the deliberations of the Commission. The present volume is a compilation of these studies. The volume also brings together short reflections from the Global Commissioners who have served on the Global Commission on the Future of Work.

"The future of work is not something that is predetermined; it is up to us to forge it. To do this, we need a sound understanding of the way the world of work is developing, with a strong focus on vulnerable workers. This book provides a valuable tool to help us understand the challenges informal workers face, and how to address them. I sincerely thank SEWA for publishing it."

— Guy Ryder, Director General, International Labor Organization

"Produced by India's globally respected and inspiring Self-Employed Women's Association (SEWA), this book is a sobering and provocative description of the profound challenges confronting millions of vulnerable workers not just in India, but globally."

— Matamela Cyril Ramaphosa, President, South Africa

"This book is for all those who have interest in work and workers. Also, those who are in favor of prosperity and sustained livelihoods of women, poor, and informal sector workers. This book is for policy makers, academics, and activists, not as a final word, but as a forward, a beginning of a conversation or a campaign for prosperous world and green planet for all."

— Reema Nanavaty, Director, Self Employed Women's Association (SEWA)

The key themes that the authors were asked to reflect upon were informality, climate change, technological change, globalization, changing markets, and the changing role of the state. While some of the essays analyze and come to grips with the changing nature of work, others present experiments and models as solutions. The book is thus an attempt to bring to the fore challenges faced by the poor and informal workers of the Global South, whose voices are less heard in the highest echelons of global policy making. It is in no way exhaustive, but it is our belief that the wide array of studies in the pages to follow will spark national and international conversations on the subject and inspire solutions to achieve an inclusive and decent world of work.

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