



**Maximizing Employment to
Serve the Handicapped**

“Before you finish eating your breakfast this morning you've depended on half the world. This is the way our universe is structured? We aren't going to have peace on earth until we recognize this basic fact.”

- Martin Luther King Jr.

MESH'S FAIR TRADE FACT SHEET

Creating Opportunities for Economically Marginalized Producers:

A key part of fair trade's goal of poverty reduction is to provide opportunities for those people living in poverty to learn skills, build businesses and access markets, thereby providing work and incomes. This income provides security and development for the local community.

Achieving this principle involves working collaboratively with marginalized producers to develop opportunities which enable them to move out of poverty permanently.

One of our producer groups Blue Mango Trust is a social enterprise for women in Tamil Nadu. Blue Mango's objective is to run a sustainable business by and for marginalized women who are disabled, deserted, widowed or living with AIDS. With a supportive infrastructure which enables women to gain financial stability and self-reliance it is hoped that because of Blue Mango, those who are stigmatized will find greater respect and support from their larger communities.

Marginalized producers maybe a family business, a group who share particular experiences of disadvantage, an artisan's collective or a farmer's cooperative. These Fair Trade ventures have the key aims of creating economic self-sufficiency, security and ownership for those involved. To achieve these aims, it is necessary for a Fair Trade venture to have a reasonable plan of action.



Based on principle one the producer groups are monitored on the basis of following points:

Compliance Criteria	Indicators that you are following :
The organization has a mission/objective or policy documents expressing its organizational commitment to improve social and economic conditions of marginalized producers and suppliers.	The producer group should have mission statement expressing that they work for the upliftment of the marginalized. For example: To provide opportunities for <u>disabled people</u> and <u>people affected by leprosy</u> to <u>achieve social and economic integration by trading</u> .
Producer Group primarily works and trades with artisans and suppliers from socially and economically disadvantaged groups, or otherwise demonstrates positive impact on marginalized groups as a central part of its business.	For example: If the producer group has by-law or policy that they should engage 50 % or more members who are differently abled in the organization.
The organization demonstrates commitment through its actions and trading activities to improve the economic and social conditions of disadvantaged producer groups, producers and fair trade suppliers.	For example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Through reports and documentation the impact of work being carried out by the producer group can be shown. • Documents such as sales report, benefits and facilities provided to the artisans which has impacted their lives.
Fair Trade groups maintain an up-to-date register with basic information about its artisans and fair trade suppliers. The information shall include type of artisans profile, location, contact person, and their socio-economic conditions.	For example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creating Artisans Profile Sheet – Age, Family, address details • By having Suppliers List and purchase bill records

Reference:

- <http://www.fairtradeprinciples.org/create-opportunities-for-marginalized-producers/>
<http://www.fta.org.au/fair-trade-movement/principle-one-opportunities-for-economically-marginalised-producers>

Best Wishes
MESH