

## **Freeset Employment Description:**



### **Product Development Officer**

#### **About Freeset:**

Freeset (Triplene Software Pvt Ltd) exists to provide dignified employment in a healing work community, for women wanting to break free from the sex trade. Freeset recognizes that many women working in the sex trade did not choose such a life but are victims of trafficking or poverty. Hence Freeset begins with the paradigm of 'choice' – offering an alternative form of employment where these women can experience dignity and begin a journey towards healing and wholeness.

Although Freeset is a business, all profits are retained and used exclusively for the benefit of the women (health care, childcare, debt intervention, vocational training etc) and to grow the business so more women in the future will have the opportunity to choose freedom.

Over the past 7 years Freeset has established a model which offers a sustainable and integrated response to the economic and social needs of women seeking to break free from the sex trade. Freeset responds to the economic needs of these women by offering long term employment (including vocational training) as well as initial debt and housing intervention. Secondly, Freeset is strongly committed to community. At Freeset, a woman experiences acceptance as well as respect and participation in a caring community which walks with her in a shared journey of healing and hope.

Today about 150 women employed at Freeset manufacture quality jute bags and organic cotton tee-shirts for the export conference and business to business markets, but Freeset's core business is freedom! Freeset is located on the edge of Sonagacchi (Kolkata), one of the largest 'Red Light' districts in India. A central part of Freeset's strategy is to locate itself within the community in which it seeks to have a transformational impact. For more information see our website: [www.freesetglobal.com](http://www.freesetglobal.com)

#### **About the Position:**

Freeset is seeking to fill the full time position of Product Development Manager. This requires someone with Product development / fashion accessory design experience and understanding to lead this function at Freeset. Formal Product development / product design training (undergraduate study) in the garment / accessory fashion industry is desirable. In addition we would view someone with fashion product retail experience positively.

Product development will involve consultation with customers as well as Senior Freeset Management and will the person who fills this role will report to the manager of Marketing and Sales. The person sought, will need to have:

- a. An appreciation of western design aesthetics and retail concepts.
- b. Initiative to get out into the marketplace and source local suppliers of product inputs
- c. Capacity to manage multiple projects and meet deadlines.
- d. Fluency in English

Critical to this position is someone who understands and embraces the values and vision of Freeset. This position will suit someone who is seeking the opportunity to serve others rather than simply progress their own career ambitions. This position will suit someone who has modest salary expectations, an appetite for hard work and a passion for excellence. Freeset is particularly keen to employ women in positions of leadership.

## **PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT JOB DESCRIPTION:**

### **CUSTOMER DRIVEN DESIGN PROJECTS:**

- Work with customers in design of new product concepts
- Assess Freeset capacity (skills, time, infrastructure) to take on new product lines / designs
- Develop prototypes of new concepts
- Assist production when translating prototype into production.

### **FREESSET DRIVEN DESIGN PROJECTS:**

- Develop concepts from Freeset based ideas
- Develop own concepts for consideration by senior mgt team
- Carry out approved concepts as per customer driven design projects.
- Assess customer feedback on Freeset driven design projects

### **RETAIL AND COMPETITOR SCANNING**

- Regularly scan competitors and retailers for relevant product development insights (ie fashion trends etc).
- Develop systems for recording research so that it is readily accessible and comprehensible to senior management.
- Analyse research of competitors / retailers and develop recommendations for senior management regarding appropriate response.

### **SUPPLIER INVESTIGATION AND TESTING**

- Regularly spend time exploring potential suppliers, exploring new product inputs ie fabric, treatments, paints, technology, accessories (ie buttons, straps closures etc).
- Develop systems for recording information, so that it is accessible to other staff and senior management.