EMPOWERING WOMEN THROUGH STEM OUTREACH
The UW-Madison SWE section organized a two week trip to Jodhpur, India to promote women's empowerment through STEM education.

The following 10 steps serve as a guide to implement a successful international outreach program!
BEFORE TRIP
STEP 1: Organize

Organize your outreach committee at least 4 months in advance. Partner with an international volunteer organization and choose the program and location that fits your goals.
STEP 2: Advertise

Create flyers and send out information about the program to encourage members to become involved.
STEP 3: Fundraise

Fundraise through various outlets to help reduce trip and materials costs.

Examples:
- GoFundMe
- Sticker Sales
- Concession Stands - portion of profit donated to group
- Trivia Night
- Corporate Sponsors
STEP 4: Collaborate

Work with your chosen volunteer organization and program coordinators to develop your own STEM workshops to bring to the students.

Design hands-on activities: tower building competitions, paper airplanes/rockets to learn about aerodynamics, games to learn about the human body, lemon circuits, etc.

Be flexible and be able to alter your activities to the learning level of the students if they are more or less advanced than anticipated.
STEP 5: Select Volunteers

If there are more members than volunteer spots, create an application and ask your SWE professional and faculty advisors to complete the selection process.
STEP 6: Research

Learn more about the country, culture, and people you will be interacting with. Reach out to professors, advisors, or family and friends to learn about their firsthand experiences.
DURING TRIP
STEP 7: Engage

Volunteer with the students and learn about their different levels of knowledge in science, english, and math before you implement your workshops. Alter your activities accordingly.
STEP 8: Workshops

Implement the activities you have been working on! Explain the engineering design process and make sure that everyone is able to be actively involved.

A successful event involves students communicating and working together toward a common goal. This is similar to tasks engineers must do everyday.
STEP 9: Discussion (Optional)

Hold a women’s empowerment discussion to learn more about what empowerment means to women of different ages and backgrounds.

"Women empowerment means that a woman can decide what she wants to do in her life, and set her own rules. She can do anything for herself. To feel empowered, girls in India can go to school and study, and it is their decision to do everything they want to feel freedom."

~ Aasu
AFTER TRIP
STEP 10: Reflect

Make sure you get feedback from volunteers, students, and the partnered organization. Meet with your committee and discuss all the lessons learned. Send thank you letters to everyone who donated to help make your trip possible.
Final Tip:

Remember that you are not only traveling abroad to promote STEM education, but you are also there to learn about other cultures and broaden your global perspective. Keep an open mind and have FUN!