

Special events and achievements

Within the SEWA family, there were several noteworthy events and achievements in 2005. Both individual members and colleagues were recognized and obtained awards for their contributions to the workers' movement, and also SEWA and its sister organizations' contributions were recognized. While recognition is only given to a few, we gratefully and humbly acknowledge the continuing support and contributions of thousands of women workers, their families, our well-wishers and friends. It truly has been and is a team effort to further the SEWA movement.

Some of the milestones and achievements of 2005 are listed below.

1. SEWA obtains official recognition as a national union.
2. After years of struggle, construction workers are protected under a special law. They also obtain identity cards.
3. Street vendors of India get a national policy to protect and promote their livelihood after years of struggle.
4. Unnat Bazaar or SEWA Trade Facilitation Centre (STFC) opens its first shop in Delhi near the major shopping area of Connaught Place to market our members crafts.
5. Unnat Bazaar starts its own brand "Hansiba" to market its products.
6. SEWA Academy starts SEWA Radio "Rudi no Radio".
7. SEWA Bank starts financial literacy courses in the Indian School of Microfinance.
8. Lok Swasthya SEWA health cooperative's traditional midwives or dais get official recognition from the state for themselves and all dais of Gujarat.
9. Sangini Childcare workers cooperative and Lok Swasthya health cooperative get awards for excellence in the cooperative sector.
10. Homenet South Asia organized the first ever crafts bazaar of home workers' products in Lahore, Pakistan. SEWA is a founder of this organization.
11. Our rural members, Revaben and Dhuliben get awards for their contribution towards improving the lives of rural workers from the Women' World Summit
12. Elaben, our Founder, was awarded the Lal Bahadur Shastri National Leadership award and also one for contribution to the Cooperative Sector.
13. 45 rural workers, our members, were given awards for their contribution to IT by the President of India.
14. The Queen of Bhutan visited SEWA and Lok Swasthya SEWA cooperative's HIV/AIDS-related work in the Chamanpura area of the city.
15. The Chairman and members of the National Commission for Enterprises in the Unorganised Sector visited SEWA for two days, met with the Executive Committee of SEWA and visited members in Ahmedabad city and Kheda district to understand their struggles and needs.

The Chairman and twelve other Commissioners from the WHO's Commission of the Social Determinants of Health (CSDH) held their meeting at SEWA and met with members and visited areas and villages to understand our integrated and organizing approach towards improving workers' health and their lives.