

SELF EMPLOYED WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION (SEWA)

ANNUAL REPORT 2022

PUBLISHED BY:



SELF EMPLOYED WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION (SEWA)
SEWA RECEPTION CENTRE, OPP. LOKMANYA TILAK BAUGH,
BHADRA, AHMEDABAD – 380001
PHONE: 079 25506446. 25506477. 25511430,32,33
EMAIL: mail@sewa.org; sewaacdy@bsnl.in
WEBSITE: www.sewa.org

IN THE WORDS OF OUR FOUNDER SHRI ELABEN BHATT

“Poverty is a form of violence perpetuated with the consent of a society.”

“Women will bring constructive, creative, and sustainable solutions to the world.”

“My vision is of a society where six of our primary needs — our daily staple food, shelter, clothing, primary education, health services, and banking services can be found within a hundred-mile radius”

“Work builds peace, because work gives people roots, work builds communities, and work gives meaning and dignity to one’s life.”

“Change, to be real, has to come from the people; it cannot be trickled down, it cannot be imported, and it cannot be imposed.”

“Technology in the economy of nurturance will be more decentralized, and the user will be the manager, the owner, and the producer.”



SEWA was founded in the year 1972 by our founder Shri Ela ben Bhatt with 80 women workers who were working as head loaders, vendors, home based workers, producers, service providers in the city of Ahmedabad. The year 2022 is particularly important for us as SEWA has entered its 51st year. This testifies that organising is the key which facilitates the growth of poor informal sector workers. Being organised gives them the strength to face many challenges that come across and successfully overcome those challenges. The membership for the year 2022 is 25,32,846. Which shows an increase of 18% from 2021. This proves that the women have increased confidence in the strength of organising. Vadlo online is a mobile app which gives real-time information of SEWA members.

Self Employed Women's Association 'SEWA' is recognised across India as one of the largest independent women's workers' organization and also as a green union. Today, SEWA is spread across, villages, to national and international level. SEWA works in 18 states of India. SEWA also organises women workers from the neighbouring countries of Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Afghanistan and Durban in South Africa.

SEWA is a movement which works across countries. SEWA is a constructive movement of the women, for the women and by the women.

The year 2022 had mixed feelings for all at SEWA. When I met ben for the planning of SEWA's 50 years' celebration, she would tell me- 50 years have gone! Now we need to think for the next 50. We should have a clean sky for all. On 12th April, 2022, Elaben celebrated SEWA's 50 years with the core team, the leaders of SEWA who were there with her from the beginning and leaders from 18 states of India. We did not know that this would be her last celebration with us!

On 2nd November, I was in a meeting with our members in Kashmir and I received a phone call. The news that I heard was very sad and shocking. We lost ben who had contributed immensely in my journey from a worker to the General Secretary of SEWA. Then we thought that "Darek ben, Elaben" (every member is Elaben) we will become like her and work together for the next 50 years of SEWA! – Hum Sab Ek Hai

With this feeling in mind, I present the Annual Report of SEWA for the year 2022.

Thank you,
Jyoti Macwan
General Secretary
SEWA



Table of Contents

SEWA	5
Celebration of SEWA’s 50 Years	5
SEWA’s Integrated Approach	10
The SEWA Movement	12
SEWA’s Membership for the Year 2022	12
Goal, Objective and Strategy	16
Union and Cooperatives	17
Campaign Approach	20
SEWA - THE ONLY NATIONAL UNION OF POOR INFORMAL SECTOR WOMEN WORKERS IN INDIA .	20
Urban Organising	21
SEWA’S RURAL ORGANISING	41
SEWA in West Bengal – Membership – 33000	65
SEWA in Uttarakhand - Membership 23,890	66
SEWA in Nagaland: Membership – 3040	67
SEWA in Orissa – Membership – 9931	67
SEWA in Jharkhand : Membership – 7926	68
SEWA in Punjab – Membership – 11,434	69
SEWA in Delhi: Membership 98,700	70
SEWA in Bihar – Membership – 88,700	73
SEWA in Rajasthan: Membership – 1,18,000	73
SEWA in Maharashtra: Membership – 72950 (Direct Member) + 1452 (Associate Member)	74
SEWA in Kerala: Membership – 30,000	77
SEWA in Madhya Pradesh – Membership – 6,38,406	84
SEWA in Uttar Pradesh: Membership – 2,50,100	86
SEWA in Leh- Ladakh : Membership- 2109	89
Services of SEWA	89
Shree Swashrayi Mahila SEWA Sahakari Bank (SEWA Bank):	89
Shree Gujarat Rajya Mahila SEWA Sahakari Sangh Ltd.	90
SEWA Academy: (Unique University of Poor informal sector Workers)	93
Social Security:	95
SEWA Bharat Association	103
SEWA in South Asia	106
Other Major Events	109
SEWA Leadership	109



SEWA

On 12th April 1972, SEWA was registered as a trade union of poor informal sector women workers from Gujarat and therefore SEWA is headquartered in Gujarat. On 12th April, 2022 to commemorate the completion of 50 years of SEWA, we all met at the Sardar Smruti Kendra in Ahmedabad. This was a historic celebration. Glimpses of Shri Elaben's address to the sisters of SEWA....

Celebration of SEWA's 50 Years

Shri Elaben gave us a major point to think of on how do we create clean skies for our members. SEWA members came up with many different points like having clean soil, technology, environment and clean water on which we need to work for the next 50 years. They also felt that going by our Gandhian values and ideologies, we should live a simple life and eat simple food which is locally produced.

The common point that came from everyone unanimously was about our values. When we talk about values Truthfulness, non-violence, equality of all religion and simplicity are the most important values for all of us. This is our wealth! The wealth that we have built over 50 years of organising. Whatever we do, we need to abide by our values.

When we talk about the next 50 years, our vision on attaining economic freedom is well documented in all the local languages of our members. We understand that to achieve the second freedom, full employment is the key. When we speak about full employment, it should be such that we get regular and sustainable livelihoods and we can build meaningful capital. We need to be careful that this livelihood is such that it does not cause any damage to anyone.

Elaben says. "How was SEWA established? SEWA means all of you! You are all with me and my colleagues. Renanaben is one of them. There were many other companions before her also. One of them was Shantaben Supa, I can never forget her. She had come from Rajasthan and used to work and sleep on the footpath in Kalupur. She worked as a cart puller. She was like a fire cracker. She used to quarrel a lot. She did not know the local language, yet she would quarrel. She would also cry sometimes. There was one contractor there and they used to tell him watchman – "Chowkidar". They had to pay a part of their wages to him and also had to give him rent to sleep on the footpath. One day when I was working with the Textile Labour Association (TLA), she came to me along with her chowkidar. He spoke to the staff at TLA and managed to convince them. The staff thus did not pay heed to Shantaben's complaints. I still remember the work that we did since then. If it wasn't for her, we would not have born, neither would I have been here.

How was SEWA born? This is a very difficult question. I will try to answer it. I think there are three phases in my life. When the freedom struggle was going on, we used to call it 'Swaraj' then. 'Swaraj' means freedom. Gandhi fought for Swaraj. We were young then studying in school. At that time, the environment of the school was also the same as the struggle of Swaraj- you have to do this, not to do that, to be disciplined. We were told that we are in this fight, this fight is our motto. We are both students and soldiers. Our country became independent when I was in my second year of college. When I was in law college, the draft of



the constitution of our country came to our law college for the students to read. Our professor then said that if anyone wants to edit or add anything to this, do it. We did not understand anything then! But we were immensely proud! The Constitution of the whole country has come to us for suggestions. That sense of pride was quite different.

When we got independence, we were very enthusiastic that now we have got independence. We were very young then and our goal was to bring change in different ways. (yes sisters, our path is full swaraj and will always remain so. Let us understand exactly what swaraj is.)

Now we are at such a stage that will we be able to complete our vision for complete swaraj? Gandhiji had said that until every Indian is able to enjoy freedom, the Swaraj or Independence is incomplete. We too will go ahead and get full swaraj. Today I am 90 years old, I am very happy with the development that I have been seeing in 'SEWA'. There were many people whose insight, spirit to advance further and encouragement has helped us.

At times I feel that we prepare a complete plate of food and then destroy it by giving it to other countries. Does this mean that we have achieved swaraj or lost it? But yes, all of us have seen that our members are strongly working towards swaraj. These poor women workers are all very strong and together they can think big. If there is any challenge or any new activity that needs to be done, then these women are always ready for it. If someone teaches them something, they can teach it to others in a much better way, without any discrimination of caste or creed. Our sisters know how to get livelihoods and how our livelihoods get snatched? How can we use our skills to strengthen our livelihoods? How do you save from your little earnings and build your capital? When they come together, these women workers from the same trade come together to start and build their own company or cooperative. I have seen and experienced this all my life.

We started SEWA as a trade union in 1972 and a co-operative bank in 1974 - two years later! Today, I can't even think that anyone can make a bank like a cooperative bank in two years? I thank all the sisters of SEWA who made it possible for me. At that time also, we did the meeting here at Naranghat. At that time, in the Raikhad Bazaar, there was one Chanda ben Papu who stitched and repaired the old clothes and made them wearable. There were many such markets in Ahmedabad back then and many women were doing this work. We had a big meeting then at Naranghat by the river. There was no stage there. Just that there was a slope and the women would stand on the slope and pour out their hearts.

Most of the sisters complained about the local money lenders. Chandaben spoke about it painfully addressing the other sisters. At that time, Indira Gandhi, who was the Prime Minister, nationalized the banks and said to the banks, "Remove poverty, and give loans to the poor." So many of our sisters went to the banks to borrow loans. But all those sisters had many bad experiences and disrespect. The banks did not like such poor women walking directly into the banks and asking for loans. So they would not treat them well and drive them out. They had to face many such insults. However, the biggest problem that these women had was that every woman was indebted! And for this debt they had to pay interest at 10% per day! Eg. The vegetable vendor members would borrow money from the money lenders living in the neighbourhood. They would borrow Rs. 50 from him in the morning. They would then go to the main vegetable market and buy vegetables. They would then sell these



vegetables at the Manekchowk market. After selling their produce, when they come back, they would have to give the Rs 50 + 10% interest i.e. Rs 55 to the money lender. What would she have in her hands after all the hard work that she did?

This was the main point of discussion at our Naranghat meeting. That is when Chandaben told me in the meeting itself, “Ben, let us make our own Bank”. I said where do we get so much capital from? We are all poor. We need so much money to make a Bank. And Chandaben said, “So what if we are poor, but we are so many”. Over the next 9-10 months, these poor women collected the necessary share capital and we were all ready to make the SEWA cooperative Bank. This was in 1973. And the SEWA Bank got registered in 1974.

We collected the required share capital. But that was not enough. Before becoming shareholders, we need to be registered in the bank and form a founder Board of 11 members. I was the Director. I could sign, but the other 10 members did not know how to sign. They were all illiterate. When we went to the registrar, he said No. we came back and I took a slate and pen and wrote the name and the trade of the woman. I made them wear this around their neck, clicked their pictures and then went to the registrar. The registrar could not say no then. During those days, Shri Indira Gandhi was keen on doing new things and thus our Bank got registered and this is our SEWA Bank.

We had to face a lot of challenges over the years. But we would fight for our rights and we were happy about it. Like the vegetable vendors there were many other sisters who were into different small business, labourers and many other trades. They were the supporters of SEWA and this is SEWA. Joy, Satisfaction and self-respect.

If I talk about another incident, when I completed my law and started working in Textile Labour Association, around 60 textile mills were operational in Ahmedabad city. 3 lakh laborers were working in these mills. There were many issues between the mill-owners and the workers which led to legislation for which the TLA fought. TLA was founded by Gandhiji and Ansuyaben Sarabhai. I will give one example. 2 textile mills from the Shahpur area closed down. The workers from these mills would come to the TLA and sit outside on the ground. The workers took out rallies, shouted slogans and also fought cases in the court. All this went on for quite some time. I asked my supervisor that these workers sit here all the time. How would they be managing their household and the daily expenses? He said you go and find out. I went to that area and saw that all these households were run by the women and their small businesses like rag picking. Whatever waste was generated from the mills these women would buy it, separate the small and big rags, take the good pieces, wash and clean them. They would wash and clean the small rags and make blankets, covers from it and sell it for a living. This was time consuming and labourious work and the women would not get as much money from it. In spite of this, they would happily do this work for a livelihood. When we organised these women workers, Renanben had newly joined SEWA and did a survey of these women workers and we continued to organise them.

At that time the burkha clad women in Dariapur area of Ahmedabad city would move around in pedal rickshaw and shout slogans – “Increase our wages”. At that time, I wondered how did these women get so much courage? I was not able to give them this courage. Yes, but if they are all together, they would get the courage. Because, they knew that they were doing



nothing wrong. They had understood that the wages that they get for their work were less and it was their right to get a hike. They would make mattress covers from the small rags that they would get and would get Rs. 7 for a dozen covers that they would make. Therefore, the women got together and demanded an increase in their wages and the owners had no other choice but to increase their wages. The next day they increased the wages by Rs. 1.5 per dozen. But the owners did not pay him this price!

This was also an experience for us about the challenges we faced in the initial days. In spite of doing all this, we still do not get what is rightfully ours so we had to continue increasing our organised strength. Then we all went to the labour commissioner's office to file a case. But there was no law for this during those days therefore how can we file a case? They had no social security and they could not claim it as rightfully theirs! When the census was being done, the heads were counted but they were not counted as workers. I had learnt at that time that out of 90% of the unorganised work force, 50% of the workers were women and they were not counted as workers. How can this be? There has to be same policies and regulation for them, they should have some security. The policy makers do not know what is poverty? How do the poor survive on daily basis? If something is seen or written about them then they will come to know about it. There are so many trades and so many such workers who are invisible. If the women take out rallies and shout slogans and protest against it? It is like banging your head against the wall.

Refreshing the memories of SEWA Bank, I was sitting there and saw that loans were given to many women. Most of the women had repaid the loans on time and about 50 women had not repaid the instalments. I got to know from the loan committee that when the women had borrowed the loans, they were fit and fine. So what happened that they did not repay the loan? When we checked about it, we got to know that 22 women out of 50 had died. I was shocked that what had happened to them? We got to know that they had died during child birth.

In such a situation, the poor sisters who are young and working, die at such a young age. There is no one to look after them in the house nor there is nutritious food available at home. Hence we created the Maternity Support Scheme.

We opened child care centre in the areas where the women were living. So I would like to explain that, first the union was formed, out of that different co-operative societies were formed and gradually we came up with different schemes. So there is a lot of power in co-operatives. If it is managed well, then union brings more strength to cooperatives. This is my experience. You need to be organised and you need cooperatives also. To come out of poverty, if we bring some new policies, new laws we will bring a change in the mainstream with our organised strength. If we are organised, abide by our values and truth we will surely achieve success forever.

In our work at SEWA, we have to face the police quite often. When the vendors are harassed, if the owner or contractor is harassing the poor workers, or there if there is some court case, then we have to go to the labour office. There they will ask us to fill different forms, run to the court, go to the lawyers and deal with their clerks is all very frequent.



Policymakers who make laws, apply laws and run democracies, and who jointly devise new strategies for global development at the national and international levels, conduct extensive research, do not know what poverty is and do not count these poor informal sector workers. SEWA, which is a union of the poor informal sector women workers, has to fight not only at one level but at all three levels. It is very important for everyone to understand these three levels. That is why these poor informal sector workers, the educated class have to get ready to get the strength to create their own unique identity with courage and determination!!

When we talk about 100 years, we all will go ahead with our organised strength, dedication, maintaining our values and integrity and complete 100 years.

The year 2022 became historical for SEWA. Everyone was celebrating 50 years of SEWA and each and every ben saw the vision for the next 50 years of SEWA. But this year our founder Elaben passed away on 2nd November after a short illness. This was a major loss and it was unbearable for all of us to bear this shock. A huge number of members, with a heavy heart paid homage to Ben's mortal remains on November 3rd. All joined her funeral procession, thousands of sisters from across the country joined. They reached here to pay their last respects to Ben. It was for the first time that thousands of women gathered at the crematorium. The slogans of "SEWA Sangathan Zindabad", "Elaben Amar Raho", "Darek Ben Elaben" filled the crematorium.

It felt as if Elaben would tell us that I am within you only. Elaben will remain among us as long as SEWA lives. That's why the sisters say, "Darek ben Elaben – Each one of us is Elaben". Every ben at SEWA gets the same and equal respect as Elaben. Each member of SEWA is responsible for imbibing the values of self-reliance and organising which were embodied by Elaben.

A Smarnanjali was held on 7th November at the premises of SEWA. Today everyone sang prayers of all religions. The sisters sang prayers and gave examples of how the sisters would take SEWA forward. One "Shantaben's¹" son spoke about Elaben's vision and assured every support to SEWA in the years to come. One after the other all the women spoke about Elaben's contribution and the change that it brought to their lives and pledged to follow Elaben's path. All this was not only documented but it was also published in SEWA's in-house magazine Ansooya.

Letters of appreciation received by various international labor organizations, global organizations and national workers' organizations were read out during the commemoration meet. Shoya Yashoda, General Secretary, International Trade Union Confederation (Asia Pacific), Amarjit Kaur, General Secretary- Past President (AITUC), Saji Narayan, Union of Indian Labor (Bhartiya Majoor Sangh), Mary Robinson, former President of Ireland, the founder of the Elders came to pay her respects in person on 19 November 2022. Women members from Nepal, Srilanka and Indian states of Jammu & Kashmir, Leh, Ladakh, Assam also joined to pay their respects to Shri Elaben.

¹ Following the 2002 communal riots in Gujarat, SEWA started working with women widows and single parent children towards peace building. These women were called "Shantaben".



Hillary Clinton also came to SEWA on February 5, 2023. and reminisced with Ben and collaborated to further Elaben's clean skies vision towards greener employment for the poor women.

Women from different states paid tributes to Ben by holding a memorial yatra at many places. Tribute messages were received by various government representatives, organizations and individual sisters and brothers. 2022 has been historic and tragic for SEWA.

SEWA's Integrated Approach

SEWA is a national trade union of poor women workers from the informal sector of the economy. The poor informal sector women workers are at the centre of SEWA. The organization is also interwoven with the challenges in the life of the poor women workers. The life of these informal workers mean - 'hard work and family'.

The tools of these poor women workers are often old and worn out, they do not have access to capital. As a result, their productivity is low and income is even lower despite the skills and the hard work that they put in. The life of these poor women workers is also the same. The inadequate nutrition weakens their body; hence they have frequent illness. There seems to be a radical change in the situation of the first generation of these women workers and the current young generation members.

This was a result of constant trainings on the use of technology for these poor workers, how to stand in the changing markets, building resilience to changing policies. The lives and livelihoods of these women workers are full of risks. Most of the poverty is in the unorganized sector. Hence SEWA had to work for the goal of achieving full employment for its members. 90% of work force in India is from the informal sector and are deprived of legal protection. Thus SEWA works to build their identity and visibility as well as lead them to self-reliance and full employment.

The main objective of SEWA is to organize the poor informal sector workers, increase their bargaining power through organised strength and fight against poverty. For this it is important to know why the SEWA members remain trapped in the vicious cycle of poverty.

What are the factors which force the workers to live in poverty despite their hard work. To understand this, it becomes necessary to understand SEWA in the context of the life of the members. From the experience of the last five decades, SEWA has clearly realized that social factors as well as economic policies and market, country's economy, financial market, labor market and business market are mainly responsible for the poverty of the informal sector workers. Policies for this are so complex that workers in the unorganized sector are left out of the mainstream of all three markets – labour, financial and business. Their hard work is not properly compensated. They have no place in the market.

At SEWA we have learnt that an integrated approach is necessary to bring the members out of poverty. The organization has survived, and grown stronger, with this integrated approach. The faith of the members has been strengthened in the organization. SEWA is its members - and members are SEWA. SEWA is owned by its members.



The main purpose of these poor women workers to form their own organisation – SEWA is to see that the workers do not remain just workers but become producers, owners and managers of their own trades. It increases their bargaining power and connects them with the mainstream market through organised strength. Along with this, it helps the workers build their own capital and assets. This helps to build their capacities to fight against poverty.

At the same time, these women workers need to develop the necessary skills and abilities to strengthen their organisation. Skills like managerial, business management, financial management and also leadership. The poor workers get basic social security like healthcare, child care, housing, insurance.

When all these four pillars are coordinated according to the needs of the poor women workers and at their base, then we can build the strength of their own organisation SEWA. When these workers and their organizations are able to enter the mainstream, take initiatives to alleviate poverty, this is SEWA's integrated approach.

The activities at SEWA are planned and implemented as per the needs and demands of the members. Over the past 49 years, SEWA has faced many struggles and challenges. Globalisation and changes in the country's economy also led to ups and downs in various industries like – beedi, ready-made garments, waste paper work, tobacco farming and processing work, and construction. Workers' compensation for work decreased. The type of work changed. It was SEWA's integrated approach that helped us in overcoming these challenges and led to development. The collective strength helps.

On the other hand, the second and third generation members have been facing repeated natural disasters. They are also facing the brunt of the global pandemic of Corona and that of climate change. In spite of all these struggles and challenges, the integrated approach of the organization has helped to sustain the members' confidence to fight these disasters. The membership of the organization increased to 11,27,622 in 2022 in Gujarat and 25,32,846 in 18 states of India.

SEWA's Vision

Crores of workers in independent India have not yet enjoyed full swaraj. This full Swaraj means complete self-reliance. Complete self-reliance means economic and ideological self-reliance which is not possible without full employment.

Full employment means whereby every family can get food, water, clothing and shelter from their income. and they get social security through healthcare, child care, insurance, and pensions. SEWA will continuously strive for full employment for its members.

SEWA members continue to work towards achieving full employment through organising, non-violent struggle and constructive work. This is the goal of SEWA.



The core values of SEWA are honesty, communal harmony, justice and simplicity. The strategy of the SEWA will be to form unions and co-operatives of poor women workers. In that way we will advance towards self-reliance.

Thus, these poor women workers will together raise their and their contribution to the national GDP will be recognized. In other words, these poor women workers will take the lead towards achieving full swaraj. It is this vision of SEWA in which we all always have firm faith.

The SEWA Movement

SEWA is both an organization and a movement. The SEWA movement is enhanced by its being a 'sangam' or confluence of three movements: the labour movement, the cooperative movement and the women's movement. But it is also a movement of self-employed workers, their own, home-grown movement with women as the leaders. Through their own movement women become strong and visible. Their tremendous economic and social contribution becomes recognised.

Poverty is a form of Violence

The society is equally responsible for the causes of poverty. Efforts to eradicate poverty are imperative but policy makers have a huge contribution to make in reducing and controlling the factors responsible for it. And among them, women-centered poverty alleviation works are more important. As summits are held to overcome economic recession at the global level, it is very important to deliberate and take concrete steps to increase the employment and income of economically weaker families.

Among the principles given by Gandhiji, simplicity, non-violence, respect for labor and human values, these four things are very important for the progress of the nation as well as for economic prosperity. The policy makers, politicians, industrialists should consider this.

The main approach of SEWA is to combine struggle and constructive work. Struggle and development are constructive work. This is SEWA's approach and strategy. We have come to understand that conflict is creation and creation is conflict. Hate or violence has no place in this process. Having full faith in the power of the poor women workers, the goal is to move forward towards a peaceful and constructive society. Also, SEWA has its own capital - the organized force of poor women workers, value based organising and Gandhian philosophy. They have always been the guide and source of inspiration for SEWA.

SEWA's Membership for the Year 2022

Sr. No.	State	Total Membership
---------	-------	------------------



Direct Membership of the Union		
Sr. No.	State	Total Membership
1	Gujarat	11,27,622
2	West Bengal	33000
3	Maharashtra	72950
4	Assam	5000
5	Meghalaya	3700
6	Jammu & Kashmir	6400
7	Ladakh	3000
8	Orissa	9931
9	Jharkhand	7926
10	Punjab	11434
Affiliate Membership		
11	Bihar	88700
12	Delhi	98700
13	Rajasthan	118000
14	Kerala	30000
15	Madhya Pradesh	638406
16	Uttar Pradesh	250100
17	Maharashtra	1452
18	Uttarakhand	23890



19	Nagaland	2635
	Total Membership	25,32,846

URBAN AND RURAL MEMBERSHIP IN GUJARAT

	Membership	Membership as a % of Total
RURAL	802197	71.14
URBAN	325425	28.86
TOTAL	1127622	100.00

SEWA's Membership Management System – Vadlo Online

35% of SEWA's membership is from the young generation. A workshop was conducted with the members and grassroots leaders so that the young generation members understand the role of the aagewans, their values and contribution to SEWA.

The aagewans and the members shared their experience in the workshop which will now be useful in the education of the young generation members. Full employment and self-reliance are the main objectives of SEWA. SEWA took up the self-reliance campaign so that the economic organizations of the poor informal sector women workers have become self-reliant. The emphasis is on strengthening the SEWA so that it also becomes self-reliant. Therefore, in the year 2015, the membership management system was adopted. The entry of all the members is now completely online. Now that this service is available online, data entry time will be saved and costs will be reduced in years to come, and the details of registered members will be useful in advance planning. Thus, along with the use of technology, cost saving has also been adopted. This cuts costs and saves time and money.

When we are talking about Digital India, how can the poor women workers organisation become digital? With this intention, SEWA's online membership management system was launched. SEWA members call it the Vadlo online. SEWA's leaders and trade representatives bought their own smart phones and tablets and used them to make new members and renew the membership online.

Objective

To have personal and trade related information of all the members at one place, real time helps in effective and quick decision making. This has also helped in bringing technology in the hands of women and make them use it.



The information of the members is in the membership management system. This information is linked to the information collected under other activities of SEWA through a unique identification number. Thus integrated information on all the members is available at one place which also helps in proper planning of the activities. A training module on SEWA training has been developed by SEWA Academy so that all the members get all the information about SEWA and its activities.

Vadlo Online (Membership Management System) – SEWA Sangathan Zindabad

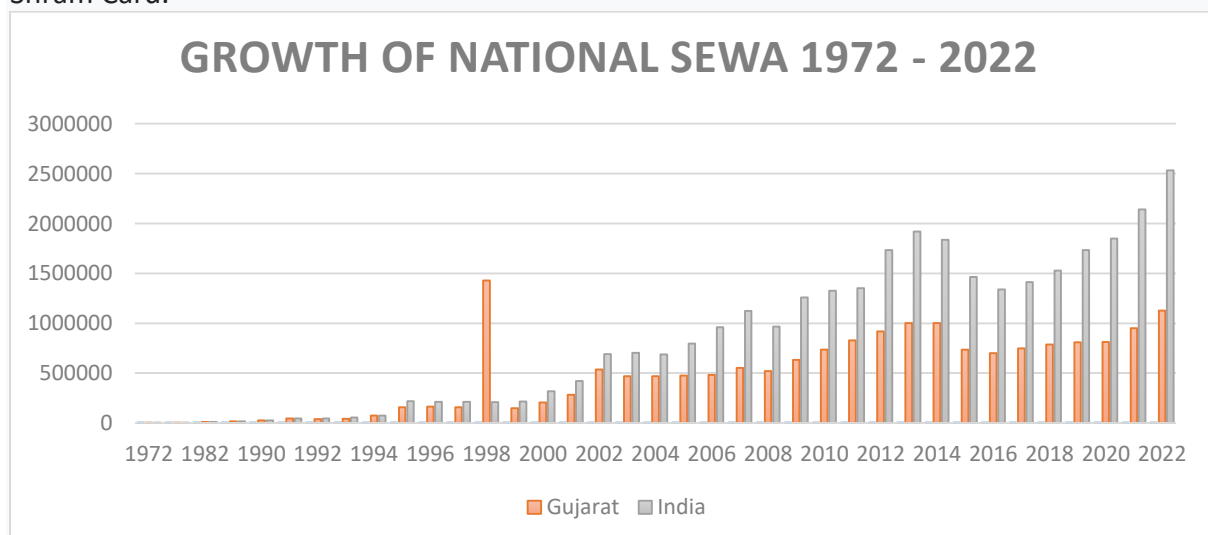
In the year 2022, along with Gujarat, 11 states of SEWA (Bihar, Delhi, Jammu and Kashmir, Jharkhand, Ladakh, Maharashtra, Punjab, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand and West Bengal) used Vadlo Online for taking membership data and payment online. The data of a total of 2,06,432 members in the year 2022 in these 11 states was digitized using Vadlo Online. In Gujarat, a total of 6,02,458 members (96%) were renewed and 2,86,767 (32%) new members were added in 2022 through Vadlo Online in 18 districts. A total of 658 leaders and district coordinators in 12 states of SEWA were given 44 online and offline trainings.

The data of 9,18,864 members (both renewal and new members) from 16 districts of Gujarat was entered online in the MMS. SEWA’s audit for the year 2022 was done using this data.

For the speedy operation of Vadla Online in the 11 states of India, a WhatsApp group of district and state coordinators in these 11 states was created. A total of 682 people were added to this group. If they had any problems with Vadlo Online's mobile application or portal, they can share their problem in the group through voice messages, photos and screenshots. The solution to the problem would be given immediately on the group so that the membership process can be speeded up.

In the year 2022, after mapping 65 talukas, 1353 villages and 651 leaders, we were prepared to take the membership dues online.

Based on the data taken by Vadlo Online of the total membership from Gujarat, 62% members have Aadhaar card, 80% members have Election card, 41% members have Jandhan accounts, 42% members have savings accounts, 12% members have mobile and 8% members have e-Shram Card.



In India, we are 93.5 percent workers in the unorganized sector. Thus, the unorganized sector of the country is the mainstream. To put it in numbers, we are 40 crores and our country's GDP is 62%, we contribute 50% to national income and 39% to exports.

Goal, Objective and Strategy

The two main goals of SEWA are full employment and self-reliance. By full employment we mean employment which provides work security, income security, food security and social security. Economists and planners talk about full employment at the national level, while we talk about it at the individual household level. Self-reliance is our second goal. By self-reliance we mean that women should be self-reliant, individually and collectively, both economically and in terms of decision making ability.

Organising and Capacity Building

The organizations and institutions of the poor women workers become solid, take root, so that they achieve not only immediate short-term development but long-term overall development, bring members into the mainstream through integrated development, that is the main goal and approach of SEWA.

These poor women's organizations can manage their programs, identify the local issues, present them to the government and bring about policy changes, develop internal strength to withstand external forces. SEWA strives to strengthen the organised strength of the women.

What is Capacity Building

The problems of the poor women workers are many. One being unorganized, another being poor and illiterate, third being a woman, indeed the social norms associated with women - wifehood, motherhood, and finally the bond of woman-body. These members by being organised, gets the courage to live, earn their livelihood and raise their head in the society. They are organised and that is what brings them the collective strength. These women are rarely able to solve the economic, social and personal issues single-handedly. That is why organising is the key.

Collective strength comes from organising. With it come economic and social strength and visibility. Strength comes from standing up against injustice and exploitation. Independent thinking flourishes. Thus, bargaining power comes through organising. It is a process that leads to self-reliance.

Capacity building means the experience to develop the immense power within oneself, through organised strength. This brings development at all levels in which the women themselves take the lead.



Capacity building is one of the four pillars of SEWA. Capacity building as seen by our founder Shri Elaben

Skill Building and Skill Building Centre – Kaushalya Shala

Unorganized workers have the skills. But they do not get work according to their skills. Also, they do not know where the raw materials for the work they do come from. As a result, they cannot measure the value of the labor involved in the entire production process. However, their presence in the economy is huge. Yet they are marginal, unaware of the integrated connections in the economy. Such a situation keeps them marginalised.

SEWA feels that there is a need of “Skilling India”. Work and skill are extremely important to make the hand of the youth more meaningful, more productive. Skill training is an effective way of integration. In India, the higher level skills have been given a good deal of attention. Therefore, we have highly qualified professionals in every field and we are proud of them. But the same is not true with majority of youths who did not have long years of schooling or others who had no education. There is a need for full focus on their education integrated with skill development.

SEWA’s founder Shri Elaben Bhatt says that “no skill should be allowed to be redundant or obsolete from our skill-rich country, India. We must develop a market for skill training with fair and higher returns. With these employment skills there are so many sectors where there are sources of employment opportunities. I mean, all our core employment sectors like construction, organic agriculture, textile based hand work, poultry and animal husbandry, fisheries, forestry there is so much opportunity at the moment for the local youths to be engaged over them. We should set-up such skill building schools at every taluka level.

In order to achieve global and inclusive growth for the rural poor workers, these workers need opportunities for skill building, skill enhancement and skill diversification. The vision of SEWA’s skill building initiative is to create a sustainable system that would empower women workers working in the informal economy, to become entrepreneurs rather than wage labourers.

SEWA Bazaar promotes market driven employability skills. By upskilling the workers, they can set up their own small businesses. This results in increased income and employment opportunities. This is the perspective of training. Through strengthening of technical skills as well as market and financial linkages, members can start their own enterprises. The trainees are also provided with market linkages.

Union and Cooperatives

SEWA’s approach is that the women do not remain workers but become owners and managers of their own trade. Member’s own economic organizations become self-sustaining. Hence, emphasis is placed on forming separate mandals, associations and societies of different areas, professions and services. Organising, establishing legal identity and structures of the organisations are very crucial in the economic development of workers.



This joint strategy of union and cooperatives, SEWA leads the members towards holistic development. The members, through their own economic organisation, cooperatives, companies that are producing and selling goods or services become owners and managers. The union helps them to get their rights as a worker. Through this strategy, SEWA has grown into a banyan tree

Today, SEWA has grown into a family of member-owned economic organizations, that provide livelihood security, reduces vulnerability & lead to economic empowerment of its members. It is similar in structure to a banyan tree that spreads its branches. Over time, the branches grow vines that reach for the ground and take root, becoming trunks themselves; in this way, they become a sprawling forest within the same, ever-expanding tree. Each organization of the SEWA family is independent and autonomous, both financially and in the decision-making process. At the same time, new growth draws strength from the old.



SEWA's Banyan Tree

Second Freedom – Economic Freedom

SEWA's approach is organising, capacity building, capital formation and market linkages. Through this integrated approach, members can achieve economic development in the country and in their own economic organizations under the leadership of women themselves they achieve Doosari Azadi or the economic freedom. We at SEWA call this called Livelihood Finance.

SEWA is working towards achieving second freedom for its members. The first freedom was freedom from foreign rule. That was political freedom. Second freedom means economic freedom. Gandhiji said that economic freedom is equally indispensable and important along with political freedom for any nation. Poverty is a form of violence. Neither political change nor technological revolution can help to eliminate exploitation. That is why, after independence, it became very important for the people to be economically self-reliant. SEWA has been working in that direction for the last 49 years.

SEWA's yardstick for Evaluation

1. Have more members obtained employment?
2. Has their income increased?

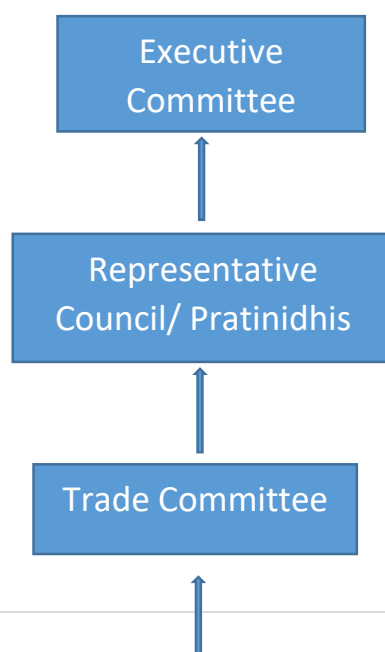


3. Have they obtained food and nutrition?
4. Has their health been safeguarded?
5. Have they obtained child care?
6. Have they obtained or improved their housing?
7. Have their assets increased? (for instance, their personal savings, land house, work-space, tools of work, licenses, identity cards, cattle and shares in cooperatives)
8. Has the members' organizational strength increased?
9. Has their leadership increased?
10. Have they become self-reliant both collectively and individually?
11. Has their education increased?

SEWA's organisation Structure

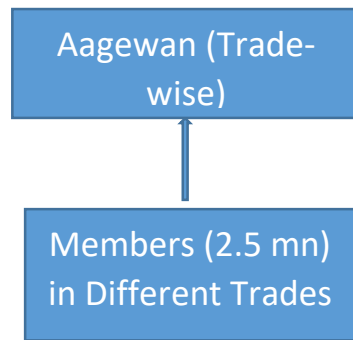
As per the rules of the trade union, the structure of SEWA is legally elected. One representative is elected for every 1500 members and 25 executive members are elected from these elected representatives who hold various positions. All these executive office bearers have been elected from the grass root members.

SEWA STRUCTURE



SEWA structure has 1 President, 3 Vice Presidents, 1 General Secretary, 2 Secretaries and 1 Treasurer





Campaign Approach

The SEWA movement is spread in the villages in rural India and the streets of the urban slums. SEWA works to solve the issues of the members, find long-term solutions, formulate pro-poor policies and to start campaigns by members themselves under the leadership of members themselves. This keeps the SEWA movement alive and relevant to the members’ issues and needs. Campaigns launched by SEWA members by area, occupation and issue continued to accelerate in 2021.

The collective organised strength of the members became stronger. The major campaigns include - Domestic worker campaign, vendors campaign, Construction workers campaign, waste paper picker campaign, Minimum wage campaign, identity card campaign, Urban policy and unorganized workers campaign, Social security campaign, Water and natural resource management campaign, Afforestation Campaign, Green Village Campaign, agriculture Campaign, Nutritious Food Campaign. All this helps to increase the organised strength of the members.

SEWA - THE ONLY NATIONAL UNION OF POOR INFORMAL SECTOR WOMEN WORKERS IN INDIA

SEWA is the only national union of informal sector women workers of our country. SEWA’s membership for the year 2022 was 25,32,846 from 18 states of India viz. Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Rajasthan, West Bengal, Delhi, Uttarakhand, Kerala, Maharashtra, Orissa, Assam, Jharkhand, Punjab, Meghalaya, Kashmir, Ladakh, and Nagaland.

There are two types of members in SEWA. Direct member and affiliate members. Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Kerala, Maharashtra, Delhi are the affiliate unions of SEWA, which are registered as unions in their respective states. While the rest of the states have direct membership of SEWA, they are direct members.

As SEWA is a national union, there is a National Council for national level functioning. Its main function is to increase the coverage of its members/states, strengthen it, and strengthen the Union by campaigning on the business issues of the members. Also there are resolutions at



the national level like laws should be made for vendors, identity of the unorganized sector workers should be established, their statistics should be taken, land campaign, seed bills, laws for home based workers. This helps in bringing voice and visibility to the informal sector workers at the national as well as international level. The core function of the national council is to work on bringing voice and visibility to the informal sector workers and that nation/international policies are formed for these poor informal sector workers.

When SEWA starts organising in any state, the members of those states become direct members of SEWA. Its purpose is that, while organizing in unorganized sector, we need collective strength and gradually develop into organization/union of that state. Necessary capacity building of the teams are done to efficiently undertake the activities on their own and once that is done, the organization takes shape. Thereafter the organization is registered in their respective states and then it becomes an affiliate member.

SEWA Affiliations

With International Organisations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International Trade Union Confederation – Asia Pacific (ITUC – A/P)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International Union of Food, Agriculture, Hotel, Restaurant, Catering, Tobacco and Allied Workers Association (IUF)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building and Wood Workers International (BWI)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Industrial Global Union
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Streetnet International
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Homenet South Asia
With National Organisations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Farmers Forum

Urban Organising

The effects of the Corona pandemic that hit the world in the year 2020-21 is still felt in the business of the women workers. These women workers earlier used to get work for 20 to 25 days in a month, it has now reduced to 10 to 15 days in a month and in some trades, there is no work at all. E.g. In construction, the local women do not get any work due to which they joined in kitchen work, domestic work, thread cutting work due to which their income also decreased. In construction these women workers used to earn about Rs. 350 to Rs 500 per day which has decreased to Rs. 100 to Rs. 125 per day and the family members also help in



this activity. The situation is the same across all trades. As a result, the number of women in housework has increased, but their financial situation has become very poor. Working hours have also increased. The urban organising team conducted a survey in each trade and increased interaction with the old and new leaders also regular trade committee meetings were organised with the members of all the trades so that the trade related issues of the members were solved and the organising is strengthened.

Campaign and Ward Approach

The aim of the urban organising to adopt a campaign approach is that whatever work the organization does will affect a large section of the workers thereby providing full employment and self-reliance to the informal sector workers. These campaigns run at different levels. The campaign approach helps in bringing identity, voice and visibility, which are crucial, to the informal sector workers at the local, state, national and international levels.

Along with the campaign approach, the urban organising team has also adopted the ward approach. They are working in 9 wards in Ahmedabad city viz. Bapunagar, Meghaninagar-Memco-Naroda, Rajpur-Gomtipur, Behrampura, Danilimda, Girdharnagar- Civil Hospital, Chamanpura-Asarva, Vasna, Amraiwadi- Bhaipura –Hatkeshwar, Dariapur- Sarangpur- Prem Darwaja.

The main objective of working with this ward approach is to ensure that we can reach all the workers living in the chawls in these areas. The team is also coordinating with the IT team on how can the old and new members be linked to the Membership Management System online using the tablets. This is a process. Through this, as per the needs of the members, the leaders of the existing and new trades are identified and they are given different trainings to strengthen them and develop a cadre of old and young generation leaders. This will help in strengthening the organising and create a cadre and also include the new generation in the organization, due to which the organization is strengthened and becomes self-sustainable. In addition to this, to increase the reach of the organising activity, a cadre of 201 new leaders and 16 new organizers has been developed.

MMS - Vadlo Online

Also during the year, we took the membership renewal and new membership using Vadlo Online. Our illiterate, semi-literate informal economy workers of the campaign team also got tablets and learned to operate them and took the membership details and fees online. This is what we call digitalization. The members also faced several challenges in the process like the members don't give Aadhaar card and address proof, internet doesn't work, server goes down etc.

The campaign team explained the members that your address proof and aadhar card will be safe and will not be used for any other purpose. This information will be used to understand your needs and issues and how can we plan the future activities based on your needs. Several meeting were done with the teams and members in all the wards to explain these points. Continuous monitoring was also done and the teams then go the membership online.



During this year, the total number of members of the urban areas became 323385. The following table shows the livelihood and income details for the urban members amid all these challenges.

Particulars	Members	Amount in Rs.
Livelihood	7466	22,49,45,451
Income	9329	4,19,02,081

Some of the Achievements and Challenges of the urban organising are given below.

E Shram Card

Following Covid, a public interest litigation was filed as no poor informal sector workers had received any social security. Following this, under the social security act 2008, the government decided to start the E shram portal and all the informal sector workers were to be registered on this portal. SEWA along with the labor department conducted camps in the areas for issuing 'E' labor cards to the poor workers. 21,500 workers were registered and got E Shram cards. A lot of challenges were faced in this like the members' mobile number was not linked to their aadhar cards, server got very slow, they did not receive OTP. The entire procedure for the E shram cards was online only and thus they faced these difficulties. Discussion are going on with the central government so that the poor informal sector workers gets social security under these E shram cards.

Aayushman Bharat

Aayushman Bharat Yojana has been launched by the Government of India. Under this scheme free health facilities are provided by the government. Citizens of India need to have an Ayushman card to avail this scheme. This card can get free facility up to Rs 5 lakhs. During the year we facilitated cards for 3480 workers under Ayushman Bharat Yojana

SEWA's 50 Year Celebration

Celebration of 50 years of SEWA in which women members from 18 states and 8 countries participated.

Street Vendors

This whole year has been very challenging for the vendors. On one hand, due to the corona pandemic, big markets were broken and transformed into small fragmented markets. Also, as new sellers enter the markets, competition increases and sellers' income decreases. The city had a new municipal commissioner. Following his directive that there should be no illegal construction or waste on the city roads due to which the Corporation's illegal construction campaign started and the vendors were forced to move out of their places several times. Due to which their livelihoods were disrupted. After a long struggle of SEWA for these sellers, the rules have been made for them, but there are many problems in their implementation. The organization is making continuous efforts to maintain the natural markets of these sellers. For this, representations and negotiations with the government are going on continuously. On the other hand, the government gave vending certificates to these sellers. It also mentions



the name of the vendor's market which is very important for the vendors. With such a struggle, the traffic in the vendor market, the issue of illegal construction, SEWA negotiated with the shopkeepers, residents, police and municipal corporation to settle the livelihood of the members of the vendor market throughout the year. As a result, 812 vendors got livelihood worth Rs. .44,94,000/-

Jamalpur Natural Market

Jamalpur is a natural market where vegetable and fruit sellers have been earning their livelihoods vending from carts and sitting on the street for the past 40 years. This is a wholesale market that is always bustling as it is in the heart of the city. Around 1000 to 1200 vendors sell in 3 shifts in this market.

To regularize these vendors, SEWA has been working with the Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation vendors' committee since 2009, and in 2012, the town vending committee decided to allocate space for these vendors to sell under the Jamalpur overbridge. After that, the vendors and SEWA held continuous meetings, presentations at the Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation and following this an implementation plan was made to allocate the vending space to these vendors. According to that plan, 239 platforms were constructed by the Municipal Corporation under the Jamalpur Overbridge for the arrangement of the sellers near Gate No-1,2,3,4 and Saptarsh banks of Jamalpur Vegetable Market. The sellers were sitting there doing their business and suddenly in 2019, when the Corona pandemic broke out, by the order of the Municipal Commissioner, these platforms were broken overnight and a parking lot was built there, and these poor people lost their livelihood. In this regard, letters were given to the Municipal Commissioner, and Deputy Municipal Commissioner, that this has happened in spite of the earlier resolution in this regard in the Standing Committee. Currently negotiations are going on for this.

Jamalpur Flower Market

Near the Jamalpur flower market, at the end of the bridge, around 500 sellers have been doing their business in this market from 3 am to 10 pm for the past 20 years. Following the development of the riverfront and the new road that has come up there, the Police and Corporation often chase away these vendors as it creates a traffic problem. SEWA and the vendors together represented in the corporation that the adjoining plot where platforms were made for the vegetable vendors but that space was not allotted to anyone, can be given to these vendors for vending. Repeated written representations were made to allocate this space to the flower seller. But since the place is Sabarmati riverfront, we presented to the chairman there and showed the plan we had made in this regard. After negotiations, this space was allotted on a one-year rent basis by the corporation to the Jamalpur Flower Bazaar Association, which is formed by the vendors themselves. But as fate would have it, immediately after this, there was lockdown and partial lockdown due to the Covid pandemic and these sellers had to lose their livelihood due to the closure of the market. SEWA again discussed this with the corporation after a year. After repeated follow-ups, we were told that the land belongs to the riverfront and we should talk with them. Currently we have been coordinating with both the Corporation and Riverfront for the last 2 years to renew the



agreement for this place so that these vendors can vend from this place and earn their livelihood.

Vendors Market Survey

A survey of 65 markets was conducted on the impact of Covid on the vendors' markets. The survey findings revealed that the number of women vendors has decreased. Big markets were broken up into fragmented smaller markets. New vendors have come in, competition has increased, harassment from the police has increased. From this a strategy can be made to carry forward the work of the vendors better also meetings are held with the Corporation to find space for the vendors under the Street Vending Plan.

Bhadra Chowk Historical Market

Bhadra Chowk historical market is about 100 years old market where when the government started the renovation work to develop a Bhadra Plaza there. As a result, the vendors lost their livelihoods. At that time, the leaders of the Bhadra market and SEWA negotiated with the Municipal Corporation and a case was filed in the Hon'ble Gujarat High Court. As a result, Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation allotted vending space of 4" x 5.50" to 372 vendors. This was a big win for SEWA but still some work is left for which SEWA is following up with the Corporation to allot vending space to the remaining 75 vendors in this historic natural market and 100 booths need cats eye markings and for finalising the map. SEWA is following this up with the Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation for final approval.

Vending Space of the vendors identified through the Vending Certificate

According to Vendors Act 2014, Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation conducted a biometric survey of the vendors and gave them identity cards and this year they got vending certificates by the Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation. 19050 vendors of the city got this certificates with the help of SEWA. It specifies the specific place and time of sale which establishes the identity of vendor as well as their right to the vending place. This is a big achievement for the vendors and now SEWA is continuously working to make this available to every seller in the city.

Diwali Visit to Various Police Stations by Vendors

The vendor members sit in the market place and sell their products round the year. The sisters interact not only with customers but also with local police and corporation officials. We have to meet the police and corporation officials frequently regarding the vending space or police complaints related to the vendors. We also get their cooperation from many places. With their cooperation, the sisters' daily livelihood is maintained. So every year, SEWA team along with the leaders of the market visit 35 police stations to give our greetings for Diwali.

Waste Recyclers

Waste Collection Centre



The waste recycler members used to get less price for the waste that they would give to the waste collector and they would also cut the weight. Thus, SEWA started a waste collection centre in Memco. 30 members have joined this centre. Thereafter, other mobile collection centres were started in Nagori chali, Gomtipur, Asarwa, Dariapur and Vasana wards. Other 100 women joined these collection centres. As a result of these collection centres, the monthly income of the waste collector members increased from Rs. 9,000 – 10,000 per month to about Rs. 12,000 to 13,000 per month. Also the weight reduction is not done and the members get a fair price for the waste. The women have their mown cooperative who does this work.

In future, 10 such mobile collection centres will be started in Ahmedabad city. All the waste collected at the collection centre goes to the aggregation centre where it is segregated, baled and then directly goes to the big trader. This also reduces the need for middlemen at different levels which means that the women members directly get more price for the waste. Such an aggregation centre is currently running in Memco and work is currently underway to build an aggregation centre of 10,000 square feet in the future. A total of 91,902 kg of waste was collected and Rs.14,40,822/- was paid to 100 sisters.

In the future, there is a plan to process any item eg plastic sheets and grind it into grains and sell it in the market so that the price can be increased by 10 to 15 per kg.

Shri Gitanjali Cooperative

Along with stationery work in Gitanjali Cooperative, now drop shipment centre (ware house) work has started along with the stores. This work is a kind of distributorship. In this, 5 sisters have got employment and their skills have also increased.

Under this, we supply stationery and housekeeping material all over Gujarat. During the year sales amounting to Rs. 45,96103 have been made.

Waste Aggregation Centre

After covid we got to know from the sisters that pithawalas cut weight and give low prices for the waste. That is when we thought that we should have an aggregation centre. It took a lot of struggle to make this.

- First of all we did the survey but the members were reluctant. All the arrangements had to be made for giving the goods to the waste collector.
- When we went to know the price in the pitha, the owners of the pitha did not give us proper answers and the sisters also did not tell us the correct price of the waste. Thereafter, we got to know the price by looking at the receipts of the members.
- Finding space for the centre was also a huge challenge. We made all the arrangements.



- The sisters were giving waste to these pithawala for 40 years and they were not ready to give the goods in our pitha. We explained the members about the benefits and convinced them to give the waste.
- When the collection started at our centre, sometimes the sisters demanded higher prices, brought bad waste and sometimes even brought PET bottles filled with water and it was very difficult to explain the members.
- Now we have arranged a mobile van to collect waste from other areas also. For this we had to make several arrangements to have drivers, have women to do accounting and send the collection van as per the timings of the member. All this was very difficult.
- To collect all the waste at one place, we needed a place for that too and we started an aggregation centre. There were a lot of challenges in that. All bad waste also came to the centre, the entire aggregation centre was getting filled up, we managed all of this effectively. The members started doing sorting at the centre and we also identified the traders.

Material Recovery Facilitation Centre (MRF)

During the year 2018, the Corporation provided two Material Recovery Facilitation Centres to the cooperative. The dry waste from different wards is received at these Material Recovery Facilitation Centres, from which the members collect the recyclable waste and sort it according to the item. In the evening, the designated scrap shop person, come and takes this waste away.

A total of 40 women waste recyclers collect dry waste at both the Nagarvel Material Recovery Facilitation Centre and the Kankaria Material Recovery Facilitation Centre and earn an income of Rs.250/- to Rs.350/- per day.

The work of this Material Recovery Facilitation Centre was going well when the Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation decided to give these centres to Eco Vision on a 10-year contract. Eco Vision was awarded the contract but the price they gave was very low on every item. Thus, due to low prices, the income of the sisters decreased. Also, the waste was not sold at the Material Recovery Facilitation Centre for seven days due to which the waste got piled up at the centre. The sisters told their problem to the SEWA team. The SEWA organisers continuously met with the Corporation Officer and presented the issues of the members and reported the true situation. Thus, after knowing the fact, the officer got the permission to give the waste.

New women workers were brought in by Eco Vision at the Kankaria Material Recovery Facilitation Centre. This led to a reduction in the income of SEWA's Waste Recycler members who were already working there. As the income decreased, these sisters spoke to the SEWA team about the decrease in the income. SEWA team along with the members made a representation to the corporation officer who listened to the presentation. They then increased the number and also increased the number of waste collection vans.



In the year 2022, the cooperative made a total income of Rs.23,83,676/- through the Nagarvel Hanuman Material Recovery Facilitation Centre and Rs.10,54,294/- through the Kankaria Material Recovery Facilitation Centre.

Construction

Currently the local members are not getting construction work as migrant workers have come and those migrant workers live on the site and work there. The local members in the age group of 20 to 30 years do not join this construction work, these sisters work sitting at home. The aged members are not employed by the contractors. Earlier, no one was allowed to enter the site, so it was difficult for the women to work on the site.

We have changed the approach of work now we go to big sites and organize local workers as well as migrant workers. We explain to the engineers, contractors and supervisors about the benefits that these women workers get from the Government. We explain that these sisters do not have any evidence. We held a meeting, asked for evidence on WhatsApp from the villages, coordinated with the welfare board and registered these migrant women workers with the Construction Workers' Welfare Board. We went to different sites and distributed posters and leaflets, met the person in charge of the site and had a meeting. We explained the pamphlet and told the contractors that when you do the plan passing, the government collects tax from you. If these workers are registered in the welfare board then they will get all the benefits like accident assistance, death assistance, scholarship assistance for children, maternity assistance, and they can get benefit under 27 such schemes. So now the engineers come and tell us to organise a camp at their site. We organise such camps at the Kadianaka and the site and did the work of registration of workers.

SEWA has been working on imparting skill training to younger sisters in construction and thereby increasing their skills so that they get more income. She then becomes a skilled labourer. This increases the income from Rs. 300 per day for labourers to Rs. 500 to 700 per day for the skilled labourers. The financial situation of the sisters improves. This leads to better education for the children and improved food and nutrition security for the women.

Construction Workers Welfare Board:

As the construction workers were not being registered with the Construction Labor Welfare Board SEWA did meetings with the government and it was decided in a meeting with the government that these workers should be registered through the CSC centre with the help of SEWA. 105 such E Nirmaan camps were done. Through these camps, 20,122 workers got 'e-nirman cards'. Since this work was done online, there were many challenges. The CSC centre teams would reach late, the server was very slow, Aadhar card of the members were not linked to the mobile number, the women did not have their bank passbooks, etc. SEWA coordinated with the government and got a biometrics machine at the camp site which helped in linking the mobile numbers with the Aadhar card. In addition to this, through coordination with the Board, we arranged for the Dhanvantari Arogya Rath to go to 40 Kadianakas and construction sites and 25,000 workers received medical assistance. 9670



construction workers were linked with various welfare schemes of the Board for Government assistance during the year.

Survey of Construction Workers:

There are changes in construction work, local workers are getting less work as the migrant workers are increasing. So to understand the situation, a socio economic survey was conducted. 507 workers were surveyed in 9 wards.

Rachayita Women Construction Workers Co-operative

During the year 2022, a total of 50 sisters from the Rachayita Mandali got work on different sites and earned livelihood at the rate of Rs. 350/- to 400/- per day.

- 20 sisters got work at Lumbi Company for one year at Rs.450/- per day.
- 22 members got work at Dholera site through MS Khurana and earned Rs. 350/- per day
- SEWA negotiated with the contractor at Sumel -1 Amraiwadi site for increase in the wages of the women workers to Rs. 400 per day. 17 skilled workers earned Rs. 600/- per day. They used to give Rs.210/- to 10 sisters, and we negotiated and got a wage increase and these members now get Rs.350/- per day. Thus the income of the members increased.
- Earlier, the skilled workers at the Raipur site were paid Rs.600/- and it was increased to Rs.700/-. Also instead of giving Rs. 350/- to labourer members, they gave Rs. 400/- per day.
- 10 members got work at Gandhi Ashram for two months at Rs.400/- per day.
- 5 members got work for two months at Rs.400/- per day at PTC College
- Meetings were done at various Kadianaka and 25 members got E Nirman cards.
- 20 construction workers got free passes for bus travel.
- The cooperative made an income of Rs. 16,12,275/- in the year 2022.

Increase in wages for the Head loaders and Cart pullers

Panchkua Owners Association increases the price of the head loaders and cart pullers every three years. When 3 years were completed, the leaders came to SEWA and said that the period 3 years is over and we should go and talk to the Association. When we met the President of the Association, he said that I will have to talk to the committee and let you know. We waited for 1 week but did not hear anything from them. Then we prepared a list of the rates and went with the leaders to meet the President and handed it over to him. The Association committee met and discussed the same and approved the rates that we had written. This price increase was implemented from December. After that, we asked for a price increase in Safal-2. The president there refused and the workers went on a strike which lasted for 4 days. Thereafter the workers from the Safal 3 site went on strike. After going on strike in Safal-1 as well. We then met with the President. We had demanded a price of Rs.10/- and the owners said Rs.7/-. We had asked Rs. 5 for stitching and transporting of the parcels and the owners said Rs. 3. We did not give in and stuck to our price. Finally, the parcels piled up for 3 consecutive days and then it was a Sunday so the owners accepted our demand of Rs. 10 and Rs. 5. The organised strength of the workers won. On an average each worker got Rs 375 and all the 7000 workers of the market got this price increase and got an amount of Rs.



6,82,50,000. We also got to know the President of the Association and all the workers who were not SEWA members also joined SEWA and a new cadre of leaders developed.

Domestic Worker:

Domestic workers had stopped getting work after Corona. Some of the members were fired from work and they became unemployed and their economic situation became very bad. It became difficult to manage the household. These members told SEWA about this and we went and met their employers and got them back to work. Many young girls joined cleaning work due to Corona, some started working as sweepers and cleaners in the hospital, there were changes in work and domestic workers became less.

Home Based Worker:

The cadre of leaders of the home based workers broke. To rebuild the cadre of leaders, mapping of leaders in the 10 areas was done, we also contacted 16 old leaders so that the cadre of leaders can be rebuilt, and also trained and developed 15 new leaders. We also organised the home based workers from the newer areas and also trained 3 new leaders from there.

Survey

Post-Covid-19, the number of home based workers in the area started to increase, but their employment and income declined. To understand the reason for this, we undertook a survey to understand the reasons for changes in the trade. It was observed that earlier the women were given stitching work at home and they would sit at home and do the work. However, after Covid, this work was then being done by the men in small sheds in the areas. And the women were getting the finishing work like thread cutting, buttoning, lacing of dupatta, sticking stones on the garments, labelling, etc. For this work, they get wages of 50 paise to 1 rupee per piece. So, even if the sister works for 8 hours a day continuously along with the help of children in the house, in spite of that they would get Rs. 75 to 100 per day. Also, the members had no idea about where do they bring the work from. They did not know the name of the contractor/owner/trader. In order to know that, a survey was done about the name and details of the contractor/owner/trader, business, price etc. so that the details of the business/owner/contractor in the area can be collected and the work can be taken forward.

Price Increase – 177 members – Rs. 4,88,592

Particulars	No. of Members	No. of Mtngs	Annual Income	Remarks
Stitching of Kurta	3	2	84,240	Price increase of Rs. 1.50 per piece
Stitching of Kurti	4	3	1,79,712	Price increase of Rs. 3.00 per piece



Cutting of handkerchief from fabric	20	6	37,440	Cutting of handkerchief from 120 mtr fabric – Price increase of Rs. 1.00
Cutting of threads from Handkerchief	150	6	1,87,200	2 Rs. Price increase per 1000 pieces
Total	177		4,88,592	

Beedi (Indian cigarette) Workers Provident Fund

40 years ago SEWA won the case in the Hon'ble Gujarat High Court wherein 154 beedi workers were to be given provident fund. However, the struggle to get this money to the beedi workers was going on continuously. So far we have managed to get the provident fund money in the accounts of 46 beedi workers amounting to Rs.4,84,403. The members whose names were same or slightly different in all the documentary proofs got provident fund. But those members whose names were completely different in the case and in the documents, were identified before the Provident Fund Commissioner. A letter was written and signed in the presence of the commissioner by the women, other beedi worker members and SEWA office bearers and was submitted as per the guidance of the provident fund office. But further queries were raised in this matter and we are working further as per the advice of our lawyer.

Beedi Workers Housing

110 beedi workers of Ansuyanagar were allotted house by the Ahmedabad Urban Development Authority (AUDA) with the help of SEWA. SEWA is continuously working and meeting with AUDA to get the documents in the name of these sisters.

Ongoing activities of Shantipath Centers

Shantipath Centers

A total of 9 Shantipath Centers are functioning in Ahmedabad city. Guptanagar centre was started this year. Activities of Shantipatha kendras also continued to flourish.

Activity overview

Skill based training

- **Stitching training**

Skill based trainings like basic sewing machine, Juki sewing machines are given at Shantipath centres. In the year 2022, 838 women took these training. This course is of 3 to 6 months in which the women do the course according to their needs. After training, the women can easily find employment by working on their own or by going out and working. These trainings helped the women to earn a livelihood of Rs 4000 to 8000 per month.



As a result of the trainings, the skills of the women increased, they got to know more about market and technology, started working according to pattern, as per customer's demand, were able to communicate with the customers, the neatness and quality of their work improved, they got more work and income, had better understanding of the outside world and started to go out of their house, children's education improved, the income increased and the sisters became more enthusiastic and their health and nutrition improved.

My name is Damayantiben Ashokbhai Kahar. I live in Behrampur area. My mom sells flowers on the streets in the Jamalpur flower market and earns Rs.3000 per month. My father died due to paralysis after an accident. We are two sisters and 1 brother. We live in a rented house and I am the eldest among the brothers and sisters. Both brothers and sisters are not going to study and I stopped studying after passing class 9 after my father's death. I took sewing training at Bherampura Shantipath Centre. After training, I took a sewing machine on rent and started sewing. After that every year I join sewing class at Shantipath Kendra to stay updated in sewing. And now I have bought my own machine and my income and skills have also increased. Apart from this I have now also learned how to communicate with customers. Now I have also admitted my brothers and sisters to school and they also study in Gyan Kendra started by SEWA. I am now supporting my mom financially. I earn 6000 to 7000 per month which increases considerably during festivals.

Gyan Kendra - Knowledge Centers

Children from 5 to 14 years of age come for education in the knowledge centres. We work hard especially on reading and arithmetic, During the year 2022, for the school examination of the academic year 21-22, extra classes for the children were organised to prepare them for their exams. During the summer vacation of 2022, a summer camp was organized at our centre. The activities for the overall development of the children were covered in this summer camp. Activities like – book reading, playing math games, art and craft, painting, group discussion, children's movies, yoga, writing, group meals, English reading, many basic computer games etc. were organized.

During the academic year 22-23, full attention has been given to the children on stress free learning. Children are encouraged to study through as many different activities as possible. Now, children are understanding and coming out of the rote learning method. Along with this, children are also given computer education on a weekly basis.

This year we had organized a children's fair through SEWA. The children responded well and participated in different activities.

We have started "Baal Shanti Band" (Children's Band) in which our own knowledge centre children have practiced and formed their Band.

My name is Asghar Alijan Mia Shaikh. I study in Gyan Kendra at Idgah Shantipath Kendra. I am studying in class 5. My mom does thread cutting work and dad does casual labour. They could not afford sending me to any private tuitions and then they came to know about Gyan Kendra here and I joined here. When I came here to study, I wasn't very good academically. After joining the centre here, I am now able to solve basic math problems and also learnt small spellings in English. Now I know the tables from 1 to 20 also. Now I can read and speak about



myself in English. My mom is now very proud of me and every time she visits the Shantipath centre, she thanks the leaders here. Also I had a lot of fun at the Children's Fair in SEWA as all our friends made Teaching Learning Materials and decorated it. We also won prizes by playing many games. Also, I like the "English for All" activity in the knowledge centre because they teach English speaking through different activities. I will continue to join these activities. I feel so happy when my teacher comes to show my progress report at my house and everyone happily listens to it.

My name is Abdul Rafiq Shaikh. I live in Bapunagar area. I am studying in 6th standard in a school run by the municipal corporation. My father works in stitching and repairing clothes. I have been associated with Gyan Kendra since last 10 months. When I came here, even though I was in 6th standard, I could not write a single letter. Earlier, as my mother was not educated, she could not pay attention to my studies and since last 3 years my studies were left behind due to Corona. Now, after coming here to Gnanakendra, my basic studies have improved through various activities. The teacher allocates separate time for me along with regular studies and during that time makes me study the basics so that I do not lag behind my peers. Also they ask my mom to come here and study with me. My mom is very happy with it. She says that it is very important that my son studies well and does good in life.

The teachers training includes different methods of teaching a child (level wise and age wise), role of teacher in child's education, role of the teachers of knowledge centre, basic knowledge of computer, basics of MS Word-Excel, making TLM related to children's learning, using google sheet for children's attendance, Project work for children, activities under children's fair, making progress reports of children.

Children's fair

On 24th December 2022, Friday, SEWA organized a grand children's fair for the children of our Gyan Kendra – Jeevan Shala. Various activities related to the overall development of the children using games were organised during the fair. The idea was to include fun and knowledge along with fun. Children participated in all these activities and won various prizes. In this fair, we organized activities like 1 minute games, children's own skills, physical games, mental games, cultural program, ramp walk of small kids, dance with music etc. Our children had a lot of fun. Different nutritious snacks for children were also organized in this fair which were arranged by different Shantipath centres. Along with this, children also got to enjoy ice cream. Various posters displayed and decorated during the fair and the decorated TLM were made by the children themselves with the help of the teachers of our Gnankendra and Jivanshala. In addition to this, inflatable jumping castle arrangements were also made in this fair and the children kept on jumping and dancing. Also there were characters like Santa Claus and Joker who entertained the children throughout the fair.

In particular, in our Bal Mela 2023, we started a Bal Shanti Band which was a special dream of our founder Shri Elaben. In this Bal Shanti Band, the children studying at our centres played various musical instruments and made the Bal Mela musical with the song "Ame Paar Karishu" (We shall overcome).



I am studying in Guptanagar Shantipath Gyan Kendra. At the end of 2022, we were taken to a children's fair on Friday, December 24, 2022 in SEWA. I still remember that date because I had so much fun there. I really enjoyed playing 1 minute games. I and all my friends won some prize in it. I had a lot of fun eating chickpeas salad there. I also took pictures with my teacher and Santa Claus. We also played snakes and ladders. I whistled so much while my friends danced to the Ghoomar song. We were gifted with bags, chocolates, forks, whistles and many other things. If such a fair is held every year, it will be fun.

Children's activity at Knowledge Centre

Drawing work - We did drawing competition for the kids twice, theme based drawing competition, puzzle solving, Best out of waste, dance competition, let's play and learn activity, card making, recipe sharing, science experiments, story making were all the different activities during the year.

Contact with Parents

Children's activities always involve parents as much as the children. What do children study when they come to our knowledge centre? Also which are the activities that they do which ensure knowledge along with fun. Apart from this, the physical and mental development of the child is recorded by our teachers every month in the progress report. And we read that report to the parents in the parent meeting held at the end of every month at our centre. So that the parent also has information about his child that how fast the child is developing.

These parents meeting were very good but along with that we have parents coming who are from the working class. Even their daily livelihood is very important to them. So we have organized the contact parents program. In the parents' contact programme, the teachers of our Gyan Kendra visit the child's home according to their time and the parent's time and interact with the parent and share the child's progress report. So that no parent remains unaware of their child's development.

Teacher's Experience with the Parents

Amraiwadi

We went to the home of Het Rameshbhai Purani, a student studying in class 4, to show the progress report. First we took the information about his family. We got to know that there are total 5 members in their house. We got to know that Het's mother works as a construction worker. She is a daily wage earner and manages her household. No one was educated in his house. That is why she wants her son to study. Due to the family's economic condition, it is difficult to pay the fees. Yet she works hard and manages to pay the fees. We first gave them information about the progress report, how much their child has improved and progressed now compared to before. She was happy to see the progress made in his child. Then she thanked the Gnanakendra and the sisters who were working in SEWA and said that she was happy that we visited their house to inform them. This made us realize how much our child has grown. We will continue sending our child to the Gyan Kendra for studying in next standard and also inform other people about the Gyan Kendra. We said thank you and left.



Activities of the Knowledge Centre and its impact on children

At present the children studying at our Shantipath centres are mainly children of working class sisters. They dream that their children will not work like them and attain a high position in society - for which education is very important. Keeping this in mind, our Gnanakendra-Jeevanshala teachers who are well trained, impart the knowledge to the children according to our curriculum which not only includes text book learning but also other activities.

Through such activities carried out at our centres, children have now become familiar with the new age learning. They don't study using the rote learning method anymore. Our children understand any topic in the book deeply and then express it in their own language. At the same time, they also give new examples to the teacher.

Learning through different activities also increases the enthusiasm of children to learn further and they show their readiness to always be ahead in the race of learning. As we know our children are coming from working class areas, they also have a number of questions and issues in their mind. The different activities help the children to leave those questions behind and think about their studies.

Computer training

In the digital age, the new generation of SEWA is very enthusiastic about learning computers. And their basic need is this digital education, if we teach the children properly, they can get good employment in the future. We always saw this eagerness to learn computer among the younger generation. Since the fees for computer education are high in the classes outside, we always had this demand from the younger generation for which we started computer training.

Computer training at centres

- MS Office
- Tally course

We are teaching this course in an easy to understand manner in a limited number of Shantipath centres. This course is also time-consuming as with new versions, we need to provide refresher trainings to the teachers also. The duration of this course is 3 months and we also give a certificate after the training. A total of 198 children were trained in this year.

Solanki Aryan Maheshbhai

Aryan studies in college. His mother makes a livelihood by working in other people's houses. And his father works as a labourer. He is currently studying in a government college, he didn't know computer and his college education demanded the use of computer so he took admission in Amraiwadi Shantipath centre computer class, and completed three months course. His family's economic condition was not very good and so he was having difficulty in paying the fees, but his parents enrolled him for the computer class and he completed the course. Having learned computer helps in college projects and other work. Now he also does a part time job along with college and not only takes care of his personal expenses but also



helps his family. Learning computer has benefited him greatly so he thanks SEWA for this and also informs others about the computer classes here.

Kori Sivansh Sureshbhai

When this child came to the knowledge centre, he did not even know what a computer was. And he did not even know why computers are used and now he has a very good knowledge of computers. Currently, he also uses different formulas in Microsoft Excel for data handling. Also make presentations by making slides in power point.

Samutthan

In 2022, 216 members took treatment for uterine problems, 2483 benefited from physical exercise and 1380 benefited from physical therapy.

Different health related trainings were conducted on Covid, Jaundice, Malaria, Typhoid, Hygiene, Diabetes, Breast Cancer, Water Borne Diseases, Measles vaccination, Breast feeding, Child Immunization etc. A total of 19,079 members participated in 400 trainings.

Physiotherapy Centre

There was a lot of demand from the members to start a Physiotherapy Centre at Samutthan Centre. Keeping this in mind, we started a physiotherapy centre from June. In which the doctor comes. Different treatments and exercise are provided to the members. Daily 25 members are undergoing treatment at this centre. The doctor guides the patient for the treatment and makes them do the exercise without the use of any drugs. This has made a huge impact on the patients. A great difference has been observed among the patients with Paralysis. Cases of neuro have also been seen in which doctor treats members through chats, exercises and rays. New machines at the centre have increased the number of members. Children with mental illness, and for post-accident exercise also come to the centre.

Impact on members

My name is Sairabanu Sheikh. I am living in Maryam Bibi Chali. I am a tailor. I also do laundry and press work. Sewing work involves constant sitting and so I used to have a lot of pain in my back and heels, I also started having trouble doing housework. Due to the pain, my sewing work and press work stopped. We went to Dr. Piyushbhai and he told to rest for 15 days and do some exercise. Dr. Urvashiben also asked to take regular exercise and rays treatment. After taking the treatment and exercise I feel relaxed and I can now work.

My name is Yunusbhai Sandhi. My age is 52 years. I drive a rickshaw. I earn an income of Rs 200 to 350 per day. I had an accident while driving a rickshaw and was immediately taken to LG Hospital. I was immediately treated there. There they tied me with a bandage, but the bandage did not make any difference to me. Then I went to Dr. Piyushbhai at the SEWA centre. He saw my reports and then gave me medicine, told me to continue the rays. After that for 20 days I came to take the rays. I got a lot of relief from the pain in my hand. And now I can drive the rickshaw.



My name is Jashiben Arvindbhai. My age is 52 years. I have 1 boy and 2 girls. 3 are married. I sell sarees at home. All of a sudden I had a severe pain in my back. I did not pay much attention so my pain increased. My son works in civil hospital. So he took me there to the doctor. I had my MRI done in Civil, the medicine there made no difference. So I showed the MRI report to Dr. Kalpbhai in the SEWA Samuthan centre. He made me exercise and is giving me rays treatment. I have been coming for regular exercise for 2 months now. Now I am more relaxed than before, I am very comfortable to sit and get up. So I thank SEWA and Samuthan centre.

Jeevanshala (Life School)

School related supplementary classes (Std-1 to 8), Maths-English-Computer Basics (Std 9), Computer classes (for each age group), This is done in Gujarati medium with Niranjana Bhagat Trust. English 4 all (Std 5-8) program

Basics of Mathematics and English are taught to the students. (Here the students of class 8 sits with a child of class 5 – a child of class 6 also sits with a child of class 8.) Along with this, computer education is given once a week. (In which the children learn to type the lessons from the textbook using MSWord. Different activities are done with the children at the end of the week. (this includes the studies done during the week and details related to upcoming festivals.)

During the year 2022, for the school examination of the academic year 21-22, extra classes for the children were organised to prepare them for their exams. During the summer vacation of 2022, a summer camp was organized at our centre. The activities for the overall development of the children were covered in this summer camp. Activities like – book reading, playing math games, art and craft, painting, group discussion, children's movies, yoga, writing, group meals, English reading, many basic computer games etc. were organized.

During the academic year 22-23, full attention has been given to the children on stress free learning. Children are encouraged to study through as many different activities as possible. Now, children are understanding and coming out of the rote learning method. Along with this, children are also given computer education on a weekly basis.

During this time, the centre remained open from 8am to 8pm, so that all the children attending morning school or afternoon school can study in our Jeevanshala. Also, those children who go to madrasas and those who have time constraints can also study in our life school at their own time.

Educational activities at the Jeevan Shala

Children from age 5 to 8 are taught alphabets, numbers, from 1 to 100, tables, English alphabets, Basic English words, Addition, Subtraction, Multiplication, yoga etc. using educational games. Teachers create and use different charts and TLMs according to the subjects and topics covered in their courses every month, so that children can easily study by looking at the wall every day. The children of class 5 to 9 are taught in classroom. Many genuine children who study in class 7 to 9 but their level of study is same as class 5, they are given basic knowledge separately through extra classes. The course run by “Niranjana Bhagat Trust” for basic English education of children takes weekly classes of “Madhyam Gujarati,



Uttam Angreji” (English for Gujarati medium students) and teaches English to the children through different activities. Along with this computer education provided once in a week. Here the children learn to type the lessons studied in school using MSWord. At the end of 5 weeks different activities are done with the children. (This includes the studies done in the past weeks and information about upcoming festivals.) “Parents meeting” is organized to interact with the parents of the children studying in the Jeevan Shala and to provide the details of the children's studies to the parents. But if the parents are working and may not be in a condition to leave their daily routine, our teachers go to the child's home and get the progress report of the child signed. This is what we call the “Parents Contact Bridge” program.

Computer Lab

At present we are running a Fundamental of Computer – MSOffice course following a demand from the members in the neighbourhood chawls so that they can get the work of basic data entry. At the same time preparations are being made for further Tally course. A whole new computer lab has been set-up at the Jeevan Shala in the end of 2021 to conduct this course. This connects the students with the computer generation through updated computers.

With the guidance of Ahmedabad University, we have set up special computers so that the members and their children can get good quality computer education. Also, to cater to the children who are studying Accountancy, we are offering basic Tally course.

In today's digital age, many children are also studying in English medium, they are exposed to computer subject in school from primary level. They do not get enough time on computers in school and therefore they also want to learn computer at the Centre. We have also started computer education for primary school children. Courses are designed and taught according to their age and grade. At present we also run the computer lab from 8 am to 8 pm so that those who are already working can also learn computers. We can also enroll more children now.

1 computer has been kept separately for any person in the nearby area who has some computer related work and does not own a computer. In such cases, they can come to the centre and work so that they can continue their livelihood. In such cases, they contribute at hourly rates for using the computer.

My name is Pratik. After I studied till 10th standard, I have taken admission in IT course. A friend of mine Ayushi used to come to the SEWA Samutthan Gomtipur Centre for computer training through which I got information about the computer courses run here. And I also enrolled myself for the MS Office course. In the beginning it was very boring as even during vacations, we had to come here to learn computers. But gradually, I became very interested in learning computer here and my curiosity to learn new things increased. I overcame my learning difficulties with the help of the teacher and when I took admission in the IT course after completing the course here, after a few months there was also a computer related exam in which I secured the highest marks because of my learning at the SEWA Centre. I learned how to make presentations in PowerPoint very well and it helped me a lot during my computer exam at the IT course. I also got higher and better marks than all the students for



which I am very thankful to my family and my teachers at the SEWA Centre. After the result, my mom and I went to meet my computer teacher and express my thanks and show my result. We are very happy. And currently I have sent two of my relatives for computer training at SEWA Samutthan Centre.

My name is Sandhi Aftab. I am studying in class 6. I and my 2 brothers and sisters have been associated with Jeevanshala for the last 2 years. I really enjoy studying here. Here I am offered different activities every Saturday – I enjoy participating in all of them. Because of this, I now take the lead in participating in any activity in school. Even my school teacher used to ask me from where I know and learn all this. Last year, my mother left me to study in a hostel run by our society due to financial problems. But I was very upset there. Then they brought me back. After coming back, I didn't go to school for 2 months, but I came here to the Jeevan shala. Only after that I felt somewhat better and then again I took admission in the school here.

Personal experience of a Parent

My name is Bhumikaben. I live in Karamsad Patel Chali. My child's name is Parmar Bhavin. He has a heart problem since his childhood, so it was very difficult for him to study, then I came to know that a Samuthan Centre has opened in our area which also runs a life school. Then I put my baby there. There in the nursery school, the teacher worked very hard for my child, he could not read anything, but because of the teacher's work, my child can read well now. And in the exams, the teacher worked very hard to make him learn everything easily. And it is a lot of fun to study at Jeevan Shala. Here the teacher teaches computer every Friday or Saturday and also conducts different activities. My son now understands and can complete his homework by himself.

Shantipath Centers

There are 9 different Shantipath centres functioning in the areas where our members live in the city. In Gomatipur, Bapunagar, Idgah, Behrampura, Chamanpura, Juhapura, Amraiwadi, Shahpur, Guptanagar, a total of 838 members received sewing training, 198 members received computer training and 405 members benefited from other awareness sessions.

Impact of Shanti Path Centres

With the centre being set-up in the ward, the services of SEWA are easily accessible and the members can easily avail them. Women were provided sewing training at the centres and after the training, they started working at home by themselves and also would go outside to work. After Corona, the demand for these skill building trainings has increased. Linkages for livelihood were also made available from the centre. We also arranged for e-Shram card to be done at the centres, as a result, the members came to the centre in their own ward which saved time and travel fare and could get the e-Shram card. As a result of these centres, the members can get the trainings as per their needs within a distance of 100 miles from home. Linkages with Government schemes is also facilitated through centres.

Bhavnagar: Membership 16,400



SEWA Bhavnagar has been working with the poor women workers since 2011. SEWA has organized 12,000 women workers in Bhavnagar which includes plastic workers, scrap breakers, diamond workers, garbage pickers, betel nut cutters, construction workers, incense stick makers, cleaning workers. SEWA Bhavnagar works for the livelihood, self-reliance and visibility of these women workers.

The main source of livelihood for the women in Bhavnagar comes from Alang ship breaking yard and diamond industry. Alang in Bhavnagar district is the largest ship breaking yard in the world. Alang has various employments associated with the scrap or waste produced by the breaking up of ships. The scraps include plastic ropes, pipes, large machines, electronics items. Processing and Recycling of these waste products is a major trade in Bhavnagar. Members are mostly involved in this work. These mainly include plastic workers, scrap breakers and glass cutters. This work is linked to the downstream industry, in which mostly women workers are involved. The anchor rope coming out of Alang is processed by cutting, washing, sorting, shocking, grinding, etc. to make plastic strips for making beds and chairs. This is shipped all over India. This work is very dangerous. The members working here face several health related issues like skin diseases, breathing problems, back pain.

The waste from the machines is bought by the members from the Alang ship yards at a lumpsum price. They bring this waste home for breaking in which almost the entire family is involved. This work is done by tools like hammer, chisel, pliers, screw driver. There is a lot of risk involved in this work. During this work, the members keep having minor accidents. For example, there is always a risk of getting hit by a chisel or a hammer, burning if there is a combustible material in the scrap, or serious injuries due to small or large blasts.

There is no visibility in their work that these sisters do. They are not identified as workers. Although these sisters are connected to the circular economy, they are not noticed.

SEWA Bhavnagar works on livelihood of these sisters, price increase, bonus, alternative employment, health related and providing linkages with government schemes.

In the year 2022, SEWA has organized 16,400 workers associated with different occupations in Bhavnagar.

In the year 2022, due to the change in the government's policy after Covid and the slowdown in the ship breaking business, the employment of the sisters was greatly affected. At the same time, due to the climate changes, the working conditions of the sisters were also constantly changing. The economic and social situation of the sisters changed. The change led to a slowdown in the ship breaking business at Bhavnagar, where instead of 15 ships a month, only 20 to 25 ships came for breaking in six months. Due to this, the employment and economic condition of the sisters was greatly affected, in which most of the sisters were employed for 2 or 3 days instead of 7 days of work. These women earlier used to earn Rs.300 to Rs.400 per day, whereas now they are getting only Rs.200 per day. SEWA worked on alternative livelihoods for these women workers.

Health Care – 6,530 members received booster dose of covid vaccination.



Health Camps : 9 Health Camps were organized throughout the year in SEWA Bhavnagar along with separate camps with Primary Healthcare Centre and Anganwadi Sisters. This included, 3 eye camps where 390 sisters got their eyes checked and those suffering from serious eye diseases were referred to government hospitals. 4 General Camps were conducted during the year in which 640 sisters took medicine for common ailments like fever, cold and stomach ailment. Vaccination camps were conducted in which booster doses of covid vaccination were given to 990 sisters.

Awareness and Education - Legal training was imparted to the sisters during the year, in which 300 sisters received training on subjects like Minimum Wages, Factories Act, Accident Act, Domestic Violence Act. This included details about the precautions that the members should take while working. All this information was given by the subject experts.

Government Assistance – SEWA worked with Ministry of Labor and Employment throughout the year on e-shram Card for the members in which 2025 sisters registered for e-Shram Card, 1520 construction worker sisters registered in e-Construction Card. Linked 120 sisters were linked with Widow Pension Sahay Yojana. 233 were enrolled in old age pension scheme. 2357 members were facilitated the Ayushman Bharat card cards and linked with health services. On other issues of the members, the leaders and SEWA team coordinated with corporation for the solution of the issues of basic facilities like light, water, sewerage cleaning and insecticide spraying.

Meetings were held during the year for changes in anti-labour laws of the government and the members participated in representations and rallies. The leaders and the members together also made representation for the bonus to the workers. In coordination with employers 650 plastic worker sisters were given Rs. 501 as bonus. Coordinated frequent meetings with the Secretary of the Scrap Association for Scrap Recycling Sisters regarding supply chain and presented the concerns of the sisters to them and asked them to help the sisters for their livelihoods.

Throughout the year, 68 new leader sisters were trained and they started presenting the issues of the women workers their area.

During the year, 524 members earned an income of Rs. 1,56,320/-. Engaged 222 sisters with seasonal employment in kitchen work. 200 sisters were linked with embroidery work. Due to Corona, 50 sisters lost their jobs in kitchen work. Also, 52 sisters lost their jobs in diamond work. After coordinating with the owners, we worked on restarting the livelihoods of these sisters.

Also worked for price hike 150 to sisters who were engaged in kitchen work and they were given additional Rs 100 per day amounting to Rs. 2,25,000.

SEWA'S Rural Organising

Membership renewals for the year 2022 started on time compared to the year 2021. The rural membership in Gujarat is 8,02,197 and the urban membership is 3,25,425. The entire process



of this was done online. 6,02,458 previous year members re-joined the organisation in 2022 and 2,86,767 i.e. 36% new members joined.

In a country like ours where there is surplus of labour and less employment opportunities in the rural areas, there is a need to collectively organize these members so that they have collective strength and an increased bargaining power. SEWA organizes women workers into producer collectives, develops alternative work and employment opportunities. They build economic institutions of their own and access market. This joint strategy of cooperatives and unions leads to constructive struggle and development. The workers do not remain workers but also become owners and managers of their own economic organizations.

The women workers are organized into local, village level producer groups or collectives. This brings collective strength, action and bargaining power. These village level producer groups are then federated into district level association so that they compete in the market on a collective basis; access technical inputs, product and design development; and avail credit collectively.

Livelihood opportunities should be created on the basis of local skills and resources to increase employment and bargaining power. Accelerating and sustaining these opportunities is done by member's own economic organisations. These Economic organisations include SEWA Gram Mahila Haat, Rudi, SEWA Unnat Bazar, Shree Swashrayi Mahila SEWA Khet Majoor Association, Banaskantha Dwacara Mahila SEWA Association, Surendranagar Mahila and Child Development Society, Sukhi Mahila SEWA Mandal, Swashrayi Mahila Khedu Mandal, Kutch Craft Association, Sri Kheda District Swashrayi Mahila Bachat Mandal.

SEWA continued working with an integrated approach according to the needs and demands of the members. Due to corona pandemic, life, health, trade, income, employment and education have been affected. The families who had come back to the villages, started going back to work. However, they did not get full time work every month, health expenses also increased, and they did not get full employment. As debts increased, members struggled to maintain income and livelihood. In order to speed up this work, the virtual meetings continued and the work arrangements were made.

Like market linkages for getting good prices for farm produce, purchase of various crop produced by farmer sisters by Rudi, savings and credit, digital literacy activities, toll free telephone service for health related queries, telemedicine etc. Kamala set up a system for buying and selling vegetables so that the growers could sell the vegetables to the members on time and get the right price. The work was done with a farm to consumer approach so that the livelihood of the farmers is maintained and health improves. The members also bear the brunt of climate changes. Storms, extreme heat in summer, yellow alert and extreme cold in winter have left Agaria in the desert helpless. The members working in agriculture and animal husbandry had to face a severe crisis due to this.

What has emerged from the struggle of the last two years is that to survive climate change, we will need especially Swachh Akash (clean skies) and prevent pollution of air, soil and water. For tis we need to lead a simple life. We need to obtain our basic needs like food, water and clothing from within 100 miles. All of us have taken a common resolution to transform the



society so that the sisters can use it and create local employment. This is what our founder Elaben called - the Economy of Nurturance

Following the global pandemic of Covid-19, the isolation may have been reduced. But the covid epidemic is not going away. Health problems have increased frequently with new forms and side effects. So we are working on Non Communicable Disease (NCDs). The same leaders who handled covid vaccination are doing the work of checking blood pressure i.e. BP, diabetes (sugar, diabetes) through telemedicine.

As our founder Shri Elaben always said about her 100 miles principle - a farmer does not eat what he grows and what he eats, he does not grow. The more we can reduce the distance between the grower and the consumer, the more employment opportunities will be created and the environmental challenges will be met.

On the occasion of SEWA's 50 years celebration, we all decided that for the next 50 years we will do a Swachh Akash (clean skies) campaign to prevent the effects of climate change. To keep land, water and air clean, to prevent pollution, to have green villages, green employment. This includes collection of rain water drop by drop, to maintain this water and the resources, Agriculture includes natural farming as well as energy farming. This work can generate solar energy around one's house in the field and in any corner of the field. This energy yield can be consumed by the household and the excess energy can be fed into the grid and earn income. In the coming years, these work will remain at the centre for the rural development.

Covid Pandemic

The Covid pandemic threatened everyone's health and took the form of a global pandemic. The years 2020, 2021, and 2022 have been very challenging for the poor and working women of the unorganized sector. The wave of corona epidemic kept coming with new variants.

For the poor informal sector worker members of SEWA, their bodies are their capital. If the health is safe, the body can also be safe. If there is safety of the body, the livelihood is also protected through employment

In the face of these dangers, with a view to protect the poor women worker members of SEWA against the diseases which came out seriously, SEWA started a programme called Covid Suraksha. We started working for Non Communicable Diseases (NCD) like High BP (High Blood Pressure), Cholesterol, Diabetes, Thyroid, Cancer etc.

In order to ensure that the members are protected against these diseases, a team of leaders was formed in each district and SEWA worked to provide online training on one subject every week. The main topics of which are, Hyper tension, Diabetes, Cholesterol, Thyroid etc. Its symptoms, what to watch out for and why regular screening and diagnosis is necessary. In addition, information about nutritional diet and yoga exercise, heat-related illnesses, water and mosquito-borne diseases, information about new variants of Corona and awareness about precautions and vaccination, the use of medical equipment and its knowledge was provided to the leaders in these trainings



Immunization and awareness: It is very important to immunize new-born and children up to 5 years of age. We encourage leaders to find such low-income children and link them with vaccination so that children who migrate especially in the interior areas and those who migrate for work are not deprived of vaccines. Likewise, awareness was created among the members on why the covid vaccine and booster dose are necessary. At the same time, the leaders also worked on linkages to get everyone vaccinated.

In order for the sisters to get information about non-communicable diseases, SEWA trained the leaders in use of medical equipment such as BP measurement, glucometer, thermometer, oximeter. These equipments are used to identify the patients in the furthestmost villages. How many patients are there in remote villages using these tools. The leaders collect this information, fill the details in google form so that we know how many patients of non-communicable diseases we have. Once this information is available, further diagnosis is done through telemedicine and continuous contact and follow-up by nurses. A total of 15000 members were screened through these equipments.

Telemedicine: SEWA leaders provide the telemedicine number whenever the members in the village fall ill at home. By calling this number and talking to the doctor, they send the medicine for the illness through a written message and gets the treatment done. So it became easier for the patient to treat the disease at home. A total of 8000 members were treated through telemedicine.

Mental Health and Samay Nu Sanman

During the covid pandemic, the members had to face many problems. Many people lost their jobs, some members lost their relatives. Some of the members had to spend all their savings for the treatment of covid. Due to the closure of the schools, the education of the children was also affected. Due to all these reasons members and their children suffered from mental health ailments like depression and anxiety. Therefore, to help them, SEWA trained the leaders and developed a cadre of leaders who can help the members through counselling.

Apart from this, education and co-curricular activities were also undertaken for the children to bring them out of mental health illness and to educate them in other activities.

In the year 2022, SEWA also worked to build resilience among the members due to climate change. Due to the rising temperature in summer, the leaders were given special training in which information was provided on heat-related diseases, their symptoms and prevention.

SEWA's rural organising team has been working to increase the bargaining power of the farmers and develop agriculture as an enterprise. SEWA has been working on developing green villages, encouraging sustainable farming practices, and other issues of the members in agriculture, animal husbandry, employment, government coordination regarding the different government schemes, health issues and credit linkages. Due to the climate change and various extreme weather events like Tauktae cyclone, frequent monsoon, extreme heat, agriculture and animal husbandry were badly affected. For this, by being constantly alert, all the information of the forecast of the Meteorological Department was obtained and the



advice and guidance of the agriculture department was conveyed to all the families involved in agriculture and animal husbandry through voice messages so that the members could be alert for this and reduce the amount of loss.

Salt workers work on the salt pans in the Little Rann of Kutch on production of salt. With a view to reduce the carbon emission, they have been using solar energy for salt production. SEWA's Hariyali campaign facilitated use of solar pumps for the salt farmers. These solar pumps are obtained through bank tie-up and loan to members. And at the same time, an application was also made to take benefit of the solar pump subsidy scheme by the Industries Department of the Government of Gujarat.

In the Little Rann of Kutch, due to frequent unseasonal rains, the water small desert of Kutch, water gets filled in the salt pans and this reduces the salt production and leads to difficulties. Also, the verification of members applying for solar pump subsidy is getting hampered. As a result, our members do not get bank credit due to rising loan instalments.

Government policy supports industries to strengthen the economy. Similarly, salt farmers have also been given the status of agriculture and works to solve their problems. The contribution of desert of Kutch, which is the leader in salt production in the entire country, is not a small part in the economy.

SEWA REPORT AS PER THE 11 QUESTIONS

District	Livelihood Members	Income (Rs)	Ownership Members	Ownership (Rs)	Nutritious Food	Health	Childcare	Housing	Organising	Leadership	Self Reliance	Education
Ahmedabad	15244	211871819	4536	233900000	15726	27533	5117	18	60000	15456	14625	38213
Gandhinagar	14284	366048000	8038	3570000	15850	21814	9870	3610	53625	11205	12207	25512
Mehsana	50597	330112246	40137	63334991	13870	31710	5079	72	650000	3468	9902	42550
Kutch	27210	5305794479	2230	26458242	2480	13459	3202	40	56125	1027	21000	24000
Patan	43584	143827200	25898	111430000	11666	21160	3960	408	94000	22750	19894	40487
Surendranagar	33275	1467860000	26522	396750000	23300	92690	2680	2562	92690	4200	33700	93450
Aravalli	48605	230922500	23501	112061576	13000	18150	1350	10	70157	3152	23166	26766
Anand/Kheda	135000	89742587	38376	81670037	91873	152000	4892	143	165000	158216	16535	52250
Chhota Udepur	44181	76961987	4023	29250705	13983	19337	3120	16	68000	2962	22203	24624
Total	411980	8223140818	173261	1058425551	201748	397853	39270	6879	724597	222436	173232	367852

Agriculture Campaign



Out of 25,32,846 members of SEWA, 2/3rd members are rural, out of which 54% members are engaged in agriculture and agricultural labour. SEWA has started developmental activities related to agriculture and animal husbandry especially for the small and marginal farmers since 1995 as agriculture campaign. Major problems of farmers like lack of production oriented modern technological know-how, increasing cost of necessary inputs like improved seeds, fertilizers etc., besides changes in climate, changes in economic policies add to the problem of small and marginal farmers. As a result, the farmer remains hungry. SEWA's agricultural campaign work to find a solution to this question.

SEWA's agriculture campaign works to make agriculture sustainable by integrating traditional skills and scientific farming methods and animal husbandry, to reduce the cost of farming and take the farmers towards sustainable agriculture with higher productivity, to establish the role of farmers to maintain effective participation in the economic development of the country through agriculture, animal husbandry.

As SEWA completes 50 years, what might SEWA's next 50-year strategy be in the wake of this changing global landscape? What are the trades and how the unorganized workers and their organizations can survive in the market? Agriculture and allied work as well as animal husbandry are the main occupations for the rural members of SEWA. And it is these businesses that need to be made more viable in the future. From the farmer's in the village to the policy makers and researchers at the global level, everyone has accepted it. Among the future occupations in rural areas, agriculture and its allied activities, animal husbandry will be the major employment generating activities. But for that, the farmer and his organizations have to adopt a business approach in the wake of the rapidly changing domestic and global market policy as well as economic policy. In tune with the changing times, the agriculture campaign in SEWA continued working on addressing the issues based on the needs of the members over time.

SEWA is not a technical or research organization or a financial institution in any way. At the foundation of SEWA are the members and these members are SEWA itself. It is a member-based organization with 65 percent of its members involved in agriculture and agri-based businesses. The farmers themselves run the agriculture campaign. Small and marginal farmers are continuously contributing to solving the problem of world food security and environmental protection. But the work of these small and marginal farmer sisters is not noticed enough.

Agriculture Campaign Towards Swachh Akash (Clean Skies)

We cannot stop the climate change but how to sustain our trade and employment against it is very important. So during the celebration of 50 years of SEWA, we all came together with our founder Elaben and took a resolution that we will work towards making clean skies in the next 50 years. Thus more emphasis is being given to this in the agriculture campaign.

- What changes can we make in our agriculture to have clean skies to keep up with climate change? Natural farming or farming that regenerates the soil and environment was given more emphasis.



- We prepare our own seeds, use them, store them, re-cultivate forgotten food crops like millets.
- Land verification should be done every three years.
- Emphasis on mixed cropping and crop rotation.
- Plant trees on the boundary of the field and take care of those trees
- Make organic manure, vermicompost from our cattle dung. We will prepare natural fertilizers like panchadravya, neem oil, and tools like Prakash Pinjar and yellow sticky strip to control the pests in agriculture. Let's also save our insect friends like beetles, bees, birds, insects etc
- Let's irrigate only as much as we need, and use only solar energy - for irrigation. Adopting drip irrigation system. Using these methods in agriculture will increase the fertility of the soil, thereby reducing the amount of carbon in the air.
- We should make underground rainwater harvesting tanks at home. Let's use rainwater in the farm for household consumption and agriculture by making farm ponds.

Giving Back to Nature

As SEWA's agriculture campaign progressed, so did the work. Keeping in view the 3 requirements of the member's viz Food, Shelter and Clothing and the 3 main services viz. financial, education, health to the members, the agriculture campaign further accelerated. To provide sustainable income and livelihood to our members through agriculture campaign and to develop agriculture as an enterprise, the main focus of the campaign has evolved with the changing times and the agriculture campaign continuously emphasis on the following 5 points.

1. SEWA members to reduce the impact of climate and season change and take measures to reduce the same through Agriculture, Water and Energy. To shift the women farmers towards CLIMATE SMART AGRICULTURE.
2. To provide proper market linkage of farm produce to women farmers
3. Participation of women farmers in agricultural policies and efforts to bring pro poor changes in the policies.
4. To set up village level business units in agriculture.
5. To reduce the cost of farming by adopting cluster farming practices

As part of agriculture campaign's efforts towards clean skies, SEWA promoted sustainable farming, use of biogas, solar technology. The statistical details are as follows.

- **Integrated farm management:** This included soil testing, soil maintenance, seed, irrigation and fertilizer management and market linkages thus covering 5,53,373 members through online and face-to-face training and workshops. In which 25,000 young generation members were involved in training.
- **Sustainable Cotton Farming:** Under sustainable cotton farming, this year 1,89,593 members joined the agriculture campaign by planting cotton in 985 villages of Gujarat and Maharashtra. Conducted organic farming demonstrations through 7 training study sequences for sustainable cotton training.



- **Cluster Farming:** District-wise clusters were formed around 9 major crops - wheat, castor, gram, cumin, groundnut, paddy, potato, vegetables and 821 farmer members were trained in cluster farming

In which more emphasis was given on special, crop-based sustainable agriculture. In which the main crop of Kharif season was cotton and cumin is the winter crop. Also the major crops growing in the district were also included in cluster farming.

In addition, this year under the demonstration of Swachh Akash, work was done in 2 acres of land in Mahisagar district. In it, a group of 15 sisters was formed, 600 teak trees were planted by the sisters themselves, and vermicompost is being prepared by rearing earthworms.

Voice Messaging – This technology has been very useful for farmers in agriculture. In order to ensure that the weather messages reach the farmers, SEWA’s agriculture campaign tied up with Ahmedabad Meteorology Department and audio messages related to crops and animal husbandry have been prepared and weather related messages have been sent to 28,000 members through WhatsApp groups of 11 districts.

Activities under the Agriculture Campaign – Major emphasis was on Climate Resilient Agriculture practices. In which, especially how can our small and marginal farmers survive amidst the challenges of a changing climate and global policy changes. For that, work is being done with an integrated approach especially on the following points.

Agriculture Training Education: SEWA’s agriculture campaign provided trainings to 30,000 members in 9 district through use of posters on soil testing, natural medicine and sustainable pest control. Conducted workshop on climate change in 9 districts.

Market Linkages: Two types of linkages were made through agriculture campaigns. In order to ensure that the small and marginal farmers get good price for their produce, SEWA’s agriculture campaign has tied-up with RUDI company for procurement cereals and spices from their door step. For the cash crops like castor and cotton, linkages were done with oil mills and ginners.

For Cumin-4 200 ton linkages were done with AB Mori Company and Unjha APMC. 112 members sold cumin at 2800 to 3000 in the village itself. Direct sale of 50,000 kg of potato from Anand was done in the local market in Nadiad and Khambhat at an average of Rs.14 per kg. Summer crop of Okra (Bhindi) vegetable was sold in the local market in Nadiad and Khambhat, at an average price of Rs 30 to Rs 35 per kg. Sales amounting to Rs 23,00,000/- was done. 6,15,547.31 kg of cotton sold in 11 districts in Gujarat and 5,64,369.97 kg in Maharashtra were sold in villages to ginners.

Cluster Farming: Potato Cultivation - Number of Farmers: 100

In Chaklasi and Bhumel Villages of Anand district, the members formed a Ravi Season Local Farmers' Group for Potato Cultivation. The cluster group of small and marginal women farmers of the village owns 2.50 bighas of land. According to the old traditional method of farming, the estimated cost of seeds, medicine, water and labour is 35 to 38 thousand, against



which the income was barely 30 to 40 percent. The selling price of this product in the local and nearby market yards is Rs. 8 to 9 per kg. Also, when the trader buys the produce, the farmer bears the transport cost. Against all these costs, the price that the farmers get is very less. Also they have to face financial difficulties and so the produce had to be sold in season, as the farmers had to sell to pay back the money they had borrowed from outside through loans or other interest.

As the work with the cluster group started, training was given in the cultivation of potato using scientific farming method. Along with the purpose of cluster operation, information was given about what will be beneficial to the farmer in the long run. The members were explained that if the expenses are more, we can reduce it using the Leaky Bucket Method. The members understood exactly what kind of costs are incurred in agriculture and how they can be reduced and used it in agriculture.

Apart from this, training was provided with the Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) to find out where costs can be reduced and income can be increased. It created an understanding of new technology, knowledge of irrigation system, bio-fertilizer, controlled use of fertilizer was found, awareness trainings were given to the farmers through various demonstrations for disease and pest control. Due to this, the cost of farming has reduced by 6 to 7 thousand.

Under the cluster, 150 farmers bought collective seeds, saving Rs 450 to 500 per farmer. Farmers benefited upto an amount of 65,000 to 70,000 rupees through purchase of seeds. For pest control, the use of neem extract, nectar, amritpani compost etc. reduced the cost by 6 to 7 thousand rupees per farmer. In order to get good prices, training was given in sorting (grading) produce according to quality. Total potato production was 1400 to 1500 quintal. Local team linked them to the dealer for its sale. The farmers were linked directly with the traders in the market for selling 500 quintals and the same was sold at an average price of Rs. 11 to 12 per kg. This increased the farmer's confidence in the cluster group and they got an income of 1,50,000 rupees more than last year.

The experience of this sales was very good with phone calls coming from wholesalers. Simaben and Samaben became more familiar with the wholesalers. They developed the ability to communicate with the trader, increased courage and enthusiasm for sales and went to the cold storage every day for these sales. Here too the traders came to buy, they also learned the art of communication and selling skills from the traders.

Apart from this, arrangements were made to put potatoes in cold storage to get more price to the cluster farmers. A batch of 50,000 kg was kept in a cold storage near the village. Among the farmers whose produce was put in the cold storage, the needy farmers were provided loans by the local cooperative society of Anand district.

For this stock, the price was found to be higher in the market after two months, as the market price increased, the centre team along with the local farmers coordinated with the market yard Bazar and spoke to the local traders. They got an order for selling 5 to 10 thousand kg at the rate of Rs. 14. Thereafter, they started receiving calls from different buyers. They then sold the remaining stock from the cold storage at the price of Rs. 15 to 16 per kg. From this



sale, the farmers used to get Rs. 8 to 10 but in this season, they got a price of around Rs. 15. Farmers got more income and an average farmer got 4500 to 5000 thousand more income.

Due to cluster farming and collective input purchase, they got 10 to 15 percent reduction in the cost of farming and 30 to 40 percent increase in the income from the produce. After getting good success in this, this time 150 farmers were given seeds at the price of 500 rupees in coordination with KVK for collective seed purchase in Kharif season vegetable cluster. The farmer got a benefit of Rs 3,00,000 by getting subsidy of around 2000 in this seed purchase in kharif seed purchase.

My name is Kapurben Bhawansingh Rathore. I am a resident of Naganamath village. I have been a member of SEWA for the last 10 years, I save regularly and I regularly participate in the trainings conducted under the agriculture campaign. Through this, I got training about organic farming and biogas and our as a result our village uses less chemical fertilizers as compared to other villages. When I was asked about Biogas, I willingly agreed for the demonstration. I was told about its benefits. In the present situation, chemical fertilizers are widely used in agriculture. Instead of them, the slurry from the Biogas plant can be used in the field. Two months ago, biogas was installed in my house and it started functioning. By installing biogas, I not only get cooking gas, but also manure and slurry. It requires 40 kg of dung and 6 buckets of water per day. There is no other cost. There are 10 members in my house, if I used to cook food on gas, then the gas bottle used to last only 1 month and cost 1000 rupees, now it does not cost anything. Talking about fertilizer, after installing biogas, I have cultivated tomato in 1 bigha. Fertilizer from biogas has been used in it. No chemical fertilizer has been used and so Rs. 2000 which was used in fertilizer has been saved. Earlier, chemical were also used in tomato, but now with the use of slurry we do not need chemicals the slurry does not cost anything, the cost has been reduced by 2200 to 2700 rupees. Thus, with biogas, the cost of farming has reduced and farming has improved and the land can also be saved from chemicals and fertilizers and the cost has reduced by 6000 to 7000 in two months and the cost of farming will also be reduced in the future and there will be other benefits.

Name - Gitaben Ajubhai Kasela, District:- Surendranagar Village - Narichana

Land - 3 Acres, Crops - Wheat, Castor

Gitaben has been working for years. She has grown wheat crop and castor crop in her field. Last year the prices were very low in wheat crop this year we were given a demo in wheat crop by SEWA. Jivamrut, vermibed, culture and neem oil were provided in the demo. We didn't know how to make compost in vermibed but we were trained by Sushila Ben from SEWA on how to make compost. I made the compost myself and used it in my crop and sprayed neem oil so that I don't need any other chemicals or anything in the wheat crop. No need for fertilizer. After using this demo, the growth of the wheat crop improved, its grains became uniform so that the price will be good. The quality of the crop improved. I will be able to use the compost made by this vermibed in other crops so that other crops will also benefit. I thank SEWA for giving us this demo.

Forestry and Water Campaign – Feminise Our Forest



SEWA members have been engaged in plantation work for years. They also collect forest by-products. However, technical assistance and services are required in these works. These women workers do not have access to it and on the other hand women suffer the most due to soil erosion due to changes in the environment and consequent loss of productivity. The livelihoods of the sisters is affected due to the nursery policy of the forest department. This policy is not only a hindrance but it also reduces the income of the poor women workers who are into plantation and collection of minor forest produce. These women workers have taken up a campaign at the state and national level to hand over all the forest work to the sisters who have been rearing these saplings for the last 14 years. This year, with the celebration of Environment Day on June 5, the members planted a total of 59,515 saplings of 13 types in 11 districts in June and July. Different local species like Neem, Gulmohar, Arduso, Jambu, Asopalav, Banyan, Pipla etc were planted. This plantation was done at the village panchayat, school, public places and near their house.

Water and Natural Resource Management Campaign: SEWA’s 21st Century Campaign Women, Water and Work

SEWA’s Natural Resource Management (NRM) Campaign is very important for rural members. This campaign has been running since 1994. A campaign has been launched on the issue of water and it is called Women, Water and Work campaign - A twenty-first century campaign of SEWA to address the various problems of drinking water in the country to be solved through public participation and management of various water sources through the community participation, with women at the centre of its management. Also, to ensure that pure drinking water is available at the doorstep. The main objective of this campaign is to also reduce the consumption of ground water and maximize the proper harvesting of rain water.

Message	Demand
Clean water is our basic right, we cannot live without water, without water we cannot be healthy, our employment is severely affected because of lack of water, we migrate with our families and animals, leaving home and health, because without water we cannot survive.	We want to develop sources of drinking water in every village. Local women should have control over and manage our water sources. We want to collect and save rain water.

SEWA’s Women, Water and Work 21st Century Campaign has been going on since 1994. The purpose of which is to prevent drought or to plan properly against water scarcity so that if we prepare in advance, we will survive in difficult times.

Under the Water Campaign, we emphasized on Climate Resilient Agriculture practices against the impact of climate change, especially increasing the use of organic fertilizers, bio-medicines. Sustainable agriculture (including use of proper amount of fertilizer-pesticides), use of tool library, drip irrigation system and irrigation management with the help of solar energy, 200 members used solar pump as irrigation in agriculture. And irrigated 200 acres of land



Name: Gitaben Laxmanbhai Makwana Village Gamanpura Taluk- District Mehsana, Activity- Water Campaign

I am an agricultural labourer. I have been a member of SEWA for six years. I used to work in agriculture. Sisters from SEWA used to come to our village. A year ago, a water source survey was conducted and a meeting was held. We were given different trainings based on the demands of the members, on the importance of being organised, saving, water-borne diseases etc. Then I also became a member of SEWA by paying ten rupees. After joining different meetings and trainings, I gained strength and learned a lot. We had our own identity/ We did not go out of the house earlier. After joining SEWA I met the sisters and gave different trainings I took from SEWA to other sisters in the villages like training in organising, saving, marketing. I joined SEWA as Rudiben and got employment by selling Rudi products in the villages. I also formed a savings group in the village and the women could also borrow loans from this savings group which they returned on time. Today I sell RUDI products worth Rs 20 to 25 thousand. Other sisters also joined and get livelihood. I do members education training and train other sisters like me on how to get more produce at less cost. I also provide trainings on farm management. Internal cropping, dual use of water, kitchen garden at home and started taking vegetables for personal consumption. This helped to increase our income. Through SEWA, I also took training in another organization about how to increase the production. Gradually, I worked in another 10 villages with an integrated approach and started savings group with 50 members and my work developed my strength. I also took decisions in my house and if there was a meeting in the village Panchayat, I also participated in the meetings. With the support of other men and women in the village, I was elected as a panchayat member. We used to participate in many development works of the village, along with me four other sisters were also members who were also members of SEWA. While doing development works, there was a water problem in our village, as there was an ONGC well in the village, the water in the bore was mixed with gas due to which the water in the village was polluted, and it was very dirty and stinking so we had to fetch water from outside for everyone to drink. Water problem increased in summer, tankers were called and water on wedding occasions was a major issue. There were frequent problems with the gas line in village and it was difficult to get water for bathing use, there were agricultural bores but they were far away. The village members were troubled. The Panchayat members along with me other members and Sarpanch Ben held a meeting in the village and told the members that it will work only if we were organised. The members cooperated in this matter and planned to make a bore for drinking water. The village leaders also supported and the women went from house to house and collected Rs. 1000. This way they collected an amount of Rs. 3.30 lakhs. We deposited this money in the Government and got subsidy from the government. The bore well was done in the village. This bore well is currently operational, the sisters are getting clean water, we give water one hour in the morning and evening. Currently there is no water problem at all. We were deprived of water and now we had clean water in the village. We also developed an identity in the village and people started recognising us as SEWA women, also my respect in the house increased.

Due to availability of water, women now had more time for livelihood activities. They started coming to the panchayat and got information about different government schemes.

After joining SEWA, a lot has changed for us. Many other women joined SEWA and we worked on solving their issues and the issues of the village. We became more confident and have a unique identity. SEWA Sangathan Zindabad



Green Livelihood campaign

About 30 to 40 percent of the income of the poor women worker members of SEWA was spent on getting energy for their various needs. In particular, wood, coal, kerosene as fuel, diesel for equipment like pumps or tractors and electricity. Yet access to energy is an issue for the members. This has a direct impact on the members' lives, livelihoods and income. From the year 2009, SEWA started green livelihood campaign. Especially the women have to spend more than half a day to get fuel wood for cooking purpose. The heavy smoke generated from burning the fuel wood and the heat, impacts the health of the women and children in the house. The constant smoke inhalation from burning stoves exposes very young sisters and newborns to TB and other respiratory diseases, poor eyesight and cataracts, hence the green livelihood campaign of SEWA adopted the 'Mix Grid' approach. Village by village and house to house energy needs of the members were identified and planned to be provided to the members in an integrated manner with less wood and less smoke LPG stoves, electricity solar pumps and mini grids with solar panels all in an affordable manner to the members.

The objective is to make the village greener by shifting the rural members away from conventional highly expensive, environment polluting, health-inflicting tools towards the use of greener and cleaner tools. Thereby increasing revenue, reducing costs and conserving energy by providing green and clean energy. To make the process of transition to green energy sources easy, Energy efficient fan and bulb (EESL kit), biogas plant, cooling roof, solar precision drip irrigation pump, solar pumps, solar fencing, solar powered fodder machine, solar energy trap light, a solar-based off-grid roof-top system were the different products that were made available to the members.

The Green Villages programme is currently operational in Aravalli, Anand, Chhota Udepur in Gujarat and Rajasthan (Dungarpur, Sagawara), Maharashtra (Aurangabad, Nanded), Uttar Pradesh (Barabanki, Raebareli, Firozabad) in the states.

We have also created awareness meetings and trainings in many districts and installed green technology in other districts as well, in Surendranagar, Patan, Kutch, Ahmedabad and Mehsana we have installed a total of 101 solar based trap lights in Aravalli, Anand, Chhota udepur and Rajasthan, Maharashtra. Apart from this, 500 biogas plants have also been installed.

So far 30500 members have been given an exposure visit under the Hariyali Village campaign. A total of 58 members have installed renewable technology. 130 members are involved in the promotion and awareness work of Hariyala village. There are Hariyala villages in 24 talukas in 4 states.

The Surya program was launched in June 2022 jointly by SEWA, UNEP and Renew Power. Through this program Surya (solar energy) training was organized in Santalpur taluka of Patan district. Santalpur taluks is located on the border of Pakistan, adjacent to Kutch desert. Asia's largest solar park has been installed in Charanka village of Santalpur taluka. The main occupations in this area are embroidery, agriculture, animal husbandry. Members of this area are also engaged in salt production traditionally for years. Over the years this salt has been produced using only diesel pumps which increases the cost and also harms the environment.



Through SEWA's interventions, solar pumps have been installed by the members for the past 3 years to make the work easier by using technological methods for salt production. Thus, the members get more income with less cost through this method. Solar devices are widely used in this salt production process. When solar equipment breaks down, it costs a lot to get the repair work done and during that time they also stop working. Thus, the livelihoods of the members suffer. Through this training, the member sisters are given technical training in installation, repairs and maintenance of solar panels and solar energy pumps. This provides livelihood and income to the members. This is a unique way to earn a living in the solar energy sector. This work has been started on June 26, 2022. During this program, the target is to train 1020 salt worker young members in the next 3 years.

In the months of April to June, the awareness work of the program was done by the leaders in Dhokawada village and the surrounding areas and the data about women who were interested in the technical subjects were collected and invited to the Dhokawada training centre. These women were given an in-depth understanding of the program at the centre and thus 60 women have been identified and trainings have been started in 2 batches.

This program has been started by providing training to 60 women. For 15 days the sisters were taught only about basic electricity as most of the sisters had left their studies over the years so they had to prepare for some calculations. When these members have questions, they are often explained and periodically evaluated so that they learn. The trainee sisters were given 60% theory training in classroom and 40% practical training with solar panels outside.

Thus, along with the theory, they are also trained on how to properly install a solar panel system when they go on site. Co-ordination of work with colleagues on problem solving, proper practices and safety measures to be taken while working were also taught during the training.

With a view that these women workers get employment, the team also visited Charanka Solar Park, Gujarat Power Commission Limited-Gandhinagar, Zodiac Company-Ahmedabad, Ganpat University-Mehsana, ITI-Santalpur, Motherson Company-Sanand, Mindarika Company-Kadi.

Solar Park (Solar Power Generation) (Distributed Renewable Energy Initiative)

SEWA started organising in Surendranagar district in the year 1992 and the main objective was to provide all-round development of salt workers and children working in the Little Rann of Kutch. Keeping this objective in mind, the Surendranagar Mahila and Bal Vikas Mandal, salt farmers and agriculture workers and labourers formed their own local association through SEWA. It was registered under the Societies and Trusts Act in 1998.

15000 salt farmer members have been organized by SEWA and Surendranagar Mahila and Bal Vikas Mandal. To make these 15000 members fully employed and self-reliant, quality improvement training in salt production, market linkages and bank linkages have been imparted so that each member earns an increased income of Rs. 45,000 during the salt season. To reduce 70% diesel consumption in salt production, GTNFW installed 10 solar systems in 2013 thereby saving 50% diesel costing Rs. 40000 to Rs.45000. This resulted in an increase in income through savings on expenses. By 2022, 5000 members are using solar



system, this solar system is used in desert for six months, for the remaining six months, it stays at home. When the salt farmers migrate back to the villages from the desert, there is no employment. It was then decided to have an off season solar park with the aim of providing additional alternative employment to the salt farmers using these panels.

We spoke to the Gujarat government and the Gujarat government also found our idea very new. This will be the first ever solar park in the world owned by the poor informal sector women workers. It will generate electricity through the women workers solar panel, where these women workers will be the owner and manager of this off-season solar park. Gujarat government has also given permission for 25 years as a special case. A solar park of about 2.5 megavolts is being prepared at Naradi village of Dhrangdhra taluka.

Swachh Akash (Clean Sky)

The poor women workers are committed to reducing the impacts of climate change. And hence the emphasis on green livelihoods. Members are trying to stop the release of toxic gases into the air by using green agriculture (natural farming), using clean electricity in home consumption and clean kitchen etc. They are working on using renewable energy in their livelihoods and reduce the emission of poisonous gases through Hariyali campaign. This is clean sky for us where the poor have clean air, clean energy, clean water and clean soil.

To make the members aware of converting old traditional systems into clean and green energy. Make the villages green so that they get clean energy which is affordable. Reduces energy consumption and lowers energy bills. Generate green livelihoods These are some of the points that were considered which will help us in achieving clean skies.

Hariyali campaign works for clean energy. To make agriculture sustainable, it requires measures to reduce farming costs and have systems which can help to stand against the climate changes. The use of clean and green energy equipments will help the poor small and marginal farmers to reduce the production costs and increase their income. These equipments include improved fans and bulbs, Bio gas plant, micro irrigation, cool roof (UV reflecting cooling pant), solar powered jatka machine (solar jatka machine). Efforts were made to create awareness and use of clean energy in agriculture through solar agriculture pump, solar fodder machine, solar trap light etc.

All these tools are natural, which do not cause any harm to the environment. By using this clean and green energy products, the members uses green energy in their work. As per the demand of the members, they were provided awareness, guidance and information on various solar energy equipments to reduce their energy consumption and use clean energy and thereby realize the objective of clean sky to create a pollution free village. Salt farmer members have adopted solar pumps for salt production. This reduced the production cost by Rs. 40,000 to 45,000 through savings in diesel cost. Also the environment improved, air and noise pollution decreased. There is still a demand for these pumps and we are working for it.

SEWA Manager School



A SEWA Manager's School (SMS) has been established to develop the capacity of the SEWA members to manage their economic organizations themselves and to advance in it. Thus, organizational and leadership training, managerial skill training, technical training is imparted under the SEWA Manger School with the objective of making the aspiring leaders truly participate in the management of the work themselves and also effectively engage in critical responsibilities.

SEWA Manager's School was established in 2000 to equip SEWA members and small business sisters with management skills to run their small businesses successfully. The vision of SEWA Manager's School is "to create a progressive cycle of training for a growing number of self-reliant grass root managers". So that they become self-reliant and become owners and managers of their own trade.

With the continuous learning spirit of the SEWA Manager's School, the team was developed by participating in several exciting new training programs.

SMS has achieved many successes during the year through classroom trainings and virtual trainings due to the continuous efforts of dedicated Master Trainers.

- This year 78 new training modules have been created and the training modules have been digitized. New topics have been added to the training modules as per the requirement of the members. The master trainers from different states have given trainings in different subjects to the sisters to enhance their skills and develop their trades. 85 modules Gujarati and Hindi languages were digitized.
- Trained 625 Master Trainers
- Enhanced capacity and expertise of 2,95,634 members through training and exposure visits.
- Personality development module simplified and prepared in three languages.
- Trained 200 Bank Sakhis to provide digital payment services.
- 2 local training coordinators have received the certificate after taking training on "Start Your Business" by The International Labour Organization (ILO).
- Adopted a blended approach to training – combining self-learning, virtual and classroom training.

For more details visit www.sewamanagnerschool.org, [sms.facebook@sewa.org](https://www.facebook.com/sewa.org)

SEWA Gram Mahila Haat

SEWA Gram Mahila Haat (SGMH) is functioning since 1998, registered as a Federation of State Level District Associations. The main objective of SGMH is to provide necessary technical guidance and linkages as well as market linkages to village producer groups and district associations to make livelihoods more secure and sustainable.

SGMH is an organization set up for the marketing of agricultural produce and commodities produced in rural areas, providing extended sales and allied services, financial assistance to the rural Producer Groups (Swashray Groups) through the support of SEWA. SGMH has been registered under the State Level Trusts and Societies Registration Act-1860 on 4/3/99.



- In the year- 2022, Gujarat State Seed Corporation has given certified seeds to 123 farmers from 10 villages. This included 20,040 kg of wheat, for rabi crop, and certified seeds of vegetables cluster beans, okra, bottle gourd, ridge gourd, and millets
- A revolving fund of Rs.20,00,000/- was provided by SGMH to district association and members during this year.
- Provided food processing and bakery training to a total of 158 sisters from 6 districts of Kashmir, Leh-Ladakh, Maharashtra and Gujarat.
- Started Rudi Processing Center at Phulambari. For which the centre team was selected and for the training of the team, master trainers were selected, market survey, farmer information for purchase of raw materials etc. were prepared. RUDI sales women were also trained. Sales started. A local buying and selling group was formed to carry out this operation.
- RUDI model was adopted in other states of India as well. And the National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM) implemented RUDI model in State Livelihood Missions in Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan. RUDI Company was invited as a resource organization. Under this, about 120 Rudi sisters selected through State Rural Livelihood Mission were trained for processing centre in charge, marketing in charge.
- To increase RUDI's reach, RUDI customer application has been newly designed so that RUDI products can be delivered to households (customers) more easily and quickly. RUDI sales women can also undertake more sales through this app.

For more details visit www.sewamart.com

RUDI

Our money is our capital. It is under this goal that RUDI is working hard to strengthen the company. RUDI is a registered company of rural farmer and farm worker members. The crops grown by the small farmers are purchased by the village farmers' groups at the village level and the cleaning and packing work is handled by the district associations through the RUDI processing centres. Thus, the packed material comes to the RUDI company, after which the RUDI sales women sell it from village to village and door to door.

As our members are small and marginal farmers, they have low production capacity, Lack of planning and market access. Farmers are exploited by middlemen. They lack working capital, technology, equipment, funds/loans/working capital, product awareness and market access. To address all these issues, RUDI has been started



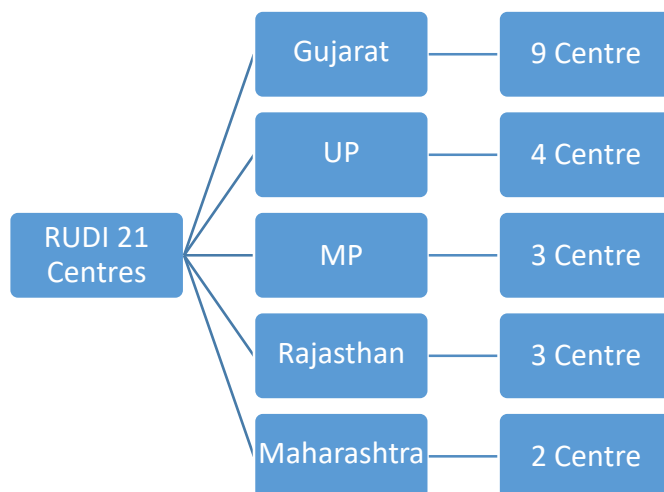
RUDI ensures income security and food security to farmers and rural communities. RUDI strengthens the rural economy by rotating the scarce funds from the village within the village. RUDI is a rural distribution network managed by 15,000 farmers. RUDI procures from the small and marginal farmers, these agri products are then cleaned and packed at the RUDI processing centre and the same is then sold in the villages by the RUDI sale women.

State	RUDI Saleswomen	Farmers
Gujarat	4400	15000
UP	1747	800
MP	1490	600
Maharashtra	300	50
Rajasthan	1488	600
TOTAL	9425	17050

Objective of RUDI

The main objective of RUDI is to create multiple employment at the rural level and provide quality products at affordable prices, strengthening rural economy by circulating village funds within the village itself.

RUDI Centre Details



- 15,000 farmers were able to get direct market linkages and 20-30% higher price than the prices offered locally by traders.
- 400 processors are getting regular employment and earning Rs.5000/- to Rs.10000/- per month.
- 3000 Rudibens (distributors and dealers) are earning Rs.5000/- Rs.25000/- per month through sales and marketing.
- Sales turnover in 9 years Rs. 38 crores, of which 90% returned as employment to farmers and rural communities and Rudi sales in FY-2022-2023 – Rs. 9,58,02,610.

RUDI has developed a MIS system through mobile technology using a mobile application. The app is used by the RUDI ben for in-app ordering which saves them the time and cost of traveling to and fro, thereby utilizing the saved time to increase sales. By the end of the year 2022-23, 9425 Rudibens were trained and working which has led to a rapid improvement in sales and business and increased the revenue.



For more details visit www.sewarudi.com

Kamala

Kamla use the traditional grains which includes different types of millets like bajri, ragi, kodari, hand pound rice, samo etc which have been forgotten and replaced by foods which are hazardous to health along with vegetables produced through organic farming to make various healthy dishes. This is sold from the center and now Kamala centers are being opened in various areas. Through this, the sisters are also earning income by selling nutritious dishes by preparing biscuits, bread, etc. from traditional grains instead of all purpose flour.

Dr. Kamlaben Chowdhury who was an ardent environmentalist, founded the National Marubhumi Vikas Nigam (Waste Land Board).

Dr. Kamlaben Chaudhary has been a well-wisher of SEWA and Shri Elaben since the beginning. She was deeply interested in the SEWA's forestry campaigns, water campaigns and sanitation work. She guided the work of SEWA's forestry and water campaigns. With the collaboration of Dr. Kamlaben we have started "Kamala" at Bodakdev and its chain in various districts and states.

We are all experiencing the adverse effects of climate change in the city, countryside. Increasing heat, industrialization and pollution due to heavy vehicles, large houses and buildings all increase the amount of heat. Rainfall has become increasingly unpredictable. As part of this, our traditional cereals like millet, bunti, kodari, sorghum, barley are being used less and less and more and more junk food and ready to eat packets sold in the market are becoming more and more popular, so the children of the city should be made aware of environmental protection from an early age. Children will understand the scientific importance of our traditional food crops and various dishes prepared from them will be demonstrated to the children, the children themselves can understand the importance of using vermicompost, grow vegetables in small plots and understand the importance of nutrients as a part of our daily diet. Kamala Food Processing Training has been started by SEWA at this centre. The main purpose of this centre is to organize trainings related to keeping the environment alive and to organize trainings where children can get information about the environment.

Kamla works on growing vegetables in plots and sourcing them directly from the farmer members of SEWA and making various products like nutritious items like Ragi Biscuits, Millets and Wheat Biscuits and selling them. Currently there are various types of bakery products in the market which are made from flour which is very harmful to the human body. SEWA trainers give training to the sisters to make biscuits, bread, buns, etc. from our traditional grains like ragi, millet, wheat etc. The sisters who took these trainings made the products and sold them during this year through the three centres. Food items worth Rs. 3,00,58,236/- have been sold. We have received very good response from customers coming there, Kamala's progress is also very fast. This year, farmer sisters from Gujarat, Maharashtra, Kashmir who grow fruits like apples, pears, green figs, grapes, dragon fruit, guavas, cherries and dried fruits like walnuts, saffron, almonds, etc., bring them to Ahmedabad and sell them



through Kamala. By which the sisters are getting the market at home and it saves the time and money of the members.

Along with enjoying a home-like meal in Kamal, we sustain the employment of 6 families from 1 plate meal from Kamala.

Kamala at I.I.M.

On 17/8/2022, Kamla centre was started in Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Ahmedabad. It was like paying a tribute to Dr. Kamalaben Chaudhary in the true sense of feeling that the debt has been repaid. SEWA- Dr. Kamalaben Chowdhury - I.I.M. Ahmedabad and our 'Kamala' have so much connection woven. Dr Kamalaben was Shree Elaben's supporter since the beginning of SEWA. Since the Textile Labour Association (TLA) days, she had been supporting SEWA. She then showed keen interest in many activities of SEWA -forestry, gum collectors, water campaign, sanitation and hygiene, etc. Till the end, she not only took interest but continued to give guidance, support, and discuss policy issues.

In the 1970s, when she visited Gujarat and Ahmedabad a lot, she did research in the development of textile mills and played a fundamental role establishment of institutions like Atira and I.I.M. Today senior prof. Sanjay Verma and Prof. Jayeshbhai from IIM Invited to start Kamala. We immediately grabbed this opportunity.

I.I.M. where the students of the country come to learn subjects of supply chain, marketing business, 'Kamala' will provide them a living example. SEWA members who grow grains, pulses, spices, vegetables, fruits, come in the same (kamala) and themselves prepare food.

With the support of the customers here, we believe that the sisters will get livelihood and income. The sisters who used grains, pulses, spices, vegetables from their farm, to the sister who packed in the food processing centre to the sister who cooked in the kitchen here in Kamala will benefit from this. The products used here are manufactured from natural manure. No chemical or pesticides are used. Pure and nutritious like home cooked and even landless people get employment by working in the fields. Hopefully, this chain will grow stronger and expand in the future based on the support of our project here at IIM.

SEWA Unnat Bazar (SEWA Trade Facilitation Center) now SEWA Bazar

SEWA Trade Facilitation Centre (STFC) was established in May, 2003 as a national level company run by around 15,000 textile and handicraft artisan sisters of SEWA. STFC works to ensure that these rural artisan sisters become entrepreneurs so that they get socio-economic security and full employment. And to achieve this goal, through sustainable, profitable and efficient design, production and market engagement, STFC works so that these poor artisan members of SEWA can enter the mainstream markets.

STFC achieved a sales of Rs. 1.93 Lakhs annually through online marketing through Hansiba and B2B, Job Work. The products were also sold through various exhibitions.



The product range included home décor, designer wear like kurta, kurti, dupatta, saree, choli, salwar kameez etc. for sisters in addition to table mats and runners etc.

STFC worked with 600 artisans under Hansiba, 1096 under Harkhi, 35 under Zaverba, 272 under Vastralaya, thus a total of 2003 women artisans did the work to make their livelihood visible and STFC helped them with market linkages. These artisans are strengthening the economy by making a special contribution to the economy through the sale of designer wear essentials.



In particular, a noble work is being done to keep the forgotten handicrafts visible even in the present and to sustain environment-friendly employment by increasing its visibility through market linkages and to prevent the handicrafts from losing their name.

Through STFC, intensive training in embroidery and sewing was given to 248 sisters from Leh, Ladakh, Uttar Pradesh, Kashmir and Gujarat during the year. As a result, these women workers can earn an amount of Rs. 10000 to 15000 per month sitting at home. Trained sisters from Ahmedabad district can earn Rs. 7000 to 17000 per month. Before getting sewing training, these women used to sit at home and do small jobs, making small products. Like repairing clothes, bags, chaniyas, kurtas without finishing etc. But after training these sisters started doing quality work. Now these women can make any product like kurta, bags, pants, salwar, cushion cover etc. Their skills have improved and they can earn more income. This helps them to achieve the goal of self-reliance.

Team empowerment was imperative to further enhance the performance of STFC. Therefore, this year 84 trainees were provided trainings in tally, WhatsApp, business plan, membership education, social media, photo shoot, catalogue etc. As a result, different analysis were obtained from the tally training, useful choices for future planning, catalogues were made and delivered to the customers through WhatsApp. They learned different types of management tools and reporting tools in business plan training and put them to work.

Product development exercise was done by STFC and new product range was developed. In-store renovation and new sales strategies, plans, aggressive sales policy using social media to improve digital marketing by integrating the new generation into the value chain was done. Also efforts were made to increase sales through their own website.

Journey from STFC to SEWA Bazar

Founded in 2003, STFC has facilitated the artisan sisters to become producers, owners, managers and share-holders of their own Company.



From the success and experiences of STFC, it was thought that among the members of the SEWA there are many members and families of small business entrepreneurs. They should also get a bigger market and improve their livelihoods. As SEWA expanded, so did our membership and the best part was that 35% of these members were daughters of the old generation members of SEWA. Now the need was to mould the work of STFC according to the skills and talents of these young daughters. Not only sewing and embroidery but finding and implementing new designs on the internet; Promoting and selling the product in an innovative way and many such creative works started step by step.

And then with all these creative, modern and digital changes was born the Digital Social Enterprise of SEWA - SEWA Bazar in 2019- through which the digital skills of the new generation daughters got a specific direction and the products of our micro-entrepreneurs and artisan sisters got a new and more expansive platform. Our aim was to sell all the products under one roof on our own so that the sisters get the true value of their hard work and craftsmanship. And the first step taken in this direction was to put our sister products - on Amazon, Flipkart and Go coop.

Covid pandemic started in the year 2020. At this time while the income and health of the sisters were badly affected, our new generation of daughters put into practice the basic mantra of SEWA - there is an opportunity in every adversity – and started modelling their own clothes and started promoting it on social media platforms like WhatsApp, Facebook, Instagram so that the stock that was lying can be sold. Not only this, it also tied up with new national and international e-commerce platforms like Fab India, Novica, Hartizon Jamaica, ITC-She Trades, Gem, etc. and started selling products there. The artisans also started making masks, PPE kits, gloves and received large B2B sales orders. In short, due to Covid, our sisters became digital fast! They not only took payments online but also started showcasing their products on different digital platforms and getting information about new designs and products from the internet.

As the impact of the epidemic lessened, the artisan sisters increased the scope of their production by participating in the exhibitions held in several states and countries. Photo-shoots were done featuring young celebrities, undertook various types of employment-oriented training; Leveraged Sattva, EY-P and other expert consultants to structure SEWA Bazar, Decentralized production centre, launched family-oriented, season-oriented and festival-oriented collections, created product posters, flyers, catalogues and swatch books, did market testing with artisan sisters from other states.

Today we are offering a bouquet of many such products and services to B2B customers under the SEWA Bazar. Not just clothes but also food products, vegetables, stationery, health products. Now our sisters not only produce but also do the entire work related to it like – packaging, business planning, promotion, sales and much more. Also SEWA Bazar is invited - from time to time - by other states and countries to strengthen their micro-enterprises! And now our own SEWA Bazar website has also gone live...!

Through all these efforts, SEWA Bazar made a sale of Rs.1,23,85,582/- in the year 2022-23.



Thus began the journey from STFC to SEWA Bazar where our handicraft artisans started their company STFC in 2003, from 2019 SEWA Bazar gave their products a new and bigger geographical area. Not only that, they made their products competitive with other products in today's digital and social media era!

This is just the beginning! SEWA Bazar still has a lot to achieve. There will be challenges on the way but we will surely overcome it! For more details visit www.sewatfc.org

Digital Virtual SEWA (ICT)

SEWA ICT works to use information technology that digitally organizes and educates SEWA members of every generation to provide affordable and advanced technology and create need-based access facilities for them to move towards full employment and self-reliance while preserving values, traditions, culture and environment.

The approach of SEWA Digital has been that 'any technology should reach the end members and it should benefit the standard of living, business and employment of the members'. According to this approach we started SEWA IT (Information Technology), based on the demand of the members. Like every year, the year 2022 also brought many new technologies and continued the efforts to ensure that the previous technologies are properly used by the members.

In the year 2022, following is a glimpse of the major work done

SEWA M-Bachat:

In the year 2022, in the activity of digitization of savings of members, at the end of the year, the information of 2,117 saving societies from 497 villages of 54 talukas of 8 districts of Gujarat (Anand, Kheda, Aravalli, Chotaudepur, Mehsana, Kutch, Patan and Surendranagar) has been saved and uploaded in M-Bachat. The total annual savings of 26,747 members affiliated to these 2,117 savings societies is Rs. 2,05,13,230. The entire data was digitized by leaders in the M-Bachat mobile application. Simultaneously, the members of the 622 societies depositing money in livelihood security fund were also digitally entered in M-Bachat.

SEWA Rural B.P.O.

The 100 Mile Approach given by Shri Elaben is an idea to create full employment opportunities in villages and reduce migration of young generation to cities. With this thought in mind, for the first time SEWA started a Rural BPO in Anand. The entire management and operations of this BPO is done by the daughters and daughters-in-law of SEWA members. Along with external linkages, under the guidance of Shri Reemaben, a rural BPO of 20 seats was established in Anand with the cooperation of Shri Jyotiben and the Kheda District Association team. This BPO started from May 31, 2022.

Rural BPO is a new initiative for SEWA. The selection of sisters for the management of this BPO was done after conducting different evaluations. At the same time the women were



provided trainings on what are the operations of a BPO and how it needs to be done. All these sisters got new employment opportunity in their village itself.

The technical setup for Rural BPO is also very different, in that there is no break even for a minute and the performance is continuously monitored and evaluated. For this, computers with high-speed internet and networking infrastructure were set up, which are equipped with CCTV and biometric technology.

After the successful launch of this BPO in Anand, SEWA plans to set-up such Rural BPO in other districts of Gujarat and other states as well. The launch is planned in the coming months and efforts are being made to provide more and more rural sisters with employment opportunities in their locality.

Digitising the Services for SEWA Members - SEWA App:

Smartphone usage is increasing in rural areas as well as among SEWA members. With the revolution in the mobile data sector, internet connectivity through mobile is becoming much easier and cheaper. Women in rural areas have access to, if not own, smartphones. To create a direct digital medium between SEWA and its members, SEWA is now moving towards digital and mobile technology. SEWA has launched the SEWA app in 2022, which is a direct digital and mobile based interface between members and the organization. Members, Leaders, Organizers can access their profile, updates, training, marketplace, survey and many more services using the SEWA app.

SEWA App is launched along with the new generation members of SEWA. Currently more than 1000 members are registered on SEWA App, checking and using the services of SEWA App. In the coming years, SEWA App will reach more members, leaders and organizers, providing them with SEWA App training and handholding support. The ultimate objective is to create a means of digitally connecting and communicating with SEWA members.

Digital Content and Documentation:

It is very important to take the message of SEWA to the members, for this digital is the only quick and accurate medium. During the year 2022, a lot of information and messages were prepared in digital form (video, audio, e-module, poster, booklet, banner etc.) in different languages that the members could understand and conveyed to the members with the help of technology.

During the year 2022, a total of 70 videos and short films were made for members on different topics. 32 e-modules were created for virtual trainings, along with 35 types of posters, 14 banners and booklets. Digital case-studies of members were also prepared. As part of documentation, 8 photoshoots of various products made by SEWA members business organisations and individual members were made, their logos were also made. Video documentation of 15 teams of member sisters from the states who came for training in SEWA were shot their interviews recorded. Also prepared 6 booklets, 7 brochures and 4 bottle labels for Ladakh. SEWA Manager School's old website was updated with new write-up and



photographs. Apart from this, photo and video shooting of important guests and events during the year 2022 was also done. Also prepared small films from this content as needed.

Other Important Activities in 2022:

Trained the members through online and offline trainings for leaders so that they can train members as per their needs with the help of technology and can easily use various applications of SEWA. Installed the e-module of training and SEWA app in the tablets and smart phones of leaders and members. Installed applications like Vadlo Online, M-Bachat, RUDI Sandesha Vyavhaar etc. so that they can disseminate these trainings and applications to the members. These leaders trained more than 3,00,000 members during the year. In order to make maximum and continuous use of technology by various departments of SEWA, in the year 2022, computers, laptops, printers and other equipments have been purchased and necessary maintenance, anti-virus and other software have been installed in the old equipments, to keep these equipments working. The RUDI Sandesha Vyavhaar app that was made last year needed to be updated as per the needs of the customers. Provided technical guidance for the same along with the RUDI team and the team of developers. Also planned and conducted trainings to take this RUDI customer application to the customers. Email solution were upgraded and equipped with advanced facilities for the organizations of SEWA like RUDI, STFC, Hariyali, SEWA Manager's School's

SEWA in West Bengal – Membership – 33000

In West Bengal, SEWA started the organization in 2004. In particular, work is done here to make the work and voice of beedi workers, domestic workers, farm labourers, weavers visible and to bring them out of poverty and sustain the livelihood of these members. Mainly to increase the collective bargaining power of unorganized workers, strengthen the labour movement, and develop leadership.

The organization is working in 4 districts of West Bengal via. , Malda, Nadia and Calcutta. It is an organization of domestic worker member sisters who make bidi. The organization takes up the issues of the members through the trade committee meetings.

According to the demand of the sisters who made beedi, SEWA West Bengal prepared a list of these members from all the villages so that these women workers get provident fund and the problem of 2000 members was solved in the provident fund office. More than 30000 members have benefited so far through SEWA by creating awareness and education activities. Direct help and guidance is provided to connect with various government schemes like health, social security etc.

Youth training is done with the aim that the daughters of Beedi workers can move from this work to a decent livelihood. This year, 198 Beedi workers' daughters were trained in advanced sewing work. Out of which 51 girls quit beedi rolling as they joined this work.

Under the My Fair Home campaign, with the aim of re-employment of daily wage labourers, discussions were held with the house owners to get them work and efforts were made to get back the work lost during Covid. As a result, the members got re-employment. Also awareness



creation was done by distributing leaflets and as a result the women received extra wages by the house owner and other benefits as per the law.

The main issues faced by the members are registration, alternative employment, social security and migration.

SEWA in Uttarakhand - Membership 23,890

SEWA started in Uttarakhand in 2008. Here SEWA started working with a struggle and development approach. This area is hilly. The villages here are big and well populated. The main occupation here is agriculture and animal husbandry. Local people are moving to cities for better livelihood opportunities. A particular challenge and long-standing struggle is to create local employment and income-generating activities for the families living here. SEWA organized 23,890 sisters in Uttarakhand in the year 2022.

Throughout the year, the organization developed the capacity of rural women. Also, SEWA Shakti Centers are located at Rudraprayag, Dehradun and Kaddighat. These centres work to link the members to the ongoing government schemes and for preparing the required documents. At the same time, the leaders of the state also work to resolve the issues faced by the members through government coordination. As suggested by the Almora District Officer, there is a Sun Temple in Katarmal village. Many tourists come here. The women were trained to get employment by making incense sticks from the flowers offered at the Jageshwar temple and a proposal was submitted to the industry centre for this.

For the last 4-5 years, red stone was also being mined for construction work in Katarmal village, the side effect of which was soil erosion and there was also a threat of landslide for the entire village. An attempt was made by the village sarpanch to stop this, but no action was taken. SEWA and the local women along with the village Pradhan wrote a letter and the same was submitted jointly by the Almora district officer and the women together, so the mining was stopped. An article on this entire issue and solution was given in SEWA monthly newsletter Anasuya which was also praised by Shri Elaben.

In Dehradun, there was an order by the government to demolish the houses of the women which were at the river bank. These women were staying there for 35 years. A master plan is being made by the government. For this, 8,000 women workers of this area got signatures and submitted a letter.

The continuous government coordination by the local leaders for the problems of roads, canals, water, toilets, employment etc. of various areas and villages could solve most of the problems.

Efforts were made to solve the problems of agriculture and animal husbandry in the state, the government coordinated and called a team of doctors to prevent death of cattle from the diseases.

'Save forest, save agriculture' campaign was also done in the state. Also did tree plantation and forest work. Water is available for each house in Almora from Koshi river. The river was



cleaned. Heavy rains in the Taluka led to the collapse of a bridge. So there was trouble in traffic. A representation for this was made to the government by two members of the organization so that this work was approved.

For the purpose of organising and self-employment various trainings were given to the members specially nine young members. Digital financial literacy training, agriculture, health and skill training included computer, English language, personal development etc.

SEWA in Nagaland: Membership – 3040

SEWA in Nagaland is working in Phek, Koi, Dimapur, Tunsang, Mokokanjag districts. A trade committee of domestic workers, farmers and agriculture workers and vendors has been formed here by SEWA.

In the year 2022, 3040 members have joined the organization in Nagaland. Nagaland has 16 districts. SEWA is working in 5 districts out of them.

Land Campaign – How to Protect the Environment! In this regard, awareness was created among all the members to reduce the use of plastic individually and awareness at individual, community and family level to stop mono cropping mainly by spreading the understanding of the benefits and harms of doing it.

SEWA in Orissa – Membership – 9931

The membership of poor informal sector women workers in 6 districts in Orissa is 9931 in 2022, the organization mainly consists of construction workers, domestic workers, agricultural workers, home based workers, vendors. The organization aims to protect against trafficking of girls and women. Also to organize home based workers through their empowerment. This work was initiated here in the year 2014 by the International Labor Organization (ILO) in collaboration with the International Domestic Workers Federation (IDWF). In which the approach of working in association with local organizations has been adopted.

The trade-wise membership this year is as follows, - Domestic workers: 6459, Construction workers-2971, Agricultural workers-5650, Vendors-137, Home-based workers-886

The main points of the members are as follows.

Women's issues are not given priority, land is the biggest problem and there is no provision of minor forest produce for non-tribals in rural areas and no ownership of land in urban settlements. Farmers do not get good prices for their produce. This results in migration to other states in search of job. MGNREGA wages are not paid at the right time and amount. Violence against women and evictions have increased during times of pandemic. Alcohol consumption has also increased. Government entitlements are not reaching the real beneficiaries. Eviction emerged as a major problem in the urban areas of Cuttack and Bhubaneswar. This resulted in job loss among the members. Also we could not get in touch with many of our members because of this process. In some areas drinking water facility is not available as required. We do not get enough water even for irrigation purpose.



SEWA in Jharkhand : Membership – 7926

SEWA started organising in Jharkhand from 2016. Here women construction workers, domestic workers, agricultural workers and street vendors are organised. The main activities here include organizing, capacity building of grassroots leaders, awareness of members on importance of trade committee and its purpose, linking members with government schemes, awareness among members on financial literacy, health and law, awareness of domestic workers under International Labor Organization (ILO) Convention 189, capacity building of agriculture workers through trainings.

SEWA was launched in 2017 with 800 members and is slowly growing. In the year 2020, SEWA managed to engage 5991 members and in the year 2022, the membership of the organization has reached 7926.

The main work of the organization is to organize, develop the skills of active leaders, effective implementation of business committee work, connect members with government schemes through SEWA Shakti Kendra, create awareness among members on financial literacy, health and legal matters, activate and sensitize domestic workers under Convention 189 and its provisions, through training. Capacity building of agricultural workers.

Jharkhand is known for its natural resources, mountains, ravines, forest resources, rivers, land, minerals and culture. After Chhattisgarh state, Jharkhand is leading in mineral production. Jharkhand has a rich tribal culture, which is found in the villages.

Here migration is a major issue. Average rainfall has been a problem for several years. The area is rich in minerals. But is weak in agriculture. The question of migration is gradually increasing due to less rainfall for almost a decade, resulting in farmers working as daily labourers and many migrating to other states for daily wages and women migrating to metro cities to work as domestic workers. There is also intra migration. People are migrating from villages to urban areas for construction and domestic work.

Trainings on developing a cadre of leaders covers different topics such as understanding of SEWA's values and ideology, organization and leadership, roles and responsibilities of leaders and understanding of trades, campaign planning.

Registration of Construction Workers Members under Construction Welfare Board:

Women's Construction Worker members are provided awareness trainings to explain to members why it is important to register themselves as construction workers under the Board. This year over 500 registrations and 300 renewals were done. More than 150 people have benefited from the scheme under the construction workers board.

This year, letters were given to different MLAs by the SEWA for the demand of domestic workers. Also, memorandum was personally delivered at the governor's residence to make a policy for domestic workers.



This year a survey was conducted in the villages to explain to them the importance of forming trade committee groups to resolve agricultural issues. Hence these members now showed readiness to form their Krishi Samiti.

SEWA in Punjab – Membership – 11,434

SEWA organises in 6 districts in Punjab viz. Gurdaspur, Ferozepur, Moga, Malerkotla, Patiala and Mohali. In these 6 districts 11,434 members are organised. Rights and entitlements were discussed in different trade committee meetings. Also there was an emphasis on trade related questions, what to solve and where to coordinate to get that solution.

As a part of the strategy of the organization to make the members more active in the organization and make more members join the organization, teej program and celebration of Ummag Day and Labor Day in all the districts was done throughout the year by the leaders themselves. During this celebration, more and more members get to know each other and come closer to each other and work to analyse the problems and finding solutions to these issues through SEWA. Officials of different government departments were invited in this program. And information was exchanged in his presence. Also presented issues and also got solutions to the issues.

In the year 2022, Mohalla meetings were held by SEWA for the queries of the members. The number of members present for the Maholla Sabha was Patiala-47, Sanor-67, Gurdaspur-36, Moga-46, Ferozepur-52, Malerkotla-24, Mohali-58.

Trade committee meetings is an important function of the organization and 128 meetings of domestic workers, 105 of home based workers, 15 of construction workers were held and a total of 6014 members were directly benefited by discussing their trade related issues.

To develop skills and livelihood among members, awareness about skill development and opportunities was done among 490 members, livelihood oriented skill training of members was given to 228 members. Livelihood linkages were done by marketing of the items produced by the members through various exhibitions and through a snack stall. These included kites, handicrafts, pickles and decorative items.

Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MNREGA)

Sanaur is a rural area. There are 400 SEWA members here. Most of them earn income through farm labour which is sometimes insufficient. Hence alternative employment is necessary. So efforts were made to join the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MNREGA) of the Government of India and registered members for job cards. 130 members got job cards and as a result of continuous coordination, all 130 members of the Gram Panchayat got 15 days of work in the year 2022.

With the introduction of construction workers' sisters in the organization, bio-toilets were created for sisters at the construction sites in Mohali. This was possible due to the union strength of the organization. As a result, the members got a lot of relief from working.



SEWA in Delhi: Membership 98,700

SEWA in Delhi started in the year 1999. In the year 2022, the membership of the organization increased to 98,700. In Delhi, SEWA is working in Sundernagar, Rajivnagar, New Ashoknagar, Jahangir Puri, Mustafabad, Anand Vihar, Ratitnagar, Gautampuri etc. areas of Delhi. The major trades in Delhi include home based workers, domestic workers, vendors and construction workers.

SEWA Delhi works to provide equal status to women in the social, economic, political and cultural life, to secure a proper place for self-employed workers in Delhi. If we look at the main objectives of the organization,

- To organize for their rights as workers and citizens of the country.
- Proposing and implementing legislation for the protection, welfare and development of workers by ensuring that existing laws are implemented fairly.
- To create livelihoods for the members and also encourage producer companies, cooperative societies, associations and other organizations to organize themselves according to the needs of the workers.
- Promoting social welfare in health, insurance and availability of appropriate technology that reduces occupational health hazards.

Poor self-employed women workers get membership in organizations who earn their livelihood by doing self-employment. viz., 1) Small scale vendors, petty traders and vendors selling goods like vegetables, fruits, fish, other food items, household goods, garments etc. small cutlery items, handicrafts, toys, eatables etc. working at piece rate or as independent artisans, 2) cleaning, washing, cooking, or labourers providing various services in construction, agriculture, loading and unloading of goods etc., or any other type of labour. whether casual, temporary, regular or contractual and 3) producers like small artisans, small and marginal farmers can become members of the association.

Currently, among the members of the association, if we look at the trade-wise membership, street vendors – 8814, home-based workers – 71176, domestic workers – 16962, construction workers – 1073, thus the total membership is 98700.

In 2021, there were 65,000 members. In 2022, the number of members increased to 98000. In the next year (2023 to 2024) the organization aims to reach 1,00,000 members.

Vendors - For vendor members SEWA Delhi advocated the Street Vendors (Protection of Livelihood and Regulation of Street Vending) Act, 2014, for better implementation of this Act. SEWA has had a crucial role in the act. Recommendation to include formation of Town Vending Committees (TVCs) area wise was considered. Guidance is also provided for obtaining licenses for on-site sellers.



Conducted trainings for the vendors to activate the Town Vending Committee in the trade committee meetings. Also made them aware of the important features of the Vending Zone Act and the roles and responsibilities of the members in the committee. Also worked with the TVCs along with the respective Municipal Corporations (authorities responsible for the implementation of the Act) to carry out activities like surveying street vendors in their area, identifying vending zones and licensing the vendors. Vendors will discuss it with the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD).

Between 2021 and 2022, MCD conducted a survey to identify street vendors present across Delhi. Over 76,000 street vendors were surveyed, while SEWA and other CSOs estimates that there are more than 6 lakh street vendors in Delhi. In 2022, Delhi SEWA approached the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) to conduct further surveys. South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC), involved SEWA in the survey process and trained the SEWA members to conduct the survey online. Covering the western zone, SEWA teams surveyed 1200 sellers.

Participated in Rashtriya Dhandha Samiti (National Trade Committee) in September 2022. SEWA worked on formation of trade committees and to strengthen the organization and the enactment of the Street Vendors Act, as well as the Town Vending Committee in Delhi. An experience of struggle and efforts made on the issue of Town Vending Samiti (Vendor Committee) of Delhi regarding strengthening, formation of trade Committees and holding regular meetings was shared in the interest of vendors of other states so that from this experience the organization can work in the interest of vendors in other states as well.

On November 14, 2022, a rally was organized in Delhi on the occasion of (Street Vendors' Day) in which 200 street vendor members participated. The letter was prepared as per the demand of the members and given to South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC) with major demands to issue certificates to street vendors surveyed, to conduct second phase of survey and to bring all street vendors in Delhi under the regulatory framework etc.

Actively worked with vendors selling in four weekly markets (Mahila Bazaar, Book Bazaar, Qutub Road Bazaar and Kabaddi Bazaar) for the last few years. SEWA also engaged experts and professionals to design (layout) spaces suitable for sellers where selling and buying can be done in a safe place without traffic interference. This year also, the activities were undertaken for the same members through the vendor members. It includes Book Bazaar, Kabaddi Bazaar, Mahila Bazaar and Qutub Road Bazaar.

Sunday book bazaar is functioning smoothly above MLUG parking lot on Asaf Ali Road. After the COVID-19 lockdown, the market was functioning only from 1.00 pm to 4.00 pm for which the MCD officials have been contacted and the timings have been extended, the market now operates between 8.00 am and 6.00 pm. Regularly coordinated with MCD for regular cleaning and maintenance of the market. Further, the three-year tenure of the book market ended this year so coordination is on at the MCD for re-approval of the contract.

Kabaddi Bazaar is a Sunday market and is the oldest market in the city of Delhi. It is a traditional bazaar held behind the Red Fort since the 1970s and was popularly known as the Kabaddi Bazaar. This market has been around for centuries and has moved many times. It was removed from the Red Fort area for garden development. Through SEWA's efforts, in 2005,



it was shifted to Velodrome Road. Sadly, the vending zone was once again removed in 2009 due to the construction of a flyover for the Commonwealth Games Village.

Held consultation meetings with multiple state departments and sanctioned a site at Yamuna Pushta on a trial basis for three months in 2019. The market started working well, but unfortunately in March 2020, due to the Covid-19 pandemic and lockdown, the market had to be closed. Since then, this market has not yet been legally restored.

Coordination by the organization with government officials is ongoing for the restoration of this market. Written letters have been submitted regarding this and demanded for the urgent need of kabaddi bazaar restoration. For this, a meeting has also been held with the Deputy Commissioner of MCD. The organization filed a case in the High Court in 2018, which is currently ongoing.

Home Based Workers - Home work is low-paying and dangerous. The economic contribution of the members who are in this work is not considered by the policy makers. This year formed special trade committees across Delhi with workers. It was found that there are different types of home-based workers who engage in different types of work, each with risks and challenges. Yet home-based workers are not given special attention.

So far, more than 26 trade committees have been formed in 10 areas of the city. Each committee consists of 10 to 15 workers who meet regularly every month and discuss their specific issues and how they can be resolved.

Due to the continuous efforts of the trade committee, the bindi making members in Nandnagari discussed with the employers and got Rs 40 per bunch for making designer bindi. 50 paise per piece was given for thread cutting work in Rajivnagar earlier, now it has increased to Rs. 1/- . The members in New Ashoknagar used to get Rs. 64/- for making 1 dozen garlands which has increased to Rs. 65/- per dozen. For piping on Dress the members used to get Rs. 12/- which increased to Rs. 15/- per unit. The price for the members working on making envelopes increased to Rs. 12.5 per kg from Rs. 7.5/- per kg.

Although the increase in work compensation was insignificant, the confidence of the members increased and there was a significant victory, due to the collective efforts they have created an identity. In Mustafabad, a colony in north-east Delhi, due to the increased faith and confidence, the members formed a group. The group raised capital, bought raw material for making the envelope and directly sold to the retailer in the market at 14 per kg. Thus the middleman were also eliminated from the process and they got better price.

There is a construction workers' association in Anand Vihar, Timarpur and Gokulpari in Delhi since 1999. Construction workers are found in these areas. These members mainly migrate. In 2007, the Building and Other Construction Welfare Board (BOCW) started functioning and has helped Delhi construction workers in registration, renewal and benefiting from several social welfare schemes.

Assisted in registration of 353 construction workers, correction of 449 members' registration and 152 construction workers in getting government financial assistance. In which per person



Rs. 5,000/- was given. To control pollution in the city, construction work was stopped for a few months. This scheme of financial assistance was launched by the Government at that time. As BOCW members, made representations for introduced reforms in the system at various levels such as, demanding reforms in the process of availing the benefits of marriage and pension schemes which were long and complicated, a scholarship scheme for the education of construction workers' children should be operationalized and Coordinated in the government to activate it. Also suggested to hold frequent board meetings to resolve this issue.

SEWA in Bihar – Membership – 88,700

Since 1982, Swashrayi Mahila SEWA Bihar has been organising the poor informal sector women workers into the mainstream of society with the Gandhian ideology. Bihar was registered under the Trade Union Act in 2007. The number of members registered in Bihar in the year 2022 is 88700. Working in 23 blocks, 578 villages and 84 wards of Bihar Munger, Bhagalpur, Katihar, Patna and Khagadia Purnia etc. districts. Here domestic workers, construction workers, farm labourers, vegetable vendors, animal husbandry workers, waste pickers, petty vendors, tailors, embroiderers, bidi makers, construction workers, laborers etc. have joined the organization.

Bihar SEWA's annual meeting was held on 11th March 2023.

Campaign – Conducted a campaign to engage sisters in social security and health facilities in the state. Established 7 SEWA Shaktikendras across the state. And through it organised 8287 members. Organised 3490 members through health related schemes. Reached 17200 members and their daughters through Digital literacy campaign. As a part of the street vendors campaign, the Nagar Ayukt about the situation of 2400 members. Under the Nyaya Yukta Meru Ghar Abhiyan (My Fair Home) by the domestic worker sisters at the state level, 16 different camps were held to create awareness for rights and entitlements. Also submitted a letter signed by the members to the officer.

SEWA in Rajasthan: Membership – 1,18,000

SEWA in Rajasthan was started in 2001. Here in the year 2022 our organised 118000 members. Organized in various districts of Bikaner, Jaipur, Banswara, Ajmer, Dungarpur, Udaipur districts of the state. SEWA Rajasthan organises domestic workers, construction workers, vendors, domestic workers, agricultural workers. In Jaipur and Jodhpur, organised the women working on meenakari work in bangles, as well as for making bangles. The for agriculture and animal husbandry workers trade committee is working on the issues of the members. This year, the annual general meeting of the state was held on 26 December 2022.

Various trainings were conducted by the organization in Nal village of Bikaner. During the financial literacy training, the sister involved in the work of rolling papad shared their issue. They used to roll papad for a trader. They had to take an amount of Rs. 54,000 towards their wages from this trader. But despite many representations, the trader did not give their money. Along with the SEWA leader Santokben, they reached the traders house and talked about giving their money, they also told that if he did not give the money, they would sit in



front of his house. After that, the trader made a settlement and paid the money in two instalments to the women in the village. SEWA Sangathan Zindabad, hum sab ek hai.

14 to 25-year-old members of the association formed their 10 mandals under the Navneet program and imparted skill training to 250 members to increase their capacity to get various skill based jobs. 3480 members of the organization have been affiliated through government coordination. 229 members joined the health scheme. 954 members got linked with the hospitals.

Kits were distributed to 55 women workers for Strengthening their Livelihood as Papad roller. This increased the production capacity. They were given labour charges at Rs 26 per 2 kg of papad which has now increased to Rs. 44 per 2 kg.

29 health camps were conducted as a part of the health awareness campaign in Bikaner, Jaipur, Ajmer. Vaccinated 111 children deprived of vaccination in the age group of 0 to 5 years. 1025 members took the benefit of social security. Also performed non-communicable disease work in Tele medicine. Raised awareness on the indispensability of mother's milk for the nutrition of children.

Celebrated Women's Day, Independence Day etc. for the purpose of strengthening and expanding the organization as well as increasing mutual harmony. Worked on affiliation of the self-help groups to N.Y.U.L.M. 1366 children covered through 89 trainings on Rights Awareness for Child Development. 1511 members joined the SSK camp. Forms were filled through e-mitra. Educational classes were started in 3 centres for the children. Surveyed 264 school drop outs out of 1000 children. Trained 520 trainees on social security, leadership and bookkeeping.

RUDI works on procuring the agri products from the small and marginal farmers, its processing and marketing. Under this, products worth Rs. 13 lakhs were sold by 150 Rudi sisters in Udaipur. Training was given to 200 members in agriculture with the aim of making farming as an enterprise.

Worked on financial literacy under Lilavati programme. The members were trained on the usefulness of Net Banking Savings Account and necessary precautions to be taken. 4000 members are availing online banking. 500 women were trained in agriculture and animal husbandry in Dungarpur. Vaccinated 5000 cattle and trained 700 sisters in animal husbandry. Trained 400 members on Pragati. Gave training to 80 sisters on Hariyali village and installed 9 precision pumps for irrigation based on their demand. Information and training on Rudi was given to 800 sisters.

SEWA in Maharashtra: Membership – 72950 (Direct Member) + 1452 (Associate Member)

In Maharashtra, SEWA works with Learn Kamdar Sangathan which is a women's organization. They have a membership of 1452 women from various trades in the city. The sisters of this organization first came to SEWA and after understanding about organising, lobbying, leadership, capacity building etc. from SEWA, they started an organization in Maharashtra



known as 'Learn Mahila Kamdar Sangathan'. and it is an affiliated member of SEWA. Out of 33 districts of Maharashtra state, the organization is functioning in Mumbai, Nashik and Solapur districts. Women working as home based workers, waste paper picker, construction workers, garment workers, small scale vendors, self-employed workers have been organized here. Trainings on organising were done, awareness work on sexual harassment at workplace was done. As a part of the food and nutrition campaign, awareness was raised about the One Nation One Ration scheme. There are many loopholes in the process of this scheme. Members were made aware to register for grievance redressal in ration shops and this was successful. They started getting ration as per the government rules. Local Self Help Groups were also formed in Nashik. Information regarding financial assistance was also provided to the workers. The members were not able to take benefit of some schemes due to lack of sufficient technology Eg. school admission.

From the year 2016, organized farmers in Phulambari taluka of rural Maharashtra. SEWA also works in Aurangabad, Phulambari, Gangapur, Vaijapur, Keenwat, Mahur, Bhokar, Himayat Nagar talukas of Aurangabad district and Amalner, Dharangaon talukas of Jalgaon district. A total of 371 village members have been organized in 10 talukas of three districts. In Maharashtra, the membership of the organization in the year 2022 increased to 72950. The women members here are mainly engaged in agriculture and animal husbandry. Mainly the members adopt natural farming and SEWA works in that direction. They are also using renewable energy in household and agricultural work.

In order to strengthen the organization, meetings were held at the taluka level. In which the contribution of women as workers in the economy as farmers, cattle rearers etc. gender equality as well as empowerment and health needs of women workers was highlighted. 2981 women participated in this convention and shared mutual knowledge and experience.

An exposure visit was also conducted to SEWA in Gujarat for the capacity building of the members. SEWA started organising from Gujarat in the urban and rural areas, so there was a lot of interactive learning. 278 sisters joined this visit. By developing the capacity of the local leaders of the organization, these women also conducted membership education of 22428 members in the villages successfully.

Continuous education was done for the members on clean skies and building resilience to survive against the adverse impact of climate change. Physical health is important for the livelihood of these members. Protective measures and treatment are important against the side effects of Covid pandemic. For this purpose, health camps and vaccination was done in Umra, Sahasrakund, Kharapur, Adagaon, Sarak etc. in the districts of Aurangabad, Mahur, Kinwat. 915 members participated in this. Under the e Shram Card campaign launched by the central government, we organized an awareness camp to provide all the information about the importance of this e Shram Card registration and who can do it, where they can do it, in which 4,446 SEWA representatives, leaders participated and took this information to all the members.

'A farmer does not eat what he grows and what he eats he does not grow' applies here as well. Therefore, the association organized bakery training in places like Gangapur, Vaijpur, Mahur, Kinwat, etc. in order for the members of the organization to take nutritious food



through Kamala and grow local traditional grains and consume them in their households and earn income by selling their products. 10 trainings were conducted and 195 members participated in this 3-day training.

The members have small businesses and are daily wage earners. The women were informed about how to increase their entrepreneurial skills so that their livelihoods improve. And these same sisters have started online entrepreneurship education. 25 women participated in this training run by SEWA Manager School.

By taking training on how to take their small enterprise forward from planning to implementation, 8 sisters from Maharashtra increased their skills and advanced in business. An example of this is Lataben Kharat who used to make chiki at home alone. After learning in this training, she kept other sisters with her and made different types of chikki, laddoo, papad, pickles etc. and increased her and other sisters' employment.

With the aim of developing the overall capacity of the leaders, trainings were conducted on personality development, digital literacy and participation of the unorganized sector women in the country's economy. This training was for 14 days and 40 members participated in this training at SEWA Manager School in Ahmedabad.

Why does a farmer remain hungry? In response to that, mandals were formed in 7 villages of the women farmers. In which 151 farmers joined. After preparing the agricultural journey of these members, they were trained in leaky bucket estimation (budget) for better understanding of income expenditure. They were provided trainings on how to improve soil health, understand the effects of climate change, training in product storage, apart from this, a farmer's association for planting oranges and other fruits was also formed. Market survey was also done. Coordinated with the government for growing millets and sorghum seeds worth Rs 46,240 was given to 170 farmers free of charge. A survey was conducted for a cluster buying and selling effort. Also held a Ravi Mela for sale of Ravi season crops. Linked up with Kamala and sold green figs and grapes in Ahmedabad. For the wheat and gram crop of the farmers, the integrated farmers group were provided with micronutrient fertilizers and pesticides worth Rs. 1,27,920 to 123 farmers from the Agriculture Department of Government.

As part of the clean sky campaign, renewable energy work was done under Hariyala campaign. It installed 36 biogas and 10 precision irrigation solar pumps in Nanded and Aurangabad. Members are benefiting a lot from this work. The use of these equipments has saved energy costs and made a significant difference in living conditions. It also prevents emission of toxic gases into the environment which has also resulted in health benefits.

Farming is the main occupation and SEWA worked so that it continues to be sustainable for the farmers. In orange horticulture agriculture, 9 sensors were installed so that farmers get the weather information and also made the farmers aware of the information to take timely crop saving treatments.

In coordination with Krishi Vigyan Kendra, training was given to 312 female farmer leaders. Here 1,06,000 farmers also grow cotton, they are also being continuously guided and assisted



in all the work from planting to selling process so that they can do organic farming and earn a decent livelihood and also protect the environment.

Every year the women members made seed balls and planted them in the fallow land and hills as well, resulting in greenery around.

SEWA in Kerala: Membership – 30,000

SEWA Kerala was registered under the Kerala Trade Union Act, in the year 2008. SEWA Kerala is an affiliate organization. The membership of SEWA Kerala was 30,000 in the year 2022. These workers are working in 11 districts like Thiruvananthapuram, Kollam, Alappuzha, Pathanamthitta, Kottayam, Idukki, Ernakulam, Malappuram and Kozhikode etc. The sisters are mainly engaged in domestic work, street vendors, fish work, home based work, tailoring, reed workers, agricultural workers etc.

It was tough for unorganized sector workers to survive during and even after the Covid pandemic. Because, the pandemic had serious effects and the employment situation also changed a lot. As a result, the situation became dire for most of the workers. Many workers also had to change jobs. They had to choose whatever jobs were available. The gap between rich and poor widened, as most employers wanted to lower the wages. And other responsibilities of workers such as social security and provision of decent work opportunities were also avoided. Workers became dependent on the mercy of the government and employers. Also, the change in the labour law created an uproar among the workers. Changes in the taxation system led to an increase in the cost of living, and this affected the lives and livelihoods of unorganized sector workers. Despite contributing more than 50% to the economy and contributing equally to the GDP, the working class had no visibility. Despite the highest minimum wage in Kerala, not even half of the minimum wage is paid. Moreover, policy changes also affect the lives and livelihoods of unorganized workers. Our self-help group models act as a base for generating entrepreneurship opportunities for women. A challenge for SEWA is to create work models that can earn decent livelihoods for women. At the policy level, have campaigned for collective bargaining for unorganized sector workers and changes in the employer-employee relationship, increased diversity in workplaces etc. To face these challenges, the organization has to devise strategies and face the challenges of mainstreaming the worker. We need to think again and work.

Rural members are engaged in MNREGA, agriculture, traditional home based employment etc. Other members are domestic workers, vendors etc. in urban areas. Members are associated with local governments. In many programs like welfare schemes and livelihood linkages, members get benefits from the local government, marketing linkages and other local issues like health, education, public distribution system etc. and SEWA has been coordinating for the same. The Annual General Meeting was held on 29th September, 2022 at Ernakulam. Local and district-wise celebrations of important days like Women's Day, May Day, Domestic Worker's Day etc. were held with the aim of increasing mutual relations among the members and strengthening the organization.

Domestic Workers – The activities of domestic workers have picked up after the Covid pandemic. Most recovered their work from the old owner or the new owner. This year 9500



domestic workers are members of the organization. "My Fair Home" campaign was actively carried out in different urban areas in different districts. Communicated with employers and demanded fair wages and safe working place. 3800 owners were reached through the campaign during the year. Discussed domestic worker issues in trade committee to increase organising and plan to strengthen activities and engage with employers, state, welfare boards etc. regarding domestic workers' rights. A minimum wage has been fixed for domestic workers in Kerala. Since domestic workers are classified as unskilled workers, their wages are calculated at this level. The domestic worker members were sensitized under the My Fair Home campaign on the issues of minimum wage, welfare board benefits law, workplace violence, social security etc. on workers' question.

International Domestic Workers Day was celebrated with various programs in all districts. A state level program was organized in the capital in which around 1000 domestic workers participated. A rally was held from Secretariat to Shaheed Stambha and domestic workers staged a street play depicting their post-Covid struggles and the importance of organising. In which Mr. NK Premachandran, Member of Parliament, was the Chief Guest. In other cities, public demonstrations and "My Fair Home" campaigns took place. Campaigned for legislation for domestic workers.

Leaders participated in National level programs organized by trade committee as well as national capacity building training for domestic workers and Ms. Lolita was elected in Trade Committee. State and district level trade committees also became active.

The organization is also playing an active role in the National Forum of Domestic Workers and this year also this forum has made the campaign for a comprehensive central law for domestic workers more effective. Round table discussions with Members of Parliament were conducted twice and the need for legislation was presented to the Parliamentarians. As a result, many members raised questions in Parliament regarding the status of domestic workers, ratification of ILO Convention, social security of domestic workers etc.

Domestic workers were informed about decent work and collective bargaining, visibility, job cards, decent wages, social security schemes etc. Employers also developed respectful relationships with workers, and work was regularly monitored through telephone contact and home visits, with representatives of domestic workers engaged to present issues arising at the workplace. Training for new members was conducted throughout the year as needed. Members meet once a month in their area to discuss their personal and work situations. Regular family visits were also conducted to interact with the workers and their families.

SMSS Annam is a group of women workers who are involved in food related activities. After the lockdown, Annam's activities were extended to other districts as well. where members work in groups to create and sell their own products. Initial level training, investment assistance, technical assistance, market linkage etc. are done to enable the members to stand on their own feet till they reach the target of 'no profit no loss'. Efforts are made to increase sales through small sales centre, online sales, bulk orders etc., and mass products are also quality assured. New approaches were considered to attract more customers, so as to further strengthen the progress of their group activities. Rising prices of raw materials and food items are a major challenge for workers and they struggle to cope with this situation. Even small



enterprises require legal and technical procedures to operate but in those states, new food safety regulations also affect operations. Food items are also stored as needed in Trivandrum, Kottayam and Kozhikode districts.

The SEWA Rural Centre is located 15 km from the city, serving as a training centre for the SEWA members. Apart from organizational training, the women's group undertakes agriculture related activities and food processing etc. Jackfruit, spices, different varieties of flour etc. are produced in bulk and marketed by individual households as well as through SEWA sales centre. Last year, a centre has been started near to the processing centre to sell the products made there. The centre also provides space for training and workshops to other organizations as well as accommodation and meals during the programs. The centre has a papermaking unit functioning which manufactures various products like files, greeting cards, diaries, calendars etc. Climate change and monkey attacks from nearby areas have destroyed many crops in the centre and were a major challenge. The members at the centre are working full-time and trying their best to earn income through the activity.

Reed Sangh (Federation) – This year the activities of the Sangh (Federation) expanded to new areas. There are 70 active units of reed workers in the union. It aims to develop the capacity of the members through skill and design development training. As most of the sisters are traditional weavers, they still deliver mats to the corporation's sales centre. But this year due to shortage of bamboo, their production and income was affected. Most of them started going to MGNREGA work in nearby areas. At the same time, they were also involved in the manufacturing of other products by the Sangh and those products were sold wholesale and retail through various exhibitions across the state. The products are also being sold in the SEWA sales centre.

A design development training was conducted in tribal area Nazarneli, Trivandrum with the support of Development Commissioner (Handicraft), in which 40 members participated. Another 14 days skill development training was also conducted with the support of DC(H). The government has now launched a scheme to promote reed products as an alternative to plastic. The first attempt was to replace plastic bins in government offices with reed baskets. The union has received a large order for it and the members are making those baskets. The union helps the members to get the raw material and other items required for production. New members get handicraft identity card through Development Commissioner (Handicraft) under Ministry of Textiles and old identity card is also re-registered after expiry date. Many members received one-time assistance from the District Panchayats to support their production. Mudra Loans are also provided by Union and Development Commissioners to members who require further financial assistance to improve production.

Through study at the Labor Resource Centre the data of the relevant sectors and the migrant members who have returned is collected and are continuously shared with the concerned government officials regarding their status. Data of inter-state migrant women workers are also collected to link them with their states and also with the labour department for their welfare. The case of workers is systematically documented in terms of industry and other issues.



A study was conducted in tribal areas of Trivandrum district as part of National Social Security Program to explore the relevance of Child Care Centers (Anganwadis) as part of Government's Integrated Child Development Program with regard to tribal women. The study listed tribal dominated child care centres in Trivandrum districts and interacted with mothers and teachers in those areas to find out their real needs in terms of child care centres and for a more inclusive child care approach for the backward members. Locally available raw materials for their nutrition and nutritional intake of children and mothers were studied. And steps were also taken to monitor the child's health. Extending the hours of child care centres was an important suggestion.

A two-day leadership building training was conducted in Uttar Pradesh to promote leadership skills and livelihood of members, in which 25 leaders participated. There was intensive training on unorganized sector workers, need for organization and work plans of the organization. The program was subsequently extended to all districts. As a result, the scope and effectiveness of the organization increased. Food processing training was organized for selected workers in collaboration with Government Food and Handicraft Training Institute (Food Craft Training Institute) at Balussery, Kozhikode and 25 women participated in this 6 days training. These women are training other interested members in their areas and members are being encouraged to start small units for their own income.

In Trivandrum district, design development and skill development trainings were conducted in collaboration with National Centre for Design and Product Development and Development Commissioner (Handicrafts). 70 women participated in this workshop which lasted for 3 months and 14 days. Food processing training was also conducted in collaboration with NABARD in which 20 members participated. Members who completed the training were linked with Mudra loan schemes so that they can start their own self-employment activities. Many officials from Industries Department, Rural Training Departments of Banks, NABARD officials from Development Commissioner etc visited the areas and gave short classes on skill development and self-employment activities. Many members are linked to local government self-employment programs for collective and individual support.

Tribal Women Workers - The activities of tribal women workers are expanding in three districts namely Trivandrum, Pathanamthitta and Wayanad. Unit level meetings are held in the areas under the leadership of convenors and issues of work, housing, children etc. were the main issues. Conducted discussions with Integrated Tribal Development Program (ITDP) officials to know about the funds available for the area. In MNREGA works, many members in tribal areas were not on the muster roll and were eventually included through continuous linkages with the department. In the area where sewing training was provided, all the members who received the training bought their own sewing machines and acquired skills in the work. Many of those members have started sewing for others as well. The goats were distributed under the self-employment programme. 40 members received three months intensive skill development training in Vasa Handicrafts (Reed Craft) by Shri Hasta Karigari, Development Commissioner. Many activities were also started for children. The study was conducted in collaboration with SEWA Social Security Program to understand the needs of children and mothers in the age group 0-6 in relation to local child care centres available as part of the Integrated Child Development Scheme. Helped to get information on Anganwadis



(child care centres), the functioning of Anganwadis with teachers and mothers. These centres ran from 10.00 to 3.30 so many members found it inconvenient to go to work as they had to pick up their children at 3.30. Extending the opening hours of anganwadis has emerged as a major requirement from this study. Apart from this, the women were also trained in nutritious food prepared from locally available ingredients. SEWA coordinated with localities to obtain grants for institutional spaces available in the locality for community education centres for children. Suicide issues among adolescent children were an issue so a camp was organized for adolescent children in the area and 35 adolescents participated in the workshop. Domestic violence and child violence are also important issues. Maximum information was collected for the benefit of workers through coordination with local governments. Housing schemes had funding issues but were resolved through coordination.

Vendors – To enforce the Street Vendors Act at various levels for the vendors, most of the local governments have constituted Town Vending Committees under the Act which also include representatives of the vendors. Identity cards are distributed as per survey in corporations and municipalities. New vending zones have been constructed at many places to rehabilitate vendor members as part of smart city projects and other developmental activities. Many of those constructions are not planned according to the requirements of the vendors and the vendors are not satisfied with the allocation. Constantly coordinating and negotiating with the Trivandrum Municipal Corporation to reconstruct these buildings as per the requirement of the SEWA vendor members. Adjacent to the museum, the Corporation has consented to renovation. Many vending-centric areas await rehabilitation projects. Newly created zones have been allotted to vendor members in Thrissur. 350 vendors have been allotted space in this area which is the first time vendors have been rehabilitated in a public space on a large scale. The corporation has entered into an agreement with the individual vendors for caution deposits and monthly rent. All facilities like water, electricity connection, toilets are provided by the corporation. Some areas are still being cleared as part of road widening and other developmental activities. These issues are jointly coordinated with the police and municipal authorities.

Fish Workers - Members of the fishing sector in Trivandrum, Kollam, Alleppey, Ernakulam and Malappuram are members of SEWA. This includes both marine and inland fisheries. This year the work has expanded to inland areas. Members are directly involved in inland fisheries. This includes fish catchers, shrimp farmers etc. Due to the changing characteristics of the sea and the development activities taking place along the coast, the lives and employment of the fishermen are in dire straits. Members are affected due to calamities and developmental works. Lack of fish affects employment as most of the members take care of family responsibilities. The Covid pandemic has changed the fish market situation as many people from other areas have joined fish selling as an alternative employment opportunity. Many online market opportunities are opened by government and individuals as well. Matsyafed, a government cooperative, has started several sales centres and mobile kiosks near offices and markets, where the sisters used to sell traditionally for years. It has a direct impact on livelihood. Moreover, the markets are in a pitiful condition as the existing auction patterns result in a decrease in the members' possession of the market. But due to the efforts of the



organization some markets have been reconstructed including sanitation facilities. But it depends on the support of the local system. Coordinated with the government to arrange this facility keeping in mind the need for toilets and water.

Processing of fish is also a difficult job where public spaces have to be used to dry the fish. The women are harassed by local elements. These elements also buy fish and dry it on a large scale but the employment of the sisters is affected by the intervention of local persons which was represented by the organization at the local level in panchayats.

Also, the destruction of beaches due to erosion is a serious issue. Real situations were explained to the members through constant discussion with the members to create awareness about the changing development pattern and its impact on the coast. Government policy and state rehabilitation policies are also affecting the members. A petition was given to the Minister of Fisheries regarding the issues of fisheries workers. And also hold discussions with Fisheries Department, Minister etc. on laws and policies.

International Migrant Workers - Migration to Gulf countries from Kerala is still being done by many workers. After the Covid pandemic, the pattern of migration is changing, and women explores all possible options to go out and earn money. Many women now adopt permanent migration such as visa issuance etc. Neither the government nor the employer has any responsibility. At the local level, leaders know these women. The case of a woman detained in Kuwait was taken up with the help of organizations there and they appeared in court for the activist on her behalf. She has been deported and the court has granted compensation. House visits, street meetings and work on planning issues are being done continuously in these areas. Guidance and support is provided on safe migration, migration solutions and their rights to support these women workers. And activities are also helped, as many members are returnees. NORKA, the government agency to support migrant workers in the state and connecting migrants with (NORKA) is also an essential task. About 15 women have received financial assistance from NORKA. The organization is encouraging members to join the Migrant Workers Welfare Board. New migrants have been identified in migrant concentrated areas of Kochi and Malappuram. Around 200 migrant workers and organizers gathered in Ernakulam on Migrant Workers' Day on 18 December. Member of Parliament Heibi Eden MP inaugurated the event, and he supported the migrant workers. Norka and NRI cell representatives also attended this meeting. The officials of the cell participated and listened to the queries of the workers. The ban on migration under the age of 30 forced many migrant domestic workers to produce their passports and this deprived them of social security schemes and other benefits they were entitled to. Measures were also suggested by the officials to include these members in the schemes of the government.

Inter-State Migrant Workers – Migrant workers coming to Kerala in search of work were identified. Most of these women workers come from Orissa, Jharkhand, Bihar, West Bengal and the Northeast. As a first step towards connecting these workers with their home states, the state of Orissa has been selected to develop the corridor. Administrators from Orissa visited Kerala and interacted with migrant women workers. These women mostly hailed from



Rourkela, Sundargarh area of Orissa. These young women workers were interviewed from house to house to understand the migration dynamics, family situation etc. In Kerala, mostly in Ernakulam, these women had many conversations and discussed their life, work, minimum wages, living facilities etc. issues. Many migrants also live with their families. The situation of young girls who come to work on their own have very different problems. Ease of relocation (portability), housing issues, children's education etc., as required by the use of ration cards, so different approaches to work are important when engaging migrant workers. Although the government has announced the One Nation, One Ration Card scheme, it is not applicable to many migrant workers. Most of the migrant workers we contacted do not have ration facilities in Kerala. Migrant girls who are self-employed in fish processing, food processing, garment etc., because the wages they get are comparatively better than their states and most of the companies or agents also provide accommodation facilities. But these girls are not aware of the minimum wages, working hours or the benefits they are entitled to. Most of them come from very poor families and this makes them readily available for jobs that are far below Kerala's standards. Coordinated for girls to get health, menstrual hygiene related issues, social security etc. Think about their rights as workers in their own states and their need for social security and future mobility. Therefore, exchanges with members of the local government and communities in the state of origin can help build connections with migrant workers. By registering these, their place of work can be identified and they can also get entitlements.

To discuss these multiple issues of migrant workers, a round table discussion was organized with various government departments in which various levels of migrant workers participated. Various government departments such as Civil Supplies, Construction Welfare Board, Women and Child Development Department, Labor Department, Health Department, Industries Department and other well-known bodies dealing with inter-state migrant affairs like KISMAT (Kerala Inter-State), State Migrants Alliance for Transformation and CMID (Centre for Migration and Inclusive Development) participated in the meeting. The aim of the meeting was to ensure attention to the most relevant demands and realities of migrant workers. Migrant workers spoke about ration cards, children's education, workplace issues such as overtime/special compensation, lack of supervision, workers not getting insurance cards, housing problems, violence, etc. The officials present also supported by acknowledging the need to act on some issues.

Mahila Kamdar Suvidha Kendra provides facility as per the needs of the workers through helpline. Ration cards, children's education and care of young children are the main issues raised by the centre. Leaders liaise with other organizations working in the areas to hold meetings. An anti-narcotics campaign was conducted in the rural settlement areas with the support of the Labor Department. Rallies and public events were organized in these areas to create awareness about drug use among migrant workers. Meetings were held in 8 areas, and festival days were celebrated in migrant workers' areas in their residential settlements. An interaction with the children of migrant women was also organized.

Domestic workers are not included in the official enumeration (census) and Indian labour laws still do not include the home as a place of work. Workers are not paid proper piece rate wages



or any other benefits. When superiors are approached to discuss the workers' situation, they are reluctant to hear from the workers' perspective. Not concerned about the condition of the workers. On the other hand, many women workers find work in their premises to earn income. Most women have turned to traditional home-based work. Since most of the women engaged in manufacturing in the state are traditional workers as well as home workers, the state was petitioned to develop a policy to recognize the rights of home based workers. The campaign to organize home-based workers calls for 'home as workplace'.

SEWA in Madhya Pradesh – Membership – 6,38,406

SEWA started organising in Madhya Pradesh on 1st May 1985. Here the organization of unorganized worker sisters is working in 34 districts of the state. The membership of the organization in the year 2022 is 6,38,406. The state has organized the workers from home based work, domestic work, building construction, agriculture and forest, labourers, vendors, etc.

The Annual General Meeting of SEWA MP was held at Indore. And 16 district representatives, executive members participated in this meeting. It also covered presentation of annual work and national and international affairs.

This year, 50 meetings were held in 33 trade committees of home based workers, vendors, construction workers, Domestic workers and others on various trade issues.

We all know that the contribution of workers to the country's GDP is important. But inspite of this, the workers are not recognised as mainstream workers. Unlike the organized sector, workers in the unorganized sector do not get adequate social security facilities. Working hours are not fixed, money is not paid according to hard work, the family will be supported till they are physically active and can work. What if the body is helpless? All these matters have to be brought before the government, social policy makers and the members of the organization are constantly trying to find a solution. Various campaigns are organised to do this which includes recognition of work, “home as a work place”, “two baskets” space for vending and right to live with dignity, right to forest, right to fair price food grains, right to social security etc. Home based workers are organised in 6 districts who mainly do sewing, papad, beedi, agarbatti weaving etc. at home. These 3027 worker members were enrolled and given small credit. Besides, skill development training was also provided. These women were registered on e Shram portal. Also, the women involved in the work of making incense sticks and papads also got an increase in the price of this work through negotiations.

The organization has also campaigned for construction workers. 95435 construction workers have been organised. Under the Nirman Karmakar Kalyan Nigam, registration of 8960 members, renewal of 9486 members and 3918 new members were registered and have received Rs. 7,53,96,000 under the scheme.



Fair price food grains are our right – Nutritional Security Campaign: Efforts are being made by SEWA to address the issues of access to quality and nutritious grains to the poor through continuous monitoring to remove the bottlenecks in the distribution system of fair price food grains for nutritional security to its members. During the covid pandemic, the migrant workers had many problems in this regard. A memorandum was given to the Government after coordination so that they could get fair price food grains on time. The demands included,

- Time limit for preparation of food slips should be fixed. Names of all family members should be recorded in it.
- Dispense food grains after signing the register if the machine is not working.
- Fair price/ Ration food grains shop should be within a distance of 2 km.
- Fair price grains should include pulses
- Ration purchase bill must be given to the customer.
- Committee members should be trained and meet regularly.
- The ration shop should not forcefully sell other goods
- The item should be properly weighed and given.

A total of 109 meetings were held for this campaign. Conducted 114 camps, provided food access to 13521 members, linked 12529 members' cards with Aadhaar.

The organization worked with the aim of creating local livelihood opportunities. Mainly in search of work people migrate from villages to cities but do not get work because they are not skilled in the work. This requires skill development training for members. And work was done to form co-operatives and help them get credit.

Promotion of technology for financial transactions. Awareness was created among the members of the organization to conduct business and daily financial transactions through the bank through technology. As a result, bank accounts of 1986 sisters were opened. 1439 accounts of sisters linked with Aadhaar. 5342 sisters connected with Jandhan Khata Aadhaar. Provided information about ATM

Forestry workers- collect minor forest products from the forest and sell them in local markets. A nigram has been formed for minor forest products in the state whose main job is to supervise the work of primary cooperative committees and purchase their forest produce. Tendupatta used to make beedis is the major one. The work of cutting, buying and selling of which is done by Madhya Pradesh Small Forest Production Sangh under the supervision of Forest Department through Primary Cooperative Committees.

For the rights of these forest workers, "Jungle Hamara Hai" campaign is going on, the main demand of which is that all forest produce should be purchased by primary cooperative committees. Five-year cards should be made for the collection of tendupatta, the insurance process should be simplified, forest workers should also be covered under social security. The rate of Tendupatta collection should be increased proportionately, the seeds of Tendupatta trees should be planted so as to increase the number of these trees. The process for getting



access to forest land should be simplified. Under this campaign, 18 committees of workers were given a bonus of Rs. 21,38,83,437. Correspondence, meetings, discussions were held with the Laguvan Production Union to get employment for the local workers. As a result, 5030 members got Rs. 60,36,000 as livelihood.

10372 families in five districts received employment worth 38,084,480 through turban organising.

Under the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 6306 members were given work for 1258 days. And Rs.7,65,88,760

SEWA in Uttar Pradesh: Membership – 2,50,100

The date of registration of SEWA in Uttar Pradesh was 6 July 2001. In Uttar Pradesh, the organization has 2,50,100 members. Here SEWA works in Lucknow, Hardoi, Barabanki, Rae Bareli, Unnao, Sitapur, Amethi. Here various occupations like domestic worker, construction worker, beedi worker, chicken-zardoshi, craft, tailoring, applique work street vendor, agricultural worker, farmer, dari weaver, fruit and vegetable vendor, dairy worker, potter, chicken breeder, paper weaver, Fabric painter, beauty parlour, packing work, spice maker, animal husbandry etc. are organized.

Swashrayi Mahila SEWA Sangh (SEWA) has been working on rights issues of women working in the unorganized sector in the state of Uttar Pradesh since 2001. There is an association of women involved in domestic workers, sewing and embroidery, building construction, agriculture, animal husbandry, dairying, pottery, vegetable sellers, weaving etc. By the end of 2022, the membership of SEWA in the unorganized sector was 20,50,100. SEWA focuses on its 11 core values and works on various income streams for sisters in the unorganized sector. We believe that when sisters have a good income, they can choose a balanced diet for themselves and provide nutritious food to their family members. Healthy families can focus on their work and be healthy and self-sufficient with savings and better health if they reduce the risk of diseases and medical expenses. They will be able to contribute towards building their own house or own property and will have their own rights over them. In this framework, when sisters are organized, they will be able to take care of other unorganized sisters, become self-reliant and empower other sisters and envision better education for their children.

We have our organised women in 16 districts in Uttar Pradesh. including chicken workers, domestic workers, bead makers, bangle and glass workers, construction workers, construction workers, waste-paper weavers, incense rollers, clay workers, animal husbandry, food services/catering, food processing, applique/crochet, stitching worker, street Vendors, Agricultural Workers, Zari and Zardozi Workers, Leather and Cotton Workers, Animal Husbandry, Weaving and Carpet Weaving, Papad Rollers, Bag Makers and Bag Stitching, Clay Workers, Ironing Clothes, Foot Mats



Various trainings are organized here as per demand of the members, mainly on Social Security, Government Scheme Linkages, Entrepreneurship, Digital Literacy, Occupational Safety and Health (OSH), ILO Convention, Financial Literacy, Leadership Development, Personality Development, Gender Discrimination and Gender Based Violence, on benefits of non-banking to banking and group insurance, implementation of new strategies to old/new members, entrepreneurship development program, marketing strategy, digital marketing, marketing skills, mobile based applications etc., as well as training on organic farming farm based micro-entrepreneurial development . In all 77000 sisters were trained. These trainings were conducted by the leaders in collaboration with various government departments and banks. Mainly International Labor Organization (ILO) SEWA Gujarat through Dattopant Thengari, Shramik Sanstha, Uttar Pradesh State Bank of India, Ministry of Labour, Gramin Swarojgar Training Institute, Life Insurance of India.

Conducted on-demand and need-based trainings for facilitators and organizers playing key roles in the organization including capacity building, government scheme linkages, minimum wage calculation, business orientation, health safety, digital and financial literacy, climate change and small business development. 320 of our sisters participated. These trainings are mainly provided by Labor Department, Board of Education, International Labor Organization, Worker Education Board, SEWA Gujarat.

Minimum Wages: Participated in the strike of all-central trade unions at the state level under the minimum wage campaign. All central trade unions at the state level also participated in all the meetings organized by the Joint Action Morcha and submitted memorandums to the Labor Department (Government of UP), Labor Minister, Labor Commissioner etc. The main demand is that the limit of working hours is not fixed as per ILO Convention, so awareness was given about the same in Lucknow, Barabanki, Firozabad, Rae Bareli, Unnao, Kanpur, Hardoi, Gonda etc. and awareness was raised among 2500 members on the issue of Minimum Wages Act for the members.

Sexual Harassment at Workplace - campaigned on the issue of effective implementation of laws on sexual harassment at workplaces of domestic workers, agricultural workers, construction workers, glass workers, street vendors and other women working in the unorganized sector. Nukkad plays, jingles, banners and posters were used to spread awareness and implementation of ILO Convention C-189 for workers to eliminate workplace violence. Submitted the application form to the concerned departments and welfare board for the workers. Domestic Workers Day, International Labor Day was also celebrated. A total of 3 petitions and demand letters have been submitted to the Assistant Labor Commissioner of Uttar Pradesh in the Labor Department.

500 members participated in a sexual harassment workshop. The campaign organized Nukkad plays, jingle writing, awareness and creating banners and posters to spread the information through multimedia platforms reaching 1000 members. 100 members participated in training mainly on ILO Conventions C-189.



Awareness was created about changes in labour laws and amendments to laws. Prepared various informational literature regarding these changes in labour law and took it to the members. Limited to 12 hours per day and 48 hours per week, social security code and occupational health and safety etc. The members were made aware of the harm caused by this change in labour laws. The leaders went to the area to sensitize the members and how to protest. For this, village to village awareness was done, with all central trade unions going to the labour department to present about the changes in these labour laws. A memorandum was also submitted. 50 representatives were present in it.

Occupational Health (Occupational Health)

Made domestic workers and other workers aware of health problems. In this regard, sugar and blood pressure check-up camps were organised by leaders and telemedicine helplines were also facilitated to reduce health problems encountered during work.

Raised awareness of 5000 members on ILO Convention C-190, 189, 177 on Elimination of Sexual Harassment. Organized more than 500 village level meetings and participated in state level and district level consultation programs and workshops to address the issues of unorganized sector workers. 50 village level programs for domestic workers were organized by the organization on ILO Convention C-189 to provide a healthy working environment and decent workplace for domestic workers. Participated in all the central trade union strikes on issues of minimum wages, rights and provisions and gender harassment associated with its work, and participated in state and district level consultations with the unions and we a petition was submitted to the labour department on 5th May for those demands. The demands of the domestic workers have been submitted through a petition with the signatures of 500 worker members.

The members of the association became aware of the financial transactions. Bank accounts of 5000 members were opened, 38000 members joined group insurance. 100 sisters became Banking Sakhi, Business Correspondent (BC Sakhi). Spreading awareness of debit cards. 1000 sisters received training in Google Pay, Paytm, and other financial transactions. Conducted special digital and financial literacy awareness training among 15000 members.

Linkages to Social Security Schemes – As per the demand of the members, these linkages were done. These include enrolment in e-Shram Card, 1,50,000 members in Pradhan Mantri jeevan jyoti insurance scheme, 200 in Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana – 60000, Atal Pension Schemes for Unorganized Workers – 10000, Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana – 10000, Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi – 5000, Connections in Construction Workers Board – 35000, Kanya Sumangala Yojana – 2000 ODOP Skill Development of Uttar Pradesh And tool kit distribution schemes – 10000 members were linked.

A trade committee is formed by the members to represent the issues of members from various trade in the organization, the committee is functioning in Uttar Pradesh – mainly chicken workers, domestic workers, agricultural business committee. Vendors and beedi rollers also demand to form a committee



Our major campaigns – for chicken, bangle, zari zardoshi, beedi workers, domestic workers, frequent changes in labour laws and codes, agricultural workers, social security linkages, occupational safety and health, and vendors are ongoing.

The Chikankari Workers' Union, through our organization, works together and collectively with the artisans of Uttar Pradesh for the production and sale of their products. In which there are 2500 members in SEWA Sarjan. And 3,500 members participated in the United Federation of Crafts and Works for Embroidery Workers of Uttar Pradesh.

SEWA in Leh- Ladakh : Membership- 2109

Ladakh is a land of mountains. Unpolluted air is thin and the oxygen content is always low. During the six months of winter, the temperature goes down to minus 40 degrees so that people's life comes to a standstill. And also people's income and employment. SEWA has been operating since 2015 to empower members and create long-term employment, disaster resilience and self-reliance through traditional businesses and modern technology through community participation led by women members of SEWA. At present 2109 sisters from 32 villages of six talukas of Leh and Kargil districts are members of SEWA.

In 2015, SEWA organized self-employed women workers for income, employment and self-reliance in Leh-Ladakh, which has one of the most extreme climatic and geographical conditions of the country and a highly vulnerable border region. At present, 2100 poor self-employed women workers are members of SEWA in 25 villages of Leh, Kashmir and Nubravali engaged in weaving, knitting, tailoring, farming, animal husbandry and value addition of farm produce. A team of 14 members visited SEWA in December. These women visited SEWA Unnat Bazar, SEWA Gramhaat, SEWA-Bank, Gitanjali Mandali, 'Harakhi' in Patan District, Anand-Kheda Bachat Mandals, SEWA Kamala Cafe and Kamala Bakery and met the members from Gujarat and were deeply moved to learn about their struggle for employment.

With the help of SEWA, the women of Ladakh have registered their own state level organization – Co-operative “Purmol Raugsten Rigrsal Yarguas Tsogspa” (self-Reliant Women’s co-operative) under the laws of Ladakh. Which is the first organization of women in entire Ladakh and will help to increase the employment of the women by producing, buying and selling their products. This is a matter of great pride.

Services of SEWA

Shree Swashrayi Mahila SEWA Sahakari Bank (SEWA Bank):

Shree Swashrayi Mahila SEWA Cooperative Bank Ltd. Was established in the year 1974. 400 women workers raised Rs. 10 and deposited this in SEWA which was there share capital. In the year 2021, SEWA Bank completed 47 years. The main objective of SEWA Bank is that working poor women can develop their business and raise capital with the financial support and related guidance of SEWA Bank. They can build assets and thereby increase their employment and income and improve their lives. Hence, SEWA Bank is continuously thinking and testing to provide comprehensive, easy financial services to the sisters with a view to



providing sustainable financial services. The overall development of women is the main goal of the Bank and to achieve that goal, the approach has been to provide financial services to women at their homes and places of business. This approach is being implemented by a team of SEWA Bank hands-on workers and a team of Bank sathis. Bank sathis are also selected from among our members. These sisters not only live in the areas where our members are but also provide daily financial planning advice and business development training right here in the area.

SEWA Bank Progress Statistics 2021-22

Details	2021-22
Membership	1,27,554
Share Capital	18,34,21,870
Bank Accounts	3,51,453
Total Deposit	3,30,14,34,000
Working Capital	4,51,40,68,400
Loan Accounts	3,07,774
Loans	1,95,27,68,000
Profit	25,65,000

For more details visit – www.sewabank.com

Shree Gujarat Rajya Mahila SEWA Sahakari Sangh Ltd.

Gujarat Rajya Mahila SEWA Sahakari Sangh is a state level confederation of cooperatives formed by sisters of the poor unorganized sector women workers, functioning since 1992. This Mahasangh is inspired by SEWA. The experience of SEWA has seen that the bargaining power of the sisters increases through the cooperatives. Along with becoming a business owner, they get empowered and workers develop their own unique legal identity. Through this, they become visible in the country's economy. The Mahasangh provides various services to strengthen the cooperatives formed by the unorganized women workers.

The main objective of Shri Gujarat Rajya Mahila Sahakari Sangh (Federation) is the development, expansion and propagation of member's cooperatives. For this, the Federation is constantly striving to provide information and guidance to the cooperatives and for quick and proper resolution of their queries and problems. In today's era of constant competition, through its training wing and advisory wing, the Federation helps the cooperatives to gain sustainability by providing them with services as needed.



We developed primary health care services for our members under the leadership of local women, organized 50 of our health workers under the guidance of Shri Elaben and in 1990 Lokswasthaya Sahakari Mandli was born. Late Prof. Rameshbhai Bhatt helped to further strengthen the understanding of cooperatives.

From organizing the sisters to registering the cooperative, its constitution, forming the board by electing the general assembly, its operations etc. many struggles and challenges were faced. Today we are trying to fulfil Gandhiji's dream of 'Swaraj and self-reliance' through SEWA Cooperative Federation. Anubandh means the present and future work of Federation and members cooperatives is planned keeping in mind the ideology of mutual cooperation and association.

Women from the unorganized sector are organized and doing beautiful work as a cooperative, which was proved not only in normal circumstances but also during the global pandemic like Corona. The co-operatives survived the epidemic and did reconstruction work by sticking together due to the principles of co-operatives such as locality, decentralization and equality. 71 percent of our members also said that they survived an epidemic like Corona because of their cooperative society. It provided assistance to millions of people through special awareness, health information and linkages, food items and working capital. And most importantly, among other structures, 'Cooperatives' is a structure that can withstand any calamity well.

As we joyfully celebrate the journey of 30 years of Federation and 50 years of SEWA, SEWA Cooperative Federation is a 'Women's Enterprise Support System' i.e. providing different services to the women as per their needs like empowerment, business and industry development, research, communication and marketing support. Apart from providing, it is actively working to create favourable policies for them. The SEWA Cooperative Federation is a beacon in the cooperative movement, encouraging unorganized women workers to form their own innovative cooperatives.

When Shree Gujarat Rajya Mahila SEWA Sangh was established in 1992, 33 cooperatives had joined. Today 107 cooperatives and 3 associations are members of this federation. Out of the total cooperatives started by SEWA Federation, 65 cooperatives are operational out of which 57 cooperatives are growing cooperatives i.e. 88% of the total cooperatives are self-sustaining.

The main objective is, to undertake various activities and provide necessary guidance for the socio-economic development of SEWA Federation's members Women's Co-operative Societies and their members. To connect with the market in various ways to sell the goods produced by the member cooperatives. Helping cooperatives to get financial assistance for business development. To arrange necessary co-operative education and training for the cooperatives, to conduct programs for leadership development and to promote and spread the activities of women's co-operatives, to present the working experiences of the cooperatives at the state, national and international level and to work for the necessary policy changes for them.



Federation's Member Women's Cooperatives - Milk Producers' Women's cooperatives- 60, Service Providers' Women's cooperatives- 12, Land Based Women cooperatives- 10, Sales Women cooperatives – 5, Handicrafts Women cooperatives – 17, Savings and Credit Societies – 3, District Association – 3 Thus total 110 members.

Glimpses of Major Achievements

SEWA Bharat, Lok Swasthya SEWA Trust and Mahila Housing Trust along with SEWA Federation have been ranked among the top 50 organizations for providing the best relief work to the marginalized by the World Economic Forum (WEF).

A study was conducted on reviving the women's cooperatives after Covid 19 by SEWA Federation, International Cooperative Alliance - Asia Pacific (ICA-AP), These findings were presented at a national webinar organised by Women in Informal Employment: Globalizing and Organizing (WIEGO)

Main activities of the Federation

During this year the team of the Federation worked to accelerate the economic and social development of the members by empowering the societies mainly through the following activities to achieve the main objectives. Funding and operations for cooperatives against the second wave of Covid-19, Business Development and Market Linkages of member cooperatives, Empowerment, Research and Policy Change, Communication and Outreach, Financial Accounts

The details of Capacity Building work throughout the year are as follows:

- ❖ Conducted 2 online sessions for 69 students during the Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Bangalore Mahatma Gandhi National Fellowship Programme.
- ❖ Orientation of SEWA Federation was given to 35 members from Access Livelihood Institute, Hyderabad under their 'Social Entrepreneurship Program for Youth'.
- ❖ Prepared new types of training to connect the new generation with alternative employment - in which massage, sofa cleaning and patient care training was given for SEWA Homecare Mandali. Trained the Megha Mandal in poultry farming and mushroom cultivation. Trained Tripti to develop bakery and other recipe making skills
- ❖ Conducted an exposure visit for the homecare team to a similar organization Elder Aid (Bangalore) to give them further direction.
- ❖ A session on the experience of organizing cooperatives of SEWA Federation was given to SEWA Bihar team
- ❖ Conducted two classroom sessions on Cooperatives for Journalism students of Gujarat University
- ❖ Tie up with other organizations like Saath, Udayabhansingji, Viksat, Women Empowerment Corporation (WEC) etc. for trainings

For more details see – www.sewafed.org



SEWA Academy: (Unique University of Poor informal sector Workers)

The work of education and training of the members of SEWA is handled by the SEWA Academy, a university of poor informal sector women workers. With a view that this works get recognition and that to continue the SEWA movement forward, continuous empowerment of the members and organizers is essential. So that the organization can survive in the midst of changing scenario and keep moving continuously in the face of all the factors. For this, SEWA Academy was established in 1990 to provide demand-based, need-based capacity building. The SEWA Academy has grown along with the strength of the members. The SEWA Academy providing vocational training has been newly registered at the national level as the 'Indian Academy for Self Employed Women' Trust on 1/9/2005.

SEWA Academy strives to ensure that all stakeholders in the SEWA movement get the same direction and message. SEWA Academy works on mutual exchange of information about SEWA through exposure dialogue. these exposure and dialogues are done with other organizations and with policy makers. The main programs of SEWA Academy are to promote the SEWA movement. (1) Training (2) Literacy (3) Research (4) Communication: Anasuya Fortnightly, Akashganga Monthly, Video Service, I.T. Centre

SEWA Academy functions as a medium to make the plights, struggles, experiences and resonance of the working women members visible to the wider community, and to the policy-making government officials.

Training:

The main objective of the training department is to develop the personality of working women, increase their confidence and develop their potential. Indian Academy has a training centre in which trainings are conducted for the potential development of working women, adolescent girls, SEWA leaders, management team and activities.

In the year 2022, the training department of SEWA Academy provided different training for working women. A total of 1549 trainees were trained through 61 different training classes mainly on 16 different subjects. The topics of the training were: SEWA Movement, Organization, Gender, Life skills Training, Understanding of Health and Government Schemes, understanding of women (Elders) Rights and Law, Sustainable Employment, Environmental Awareness, Gender Based Violence etc. 5 Training and exposure visit at National/International level were done this year. In which 90 trainees participated. Mainly members of HNSA – Bangladesh, Nepal, Punjab, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Streetnet, Rajasthan participated.

Literacy:

SEWA is a unique organization of poor informal sector women workers. Sisters from different occupations are involved in this organization. Educated and illiterate sisters from different areas, villages and cities come for training in SEWA Academy. As these women started taking different trainings, these illiterate sisters developed a hunger for learning. They felt that



inspite of being illiterate, they get to know a lot in SEWA. If we can read and write, then it would add to our learnings. We have to learn to read and write. As the activity of SEWA expanded, the demand of sisters for literacy also began to increase. Considering the demands of the sisters, the Indian Academy started Literacy activities.

Apart from literacy activities, capacity building classes and skill building and communication trainings are also conducted. Its aim is to provide easy education through laptops to make the girls tech savvy and useful in their daily life. This helps in strengthening the morale and social balance is also maintained through various camps, exchange centres and through the celebration of festivals.

25 literacy classes were conducted in cities and villages in which 690 sisters participated. Apart from this, other activities included skill development classes by the Academy, workshops for adolescent girls and boys, peace message training program, extension centre, Rashtriya Mukta Vidyalaya Shikshan Sansthan, health camps, campaign for experienced sisters, exposure visits. A total of 8300 trainee sisters participated.

Research:

The research work was carried out since the year 1991 by the Indian Academy. In this operation, working class members have become the source of information. But, it is equally important to involve working women in every process and accelerate development. The work of research is not only in the hands of intellectuals, but working women who are active in the process of implementation, i.e. the women workers, are also involved in research team. Written is read, appreciated. This is why the SEWA Research Team provides information to SEWA by conducting studies at the grass root level through a grassroots research team (Grassroot Research Team) using real data. Out of the total research done this year, five researches were completed-(1) Evaluation study of leaders (2) Benefits and limitations faced by the kite industry (household workers) during the covid-19 pandemic. (3) Evaluation study of Women Leadership Course on IFWEA-OLA website. (4) Effects of Covid-19 on Domestic Workers, vendors, Waste paper pickers and Homebased Workers (2 Rounds), (5) What trainees learned through member education training and gender online training under Blended Training Program for rethinking of Livelihood, what difference did it make, how will the training be used?

Communication

Indian Academy is continuously working to empower sisters through various communication channels. In which print media, radio, video has been combined.

Video SEWA: The video SEWA that started in 1984 to advance the work of the SEWA movement, is today giving voice to the issues of working women through electronic media. Videos play an important role in presenting the questions of a sister during trainings or in the areas. Even the less educated sisters are moving forward by gaining understanding through the medium of videos. The video SEWA provides a visual representation of the sisters' work as well as their questions in several ways. Like doing photography, videography, making small documentaries, making awareness programs, going to the area and doing replays etc. The sisters also find it easier to understand and remember information through videos. Along with



this, poor women workers and teenage girls are given technical training and taught to use tools. As a result of which in the year 2000, Shri Gujarat Mahila Video SEWA Information Communication Co-operative Society Ltd. was started. Which gives visibility and voice to the work and questions of the members of SEWA.

In video operations, 35 videos were replayed, 25 videos were shot, 10 were edited, 50 were photographed, 25 were logged, 15 were duplicated. Conducted photography training in which 25 trainees participated.

RUDI No Radio:

RUDI *no* radio program is being broadcast every Saturday from 16 April 2005 at 8.00 to 8.15 pm from Akashvani Ahmedabad Vadodara station which reaches the remote villages of Gujarat and since 26 November 2009 'Samuhik Rudi no Radio' from 90.4 MHz at 8 hrs every morning and evening. Community Rudi no Radio is heard in a total of 40 villages of Sanand and Kalol talukas around Ahmedabad Manipur.

In the year 2022, Radio Replay were played in 58 areas (rural and urban) and 38 Broadcasting and Narrowcasting reports were prepared.

Under Community Rudi No Radio, 1365 on-air fresh programs were done, 21 radio programs aired, 32 guests visited and understood the work.

Anasuya:

SEWA's fortnightly 'Anasuya' is being published since 1982. The work of self-employed women in the unorganized sector is made visible and their problems are addressed. The work, business, employment, struggles, development, life stories etc. of working women are written. Sisters are given writing training so that they can write their talk in their own words. We call this barefoot journalist. From time to time this writing training is given to girls and women. These sisters are also associated with the media. They are linked to the mainstream through media workshops. 'Anasuya' fortnightly has entered its 40th year after completing 39 years. Anasuya is published on the 6th and 22nd of every month. A total of 17 issues were published this year.

The total lifetime subscribers of 'Anasuya' are 1588, annual subscribers 140, complimentary subscribers 245, thus the total membership is 1973.

Important articles published in 'Anasuya' this year are, Footpaths are a boon for us..., Lively dumps of the city, Tribute to Mahatma Gandhi, school on a phone, Leh-Ladakh SEWA etc.

For more information visit www.sewaacademy.org

Social Security:

Vimo SEWA (SEWA Insurance) was started with the objective of providing financial support to the working sisters during the unexpected calamities in their lives. As the scope of this program increased, we formed an insurance unit and gradually the development of insurance services grew according to the needs of the sisters.



On September 7, 2009, our National Insurance Vimo SEWA Co-operative Society was registered. It is first National Insurance Co-operative Society of Sisters in India, as well as the first National Cooperative of SEWA Movement. At present, we have started working in the states of Gujarat, Delhi, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Rajasthan and 3 districts in Assam (Darang, Goalpara, Barpeta). Thus, working women and their families in these six states are covered under various schemes of SEWA insurance. Through our experiences we have worked with other organizations in the country and abroad and made new connections.

Activities of VimoSEWA - To protect working families with micro insurance - Various schemes are operational to meet the needs of Vimosewa members like medical Insurance, Employment Allowance and Corona Cover, Hospicare.

During the year 2022, many families suffered losses due to Corona disease. In the meantime, we provided protection to the members by providing corona shield through Vimoseva. Which included 3943 Covid policy, total claims – 35, and Rs. 6,37,500 was paid.

The year 2022 has been problematic as the partner and sister organization that joined the insurance service in the covid year 2021 did not renew the insurance. About 18,437 members, which looks like insurance requires member education, but the team put in a good effort and managed to reach 3 crore premiums. Total policies 60821, total membership 66,387 and total premium Rs. 3,02,26,993

During the year 2022, the following claims were deposited by Vimosewa and more than 1 crore was paid. Payment were made directly to member's account after asking for necessary documents for claim payment. Thus, more than 90% of claims were paid in the year 2022.



Claim from January to December 2022			
Claim Type	Total Claims	Total Claims Paid	Total Amount Paid (Rs)
Medi Claim	216	200	6,61,633
Death Claim	190	186	63,31,000
Easy Security Scheme	256	235	2,15,600
Hospi Care Claim	184	166	16,60,000
Savings Scheme	71	56	23,12,126
Covid -19	35	34	6,37,500
Covid -19 + Wage loss	16	16	42,600
Livelihood Allowance	2	2	3600
Accident Claim	2	2	1,75,000
TOTAL	972	897	1,20,39,059

For more details visit - www.sewainsurance.org

Health Care

For poor women workers, their bodies are their capital. For maintenance of this capital health service is necessary to take care of their health. To preserve the health of working women and their families, health services are delivered at their doorsteps through various activities. SEWA Health care along with the Lokswasthya Mandali has been doing the Health Education, Health care Camp, Counselling, Referral service, Fair Price Medicine Shop, Ayurvedic Unit etc. through Arogya SEWA in collaboration with.

In the year 2022, we are working in 13 wards of 5 talukas of Daskroi, Dholka, Viramgam, Sanand, Poshi and 294 chawls of 104 villages of Ahmedabad district under health care. In the year 2022, 11,19,196 members of 2,23,916 households were covered under health services. Its main activities include Ayurveda manufacturing unit, affordable drug stores, operations in the second wave of Covid-19, health education and awareness, health camps and referral services, tie-up with government programs and schemes, public participation in health activities at local level and capacity building.

Ayurveda Manufacturing Unit - The manufacturing unit of Ayurveda products was started by the cooperative in the year 2007. The main objective behind setting up the manufacturing unit is to provide quality, side effect free Ayurveda products to the communities at reasonable prices. In addition to this, from the collection of raw materials to production and sales, employment is provided to the members and make the health care cooperative self-



sustaining. Ayurveda cooperative is licensed to manufacture Churan, Syrup, Oil, Cream, Avaleh, Shampoo and Capsules. Got approval to manufacture tablets this year. In addition to this, the organization holds a certificate of quality (ISO 9001-2015) for the manufacture of Ayurveda products and herbal cosmetics by the International Organization for Standardization.

For the last 13 years, the cooperative has been working on making products for women's diseases, skin diseases, breathing, warts, stones, colds, phlegm, arthritis, acidity, constipation, hair diseases, mental stress, insomnia, pains, heart tonic, cholesterol, liver tonic and health tonic, children's physical-mental Health products that are necessary for growth, cosmetic products without side effects. Sanitizer, Ayush Kwath (decoction) and Immunity Capsules were made by the cooperative keeping in view the Covid pandemic which was given for distribution in relief kits and community kits.

During this year products worth Rs. 2,32,92,982/- were sold through our drug stores, depot holders, private doctors, jobworks, Ayurveda stores and institutions

The products manufactured by the cooperative are sold by local leaders. During the year local leader (Arogya Sakhi), Ayurveda Sathi and Depot Holder sold products worth Rs. 10,54,753/. Out of which they earned an income of Rs. 1,89,855. Members associated with manufacturing Ayurveda products earned an income of Rs. 5,26,594/-

Affordable Drug Stores: The main objective behind setting up drug stores by the cooperative is to provide life-saving medicines to the community at affordable prices. A total of three affordable drug stores are run by the society in Lal Darwaza, Maninagar and Saraspur areas of Ahmedabad city. Out of which two drug stores run on 24 hours basis which are run exclusively by the sisters. Allopathic, Ayurvedic, Homeopathic and Surgical products are offered at discounts of up to 80% through these group drug stores. Medicines are supplied to hospitals poor patient fund, workers' state insurance scheme hospitals and dispensaries through the cooperative's drug shops. During the covid pandemic our dispensary provided continuous service to the people. Members taking permanent medication were given various health related information twice a week by forming a WhatsApp group. Drug shops not only sell drugs, but also provide education related to drugs such as drug dosage, method of taking drugs, side effects and other effective treatment options, facility of laboratory tests at concessional rates, referral service of specialist doctors and municipal hospitals and linkage with other SEWA organisation is done.

Apart from this, medicines for cancer, kidney, HIV are given at a special discount. Besides, adult diapers, bed seat, commode, chair, walker, waterbed, stick are provided at a very concessional rate and oxygen concentrator is provided on rent at a nominal rate. Within a 2 km distance, medicines are delivered free at home. During the year, more than two lakh people bought medicines worth Rs. 3,98,04,003/- In which, they save an amount of Rs. 1,04,31,072/- on the purchased medicines.

During the covid pandemic our pharmacy provided continuous service to the people. The members taking permanent medication were given different health related information twice a week by forming a WhatsApp group. The shop not only sells medicine but also provide



education related to things such as drug dosage, method of administration, side effects and other effective treatment options facility of laboratory tests at concessional rates, referral service of specialist doctors and municipal hospitals and linkage with other services.

Health Education and Awareness – Various services are delivered at the local level with the support of local leaders, Arogya Sakhi, Sevika and Arogya Karyakar who are members of the Lok Swasthya Mandal's Health Services. Education and awareness work was done by health sakhi, sevika and health worker to unorganized sector workers, sisters, youth and their family members, on various health topics at their doorsteps and documents to be submitted to take advantage of various government schemes and the schemes available. In which health sakhis and health workers were trained through technology for health education and awareness. During the corona epidemic, education and awareness work was done through various media. Follow-up of the information received from the technology to the members was also done by the team to know which subject-issues need to be emphasized in the education and to ensure that the information reaches the members and that the members make full use of it.

During this year education was imparted on the following points viz. corona (prevention, treatment, cure), mental health, health system structure and services, nutrition, body composition, menstrual cycle and hygiene, TB, government schemes, occupational health etc. through various media such as video clips. Conveyed information to a total of 6,91,223 sisters and youth through charts, posters, games, voice messages.

Health Camps and Referral Services - Organized various camps during the year in coordination with Government. Apart from this, the members were benefitted by organizing various camps as per the need along with private hospitals, trusts and other organizations. Along with the health camps, various camps were done on available government schemes and documentation required to access the schemes which included Shram Card, Aadhaar Card, Balika Samridhi camp and sought the help of youth in various arrangements to increase their participation.

During this year, a total of 8389 people were benefitted through 193 camps. Referral services were provided to the members in need of advanced treatment as well as to the needy members in the area in which 19541 members were referred for further treatment to various government, private, trust hospital and urban health centres, primary health centres during this year.

My name is Soni Singh. I am working as a health sakhi in the health department of SEWA. A pregnant sister and her husband were riding a bike and suddenly the sister fell off the bike and her four-month old baby died in her stomach without her knowing. There was no help to take her to the hospital. But I took her to the hospital for treatment. But since that day was Sunday, the doctor was not present in the hospital for emergency cases, so we took her to the civil hospital for treatment. The doctor got angry on me after seeing the sister in such dire condition as it was difficult to even save her life as the baby died in her womb. Then I introduced myself to the doctor and said that I am not related to her. I am working as a local level health sakhi in SEWA. On seeing this painful situation of this sister, I have come to help her. Timely treatment saved her life.



Linkage with Government Program and Schemes - Government has launched various schemes for unorganized sector workers and families living below poverty line but as people are not aware about the schemes. SEWA Shakti Kendra works so that various government schemes and various services are accessible to the people, where the sisters can feel free to come. SEWA Shakti Kendra is being run with the aim of enabling people to talk about their confusion and questions and to get this service in their locality. Information is given about with whom to coordinate for various documents and schemes and go to which department for which scheme so that we can easily benefit people. For that, 1418 local members and Arogya Sakhis were engaged through 193 exposure visits to various government departments. So many members got rid of their fear and got information from SEWA Shakti Kendra and benefited from the schemes themselves. At the local level held 143 meetings with various government officials were done to resolve issues related to health in which local members, Asha, Anganwadi workers, supervisors, local committee members, Yuva Mandal youths, Malaria workers, Sarpanch, Talati etc. attended the meeting and together discussed to take the work forward.

At the local level, for various health related services to the youth, local youth councils were formed to increase participation among the youth and to identify the issues in their area and do their PR work. There are a total of 104 such groups and efforts were made to make the youth understand and verify the documents and fix it. Efforts were made to connect the youth with employment. The youth learned how to make and use online complaints about garbage disposal, sewerage, water, blocked light poles, road blocks, etc. and also worked on redressal of complaints.

During this year, 38,422 members were linked to get various schemes and proof documents.

Community participation in health activities at local level – Various committees have been formed by the government at the local level. With the aim of empowering the members of these various committees, monthly meetings and trainings are conducted with the members. In which 76 different committees were explained the purpose of the committee, responsibility of the members, who are the members of the committee etc. and if the member of the committee is not active then how can we activate or take the active members in the committee. By conducting frequent trainings and meetings with the committee members, various issues at the local level such as B.P. Machine, weighing scale, cost of vehicle for referral of pregnant sisters, disposal of garbage, purchase of diabetes machine, prevention of corona, sewerage, sanitation, water facility etc were addressed. The committee made use of the funds. Added 14 new active members to the committee.

For more details visit www.lokswasthya.org



Balseva - Childcare

The goal of SEWA is full employment and self-reliance. The women workers who fulfil this purpose, work outside the house for livelihood, take care of domestic chores and along with it also has a desire for the all-round development of her children, so to fulfil that desire and that the children of poor working women sisters get childcare services, SEWA started child care programme in the year 1976 as per the needs of the women members.

Major Activities: Nutrition, Pre-Primary Education, Health Check-up, Growth Monitoring, Referral Service, Meetings.

Pre-Primary Education: Prayer, nursery rhymes, stories, free activity, light exercise, environmental, linguistic, mathematical, social learning

Health check-up: Immunization, pregnant and antenatal check-up, referral polio, covid vaccine, periodical doctor check-up of children, linkage with urban health centres.

Meetings: Parents Meeting Every Month, Quarterly Father Meeting, Bal Sevika Meeting, Shakti Vikas Meeting

Different behaviours are seen in children below 6 years such as many children are shy, some children are stubborn, some children are quiet, fickle, imitative, funny, dependent on others, do not trust others easily, irritable etc. Working with children at this age, the teachers recognize them and nurtures them accordingly. Bal Sevikas work very patiently in doing this work. Helps in overall development of children. It is very useful in the education of children till the end.

Why pre-primary education is necessary?

Pre-primary education for children under the age of 6 years is considered a very important foundation. At this age, children have a lot of curiosity and energy to learn new things and many studies have found that 80% of brain development takes place between birth and 6 years of age. So it is our responsibility to help children, overall development of children and pre-school preparation is the main objective. All-round development means physical, mental, language, social-emotional and creative development of children. A child acquires adjusted academic abilities in pre-school while going to formal school. There are many participants involved in imparting pre-primary education such as Bal Sevika, child's parents, family members, community people etc.

Children's growth and development: If children below 6 years of age receive regular nutrition and health check-ups, regular growth of the child has been observed. 30% of the children in the centres are between 6 months and 2 years. And 70% of children are in the age group of 3 to 6 years. Each child's weight and height are taken every month and the child's growth is discussed with the parents.



Meeting and communication with parents: Parents are contacted in different ways and the children are placed in the centre. The Bal Sevikas go door-to-door and hold monthly parent meetings and quarterly father meetings. Through these meetings they work on fathers' participation in child rearing, Right to Education (RTE), enhancement of child nutrition, linkage to government schemes like Ayushyaman card, Aadhaar card, information about obtaining birth certificate. During the meeting 70% mothers join the meeting. Fathers or elders of the family are involved in these meetings and it has a positive influence on the child and family members.

Integrated Child Development - What is the impact if the Anganwadi hours are increased for the children going to Anganwadi under this program? It will be researched and also activities related to pre-primary education and nutrition will be conducted with the mothers of the children. At the end of this activity a report will be prepared which will be presented to the policy makers.

Sr. No.	State	District	Anganwadi	Village	Leaders
1	Gujarat	Sabarkantha	6	4	7
2		Tapi	4	2	10
3	Kerala	Trivandrum	15	3	6
4	Orissa	Kandhmal	15	13	10
5	Meghalaya	East Khasi Hills	19	10	7
		Total	59	32	40

Integrated Child Development Activity

Sr. No.	Activity	Sabarkantha	Tapi	Kerala	Orissa	Meghalaya	Total
		Members Reached					
1	Activity with mothers of 3 to 6 year old children	150	221	123	175	275	944
2	For mothers of 3 to 6 year old children WhatsApp/SMS/Mes sage	150	221	123	175	275	944
3	Members Training	270	221	250	175	275	1191
4	Door-to-door contact	279	221	123	175	275	1073
5	Survey	156	108	294	322	158	1038



SEWA Bharat Association

SEWA was established in 1972 and SEWA Bharat was established in 1982 to carry out development works of all SEWA organisations. Various organizations constituting SEWA are members of SEWA Bharat. It is called SEWA Bharat. SEWA organisations are members of SEWA Bharat. This includes SEWA trusts, as well as sister organizations of SEWA that work for development. This strengthens the SEWA movement. SEWA Bharat works to co-ordinate and develop and mutually sharing of activities going on in different states.

Approach – Develop cadre of leaders, strengthen them, create awareness among members, create and strengthen local SEWA Shakti Kendra where sisters, young sisters are safe. Linking with government schemes and programmes. Engage women in employment that provides decent livelihood and income, assets, resources and social security. Ensuring that sisters have work/livelihood, income. Have State level unity and develop SEWA movement in various new states.

To address the challenge of women's entrepreneurship and linkages, SEWA Bharat has adopted a collective entrepreneurship model for the past decade. It works on women's ownership, empowerment of members' collective enterprises and financial support work. Research was also conducted on the results of the experiences. SEWA Bharat works to systematically connect business members with enterprises and help remove barriers. Enterprise Support System WESS has achieved significant results in promoting, strengthening and growing five women-owned collective enterprises. These five enterprises provide regular income to 1500 grassroots Women WESS initiatives have positively impacted over 2.5 lakh members. Also with a view to provide these women non-traditional work opportunities to those women, three new business models including small-scale work such as guest, survey, Anubandh etc.

Karn Bhumi Krishak Producer Company Ltd. (KBKPCL)

Karna Bhoomi Krishak Producer Company Limited is a producer company of the farmer members of Bihar. Its aim is to empower women farmers and enhance their livelihood through farming activities. This year the company has bought and sold 50 metric tons of paddy from its shareholders in collaboration with WESS. WESS has also helped the company in getting a loan of Rs 6.5 lakh as working capital for paddy crop.

Bihar 'Mahila SEWA Bachat Evam Sakh Swalambi Cooperative Committee Ltd. (BCC)-

Bihar Mahila SEWA Bachat Evam Sakh Swalambi Sahkari Samiti Ltd. (BCC) is the only credit cooperative of more than 12000 sisters in three districts of Bihar. This women run cooperative works to strengthen planning, methodology and process. Efforts were also made for better financial planning and management. Mahila SEWA Urban Co-operative Thrift and Credit Society Ltd. is a credit cooperative based in Delhi whose target for 2022-2023 was to increase membership. Capacity building for the board and team members to run the membership campaign was the key. Thus 1179 new members were reached through the membership campaign and information of 921 members was collected.



Sarthak SEWA Pvt. Ltd.

Sarthak SEWA Pvt. Ltd. is a business correspondent company providing financial services to over 60,000 members in Uttarakhand and Punjab. WESS supports Sarthak's mission of providing financial services in the states of Punjab and Uttarakhand through banks. WESS has played an important role and has helped Sarthak develop its DFLT module and provided 23 different trainings to 542 small entrepreneurs. WESS has appointed CFO who provided assistance in strengthening the management and financial management of the enterprise and helped in enhancing the accounting capacity of the young women employed by WESS. As a result, the data system of the enterprise has been improved and now due to the use of the method there is a special transparency in the management.

Ruab SEWA Artisan Producer Company Limited

Ruab SEWA Artisan Producer Company Limited is an artisan producer company creating sustainable livelihood for artisan sisters. Thus enabling customer retention, decision making. Due to these efforts, the income of artisan women increased by 15% overall. Trained Ruab on registration on Government-e-Marketplace (GEM). Thus the online market opportunities have increased. Participated in 'Indiamart' organized fairs and exhibitions/events to increase sales. Also for production and future orders tried to attract B2C and B2B customers.

SEWA Atithi

Mehmaan Nawaji is a grassroots sister-run group in the hospitality sector formed in 2019 to diversify the livelihood of the sisters by promoting tourism, SEWA Bharat has contributed to the promotion of homestay work as a source of income for the sisters, particularly in rural areas. WESS designed the leaflets/ pamphlets for Mehmaan Nawaji (Homestay) and facilitated branding and promotional materials. Visiting cards are also designed for customers to contact homestays and make bookings in local areas.

A total of 40,587 members have been connected with social security by the leaders of SEWA Shakti Kendra teams in 10 states. Especially with PMJAY and pension schemes. Assisted in obtaining necessary documents to be attached. Help and guidance was given to issue E shram, Ration Card and Aadhaar Card etc.

2,34,824 women who received E shram identity cards through SEWA Shakti Kendra in Hazaribagh and Jharkhand have been educated by WME on public health and child care, including covid vaccination. Raised awareness about nutrition and anaemia among women, mother and child health, hygiene etc.

8010 children were assisted for admission to child care centres. So that mothers can work more hours and generate more income.

A total of 676 leaders have been trained in social security work.



9143 members opened bank accounts for financial needs for business ventures, activated existing accounts and were facilitated availing various financial schemes and services.

15,665 women have been linked with loans to start, expand and diversify their businesses amid the Corona pandemic.

SEWA Bharat trained 185 leaders to increase entrepreneurship opportunities, especially in online banking and online market linkages to address the disparity between women and men. And more than 2695 women were connected with digital platforms to help their businesses through smartphones.

In Nagaland's Phek, sisters were trained in soap making and trained them as small entrepreneurs.

For skill enhancement training under Sahasik Pragati programme, the topics of warehouse work training, entrepreneurship, computer/digital financial literacy, sewing and tailoring, beautician training, training on effective goat rearing, data collection and work skills, agro entrepreneurs etc. were covered so that the employment opportunities of the women will increase.

SEWA Bharat trained 6345 women in 11 states for planning purposes. These programs are designed to help teenage and teenage girls in their entrepreneurship in non-traditional fields and basic computer literacy. In all these fields, sisters do not find an important place. So the sisters also worked towards coming forward in this field.

6,996 children have been trained on various subjects to solve their problems and increase their income opportunities.

Out of 3086 women trained on DLFT/EDP, 1300 were linked to government schemes like E shram Card, Sukanya Account, Labor Card etc. to increase livelihood through financial assistance to small entrepreneurs. Members bank accounts were opened from Delhi Credit Cooperative. As a result, financial assistance of Rs.12,32,000/- was available to 110 small entrepreneurs.

SEWA Bharat conducted a series of trainings for leadership development in various states with the support of SEWA Academy, Gujarat which also conducted training of trainers through which 269 leaders were trained who work for the organised strength of the organization and solving the problems of the members.

Social security for women workers in the unorganized sector

Of the total 45.9 crore workers in India, 94% are in the unorganized sector and the remaining 6% are in the organized sector. There is no single approach to providing social security for all. This problem needs to be addressed from a multi-pronged approach.



The term 'social security' should be used in a broad sense and should include all kinds of protective measures. Inclusion of insurance, assistance, security and safety net etc. is necessary.

In 1999, the second National Commission recommended reconsideration of the existing laws to make them more relevant and appropriate in the context of globalization and the changing Indian economy and suggested a consolidated law to ensure minimum level of protection for workers.

SEWA Shakti Kendras are a unique resource for disadvantaged communities. Here it provides guidance and support to members in obtaining scheme related information and documents.

- To educate about health, personal finance and their rights and entitlements as Indian citizens.
- To conduct legal counselling and awareness sessions.
- Helping them obtain identity cards and address proofs, birth and death certificates and other official documents.
- Connect with health services and government schemes as well as service finance institutions and labour unions.

SEWA in South Asia

Sri Lanka

Ethnic civil war in Sri Lanka has had serious implications for the short-term survival and long-term recovery of the social order. In this situation, children are also forced to join the war as child soldiers, so they are married off at a young age to avoid it. 90,000 people lost their lives and thousands of families are still grieving. A large number of people still face challenges with mental and physical impairment. SEWA started working in 2010 through a sister-to-sister development approach. The social, political and cultural environment here was different from Afghanistan. But the sisters were of the same mind, heart and concerns. Building capacity through Gandhian principles and thinking with Asha Sanchar, based on shared concerns of child nutrition, SEWA initiated work and relationships with sisters. 4 Business Development Centers (CLBRCs) in rural and urban areas of Batticaloa and Community Development Centers in rural areas. The organization's work for war-affected sisters by SEWA in Sri Lanka started in Batticaloa in 2018 and in Ampara in 2019, works are carried out by members in a total of five Gyan Vigyan Kendras.

Sri Lanka has been experiencing economic crisis since last year due to which the common people have to face a lot of hardship. Including things that keep the economic cycles moving like electricity, petrol, diesel, gas and agriculture or fisheries, farming etc. there are no such businesses which are not affected by the economic transition. Agriculture which was the main occupation in this region also suffered due to the stoppage of imports of fertilizers. Fish



farming also came to a standstill due to shortage of diesel. The communities had to cook using fuel wood to run public life. In this situation it had the greatest impact on the afflicted sisters who are members of our organization.

Even in the midst of such hardship, the morale of the sisters of SEWA did not waver. The trainings were continued with the aim of continuing the operation of Gyan Vigyan Kendras so that the work and income of as many sisters as possible continue and the sisters get work in the coming days. Soul Cafe was affected by the economic downturn across the country. But the WSDCS Society in association with the Chamber of Commerce and UNDP is starting this on May 29 by bringing a machine to extract oil from coconut and making arrangements for the farmer members to connect with the local export market. Earlier, a study was conducted with the farmers and the necessary information about coconuts was collected.

Apart from this, started garmenting training with YGTOW organization in which 75 sisters joined in 3 batches. In Ampara also women members are continuing economic activity by producing and selling various products through food processing.

Afghanistan

Sisters in Afghanistan face many challenges. There is also poverty here. In the continuous war situation, the sisters have lost brothers, husbands, son etc from the family. As a result, the financial situation of the family is poor. Due to the social bonds here, it is difficult for the sisters to go out. Due to lack of constant security, delays in work due to Afghanistan's heterogeneous climate and environment it is difficult to maintain continuity. Less education among sisters. The sisters have health problems, harsh natural conditions and electricity problems.

For the poor self-employed women workers, during the war and throughout the year there was a lot of struggle and challenges. Due to increasing restrictions on human rights in Afghanistan today, sisters are restricted from going out without a man. Poverty and helplessness are increasing day by day. Because of the war, widowed sisters and those whose husbands are still missing, it has become extremely difficult for these sisters to make a living and nurture their children. In this situation, the Afghan sisters of WSDCS were selling various products of the sisters by staying with the local agencies or embassies. As a result, the sisters got some income. Also continuously coordinated for food so that it is possible to arrange the nutrition of needy women. But it was possible to a very limited extent.

About 7000 members are organized in Afghanistan, out of which 10 to 12 percent of the sisters migrated to other countries. Most of them settled in Iran, Iraq, Germany and Canada. Those who had relatives in other countries went there with their help. Our Bage Zanana Centre is run by sisters two days a week, but only local city sisters can come, rural sisters from the villages cannot reach there. The sisters want to come to work, but there is a lot of fear of the Taliban and there is no transport system at the moment. They have no money for food, they get food in the morning and there is no guarantee of food in the evening. How to meet



the need of food and water is their big question. The sisters became unemployed and their husbands also have no work. The sisters are not allowed to leave the house without a man. The condition of the children is very bad; they are malnourished due to not getting enough food. Can't even go out, get work, it has increased unemployment and due to this, the level of crime has increased. And life is also at risk.

Hafizaben: Hafizaben said that we 5 sisters come and work twice a week (Tuesday and Saturday) in our Baghe-Zanana Centre in Kabul. The Taliban have come there twice and checked that there are no sisters working with foreigners. When they saw that there are only local sisters, they allowed us to work 2 days a week and insisted that you should not work with any foreigner or man.

Earlier the sisters in the centre used to do both food processing and sewing of clothes, but now the costs are high as inflation has increased so customers don't buy clothes so now the sisters do only food processing. It is difficult for them to get raw material because all traders ask for cash money and they have no savings. They are not sure how long they will be able to run the centre due to lack of money and savings.

Rahilaben: Told that she has no father, she along with her mother and 2 sisters live with her uncle. But now uncle will get married and then they will have to live in a rented house, and it is very difficult for them to pay the rent. How we will pay rent is the major concern.

Masuraben: Three sisters and a brother live together, the elder brother has shifted to Iran, and now she is responsible for running the household. From the money I am earning, I also manage the household. There is a lot of trouble. My income depends on tailoring work but now customers don't buy clothes and are more interested in food items.

Nazeriben: She lives with her widowed mother and nephew. She does cleaning work in the centre but is given partial remuneration, as the centre is not fully functional. All the financial responsibility is on her - managing food and daily expenses is a major issue.

The sisters requested that if they get some help, especially food, and raw materials for the centre, they can produce and sell to earn some income.

Ilhamben is from Herat, the centre has been closed for the past year. The centre mostly worked on garmenting, but as there was no demand for clothes, they had no source of income. They have no savings to buy food and raw materials, due to which the centre is closed.

AzizGulben, who also joined from Herat, said: The Taliban do not allow the sisters to go to the centre and talk to the vendors for raw materials and there is no one to help them and they fear for their safety.



Schools are open only from class 1 to 6. This is creating a negative environment for youth and girls feel insecure and afraid. The sisters requested that if they could get some raw material, they were willing to work at home. And it will help in generating some income for them. For this, SEWA is constantly striving, in which we are negotiating with the Government of India and others for the sisters to get work there. We have regular meetings with the sisters. The sisters now come to the centre and earn income from sales by processing food.

In the year 2022, the situation of the sisters was very bad, SEWA team was in constant contact with the sisters and we knew their demands and they had a lot of problems, there was no grain in the house to eat. So SEWA provided food, water, clothes and blankets for using in the cold to 32 sisters in Kabul and 31 sisters in Herat. In this way a total of 63 sisters were provided support to last six months and this helped a lot in the lives of the sisters. The sisters said that SEWA has come to our help at the right time. Made these arrangements along with the Master Trainers that were trained earlier.

Thereafter, stayed in constant contact with the sisters and gave them constant motivation. They started going to the centre thrice a week and prepared clothes etc. from the raw materials available there and by making pickles and chutneys and other items in food processing, the sisters sold them in the nearby places and earned their livelihood and managed the household expenses.

Apart from this, we got the sisters to contact the Embassy of the Government of India, put the hand-knitted and embroidered clothes of the sisters in the embassy and started the sale of these products there, through which the sisters got employment.

The mission of the organization is to create peace, work and income opportunities, thereby increasing mutual trust and peace among the people.

Other Major Events

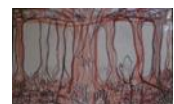
- The members were overjoyed when Spain ratified the 177th ILO Convention for Domestic Workers.
- Jashiben, a marginal farmer and member of the elected executive committee of SEWA, became the chairperson of the Women's Wing of the Asian Farmers Forum. The General Meeting of Asian Farmers Forum for Sustainable Rural Development "AFA" was held in the Philippines from October 18 to 22.
- SEWA received two awards for Most Valuable Added Products and Good membership.

SEWA Leadership

SEWA Executive Committee - 2022



Elaben Bhatt		Founder	
1	Kapilaben Bhailalbai Vankar	President	Tobacco Worker, Kheda/ Anand
2	Manaliben Shah	Vice President	Ahmedabad city
3	Rehanaben Sabirbhai Riyawala	Vice President	Rural Development
4	Shantaben Vashrambhai Parmar	Vice President	Vendor, Ahmedabad
5	Jyotiben Macwan	General Secretary	Tobacco Worker, Dist. Anand
6	Shantaben Dayaram Koshti	Secretary	Bidi worker, Ahmedabad
7	Yasminben Shaikh	Secretary	Stitching Worker, Ahmedabad
8	Heenaben Nikhilbhai Bhatt	Treasurer	Ahmedabad
9	Parvatiben Aaljbhai Makwana	Member	Construction Worker, Ahmedabad
10	Pushpaben Maheshbhai Parmar	Member	Domestic Worker, Ahmedabad
11	Jayshreeben Sureshbhai Patani	Member	Vendor, Ahmedabad
12	Anishaben Iqbalhussain Shaikh	Member	Incense Stick Roller, Ahmedabad
13	Rajiben Parmar	Member	Waste Paper Picker, Ahmedabad
14	Shabnamben Naim Mohammed Shaikh	Member	Stitching Worker, Ahmedabad
15	Jashiben Jethabhai Parmar	Member	Animal Husbandry, Dist. Ahmedabad
16	Jyotsanaben Dashrathbhai Parmar	Member	Agriculture Worker, Dist Gandhinagar
17	Varshaben Jeetendrabhai Leuva	Member	Agriculture Worker, Dist Mehsana
18	Pavanba Vaghubha Jadeja	Member	Agriculture Worker, Dist Kutch
19	Kantaben Bachubhai Barot	Member	Agriculture Worker, Dist Patan
20	Shardaben Fatehsinh Zala	Member	Agriculture Worker, Dist Sabarkantha
21	Jashuben Deepakbhai Rathod	Member	Agriculture Worker, Dist Surendranagar



1	Jayshreeben Vyas	SEWA Bank
2	Renanaben Jhabvala	National International Coordinator
3	Miraiben Chhaterjee	Social Security
4	Reemaben Nanavaty	Rural Organising and Economic Development
5	Namrataben Bali	SEWA Academy
6	Manaliben Shah	Urban Organising
7	Bijalben Bhatt	Mahila Housing Trust
8	Lalitaji Krishnaswami	<i>SEWA No Vaarso</i> - Archives

SEWA National

१	Madhuriben Sinha	General Secretary	SEWA Bihar
२	Lataben	General Secretary	SEWA Delhi
3	Sonia George	General Secretary	SEWA Kerala
४	Fatima Shaikh	General Secretary	SEWA Maharashtra
५	Shikhaben Joshi	General Secretary	SEWA Madhya Pradesh
६	Ashaben Nainwal	General Secretary	SEWA Rajasthan
७	Faridaben Jalees	General Secretary	SEWA Uttar Pradesh

SEWA Bharat Association

1	Renanaben Jhabvala	Chairperson
2	Faridaben Jalees	Vice Chair
3	Shikhaben Joshi	General Secretary



QUOTES BY OUR FOUNDER - SHRI ELABEN BHATT

“Women know that productive work is the thread that weaves a society together.”

“SEWA revives traditional crafts and skills to bring full employment to women, to strengthen the village economy, to link producers with their markets, and to promote sustainable lifestyles.”

“Vendors are a true and direct expression of a lively economy.”

“As with human life, the products we surround ourselves with need to follow the cycle of life, death, and rebirth.”

“Food should be about home and nourishment; the flavors of a land, and a sense of belonging. Food is both nature and culture; it is the staff of life and livelihoods. Food cannot be reduced to just a commodity for trade.”

