SEWA DELHI TRUST
ANNUAL REPORT 2018
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INTRODUCTION

SEWA Delhi was founded in 1999 and became a trust in 2007. Since then, the SEWA Delhi trust has expanded and developed significantly.

SEWA Delhi works for women in the informal sector with the ultimate aims of full employment and self-reliance. The main programmes center around Advocacy, Microfinance, Skills Development & Education, and Outreach Centres.

Delhi is home to over 28.98 million people and the informal economy workforce remains largely unrecognised, despite making . SEWA Delhi has worked to bring these women into the conversation and support them, lifting them out of poverty.

SEWA Delhi covers sixteen areas of the city including Raghubir Nagar, New Ranjit Nagar (West Delhi); Jahangirpuri (North-West); Rajeev Nagar, Mustafabad, Sunder Nagri, Gokulpuri, Nand Nigri (North-East); Timarpur (North); New Ashok Nagar, Dallupura, Mullacolony, Anand Vihar (East).

SEWA programmes have an integrated approach in which they work to address and combat systemic and chronic economic and social barriers faced by women in the informal sector. This is achieved through SEWA’s holistic approach toward the ‘Eleven Points’. These eleven points are:
- Employment,
- Income,
- Nutritious food,
- Health care,
- Housing,
- Assets
- Organised strength,
- Leadership,
- Self reliance,
- Education,
- and Child care.

In 2018 significant progress has been achieved. Most notable was the beginning of the work to achieve the inclusion of disability as a section. In 2018 there were also 116 members trained from Entrepreneurship Development skills- from which 30 have established their own businesses

Board of Trustees in SEWA Delhi Trust

Smt. Renana Jhabvala..Social Worker........Founder
Smt. Manorama Joshi...Social Worker........Trustee
Smt. Geeta.....................Old Cloth Vendor..Trustee
Smt. Shalini Sinha........Social Worker........Trustee
Women in the informal economy are unregulated, unprotected, and unseen. They remain vulnerable yet contribute invaluably to Delhi’s urban environment. Through organising women and developing leaders, called Agevan, SEWA Delhi aims to secure full employment and self-reliance for women workers. Mohalla and Agevan meetings are two important tools of community engagement which SEWA uses and often act as the entry point for programmes.

**Agevan Development Initiative**

SEWA Delhi Agevan development initiative aims to build their capacity and promote the sustainability of the programs. Agevans act as a bridge between SEWA staff and the community, with the aim that the work of SEWA is taken forward in the communities by these Agevans.

Their training involves a series of training, these include introductory sessions, ideology sessions, empowerment sessions, technical capacity building, and refresher sessions.

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**21948**

**Beneficiaries have accessed SSKS**

*This shows how important SEWA Shakti Kendras are in the communities for general information regarding various government schemes and SEWA programmes.*

**6880**

**Women participating in 338 Mohalla meetings**

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**84**

**Agevan meetings conducted in 2018 by 250 Agevans across Delhi**

Agevans are actively involved in organising and overlooking programmes of SEWA. These meetings were held in all areas with all grassroots leaders coming together and strategising on how to take the work forward in the areas.
CASE STUDIES

Community issues arise in all areas that SEWA Delhi works. Some of these can be resolved immediately while others require strong advocacy. Now, these community issues are classified as themes for community work to be addressed before looking to another community issue.

Community Toilets in Raghubir Nagar

In this area, the authorities often close the community toilet which impacted SEWA’s members. Through repeat visits to the authorities accompanied by the SEWA team, the members grew to realise the importance of collective action. This encouraged the members to confront authorities themselves. The members organised themselves and met the representative, eventually leading to community ownership of the toilets. This story demonstrates the power of organised communities in identifying and finding solutions to their concerns.

Aanganwadi’s in Ranjit Nagar

Aanganwadi’s are government-sponsored child-care and mother-care development programmes operating at the village level. In Ranjit Nagar, these facilities were in terrible conditions. This lead to the SEWA team and Agevans to visit the Aanganwadi’s, liaise with ICDS, speak with community members, parents, and stake holders. They established the health and safety concerns of the public and as a consequence the two Aanganwadi’s in bad condition have been moved to new premises.

Kamala ben and Water tanks at Dallapura

Through the Mohalla meetings, the issue of water tanks in this area came to light. The majority of the working in the region are domestic, meaning they leave for work early in the morning and come back around mid afternoon. However, the Delhi Jal boar water tank arrived in the morning, leaving many members unable to access water as they were at their workplace. Kamala ben took initiative and, with the SEWA team, organised the women workers to visit the Jal Board Development. The women were successful in changing the water tanking to arrive during noon time when they return from work, set up at a common point feasible for the majority of the workers.
SKILLS & EDUCATION

SEWA Youth Resource Centre
SEWA Youth Resource Centers use SSKs to provide vocational training to underprivileged girls. This includes market relevant courses in computers, embroidery, and tailoring, but new course are added as per members' and students' requests. This enhances the employability of young women.

SEWA YUVA Mandal
SEWA YUVA Mandal is a group of around 20 young girls who lead change in their communities by promoting discussions and information on topics such as early marriage, nutritional health, and sanitation. Participants of YUVA Mandal receive communication and leadership training as well, thereby creating a cadre of future change makers in the communities.

SEWA Adult Literacy Initiative
SEWA Adult Literacy Initiative is a program aimed towards uplifting women and increasing the level of literacy amongst the community.

The initiative teaches women basic reading and writing, as well as how to sign documents. This helps the women to balance the requirements of her daily life, thereby allowing members to become more self-reliant and improve their confidence.
900

Utilised the Youth Resource Centre via successful completion of training programmes

40%

Of youth availing these services were placed across different sectors

Rs 8,000 - 15,000

Income range of youths who have used SEWAS programmes

30

Women successfully completed adult literacy courses

*There by gaining basic literacy skills in Hindi language*
HEALTH & SOCIAL SECURITY

The risk of illness for marginalised families is irreversible health damage, inescapable debt, and even early death. Poor, working women’s health issues become neglected because of high costs, administrative barriers, overwhelming workloads, and domestic responsibilities. Therefore, the main social security and health activities aim to provide access to information and health education, strengthen public service linkages, and reduce health expenditure.

SEWA Shakti Kendras (SSKs)
SEWA Shakti Kendras (SSKs) are the key outlet for delivering Delhi social security and health program. Started in 2007, SSKs are convergence and coordination centres for SEWA to empower communities by strengthening members capacities to access entitlements through mobilisation, building awareness, initial support, and nurturing grassroots leadership.

The SSK’s act as a safe space to bring forth any concerns, whether they’re personal, professional, or community. The SSKs can then deliver the needs of the women by taking immediate action.

Social Security Benefit Camps
SSKs help poor women learn about government schemes, process forms, and access their social security entitlements. This allows marginalised women to reach government schemes promoting social security. AADHAR camps and Voter ID camps, among others, were successfully conducted, resulting in a total of 234 camps.
Health Camps

A core belief of SEWA is that income earned by the members will be more effectively utilised if they have secured livelihood, education, and health. Thus, health camps have been organised to provide health care and awareness. These camps are conducted in the community and provide both general and specialised services.

Eye camps and general camps are organised in the community with health awareness sessions on basic health topics such as general hygiene, menstrual welfare, and nutrition.

Awareness Sessions

Awareness sessions aim to empower women by enlightening both men and women. They work to educate on:
- Maternal and infant healthcare
- Sexual health and reproductive rights
- Occupational health hazards
- Relevant social security entitlements
- Food and Nutrition
- HB
- Diabetes

18,253
MEMBERS LINKED TO GOVERNMENT SCHEMES AND BENEFITS THROUGH 7 SSKS

755
MEMBERS REACHED THROUGH 31 AWARENESS SESSIONS

224
MEMBERS REACHED THROUGH 6 GENERAL HEALTH CAMPS

52,00
MEMBERS PARTICIPATING IN 50 EYE CAMPS
**LIVELIHOODS**

*Home-based workers enter into the global supply chain at the bottom, doing beading work through contractors and subcontractors. Although their embellishment work adds great value to the garments, they are not paid its worth.*

**Ruaab**

Ruaab is exclusively designed to provide regular embroidery work to home-based workers. It is designed and managed by women producers and works through embroidery centre model to ensure an ethical and transparent supply chain. The women workers in Ruuab are also engaged in skills training such as legal awareness and technical skills development to help build their capacities to speak out against exploitative working conditions and become economically independent.

**RS 4,000-5,000**

**AVERAGE PART-TIME INCOME OF RUUAB WORKERS**

*But this depends on the quality of the work and the order received.*

**998**

**WOMEN INVOLVED WITH RUUAB, DIRECTLY ENGAGING WITH 70 WOMEN ON A DAILY BASIS**

**775**

**WOMEN TRAINED FOR QUALITY FINISHING AND DESIGN DEVELOPMENT**

*This would increase her earnings moving her up the supply chain, thereby improving her working conditions and strengthening her own producer run company.*

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**Entrepreneurship Training**

The Entrepreneurship training aims to promote self-employment and entrepreneurship within these communities. This allows girls to explore their talents in a way that permits freedom of work and explore non-conventional employment opportunities.

In several families mobility is restricted for girls and women, leaving them with a small radius to travel, study, and work in. Within these communities, job opportunities are limited and therefore a large portion of girls and women are left without suitable employment. In this situation, promoting self-employment and entrepreneurship can help initiate women-owned, home-based small businesses for income generation, economic freedom, and greater decision-making powers.

One of the opportunities facilitated by Entrepreneurship training and non-conventional employment is with the company Even Cargo. Through leaning to ride two-wheelers, women can be employed by Even Cargo as cargo women.

Deepika is a great example of the success of the Entrepreneurship training. She used to work in Domestic help, however through support and hard work she is now a chef at a four-star hotel in Delhi. This shows the power of SEWA’s training schemes to facilitate social mobility.
COMMUNITY MICROFINANCE

Women workers in Delhi’s informal economy contribute to roughly 80% of the capital’s growth but poor women themselves struggle to rise out of economic deprivation. Women are unable to break out of poverty because they lack access to fair capital, appropriate financial services, and economic opportunities.

Starting in 1999, SEWA Delhi’s microfinance program has allowed women to be financially included and independent. The aim is to ensure that members have access to loans and savings and are prevented from exploitation by moneylenders.

Financial literacy training
To expand their microfinance, SEWA has partnered with the Mission Convergence department. One of the main focus areas is ensuring financial inclusion for one-lakh women and across all districts of Delhi. More than 4,965 women gained financial knowledge and the ability to manage their own personal finances.

SEWA Thrift and Credit Society
In 2007, the Thrift and Credit Society was registered and is an independently registered women run and tailored financial institution. This self-managed cooperative provides women with saving schemes and access to large amounts of credit. As the women have ownership over the organisation, all the financial services are dynamic and needs based to suit women workers of the informal economy.

Group loans are given to new members who organise themselves into a group of at least five members. All the members pay an admission fee, share fee, and mandatory savings.

Short term loans are given only for employment purposes only. This loan serves as a supplement for members who are already availing a loan and who have no overdue instalments to pay.

The Society also has bank saathis who go door-to-door to collect savings, loans, and interest dues. This shows how not only the Society provides financial access as well as empowerment for community members.
HIGHLIGHTS OF
2018

- Kamala ben organising community to arrange water tankers
- Cleanliness drive across SEWA locations
- Awareness drive led by community Agevan leaders
- Participation of SEWA at IDWF in Bangkok and Uttara ben in South Africa
- Participation of Vandana ben at Bal-SEWA workshop
- Participation in Streetnet Asia Regional Conference in Nepal
- Story of Change presented at UN Women
- National shutdown at Bharat Bandh
- National women’s day celebration
- Labour Day rally
- Domestic Workers day
Cleanliness Drive

Labour Day Rally

Women's Day celebration

Skill Development Initiative