



SAHAKARITA

GUJARAT STATE WOMEN'S SEWA CO-OPERATIVE FEDERATION

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You may never know what result comes of your action, but if you do nothing, there will be no result.

- Mahatma Gandhi

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Two decades of challenges. Twenty years of collective efforts. It has been an incredible, arduous yet exhilarating journey of bringing about progressive change in women's co-operatives.

We have advocated, formed, lobbied, nurtured and catalyzed the transformation of poor women's co-operatives to economically viable units.

The quest sometimes compelled us, sometimes inspired us to take up numerous pioneering initiatives. Lobbying for new definitions of co-operatives where none existed. Learning from grass-root realities, we organized enterprising groups wherever we formed viable opportunities.

Beginning with providing only account keeping services and registration of new co-operatives, many more services are being provided through the consulting cell.

We are happy to publish our 20 years report. We have tried to document some of our challenges and achievements and share them with you in this report. It is available at: www.sewafederation.org

- Lalita Krishnaswami,
President, Sewa Co-operative Federation.



Happy women's Day to our members, leaders and advocates for women empowerment through co-operatives!



Skill set assessment workshop at Design Sewa

Workshop for artisans

A skill set assessment workshop of the artisans was organized in January. 100 artisans from Ahmedabad City, Sachana village and Kadi Khuddar Hastkala Co-operative participated. The members prepared samples using their skills like patchwork, embroidery, beadwork, puppet making, aari work, stitching etc.

Based on the scores of the samples, the skill up gradation training programs for the artisans will be organized.

ID cards to the artisans by DC - Handicrafts

500 artisans received ID cards from Development Commissioner – Handicrafts office. This will enable them to participate in any exhibition organized by the government. This will give them visibility as artisans and can be used as ID anywhere in India.



An artisans receiving her ID-card



No more ice, No more decay

Matsyagandha Fish Co-operative, along with providing clean drinking water to its members set up a cold storage for fish with the capacity of 1250 kg to keep them fresh. This will enhance the earning capacity of the members.

Congratulations Leelaben Dantani!

Door Darshan - Girnar Tejaswani Puraskar was awarded to Leelaben Dantani, a member of Video Sewa Co-operative for her contribution in the area of women empowerment. She received a shield, shawl and certificate of honour.



Trainings

Matsyagandha Co-operative

In collaboration with Gujarat Fisheries Department, The Federation organized a technical training program for 10 days. 37 members of Matsyagandha Co-operative participated. The purpose of the training was to disseminate information regarding fish to start their own business.

Several schemes for fish vendors, different types of fish, coloured fish for aquarium, methods of procuring water resource (pond) for growing fish, different types of nets etc. were some of the topics discussed.

Purnimaben Leuva said, "We eat fish but now I am planning to do business in coloured fish."



Hand embroidery training to the artisan in Sachana

Artisan Co-operative

15 members participated in 8 weeks training program in hand embroidery in Sachana Village.

7 women learnt to block print in waste paper to make carry bags.

Homecare Co-operative

Homecare Co-operative organized 7 training programs for 110 women. They learnt to provide better services using modern technology. The value based training included self defense and yoga.

"I look after my client's child very well but when I leave home for work, I have to leave my children behind and am very rough to them. I did not realize how my attitude affected them. After the training, I realized that I have to take care of my own children as well despite my personal constraints." Said Ramilaben in 'Child care' training.



Training on use of modern equipments to the members of Homecare co-operative

Vegetable activity

11 training programs were held in which 412 women farmers of Vyara District participated. Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) imparted the trainings in conservation of crop, use of natural pesticides, animal husbandry and usage of seeds.

"Through this training we learnt the use of natural seeds instead of hybrid seeds. I hope, we will continue to get the guidance from KVK." Said Saraswatiben, Champavadi villages.

Federation in South Africa

The Federation will provide its expertise in livelihood and microenterprise promotion to the women in South African countries.



Exposure visits



Area meeting with domestic service providers at Sewa Indore

5 members of Homecare Co-operative visited Sewa Indore as a reciprocal visit to see their activities related to homecare and domestic services in Indore, Ujjaini and Khavda.

“They want to replicate our method of work by forming a co-operative.” said Bhartiben Parmar, Coordinator, Sewa Co-operative Federation.

“In Indore, domestic work is considered as low and menial but when we go out to work through a co-operative, we get dignity, respect and bargaining power.” Said Ujjawalaben, Sewa Co-operative Federation.

Visitors

Members of various organizations including Sir Dorabji Tata Trust, Mumbai, Rangoonwala Foundation (India) Trust, Mumbai, officers of Indian Railways, professors of S. P. Jain Institute of Management and Research, Mumbai, Himachal Pradesh Co-operative Federation, Himachal Pradesh, Centre for Industrial Co-operative of Producers and Artisans (CICOPA), Bangalore, Sewa Bharat, Sewa Indore, Sewa Kerala, Sewa Munger, Mahatma Gandhi Foundation, C. D. Patel and F. H. Shah Commerce College, Anand visited The Federation to see its activities.

“Students learning management in the Development sector can learn from The Federation how to sustain the economic activities for such a long-time. Thank you for sharing the experience.” - Proff. Rukaiya Joshi, Institute of Management and Research, Mumbai

“We heard and we saw the work done by Women’s Co-operative Federation. Very good vision! Through their organization, the women can overcome their difficulties and be economically independent. They are an excellent collective for women’s growth through the co-operative sector.” - S. K. Nagarathna Rao, Director, CICOPA, Bangalore.

Excellent Vision. Excellent efforts. Excellent mission. Excellent work being done. Exemplary services. An eye opener efforts. Mr. Satya Prakash Thakur, Senior member, BOD, Himachal Pradesh Co-operative Federation, Shimla.

Feedbacks of the readers:

“Many thanks and Congratulations on all your good works.
We will share the Newsletter with our staff and interns.”

- Elly Pradervand, CEO , WWSF Switzerland

As usual, the newsletter is lovely. Thanks so much for keeping me up-to-date with your activities.

- Laura, CEO, Partners in Change



Thank you to all our member co-operatives who have been with us in the journey of two decades of The Federation.

CONTACT US

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