

**ANNUAL ACTIVITIES REPORT OF
SOCIETY FOR EMPOWERMENT &
WELFARE ACTION (SEWA)
FOR THE PERIOD 2023-24**



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FORWARD

Dear Friends!

It is my great privilege to present the Annual Report for the year ended 2023-2024, highlighting our meaningful contributions to development.

During this year, SEWA has made significant strides in supporting vulnerable and marginalized communities. Our efforts have spanned various sectors, including education, health, agricultural development, skill development training for Self-Help Groups (SHGs), livelihood support for transgender individuals, environmental promotion, and the training and orientation of SHG members and farmers. We have also focused on the formation and strengthening of Village Committees.

Our programs have continued to thrive through both small funding and non-funding initiatives, establishing a positive trend in the districts of Balangir, Bargarh, Subarnapur, Kalahandi, and Nuapada. In addition to providing direct services, we have developed strong coordination with government departments and district administrations in our operational areas.

I would like to express our deepest gratitude to all our supporters, donors, and well-wishers who have contributed to our various programs. The district administrations, along with the governing and general body members, have played a significant role in our success. I also extend my appreciation to the dedicated staff of SEWA, whose commitment and hard work have been instrumental in our achievements.

I am confident that this report will provide you with valuable insights into our accomplishments and contributions to development.

Thank you all.

Executive Secretary, SEWA

ANNUAL ACTIVITIES REPORT OF SEWA DURING THE YEAR 2023-24

AWARENESS ON ADOLESCENT HEALTH:

Adolescent health, which includes physical, mental, and social well-being during a critical phase of development, is still in its infancy in India and at risk of neglect. To



address this, the government has launched an innovative Adolescent Health program, incorporating a series of activities and educational initiatives aimed at all community stakeholders. This program emphasizes comprehensive support and access to healthcare to ensure a healthy

transition into adulthood. Participating in this effort, SEWA, by support of Jana Swasthy Avijan, BBSR & guidance of health administration of the locality in Titilagarh Block, conducted awareness activities in over 50 villages to educate the community on the essential steps for maintaining adolescent health. These efforts are crucial for reducing the Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) and Maternal Mortality Rate (MMR) in the future.

RIGHT TO HEALTH:

Day by day the health seeking behavior of the people especially in the remote concerned has been decreasing due to lack of awareness and information regarding the health facilities and benefits of the Govt. further the community are also quite unaware about their health rights, so looking to



the need of awareness on the issues during the 2023-24 reporting period, SEWA by the support of OXFAM, BBSR organized a comprehensive Right to Health awareness programme in four locations across Titilagarh and Muribahal Block. The initiative aimed to educate the local population about their health rights, access to healthcare services, and the importance of maintaining a healthy lifestyle. The programme included interactive workshops, health screenings, and distribution of educational materials. Healthcare professionals provided guidance on preventive measures, treatment options, and the significance of early detection of illnesses. The awareness sessions emphasized the availability of government health schemes and how to utilize them effectively. The programme successfully reached a broad audience, fostering greater awareness and empowering the community to take charge of their health and well-being.

COMMUNITY MOBILIZATION FOR WATER CONSERVATION UNDER JJM:

Jal Jeevan Mission is an ambitious program aimed at ensuring every rural household in India has access to safe and adequate drinking water through individual household tap connections by 2024. The mission also focuses on raising awareness about the importance of water conservation and encouraging responsible water usage.

Key Components of Jal Jeevan Mission:

1. **Safe and Adequate Drinking Water:** Providing tap connections to every household in rural areas.
2. **Source Sustainability Measures:** Implementing mandatory elements such as:
 - Recharge and reuse through grey water management.
 - Water conservation.
 - Rainwater harvesting.
3. **Information, Education, and Communication:** Extensive efforts to spread awareness and educate the masses.

Jal Jeevan Mission aims to create a people's movement (Jan Andolan) for water conservation, making it a priority for everyone.

Awareness Activities by SEWA:

SEWA, supported by Star Youth Association, BBSR, and RWSS, has organized numerous awareness activities under the Jal Jeevan Mission. These activities



- Development of dug wells.
- Implementation of rainwater harvesting techniques.
- Building check dams.
- Efficient water management and usage.

These activities were carried out across several villages in the districts of Balangir, Kalahandi, Subarnapur, and Nuapada in Odisha, covering a total of 4,527 villages.

Village Water Sanitation Committees:

In each village, Village Water Sanitation Committees were formed to spearhead the efforts. These committees, with the help and support of local villagers, developed Village Action Plans and conducted social mappings to outline strategies for water conservation.

Sustainable Impact:

Continued efforts and collaborations were undertaken to ensure a lasting impact on water conservation. As part of the initiative, committees are encouraged to collect a user fee of at least Rs. 60, which may be increased to Rs. 100 in the future.

By fostering community involvement and promoting sustainable practices, Jal Jeevan Mission strives to secure a future where water is preserved and responsibly used for the benefit of all.

PAY MY BILL CAMPAIGN:

During the reporting period, SEWA, with support from OXFAM, BBSR, organized numerous awareness camps across Muribahal and Titilagarh blocks. These camps brought together community members, grassroots volunteers, and village-level community workers from various departments. The primary goal of these schemes

emphasize the importance of saving and utilizing every drop of water effectively, with the motto "Save & Catch Every Drop of Water for More Crop."

Key Awareness Initiatives:

- Promotion of farm ponds.
- Construction of water harvesting structures.

was to educate and encourage people about the "pay my bill" initiative, which emphasizes the community's right to access various financial and other benefits from government schemes. Participants were also encouraged to generate demand for these entitlements from the government. This initiative had a direct impact on the beneficiaries, enabling them to access the facilities provided by the government. In addition to this, the camps highlighted the importance of the right to health. Ensuring that every individual has access to healthcare services is essential for building a healthy society. The right to health encompasses access to quality healthcare services, health education, and essential medicines, without discrimination. It also includes ensuring proper sanitation, clean drinking water, and adequate nutrition. By emphasizing the right to health, the organization aimed to create awareness about the various health services available under government schemes and how to access them. This effort not only aimed to improve the overall health and well-being of the community but also to empower individuals to demand their rightful access to healthcare services.

Through these comprehensive awareness activities, SEWA sought to build a more informed and empowered community, capable of utilizing available government resources to improve their socio-economic conditions and health outcomes.

AWARENESS ON RTE ACT :

Our constitution emphasizes free and compulsory education for all, clearly outlined in the Right to Education Act. Despite various projects and programs, many students remain out of school, often falling prey to child labor. Additionally, a lack of community participation and ownership has led to a significant drop in elementary education levels. To address this issue, SEWA, supported by BGVS, BBSR, organized 150 awareness meetings in various schools across Titilagarh and Muribahal Blocks during the year. These meetings aimed to educate and inform



guardians and School Committee members at the village level. The awareness camps focused on several key points:

- **Right to Education Act:** Its purpose, need, scope, and activities.
- **Equal Access to Education:** Ensuring education without discrimination.
- **Role of Parents and Guardians:** Child protection and their involvement.
- **Dropout Rates and Solutions:** Addressing the alarming dropout and non-starter rates.
- **Girl Child Enrolment:** Enhancing enrolment figures, reducing dropout rates, and ensuring retention.
- **Quality Education:** Ensuring quality education, health, nutrition, and other government support.
- **Community Participation:** Procedures for ensuring community participation, ownership, regular advocacy, and networking.
- **Roles and Responsibilities:** Defining the roles and responsibilities of SMC members, teachers, cluster coordinators, and other functionaries in promoting primary education.

These efforts aim to foster a supportive environment for children's education and ensure that every child receives their right to education.

PROGRAMME FOR TRANSGENDER:

Despite significant progress in recognizing and supporting transgender individuals,



challenges such as discrimination and mental health disparities persist. To help transgender people grow, develop, and progress alongside other sections of society, a self-help approach is essential for their empowerment and nation-building. In Bargarh district, by the support of SSEPD, Govt. of Odisha & Shyam Sundar Trust, Baragarh the organization SEWA has taken the

initiative to organize and promote Self-Help Groups (SHGs) among transgender individuals, forming 10 SHGs with 10 members each. These groups are linked with

credit sources to facilitate income-generating activities. Additionally, capacity-building training is provided for effective management and maintenance of SHGs. To ensure sustainable livelihoods, SEWA also offers skill development training in trades such as tailoring, agarbatti and candle making, and phenyl preparation. These efforts aim to integrate transgender individuals into the socio-economic fabric of the community, enabling them to contribute to and benefit from national development.

AWARENESS REPORT ON VOTER ID & VOTING RIGHTS

In an effort to promote democratic participation and ensure that every eligible citizen exercises their right to vote, SEWA, Ghanthahali, organized a series of awareness programmes on Voter ID and voting rights across different locations in Bargarh district. These initiatives were supported by the Sub Collector of Bargarh, highlighting the importance of informed and active citizenship.

Objectives:

- To educate citizens about the importance of having a Voter ID.
- To inform the community about their voting rights.
- To encourage voter registration and participation in the electoral process.
- To provide information on the process of obtaining a Voter ID and updating electoral details.

Activities Conducted:

- Community Meetings Held in various villages to directly engage with residents. Discussions focused on the significance of voting in a democracy and the power of each vote.
- Conducted workshops detailing the process of registering for a Voter ID, correcting details, and the importance of timely registration. Participants were guided through the online and offline methods of registration.
- Engaged citizens through interactive sessions where they could ask questions and receive immediate answers. These sessions were particularly beneficial in



clearing up common misconceptions about voting rights and the registration process.

Impact:

- Increased awareness about the importance of voting and the electoral process.
- Significant rise in the number of registered voters in the district.
- Enhanced community engagement and participation in the democratic process.
- Empowerment of citizens through knowledge of their rights and responsibilities.

The programme was successfully conducted & educated and empowered citizens across the district. By ensuring that more people are registered and aware of their voting rights, this initiative contributes to the strength and vibrancy of the democratic process in Bargarh district.

WOMEN DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME:

By the support of Child Welfare Committee, Cuttack The Women Development Programme is designed to enhance the social wellbeing and economic empowerment of poor women by providing vocational training, microfinance, health and nutritional



education, literacy classes, and legal awareness. This initiative aims to equip women with marketable skills, improve their health and literacy rates, and educate them about their rights, thereby fostering economic independence and greater community involvement. By collaborating with NGOs, government agencies, and private sector partners, the

programme establishes training centers, engages local communities, and continuously monitors progress to ensure sustainable development and empowerment of women, enabling them to become self-reliant and active contributors to their communities. Key Components covered under the programmes are

- Offering courses in handicrafts, agriculture, and other trades to equip women with marketable skills.
- Providing access to microloans and business training to help women start and grow their own businesses.

- Conducting health camps, providing nutritional education, and ensuring access to healthcare services.
- Educating women about their legal rights and offering legal assistance to those in need.

SKILL DEVELOPMENT TRAINING:

In light of the severe drought affecting the region, the families dependent on agro-based activities are facing extreme hardship. To address these challenges and pivot the focus from purely agricultural activities to diverse on-farm and off-farm vocations, SEWA has undertaken significant initiatives aimed at enhancing the skills and competencies of Self Help Group (SHG) members. These efforts are intended to foster economic growth and improve the livelihoods of the rural community.

Digital Literacy Training

The Social for Empowerment & welfare Action SEWA by the support of ALRT, Chennai conducted numbers of skill development training session focused on digital literacy for small shopkeepers and vegetable vendors of in different market areas under Muribahal Block in the district of Balangir during the reporting session. The primary objective of the training was to equip participants with the necessary skills to efficiently use digital platforms for money transfer and receipt by enhancing the concept of digital literacy among small shopkeepers and vegetable vendors and train participants on the use of digital payment methods such as UPI, mobile banking, and e-wallets along with promote the adoption of cashless transactions for ease and security. The training was conducted in two batches, each comprising 40 participants, ensuring personalized attention and effective learning. However the following key points were discussed in the training



- Benefits of using digital payments over traditional cash transactions.

- Guidance on setting up and using UPI apps like Google Pay, PhonePe, and Paytm.
- Demonstrations on sending and receiving money using mobile banking.
- Practical exercises for participants to practice digital transactions.
- Importance of protecting personal information and avoiding fraud.

From the training the Participants gained a clear understanding of various digital payment, conducting cashless transactions & methods. This initiative is expected to facilitate smoother business operations and promote financial inclusion in the region.

Training on Paper Bag:

Like previous year the organization MAHESWARI SOCIAL WELFARE ORGANIZATION



during the year under report organized training for the female of the area on the trade Khadi Bag Making where 17 numbers of interested female were being admitted and provided technique on the innovative aspects of preparing Paper Bag. The training was organized at Bhatipada of Titilagarh Town and the trainees enrolled were being trained

on the innovative aspect of Khadi Bag making. However in the training some beautiful design materials were produced in the centre.

Mushroom Cultivation:

Looking to the better marketing of Mushroom in the area the organization SEWA arranged training on Mushroom Cultivation at Jagua under Titilagarh Block for the SHG leaders of the operational villages of the organization. In the training near about 22 SHG leaders & members of the area were trained on the technique of cultivation



of mushroom of different types. To train the group besides the expert of the organization invited experts form outside.

The organization appointed a group of consultants to identify the possible market for the products produced by the SHGs associated with it, on the basis of the recommendations of the group of consultancy the organization participated in one exhibition which provided the promotion of the selling performances.

SWACHH BHARAT ABHIJAN:

In response to the severe health and hygiene issues caused by improper sanitation, SEWA conducted a series of awareness meetings and rallies across various villages in Muribahal and Titilagarh Block of Balangir District, during June, July, and August



2023. The campaign aimed to educate the community on the importance of proper waste management and the adverse effects of indiscriminate waste disposal on the environment and public health.

A total of 12 awareness meetings and rallies were organized to encourage villagers to install and use toilets extensively. Participants were

informed about waterborne and airborne diseases and the significance of using clean water sources, such as tube wells or boiled water, for drinking purposes. Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) materials on sanitation were distributed to further enhance their knowledge.

Special sessions were held for SHG members and housewives, focusing on household and village waste management. The participants were educated about the detrimental effects of solid waste and the necessity of proper waste management. The use of household dustbins was promoted among housewives to improve waste disposal practices.

Overall, the campaign succeeded in raising awareness and motivating the community to adopt better sanitation practices, contributing to improved health and environmental conditions in the area.

PLANTATION :

On July 4th, 2023, SEWA celebrated Banamahotsava at Siker of Titilagarh Block to raise awareness about the importance of tree plantation among the rural and tribal populations and students. Recognizing the lack of awareness about the consequences of deforestation near human habitation, especially among illiterate communities and civil society members, SEWA initiated this event to promote environmental consciousness.

The celebration involved extensive plantation activities in various locations, including the school campus, wasteland areas, and along the village roadside. The initiative saw active participation from volunteers, youth, students, and SHG members, alongside SEWA staff and community members. Local community-based organizations (CBOs) were also encouraged to participate and take responsibility for nurturing the plants. To ensure the healthy growth of the saplings, SEWA's team committed to regular visits to the plantation sites, providing guidance and support to the community. This collaborative effort aimed to instil a sense of ownership and responsibility towards the environment, emphasizing the critical role of trees in sustaining ecological balance and improving living conditions.



CONSTRUCTION OF RURAL HAT



Rural hats are traditional marketplaces in rural areas where farmers, artisans, and small businesspeople come together to sell their goods. The lack of proper infrastructure and organization in these markets often leads to various challenges, such as poor hygiene, lack of storage facilities, and inefficient market

operations. NABARD's support in establishing a well-constructed rural hat aims to address these issues and create a conducive environment for economic activities. The establishment and construction of a rural hat (market) AT Haldi under Muribahal Block play a crucial role in boosting the local economy by providing farmers and businesspeople with a proper place to sell their products. this initiative aims to create a sustainable and organized marketplace for the local community. This report outlines the project details, objectives, implementation strategies, and anticipated outcomes. The establishment and construction of a rural hat supported by NABARD is a significant step towards improving the local economy and livelihoods in rural areas. By providing a structured and well-organized marketplace, this initiative will not only benefit the farmers and businesspeople but also contribute to the overall development of the local community. Continued support and collaboration from all stakeholders will be essential to ensure the long-term success and sustainability of the rural hat.

SENSITIZATION ON FLAGSHIP PROGRAMMES OF GOVT.

Many people especially the poor villagers of remote concern are completely unaware about the Flagship Programmes implemented by the Govt. in rural areas through different schemes and amount allocated for each programme as per the budget estimate and sent to all

concerned. So with a view to sensitize the rural people including PRI members, SHG Leader & youth the organization SEWA organized 10 numbers of awareness camps in different G.P. under Titilagarh & Muribahal block during the year under report. Officials from line &



PR Department were invited as RPs to explain the details of the schemes and process of utilization of funds. Some of the programmes that have been emphasized during workshop are OLM, Horticulture, Animal Husbandry, Kalia Yojana, Shramik Kalyan Yojana, BSCY, MGNREGA, SGSY, PAY, SBM, Rural Public Distribution System, ICDS, GKS and many other programmes. IEC materials on the above programmes were

distributed among the participants. Moreover the participants were made aware intensively on different PRI system, women participation in PRIs and developments of weaker section.

CHILD DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

It is always said “Today’s child is a Tomorrow’s leader”. But if a child does not get care and share of the society it cannot even think of being a citizen, let alone leaders. That is why the social, financial and educational problems of the orphans and destitute children need to be the main concern of all the organizations and institutions taking of voluntary and charitable activities. So realizing the urgency the organization SEWA by the support of Child Welfare Committee, Cuttack organized the following activities during the reporting session.

Nutrition Programme

Malnutrition is a severe issue among children from impoverished families in the



area. Recognizing this, SEWA initiated a nutrition programme to provide nutritious food to children at risk. This initiative aimed to combat malnutrition and promote proper growth and development. The programme covered more than 200 children from Titilagarh & Muribahal Block, addressing the urgent nutritional needs of the

community’s most vulnerable members.

Enrolment Campaigning

SEWA launched an enrolment campaign covering three villages of Haldi G.P. in Muribahal Block of Balangir district. This campaign took place during April & May 2023 and aimed to raise awareness among parents to increase enrollment and achievement in primary education within the block.

Competition

On Republic Day, January 26th, SEWA organized a children’s fair for students from primary and upper primary schools in various villages of Manigaon G.P. of Titilagarh

Block. The event included competitions in debate, singing, and essay writing, focusing on patriotism and current affairs. These activities fostered a sense of national pride and enhanced students' knowledge on significant global issues. Additionally, sports activities were held, boosting students' confidence. Prizes and certificates of appreciation were awarded to winners, while all participants were encouraged for their efforts.



Orientation on Child Rights

Child labour remains a critical issue in India. Despite the government's efforts to eradicate child labour through various projects, the lack of awareness at the community level often undermines these initiatives, putting child rights at risk. To address this global concern, SEWA conducted an orientation camp at Titilagarh during Sept. 2023 to discuss child rights and strategies to ensure their protection. The camp saw participation from 45 individuals from diverse sectors, engaging in discussions on child rights and the legal frameworks in place to protect them.

ORIENTATION ON INTEGRATED FARMING:

Integrated farming, also known as mixed farming, is a system that combines crop and animal farming. In this system, crop residues are used as feed for livestock and



fish, and in turn, the waste from livestock and fish is used as fertilizer for crops. This integration of two or more enterprises allows for the optimal use of available resources, resulting in increased productivity per unit area, efficient recycling of farm waste, better resource utilization, employment generation,

and reduced risks.

Recognizing these benefits, SEWA organized four orientation camps for farmers in the Haldi, Bitabandh, Malisira, and Tentulikhunti G.P. areas of Muribahal Block. During these camps, a total of 100 farmers were educated on the principles and practices of integrated farming. The training focused on how to effectively integrate crop and animal farming to maximize resource use and productivity. Through these efforts, SEWA aims to promote sustainable farming practices and improve the livelihoods of farmers in the region.

DRUG-FREE CAMPAIGN

Now a Days taking of drug especially by youth is increasing to an alarming condition which not only put an adverse impact on the health of the people by also create havoc in the society and in turns criminal activities are growing very fast. It is observed that in Titilagarh Town also taking of drugs is increased to an alarming condition. So realizing



the urgency SEWA during the reporting session organized a drug-free campaign in Titilagarh Town, actively involving youth volunteers from the local community. The campaign aimed to raise awareness about the dangers of drug abuse and promote a healthy, drug-free lifestyle. Volunteers engaged in various activities, including distributing informational pamphlets and organizing interactive sessions with residents to discuss the harmful effects of drugs. The enthusiasm and dedication of the youth volunteers were instrumental in spreading the message across the town, fostering a sense of community responsibility and encouraging individuals to adopt healthier habits. The initiative received positive feedback from the community and highlighted the vital role of youth in leading social change.

CHILD RIGHT CAMPAIGN

The organization SEWA, supported by World Vision, organized a comprehensive Child Rights Campaign across multiple locations, including rural, semi-urban, urban

slum, and remote areas. The campaign aimed to raise awareness about child rights, promote child welfare, and engage communities in safeguarding children's rights. Activities included workshops, seminars, rallies, educational support, and counseling services. The campaign significantly increased awareness among parents, teachers, and community leaders, improved access to education and healthcare for children, and fostered active community participation in child protection efforts. Despite challenges like geographical barriers, cultural resistance, and resource limitations, the campaign achieved notable positive outcomes, such as reduced child labor and school dropouts, and enhanced support services. Future plans include sustained awareness efforts, expanded coverage, strengthened partnerships, and robust monitoring and evaluation systems to ensure ongoing progress in promoting and protecting child rights.



PROMOTION & SENSITIZATION OF FARMER'S PRODUCER GROUP:

In the current market, there is a high demand for crops such as paddy, vegetables, sunflower, groundnut, mustard, and Harida. Despite the favorable soil conditions, availability of organic fertilizers, and access to river water for irrigation, the proposed project area faces significant challenges in the agricultural sector. Many local residents suffer from year-round unemployment. However, with proper coordination, technical and monitoring



support, financial assistance, and the mobilization of target groups, the potential for agricultural success is substantial.

The aim is to provide livelihood support to identified farmers by creating business and entrepreneurship platforms. This will be achieved through infrastructure support and fostering a governance relationship between farmers and traders. Recognizing the need to develop and promote Farmer Producer Groups (FPGs), SEWA organized several awareness activities for farmers in its operational areas. The main goal of these FPGs is to ensure better income for producers through collective organization. Individually, small producers lack the volume (both in terms of inputs and produce) to benefit from economies of scale. Additionally, the agricultural market is often characterized by a long chain of intermediaries who operate non-transparently, resulting in producers receiving only a small portion of the final price paid by consumers.

By forming FPGs, farmers can pool their resources, reduce costs, and increase their bargaining power, leading to improved income and stability. SEWA's initiatives aim to educate farmers about the benefits of collective action and provide them with the necessary tools and knowledge to succeed in the market.

AWARENESS ON ROAD SAFETY:

Road Safety Awareness is a necessity for every society as it can save lives, prevent injuries, and reduce the economic and social costs associated with road accidents. Educating individuals about responsible road behavior is crucial. Despite the

government's promulgation of traffic rules, their frequent violations lead to numerous accidents, resulting in many deaths and injuries. The lack of road sense, ignorance of traffic rules, signal jumping, and improper lane driving often cause accidents. Major causes also include speeding in town



areas, drunken driving, and dangerous overtaking. To address these issues, SEWA organized awareness meetings in colleges and rallies in various locations during Road Safety Week. Participants were educated on the importance of lane driving for traffic discipline, the necessity of public cooperation to prevent accidents, and the

voluntary use of helmets. Emphasis was placed on the fact that no amount of laws can enforce traffic rules without public cooperation, and preventing accidents requires gradual observance of safety measures and a cooperative police force.

CELEBRATION & OBSERVATION:

The organization SEWA celebrated the following important days with much pump & grandeur.

- Independence day
- Republic day
- International literacy day
- Women's day
- Bana Mahotsova
- Youth day
- Gandhi Jayanti
- Children day

All the above programmes were observed through rally, meetings and cultural show, exhibition of posters, pla cards and distribution of folders and leaflets.