

Current Projects

Lok Swasthya SEWA Trust 2018-2019

1. T.B Programme

Lok Swasthya SEWA Trust (LSST) continues to implement the Urban Slum Scheme under the Revised National Tuberculosis Control Programme with the support and guidance of Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation. This project aims to work towards preventing and curing TB cases in urban slums. We organize awareness activities in slum areas for TB and health service awareness, counsel patients for completion of treatment, treatment initiation, treatment adherence, and default prevention. Our community health workers also collect contact details and other information helpful to locate patients in case of migration and facilitate access of patients to local welfare schemes.

2. Occupational Health and Safety (OHS)

LSST provides preventive and curative health services, by, for and with informal women workers. Over the years, occupational health and safety of our members has become an integral part of LSST's health programming, so that informal women workers can focus on maximizing their productivity and increasing their incomes without being restricted by work-related health problems. The Occupational Health and Safety Programme aims at identifying and mapping various occupational hazards (i.e. physical hazards, chemical hazards, biological hazards, ergonomic hazards, and psycho-social hazards) and providing primary prevention of occupational health issues for home-based, garment workers, incense stick rollers, bidi rollers, kite workers, and agricultural workers.

The women workers are educated about the occupational hazards and health issues related to specific occupations, how it can be prevented, and what measures need to be taken when health issues affect their work patterns and responsibilities. Activities are organized at the community level where maximum number of women can participate and in accordance with timings that suit them. Door-to-door contacts, area meetings, exhibitions, and home visits are conducted to enable women workers to talk about their health complaints, and discuss remedies and seek solutions through LSST.

3. SEWA Shakti Kendras (SSKs)

SEWA Shakti Kendras are community-based empowerment centres that seek to improve awareness and access to health and social security for women in the informal sector through increased and improved coordination with government functionaries and institutions. These centres serve as a focal point for all community-based activities led by women and young people, which has triggered a process of exercising democratic

rights and active participation at the local level leading to enhanced access to entitlements and rights in both rural and urban areas.

4. Child Care

SEWA's Child Care Centres have been running in Ahmedabad city since the past 32 years, catering to the child care needs of informal women workers with children in the age group of 0-6 years. These centres are open from 9 am to 5 pm keeping in mind the work timings of the informal women workers. While good health and nutrition are essential to development, especially during the first few years, these services alone are inadequate for the overall holistic development of children. Parenting and family support, the environment at home and quality child care, especially for working mothers, are provided to get children off to a head start in life. The centres' activities include providing healthy and nutritious food, health care and pre-primary education for the children, parents' meetings held regularly to update them on the child's health and performance, and monitoring the growth and development of the child.

5. YUVA Mandals or Collectives of Adolescents

LSST organizes adolescent girls and boys to form their own collectives in their own communities, so that they can take an active role in being agents for change and drive sustainable action in their respective communities. Recognized within communities as "*kishori mandal*" and "*Kishor mandal*", these collective groups are educated in the importance of organizing and building collective strength and bargaining power. They are provided with capacity-building workshops, exposure visits, and vocational trainings to develop a sense of self-reliance and take leadership in their communities. These mandals also serve as safe spaces for support and solidarity, and by promoting empowerment and leadership qualities in the members, enable them to act locally on health and related developmental issues.

Giving adolescents and young people, the opportunity to develop and practice leadership skills is also a long-term approach to ensuring that our programmes remain sustainable and that young people actively participate and take up leadership roles in the development of their communities.

6. Mahila Arogya Samiti (MAS)

LSST has been instrumental in identifying women and young girls to become members of the MAS. Total 75 MAS members have been trained as per the guidelines in five wards (Shahpur ward, Behrampura ward, Rajpur ward, Odhav ward and Ambawadi ward) in Ahmedabad city. Regular meetings and follow-ups are done by the LSST with all 75 MAS members.

7. Technical Resource Cell (TRC)

LSST provides its expertise and technical support in capacity-building and training of trainers and teams for setting up and strengthening health and child care programmes to various organizations within and outside of SEWA.

8. Sankalit Programme

In order to achieve our goal of full employment and self-reliance, organizing women workers of the informal sector remains our key strategy. Towards this end, we have been working for the last seven years in South Gujarat with women workers, who are Adivasis or tribals, in Vyara and in the villages of Valod, Songadh, Uccal and Nizar blocks of Tapi district.

Now, the Tapi District Megha Adivasi Mahila Agriculture Producers' Co-operative (referred to as “Megha Mandli”, for short) has taken the lead in providing the women with a range of services while organizing them into SEWA’s union and other women’s cooperatives. The services include (1) livelihood support, both input-based and market-linked (2) health care, including preventive care and access to health services and child care (3) housing with basic amenities like water, sanitation and energy (4) financial services, including savings, credit and insurance and (5) capacity-building, including leadership training.

LSST continues to provide support to the Megha Mandli to ensure the promotion of self-managed women’s organizations in providing sustainable need-based services to its members for enhanced incomes and social security.