



MAY 2023

SEWA SANDESH

Namaskar,

Since we are all aware that Sewa International has completed 25 years of selfless service.

These 25 years are a sign of being young and dynamic. In this issue, we will also introduce you to the major works of service that started in Gujarat about 20 years ago. In the aftermath of the Bhuj earthquake, we took the onus of relief as well as rehabilitation.

Recently, we have been recognised for our work in Kutch (Gujarat) by Indian CSR. This issue is also important as we have organised various events under civil20 considering Shri Shyam Parande (Secretary, Sewa International) has been appointed as the international coordinator of one of the working groups of civil20.

We believe that we can only remain committed to this by moving beyond the understanding of measuring a project in numbers. Our focus should be to think beyond such notions and give a new understanding of these terms. We are filled with pride and gratitude for all that has been accomplished but we also look forward to the future, knowing that there is still so much more work to be done.

Dhanyawaad !

Editor's note

(Sewa International)

Remembering one of the earliest of “Sewa”

The Bhuj earthquake of 2001 is still etched in our memories. Devastated by the earthquake, the local communities suffered from a great ordeal. Sewa International with the aim to serve people in distress has created employment opportunities by promoting local artisans.

Read about Sewa International's intervention in Gujarat.

bit.ly/3C9190N



Sewa International, C20, and Cyber City

Sewa International hosted yet another C20 Samajshala, this time in Hyderabad. This C20 program brought together delegates from across India, including CSO and CSR leaders, for a day of networking, learning, and sharing.

The C20 Samajshala was a resounding success, with attendees exchanging ideas and insights on a wide range of topics related to social responsibility and philanthropy. One of the highlights of the event was the presence of several distinguished guests, including Dr Tamilisai Soundararajan, Governor of Telangana and Lt. Governor of Puducherry, Swami Bodhamayananda, Adhyaksha, Ramakrishna Math, and DM Kiran, C20 Sous Sherpa.

This event was yet another feather in our cap since we are positioned as the International coordinator of the C20 working group: Sewa: Sense of Service, Philanthropy and Volunteerism.



ALIGN: Keeping every record

We kick-started ALIGN initiative with the support of SIDBI, through comprehensive sessions. We have equipped 18+ incredible women from Umang SHG with the necessary skills and knowledge in program management, bookkeeping, and the thriving knitting sector. Their dedication and enthusiasm have been truly inspiring! Stay tuned for more updates on our ALIGN Project as we make a lasting impact together. Let's continue to work hand in hand, striving towards greater achievements!



Sewa with Sheroes

Sheroes Cafe is run by acid attack survivors who are showing incredible resilience and strength in the face of adversity. It was heartwarming to host our C20 Samajshala event here, bringing together thought leaders from media and social organizations to discuss how we can make a positive impact on society. Shri Shyam Parande from Sewa International and Shri Ajit Singh from Chhanv Foundation joined us and shared their views on the role of media in society.



One Kit, One Child, One Dream

A world where dreams often struggle to take flight, a ray of hope has descended upon the young hearts of Uttarakhand. Sewa International has reached out to 4000 students from 96+ primary schools in a beautiful endeavour to support their education.

Desk kits were distributed, carrying not just school bags, but also bags for homework, tables, steel water vessels, and geometry boxes. Each of these items represented a promise—a promise to uplift these young minds, to empower them with the tools they need to soar higher. Together, Sewa International and ONGC have kindled a flicker of hope in the hearts of these students, reminding them that they are not alone in their journey. It is a reminder that education knows no bounds and that every child deserves the chance to pursue their dreams.



Joshi-After-math: Extending a helping hand

Imagine the heart-wrenching sight of waking up to find the very foundation of your home cracking, a physical embodiment of years of hard work and cherished memories slowly slipping away. This is the grim reality faced by the residents of Joshimath. Their indomitable spirit shines through, but the challenges they encounter are tougher than ever. Yet, in the face of adversity, we stand together to make their lives a bit easier.

We took a step towards healing by distributing vital health and hygiene kits to more than 25 adolescent girls in Joshimath. We also provided animal feed kits to 25 women farmers to sustain their livestock amidst the chaos. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to TechnipFMC for their unwavering support.



Another tale of excellence from Aarogyam...

One day Sushil's health deteriorated, casting a shadow of worry. He was determined to get better and luckily found Sewa Arogyam. He underwent a thorough examination and was diagnosed with diabetes, a condition that required immediate attention and care. From that day, Sushil waited eagerly for Sewa Arogyam Mobile Health Van as the van covers his village once a month. The mobile van became a sanctuary of hope, where Sushil's health was nurtured with expertise and kindness. He followed the treatment plan diligently. Sushil also learned to monitor his blood sugar levels, adjusted his diet, and took the medication as prescribed by MMU medical team.

As the months passed, Sushil witnessed a transformation within himself. His blood sugar levels began to stabilise, and his overall well-being improved. The Sewa Arogyam team became a pillar of strength for him, offering encouragement, guidance, and a listening ear. Their presence filled him with a renewed sense of hope and the knowledge that he was never alone in his battle.



Nurturing future social entrepreneurs

Our passionate fellows embarked on a transformative journey at the Social Entrepreneurship Camp. Engaged in interactive sessions led by social entrepreneurs and thought leaders, our fellows delved deep into ideation, business modelling, impact assessment, marketing and branding, financial sustainability, and ethical leadership.



Resilient in the face of adversity

Meena Devi, a 46-year-old strong and resilient woman, had faced her fair share of challenges in life. She resides in the serene village of Narayankoti, where life revolved around agriculture. It was in the year 2014 that Meena's path intersected with Sewa International. Her first encounter was during the aftermath of the devastating Kedarnath disaster in 2013. Deeply moved by their selfless efforts, Meena decided to delve deeper into the organisation's work. As time went by, Meena's association with Sewa International grew stronger. She became an integral part of the Sewa Satyanarayan Self-Help Group (SHG), assuming the role of the group's secretary. Being a mother of two children, Meena understood the importance of supporting her family and securing a stable future. Agriculture was the backbone of her family's income, so she eagerly participated in the Sewa Krishi project's training sessions, absorbing knowledge and implementing new techniques on her own small plot of land. The month of April arrived, and Meena proudly harvested her crops. The fields displayed an array of lush vegetables, including potatoes, cabbage, and cauliflower. With careful nurturing and dedication, she had successfully grown bountiful produce. The hard work paid off, and Meena was able to sell her harvest, earning a significant sum. However, this was not the end of her success story. Meena's eyes gleamed with anticipation as she surveyed her 100 nalis of growing cauliflowers. She knew that when these plants were ready for market in the upcoming months, they would yield a remarkable 500 quintals of cauliflower. The mere thought of it brought a sense of triumph to her heart.



Small Steps Lead to Big Results...

"I was 16 when I joined Sewa International as a student at "Sewa Yuva Jyoti," a Digital Literacy and Personality Development program. Computers were alien to me. After losing my father at the age of 15, the safety net around me was torn apart.

That's when Sewa International came to the rescue. I remember completing the computer course and my D-Pharma in Ayurveda. I was in search of something, even though I didn't know what it was. Suddenly, my phone rang, and it was Manwar Ji (Center charge) on the other end. He shared about a new initiative Sewa International was about to start called Swasthay Sahyogi Sewa. I joined the initiative, visiting the remote villages of my district and interviewing people.

The region Narayan Koti, was gradually recovering from the devastation of the Kedarnath flood. I realized that this was my calling. I trained Self-Help Groups (SHGs) of women and young adolescent girls and soon became a Community Facilitator.

My skills as a healthcare professional have grown exponentially. Today, I am a Project Associate responsible for running campaigns, training, and awareness programs in 15-20 villages. I am grateful to Sewa International for providing me with this opportunity."

-Ankita Rawat
Project Associate

