

November, 2024



# Sewa Sandesh

November: A Month of Nurturing Progress



# Editors Note

*Namaskar,*

## **Holistic Development and Participative Approach: Path Towards Empowerment**

In today's dynamic world, the path toward empowerment is increasingly centered around holistic development—an inclusive process that touches upon social, economic, emotional, physical, and cognitive well-being. Holistic development ensures that individuals and communities evolve comprehensively, creating a foundation for sustainable progress.

Research and experience have shown that a participative approach is the cornerstone of this journey. Engaging communities at the grassroots through a bottom-up approach enables a deeper understanding of their needs, aspirations, and challenges. This method not only empowers individuals but also fosters ownership and accountability, ultimately contributing to the overall development of the nation.

At Sewa International, we strongly believe in the transformative power of holistic development combined with participation. By introducing initiatives that address diverse areas—education, health, skill development, and environmental sustainability—we aim to empower communities to unlock their true potential.

Through our community-centric efforts, Sewa International strives to bridge gaps, nurture progress, and pave the way for a brighter, empowered future. By prioritizing participation and inclusion, we are building a nation where every citizen contributes meaningfully to its growth.

Let us continue walking together on this journey of empowerment, collaboration, and transformation.

*Dhanyawaad!*

*R.K Anil  
Executive Director  
Sewa International*





## A Step Towards Dignity: Empowering Women Through Hygiene and Sanitation

Sanitation and hygiene are more than basic needs—they are a gateway to dignity, empowerment, and a brighter future. Sewa International, through its Sanitation, Hygiene, and Empowerment (SHE) initiative, is committed to uplifting women across the nation by fostering awareness and education on hygiene and sanitation.

As part of this mission, the SHE team recently inaugurated new toilet facilities in two Mysuru schools, GHPS Marbally and GHPS Katoor, with generous support from the Mookerji Foundation. These facilities are not just physical structures; they symbolize hope and progress, ensuring that young girls can attend school without compromising their dignity.

The inauguration ceremony was a testament to the power of collective action. Dignitaries such as Sharath ji from the Mookerji Foundation, Shri Javare Gowda, Deputy Director of Public Instruction, and Shri Prakash, Block Education Officer, joined hands with the SHE team, local officials, and community leaders like Shri Rajanna ji, founder of Samarpaka Seva Trust. The event featured cultural performances by students, a formal lamp-lighting ceremony, and the heartfelt appreciation of all stakeholders who made this initiative possible.

These small but significant efforts remind us that change begins with access to basic human rights. The SHE initiative will continue to strive toward a future where every woman and girl feels empowered, valued, and supported—because true empowerment starts with dignity.





## Kudos to our team!

We are honored to be part of this remarkable journey as Crystal Crop Protection Limited receives the Best CSR Project of the Year Award for its flagship initiative, **Mobile Medical Unit Support** in Uttarakhand.

This recognition at the National CSR Impact Awards is a testament to the power of partnerships and a shared vision. Together, we've reached over 25,000 patients in remote Himalayan regions, bringing critical healthcare to those who need it most.

A heartfelt congratulations to the Crystal team, especially their CSR lead, Subhodip Mukherjee, for driving this impactful initiative forward.

Sewa International Parivaar remains committed to creating sustainable change and is proud to stand alongside visionary partners like Crystal Crop Protection Limited. Here's to many more milestones ahead!



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## Empowering the Nation's Future: Sewa International and Nipuna's Journey of Skill Development

Skill development stands as a cornerstone for transforming India into a thriving, developing nation. Recognizing the untapped potential of the country's youth—the true architects of tomorrow—Sewa International joined hands with Nipuna to empower young minds with opportunities that not only build livelihoods but also shape futures.

On October 23, 2024, this mission reached a remarkable milestone: over 2,01,684 employment opportunities were created across six states. This achievement was the result of relentless effort, unwavering dedication, and a collective vision to uplift the youth. Through 30 months of determination, 37 job fairs, and countless hours of teamwork, Sewa International and Nipuna have paved the way for progress, with the goal of reaching five lakh jobs by 2025.

This journey is a testament to the power of collaboration, the resilience of the team, and the guidance of mentors and elders who inspire and support through every challenge. Their blessings and motivation fuel the drive to achieve even greater heights for the youth and the nation.

As we march forward, let us remember the sacred words:

**"Sarve Jana Sukhino Bhavantu"**

—May all people be happy.

**"Loka Samastha Sukhino Bhavantu"**

—May the entire world experience peace and happiness.



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# Igniting Curiosity: Empowering Rural Girls Through STEM

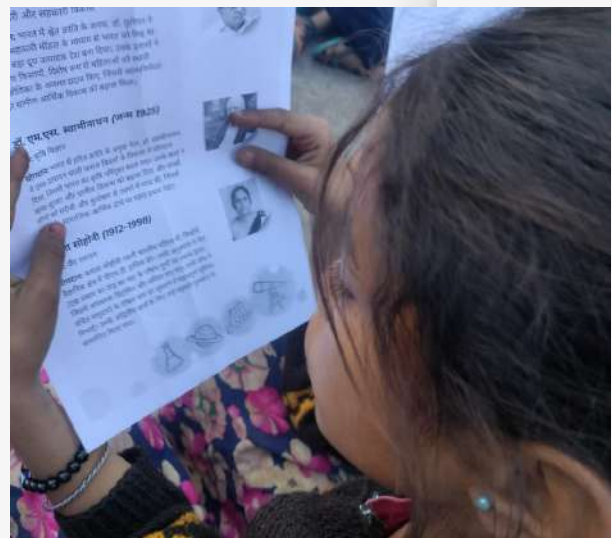
STEM—Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics—is more than a set of subjects; it is a doorway to innovation, problem-solving, and progress. Yet, in rural India, societal norms often keep girls away from these transformative fields. Sewa International is on a mission to change this narrative.

In November, through our Adolescent Girls Groups (AGGs) initiative, we brought STEM-focused sessions to over 530 girls across Chamoli and Rudraprayag districts. These sessions weren't just lessons; they were sparks of inspiration, encouraging young minds to dream of breaking barriers in traditionally male-dominated fields.

From uncovering the science in daily life with “Science Hunt” to matching real-life challenges with STEM careers in “Finding the Problem Solver,” these activities revealed the incredible possibilities STEM holds. The girls explored the role of professionals like Environmental Scientists and Agricultural Scientists in addressing issues such as water conservation and crop health, learning how STEM directly impacts their communities.

In a special webinar on World Science Day titled “Curiosity Unlocked: Applying STEM to Daily Life,” 168 participants heard from inspiring speakers who showed them how STEM can tackle community challenges. The event left the girls motivated, instilling pride in India's scientific contributions and empowering them to see themselves as future innovators and leaders.

Sewa International is not just teaching STEM concepts; we are igniting confidence, curiosity, and a belief in the power of possibility. These young girls are embracing leadership and innovation, proving that the future of STEM is inclusive, diverse, and full of potential. They are not only reimagining their own futures but are also paving the way for a better tomorrow for us all.



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# Breaking Taboos, Building Futures: Normalizing Menstrual Health

Periods aren't the problem—stigma is. At Kera Government High School, Sewa International Gujarat team is changing the narrative, proving that menstrual health is not just a personal issue but a community priority.

In a transformative step, our Menstrual Health and Hygiene Awareness Program didn't just talk about menstruation—it normalized it. Through open conversations and practical support, we reached over 1,060 girls and teachers, distributing sanitary pads to ensure dignity and confidence. Each pad became more than a product; it symbolized empowerment, helping to dismantle the barriers that force one in five rural girls to drop out of school due to menstrual challenges.

By fostering understanding and equipping girls with resources, we're creating ripples of change. Empowered girls lead to empowered communities—and that's the kind of future we're building. Together, let's continue smashing the stigma and rewriting the narrative for generations to come.



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## Healing Lives in Devbhoomi: Sewa Arogyam's Multi-Specialty Health Camp

In the serene landscapes of Devbhoomi Uttarakhand, Sewa International's Sewa Arogyam initiative continues to light the path toward better health and brighter futures. In collaboration with GIC Nagnath Pokhri, the Uttarakhand team organized a one-day multi-specialty health camp that brought vital medical care to the heart of the community.

Focused on the well-being of school-going children, the camp highlighted the undeniable link between health and education. Healthy students not only attend school regularly but also thrive academically, fostering a positive classroom environment. By addressing their immediate health needs, the initiative ensured that education is not hindered by preventable health challenges.

The camp served 150 individuals, including 85 males and 65 females, with a notable 58 from Below Poverty Line households. Services included 116 pathology tests, 3 ECGs, and 3 dressings, along with dental care for 58 patients. Alarmingly, 29% of females and 40.7% of males were found to be anemic, spotlighting the pressing need for nutritional and health interventions within the community.

This effort goes beyond medical care. It reflects the broader vision of the PM-SHRI scheme, aiming to create an environment that nurtures the physical, mental, and emotional well-being of students. By bridging the gap between healthcare and education, Sewa International is not only healing bodies but also unlocking potential, one child at a time.

Through initiatives like these, Sewa International reinforces its unwavering commitment to building healthier, more resilient communities, ensuring that every child has the opportunity to learn, grow, and flourish.

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*Together, we've sketched stories of change,  
etching hope into hearts. We want to express  
our sincere gratitude for your continued support  
and readership.*



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