

March 2024



Sewa Sandesh

Let's March towards a Sustainable Future

Editors Note

Namaskar,

The United Nations Secretary-General's call for a "Decade for Action" in September 2019 was an action call to accelerate efforts towards the fulfilment of the 2030 Agenda for the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) worldwide.

The United Nations Sustainable Development Agenda 2030 has set forth an ambitious blueprint for a better future - one defined by peace, prosperity, and a deep respect for our planet and each other.

As a global humanitarian organisation, we recognise that the 17 SDGs are the future antidote to the challenges our world faces – from poverty and inequality to climate change. By achieving these goals, we can work towards a future where everyone can thrive, and no one is left behind.

Through a combination of grassroots efforts and innovative projects, Sewa International has made significant strides in addressing key sustainability challenges. Whether it's providing access to quality education, empowering women and girls, promoting sustainable livelihoods, or ensuring access to clean water and sanitation, our efforts are guided by the principles of the 2030 Agenda.

As we navigate this "Decade for Action," Sewa International strive to be agents of change in our own communities. Together, we hope to build a better, more equitable world - one that fulfils the promise of the UN's Sustainable Development Agenda and leaves a lasting legacy for generations to come.

Dhanyawaad!



SEEK: Giving Children the Wings They Need



Education is often hailed as the cornerstone of a brighter future, a right that every child deserves regardless of their socio-economic background. Yet, merely attending school is not always sufficient to unlock a child's full potential.

In India, while strides have been made in increasing school enrollment rates, countless children still face daily struggles due to a lack of basic educational resources. Imagine a child eager to learn, but hindered by the absence of something as simple as a pencil or a notebook.

Recognising this gap, Sewa International understands that true educational empowerment extends beyond mere access to classrooms.

This realisation gave birth to the School Educational Empowerment Kit (SEEK), a holistic solution aimed at nurturing academic excellence from the ground up.

Sewa International along with Yusen Logistics (CSR Partner) has been able to bring SEEK to life, distributing over 5,490 school kits across Bharat. Each kit serves more than just a collection of tools, rather it symbolises a transformative step towards equipping young minds with the resources they need to soar.

With SEEK, we're not just providing children with the means to attend school, we're giving them wings to fly, empowering them to reach new heights of academic success and unlocking the boundless potential within each one of them.

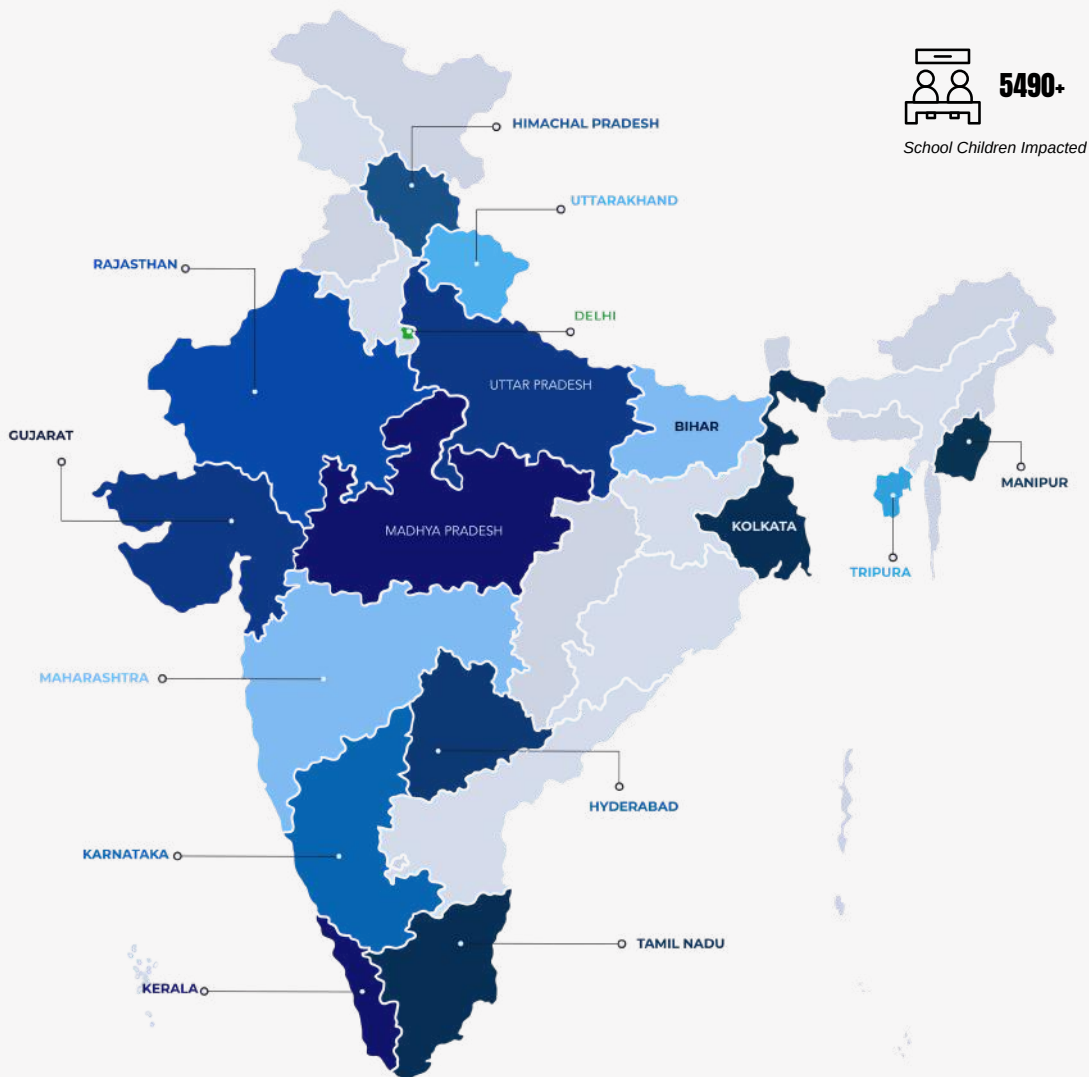


Fig. 1 Depicting the states reached for SEEK Distribution





A Solution to Plastic Pollution!

Beach Cleaning Drive at Dadar, Mumbai



In the vast expanse of our oceans, there exists a silent threat to marine life that pollutes our precious ecosystems. According to an article by National Geographic, a staggering 5.25 trillion pieces of plastic debris currently inhabit our oceans, with millions of tons floating on the surface and microfibers littering the deep sea.

The question is who is responsible for this disaster?

This dire situation is a direct consequence of the collective negligence of mankind towards proper waste management. As the population grows and urbanisation accelerates, consumption patterns and lifestyles have evolved, leading to a significant increase in plastic waste generation. The mismanagement of this waste has resulted in the accumulation of municipal solid waste, much of which finds its way into our oceans, contributing to the growing burden of marine debris.

The solution lies within ourselves: a willingness to take action. From enthusiastic Gen Z individuals to forward-thinking Millennials, everybody is willing to make a difference. Sewa International team along with 140 volunteers organised a beach cleaning drive at Dadar Beach in Mumbai. With every piece of litter collected, we reclaimed a small part of our oceans, sending a powerful message that change is possible when communities come together.

But the impact of this beach cleaning drive extends far beyond the shores of Dadar Beach. It catalyses broader awareness and action against plastic pollution. By showcasing the effectiveness of grassroots initiatives, Sewa International inspires others to take similar steps in their surroundings, fostering a culture of environmental responsibility and stewardship.





Fight Against Tuberculosis



A Bold Step Towards a TB-Free Future

In a groundbreaking move, Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the TB Free India campaign, aiming to eliminate tuberculosis from the nation by 2025. This ambitious plan, set five years ahead of the target established by the UN's Sustainable Development Goals, underscores India's commitment to combating this deadly disease. With India recording 25.52 lakh tuberculosis cases in 2023, the highest globally, the urgency to address this public health crisis has never been more apparent.

Recognising the significance of this initiative, Sewa International took proactive steps to raise awareness on International Tuberculosis Day in Uttarakhand.

One of our primary focuses was on empowering adolescent girls with comprehensive information about tuberculosis— its causes, symptoms, and preventive measures. By equipping them with this essential knowledge, we aim to empower young women to take charge of their health and become advocates for tuberculosis prevention within their village.

In celebration of TB Awareness, Dr. Nidhi Bhardwaj, an ENT Surgeon from S.D.H Karnaprayag, joined us on a webinar emphasising the significance of early detection for prompt recovery from Tuberculosis (TB). Additionally, we also engaged children in interactive storytelling sessions and immersive role-playing activities to educate them about tuberculosis in a fun and engaging manner. By making learning about this disease an enjoyable experience, we instilled in them a sense of awareness and responsibility towards maintaining good health practices.

Through these initiatives, we are playing a vital role in supporting India's efforts to achieve its goal of becoming TB-free by 2025. By raising awareness and educating individuals about tuberculosis, we are contributing to the larger goal of eliminating this disease from Bharat.





Empower Women, Empower Nation

International Women's Day Celebration across Bharat

Celebrating International Women's Day goes beyond merely acknowledging women's achievements. At Sewa International, we believe empowerment isn't confined to a single-day celebration but rather should be celebrated on a daily basis. This year, our Women's Day celebrations reflected this belief and was dedicated to ensuring that women feel valued, respected, and empowered every day.

In our commitment to empowering women, we took concrete steps to address some of the fundamental challenges they face each day. One such challenge is access to safe and hygienic sanitation facilities, especially in schools. Recognising this, we inaugurated newly built toilets in government schools in Chhattisgarh, Tamil Nadu, and Karnataka. These facilities promote health and safe hygiene practices as well as also ensure that girls can attend school without the fear of falling ill due to unsanitary conditions.

Health awareness is another crucial aspect of women's empowerment. To mark Women's Day, we organised comprehensive health check-ups across Tamil Nadu and Jharkhand, focusing on cancer awareness, eye check-ups, and overall well-being. By providing access to preventive healthcare and raising awareness about common health issues, we empower women to take control of their health and well-being.



As we reflect on our Women's Day celebrations, we are reminded that the journey towards gender equality is ongoing and requires sustained effort and commitment. But with each step we take, each life we touch, we come closer to realising our vision of a nation where women are truly empowered to lead, thrive, and contribute to the progress of society.

At Sewa, we believe that empowering women is an investment in the future of our nation. When women are empowered, they not only uplift themselves but also their families, societies, and the nation as a whole.





Plog for Sewa

The Eco Mission

13 CLIMATE ACTION



In recent years, and in particular, during the COVID-19 pandemic, tourists have flocked to the mountains, leaving behind piles of trash. Led by a collective sense of duty towards preserving their natural heritage, locals join forces with the Sewa International team on a noble endeavour known as "Plog for Sewa." It aimed at tackling the issue of litter left behind by tourists in the mountain ranges of Uttarakhand.

This eco mission is a collaborative effort involving a total of 280+ women from self-help groups (SHG) and young students from Uttarakhand. Trekking through the rugged mountain terrain, meticulously cleaning up the litter strewn across Kartik Swami Mandir, Tungnath Chopta to the Main Road in Makkumath, these volunteers left no stone unturned in their quest to restore the natural beauty of their beloved Dev Bhoomi.

What sets Plog for Sewa as a silver lining is not just its commitment to environmental conservation, but also its emphasis on community engagement. By involving local residents, the initiative fosters a sense of ownership and responsibility towards the preservation of their surroundings.



contact@sewainternational.org

SEWA SANDESH





Pioneering Computer Education

Inauguration of our First Computer Centre in Alwar



In today's fast-paced digital world, computer education has become an indispensable part of a child's learning journey. As technology continues to advance at an unstoppable rate, the need for individuals who are proficient in computer skills is greater than ever before. This is why introducing computer education at an early age during the school phase is not just beneficial but essential for shaping the future of our children.

Therefore, providing children with a solid foundation in computer education sets them up for success in the future job market. Whether they pursue careers in technology, medicine, engineering, or any other field, proficiency in computer skills will undoubtedly be a valuable asset.

Recognising the importance of computer education, Sewa International, in collaboration with Yusen Logistics, has taken a significant step forward in promoting digital literacy. The inauguration of the first computer centre in Alwar and Gujarat marks a milestone in providing access to quality computer education for children in this region.

Through this initiative, Sewa International aims to provide an opportunity to learn essential computer skills while also laying the groundwork for a brighter future. By investing in the education of young minds, they are empowering the next generation to become leaders, innovators, and problem solvers in the digital age. From enhancing problem-solving skills to promoting innovation and creativity, the benefits are undeniable.

With initiatives such as the computer centre in Alwar, Rajasthan, we are one step closer to ensuring that every child has the opportunity to unlock their full potential through computer education.





Fyunli Kauthig

Celebration of Womanhood



In the history of mankind, women have emerged as the unsung heroes, the silent architects of change, and the embodiments of courage. From nurturing families to leading revolutions, their impact resonates across every sphere of existence. From the verdant fields of agriculture, architecture, healthcare to entrepreneurship, women have left an indelible mark, their legacy etched in the chronicles of history.

Fyunli Kauthig stands as a timeless tribute to womanhood, a celebration of her triumphs, and a promise of a brighter, more equitable tomorrow. It stands as a flagship event by Sewa International, honouring the myriad achievements of women. It brought together women across Uttarakhand to commemorate their shared journey of triumphs. Under the evocative theme, "**हिमालय की पहचान: जल, जंगल और जमीन – सशक्त नारी, समृद्ध किसान**", the event resonated with the ethos of sustainability, resilience, and empowerment, encapsulating the intrinsic bond between women and the Himalayan landscape.

The inauguration of Fyunli Kauthig was graced by Sh. Shyam Parande Ji (Secretary, Sewa International). 500+ women from 9 clusters across Uttarakhand joined hands in solidarity to celebrate this jubilant festivity.

Sewa International honoured and recognised 18 exemplary women who have carved a niche for themselves in the realms of Art & Culture, Health & Wellbeing, Leadership, and Entrepreneurship. These women stand as an inspiration, illuminating the path for future generations to follow.





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



Follow us on



Subscribe our newsletter on
www.sewainternational.org

Published by:

Sewa International
First Floor, Plot 8,
Site 11, Near SD Public School,
West Patel Nagar, New Delhi - 110008