

**Resolution Passed by SEWA's Executive Committee welcoming the
Prohibition on "Gutkha"**

SEWA executive committee welcomes the move of Gujarat Government in prohibiting sales, manufacture, storing and usage of "Gutkha".

Any type of addiction is not good. Gujarat Government since beginning has prohibited consumption of "liquor". Since some decades the consumption of "Gutkha" has gripped the society in its tentacles which ultimately destroys the society especially the poor, self earners or daily wage workers.

The poor, self earners, daily wage earners who are construction workers, agriculture workers, kite makers, alt workers, kite makers, salt makers either men or women send their small children to purchase "Gutkha". Thus the small children acquire the habit of chewing "Gutkha" since childhood. It is very hard to get rid to this addiction.

The hard earned wages of the poor, self earners, daily wagers instead of being spend on children's education or nutritious food is used in purchasing "Gutkha". This addiction ultimately results in the life threatening disease like cancer. When a worker comes to know about this it is too late.

The addiction of chewing "Gutkha" is woven intricately in the lives of the workers. It is served freely on the occasions like marriage. It is the inbuilt custom of the employer/contractor to give packets of "Gutkas" in kind as wages to the workers. The employer/contractor for their own selfish reasons increases the quotes of giving "Gutkhas" to the workers.

The executive committee of SEWA resolves today that the "Gutkha" has ruined the economy of the poor informal workers. The Executive committee welcoming the prohibition urges the Gujarat Government to implement it strictly so that the workers of the informal economy get new life.

The Executive Committee further resolves that they will support the prohibition of consuming "Gutkha" by not consuming it themselves.

Date: 30/7/2012

Place : Ahmedabad