“THERE IS NO WORK, YET THE GRIND OF WORK IS KILLING ME....”

My experience in SEWA made me meet and listen to the great women of India working in fields, forests, mines, homes, on mountains, roads, shores or in the markets. These women are great; they are better fighters against poverty than their men. They have calculative, stable, forward looking strategies to deal with their own environment. Women are most committed proponents of our future.

However, today the grind of work is killing them.... Their work is endless, yet invisible....

There is a growing need of women to find work and the enormous problems they face in the labour market. It is essential to emphasis differentially greater load of handicaps they suffer from, high fertility putting restrictions on their mobility, lack of transferable skills, lack of markets and techniques and lack of access to assets, capital and tools.

Over time, traditional trades and traditional support systems are breaking down. More and more households are becoming asset less making it more difficult for women of participate in economic activities. This is worsened by current globalization and mechanization. In the current scenario, women have become vulnerable as livelihoods become growingly unstable amidst mounting poverty.

I hope that the Rashtriya Patrika of SEWA will demonstrate how women workers can and do build strong, vital organizations around issues that are relevant to them, find viable solutions out of their own experiences and in the process change our society and environment in a healthy, respectful, nonviolent and sustainable way ....... And achieve much needed VOICE, VISIBILITY and VALIDATION.

Ela R. Bhatt
Founder, SEWA

“मेरे पास कोई काम नहीं है,
फिर भी मैं काम के बोझ के नीचे
दबी हुई हूँ”

से वा में काम करते हुये हरे भारत की जन महान महिलाओं से मिलने, बाहरी कर्मचारी काम करते हुये कम अनुभव हुया जो जंगल, खेत—वस्त्रसागर, खुदाई, पहाड़ों, बाढ़ों में काम करते हैं। उन महिलाओं ने हानि है व्यक्तिक उन्हें अपने पुरुषों की तुलना में गरीबी के खिलाफ उठाने की बेहतर शक्ति है। इनके पास व्यवसायी से निवेशकों की ग़ुलामत व कोशिश व अपराध होनेवाली शरणार्थीय है। गरीबियों के लिये महिलाओं ही सबसे अधिक कठिनाई समयक होती है।

बहसाहल आज का काम का बोझ उन्हें धीरे-धीरे मार रहा है........ उनका काम अंतहित है परंतु अंतर्गत आज महिलाओं की बड़ी जनसंख्या में काम की खोज में आग्रह बढ़ाया में कठिन समस्याओं का सामना है। अतः आज अपने का बदली जाने वाले विनियम प्रकार के बोझ जिनके तत्वों व उन को जनता, उनके हल्के व उनके लागत है। कौशल को बदलने की शक्ति उनके किसानों का सामान्य, बाजार और नई तकनीकों का काम पूरा, और उन्हें समय तक उनकी पहचान का अभाव।

उन्हीं अनुश्रुत समाज के साथ बड़ी ज़रूरत है, व्यक्तिक वातावरण और परंपरागत सहयोगी प्राणियों का संकलन है। अतः उन्हें संपर्क में समस्याओं को होता है। जिससे उन के विकल्पों यंदर विकालीन, समझौता और नई तकनीकों का काम पूरा, और उन्हें समय तक उनकी पहचान का अभाव।

रचना द. मुख्तारः संस्थापक, से वा
WE WON U-WIN CARDS THAT GIVE OUR IDENTITY TO WORLD

Sewa Women Rummaged Through Red Tape For Their Rights!

It was a day to remember when hundreds of women from the unorganized sector held the coveted 'UWIN' or 'Unrecognized Workers Identification Number' cards in their hands in SEWA office in Ahmedabad. Their smiles were contagious, their energy electrifying. After years of working anonymously rolling incense sticks, picking waste, vending vegetables and doing mason work on construction sites, these women had finally got their identity. They were now a recognized work force of Gujarat with a name, profession and identity which government recognizes for social security.

Founder of Sewa Elaben Bhatt distributed the first batches of cards on February 29 who said the UWIN cards have come after a great deal of struggle and years of fighting for rights of women workers. "Women should always remember their `naam, kaam, gaam' (name, village, profession). We should no longer be identified just as somebody's wife, mother or sister. Take pride in your identity, your work".

Manali Shah who has been lobbying for the cause of UWIN cards with the labour ministry said that each card was not just a card, it was a living person!

"This card is identity of a worker, it makes her work count and gives her voice and visibility", said Manaliben who said that out of 9.7 lakhs issued by the government, over 1.25 lakh were facilitated by Sewa for its members.

Interestingly, when it comes to fighting for their rights, Sewa women can cut all red-tape. For getting UWIN cards too, a team of 17-women plunged deep into the sea of files stacked in the storeroom of the state labour commissioner office to look for over 1.25 lakh forms filled by their sisters to get UWIN cards from the state government.

The UWIN cards were to be provided by the state as it implemented state rules of the Social Services Act 2008. The UWIN cards promised not only identity cards to women working in informal sector but also benefit of state welfare schemes namely `Ma Amrutam' scheme that provides cashless treatment of up to Rs 2 lakh for critical diseases even in private hospitals as well as `Ma Vatsalya' scheme which provides cashless treatment of up to Rs 1.2 lakh to children.

The Sewa sisters filled the forms which were to be linked with Adhar cards and duly submitted to the labour department. In between, this project collapsed after Supreme Court ordered that these forms should not be linked with Adhar as it would make personal details of too many people public. Only beneficiaries of PDS and MNREGA should be linked with Adhar forms.

Since Sewa sisters had duly filled forms with photographs, they met the minister as well as labour commissioner and insisted that they should be provided the UWIN cards. Labour commissioner voiced his dilemma – the forms were collected and stacked along with lakhs of other forms and it would be difficult to find them!

Sewa sisters took up the challenge and plunged into the storeroom. "Finding our forms in lakhs of papers stacked was finding needle in a haystack but we did it. With our sarees we wiped dust off the files. Since we had attached pictures, it helped to find our forms", says Sewa member Rambilaben. It took 17 days but all forms were found.

Shardaben Parmar vouches the ID card offered her the promise security. "My husband was diagnosed with oral cancer. While the social security scheme linked with UWIN card has not become operational as yet, the hospital accomodated my husband’s case in another welfare scheme and waived off Rs 50,000 on the basis of the UWIN card. There is hope for a better future". Amen.
“हमने यूविन कार्ड के जरिये विश्व में अपनी पहचान को जीत लिया”

सेवा की बहनों ने अपने अधिकारों के लिये लाल फीता काटा

रूपम दिनों के बाद करती हैं। जब हमजानों नहीं जने सेवा कार्यालय अन्नदाय के मान के अन्दर हमने "यूविन" – पाक मानवतात्मक काम का पहला नरम... के कार्ड को अपने हाथों में लिया था। उनकी मुस्कुराहट हुई थी तेजस्वी थी, उनके गजब की कुंजी थी। कई सालों से लगातार अंग्रेजों बेला, कबरा बीनना, सबकी बेला तथा तंत्रांश कार्य में जमकर करने के बाद आधिकारिक हमने उनकी पहचान मिली है अब उन्हीं पहचान हुई। ये प्रशंसक हैं जो उनके राज्य में अपने नाम, यथासात्त्विक पहचान के साथ यथाप्राचार्य हैं। जिसे सरकार ने सामाजिक सुधार हेतु नै ही है।

सेवा का संस्थापक श्री इल्लाह बदू ने 29 फरवरी को यूविन-कार्ड को थामने की एक लंबी शैक्षणिक कार्य को लागू करते हुए कहा कि यूविन-कार्ड करने ने बच रहे सराहनीय रूप से महिला अधिकार हमें सामाजिक कार्य का सार्थक रूप है। "महिलाओं को हमेशा अपने "नाम, काम, संघ" को यथार्थता दिखाने। अब हम उनकी पहचान की किसी की पतनी, मत यह बहन की तरह से करना चाहिए। अपने काम का अपनी पहचान उनकी ही हमारी गौरव है।" बांधकाम के बारे में कहते हुए मानी करते हैं।

मनाली शाह जो कि यूविन-कार्ड को लेकर जमकर कुलदया राष्ट्र लोगों के साथ लोकप्रिय कर रही थी उन्होंने कहा कि काम लिए कार्ड नहीं थी, जो जागरूक बनाने है। "यह कार्ड कामगारों की पहचान है यह उनके काम की गणना करता है और उन्हें दृष्टिकोण में देता है।" उन्होंने बताया कि 9.7 लाख कार्ड जो सरकार ने जारी किए हैं। इसे से 1.25 लाख कार्ड को सेवा के सहयोग से अपने स्वास्थ्य को मिले।

सुखद जब उनके अधिकारों की लड़ाई की बात आती है। सेवा की सदर महिलाद्वार चाँदी भी कार सकती है। यूविन कार्ड मिलने के बाद सेवा की 17वीं सी की होती है राज्य के काम के दौरान, यूविन कार्ड के साथ यूविन कार्ड की बात हो गई। युविन कार्ड में से देखा ताकि उनकी सदत बहनों को यूविन कार्ड सरकार द्वारा मिला सके।

2008 के सामाजिक सुधार कार्य के क्रियान्वयन को लेकर यूविन कार्ड कार्यक्रम द्वारा यही जाना जाते थे। इस यूविन कार्ड को बनाने का बाद पहचान कार्ड ही नहीं काम की महिलाओं असमाजित क्षेत्र में काम करती है उनकी राज्य को निर्धारणय कार्य को जोड़ता है। यह सामाजिक सुधार कार्यक्रम द्वारा यही जाना जाता है।

सेवा की कार्यक्षेत्र पहचान के लिए सरकार ने जाना जाता है। जिसे श्रम में जाना हो गया। परन्तु बीच में यह काम बना हो गया। वो कुछ यूविन कार्डों को यह लिखा है कि वे आधिकारिक हैं जो आधारित कार्ड से नहीं होना चाहिए। यह व्यक्ति के अधिकार जानकारी को काफी सार्थक बनाता है। केवल दसपांडा और खाना यूविन के कार्ड देने वालों को अधिकार से जुड़ा हो जाता है। यह व्यक्ति के अधिकार जानकारी को काफी सार्थक बनाता है। केवल दसपांडा और खाना यूविन के कार्ड देने वालों को अधिकार से जुड़ा हो जाता है। यह व्यक्ति के अधिकार जानकारी को काफी सार्थक बनाता है। केवल दसपांडा और खाना यूविन के कार्ड देने वालों को अधिकार से जुड़ा हो जाता है। यह व्यक्ति के अधिकार जानकारी को काफी सार्थक बनाता है। केवल दसपांडा और खाना यूविन के कार्ड देने वालों को अधिकार से जुड़ा हो जाता है।
SEWA HOLDS PUBLIC HEARING FOR RESOLVING ISSUES PLAGUING WOMEN FISH WORKERS IN KERALA

Recommendations Include ‘Women Only’ Fish Markets And More Matsyafed Buses To Transport Women Fish Vendors

Trivandrum 16th Month, 2016

PLIGHT OF FISHING COMMUNITY WOMEN IN KERALA

A detailed survey undertaken by SEWA of fish vendors, their access to fish and major issues faced by them in fish markets in Kerela gave an indepth insight into the problems plaguing women fish workers. Study revealed that significant changes in the sector over the last 6-7 years—significantly more men ar enow dominating fish vending business, competition of fresh fish with poor quality frozen that has adversely impacted price fetched by fresh produce from the sea.

DISCUSSION WITH AFFECTED WOMEN

Findings of the study were discussed with women fish workers including fresh fish and frozen fish sellers in February 2015. Both groups understood that they were all victims of changes in mechanisms of fishing business in last few years. Business has become more capital intensive now. Bigger boats are used for fishing and thus landings have become more centralized. Fish is frozen during long voyages which is then dumped in harbours. This frozen fish is then transported to shores for sale to women vendors in the fishing communities. Since consumers buy on limited budgets, there is higher demand for frozen fish. The big question posed to them was: 'Would they be willing to sit in separate markets so that consumers could have the choice to buy either fresh or frozen fish?'

THE PUBLIC HEARING

SEWA organized a public hearing on problems of women fish workers. The hearing was held on _____________ at ______________.

Sonia, secretary of the SEWA Union Kerala, threw light on issues faced by over 5000 women involved in fishing business in earning livelihood in three coastal districts of Thiruvanthapuram, Quilon and Kasargod.

Mercy, a young woman, apprised the jury of huge debt incurred as her husband adopted new methods of catching fish like outboard engines, GPS, larger nets and powerful lights. "We borrowed Rs.3 lakhs five years ago and have now fallen into a debt of Rs. 10 lakhs. All they catch seems to go to the companies who produce technology and oil to run the engines. We are left in huge debts as we now fish not to sustain ourselves but the companies Why does the government not control this?", asked a desperate Mary to the jury.

Philomi spoke about the traditional knowledge of the small scale fishing community and highlighted that they could manage to fish large catches without any modern equipment. Philomi further said that the traditional knowledge, accumulated for generations is based on the rhythms of nature and thus is sustainable. She reiterated that this knowledge and people should be protected.

Punitha, Carmel, Mary, Varghese and Jaya then spoke of the problems they faced in accessing fish to sell. Punitha, who only procures fresh fish, highlighted how she has to travel to different shores to get fresh fish incurring high transport costs. Carmel spoke about competition at the Quilon harbor to buy fish at the auctions which are marred by heated arguments on weights and quality by the wholesale merchants. Jaya spoke about the bad quality frozen fish that comes to their part of the seashore in insulated vans from distant harbours. "Since frozen fish is much cheaper than the fresh fish, it is adversely affecting market of fresh fish", she said.

Stella spoke about the ordeal they have to face in reaching the market. They are not allowed on buses the bus conductors treat them very badly. She shared her painful experience of being literally thrown out of the bus with her container. Achamma spoke about the Matsya Fed bus that takes them to the harbor at Quilon and brings them back to the market. She said that it is a great service but there are only 4 such busses in the state. Kochu Thresia spoke about the astronomical
costs of hiring private vehicles, which drains them of all their earnings. She demanded that the Matsya Fed should provide a special bus for over 100 women vendors from her village.

Selvarani, Silvamma and Punitha shared their horrible experiences in the market. She highlighted that women are treated very roughly in the market and the headload workers extort large sum of money just to carry baskets from the autos at the market. They also demand festival allowances as well. Another thing that troubles them is the high market taxes. The working conditions at the market are very poor. There is no running water at the markets and no toilets are available. The renovation work at the markets is done so badly that there is not enough space for the consumers and the tiled floors are so slippery that consumers are afraid to come in. They spoke about the poor drainage for the water run off.

Biggest problem for them is that the prime places are occupied by the male merchants. Finally Annamary, who had put up a big fight at the market where she sells fish explained in detail how it was they, the members of SEWA, who had managed to get the panchayat to renovate the market as they had to sit out sun. When the panchayat finally did construct the market, the women were not allowed a space to sit under the shelter, which were occupied by the men. The reason for this is the auctioning policy for prime space in markets. The man who wins the bid gets control of sheltered space for decades. He has made his own rules and he treats the women very badly. This man is a big merchant of frozen fish and he has engaged male vendors who sell the fish for him. These men do not pay any tax and they occupy the prime place in the market.

Alphonsa and Vimala spoke about the fate of the women who sell dry fish. They explained that the only fish they get to dry these days comes from the vehicles that bring frozen fish.

Since this fish is of bad quality and is often put in ammonia or formalin, it has no shelf life even when it is dried. Hence they have to dispose of it fast and the price they get very low price for their fish. Moreover, they have to go to distant markets to sell this fish – to areas where no other fish reaches.

To wind up, Amala spoke about the living conditions of the fishing community. In many areas there is no access to potable water and people have to buy it. There are no drainage and sanitation facilities and thus many areas are constantly water logged causing a major health hazard. Several villages face threats of erosion and houses are damaged during the rains. This is caused by the stone retention walls that are being built all along the coast to save the coast from erosion. She claimed this is not an effective method and that because of this the sea gets polluted by inland pollutants. The life of people living on shores has become hell because of this.

Sita, who compered the Hearing, ended it by saying that the policy for modernizing the fishery had led to adverse effects on people's work and food. It seemed that the government was concerned only about increasing fish production and not about the lives of millions who are involved in small scale fish production. Hence it is important for the local and state governments to find ways to solve these issues and ensure the rights to livelihood.

The Jury listened attentively and gave their verdict which is summarized below:

- Maintaining the quality of fish is an important aspect of food safety. The Department of Food Safety will train fisherwomen in aspects of quality management. Such experiments are presently being undertaken in north Kerala and the same can be adopted in Thiruvanthapuram as well. This must eventually be conducted through the entire value chain.
When women are trained, means of branding the high quality fish can also be undertaken.

‘Women Only’ Markets selling only good quality fish should be developed in other districts to facilitate the process of informing the consumers of good quality fish available at these markets. This would ensure that these women would get better

Markets are developed by the Fisheries Department/Fisheries Corporation and handed over to the Municipal Corporation or local bodies. In future, criteria will be developed when handing over markets to local bodies so that the rights of women vendors are safeguarded and that the maintaining of infrastructure of sanitation, lighting and waste disposal are made mandatory.

Discussion should be held between the women vendors and the head load workers through their representative organizations. The Head Load Workers Welfare Board will proactively help to see that the workers do not charge extra. The board will also help sort out other disputes and reduce the harassment of the women.

As the market is their workplace, any harassment should be dealt with according to the Harassment at the Workplace Act.

The Matsya fed presently runs a few buses for women vendors at great cost. It will make efforts to introduce more buses on routes that will be viable – particularly from Adimalathura to Neyyatinkara.

All women should actively participate in gram sabhas so that they can demand their rights from the local government and stand united against the marginalization and harassment they face.

More comprehensive data is required about women who work in different aspects of fishing business. The Fisheries Department should find ways of collecting more authentic data so that planning and budgeting for this sector is also more meaningful.

Presently there is a mismatch between the loan schemes of various departments and the needs of the women. In collaboration with SEWA efforts will be made to develop creative participatory alternatives that can be more beneficial to women.

All technical institutions should reach out more to women’s groups to develop their capacities in financial management and quality control. CSR support could also be sought for this.

More attention should be given to the implementation of the Street Vendors Act so that the street vendors are not arbitrarily evicted and are ensured various facilities guaranteed under the Act like portable shelters, access to public toilets & water, garbage clearance etc.

Js. M.R.Hariharan Nair, (Chairperson of the Jury), Chairman, Fisheries Debt Relief
Ms. Anupama T.V, IAS, Food Safety Commissioner
Dr. K. Ambady, IIS, Managing Director, Coastal Development Authority
Mr. Kishore Kumar, Managing Director, Matsya fed
Ms. Lethy, R, Additional Director, Fisheries
Ms. Sujatha Viswanathan, Secretary in Charge, Head Load Workers Board
Dr. Nikita Gopal, Principal Scientist, CIFT
Shri A. J. Vijayan, Social Activist
सिर्फ बहनों की महिला मार्केट, गलतफोड़ बाड़ों का सुधार

महिला कामाक्षी की शिखर-कथा
महिला मत्र कामाक्षी दो छोटे ही वल्लुकियों की मां की साथ में समान साथ में काम करती। वह अपनी शिक्षा में समान साथ में काम करती। वह अपनी शिक्षा में समान साथ में काम करती। वह अपनी शिक्षा में समान साथ में काम करती।

प्रमाणित मानकों के साथ बिचार-बिचारा
फरवरी 2015 में सरकार से दौरान निम्न विवरणों का बचाव महिला मत्र कामाक्षी के साथ गई निर्देशों ने आपकी महिला तथा शीतल आर्थिक महिला वाले दोहरे समीक्षाओं की महिलाओं से शिक्षा में समान साथ में काम करती।

जन सुनावई
महिला मत्र कामाक्षी की प्रशिक्षणों का सामने आए और उन्हें धौँ देने के लिए यह सवाल है। वे सामने आए और उन्हें धौँ देने के लिए यह सवाल है। वे सामने आए और उन्हें धौँ देने के लिए यह सवाल है। वे सामने आए और उन्हें धौँ देने के लिए यह सवाल है।
मछलियों का बाजार नहीं हो।

मस्त्री समुदाय के जीवन—सतर के बारे में बताते हुए अकाला ने कहा कि उनके बारे में सोचने गये कारण भी नहीं हैं यह पानी उनके भरोसे पड़ता है।

गठर लाइन तथा सफाई का आयाम होने से पानी भरा रहता है। जिससे स्वच्छता पर बुरा प्रभाव पड़ता है। कई गैंगों ने बारिश के समय के लिए स्वच्छता का बाद में शुरू किया है।

सीता ने बताता कि मस्त्री व्यवसाय के काम में ली जाने वाली आधुनिक तकनीक के लोगों के काम तथा नौकर पर चिन्हित प्रभाव पड़ता है। ऐसा लगता है कि सरकार को केवल मस्त्री उत्पादन बढ़ाने के साथ होता है।

जन सुनवाई करने वाली सूचना ने सभी बातों को ध्यानपूर्वक सुनना तथा अपने सैनिक स्तर पर करना चाहिए के कहा कि—

मछली की गुणवत्ता को बनाए रखना खास विभाग, मस्त्री पकड़ने वाली मछलियों को मछली की गुणवत्ता बनाए रखने के उद्देश्य के बारे में प्रशिक्षण देगा। अब इसे इंग्लिश वेटरी बियर में भरा रखा है।

मछली की गुणवत्ता बनाए रखने के लिए सरकार ने सरकार के संबंध में शामिल किया जाएगा।

मछलियों को रखने वाले मछलियों को प्रशिक्षित करने के काम सहमति प्राप्त भी किया जा सकता है।

मछली की गुणवत्ता बनाए रखने के लिए तथा स्वच्छता को प्राप्त करने के लिए बाजार जाएगी।

मस्त्री विभाग या मस्त्री कोर्पोरेशन ऐसे बाजारों का निरीक्षण करने से बाद में इस कार्यक्रमों की समस्त लोगों के समुद्र या मुख्य निरीक्षण को शिखा देगा।

जन सुनवाई से सबसे बड़ा नुकसान हो गया हो। बाजार में न सच्चा कुछ ही मछलियों के लिए होता है।

मछली तत्कालीन संसाधनों का बाजार से जुड़ने के लिए मछली की गुणवत्ता बनाए रखने के उद्देश्य में प्रशिक्षण देने में सक्षम होता है।

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