A short note on

**SEWA Rural**

(Oct. 2014)

***1. Background:***SEWA Rural, a voluntary service organization is providing medical, health and education related services to the rural, poor and tribal population of Bharuch, Narmada and surrounding districts in south Gujarat for past thirty three years. SEWA Rural endeavors to reach out and assist the poorest of poor through various health and development programmes for the disadvantaged section of society in general and specifically for women, children and elderly

***2. Various Programmes and Activities:***

**a. Hospital Services:**The 100 beds Kasturba Hospital based in Jhagadia is in operation for more than three decades and it provides round the clock OPD, Indoor and Emergency services to the patients coming from more than 5000 villages from adjacent districts and neighboring states. It is fully equipped with facilities like Laboratory & Blood Storage, X ray & Sonography, Operation Theatres, Labor Room, Intensive Care Unit and Neonatal ICU. The hospital granted as First Referral Unit is also approved for various government schemes for Below Poverty Line families like Chiranjivi, Balsakha and RSBY.

The hospital is treating about 76000 OPD and 15000 indoor patients every year. At present about 3000 deliveries and 7000 total operations including about 5000 Cataract surgeries are carried out every year in the hospital. As much as 84% per cent of the indoor patients and 48% per cent of the OPD patients areoffered free treatment every year as most of them belonging to tribal, poor and backward community.

**b. Community based "Safe Motherhood and New Born Care Project”**: Covers entire 168 villages of Jhagadia taluka (pop. 175,000) since 2003. Micro level interventions in providing antenatal, intranatal and post partum care both to mothers and babies at their doorsteps are underway through establishing a special cadre of village based female front line workers (Arogya Sakhis). Now **innovative mobile phone technology** project (**ImTeCHO**) is being introduced to empower village level front line health workers for better surveillance and service delivery.

With successful introduction of micro level interventions, there has been 75% reduction in maternal deaths and 40% reduction in Neonatal Mortality Rate as compared to baseline information. Institutional delivery rate has increased from 22 to 76% and its gap between tribal and nontribal community reduced by 5 times.

**c. Comprehensive Eye Care Project including Rehabilitation of Blinds:** This provides range of services from primary to tertiary level care which includes community based rehabilitation of blinds, integrated education of blind children, twice a week diagnostic eye camps in the periphery and OPD, operative (including phaco surgery for cataract) and super specialty eye care service through the based hospital at Jhagadia.

Every year about 40000 eye patients are examined with the help of more than 100 diagnostic camps in the periphery and 6000 eye operations including cataract surgeries are performed. Almost 85% of the patients are treated free as they are belonging to tribal, poor and backward community. So far about 900 visually handicapped persons of all ages including 125 blind children have been rehabilitated with the help of specially trained village level CBR workers and Braille teachers.

**d. Health Training and Resource Centre:** provides formal training, orientation and field placement programmes to about 1000 trainees including different cadres of health workers from about 50 voluntary organizations, government staff and students coming from various academic institutions of India and abroad.

**e. Vocational Training Centre** About 100 rural, poor and tribal youths are provided one year free residential training every year in various trades for more than 25 years. Besides technical and skill training in trades like turner, fitter, welding, environment plant operator, electrical cum motor rewinding, basic computer skills, printing, machinist etc., value education and character building towards becoming a responsible citizen have been critical and integrated components of this training and greatly emphasized.

Various courses are now getting formally certified by government. The hostel facility provides free lodging and boarding facility to all the students in the campus itself. After successful completion of one year training, 100 % job placement is guaranteed with active support of nearby industries, while a few have established their own self entrepreneurship units. Efforts for active hand holding with due social support are provided to all the students for one year once they are placed in industries.

During the year 2013 – 14, about 100 students have completed the vocational training and all the students have been provided job in nearby industries. Efforts for active hand holding with due social support are being provided to all the students upto one year once they are placed in industries. Selection and training have already begun for the new batch of about 125 students during the current year.

**f. Women Development Center:** Various women centered activities - economic, awareness & empowerment, which were done earlier under aegis of SEWA Rural are, now being managed by an independent organization - SharadaMahilaVikas Society since July 2002. About 150 rural, poor and tribal women engaged in papad and garment making earn Rs. 150 to 200 a day, all at or near their homes. In 2013-14, total earning of these women was about Rs.30 lakhs. In addition about 200 school going children from weaker section of society are taking advantage of coaching classes for their all round development. A round the year campaign for promoting moral values to about additional 1600 schooling going children was a special feature during the year 2013 – 14. More over about 2800 adolescent boys and girls most of them tribals are benefiting from its adolescent health and development programme. Around 60 girls have successfully completed formal certificate courses in tailoring, nursing and lab technology.

***3. Recognitions:***

**a. Accreditations:**SEWA Rural is recently empanelled with National Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Hub established under the initiatives taken up by Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises, Government of India based at Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai in Feb. 2013.Similarly Department of Science and Industrial Research have also formally recognized SEWA Rural as a research organization in June 2013.

**b. Publications:**Many books and several articles based on SEWA Rural experiences on delivering health, medical and educational services have been published including national and international scientific journals.

**c. Awards:**Sasakawa Health Prize (1985) by WHO for outstanding innovative community health work, Bajaj award (1985) for Best managed rural hospital by Bombay Management Association, Mac Arthur Award (USA) for Creative and Effective Institutions: (2007), “Best FRU Award for NGO hospitals among tribal region” by state government (successively for 2010, 2011 and 2012) and best grant in aid hospital with reference to no. of deliveries for the year 2013 - 14, Rotary India Award (2011) for outstanding maternal and child care, Gujarat Pratibha Award (2011) from Vishwa Gujarati Samaj for providing outstanding health services in rural, tribal area, SKOCH Digital Inclusion Award 2014 for its innovative ImTeCHO project based on mobile phone technology to improve maternal and child care at the door steps.

***3. Financial Sustainability and Resource Mobilisation:*** Rs. **Seven Crores and Seventy Five Lacs**were spent for carrying out SEWA Rural’s different activities and programmes for the year 2012 - 13. The major sources of SEWA-Rural’s funds have been Gujarat state government grants, international funding agencies, and donations from the varied Indian sources, such as philanthropic organisations and industrial houses, and well wishers from India and abroad. In addition, some income is generated from the nominal hospital charges, reimbursement by various schemes for providing free medical care to below poverty line families and interest earned from corpus investments.

**More information about SEWA Rural and its social welfare programmes is available in its website: www.sewarural.org**