

SEWA Bhagalpur

SEWA Bhagalpur was registered under the Societies Registration Act, in the year 1983 and currently has a membership of 10,000. Delineated below are details of the activities undertaken by SEWA Bhagalpur in the key areas of work.

1. Micro-finance

The total number of SHG in 2007 is 86, while the total savings are worth Rs. 5,97,105, and the loans given are worth Rs. 6,88,274, till now.

This year, the micro-finance programme at Bhagalpur focused on the capacity building of the women. Leadership training was also imparted to SHG leaders. Additionally, 6 leaders were trained to carry out better management of the SHGs. It was also decided to conduct training programmes for trainers in the area of micro-finance in order to ensure the success of ongoing training programmes.

2. Livelihoods

This year, a random survey of 1000 women, based on their social and economic conditions, revealed that these women were engaged in various activities within the unorganized sector, including *papad* making, *tassar* yarn spinning, animal husbandry, stitching, *agarbatti* making, and vermicompost production, among others. The survey was conducted among the non-members of SEWA in three blocks of Bhagalpur district, namely Sabaur, Nathnagar and Jagdishpur. The survey also highlighted the various problems faced by the women regarding their working as well as socio-economic conditions. Women were also identified for the creation of specific livelihood groups.

During the year 2006, several groups were formed in Bhagalpur for carrying out various activities. In 2007, 20-25 women were found to be regularly earning their livelihood through silk weaving and *agarbatti* making. Skill enhancement training was also given to 47 women for tailoring, to 17 women for machine embroidery of garments, and to 7 women for painting.

Silk sarees produced by the women of SEWA Bhagalpur have been sent from Bhagalpur to Delhi for display and sale through the SEWA retail outlet in New Delhi.

3. Social Security

In Bhagalpur, SEWA implements a health and insurance programme in two blocks, viz. Jagdishpur and Nathnagar. Over the last year, ten *Swasthya Sathins* were recruited and trained to serve as community health workers and insurance promoters. They have conducted 19 camps, reaching 726 patients with primary healthcare and referrals to secondary and tertiary care. SEWA Bhagalpur operates two DOTS centres for community-based tuberculosis treatment, in partnership with the government. Outpatient services have also been initiated and have served at least 150 patients during the last six months. However, since the focus of the programme is on activating existing services, outpatient services have now been discontinued.

At the village level, the *Swasthya Sathi* monitor the women's access to maternal and child healthcare and create linkages with existing public and private health services. The *Sathi* regularly visit pregnant women and refer them to doctors, when necessary. During the past year, 66 per cent of the pregnant women had at least 3 antenatal care visits. The *Sathi* also promote insurance and provide doorstep claim service. A total of 301 women, men and children were insured in 2007, while 27 approved claims resulted in a total reimbursement of over Rs. 42,142 to the members.

