

TOILET AND HYGIENE PROJECT
FOR THE GIRL CHILD

SEWA INTERNATIONAL



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Sewa Toilet and Hygiene Project Services

I. Building toilets in schools and communities



Toilet and Hygiene Project for the Girl Child was conceived to provide sanitation facilities to girls who belong to the vulnerable section of Indian society so that they can overcome social and cultural norms of the till now accepted practice of open defecation outside of the home.

Sewa believes in “Right to Sanitation Facilities”, for women and girl children in India who face several challenges everyday just to attend nature calls in a safe and secure environment.

Sewa International is building toilets in these three sections of society:

1. **Government schools:** Bio-toilets built in Karnataka, Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh, benefiting 16,677 school children.
2. **Rural India:** Bio-toilets built in schools and villages across Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, and Uttar Pradesh, benefiting 4,540 families and 8,312 school children.
3. **Government-guaranteed permanent land dwelling slums:** Portable toilets built in Karnataka, benefiting 3263 families.



We have felt a significant change in the communities where we have built toilets over the past years. The number of enrolment in schools has increased, the percentage of communicable diseases has reduced, and we observed a healthy & hygienic environment in the schools and villages.

II. Menstrual Hygiene awareness program



Research shows that approximately **23% of adolescent girls drop out of school** when they start menstruating and those who don't usually miss up to 5 days of school every month.

Unhygienic period and disposal practices can have major consequences on the health of women including increased chances of contracting cervical cancer and reproductive tract Infections.



- About 336 million girls and women experience menstruation in India, which means that approximately 121 million of them are using disposable sanitary napkins. This means, as pointed out by the Clean India journal, there are 432 million pads being generated annually in India, resulting in 9000 tons of sanitary waste.



- The downer is that all sanitary pads are plastic-based and have a non-biodegradable content. This plastic component takes around 500-800 years to decompose.

Sewa International's T&H team has been researching better methodologies which would also be Eco friendly; connected with different organizations and finally partnering with Stonesoup, launched a wide awareness camps in Uttarakhand and Varanasi.



- We conduct menstrual hygiene awareness camps across government schools for the girl children.

- We conduct pre menopause awareness programs for rural women.



- We distribute eco-friendly, cost-effective, reusable and hygienic menstrual cups and cloth napkins. These menstrual cups are made of medical-grade silicone, and are generally BPA, latex, and phthalate-free; making it better for the environment and reducing any health impacts.

III. Weaver empowerment program



The GaataKatha project was an initiative by Sewa International, born to bring social and commercial benefits to struggling traditional handloom artisans across India.



Ensure an adequate and sustainable living standard for their community. Educate their girl children, provide sanitation facilities for their women and girl children, provide menstrual hygiene facilities, etc



Gaatakatha supports **rehabilitating women from human and sexual trafficking, women who were rescued from domestic violence and women from the poorest communities.** The rehabilitated women are living a dignified life under this platform. Many of our weavers, who are from Telangana, Bangladesh and Uttar Pradesh, are provided with sustainable employment, education for their girl children and more.



- We have Sewa volunteers who connect us with weaver families. In each Indian State, we have a Sewa volunteer who has 30-300 weaver families' co-ops under their support and guidance.

- Sewa volunteer takes care of the production, distribution of wages, purchasing raw materials, design and color combinations. Once we place an order, raw materials are purchased and given to weavers with current trendy designs and combinations.

- Post production, our team markets the products on global platforms with marginal profit set aside for the welfare of weaver communities. Upon sales, the funds are distributed to the weavers.



- An equal share of the proceeds will be used towards the advancement of the handloom artisan communities: empowering their girl children, water and sanitation projects, menstrual hygiene project, free healthcare initiatives and improving the standard of living.

IV. Other Services around the Toilet and Hygiene Project



Through these extended services, we are able to focus on the overall development of the girl child at our project locations. (Sanitation, Healthcare, Education and Community development)

- **Water Provision:** One of the major challenges is the lack of water supply for the toilets – Sewa has been doing a detailed survey & need analysis of the identified location for water sources before the toilet installation phase. We are working with the local school authorities/government bodies/donors for providing a water source for these toilets on a need basis.
- **Medical camps & Hygiene awareness:** Sewa conducts medical camps, hygiene awareness programs and general healthcare in sewa project locations to educate the community people about the importance of sanitation for happy and healthy communities.
- **After school education centers:** We are nurturing the girl children by providing them extra support to their education. We have after-school education centers in Bangalore and Varanasi currently tutoring 1700+ children from a poor economic background.
- **Women empowerment:** Gaatakatha supports rehabilitating women from human and sexual trafficking, women who were rescued from domestic violence and women from the poorest communities.
- **Skill development:** We educate the weavers and support the existing craft while simultaneously reviving faded art-forms. Empower the younger generation to uphold the rich culture and heritage of India through education.
- **Volunteerism:** Our Sewa Volunteers helps us implementing the Sanitation, healthcare, education and community development initiatives in our weaver communities.