

Taking Care of Our Children : Ensuring Long Term Impact  
*(Balwadi Study)*

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Sewa Academy Research Unit

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# **Taking Care of Our Children : Ensuring Long Term Impact**

## ***Balwadi Study***

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# TAKING CARE OF OUR CHILDREN: ENSURING LONG TERM IMPACT

*Balwadi Study*

## Executive Summary

### **SEWA and Child Care**

SEWA believes that child care is an integral component of social security for women workers. Child care provisions relieve the women of one of their multiple burdens, create time and space and work opportunities for women and support their empowerment. In the absence of adequate child care facilities, a working mother has no option but to leave the child with a slightly older sibling. A large part of sibling care givers are girls and the provision of child care facilities also releases the girl child to attend school and to enjoy her own childhood. Besides, the early years of a child need nurturing and care. Neglect can lead to adverse effect on the health, welfare, care, development and education of the child.

SEWA's intervention in child care is almost two decades old. The child care services are open to all SEWA members. Children under 6 years are admitted to the crèche and daycare center. Generally, most of the children are admitted when they are toddlers between 18 and 24 months of age. The duration of the working day is from 9.00 am to 6.00 pm. The mothers and the crèche workers are friendly with each other, as these belong to the same social group and neighborhood. Child care takes on a familial style, with all children "belonging" to the adults who care for them.

All children are occupied with creative activities, like drawing, painting, and craft work, music, dancing and games. Children of 5 years, in their last year at the centre are given school readiness activities to equip them to enter Primary School when they are 6 years old. The nutrition of the children is fully taken care of with a midday meal and another nutritious snack, while infants are provided with milk. There is a period for rest in the afternoon. Good health is a priority. Members of the SEWA Health Cooperative make regular visits, checking up all the children and giving medication, where advisable. The teachers receive in-service training systematically. New recruits are placed in an internship model, under a senior teacher, so that both the values of SEWA and the methods of dealing with young children are duly transmitted.

At present, there are about 5000 children in the 120 day care centers, spread over the five districts of Patan, Surendranagar, Kheda, Kutch and Ahmedabad City in Gujarat

### **Current Study**

The current study aims to investigate the impact of the Child Care Centres (CCC) on the lives of the children and their families. The key objective of the study was to assess the long term impact of the early years in the child care centres on the children who attended these centres; and to compare the lives of these children with those of other children, who live in same environment but never went to any of the Child Care Centers.

Specifically, it seeks to investigate the following objectives -

1. To compare the overall development/condition of SEWA group children with that of control group children
2. To study the impact on the education, awareness level, and overall development of the children
3. To compare the awareness level, income and employment status of mothers of SEWA group children with that of mothers of control group children

## Study Methodology-

### Sampling

1. *Including mother and child* : Children and their respective mothers were included in the sample. The study aimed to assess the development of children who attended the Centers in Ahmedabad and Kheda district about 10 years ago. Mothers of the children were also included in the sample as the children would not have been able to recall information about their experiences with the centers. Also a SEWA Child Care Center equips the mother with information on nutrition, pre school education, value based upbringing for her children and facilitates linkages with other programs of SEWA - health, saving, credit, insurance, skill building and capacity building initiatives. Thus to assess the impact of SEWA child care center it was decided that both mother and child both comprise the sample of this study.
2. *Age of Respondents* : The age of the children ranged between 11 years to 17 years. Mother's age was not a criterion for selection.
3. *Control Group Sample* : The control group children (and their mothers) were selected from the same area, Ahmedabad and Kheda, keeping all variables similar, except for one, i.e., unlike SEWA group children, control group children never attended SEWA Child Care Centers.

### Socio Economic Profile Of The Sample

- At the time of the current survey, most mothers were in the age group of 30-40, thus suggesting that they availed of the child care services in their twenties.
- Almost all respondents were married.
- A majority of the respondents in both categories in both Ahmedabad and Kheda were Hindus, were from the Scheduled Caste and Baxi punch<sup>1</sup> caste.
- A majority of them in both Ahmedabad and Kheda belonged to nuclear families.
- Very few respondents worked as salaried workers (in the formal sector). Most were employed in the informal sector in casual work or were self employed or home based workers<sup>2</sup>.
- In both locations, most respondent families earned monthly incomes of Rs. 3000, or below. In Ahmedabad, the average monthly income was about Rs 900, whereas in Kheda it was about Rs 600.
- Most children surveyed had stayed in the child care centre for upto 4 years or more, joining at the age of 1-4 years.
- Majority of the children interviewed were still in school. Among the 60 SEWA respondents, in Ahmedabad, 50 were still studying. Amongst the non SEWA, children 40 were studying. In Kheda, among the SEWA respondents, 32 were studying and 8 had left school. Among the 40 non-SEWA respondents, 23 were studying and 17 had left school.

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<sup>1</sup> Backward Caste.

<sup>2</sup> In Ahmedabad, approximately, 33% of the fathers were salaried workers, while the rest worked in the informal economy. In the Kheda, almost all fathers were from the informal sector.

## **FINDINGS : IMPACT OF THE CHILD CARE CENTRE**

As mentioned in the section on methodology, separate questionnaires were administered to the children and to their mothers. The children's questionnaire was smaller (since the age of the children ranged between 11 years to 17 years), focusing on issues closer to children's heart and which children could clearly articulate including enjoyment of studies, attendance in school, future aspirations etc. In contrast, the questionnaire for the mothers sought to capture the impact on a variety of issues ranging from the child's interest in studies to health and hygiene, child hygiene and social skills<sup>3</sup>.

### **1. IMPACT ON THE CHILD**

#### **a. Education : 'Ignited Minds'**

1. Children who have been to the child care centre *enjoy school*. A whopping 82% of the children in Ahmedabad and 80% in Kheda claimed that they enjoyed going to school. In contrast, only 65% of the non-SEWA children in Ahmedabad, and 55% in Kheda said that they liked going to school.
2. *Attendance in school was better* amongst SEWA children. Among the SEWA children 78% in Ahmedabad, and 70% in Kheda, affirmed that they went to school regularly, while the corresponding percentages were only 60 and 55 among the non-SEWA children.
3. *There were less drop outs* amongst the SEWA children. In the category of students who had left their studies, the percentages of non-SEWA children were notably higher, particularly in Kheda, a rural area, than those of the SEWA children. While only 17% of the SEWA children in Ahmedabad, and 20% in Kheda, had left their studies, the corresponding figures for the non-SEWA children were as high as 20% and 43% in Ahmedabad and Kheda, respectively.
4. *Larger percentage of SEWA children were studying on scholarships*. 25% and 17% of the SEWA children in Ahmedabad and Kheda, respectively, had scholarships as compared to 18% and 0% of the non-SEWA children.
5. A significantly large number of SEWA respondents, including 27% in Ahmedabad, and 20% in Kheda, claimed that they *faced no problem in pursuing their education* (as compared to 7% and 10% of the non SEWA respondents, respectively).
6. A majority of the children, including 38% and 25% of the SEWA children in Ahmedabad and Kheda, respectively, had *a desire to study*, asserting that they would still be studying five years later. Among the non-SEWA children, on the other hand, only 27% in Ahmedabad and 18% in Kheda, expected to be studying five years down the line.
7. Many more children in the SEWA category had *higher aspirations*. Among the Sewa Children, 18% and 32% in Ahmedabad and Kheda, respectively, and 12% and 17% of their non-SEWA counterparts in the two cities, said that they wanted to become doctors and teachers.
8. Regarding education-related impact, as inferred from mothers' response, higher numbers of SEWA children were enrolled in higher classes and had fewer drop out rates. There was a higher desire to study amongst SEWA children, a significant section of 33% and 48% of the SEWA respondents in Ahmedabad and Kheda, respectively, said that their children wanted to study further. The respondents' answers show that their children were exposed to various activities during their stay at the childcare centre, thereby enhancing their learning experiences. The mothers also reported that they had received feedback from the school that the child had started taking interest in studies (according to 82% of the respondents in Ahmedabad and 65%

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<sup>3</sup> The mothers' questionnaire also included questions on the impact of the child care facility (or the lack of it) on mother's work and income. These findings are listed in Part 2 and Part 3 of the report.

in Kheda), his confidence level had improved (cited by 57% and 62% of the respondents in Ahmedabad and Kheda, respectively), that there were no longer complaints against him from school (according to 33% and 58% of the respondents in Ahmedabad and Kheda, respectively), and lastly that the child was not afraid of going to school any more (as observed by 43% and 95% of the respondents in Ahmedabad and Kheda, respectively). It was seen that 78% and 40% of the SEWA respondents in Ahmedabad and Kheda, respectively, regularly went to meet the teachers in their children's schools, as against corresponding figures of 43% and 23% among their non-SEWA counterparts in both Ahmedabad and Kheda, respectively. Parents of SEWA children are also more serious about their children's studies than parents of non-SEWA children, which is why they visit the teachers in their children's schools more frequently in order to obtain feedback about their children's academic and other progress<sup>4</sup>.

## **OTHER IMPACTS - Mother's Perception**

The mothers noticed many positive changes in their children after sending them to the CCC

- **Hygiene** : A significant majority of the mothers revealed that at the centre, the child had learnt to take a bath daily. About 88% of the mothers in Kheda and 58% in Ahmedabad were also pleased that the children had started washing their hands with soap before eating their meals. The other hygiene-related observations were that the child had started combing his hair properly and wearing clean clothes and cutting nails regularly. Among these, 83% of the mothers in Ahmedabad and 75% in Kheda claimed that the child followed a proper routine of going to bed and getting up on time after staying at the CCC.
- **Social Skills** : There was a general improvement in the behaviour of the child amongst the SEWA children (mentioned by 50% and 72% of the mothers in Ahmedabad and Kheda, respectively), and the behaviour of the child towards the other family members had also undergone a change for the better (cited by 83% of the respondents in Kheda and 43% in Ahmedabad). As regards nutrition and food habits, it was observed that the child was now willing to eat everything that was cooked in the house (as claimed by 57% of the mothers in Ahmedabad and 83% in Kheda) and that the incidents of the child's illness had also gone down significantly since his stay in the CCC.
- **Education** : Regarding education-related changes, it was seen that the child had started taking interest in studies (according to 82% of the respondents in Ahmedabad and 65% in Kheda), his confidence level had improved (cited by 57% and 62% of the respondents in Ahmedabad and Kheda, respectively), that there were no longer complaints against him from school (according to 33% and 58% of the respondents in Ahmedabad and Kheda, respectively), and lastly that the child was not afraid of going to school any more (as observed by 43% and 95% of the respondents in Ahmedabad and Kheda, respectively). According to a significant section of 33% and 48% of the SEWA respondents in Ahmedabad and Kheda, respectively, their children wanted to study further. Among the non-SEWA respondents, only 2% in Ahmedabad and 8% in Kheda wanted to study further.
- **Health** : SEWA children were, by and large healthier than their non-SEWA counterparts in both

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<sup>4</sup> It needs to be mentioned that this finding about the mother's awareness can be traced back to the child care centres where mothers were not only regularly invited to attend meetings at the child care centres and interact with their peers and staff members of the centre but that most of the mothers also made it a point to attend these meetings, thus showing their involvement in the activities of the child care centre, which, in turn, prevailed even when the child started going to school. The findings about meetings in the child care centre are documented in the next section.

Ahmedabad and Kheda. A majority of the respondents claimed that among the SEWA children, 86% and 82% of the children in Ahmedabad and Kheda, respectively, were healthy children. The corresponding figures for healthy children in the non-SEWA category were 69% and 68%.

- **Behaviour** : The children's behaviour was assessed on various parameters. It was found that SEWA children showed better behaviour than their non-SEWA counterparts on most parameters. The children were seen to wind up their work on time (cited by 87% and 98% of the respondents in the two cities), helped in household work (cited by 93% and 95% of the respondents, respectively), looked after younger kids (cited by 67% and 55% of the respondents), behaved well with other family members (cited by 70% and 90%), and did not receive any complaints from neighbours or school (cited by 73% and 80% of the SEWA respondents in the two cities). As regards the negative qualities, only 5% and 13% of the SEWA respondents in the two cities complained that the children were lazy, while 12% and 13% respectively, complained that they did not listen to their parents.

## II. BENEFITS TO THE MOTHER, AND THE FAMILY (BY SENDING THE CHILD TO CCC)

- **Quality of life** : A majority of the mothers including 95% in Ahmedabad and 65% in Kheda pointed out that their lives had improved significantly and they could do their work peacefully as their children were being well looked after at the CCC.
- **Increase in income** : While 53% of the mothers in Ahmedabad and 43% in Kheda claimed that they could increase their incomes by putting in more productive work, 63% and 42% of the respondents in Ahmedabad and Kheda, respectively, were also relieved that their expenses on food items like chocolates and biscuits had gone down significantly since the admission of their children to the CCC. The other changes noticed by the mothers were that the family savings had gone up due to reduction in expenses on illness (according to 50% and 30% of the respondents in Ahmedabad and Kheda, respectively), and that the child's education base had been strengthened, thereby reducing worry about his future (cited by 65% and 35% of the respondents in Ahmedabad and Kheda, respectively).
- **Interest in child's education** : It was seen that 78% and 40% of the SEWA respondents in Ahmedabad and Kheda, respectively, regularly went to meet the teachers in their children's schools, as against corresponding figures of 43% and 23% among their non-SEWA counterparts in both Ahmedabad and Kheda, respectively. Parents of SEWA children are also more serious about their children's studies than parents of non-SEWA children, which is why they visit the teachers in their children's schools more frequently in order to obtain feedback about their children's academic and other progress.
- **Child's Nutrition** : According to most mothers, their children were given snacks at regular intervals and proper meals during their stay at the childcare centre. The children at the *balwadi* were not only well fed but care was also taken to ensure the nutritive quality of the food served to them. The mother respondents' felt that the day meal served to the children at the childcare centres was quite comprehensive and filling, besides consisting of a balanced diet so essential for growing children of pre-primary age. It is obvious that most of the mothers believe that their children in the childcare centres were served meals at fixed times on the basis of a pre-decided timetable, indicating the professionalism with which the childcare centres are run to cater to the needs of the children. The above responses thus indicate that according to a majority of the mothers, the food given to their children at the childcare centres was both nutritious and easy to digest, thereby contributing to their physical and mental development.



- **Expenses on health** : In Ahmedabad, only 2% each among the SEWA respondents claimed to incur expenditures of Rs. 21-40, Rs. 61-80, and Rs. 81-100 on the children's health, whereas in Kheda, only 8% of the SEWA respondents spent Rs. 81-100 per month on the children's healthcare. In contrast, for the non-SEWA children in Ahmedabad, 7% of the respondents had to spend Rs. 21-40 per month, 2% each had to spend Rs. 41-60, Rs. 61-80 and Rs. 81-100 per month, respectively, and 18% had to spend Rs. 101 or more on the children's healthcare. Similarly, for non-SEWA children in Kheda, while 3% each had to spend Rs. 21-40, and Rs. 41-60 per month, 25% of the respondents had to spend Rs. 101 or more on the children's healthcare.
- **Connecting with SEWA** : Most of the mothers were associated with several activities propagated by SEWA activists at the childcare centre. These included promotion of the savings habit (cited by 37% and 48% of the mothers in Ahmedabad and Kheda, respectively), insurance (mentioned by 32% and 55% of the respondents in Ahmedabad and Kheda, respectively), healthcare (cited by 13% and 28% of the respondents, respectively), joining a union (mentioned by 18% and 33% of the mothers, respectively), and receiving training in various aspects of childcare and social welfare (cited by 12% and 30% of the mothers in Ahmedabad and Kheda, respectively).

### III. IMPACT OF THE LACK OF CHILD CARE CENTRE

In the questionnaire, a few questions were addressed only to the non SEWA mothers to understand how they coped with child care needs when their children were young.

Most mothers worked or wanted to work even when their children were young and the children who did not go to the Child Care Centers were left at home or with relatives. The responses of the non-SEWA mothers indicate that they obviously found it difficult to leave their children when going to work and often have to depend on family members to take care of them in their absence, as the option of leaving their children in SEWA *Child Care Centers* where the children are well looked after and properly fed, is not available to them. A majority of the mothers' left their children with their in-laws when they went to work (option cited by 20% each, among the respondents in both Ahmedabad and Kheda). The others left the children with their parents (cited by 3% of the mothers in Ahmedabad), neighbours/relatives (cited by 7% and 8% of the mothers in Ahmedabad and Kheda, respectively), and husbands (cited by 3% of the mothers in Kheda). About 12% of the mothers in Ahmedabad and 13% in Kheda said that they took their children with them to work; while 3% each in Ahmedabad and Kheda claimed that they depended on God, which ostensibly means that they left the children alone at home and trusted God to protect them. Many also reported a loss of income and work when children were young. About 35% each of the non-SEWA mothers in Ahmedabad and Kheda said that they suffered a loss in terms of reduction in the number of days of employment because of having to look after their children.



# TAKING CARE OF OUR CHILDREN : ENSURING LONG TERM IMPACT

*Balwadi Study*

## I. SEWA

The Self-Employed Women's Association (SEWA)<sup>5</sup> is a trade union with nearly 10,00,000 members in seven Indian states. Its members are all poor working women in the informal economy. SEWA was the first trade union of informal workers (either men or women) anywhere in the world. It started in 1972 in the state of Gujarat as a union seeking to unite urban and rural women informal workers around the issue of "full employment," which SEWA defines as work, income, food and social security. The second objective of SEWA is to make its members self reliant, both individually and collectively. Empowerment is measured through eleven "points" derived in consultation with SEWA members: employment and income, assets, nutrition, health, housing, *child care*, organizing, leadership, self reliance and education. The impact of every intervention is measured along these standards.

Over the years, SEWA has built a sisterhood of member-based organizations in addition to the Union. These include a cooperative bank; village-based savings-and-credit groups, producer groups and cooperatives; and a federation of local groups and cooperatives. All of these economic organizations are owned by the women who are members of SEWA. They put up the share capital and manage and control the organizations through democratically elected boards of women workers. SEWA has also established several specialized institutions that provide services of various kinds to SEWA members, including health care, *child care* and insurance; research, training, and communication; marketing; housing and infrastructure. SEWA sees itself as the Banyan tree, with a forest of leaves (Women) with the Union as the trunk of the tree, giving rise to many other sister member based organizations and institutions.

## II. SEWA and Child Care

SEWA believes that Child care is an integral component of social security for women workers. Child care provisions relieve the women of one of her multiple burdens, creates time and space and work opportunities for women and support their empowerment. In the absence of adequate child care facilities, a working mother has no option but to leave the child with a slightly older sibling. A large part of sibling care givers are girls-and the provision of child care facilities also releases the girl child to attend school and to enjoy their own childhood. Besides, the early years of a child need nurturing and care. Neglect can lead to adverse effect on the health, welfare, care, development and education of the child.

SEWA's intervention in child care is almost two decades old. In keeping with the demand responsive nature of SEWA, the child care centres were started in response to the needs of the women workers. Today, SEWA has promoted several Child Care cooperatives, in keeping with SEWA's philosophy of promoting women owned and women managed democratic and decentralized organizations.

The child care services are open to all SEWA members. Children under 6 years are admitted to the crèche and daycare center, and infants only a few weeks old are also taken in, if the mothers wish it.

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<sup>5</sup> [www.sewa.org](http://www.sewa.org)

Generally, most of the children are admitted when they are toddlers between 18 and 24 months of age. The duration of the working day is from 9.00 am to 6.00 pm. All children are occupied with creative activities, like drawing, painting, and craft work, music, dancing and games. Children of 5 years, in their last year at the centre are given school readiness activities to equip them to enter Primary School when they are 6 years old. The nutrition of the children is fully taken care of with a midday meal and another nutritious snack, while infants are provided with milk. There is a period for rest in the afternoon. Good health is a priority. Members of the SEWA Health Cooperative make regular visits, checking up all the children and giving medication, where advisable. The teachers receive in-service training systematically. New recruits are placed in an internship model, under a senior teacher, so that the values of SEWA and the methods of dealing with young children are both duly transmitted.

At present, there are about 5000 children in the 120 day care centers, spread over the five districts of Patan, Surendranagar, Kheda, Kutch and Ahmedabad City in Gujarat.

### III. Study Objectives

The current study aims to investigate the impact of the Child Care Centres (CCC) on the lives of the children and their families. The key objective of the study was to assess the long term impact of the early years in the child care centres on the children who attended these centres; and to compare lives of these children with those of other children, who live in same environment but never went to any Child Care Centers.

Specifically, the study seeks to investigate the following objectives -

1. To compare the overall development/condition of SEWA group children with that of control group children.
2. To study the impact on the education, awareness level, and overall development on the children.
3. To compare the awareness level, income and employment status of mothers of SEWA group children with that of mothers of control group children.

### IV. Study Methodology

#### Sampling

**1. Including mother and child :** Children and their respective mothers were included in the sample<sup>6</sup>. The study aimed to look at the development of children who attended the Centers in Ahmedabad and Kheda District, about 10 years ago<sup>7</sup>. Mothers of the children were also included in the sample as the children would not have been able to recall information about their experiences with the centers. Also SEWA Child Care center equips the mother with information on nutrition, pre school education, value based upbringing for her children and facilitates linkages with other programs of SEWA - health, saving, credit, insurance, skill building and capacity building initiatives. Thus to assess the impact of SEWA child care center it was decided that both mother and child should both comprise the sample of this study<sup>8</sup>.

**2 Age of Respondents :** Since the objective was to assess the impact on the children lives,

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<sup>6</sup> In two cases the children had lost their mothers even before joining the center and so - the female relative- the grand mother or the aunt, were taken as samples.

<sup>7</sup> Most children were in the age bracket of 12-14 years.

<sup>8</sup> A practical problem that surfaced was that Ahmedabad had undergone many natural and man made calamities, and in several CCCs 10 year old registers were not available. To overcome this problem it was decided that in such cases the year closest to the period of past 10 years be chosen but not less than seven years. If the records for the year 1996 were not available, we emphasized upon having records at least for the year 1998, if not the center was changed with the nearest center downwards in the list. A similar method was used while sampling children in Kheda district.

ten years after they had left the centre, the age of the children ranged between 11 years to 17 years. Mother's age was not a criterion for selection mothers of the children chosen were automatically selected.

3. **Control Group Sample :** The control group children (and their mothers) were selected from the same area, Ahmedabad and Kheda, keeping all variables similar, except for one, i.e., unlike SEWA group children, control group children never attended SEWA Child Care Centers with other similar variables being -
  - a) They live in the same area as SEWA group children
  - b) They come from the same socio economic background
  - c) They are children of women workers from the informal sector
  
4. **Sample Size :** The total sample size of the study was 200 out of which 120 samples were taken from Ahmedabad and 80 from Kheda district.  
 Among the 120 samples of Ahmedabad, 60 were taken from SEWA group and rest of the 60 was from control group.  
 Similarly among the 80 samples taken from Kheda district, 40 belonged to SEWA group and 40 to the control group.
  
5. **Sample location :** The samples were taken from the state of Gujarat in India and both urban and rural locations - 120 samples were taken from Ahmedabad (urban) and 80 from Kheda district (rural). Twelve Child Care Centers from different locations at Ahmedabad and 8 in Kheda were chosen by random sampling<sup>9</sup>. Ten samples per Center including 5 from SEWA group and 5 from control group were chosen<sup>10</sup>.

Table 1 : Details of Sampling

Sr.No	Sample	No of respondents		Sample	No of respondents	
		SEWA	Non-SEWA		Kheda	SEWA
1	Shankerbhuvan	5	5	Khadol	5	5
2	Vadaj	5	5	Chaklashi	5	5
3	Amraivadi	5	5	Amarpura	5	5
4	Saraspur	5	5	Marida	5	5
5	Bapunager	5	5	Navapura	5	5
6	Chamanpura	5	5	Kunjrav	5	5
7	Odhav	5	5	Narpura	5	5
8	Jamalpur	5	5	Aajarpura	5	5
9	Gomtipur	5	5	----		
10	Beherampura	5	5	----		
11	Ramnagar	5	5	----		
12	Naroda	5	5	----		
	Total	60	60	Total	40	40

<sup>9</sup> As per the information provided by SEWA Social Security, there were 132 Centers at Ahmedabad, and 66 centers in Kheda district. The sampling of the centers was done by simple random sampling. From the list of 132 centers of Ahmedabad, every 11th center was selected. (No. of centers at Ahmedabad/No of sample centers taken = 132/12=11) In case the center so arrived was less than 10 years old in the area, the nearest center in the list downwards was taken as the sample center. A similar method was followed for sampling of centers in Kheda district (66/8=8.2) and it was decided to take every 8<sup>th</sup> center on the list. In both the cases starting point from where the every 11<sup>th</sup> (for Ahmedabad) and every 8<sup>th</sup> (for Kheda district) was to be selected. This starting point was also selected by lottery method, from that number of center which was arrived at for Ahmedabad, every 11<sup>th</sup> center was taken, and similar procedure was done for sampling of centers in Kheda district.

<sup>10</sup> Since most children from the area attended the child care centres runs by SEWA, finding a control group from around each of the Centres was difficult. As a result, the sample size, per Centre, was kept small.

## 6. Data Collection

The data collection was done by

(a) Questionnaire and (b) Case Studies

One Questionnaire (titled Child Analysis), of 26 questions was administered to the children. Another questionnaire (39 questions) was administered to the mothers.

## 7. Pretesting

Before framing the questionnaire Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) of mothers of SEWA as well as of the control group were conducted in both the areas of the study. In Ahmedabad 10 FGDs in 10 different areas, and in Kheda 4 FGDs in four different villages were conducted to gauge the issues of mothers and children of SEWA group and those of control group.

The questionnaire was finalized after incorporating the feed backs received from teachers of Centers, mothers, and pilot tests conducted at Ahmedabad and in Kheda district. Recall method was also used as the some of the questions in the questionnaire were related to the period some 8-10 years ago.

## 8. Analysis

The data so collected was analysed manually on the coding sheet.

Table 2 : Age of Mothers at the Time of the Survey.

Sr. No.	Age	A' bad				Kheda			
		SEWA	%	Non SEWA	%	SEWA	%	Non SEWA	%
1	20-30	13	22	11	19	17	43	4	10
2	31-40	41	68	44	73	20	50	30	75
3	41-50	5	8	5	8	3	7	6	15
4	51-60	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5	60 & above	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Total	60	100	60	100	40	100	40	100

## V. SOCIO ECONOMIC PROFILE OF THE SAMPLE

### 1. Mothers / Families

**Age :** At the time of the current survey, most mothers were in the age group of 30-40, thus suggesting that they availed of the child care services in their twenties.

In Ahmedabad, among the SEWA respondents, 22% were in the age group of 20-30 years, 68% in the age group of 31-40 years, 8% in the age group of 41-50 years, and 2% in the age group of 60 years and above. Among the non-SEWA respondents in Ahmedabad, 19% were in the age group of 20-30 years, 73% in the age group of 31-40 years, and 8% in the age group of 41-50 years.

In Ahmedabad, therefore, 98% of the respondents were between the ages of 20 and 50 years while only 2% were 60 years or older.

In Kheda, among the SEWA respondents, 43% were in the age group of 20-30 years, 50% in the age group of 31-40 years, and 75 in the age group of 41-50 years. Among the non-SEWA respondents in Kheda, 10% were in the age group of 20-30 years, 75% in the age group of 31-40 years, and 15% in the age group of 41-50 years.

In Kheda, therefore, all the respondents were between 20 and 50 years of age.

Table 3 : Marital Status of Respondents

Sr. No.	Marital Status	A' bad				Kheda			
		SEWA	%	Non SEWA	%	SEWA	%	Non SEWA	%
1	Married	57	95	56	92	38	95	36	90
2	Widow	3	5	4	8	2	5	3	8
3	Divorced	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2
	Total	60	100	60	100	40	100	40	100

### **Marital Status of Respondents**

A majority of the respondents among both the SEWA and non-SEWA respondents, both in Ahmedabad and Kheda, were married.

In Ahmedabad, among the SEWA respondents, 95% were married, while 5% were widowed. Among the non-SEWA respondents, 92% were married while 8% were widowed.

Table 4 : Caste of Respondents

Sr. No.	Caste	A' bad				Kheda			
		SEWA	%	Non SEWA	%	SEWA	%	Non SEWA	%
1	Scheduled Caste	25	42	26	43	19	48	18	45
2	Scheduled Tribe	1	2	5	8	3	8	4	10
3	Baxi Punch	29	48	22	37	12	30	17	43
4	Other	5	8	7	12	6	15	1	3
	Total	60	100	60	100	40	100	40	100

### **Caste**

In Kheda, among the SEWA respondents, 95% were married while 5% were widowed. Among the non-SEWA respondents, 90% were married, 8% were widowed, and 2% were divorced.

In Ahmedabad, among the SEWA respondents, 42% belonged to the Scheduled Castes (SCs), 2% to the Scheduled Tribes (STs), 48% to the Baxipunch caste, and 8% to the other castes. Among the non-SEWA respondents, 43% belonged to the SCs, 8% to the STs, 37% to the Baxipunch caste, and 12% to the others. Most respondents were thus from the SC and Baxipunch caste.

In Kheda, among the SEWA respondents, 48% belonged to the SCs, 8% to the STs, 30% to the Baxipunch caste, and 15% to the other castes. Among the non-SEWA respondents, 45% belonged to the SCs, 10% to the STs, 43% to the Baxipunch caste, and 3% to the other castes.

**Religion:** A majority of the respondents in both categories in both Ahmedabad and Kheda were Hindus.

Table 5 : Religion of Respondents

Sr. No.	Religion	A' bad				Kheda			
		SEWA	%	Non SEWA	%	SEWA	%	Non SEWA	%
1	Hindu	59	98	58	97	31	78	36	90
2	Muslim	1	2	2	3	6	15	3	8
3	Christian	0	0	0	0	3	7	1	3
	Total	60	100	60	100	40	100	40	100

In Ahmedabad, among the SEWA respondents, 98% were Hindus and 2% Muslims. Among the non-SEWA respondents, 97% were Hindus, and 3% were Muslims.

In Kheda, among the SEWA respondents, 78% were Hindus, 15% were Muslims and 7% Christians. Among the non-SEWA respondents, 90% were Hindus, 8% were Muslims, and 3% Christians.

**Family set up :** A majority of them in both categories in both Ahmedabad and Kheda belonged to nuclear families.

Table 6 : Family Setup of Respondent

Sr. No.	Type of Family	A' bad				Kheda			
		SEWA	%	Non SEWA	%	SEWA	%	Non SEWA	%
1	Joint Family	23	38	11	18	13	33	14	35
2	Nuclear Family	37	62	49	82	27	67	26	65
	Total	60	100	60	100	40	100	40	100

In Ahmedabad, among the SEWA respondents, 38% lived in joint families, while 62% belonged to nuclear families. Among the non-SEWA respondents, 18% lived in joint families, while 82% belonged to nuclear families.

In Kheda, among the SEWA respondents, 33% lived in joint families, while 67% belonged to nuclear families. Among the non-SEWA respondents, 35% lived in joint families, while 65% belonged to nuclear families.

**Mother's Occupation :** Very few respondents worked as salaried workers (in the formal sector). Most were employed in the informal sector in casual work or were self employed or home based workers<sup>11</sup>.

<sup>11</sup> In Ahmedabad, approximately, 33% of the fathers were salaried workers, while the rest worked in the informal economy. In the Kheda, almost all fathers were from the informal sector.

Table 7 : Mother's Occupation

Sr. No.	Mother's Occupation	A' bad				Kheda			
		SEWA	%	Non SEWA	%	SEWA	%	Non SEWA	%
1	Salaried	3	5	4	7	3	8	2	5
2	Casual Work	10	17	12	20	22	55	18	45
3	Self Employed	9	15	4	7	4	10	4	13
4	Home-based Worker	14	23	12	20	1	3	1	3
5	Household Work	13	22	16	27	8	20	12	28
6	Vendors	9	15	8	13	0	0	1	3
7	Producer	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
8	Unemployed	2	3	4	7	2	5	2	5
	Total	60	100	60	100	40	100	40	100

In Ahmedabad, among the SEWA respondents, the maximum numbers of mothers (23%) were home-based workers while 22% were engaged in household work, and 17% in casual work. While 15% each of the respondents were self-employed or vendors, 5% were salaried workers, and 3% were unemployed.

In Ahmedabad, among the non-SEWA respondents, the maximum number of women (27%) were engaged in household work, while 20% each were employed as casual workers or home-based workers. While 13% were vendors, 7% each among the respondents were salaried workers, self-employed workers, and unemployed.

In Kheda, among the SEWA respondents, the maximum number (55%) were employed as casual workers, while 20% were engaged in household work. Among the rest, 10% were self-employed, 8% salaried workers, 5% unemployed, and 3% home-based workers. Among the non-SEWA respondents, the maximum number (45%) were casual workers, while 28% were engaged in household work. Among the rest, 13% were self-employed, 5% each were salaried workers, and unemployed and 3% each were home-based workers and vendors.

**Mother's Monthly Income :** In both locations, the respondents had monthly incomes of Rs. 501-1000. In Ahmedabad, the average monthly income was about Rs 900, where as in Kheda it was about Rs 600.

Table 8 : Mother's Monthly Income

Sr. No.	Mother's Monthly Income	A' bad				Kheda			
		SEWA	%	Non SEWA	%	SEWA	%	Non SEWA	%
1	100 to 500	11	18	10	17	13	32	7	17
2	501 to 1000	14	23	13	22	9	22	13	32
3	1000 to 1500	2	3	2	3	2	5	1	3
4	1501 to 2000	11	18	13	22	5	13	4	10
5	2001 to 5000	9	15	2	3	1	3	1	3
6	Household Work	13	23	16	27	8	20	12	30
7	Unemployed	0	0	4	6	2	5	2	5
	Total	60	100	60	100	40	100	40	100



In Ahmedabad, among the SEWA respondents, 23% each had monthly incomes of Rs. 501-1000, or were engaged in household work, while 18% each of the respondents had monthly incomes of Rs. 100-500, and Rs.1501-2000. The balance 3% had a monthly income of Rs. 1000-1500. Among the non-SEWA respondents, 16% were engaged in household work, whereas 13% each had monthly incomes of Rs. 501-1000, and Rs.1501-2000, and 2% each among the respondents had monthly incomes of rs.1000-1500, and Rs.2001-5000, while 4% of the mothers were unemployed.

In Kheda, among the SEWA respondents, the maximum number (32%) had monthly incomes of Rs. 100-500, whereas 22% earned 501-1000 per month, and 20% were engaged in household work. Of the rest, 5% each had monthly incomes of 1000-1500, or were unemployed, and only 3% had monthly incomes of 2001-5000. Among the non-SEWA respondents, 32% earned Rs. 501-1000 per month, 30% were engaged in household work, 17% earned Rs. 100-500 per month, and 3% each had monthly incomes of Rs. 1000-1500, and Rs. 2001-5000. The remaining 5% of the mothers were unemployed.

*Monthly Income of Families:* Most respondent families earned monthly incomes of Rs. 3000, or below.

Table 9 : Monthly Income of Families.

Sr. No.	Monthly Family Income	A' bad				Kheda			
		SEWA	%	Non SEWA	%	SEWA	%	Non SEWA	%
1	500 - 1000	0	0	0	0		0	5	12
2	1001 - 2000	8	13	23	38	20	50	16	40
3	2001 - 3000	22	37	19	32	10	25	11	28
4	3001 - 4000	16	27	8	13	3	8	3	7
5	4001 - 5000	7	12		10	3	8	3	7
6	5001 - 6000	2	3	1	2	1	3	0	0
7	6001 - 7000	2	3	2	3	1	3	1	3
8	7001 & More	3	5	1	2	2	5	1	3
	Total	60	100	60	100	40	100	40	100

In Ahmedabad, most SEWA families earned Rs 5000/- or less. 37% of the families among the SEWA respondents earned Rs. 2001-3000 per month, and 27% had monthly incomes of Rs. 3001-4000. Of the rest, 13% of the families earned Rs. 1001-2000, and 12% Rs. 4001-5000 per month, whereas 3% each had monthly incomes of Rs. 5001-6000, and Rs. 6001-7000. About 5% of the families also earned Rs. 7000 and more per month. Among the non-SEWA families, 38% earned Rs. 1001-2000 and 32%, Rs. 2001-3000 per month. While 10% had monthly incomes of Rs. 3001-4000, 15% earned Rs 4001-5000 per month. Of the rest, 3% each among the families earned Rs. 5001-6000, and Rs. 7001 and more per month, while 5% had monthly incomes of Rs. 6001-7000.

In Kheda, among the SEWA families, most families earned less than Rs 3000 a month - 50% had monthly incomes of Rs. 1001-2000, and 25% of Rs. 2001-3000. While 3% each earned Rs. 3001-4000, and Rs. 4001-5000 per month, 1% each had monthly incomes of Rs. 5001-6000, and 6001-7000, while 2% of the families earned Rs. 7001 and more per month. Among the non-SEWA families, 40% had monthly incomes of Rs. 1001-2000, 28% of Rs. 2001-3000, and 12% of Rs. 500-1000. While 7% each earned Rs. 3001-4000, and Rs. 4001-5000, 3% each among the families had incomes of Rs. 6001-7000, and Rs. 7001 and more per month.

## 2. Children

Most children had stayed in the child care centre for upto 4 years or more, joining at the age of 1-4 years

Table 10 : Age of Children at Admission & during Stay in SCCC.

Sr. No.	Age of Child	A'bad SEWA	%	Period of Staying in SCCC	Kheda SEWA	%	Period of Staying in SCCC
1	1-6 months	9	15	5 to 6 years	10	25	3 to 6 years
2	7 months - 1 year	3	5	4 to 5 years	7	17	2 to 6 years
3	1-2 year	20	33	1 to 5 years	11	28	2 to 5 years
4	3-4 years	27	45	1 to 4 years	12	30	2 to 64 years
5	5-6 years	1	2	1 year	0	0	---
	Total	60	100		40	100	

In Ahmedabad, most children had stayed in the child care centre for upto 4 years or more, joining at the age of 1-4 years. while 45% of the SEWA children were 3-4 years old at the time of admission to the SEWA CCC, while 33% were 1-2 years old. While 15% of the children were as young as 1-6 months old, 5% were 7 months to one year old, and 25 were 5-6 years old. While the infants of 1-6 months of age stayed in the CCC for 5-6 years, those who were 7 months to one year old stayed for 4-5 years. The 1-2 year old stayed for 1-5 years and the 3-4 year old children stayed for 1-4 years. The oldest category of children, i.e. the 5-6 year olds stayed in the CCC for about one year.

In Kheda, most children had stayed in the child care centre for upto 4 years or more, joining at the age of 1-4 years. In Kheda, 30% of the SEWA children were 3-4 years old at the time of admission to the CCC, while 28% were in the age group 1-5 years, 25% in the age group 1-6 months, and 17% were 7 months to one year old. While the infants of 1-6 months stayed in the CCC for a maximum period of 3-6 years, the 7 month to one year olds stayed for 2-6 years, the 1-2 year olds for 2-5 years and children aged 3-4 years stayed for 2-6 years.

Table 11: What is your child doing at present?

A'bad SEWA				A'bad Non SEWA			
Age	Education (Class in School)	No.	Where S/he Studied	Age	Education (Class in School)	No.	Where S/he Studied
7 to 10	1 to 5	10	6-Muni. Co. 4-Private	7 to 10	1 to 5	5	1-Muni. Co. 4 - Private
11 to 14	6 to 8	30	15-Muni. Co. 15 - Private	11 to 14	1 to 10	30	8-Muni.Co. 22 - Private
15 to 18	9 to 10	10	10-Private	15 to 18	6 to 12	5	5-Private
Left School		10				20	
		60				60	

<i>Kheda SEWA</i>				<i>Kheda Non SEWA</i>			
<i>Age</i>	<i>Education</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>Where S/he Studied</i>	<i>Age</i>	<i>Education (Class in</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>Where S/he Studied</i>
7 to 10	1 to 5	6	5-Muni. Co. 1-Private	7 to 10	1 to 5	1	1-Muni. Co.
11 to 14	6 to 8	13	8-Muni. Co. 5 - Private	11 to 14	6 to 8	16	10-Muni.Co. 6 - Private
15 to 18	9 to 10	13	1-Muni. Co. 12-Private	15 to 18	6 to 12	6	4-Muni. Co. 2-Private
Left School		8				17	
		40				40	

Among the SEWA respondents, in Ahmedabad, 21 were studying in a municipal school and 29 in a private school. 10 had left school. Amongst the non SEWA, respondents 9 students were studying in municipal schools and 31 in private schools, while 20 had left school.

In Kheda, among the SEWA respondents, 14 students were studying in municipal schools and 18 in private schools. 8 had left school. Among the non-SEWA respondents, 15 were studying in municipal schools, and 8 in private schools. While 17 of them had left school.

The study sought to record the impact of the Child Care Centers - on the child as well as on the lives of the mother. Thus the findings on the impact of the Childcare Centers are divided into 2 parts.

## **VI. PART 1: IMPACT ON THE CHILD**

The impact on the child has been further divided in to two sections - the impact as perceived by the child, and impact as perceived by the mother. As mentioned in the section on methodology, separate questionnaires were administered to the children and to their mothers. The children's questionnaire was smaller (since the age of the children ranged between 11 years to 17 years), focusing on issues closer to children's heart and which children could clearly articulate : enjoyment of studies, attendance in school, future aspirations etc. In contrast, the questionnaire for the mothers sought to capture impact on a variety of issues ranging from the child's interest in studies to health and hygiene, child hygiene and social skills<sup>12</sup>.

### **Part - 1 Section 1: Impact – As perceived by the children themselves**

The findings in this section are based on the questionnaire administered to the children.

Children who had been to the child care centre enjoy school. A whopping 82% of the children in Ahmedabad and 80% in Kheda claimed that they enjoyed going to school. Attendance in school was better amongst SEWA children and there were less drop outs. In the category of students who had left their studies, the percentages of non-SEWA children were notably higher, particularly in Kheda, a rural area, than those of the SEWA children. Larger percentage of SEWA children were studying on scholarships as 25% and 17% of the SEWA children in Ahmedabad and Kheda,

<sup>12</sup> The mothers' questionnaire also included questions on the impact of the child care facility (or the lack of it) on mother's work and income. These findings are listed in Part 2 and Part 3 of the report.

respectively, had scholarships as compared to 18% and 0% of the non-SEWA children. A significantly large number of SEWA respondents, including 27% in Ahmedabad, and 20% in Kheda, claimed that they faced no problem in pursuing their education. A majority of the children, including 38% and 25% of the SEWA children in Ahmedabad and Kheda, respectively, had to a desire to study, asserting that they would still be studying five years later. Among the non-SEWA children, on the other hand, only 27% in Ahmedabad and 18% in Kheda, expected to be studying five years down the line. Many more children in the SEWA category had higher aspirations as 18% and 32% of the SEWA children in Ahmedabad and Kheda, respectively, said that they wanted to become doctors and teachers.

*1. Children Who Had Been To The Child Care Centre Enjoy School.*

Table 12 : Do you like going to School?

Sr. No.	Like going to School	A' bad				Kheda			
		SEWA	%	Non SEWA	%	SEWA	%	Non SEWA	%
1	Yes	49	82	39	65	32	80	22	55
2	No	11	18	21	35	8	20	18	45
	Total	60	100	60	100	40	100	40	100

While answering this question, the SEWA respondents scored comprehensively over their non-SEWA counterparts in both Ahmedabad and Kheda, as a whopping 82% of the children in Ahmedabad and 80% in Kheda claimed that they enjoyed going to school. In contrast, only 65% of the non-SEWA children in Ahmedabad, and 55% in Kheda, said that they liked going to school. The percentage of non-SEWA children expressing a dislike of school, (21% in Ahmedabad and 45% in Kheda) was, therefore, automatically higher than that of their SEWA counterparts (only 18% in Ahmedabad and 20% in Kheda).

*2. Attendance in school was better amongst SEWA children.*

Table 13 : Are you regular at your School?

Sr. No.	Regularity at School	A' bad				Kheda			
		SEWA	%	Non SEWA	%	SEWA	%	Non SEWA	%
1	Yes	47	78	36	60	28	70	22	55
2	No	3	5	4	7	4	10	1	3
3	Left Study	10	17	20	33	8	20	17	43
	Total	60	100	60	100	40	100	40	100

In response to this question too, the SEWA respondents scored heavily over their non-SEWA counterparts, as 78% of the SEWA children in Ahmedabad, and 70% in Kheda, affirmed that they went to school regularly, while the corresponding percentages were only 60 and 55 among the non-SEWA children. While in Kheda, the percentage of SEWA children who did not attend school regularly (10%), was higher than that of their non-SEWA counterparts (3%), the corresponding figures were 5% and 7%, respectively, in Ahmedabad. However, in the category of students who had left their studies, the percentages of non-SEWA children were notably higher than those of the SEWA children. While only 17% of the SEWA children in Ahmedabad, and 20% in Kheda, had left their studies, the corresponding figures for the non-SEWA children were as high as 20% and 43% in Ahmedabad and Kheda, respectively.

3. Larger percentage of SEWA children were studying on scholarships.

Table : 14 Who bears expenses of your Education?

Sr. No.	Who bears expenses on education	A' bad		Non SEWA		Kheda		Non SEWA	
		SEWA	%		%	SEWA	%		%
1	Parents	38	63	31	52	29	72	21	52
2	Relatives	1	2	0	0	1	3	0	0
3	From Scholarship	15	25	11	18	7	17	0	0
4	Other (Grandparents)	0	0	0	0	1	3	1	3
5	No Answer	6	10	18	30	2	5	18	45
	Total	60	100	60	100	40	100	40	100

A whopping majority of the students, including 63% and 72% of the SEWA children in Ahmedabad and Kheda, respectively, and 52% each among the non-SEWA children in Kheda, revealed that their parents were the main financiers of their education. The second major source of finance was scholarship, cited by 25% and 17% of the SEWA children in Ahmedabad and Kheda, respectively, and by 18% of the non-SEWA children in Ahmedabad. Other relatives, cited by 2% and 3% of the SEWA respondents in Ahmedabad and Kheda, respectively, and grandparents, cited by 3% each of the SEWA and non-SEWA children in Kheda, constituted only a small minority of the financiers. A large section of the children, especially 30% and 45% among the non-SEWA students in Ahmedabad and Kheda, respectively, and 10% and 5% among their SEWA counterparts, had no knowledge as to who was bearing the cost of their education.

4. A majority of the children, including 38% and 25% of the SEWA children in Ahmedabad and Kheda, respectively, had to a desire to study further.

Table 15 : What would you want to do after 5 years?

Sr No.	After 5 years what will you want to do	Ahmedabad		Kheda	
		SEWA %	Non SEWA %	SEWA %	Non SEWA %
1	Study	38	27	25	18
2	Don't think	30	33	15	28
3	Job	10	8	18	22
4	Business	7	10	7	10
5	Home based work (diamond work, Labour work, stitching, tuition)	7	8	7	15
6	Beauty parlour	7	2	0	0
7	House work	1	7	3	2
8	Other (Police, electrician, mechanic, teacher, cricketer, band baja wala)	0	5	18	15
9	Marriage	0	0	7	0
	Total	100	100	100	100

A majority of the children, including 38% and 25% of the SEWA children in Ahmedabad and Kheda, respectively, asserted that they would still be studying five years later. Among the non-SEWA children, on the other hand, only 27% in Ahmedabad and 18% in Kheda, expected to be studying five years down the line. In contrast, the figures pertaining to the non-SEWA children, comprising 33% of the total in Ahmedabad, and 28% in Kheda, who had not given much thought to their futures, were much higher than those of their SEWA counterparts in this category including 30% in Ahmedabad and 15% in Kheda.

A small but significant percentage of the children, including 10% and 18% of the SEWA children, and 8% and 22% of the non-SEWA children in Ahmedabad and Kheda, respectively, professed that they would be employed in some job five years later. Among the SEWA children, 7% each in Ahmedabad and Kheda, and 10% of the non-SEWA children in Ahmedabad, said that they would be running their own businesses. While 7% of the SEWA and 2% of the non-SEWA children expected to be working in or running their own beauty parlours, 7% each among the SEWA children, and 8% and 15% among their non-SEWA counterparts, said that they would be involved in home-based work like diamond cutting, stitching, or giving tuitions, or be employed as labourers. About 5% and 15% of the non-SEWA children in Ahmedabad and Kheda, respectively, and 18% of the SEWA children in Kheda expected to be employed in varied professions including as policemen, electricians, mechanics, teachers, cricketers, or even *band baje walas* (band of musicians who play music during marriage processions).

A smaller section of about 1% of the SEWA and 7% of the non-SEWA children in Ahmedabad, and 3% and 2% of their counterparts, correspondingly, in Kheda, claimed that they would be engaged in housework, while only 7% of the SEWA respondents in Kheda said that they would be married and settled with their spouses.

5. A significantly large number of SEWA respondents claimed that they faced no problem in pursuing their education.

Table 16 : Does s/he face any problem in studies? (Multiple Answers)

Sr No.	Problems faced in education	Ahmedabad		Kheda	
		SEWA %	Non SEWA %	SEWA %	Non SEWA %
1	Finds it difficult to understand	45	50	55	45
2	Not in position to take tuitions	17	3	10	5
3	Its difficult to buy books/notebooks	2	2	3	5
4	Teachers don't pay attention because of reason given in No.3	0	0	0	0
5	Don't get enough time due to responsibilities at home	2	0	0	3
6	There is no place at home to study peacefully	3	0	3	3
7	No problem	27	7	20	10

Table 16 highlights that a significantly large number of respondents, as compared to the non SEWA members, including 27% in Ahmedabad, and 20% in Kheda, claimed that they faced no problem whatsoever in pursuing their education.



Table 16 also highlights the various problems pertaining to education faced by the children of both SEWA members and non-SEWA respondents in the two areas surveyed. The main problem being faced by the children, on an average by 50% of the non-SEWA and 45% of the SEWA respondents, in Ahmedabad, is that they find the lessons difficult to understand. In Kheda, there was only a slight variation in the percentage, with 55% of the SEWA and 45% of the non-SEWA respondents admitting to this problem.

The second problem, a corollary to the first, that the children face, is that they lack the financial capacity to take tuitions. About 17% and 3% of the SEWA and non-SEWA children, respectively, in Ahmedabad, testified to facing this problem, with the corresponding percentages being 10% and 5%, respectively, in Kheda. Further, 2% of each category of respondents in Ahmedabad, and 3% and 5% of the respondents in Kheda, pointed out that they found it difficult to buy all the requisite books and notebooks.

The other problems, such as the fact that household responsibilities did not leave the children with sufficient time to pursue their studies, and the absence of a place at home where they can study peacefully, were only cited by a small number of respondents. Only 2% and 3% of the SEWA respondents in Ahmedabad and Kheda, respectively, and 3% of the non-SEWA respondents in Kheda, complained that they had no place to study at home.

One of the perceived reasons why the children are believed to be unable to study at home is that household chores and domestic responsibilities leave them with no time for studies. However, this perception is negated by the finding that only 2% of the SEWA respondents in Ahmedabad and 3% of their non-SEWA counterparts in Kheda cited family responsibilities as being an impediment to their studies.

Another possible source of the children's education-related problems is believed to be that teachers do not pay adequate attention to the children's studies because the latter are not able to procure the necessary books and notebooks.

6. Many more children in the SEWA category had higher aspirations. 18% and 32% of the SEWA children in Ahmedabad and Kheda, respectively, said that they wanted to become doctors and teachers.

Table 17 : What do you think about increasing your skills?

Sr No.	What do you think about increase your skills	Ahmedabad		Kheda	
		SEWA %	Non SEWA %	SEWA %	Non SEWA %
1	Different type of training / course ( English, electrician, mechanic, drawing, beauty parlour, cooking, stitching, computer)	37	35	30	40
2	More study (doctor, teacher )	18	12	32	17
3	Job	7	5	3	5
4	Home based work (diamond work, agarbatti making)	3	8	5	18
5	Business	3	5	0	2
6	Don't know	32	35	30	18
	Total	100	100	100	100



A significant percentage of the students, including 18% and 32% of the SEWA children in Ahmedabad and Kheda, respectively, and said that they wanted to study more and become doctors and teachers.

A majority of the children, however, averred that they would prefer to undergo training in different types of courses to enhance their skills, such as English speaking, drawing, cooking, stitching, computers, or training to become electricians, mechanics or beauticians. This category of skills and professions was chosen as the preferred option by 37% and 30% of the SEWA children, and 35% and 40% of the non-SEWA children in Ahmedabad and Kheda, respectively.

The other major option included home-based work such as diamond cutting and making of *agarbattis* (incense sticks), cited by 8% and 18% of the non-SEWA children, and by 3% and 5% of their SEWA counterparts in Ahmedabad and Kheda, respectively. A small minority of the students, including 3% of the SEWA children in Ahmedabad, and 5% and 2% of their non-SEWA counterparts in Ahmedabad and Kheda, respectively, claimed that they wanted to pursue some business, while others, comprising 7% and 3% of the SEWA children, and 5% each of the non-SEWA ones in the two cities, said that they would like to take up jobs. Again, a large majority of the respondents, including 32% and 30% of the SEWA children, and 35% and 18% of their non-SEWA counterparts in Ahmedabad and Kheda, respectively, were not able to identify any skills or professions that they wanted to pursue.

## **Part - 1 Section 2 : Impact – As perceived by the mothers**

This Section includes responses from the questionnaire administered to the mothers of the children.

### ***I. Education And School***

Regarding education-related impact, as inferred from mothers' response, higher numbers of SEWA children were enrolled in higher classes and had fewer drop out rates. There was a greater desire to study amongst SEWA children, a significant section of 33% and 48% of the SEWA respondents in Ahmedabad and Kheda, respectively, said that their children wanted to study further. The respondents' answers show that their children were exposed to various activities during their stay at the childcare centre, thereby enhancing their learning experiences. The mothers also reported that they had received feedback from the school that the child had started taking interest in studies (according to 82% of the respondents in Ahmedabad and 65% in Kheda), his confidence level had improved (cited by 57% and 62% of the respondents in Ahmedabad and Kheda, respectively), that there were no longer complaints against him from school (according to 33% and 58% of the respondents in Ahmedabad and Kheda, respectively), and lastly that the child was not afraid of going to school any more (as observed by 43% and 95% of the respondents in Ahmedabad and Kheda, respectively). It was seen that 78% and 40% of the SEWA respondents in Ahmedabad and Kheda, respectively, regularly went to meet the teachers in their children's schools, as against corresponding figures of 43% and 23% among their non-SEWA counterparts in both Ahmedabad and Kheda, respectively. Parents of SEWA children are also more serious about their children's studies than parents of non-SEWA children, which is why they visit the teachers in their children's schools more frequently in order to obtain feedback about their children's academic and other progress<sup>13</sup>.

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<sup>13</sup> It needs to be mentioned that this finding about the mother's awareness can be traced back to the child care centres where mothers were not only regularly invited to attend meetings at the child care centres and interact with their peers and staff members of the centre but that most of the mothers also made it a point to attend these meetings, thus showing their involvement in the activities of the childcare centre, which, in turn, prevails even when the child goes to school. The findings about meetings in the child care centre are documented in the next section.

*I.1 Higher number of SEWA children enrolled in higher classes and fewer SEWA children drop out of school.*

Table 18 : Where is your Child Studying ?

<i>A'bad SEWA</i>				<i>A'bad Non SEWA</i>			
<i>Age</i>	<i>Education (Class in School)</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>Where S/he Studied</i>	<i>Age</i>	<i>Education (Class in School)</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>Where S/he Studied</i>
7 to 10	1 to 5	10	6-Muni. Co. 4-Private	7 to 10	1 to 5	5	1-Muni. Co. 4 - Private
11 to 14	6 to 8	30	15-Uni. Co. 15 - Private	11 to 14	1 to 10	30	8-Muni.Co. 22 - Private
15 to 18	9 to 10	10	10-Private	15 to 18	6 to 12	5	5-Private
Left School		10				20	
		60				60	
<i>Kheda SEWA</i>				<i>Kheda Non SEWA</i>			
<i>Age</i>	<i>Education</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>Where S/he Studied</i>	<i>Age</i>	<i>Education (Class in</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>Where S/he Studied</i>
7 to 10	1 to 5	6	5-Muni. Co. 1-Private	7 to 10	1 to 5	1	1-Muni. Co.
11 to 14	6 to 8	13	8-Muni. Co. 5 - Private	11 to 14	6 to 8	16	10-Muni.Co. 6 - Private
15 to 18	9 to 10	13	1-Muni. Co. 12-Private	15 to 18	6 to 12	6	4-Muni. Co. 2-Private
Left School		8				17	
		40				40	

Among the SEWA respondents, in Ahmedabad, 21 were studying in a municipal school and 29 in a private school. 10 had left school. Amongst the non SEWA, 9 students were studying in municipal schools and 31 in private schools, 20 had left school.

In Kheda, among the SEWA respondents, 14 students were studying in municipal schools and 18 in private schools. 8 had left school. Among the non-SEWA respondents, 15 were studying in municipal schools, and 8 in private schools. While 17 of the non-SEWA children had left school.

Two inferences can be drawn from the above data. Firstly, the number of SEWA children enrolled in higher classes, i.e. classes 6-12, is much more than that of their non-SEWA counterparts, and secondly, fewer SEWA children drop out of school than their non-SEWA counterparts, indicating that the SEWA children are serious about their studies and many of them decide to go in for higher studies without succumbing to the temptation of dropping out of school.

Table 19 : If the Child Does not Study, What is He/She Doing at Present ?

Sr. No.	Work	Monthly Income(Rs.)	A' bad SEWA	%	Non SEWA	%	Kheda SEWA	%	Non SEWA	%
1	Doing work	100 to 500	1	2	5	8	3	8	7	18
		501 to 1000	2	3	1	2			4	10
		1001 to 1500	0	0	2	3			1	3
2	Studied & working	100 to 500			0	0	0	0	2	5
		501 to 1000	1	2						
		1001 to 1500								
3	Help Mother/ Father's work	---	0	0	3	5	1	2	0	0
4	Studying	---	50	83	40	67	32	80	21	52
5	Looking after Small Siblings	---	1	2	5	8	2	5	2	5
6	Nothing Doing	---	5	8	4	7	2	5	3	7
	Total		60	100	60	100	40	100	40	100

Most of the SEWA children who were no longer studying were working, of which 2% in Ahmedabad and 8% in Kheda were earning Rs. 100-500 per month, while 3% were earning Rs. 501-1000 per month. The corresponding figures for non-SEWA respondents who were no longer studying and earning in the range of Rs.100-1500 per month were 13% in Ahmedabad and 31% in Kheda, respectively.

Meanwhile, 5% of the non-SEWA children in Ahmedabad, and 2% of the SEWA children in Kheda, helped in their parents' work, while 2% each of the SEWA children in Ahmedabad and Kheda, respectively, and 8% and 5% of the non-SEWA respondents in the two cities, respectively, looked after their younger siblings.

Of the total respondents, 83% and 80% of the SEWA children in Ahmedabad and Kheda, respectively, had studied as opposed to corresponding figures of 67% and 52% for the non-SEWA children in the two cities. Thus, the number of SEWA children completing their studies before taking up some kind of employment was significantly higher in both the cities than that of the non-SEWA children.

### ***1.2 Building a Desire To Study Amongst Children***

Table 20 : What does your child want to do in his life? (Multiple Answers)

Sr. No.	Different Responses	A' bad SEWA	%	Non SEWA	%	Kheda SEWA	%	Non SEWA	%
1	Wants to study further	29	33	1	2	19	48	3	8
2	Wants to work	7	12	6	10	4	10	11	28
3	Wants to start own trade / work	8	13	2	3	4	10	1	3
4	Wants to grow in its current work	1	2	0	0	0	0	15	38
5	Not decided anything of such type	7	12	24	40	10	25	0	0

6	Wants to work at home only	0	0	0	0	1	3	0	0
7	Doctor/Lawyer/Pilot/ Policeman	1	2	25	42	0	0	2	5
8	Teacher	0	0	1	2	0	0	4	10
9	Tailor	0	0	1	2	0	0	2	5
10	Wants to become Brahma Kumari	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3
11	Want to go abroad	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3

According to a significant section of 33% and 48% of the SEWA respondents in Ahmedabad and Kheda, respectively, their children wanted to study further, while 12% and 10% of the SEWA respondents said that their children wanted to work. The other options included wanting to start own trade/work (cited by 13% and 10% of the respondents in the two cities, respectively), wanting to grow in the current work (cited by 2% in Ahmedabad), working as doctors, lawyers, pilots or policemen (cited by 2% of the SEWA respondents in Ahmedabad), and wanting to work only at home (cited by 3% of the respondents in Kheda).

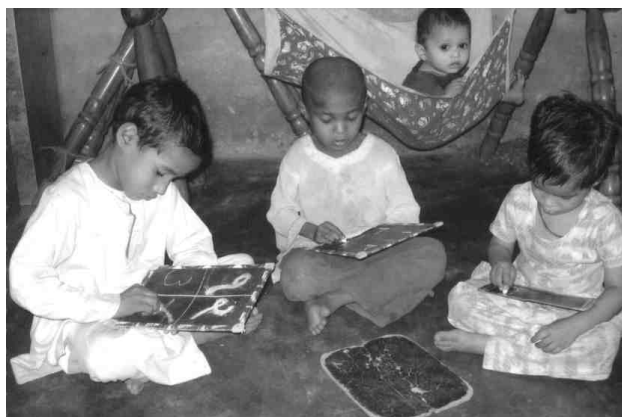
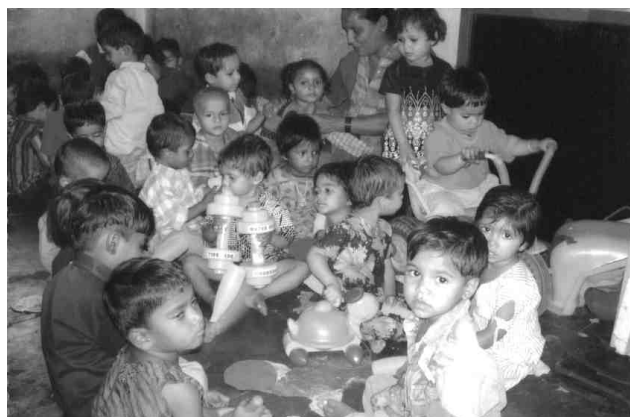
Among the non-SEWA respondents, only 2% in Ahmedabad and 8% in Kheda wanted to study further, while 10% and 28% in Ahmedabad and Kheda, respectively, wanted to work. While 3% each in Ahmedabad and Kheda wanted to start their own trade/work, 38% of the non-SEWA respondents wanted to grow in their current work. A significant majority of the non-SEWA respondents also wanted to become doctors/lawyers/pilots/policemen (cited by 42% and 5% of the respondents in Ahmedabad and Kheda, respectively), and a small section wanted to become teachers (cited by 2% and 10% of the respondents in Ahmedabad and Kheda, respectively), tailors (cited by 2% and 5% of the respondents in the two cities, respectively), and Brahma Kumaris (cited by 3% of the respondents in Kheda). While 3% of the non-SEWA respondents in Kheda expressed a desire to go abroad, 12% and 25% of the SEWA respondents in Ahmedabad and Kheda, respectively, and 40% of the non-SEWA respondents in Ahmedabad claimed that they had not decided about their future.

The above responses suggest that while the number of SEWA children wanting to study further is higher than that of their non-SEWA counterparts, more of the non-SEWA children than the SEWA children want to work without studying further.

### ***1.3 Pre-school Activities nurture and stimulate young minds.***

Table 21 : What Activities Did the Child Pursue at the Center? (Multiple Answers)

Sr.No	Responses	A' bad	%	Kheda	%
1	Alphabets	53	88	37	85
2	Counting	46	77	36	90
3	Names of the months(English and Gujarati)	19	32	18	45
4	Days of the Week(English and Gujarati)	19	32	21	53
5	Songs	45	75	34	85
6	Games	41	68	32	80
7	Celebration of festivals	18	30	35	88
8	Dance	2	3	14	38
9	Prayer	15	25	26	65
10	Stories	8	13	0	0
11	Exercise	0	0	2	5
12	Don't Know	1	2	0	0



The respondents' answers show that their children were exposed to various activities during their stay at the childcare centre, thereby enhancing their learning experiences. Among the main activities that the mothers noticed were learning of alphabets (mentioned by 88% and 85% of the mothers in Ahmedabad and Kheda, respectively), counting (cited by 77% and 90% of the mothers in the two cities, respectively), recitation of songs (cited by 75% and 85% of the mothers, respectively), and playing of games (mentioned by 68% and 80% of the mothers, respectively). Some of the other activities, also cited by a significant section of the mothers, included learning of the names of the months in both English and Gujarati (cited by 32% and 45% of the mothers in Ahmedabad and Kheda, respectively), learning of the days of the week in both English and Gujarati (mentioned by 32% and 53% of the mothers), celebration of various festivals (cited by 30% and 88% of the mothers respectively), recitation of the prayer (mentioned by 25% and 65% of the respondents, respectively), dances (mentioned by 3% and 38% of the mothers, in the two cities, respectively), narration of stories (mentioned by 13% of the mothers in Ahmedabad), and exercises for the children (cited by 5% of the mothers in Kheda).

Only 2% of the mothers in Ahmedabad claimed lack of knowledge about the activities being pursued by their children at the childcare centre.

#### ***1.4 There was an increase in the parents' interest in children's education***

Table : 22 Do you Go to Meet the Teachers?

Sr.no.	Meet Teacher	A' bad				kheda			
		SEWA	%	Non SEWA	%	SEWA	%	Non SEWA	%
1	Yes	47	78	26	43	16	40	9	23
2	No	13	22	34	57	24	60	31	78
	Total	60	100	60	100	40	100	40	100

It was seen that 78% and 40% of the SEWA respondents in Ahmedabad and Kheda, respectively, regularly went to meet the teachers in their children's schools, as against corresponding figures of 43% and 23% among their non-SEWA counterparts in both Ahmedabad and Kheda, respectively. Thus, the corresponding percentages of SEWA respondents who did not visit teachers in their children's schools (22% and 60%, respectively, in Ahmedabad and Kheda), were much less than the figures for the non-SEWA respondents (57% and 78%, respectively, for Ahmedabad and Kheda).

The above data show that the parents of SEWA children are also more serious about their children's studies than parents of non-SEWA children, which is why they visit the teachers in their children's schools more frequently in order to obtain feedback about their children's academic and other progress.

Table 23 : What Do His/her Teachers say about Him/Her ? (Multiple Responses)

Sr.	Teachers' Opinion About the Child	A' bad				Kheda			
		SEWA	%	Non SEWA	%	SEWA	%	Non SEWA	%
1	Is good at studies	40	67	14	23	9	23	6	15
2	Takes part in other activities also	18	30	10	17	5	13	3	8
3	Conduct in school is good	22	37	3	5	7	18	4	10
4	Is regular in school	18	30	6	10	5	13	3	8
5	Other (When Teacher Calls)	6	10	3	5	7	18	0	0

As far as the SEWA children are concerned, 67% and 23% of the respondents in Ahmedabad and Kheda, respectively, received the feedback that their children were good in studies, while 30% and 13% of the respondents were told that their children participated in other activities besides studies. In addition, 37% and 18% of the respondents in Ahmedabad and Kheda, respectively also received the positive feedback that their children displayed good conduct in school and also attended school regularly.

Among the non-SEWA respondents, only 23% and 15% in Ahmedabad and Kheda, respectively, got the feedback that their children were good in studies, while 17% and 8%, respectively were told that their children took part in extra-curricular activities. Similarly, only 5% and 10% of the non-SEWA respondents, respectively, in Ahmedabad and Kheda, were told that their children's conduct in school was good, and 10% and 8%, respectively, in the two cities were informed that their children attended school regularly.

It can thus be inferred, on the basis of the available information, that the SEWA children are generally, more diligent in studies, better behave in school, more keen to participate even in non-academic activities, and attend school more regularly than their non-SEWA counterparts.

## ***II. Inculcating Hygienic Behaviour***

A significant majority of the mothers, including 72% in Ahmedabad and 95% in Kheda revealed that at the centre, the child had learnt to take a bath daily. About 88% of the mothers in Kheda and 58% in Ahmedabad were also pleased that the children had started washing their hands with soap before eating their meals. Among these, 83% of the mothers in Ahmedabad and 75% in Kheda claimed that the child followed a proper routine of going to bed and getting up on time after staying at the CCC. The other hygiene-related observations were that the child had started combing his hair properly (cited by 62% and 83% of the mothers in Ahmedabad and Kheda, respectively), and wearing clean clothes and cutting nails regularly (cited by 62% and 85% of the mothers in Ahmedabad and Kheda, respectively).



## II.1 Improved personal hygiene

Table 24 : Changes Noticed by Respondents in the Child after Sending the Child to SCCC (Multiple Answers)

Sr.No	Changes in child	A' bad	%	Kheda	%
1	Learnt to take bath daily	43	72	38	95
2.	Started washing hands with soap before meals	35	58	35	88
3.	Combs hair properly	37	62	33	83
4.	Wares clean clothes, cuts nails regularly	37	62	34	85
5	Timely goes to bed and gets up on time	50	83	30	75
6	Eats everything which is cooked in the house	34	57	33	83
7	General behaviour has improved	30	50	29	72
8	Takes interest in studies	49	82	26	65
9	Behavior towards other family members is good	26	43	33	83
10	Confidence level has increased	34	57	25	62
11	Doesn't get complaints from school	20	33	23	58
12	Incidences of illness decreased	5	8	13	33
13	Was not afraid of going to school	26	43	38	95
14	Other	0	0	15	38

The behavior-related observations were that there was a general improvement in the behaviour of the child (mentioned by 50% and 72% of the mothers in Ahmedabad and Kheda, respectively), and that the behaviour of the child towards the other family members had also undergone a change for the better (cited by 83% of the respondents in Kheda and 43% in Ahmedabad). As regards nutrition and food habits, it was observed that the child was now willing to eat everything that was cooked in the house (as claimed by 57% of the mothers in Ahmedabad and 83% in Kheda) and that the incidents of the child's illness had also gone down significantly since his stay in the CCC. Regarding education-related changes, it was seen that the child had started taking interest in studies (according to 82% of the respondents in Ahmedabad and 65% in Kheda), his confidence level had improved (cited by 57% and 62% of the respondents in Ahmedabad and Kheda, respectively), that there were no longer complaints against him from school (according to 33% and 58% of the respondents in Ahmedabad and Kheda, respectively), and lastly that the child was not afraid of going to school any more (as observed by 43% and 95% of the respondents in Ahmedabad and Kheda, respectively). Thus the mothers noticed many positive in their children after sending them to the CCC.

Among the SEWA respondents, 93% and 98% respectively, in Ahmedabad and Kheda said that their children bathed everyday, while 87% and 98%, respectively, in the two cities said that the children brushed their teeth each morning. As regards the other habits of cleanliness, the children were seen to comb their hair properly (cited by 82% and 95% of the respondents in Ahmedabad and Kheda, respectively), washed hands with soap after going to the toilet or after coming from outside (mentioned by 78% and 80% of the SEWA respondents in the two cities), wore clean clothes (cited by 84% and 98% of the respondents in the two cities), and kept their things properly (mentioned by



## II.2 inculcating good habits

Table 25 : What are the child's cleanliness habits? (Multiple Answers)

Sr. No	Cleanliness habits	A' bad				Kheda			
		SEWA	%	Non SEWA	%	SEWA	%	Non SEWA	%
1	Brushes teeth properly every morning	52	87	55	92	39	98	37	95
2	Takes bath every day	56	93	54	90	39	98	40	100
3	Washes hands with soap after answering natures call/coming from outside	47	78	49	82	32	80	31	78
4	Combs hair properly	49	82	49	82	38	95	31	78
5	Wears clean cloths	50	84	48	80	39	98	35	88
6	Keeps his /her things properly	48	80	30	50	35	88	34	85
7	Eats properly	31	52	24	40	28	70	24	60
8	Doesn't eat others leftover food	21	35	11	19	29	72	25	62
9	Never thought about it	0	0	2	3	0	0	0	0



80% and 88% of the SEWA respondents in the two survey centres). The percentages, however, dropped sharply in terms of food habits, as only 52% and 70% of the SEWA respondents in the two cities, respectively, said that their children ate their meals properly, while 35% and 72% of the respondents, respectively, claimed that their children did not eat leftovers.

Among the non-SEWA respondents, 92% and 95% in Ahmedabad and Kheda, respectively, said that their children brushed their teeth every morning, while 90% and 100% claimed that the children took bath everyday. Regarding the other habits, 82% and 78% each among the non-SEWA respondents, respectively, said that the children washed their hands with soap after using the toilet or coming from outside, and that they combed their hair properly. While 80% and 88% of the non-SEWA respondents also claimed that their children wore clean clothes, the percentages dipped significantly in case of food habits, as only 40% and 60% of the respondents, respectively, averred

that the children ate meals properly, while 62% and 19% pointed out that the children did not eat any leftovers. Among the non-SEWA respondents, the percentage was also low (50%) in Ahmedabad, for children who kept their things properly after usage. The corresponding percentage for non-SEWA children in Kheda, at 85%, was, however, high in case of children keeping their things properly.

An overwhelming majority of the mothers, including 95% in Ahmedabad and 62% in Kheda, revealed that their children were given snacks at the childcare centres. About 68% of the mothers in Ahmedabad and 58% in Kheda also claimed that the children were given proper meals, and a small percentage of the mothers (3% in Ahmedabad and 2% in Kheda) said that milk and nuts were also fed to the children at the childcare centres. In Kheda, 3% of the mothers did not remember what food was given to their children.

### III. Towards a Nutritious beginning

#### III.1 Quality of food

Table 26 : What food was the Child given at the Child Care Center? (Multiple Answers)

Sr.No.	Responses	A' bad	%	Kheda	%
1	Snacks	57	95	37	62
2	Meal	41	68	35	58
3	Other/Milk/nut	2	3	1	2
4	Don't Remember	0	0	2	3



The findings of Table 26 thus show that according to most mothers, their children were given snacks at regular intervals and proper meals during their stay at the child care centre.

The mothers' responses to the question asked in Table 27, indicated that their children were served a variety of snacks, including beans (cited by 68% and 62% of the mothers in Ahmedabad and Kheda, respectively), *lapasi*, a sweet made of wheat flour (mentioned by 83% and 53% of the mothers in Ahmedabad and Kheda, respectively), *bataka pauna*, a snack made with potato and a variety of rice (cited by 63% and 52% of the mothers in the two cities), *mamara* or puffed rice (cited

### III.2 Quality of food

Table 27 : What Snacks was the Child Given? (Multiple Answers)

Sr.No.	Responses	A' bad	%	Kheda	%
1	Beans	41	68	37	62
2	Lapsi (a sweet made of wheat flour)	50	83	32	53
3	Bataka Pauna(a snack made with potato and variety of rice)	38	63	31	52
4	Mamara (puffed Rice)	45	75	36	60
5	Seeng Chana (roasted salted peanuts and roasted Gram)	49	82	39	65
6	Other (Dhokla, Seero,Khichadi, Sev-made of wheat pulses and rice, and served hot, milk ,biscuit )	16	27	16	27

by 75% and 60% of the mothers in the two cities), and *seeng chana* or roasted salted peanuts and roasted gram (cited by 82% and 65% of the mothers in Ahmedabad and Kheda, respectively).

In both Ahmedabad and Kheda, 27% of the respondents also revealed that other snacks like *dhokla*, *seero*, *khichadi*, and *sev* (made of wheat, pulses and rice) as also hot milk and biscuits were served to the children at the childcare centre from time to time.

These findings show that the children at the Balwadi were not only well fed but also that care was taken to ensure the nutritive quality of the food served to them.

Most of the respondents, comprising 52% and 62% of the mothers in Ahmedabad and Kheda, respectively, averred that their children were given snacks twice a day in the childcare centre, while a small segment of the mothers, including 13% in Ahmedabad and 5% in Kheda, felt that snacks

### III.3 Frequency

Table 28 : How Many times were the Snacks Given in a Day?

Sr.No.	How many times	Ahmedabad	%	Kheda	%
1	Once	8	13	2	5
2	Two Times	31	52	25	62
3	Three Times	16	27	13	33
4	Don't Remember	5	8	0	0
	<b>Total</b>	<b>60</b>	100	<b>40</b>	100

were serve to the children only once. A significant majority of the mothers, however, claimed that snacks were served as often as three times. Only 8% of the mothers could not remember the number of times that snacks were served.

The figures obtained in Table 28 prove that according to the perceptions of a majority of the mothers, children in the childcare centres were served snacks at least twice, and perhaps even three times during the day.

As per the mothers' observations, the contents of the day meal that the children were given in the childcare centres, included a combination of *khichadi* or pulse and rice cooked together, (cited by

Table 29 : What was Given in a Day Meal? (Multiple Answers)

Sr.No	Responses	A' bad	%	Kheda	%
1	Shaak Rotali (Vegetable and Rolled bread)	19	32	13	33
2	Beans	19	32	32	80
3	Khichadi (Pulse and rice cooked together)	44	73	36	90
4	Other (Khaman, Dhokala, Rice and pulses, Seero, Lapasi, Milk etc.)	15	25	22	55

73% and 90% of the mothers in Ahmedabad and Kheda, respectively), beans (mentioned by 32% and 80% of the mothers in the two cities), and other foods like *khaman*, *dhokla*, *seero*, *lapasi*, rice, pulses and milk (cited by 25% and 55% of the mothers in the two survey centres, respectively).

The respondents' answers signify that the day meal served to the children at the childcare centres is quite comprehensive and filling, besides consisting of a balanced diet so essential for growing children of pre-primary age.

While 78% of the mothers in Ahmedabad and 90% of their counterparts in Kheda affirmed that the children were given snacks and meals at definite times and frequencies, and that there was a fixed

Table 30 : Was there a Fixed Time table for the Eatables ?

Sr.No	Responses	A' bad	%	Kheda	%
1	Yes	47	78	36	90
2	No	2	3	1	3
3	Don't know	5	9	0	0
4	Don't remember	6	10	3	7
	Total	60	100	40	100

timetable for serving eatables during the week and the day time, only 3% of the mothers each in Ahmedabad and Kheda did not agree with this perception. Among the rest, 8% of the respondents in Ahmedabad said that they could not be sure if a pre-decided timetable was adhered to for serving the meals and 10% of the mothers did not remember noticing it.

It is obvious that most of the mothers believe that their children in the childcare centres were served meals at fixed times on the basis of a pre-decided timetable, indicating the professionalism with which the childcare centres are run to cater to the needs of the children.

### **Quality of the Food given at the Childcare Centre**

Praising the quality of the food served at the childcare centres, an overwhelming majority of the mothers, including 93% and 100% of the mothers in Ahmedabad and Kheda, respectively, pointed out that their children liked the food they were given. While 85% and 93% of the mothers, respectively, in the two survey centres, claimed that the food helped in the physical development of the children, 6% and 75% of the mothers in the two cities, respectively, believed that the quality of the food served also contributed to the mental growth of their children. A significant majority of the mothers, including 72% in Ahmedabad and 85% in Kheda, even said that the food served was easily digestible and therefore appropriate for their small children. In Ahmedabad, only 5% of the mothers claimed ignorance about the quality of the food given at the centres, while 2% said that they could not remember the contents of the meals served.

The above responses thus indicate that according to a majority of the mothers, the food given to their children at the childcare centres was both nutritious and easy to digest, thereby contributing to their physical and mental development.

#### **IV. Ensuring a Healthy Beginning**

SEWA children were, by and large healthier than their non-SEWA counterparts in both Ahmedabad and Kheda. A majority of the respondents claimed that among the SEWA children, 86% and 82% of the children in Ahmedabad and Kheda, respectively, were healthy children. The mothers also reported less expenditure on health, for SEWA children. In Ahmedabad, only 2% each among the SEWA respondents claimed to incur expenditures of Rs. 21-40, Rs. 61-80, and Rs. 81-100 on the children's health, whereas in Kheda, only 8% of the SEWA respondents spent Rs. 81-100 per month on the children's healthcare. In contrast, for the non-SEWA children in Ahmedabad, 7% of the respondents had to spend Rs. 21-40 per month, 2% each had to spend Rs. 41-60, Rs. 61-80 and Rs. 81-100 per month, respectively, and 18% had to spend Rs. 101 or more on the children's healthcare. Similarly, for non-SEWA children in Kheda, while 3% each had to spend Rs. 21-40, and Rs. 41-60 per month, 25% of the respondents had to spend Rs 101 or more on the children's healthcare.

##### **IV.1 Good Health**

Table 31 : How was the Health of the Child in Childhood?

Sr. No.	How was health in childhood	A' bad				Kheda			
		SEWA	%	Non SEWA	%	SEWA	%	Non SEWA	%
1	Good-was a healthy child	52	86	41	69	33	82	27	68
2	Medium	4	7	8	13	4	10	4	10
3	Weak	4	7	11	18	3	8	9	22
	Total	60	100	60	100	40	100	40	100



A majority of the respondents claimed that among the SEWA children, 86% and 82% of the children in Ahmedabad and Kheda, respectively, were healthy children. The corresponding figures for healthy children in the non-SEWA category were 69% and 68%. About 7% and 13% of the SEWA and non-SEWA children, respectively, in Ahmedabad were of medium health, while 7% and 18% of the SEWA and non-SEWA children, respectively in Ahmedabad were reported to be weak.

In Kheda, 82% of the SEWA and 68% of the non-SEWA children were believed to be healthy in their childhood, whereas 10% each of the SEWA and non-SEWA children were of medium health and 8% of the SEWA and 22% of the non-SEWA children were reportedly weak in childhood.

From the above data, it can be inferred that the SEWA children were, by and large healthier than their non-SEWA counterparts in both Ahmedabad and Kheda.

#### **IV.2 Frequency of illness**

Table 32 : Why Do you think His/Her Health was Weak? (Multiple Answers)

Sr. No	Reasons/symptoms of weakness	A' bad				Kheda			
		SEWA	%	Non SEWA	%	SEWA	%	Non SEWA	%
1	Frequently fell ill	3	5	16	27	3	5	11	18
2.	Always used to get irritated	2	3	8	13	1	2	2	3
3	Would not eat properly	2	3	9	15	1	2	3	5
4	Had weakness	3	5	7	12	1	2	2	3
5	Was not interested in studies	1	2	3	5	0	0	1	2
6	Was under weight	3	5	5	8	1	2	1	2

The main reasons attributed to the weak health of a child were frequent illness, irritability, lack of a proper diet, a weak physical constitution, lack of interest in studies, and low body weight.

Among SEWA children in Ahmedabad, it was observed that 5% each of the children either fell ill frequently, were physically weak, or were under-weight. Of the rest, 3% each were irritable, or did not eat proper meals, while 2% were not interested in studies. Among the non-SEWA children in Ahmedabad, a larger percentage of children suffered frequent bouts of illness (27%), or irritability (13%), did not eat properly (15%), had weak constitutions (12%), lacked interest in studies (5%), or were under-weight (8%).

As regards the SEWA children in Kheda, only 5% were seen to fall ill frequently, whereas 2% each of the children were irritable, ate inadequate or improper food, were physically weak, or were under-weight. In contrast, among their non-SEWA counterparts, 18% were seen to fall ill frequently, 5% did not eat properly, 3% each were irritable, and physically weak, and 2% each lacked interest in studies, or were under-weight.

The above data thus clearly show that SEWA children in both Ahmedabad and Kheda were less prone to eating or physical disorders and were thus, by and large, much healthier than their non-SEWA counterparts.



### IV.3 Expenditure on illness

Table 33 : Did you have to Spend a lot on His/Her illness during His/Her Childhood?

Sr. No.	Spend Money for illness	A' bad				kheda			
		SEWA	%	Non SEWA	%	SEWA	%	Non SEWA	%
1	Yes	3	5	18	30	3	8	12	30
2	No	57	95	42	70	37	92	28	70
	Total	60	100	60	100	40	100	40	100

As regards SEWA children in Ahmedabad, only 5% of the respondents said that they had to spend a lot of money on the illnesses of their children during childhood, whereas 95% of the respondents claimed that their children were reasonably healthy and did not need much medical attention during childhood. In Kheda too, similar trends were observed as in case of the SEWA children, only 8% had to spend a lot on the children's illnesses whereas the rest 92% did not have to spend much on medical care.

In contrast, for the non-SEWA children in both Ahmedabad and Kheda, 30% of the respondents claimed to have spent a lot on medical care for their children during childhood, while 70% said that their children did not need expensive medical care during childhood.

The above figures show that SEWA children were healthier than their non-SEWA counterparts in childhood and rarely required expensive medical care.

Table 34 : What was your Monthly Expenditure on the Child's Health?

Sr. No	Monthly Expenditure on health	A' bad				Kheda			
		SEWA	%	Non SEWA	%	SEWA	%	Non SEWA	%
1	0-20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2.	21-40	1	2	4	7	0	0	1	3
3	41-60	0	0	1	2	0	0	1	3
4	61-80	1	2	1	2	0	0	0	0
5	81-100	1	2	1	2	3	8	0	0
6	101 and above	0	0	11	18	0	0	10	25
	Total	3		18		3		12	

In Ahmedabad, only 2% each among the SEWA respondents claimed to incur expenditures of Rs. 21-40, Rs. 61-80, and Rs. 81-100 on the children's health, whereas in Kheda, only 8% of the SEWA respondents spent Rs 81-100 per month on the children's healthcare.

In contrast, for the non-SEWA children in Ahmedabad, 7% of the respondents had to spend Rs. 21-40 per month, 2% each had to spend Rs. 41-60, Rs. 61-80 and Rs. 81-100 per month, respectively, and 18% had to spend Rs. 101 or more on the children's healthcare. Similarly, for non-SEWA children in Kheda, while 3% each had to spend Rs. 21-40, and Rs. 41-60 per month, 25% of the respondents had to spend Rs. 101 or more on the children's healthcare.



## V. Building Social Skills

The children's social skills were assessed on various parameters. It was found that SEWA children showed better behaviour than their non-SEWA counterparts on most parameters. The children were seen to wind up their work on time (cited by 87% and 98% of the respondents in the two cities), helped in household work (cited by 93% and 95% of the respondents, respectively), looked after younger kids (cited by 67% and 55% of the respondents), behaved well with other family members (cited by 70% and 90%), and did not receive any complaints from neighbours or school (cited by 73% and 80% of the SEWA respondents in the two cities). As regards the negative qualities, only 5% and 13% of the SEWA respondents in the two cities complained that the children were lazy, while 12% and 13% respectively, complained that they did not listen to their parents.

### V.1 Better behaved children

Table 35 : How is the child's behaviour in day-to-day life? (Multiple Answers)

Sr. No.	Type of Various Responses	A' bad				Kheda			
		SEWA	%	Non SEWA	%	SEWA	%	Non SEWA	%
1	Winds up work on time	52	87	50	83	39	98	35	88
2	Helps in household work	56	93	53	88	38	95	38	95
3	Looks after younger kids	40	67	34	57	22	55	21	53
4	Behaves well with other family members	42	70	38	63	36	90	28	70
5	Never receives complaints from neighbors or school	44	73	22	37	32	80	22	55
6	Is lazy	3	5	0	0	5	13	0	0
7	Not help in H.H	7	12	4	7	5	13	3	8
8	Does not help in household work	3	5	40	67	7	18	7	18
9	Never thought about it	0	0	2	3	0	0	1	3



As regards the non-SEWA children, 50% and 88% of the respondents said that the children would up their work on time, 88% and 95% claimed that the children helped in housework, 57% and 53% averred that the children looked after their younger siblings, 63% and 70% claimed that the children behaved well with other family members, while 37% and 55% said that they never received complaints from the neighbours or the school. As regards the negative habits, 7% and 8% of the non-SEWA respondents in Ahmedabad and Kheda, respectively, said that the children did not help in household work, and 67% and 18% of the respondents complained that the children did not listen to their parents.

## VI. PART 2 : IMPACT ON THE MOTHER AND THE FAMILY

### Section 1: Benefits to the mother, and the family (by sending the child to CCC)

A majority of the mothers including 95% in Ahmedabad and 65% in Kheda pointed out that their lives had improved significantly and that they could do their work peacefully as their children were being well looked after at the CCC. Increase in income: 53% of the mothers in Ahmedabad and 43% in Kheda claimed that they could increase their incomes by putting in more productive work, 63% and 42% of the respondents in Ahmedabad and Kheda, respectively, were also relieved that their expenses on food items like chocolates and biscuits had gone down significantly since the admission of their children to the CCC. The other changes noticed by the mothers were that the family savings had gone up due to reduction in expenses on illness (according to 50% and 30% of the respondents in Ahmedabad and Kheda, respectively), and that the child's education base had been strengthened, thereby reducing worry about his future (cited by 65% and 35% of the respondents in Ahmedabad and Kheda, respectively).

#### 1. Better Quality of Life

Table 36 : Changes Noticed by respondents in their lives after admitting their children to the CCC (Multiple Answers)

Sr.No.	Changes Noticed in her life	A' bad	%	Kheda	%
1	Do work peacefully because of the good care received in child care centre	57	95	39	65
2.	Increase in income	32	53	26	43
3.	Reduction in petty expenses (biscuits, chocolates)	38	63	25	42
4.	We also learnt cleanliness, health, nutrition	31	52	28	47
5	Reduce in Incidences of illness	15	25	23	38
6	Family income increased due to less expenses on illness	30	50	18	30
7	Basis of education is strong so, less worries for child	39	65	21	35

A majority of the mothers including 95% in Ahmedabad and 65% in Kheda pointed out that their lives had improved significantly and they could do their work peacefully as their children were being well looked after at the CCC. While 53% of the mothers in Ahmedabad and 43% in Kheda claimed that they could increase their incomes by putting in more productive work, 63% and 42% of the respondents in Ahmedabad and Kheda, respectively, were also relieved that their expenses on food items like chocolates and biscuits had gone down significantly since the admission of their children to the CCC.

The other changes noticed by the mothers were that the children had imbibed habits of cleanliness, health and nutrition (cited by 52% and 47% of the mothers in Ahmedabad and Kheda, respectively), incidences of illness among the children had gone down (as observed by 25% and 38% of the mothers in Ahmedabad and Kheda, respectively), family savings had gone up due to reduction in expenses on illness (according to 50% and 30% of the respondents in Ahmedabad and Kheda, respectively), and that the child's education base had been strengthened, thereby reducing worry about his future (cited by 65% and 35% of the respondents in Ahmedabad and Kheda, respectively).

## 2. Increase In Family Income

Table 37 : By how much has the family income increased after the child was placed in the CCC?

Sr.No	Family income increased	A' bad	%	Kheda	%
1	50-100	4	7	4	10
2	101-200	5	8	6	15
3	201-300	21	35	6	15
	Total	30	50	16	40

While 35% of the respondents in Ahmedabad and 15% in Kheda claimed that their family incomes had gone up by Rs. 201-300 per month, 15% of the respondents in Kheda and 8% in Ahmedabad felt that the incomes had gone up by Rs. 101-200 per month, and 7% in Ahmedabad and 10% in Kheda revealed that their monthly incomes had increased by Rs. 50-100.

Table 38 : Increase in mother's employment and income after the child was sent to the SEWA CCC

Sr.No	Mother's income increased	A' bad SEWA	%	Kheda SEWA	%
A	Days of employment increased	29	48	20	50
B	How many days increased	29		20	
	1 to 4	9	15	5	13
	5 to 10	7	12	1	18
	More than 10	13	22	14	35
C	Increased mother's income	33	55	16	40

A majority of the women, including 40% in Kheda and 55% in Ahmedabad, revealed that their individual incomes had increased significantly after the children were sent to the centre because of an increase in the number of days of employment. About 48% of the mothers in Ahmedabad and 50% in Kheda felt that the number of days of their employment had gone up by 1-4 (cited by 15% and 13% of the respondents in the two centres), by 5-10 (cited by 12% and 18% of the respondents, respectively), and by more than 10 (cited by 22% and 35% of the respondents in Ahmedabad and Kheda, respectively).

Table 39 : Increase in father's employment and income after the child was sent to the CCC

Sr.No	Father's income increased	A' bad SEWA	%	Kheda SEWA	%
A	Days of employment increased	13	22	12	30
B	How many days increased	8	13	11	29
	1 to 4	3	5	5	13
	5 to 10	0	0	1	3
	More than 10	5	8	5	13
C	Increased father's income	7	12	10	17
	50 to 100	2	3	5	13
	101 to200	3	5	5	13
	201 to300	2	3	0	0

About 30% of the respondents in Kheda and 22% in Ahmedabad pointed out that their number of days of employment had increased after their children were sent to the CCC. As regards the increase in the number of days of employment, 5% in Ahmedabad and 13% in Kheda felt that the number of days of employment had gone up by 1-4, while 13% in Kheda and 8% in Ahmedabad claimed that the number of days had increased by more than 10.

As regards an increase in the fathers' incomes, 17% of the respondents in Kheda and 12% in Ahmedabad revealed that their incomes had gone up by Rs. 50-100, and by Rs 101-200, as observed by 13% of the respondents in Kheda in each case, and by 3% and 5% of the respondents in Ahmedabad, respectively. About 2% of the respondents in Ahmedabad also felt that their incomes had gone up by Rs. 201-300 per month.

### 3. Building awareness about child care issues

Table 40 : Did you know about Mothers' Meetings at the Center?

Sr.No	Responses	A' bad	%	Kheda	%
1	Yes	49	82	39	98
2	No	11	18	1	2
	Total	60	100	40	100

Most of the mothers revealed that they knew about the mothers' meetings held at the childcare centre, suggesting that the mothers were not only regularly invited to attend meetings and interact with their peers and staff members of the centre but that most of the mothers also made it a point to attend these meetings, thus showing their involvement in the activities of the childcare centre, which, in turn, proved beneficial for their children. While 82% of the mothers in Ahmedabad, and a whopping 98% of the mothers in Kheda expressed their awareness about the mothers' meetings, only 18% and 2% of the mothers in Ahmedabad and Kheda, respectively, were unaware of the regular mothers' meetings held at the childcare centres.

Table 41 : Did you regularly attend Mothers' Meeting at the Center?

Sr.No	If Attended Meeting	A' bad	%	Kheda	%
1	Yes	40	67	39	98
2	No	20	33	1	2
	Total	60	100	40	100

The responses to the question asked in Table 41 revealed that 67% and 98% of the mothers in Ahmedabad and Kheda, respectively, regularly attended the meetings held for them at the childcare centre, while only 33% and 2% of the mothers in the two cities, respectively, did not attend the meetings.

The above findings show that most mothers visited the childcare centre regularly and were aware of the goings-on and activities at the centre.

#### 4. Linking With SEWA

*Connecting with SEWA:* Most of the mothers were associated with several activities propagated by SEWA activists at the childcare centre. These included promotion of the savings habit (cited by 37% and 48% of the mothers in Ahmedabad and Kheda, respectively), insurance (mentioned by 32% and 55% of the respondents in Ahmedabad and Kheda, respectively), healthcare (cited by 13% and 28% of the respondents, respectively), joining a union (mentioned by 18% and 33% of the mothers, respectively), and receiving training in various aspects of childcare and social welfare (cited by 12% and 30% of the mothers in Ahmedabad and Kheda, respectively).

Table 42 : How did you Benefit From Mothers Meetings at the Center? (Multiple Answers)

Sr.No	Responses	A' bad	%	Kheda	%
1	Accessed information about family welfare savings, insurance, health, etc.	36	60	37	93
2	Started saving regularly	14	23	20	50
3	Subscribed insurance	20	33	0	0
4	Received training from SEWA	4	7	9	23
5	Became aware about her own rights	8	13	17	43
6	Became aware about childcare & development	30	50	29	72
7	No benefit	0	0	1	2
8	Don't remember	0	0	1	2
9	Accessed information about family welfare savings, insurance, health, etc.	36	60	37	93

The mothers listed various benefits accruing to them from the meetings they attended at the childcare centre. These included the facility to gain access to information about key areas of family welfare such as savings, insurance, and health benefits (cited by 60% and 93% of the mothers in Ahmedabad and Kheda, respectively). At least 50% of the women respondents in Kheda and 23% of them in Ahmedabad claimed to have started saving regularly, while 33% of the women in Ahmedabad started subscribing to insurance after attending the meetings at the childcare centre. A significant majority of the mothers, including 72% in Kheda and 50% in Ahmedabad also revealed that attending the meetings had generated awareness about various components of social welfare like savings, insurance and healthcare. Another notable section of the women (comprising 13% and 43% of the women in Ahmedabad and Kheda, respectively), averred that they also learnt about their own rights after attending the meetings, while 7% and 23% of the respondents in the two cities, respectively, even went on to receive training from SEWA in these areas.

Only a paltry 2% of the women surveyed in Kheda claimed that the meetings were of no benefit while 2% of the respondents in Kheda could not remember what transpired at the meetings.

The responses of the mothers clearly indicate that the a stay at the childcare centre is beneficial not only to the children as it exposes them to various learning activities and opportunities for growth, but also to their mothers in terms of increasing the latter's awareness about their rights, social welfare activities and better child-rearing practices.

Table 43 : Are you associated with any of SEWA's Activities? (Multiple Answers)

Sr.No	Responses	A' bad	%	Kheda	%
1	Savings	22	37	19	48
2	Insurance	19	32	22	55
3	Health	8	13	11	28
4	Union	11	18	13	33
5	Training	4	7	12	30
6	Legal aid	1	2	0	0
7	Housing	0	0	1	3
8	Social Security	1	2	1	3
9	Other (Crèche / Jivanshala / Child Care Center)	0	0	4	10

The responses of the mothers to the question posed in Table 43 highlighted the fact that most of them were associated with several activities propagated by SEWA activists at the childcare centre. These included promotion of the savings habit (cited by 37% and 48% of the mothers in Ahmedabad and Kheda, respectively), insurance (mentioned by 32% and 55% of the respondents in Ahmedabad and Kheda, respectively), healthcare (cited by 13% and 28% of the respondents, respectively), joining a union (mentioned by 18% and 33% of the mothers, respectively), and receiving training in various aspects of childcare and social welfare (cited by 12% and 30% of the mothers in Ahmedabad and Kheda, respectively).

The other minor activities listed by the respondents included legal aid (mentioned by 2% of the mothers in Ahmedabad), housing (cited by 3% of the mothers in Kheda), social security (mentioned by 2% and 3% of the mothers in the two cities, respectively), and varied pursuits like managing children at a crèche or *balwadi*, or attending lessons at *Jivanshala* (adult learning centre), cited by about 10% of the women in Kheda.

A large majority of the respondents, including 75% in Ahmedabad and 60% in Kheda, categorically

Table 44 : Did you ever recommend to others to send their children to the Center?

Sr.No	Recommend Centers to others?	A' bad	%	Kheda	%
1	Yes	45	75	24	60
2	No	11	18	14	35
3	No Response	4	7	2	5

said that they would strongly recommend the childcare centre to other mothers to motivate the latter to send their children to the centre. Only 18% of the respondents in Ahmedabad and 35% in Kheda claimed that they would not recommend sending children to the childcare centre, while 7% and 5% of the mothers in Ahmedabad and Kheda, respectively, gave no response.

The findings in Table 44 suggest the high level of satisfaction enjoyed by mothers who send their children to the childcare centre, reflected in their strong word-of-mouth recommendation to other mothers to also send their children to the centre.

## Part - 2 Section 2: IMPACT OF THE LACK OF CHILD CARE CENTRE

In the questionnaire administered to the mothers, a few questions were addressed only to the non SEWA members to understand how they coped with child care needs when their children were young and their responses are listed below.

Most mothers worked or wanted to work even when their children were young and the children who did not go to the Child Care Centers were left at home or with relatives. The responses of the non-SEWA mothers indicate that they obviously found it difficult to leave their children when going to work and often had to depend on family members to take care of them in their absence, as the option of leaving their children in a SEWA Child Care Centers where the children are well looked after and properly fed, is not available to them. A majority of the mothers left their children with their in-laws when they went to work (option cited by 20% each among the respondents in both Ahmedabad and Kheda). The others left the children with their parents (cited by 3% of the mothers in Ahmedabad), neighbours/relatives (cited by 7% and 8% of the mothers in Ahmedabad and Kheda, respectively), and husbands (cited by 3% of the mothers in Kheda). About 12% of the mothers in Ahmedabad and 13% in Kheda said that they took their children with them to work; while 3% each in Ahmedabad and Kheda claimed that they depended on God, which ostensibly means that they left the children alone at home and trusted God to protect them. Many also reported a loss of income and work when children were young. About 35% each of the non-SEWA mothers in Ahmedabad and Kheda said that they suffered a loss in terms of reduction in the number of days of employment because of having to look after their children.

Table 45 : When your child was small, were you working?

Sr.No.	Responses	A' bad Non SEWA	%	Kheda Non SEWA	%
1	Yes	27	45	18	45
2	No	33	55	22	55
	Total	60	100	40	100

Table 46 :Where did you leave your children when you were working?

Sr.No.	Responses	A' bad Non SEWA	%	Kheda Non SEWA	%
1	Mother/Father-in-Laws	12	20	8	20
2	Mother/Father	2	3	0	0
3	Neighbors/Relatives	4	7	3	8
4	Husband	0	0	1	3
5	Trust on God	2	3	1	3
6	Others (Take with them)	7	12	5	13
	Total	27		18	

In Ahmedabad, 45% each among the non-SEWA mothers both in Ahmedabad and Kheda, said that they were working while 55% of the respondents in each city said that they were not working.

The responses of the non-SEWA mothers indicate that they obviously find it difficult to leave their



children when going to work and often have to depend on family members to take care of them in their absence, as the option of leaving their children in a SEWA *balwadi*, where the children are well looked after and properly fed, is not available to them.

About 35% each of the non-SEWA mothers in Ahmedabad and Kheda said that they suffered a loss in terms of reduction in the number of days of employment because of having to look after their

Table 47 : Did Mothers' lose Employment & Income when your child was small?

Sr. No.	Employment & Income	A' bad Non SEWA	%	Kheda Non SEWA	%
A	Days of employment decreased	21	35	14	35
B	How many days decreased (per month)				
	1 to 6	12	20	6	15
	7 to 10	3	5	5	13
	More than 10	6	10	3	8
C	Decreased mother's income (per month)				
	1 to 20	8	13	9	23
	21 to 50	11	18	5	13
	More than Rs. 51	2	3	0	0

children. While 20% of the mothers in Ahmedabad and 15% in Kheda said that they lost 1-6 days of employment per month due to their maternal responsibilities, 5% and 13% in the two cities, respectively, claimed to have lost 7-10 days of employment, and 10% and 8% lost more than 10 days of employment per month, because of having to look after their small children.

In contrast, the SEWA mothers managed to increase their livelihood opportunities and enhance their productivity and efficiency because they were able to leave their infants and small children in a safe environment in the childcare centres, wherein their nutritional and pre-primary educational needs were also met.

Table 48 : Did Fathers' Lose Employment & Income when your child was small?

Sr. No.	Employment & Income	A' bad Non SEWA	%	Kheda Non SEWA	%
A	Days of employment decreased	5	8	5	13
B	How many days decreased (per month)				
	1 to 6	3	5	3	8
	7 to 10	1	2	2	5
	More than 10	1	2	0	0
C	Decreased father's income (per month)				
	20 to 50	1	2	1	3
	51 to 100	2	3	2	5
	More than Rs. 101	2	3	2	5

About 8% of the respondents in Ahmedabad and 13% in Kheda revealed that their husbands had suffered a reduction in the days of employment when their children were small. Among the respondents, 5% and 8% in Ahmedabad and Kheda, respectively, said that they had lost 1-6 days of employment, while 2% and 5% in Ahmedabad and Kheda, respectively, claimed to have lost 7-10 days of employment, and 2% of the respondents in Ahmedabad said that they lost more than 10 days of employment.

As regards a decrease in income, 2% and 3% of the respondents in Ahmedabad and Kheda, respectively, said that their monthly income had gone down by Rs. 20-50, 3% and 5% said that their income dropped by Rs. 51-100 per month, while 3% and 5% of the respondents in Ahmedabad and Kheda, respectively, suffered a loss of income worth more than Rs. 101 per month due to their parental responsibilities when their children were small.

In contrast, both the fathers and mothers of the SEWA children were able to sustain their employment and incomes because of being able to leave their children at the SEWA childcare centres, where both their nutrition and daily needs were well taken care of.

## Case Study : 1

### Determination of Chetna

Chetna attended SEWA's Rameshwar Child Care Center. Chetna's father Ranjitsingh, a petty businessman, was always against educating daughters. Chetna's elder sister could not complete her school; both the sisters were not allowed to make friends in neighboring houses. The decisions in her family are taken in consent with her uncle, her father's younger brother. He dominates the family matters just because he has got two sons and Chetna's father has got two daughters. Her mother Ramilaben also cannot open her mouth before her husband.

Amidst such domestic and financial constraint Chetna was pursuing her studies in 7th class in the Municipal school of Meghaninagar area of Ahmedabad- an area where people were petrified with stories of a sex maniac who would abduct young kid girls, rape and kill them. Mothers would fear sending their girl children to school. Those not interested in studies would find an excuse for absenting from schools. But Chetna was among many of those girls who did not think of dropping out because of the fear of the so - called sex maniac.

Once she was coming back from the school when a lorry stopped just a few meters ahead of her and one man got down from it. Even before Chetna could sense any risk, he lifted her and tried to put her in the lorry while another man kept sitting on the driver's seat. She bit the hand of the abductors, and as his grip loosened she got herself free from his clutches and ran away. He and the one sitting on the driver's seat ran after her but a few people saw it and they ran after the two men. Seeing this, the two men fled in their lorry.

A horrified Chetna came to her house and broke down before her mother. This was an incident enough for her father to put a ban on her going to school. But Chetna always wanted to complete her schooling for two months she could not go to school, but then she convinced her mother to send her to school despite all the fear. She explained the necessity and benefits of studies for women to her mother. Her mother gathered her courage to speak for her before her husband and offered to accompany her to and fro. Her father relented and Chetna and her mother together were able to put back her disrupted studies on track.

Seeing her domestic environment, Chetna is not very optimistic about her working once she grows up, but she has a dream of becoming a teacher and she contemplates upon how to realize it!

## Case Study : 2

### Development of Kamlesh

Kamlesh is a fourteen year old boy and a student of 10<sup>th</sup> class in a private school in Rameshwar area. His parents are vegetable vendors and he has got two siblings-a younger sister who has stopped going to school on pretext of a fear of a so - called sex maniac in the area and a younger brother who is too young to be on his own. Kamlesh is also a product of SEWA's Rameshwar Child Care Center. He virtually grew up in SEWA's Rameshwar Center .He went to the Center when he was not even two years old and received his pre school education at the Center. What he learnt at the center formed a basis for a good academic performance. He would always be among the top three students in his class.

On passing out from SEWA's Center he went to the nearby municipal school like any other boy of the dwelling, which is called Vagheshwari Ni Chali. But seeing his performance at school encouraged his parents to get him admitted to the best possible private school in the area where he kept up his good performance and was made the monitor of the class. His teachers and peers respect him for his abilities and good qualities. He is a leader amongst his peers, a responsible son, whose mother takes pride in him. Unlike other boys of his age he has no gender biases and he does everything which is otherwise considered a girl's job. He looks after his younger siblings, cooks, washes utensils, and cleans house.

He is critical of his sister and other girls of the area for not going to school on pretext of the so - called sex maniac; he says if the girls show courage, there would be no fear from anybody. He and his parents attribute his development to SEWA's Center .His mother says teachers at the Center helped her develop the attitude helpful for the progress of her children. She says as a child Kamlesh never fussed over food or anything, always observed cleanliness and made her practise cleanliness in daily course of life. She says he keeps his notebooks tidy and as a mother she never had to ask him to study, or do his homework. He has been a thoroughly responsible child every where- at school or home.

During summers he goes to work in a steel factory with the boys of the neighbouring houses. He is not keen on going to collage, instead he wants to join some technical institute to acquire skills and become economically independent. Despite all his abilities he is not sorry for not being able to go for higher studies, he says he wants to do the best possible in his circumstances and likes to explore the possibilities of growth in future.



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