

Self-Employed Women's Association (SEWA)

INFORMAL WOMEN WORKERS HEALTH AND SAFETY



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Self-Employed Women's Association (SEWA)



SEWA is a national trade union of 1.8 million women workers in the informal economy in Gujarat and 17 other states in India

SEWA-during and post lockdown

1. Food kits: essential items, food grains (PDS linkages)
2. Health kits: masks, sanitizers, soap
3. Health information, education: simple do's and don'ts, early detection, referral
4. Mental health and psychosocial care and follow up (linked with government helpline numbers)
5. Social Protection: insurance for front-line workers
6. Livelihood---protection, promotion, restoration.
7. Digital capacity-building
8. Facilitation between women and government---SEWA Shakti Kendras
9. Policy inputs (livelihood restoration fund, covering fixed costs of small enterprises, soft loans, increase investment in public health especially for health FLWs)



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1. Online platforms and social media for education and awareness should be set. (At the community level/panchayat/ASHA/AWW/ANM- data base with phone numbers maintained to reach the people)
2. Investing and developing local leaders, frontline health workers (both women and men) from the community is important. (A team should be developed by local government at the village / urban slums)
3. Early detection of illnesses, monitoring and surveillance can be done effectively by FLWs. An emergency helpline number for every location/work place should also be set up.
4. Building a strong referral network through phones. Follow-ups also to be done immediately by FLWs. The women can also reach out for any kind of referral; for ANCs, GBV, and COVID-19 related problems. (Can be done by FLWs)

5. Availability of PPE such as masks and gloves should be ensured. Education on the effective use of these and social distancing should be done at work place and through employers.
6. The non-COVID health issues should not be neglected and extra attention to vulnerable groups and people with existing health conditions such as NCDs, TB, pregnant women should be given. The frontline workers should identify them and make sure they are following the treatment protocols, have adequate stock of medicines, and nutrition.
7. Provisions for full day Crèches should be made for all workers so that women could focus on their work/livelihood and their children are safe and healthy. (the hours of ICDS can be extended)
8. Health insurance to cover COVID-19 for all workers should be made mandatory. (By employers, government)
9. An emphasis on Mental Health and OHS is significant under the current situation. (At the PHC/UHC level)

THANK YOU

