

Dear Friends  
Greetings from SEWA!

We believe that Childcare is an important component of social security. Childcare has been very important to our members who are poor working women. Therefore, we have tried to provide childcare services through our Child Care Co-operative. In the last three decade of our work, we have found that child care makes a big difference in the lives of the mothers and of the children. We have documented some of our experiences, which can be directly accessed from the links below:

## 1. Childcare and Decent Work

**Author:** S. Anandlakshmy & Mirai Chatterjee  
**Publisher:** Indian Academy for Self-Employed Women  
**Year:** 2009

This paper outlines the issues faced by the working poor in their quest for a better future for their children. It highlights 'what exists today' and 'what we need to do'. It illustrates the key lessons learned, further pointing to ideas for action, namely:

1. Child care must be included in all programmes and action for workers' rights, especially for women workers' rights, poverty reduction and social protection,
2. At least one child care centre for every thousand persons in the population must be provided, and
3. This service must be developed according to the needs and working hours of parents

In addition, it should be preferably run by local women, known to the parents. They should obtain at least minimum wages with social security benefits. The childcare services should be provided in a holistic manner, including nutrition, health care and child development activities.

To summarize, child care is essential for all working people. In every country, workers, and especially women workers, accord a high priority to child care, both because they care for their children and because they need this service, if they are to work and survive. Child care is a right of all workers. It is an entitlement.

Moreover, this paper strengthens the need for an inclusion of universal childcare as a part of decent work, thereby, promoting well-being for all.

## 2. Taking Care of Our Children: Ensuring Long Term Impact

**Author:** SEWA Academy Research Unit  
**Publisher:** Indian Academy for Self-Employed Women  
**Year:** 2007

This study evaluates the impact of Child Care Centres (CCC) run by SEWA on the lives of the children and their families. It provides a comparative analysis of children who attended CCC against the ones who lived in the same environment, but did not attend a CCC. Some of the key findings of the study are:

1. The children attending SEWA's CCC had started taking interest in studies and their confidence level had improved,
2. Children from the CCC were by and large healthier than their non-SEWA counterparts,
3. They were also better behaved than their non-SEWA counterparts