

Self-Employed Women's Association (SEWA)



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



SEWA's MAIN GOALS

- ❖ Full Employment
- ❖ Work Security
- ❖ Income Security
- ❖ Food Security
- ❖ Social Security
- ❖ Self- Reliance

SOCIAL SECURITY:

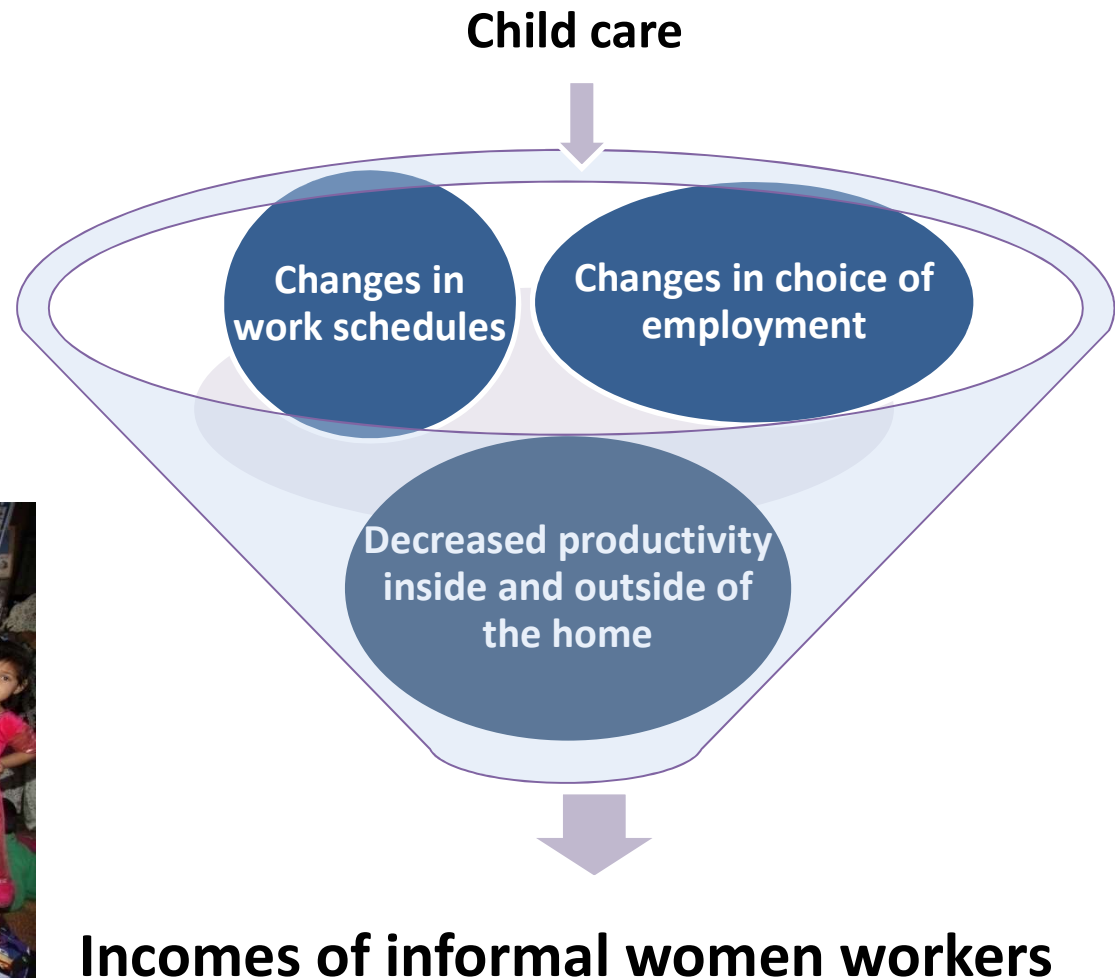
- ❖ Health Care
- ❖ Insurance
- ❖ Child Care
- ❖ Housing
- ❖ Pension



Evidence: What does the research say ?

A qualitative research study by WIEGO Child Care Initiative involved 159 informal women workers from five different countries as participants.

Different ways that child care can affect the incomes of informal workers



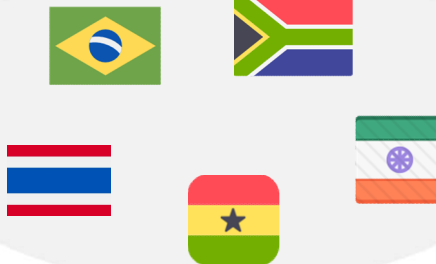
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Voices of working women...

I take my child to work with me, but when the weather is bad, like when it is raining, is windy and/or very hot, because there is no shelter where I work, I cannot take the child with me to work, so I stay at home” (South Africa)

“without day care, I can’t work. When there is no day care, I don’t work” (Brazil)

“My grandchild stays around, grabbing and dragging the fishing net (she was working on). Sometimes it rips and I have to fix it” (Thailand)



“Before when I didn’t have a small child, I used to work till late, around 16:00 or 17:00. Trucks bring good materials by the end of the day and I feel that I am missing out of all of this” (Ghana)

“When children are not with us, we can work faster. My sister-in-law who sends her child to the [SEWA] childcare centre is able to earn more per day than I can because my son is at home with me and keeps needing attention...He interferes with my work. I make rotis [flat bread] for sale. I’m always afraid that he will touch the hot griddle and burn himself. At other times he runs out of the house and I have to run after him to bring him back” (India)

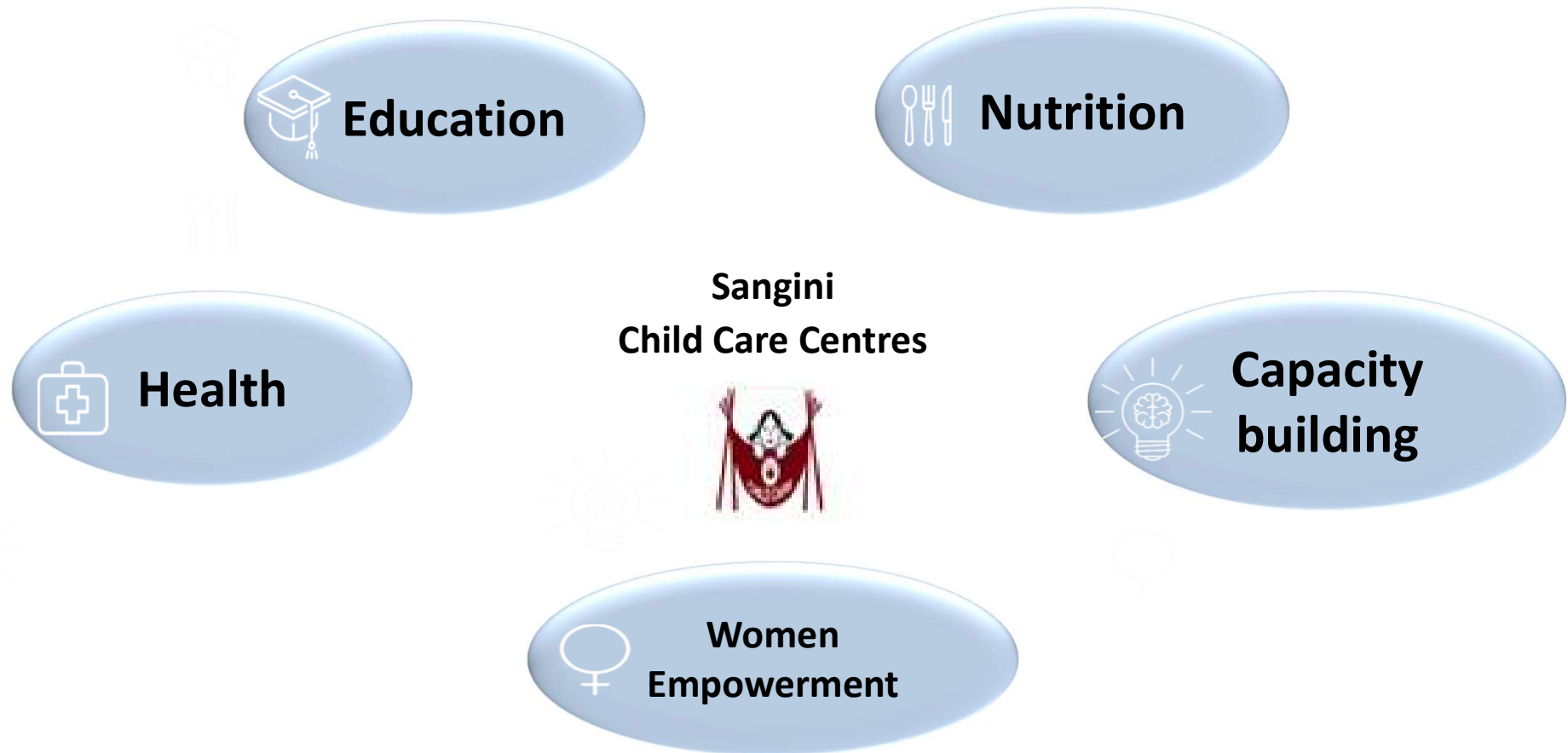
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What makes a good child care centre? (What do mothers/caregivers demand)

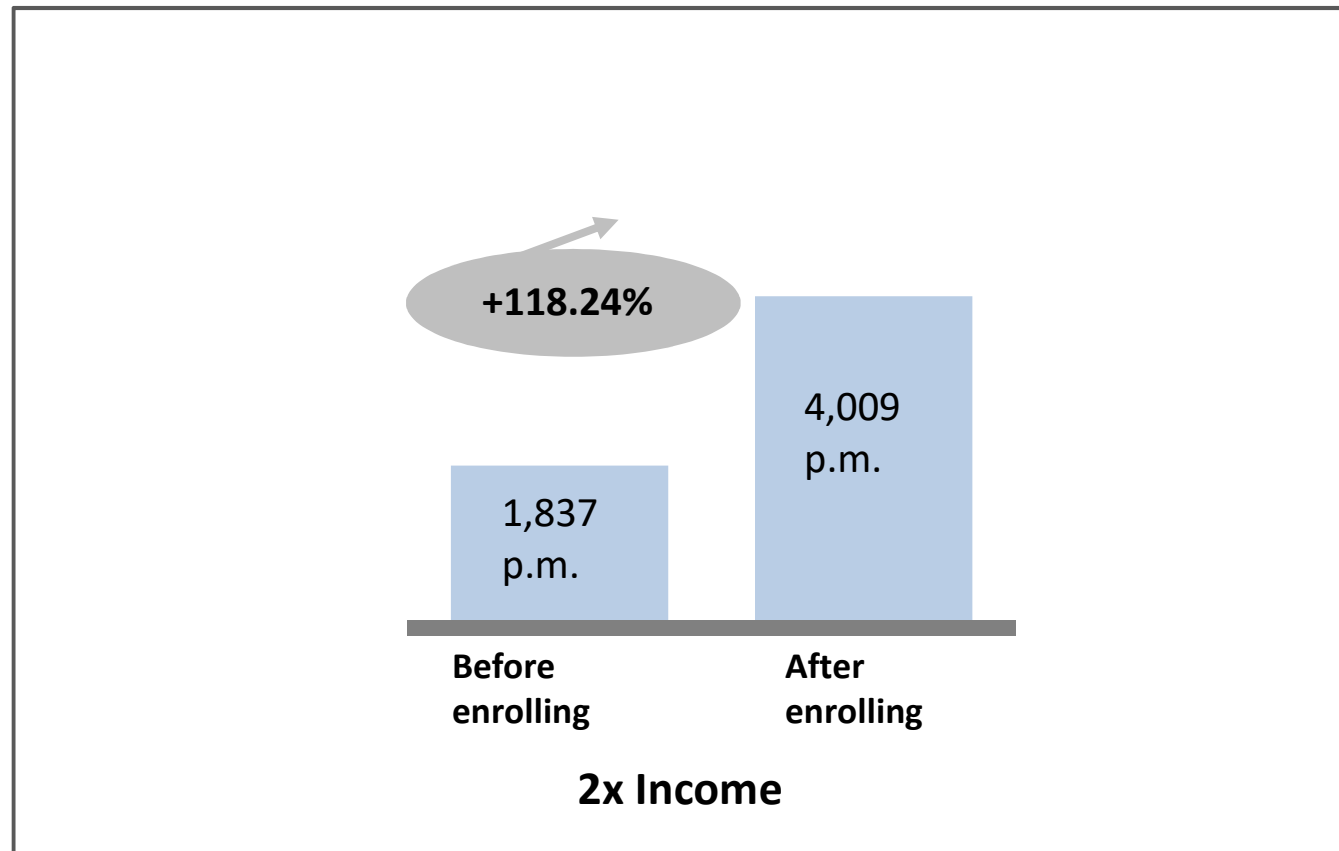


SEWA's Crèches

SEWA's co-operative Sangini registered in 1984 operates **Child Care Centres** to empower women and educate children between the age group of 0 to 6 years, where mothers are the shareholders and board members .



Full day childcare has positive effects on women's incomes



Mother's income in Rs

116 women from urban neighbourhood of Ahmedabad were involved in the study who sent their children to SEWA Sangini crèches

1-Defined as childcare offered from 9AM to 5PM, tailored to the mother's working hours



- ❖ Quality child care is a right for all
- ❖ Full day, free, quality, holistic and integrated early childhood care for all
- ❖ Increased and adequate investment by government - central and state for quality child care, indexed for inflation
- ❖ Child care undertaken in a child care centre must be recognized as decent work and receive appropriate skills training
- ❖ Developing appropriate and participatory mechanisms for implementation, monitoring and evaluation including grievance redressal systems
- ❖ Maternity entitlements for all women



Thank You

