



**Self Employed
Women's Association**



- **Street Vendors**
- **Home based Worker**
(Readymade Garments & Incense Stick roller)
- **Labour & Service Providers**
(Construction Workers
Waste recyclers)
- **Small and marginal famers**

Working since 1972

1

Organizing

Collective organized strength to actively participate in the planning, implementation and monitoring processes.

2

Capacity Building

To stand from in the market ie access to information, education, infrastructure, access to technology and relevant skills.

3

Social Security

We need social security – at least healthcare, childcare & shelter to combat the risk faced by us and our families

4

Financial support

To plan Capital formation at the household level and creating assets of our own.





- **1%** population earns through waste recycling.
- Most of the waste recyclers are women, self-employed, and **belong to the scheduled castes.**
- Waste recyclers pick all kinds of waste, segregate this waste and sell it to scrap shop owners.
- Waste recycler women, through their **efforts to recycle, reuse and reduce, contribute substantially to mitigate the adverse effects of climate change and saving our environment.**

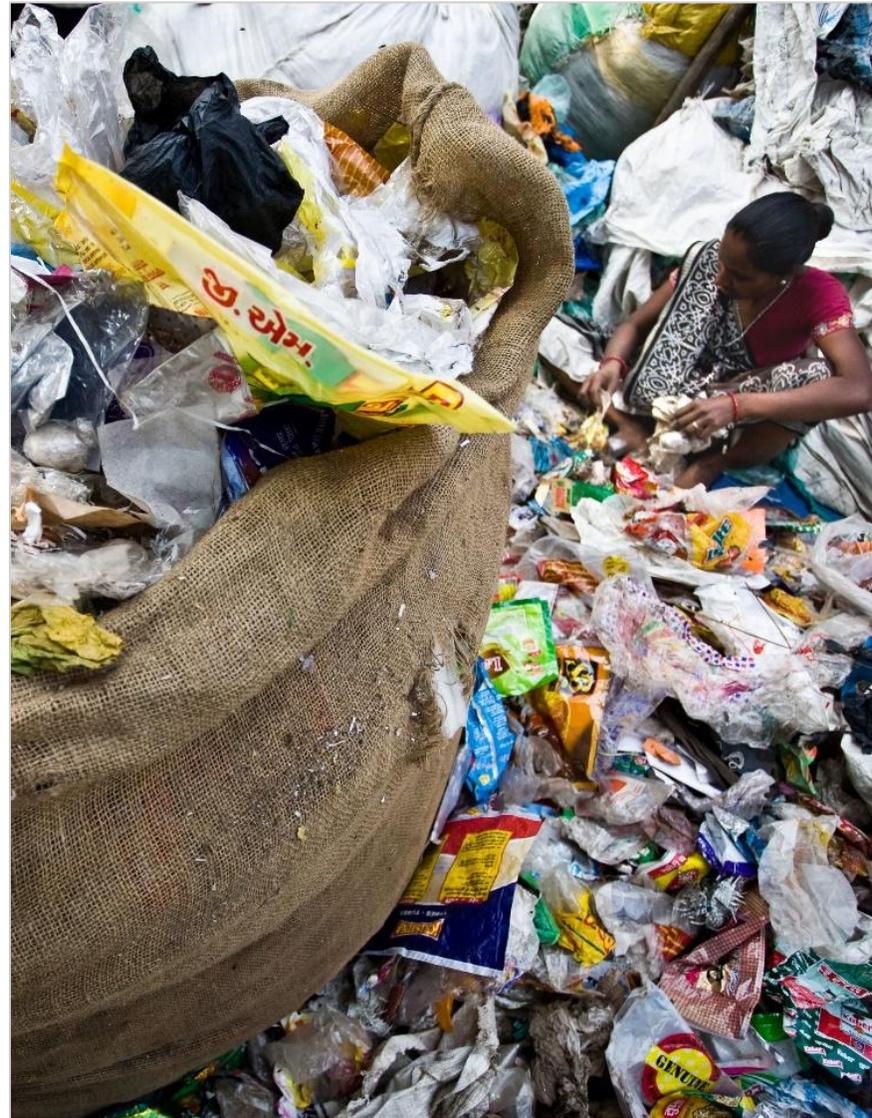
- SEWA has been closely working with the waste recyclers and cleaners in Ahmedabad. Today, SEWA has collectivized these workers and **37,500 women are members of SEWA.** It is noteworthy that a large segment of waste-recyclers are women, who face social and financial oppression. This makes them really vulnerable and invisible. SEWA has undertaken **consistent efforts to bring about change in the social as well as economic status of these women by providing opportunities for decent working conditions and full employment.**



The life of a Waste recyclers



They begin to scour the streets and waste dumpsters for recyclables and walk km to collect.



They sort the recyclables by category like paper and cardboard, plastics, glass and other items.



They sell the sorted goods to waste scrap shop owners and earn Rs.50 to 60/day.

Highlighted are the reasons observed in the monthly Trade Committee meetings of the waste recyclers at SEWA

Reason behind the idea of Scrap Shop



Undue Deduction in the weight

Exploitation by scrap owners

Cheating in terms of weight and rate

Don't have enough knowledge about the market rates

Pre setting in weighing scale.

Eliminating Head loaders
And introducing mechanise transport





SEWA's efforts are concentrated to organize the traditional waste recyclers of the city such that they gain work security, income security as well as social security. Consequently, cooperatives have been established to collectively provide work to these traditional waste recyclers for their complete development.



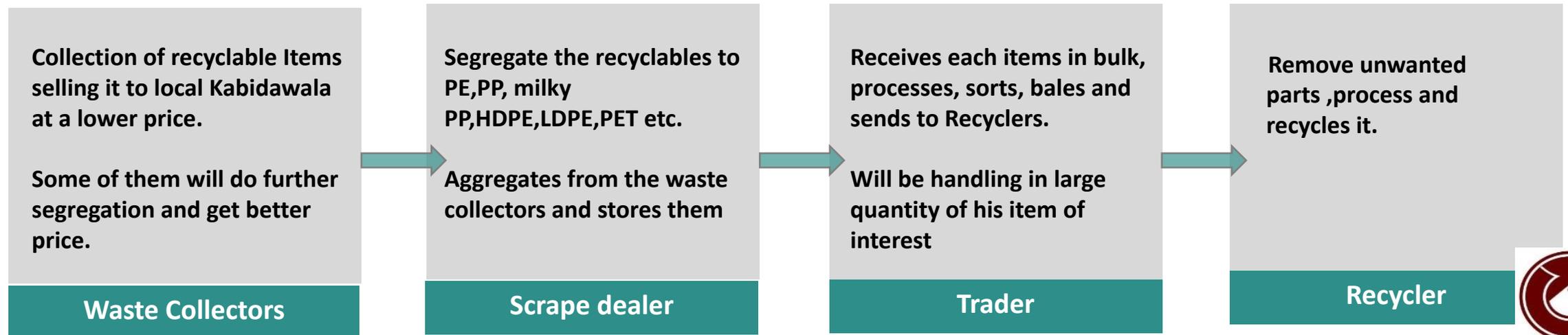


To address the issues of waste recycle members, Sewa did a waste supply chain study and identified that there is a **huge market in the solid waste management and the waste recyclers are the last bottom in the supply chain**. The traders are purchasing the waste from the waste recyclers in the low rates and sell further with the high margins in the factories and major waste traders



The survey has been conducted to identify the stages within the supply chain and the value addition at each stage with corresponding expenses.

It was identify that the **quality** and the **quantity** plays a major role in the supply chain. We can work on the volume of the waste materials and send as it with the higher price. The second option is to increase the quality of the waste by effective segregation and the value addition in the chain.





MRF and the Collection center being the one of the many ways adopted by SEWA under the Sewa Umbrella for women by building upon their collective power for poverty alleviation and improve their livelihood along with professional integration.

Collection center

The collection center is one of the initiative taken by SEWA in June 2022. The waste recyclers members walk for more than 10 kms, working for 10 hours a day for less than the bare minimum wages. First collection center started in Memco area. **The collection center aims to address the issues of the members and take them forward to fair wages as well as regularity of the work.** The Collection center will be owned and managed by the waste recyclers of this area.



**Best price for every waste material-
Fair and transparent rates** to the members



Proper weighing system



Work collectively encourage efficiency, creativity and productivity

Regular payment to the member helps them to plan accordingly and gave them the power of decision making



Owner and Manager of the Green livelihood System



Mobile Collection Centers

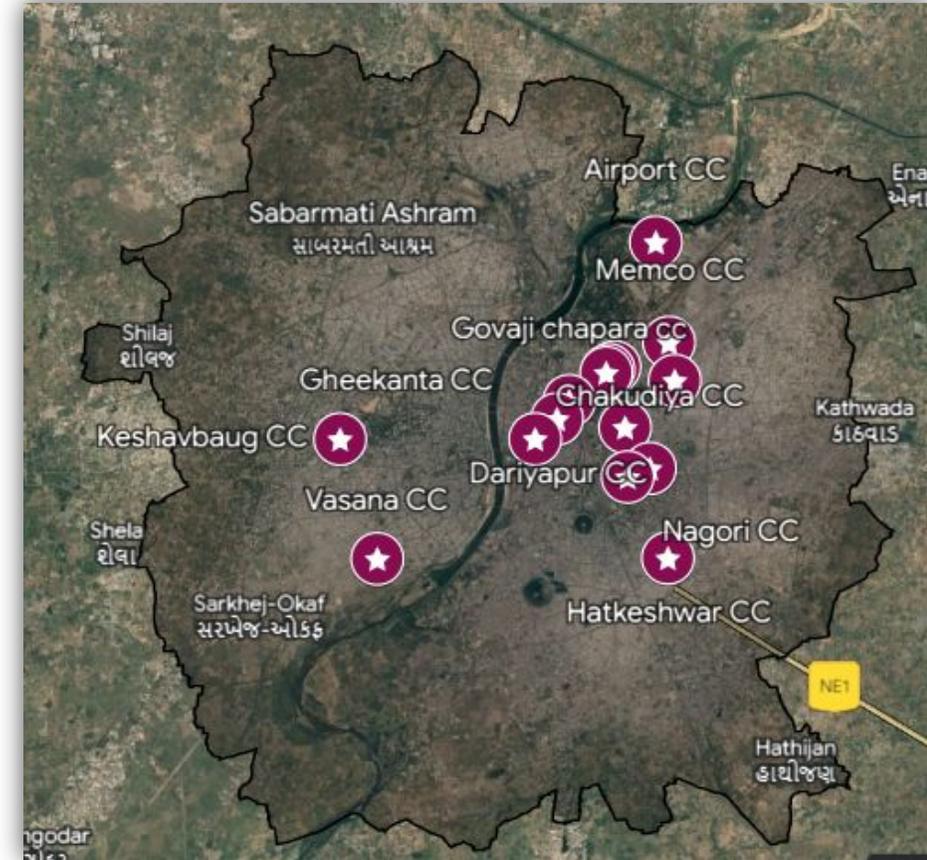
Members collect the waste from offices, roads, commercial complexes and segregate it in different types

Sewa mobile collection vehicle purchase the waste with appropriate rates from members

Collected waste bring to the aggregation center and further segregate as per the trader requirement.

Segregated waste sale to the traders(still sale to the middle man).

It is not possible to have scrap shops in different areas of Ahmedabad. Sewa decided to purchase a vehicle and do a mobile collection from different areas. We purchase two vehicles and rented out a space of 4000 sq. km in Memco area called aggregation center to store the waste materials to work on the quantity. We started to reach out traders. Different traders have different demands in waste materials. We still sale to the traders and not able to sale it to the recyclers as they are asking for the minimum of 10 tonnes of each waste material.





Mezzanine Conveyor

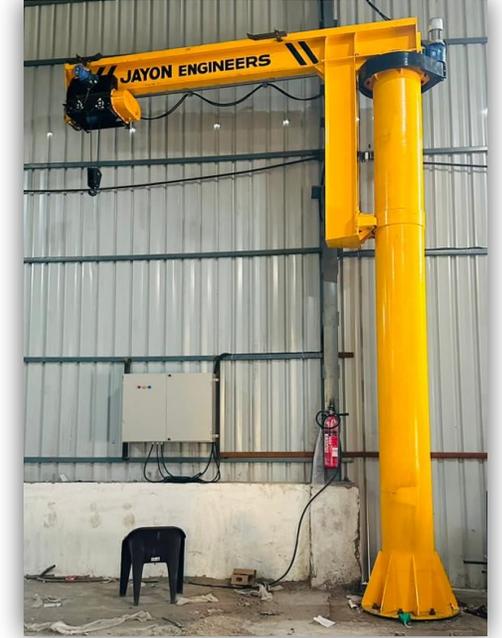
Conveyor belts are used for sorting waste materials in different categories.

Floor Conveyor



Twin Box Baler

It is use for compressing scrap material and waste material to create dense blocks



Jip crane

It will use to load the bailed material in the truck.

Electric Scrubber Dryer

It is use for cleaning to agitate the dirt away from the floor.



Pallet truck

It will use to move and lift the bailed items.





The Value Creation Centre (VCC) serves as a centralised hub for sorting and bailing process of the recyclable waste materials such as paper, and different type of plastic. Currently on an average 2 to 2.5 Ton of waste arrives at VCC and around 1 to 1.2 Ton of waste is processed daily. The primary objective is to enable steady livelihood for waste recycler members and promoting the principles of circular economy. Secondly VCC solved the problem of the quality and the quantity for the supply chain. We are now able to work on the volume of the waste materials and send as it with the higher price to recyclers directly.

- SEWA hand holds women members in the communities to build and manage their own organizations, by organizing them into groups, co-operative & federations the members **develop collective bargaining power, create the alternate source of employment** and **strengthen their economic** activities based on their local skill and resources.
- **Gitanjali** is a women owned enterprises initiated by SEWA which can leads our members towards sustainability and economic Independence.

Gitanjali



Gitanjali is a cooperative of the **Poor and vulnerable traditional waste recyclers** formed with the aim **to provide them better and dignified livelihood opportunities**. The cooperative hand holds the members to build up their capabilities to become owners and managers of the cooperative. As well as contribute to the Environment at large.

**Full Employment
Work and Income
Security with regular
Work**



**Increased Voice and Visibility
and collective bargaining for
Validation .**



**Empowered and improved
livelihood opportunities** with
increase in the incomes
collective strength and
increased bargaining power



Developed Technical skills



**Increased sense of
ownership**



Self Reliance



**Responsible recycling to
minimize and eventually
eliminate landfill dump**



**Just Transition
collectively**



1 Women empowerment follows work and income security. They are the decision makers.

1



2 Behavioral Change of their social environment. Their work is looked upon and they hold good place in their society and community

2

3 Sense of Ownership they become the owners & managers and decision makers of their enterprise collectively.

3



4

4 Self Reliance Women have learnt to save, invest as well as educate their children. They have repaired their houses, taken insurance for themselves as well as their families and have also invested in various essential equipment in their houses like gas stove.

5

5 Sense of Dignity and Self identity



Capacity building and trainings symbolizes our livelihood security, our future and above all our very survival. This is second freedom for us - a march toward our second freedom ie freedom from poverty and unemployment

Thank you

