



LUCKNOW MAHILA SEWA TRUST ANNUAL REPORT 2017-2018



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MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of LMST is to empower women who are exploited because of their unawareness, lack of resources, so on and so forth.

LMST is a membership based organization of women workers. It is committed to strengthening the movement of women in the informal economy by highlighting their issues at the National level and building women's capacity to empower them

In India, most of the women work in unorganized sector and are vulnerable to exploitation. The beedi industry is one the biggest industry in India and is spread across all states of India. Because of absence of other source of livelihood, women in rural areas make beedi. Many of these women suffer from health problems not because they smoke beedi but they make beedi. Now, these problems mainly arise because of working conditions. These beedi workers make beedi at their home and have no one is taking care how they are making it and are they taking required precautions. These workers are scattered and work individually. They have no knowledge about various rights and facilities they should prevail. Even if they are have a working place. They are dimly lit rooms, far away from their homes, no water, electricity facilities are provided.

The LMST has been focusing its activities particularly for unorganized women workers to improve their quality of life by providing vocational training and life skill education irrespective of casts, creed and religion so that they may contribute positively and become part of national development process.

ISSUES ADDRESSED BY LMST

- 1. EMPLOYMENT**
- 2. INCOME**
- 3. NUTRITIOUS FOOD**
- 4. HEALTH CARE**
- 5. CHILD CARE**
- 6. HOUSING**
- 7. ASSET**
- 8. ORGANISED STRENGTH**
- 9. LEADERSHIP**
- 10. SELF-RELIANCE**
- 11. EDUCATION**

VISION

The LMST's vision is to achieve an egalitarian society devoid of any deprivation, exploitation and neglect by enabling socio-economic development of the disadvantaged and deprived sections with their active involvement and collaboration. The vision of the organization is the attainment of self reliance among poor women working in the informal sector, through the process of optimum utilization of available resources and a participatory approach. We tread the path based on Gandhian principles

GOALS

LMST strives for a society free from all sorts of discriminations and exploitations.

OBJECTIVES

Organizing deprived and underprivileged women on the basis of their livelihood, so as to strengthen them in numbers and make them financially sustainable. We guide and help them in achieving self-reliance through self-employment. We make efforts to preserve the dying crafts by imparting skill development training on various trades.

PRIMARY AREA OF FOCUS

The main focus of LMST's operation is on organizing women workers and enabling them to fight discrimination and exploitation by improving their economic and social status in society.

ORGANISATIONAL STRATEGY AND NATURE OF INTERVENTION

We adopt strategies of struggle and development through the joint action of members. LMST uses participatory approach for the achievement of women's rights and to build a mass movement of the unorganized sector. The organizational strategy of LMST comprises of the following major components:

- The cooperatives/federations are used for furthering all LMST's developmental activities.
- Organizing and strengthening various groups for influencing policies in favour of the self employed women workers in rural and urban areas.
- Promoting and conceptualizing innovative ideas, which would stimulate changes within the society.
- Capacity building for empowering women workers.
- Creation of trade federations to support and to help expand activities of LMST.
- Organizing self-employed women in rural and urban areas to form self-help savings groups which will lead towards their upliftment in society and economic self-sufficiency

- Creating livelihood opportunities.
- Conducting research and studies on the issues/topics related to self-employed women (i.e., health problems, lack of regular work, illiteracy, etc.)

PAST ACTIVITIES

Micro Finance Program

The provision of Micro finance to its members constitutes LMST's leading developmental activity. Women workers have limited access to formal financial institutions; they are always dependent on some informal source of finance for their needs. There is a huge gap between the demand and supply of financial resources for women workers. LMST tries to fulfill the saving and credit needs of its members by offering them financial support. For these needs we extend Micro Finance Program for the women workers in districts of U.P. The women workers have very low-income level. LMST endeavors that women be encouraged for small savings so that these savings can be utilized in the future for productive purpose. Therefore LMST helped in the formation of 418 Self Help Groups covering different trades in the rural and urban areas of Uttar Pradesh. On an average there are 15-20 women workers in these groups. Each group has its own bylaws and leadership elected among the leaders only. Of these 183 SHGs comprising 759 women workers, obtained loan from Small Scale Industries Bank of India (SIDBI) and by SHGs. For various reasons like starting Chikan, Zardozi work, paying old debts, treatment, home construction, expanding shop, education. Etc.

Linkage with Government Policies

One of the objectives of LMST is to influence government policy in favour of women workers in the unorganized sector, as ignorance and lengthy legal procedures often deprive these women from deriving benefits from the existing and the prospective government schemes. We assisted many women in this area and helped some of them obtain old age and widowhood pension. It also helped women to get registered in the BPL List so that they can derive certain benefits under various schemes.

✓ Setting up of Craft Development Centre

This centre was setup by LMST to help the artisans to find markets for their products and to enhance their bargaining power. The centre aims to promote and sustain artisan's welfare by helping them produce high quality work and also by providing them with support against economic and social exploitation. The key functions of the centre are:

- Providing managerial support to workers.
- Providing workers with information pertaining to raw material procurement.
- Conducting training programmes and establishing design trends to enable the former to upgrade their products and enhance their receptivity in the market.
- Imparting training to women workers to augment their managerial and financial skills through participation in various workshops and conferences.

One of the ongoing programmes of our organization is for providing Sustainable livelihood to our women members. Under this program LMST has tried to remove women and their adolescent daughters from the crutches of flesh trade by showing them other ways to earn their living. The organization trained them in the skills of embroidery as well as tailoring and has lately been working on connecting them to e-commerce platform.

✓ Programme for Construction Workers

LMST launched a campaign for construction workers to make them aware about various government and State Welfare Board programmes meant for construction workers of UP. To increase awareness Camps, Melas, Puppet Shows at brick kilns, Labour Adda's, Labour Basti were organized. Members were made aware about the benefits of registering under Welfare Board for Construction Workers. LMST assisted in registration process and facilitated benefits to them through networking with Labour department, which ranged from bicycle distribution for ease in commuting to signing them up for various other government programmes like accidental insurance covers.