



## GDC Fellowship Programme Women's Economic Empowerment

The GDC Fellowship Programme on Women's Economic Empowerment was a 14 day programme, conducted from 23<sup>rd</sup> February to 7<sup>th</sup> March 2020. The training programme was attended by 15 participants from Bhutan, Ethiopia, Rwanda and Tanzania. 9 participants were nominated from Community Based Organisations (CBOs) and 6 were representing different government departments working in the field of women's empowerment. The programme was undertaken in partnership with the Lok Swasthya SEWA Trust (LSST), an organisation that has contributed immensely in promoting the engagement of women in the economic and social well-being.

The training programmes were held in Ahmedabad and Delhi comprising of 27 sessions. The sessions were taken by eminent speakers having expertise in the fields of women empowerment and experiences of working with informal women workers' organisations. In addition to lecture based sessions extensive field visits were undertaken to SEWA bank, VimoSEWA (insurance cooperative promoted by SEWA), milk cooperative near Gandhinagar (promoted by SEWA), Shakti Kendras, Saakhi Mandals (operating in sectors like Waste Management, Microfinance, and Handicrafts), Mission Mangalam under the National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM), and SEWA Kalakruti (the federation's platform for empowerment of women artisans).

The participants interacted with various officials of the central government to understand the macro perspective of the programme. They were also oriented in-depth on Ayushman Bharat and National Rural Livelihoods Mission, two of the most promising Government of India's flagship missions. The overall methodology induced in the training sessions were participatory in nature and adopted bottom-up approach for mutual learning and better comprehension.

The course was specifically designed to foster knowledge and experience among the participants so that the lessons learnt can be admirably replicated in the participating countries. The participants were actively engaged during the different sessions and gained greater understanding on development and ushered the need for greater cooperation for translating the Indian policies into their own national contexts.