Mahila Housing SEWA Trust (MHT) is an autonomous organization promoted by the Self Employed Women’s Association (SEWA), established in 1994 with the overall objective of improving habitats and environmental conditions of poor women in the informal sector.

MHT views habitat as a productive asset and believes that all citizens, irrespective of their residential status, have a right to equal access to services, and a right to be treated with dignity.

**MY HOME IS MY WORK PLACE**

Informal sector in India constitutes 80% of the workforce. Women are 92% in the workforce, they are uncounted/under counted and invisible. For the poor women in the informal sector, her house is her productive as self, store house, godown. Access to infrastructure i.e. electricity, water increases their economic productivity, general well-being and quality of life.
PROGRAMME PHILOSOPHY
Mahila Housing Trust (MHT) believes that there is a need for innovative approaches to provide affordable energy to the poor, particularly slum communities. Building on established relationships with communities, an NGO can work towards building partnerships between Government, Service Providers and Consumers to design and implement slum/rural electrification programmes. This along with lifestyle changes, promoting efficient and renewable energy products and improvement in construction technologies, can go a long way in reducing the energy expenses of the poor while enabling them to maintain their quality of life and enhance their productive capacity.

SLUM ELECTRIFICATION
Access to legal electricity in slums is often hampered due to linking of service delivery with land tenure and lack of inclusive, pro-poor service delivery models. MHT forges partnership with electricity companies to implement slum electrification and introduce process improvements that make it easier for slum households. These include reducing paperwork requirements, delinking service delivery from land status and instituting a more suitable pricing and billing policy.

APPROACH
MHT’s approach is that of empowering poor women so that they are able to negotiate access to clean/safe energy with private utilities and government. To this end, MHT works across India & South Asia.

PLACES IN INDIA
1. GUJARAT
2. JHARKHAND
3. RAJASTHAN
4. MADHYA PRADESH
5. MAHARASTRA
6. ODISHA
7. BIHAR
8. MAHARASHTRA

SOUTH ASIA PRESENCE
1. NEPAL
2. BANGLADESH

In 2014 MHT partnered with a private utility company in Ahmedabad, India to get household level electricity connections for 181,171 poor households. This programme is quoted as a Global Showcase by USAID.

https://energy-access.gnesd.org/projects/21-the-ahmedabad-slum-electrification-project-gujarat-india.html

IMPACT OF SLUM ELECTRIFICATION:
The pilot project turned out to be a win-win situation for all partners. The slum residents were able to access regular (legal) electric connections at affordable rates. The MHT’s purpose that more number of citizens could lead to a better quality of life was furthered through this initiative. For the Torrent Power Ltd., the electricity theft rate decreased, and, simultaneously, the regular electricity usage rate increased.
• Designed and facilitated electrification loan from 40% to 4%
• Increased in productive working hours of women by 1 to 1.30 hrs.
• More time available for studies.
• Upto 15% increase in income of homebased women workers.
• Reduction in drudgery and increased general well being
• Increased well being of people suffering from cutavait
• Reduction in mosquito presence/bites.

GROWTH IN 2017-19
HOUSEHOLDS ELECTRIFIED : 181,171
INDIVIDUALS BENEFITED     : 905,855

ENERGY AUDIT
MHT trains women leaders from poor communities to work as energy auditors who educate households on nuances of energy usage (such as bill calculation, wattage consumption, energy wastage) and encourage them to switch to more efficient products. These trained energy auditors also act as a grassroots level, women-led distribution network of green energy and building products.

MHT DEVELOPES POOR WOMEN AS ENERGY AUDITORS PROMOTES ENTERPRENEURSHIP OPPORTUNITY
MHT creates entrepreneurship opportunities, for poor women training them as energy auditors to audit the energy usage of poor households and suggest efficient resulting in energy literacy and reduction in energy bills.

COMPLETED 28,000 HOUSEHOLDS ENERGY AUDIT.
ESTIMATED SAVING IN ENERGY
Rs 50,400000/ANNUM ($ 730514.19/ANNUM)
CLIMATE CHANGE / SUSTAINABLE HOUSING INITIATIVE

MHT designs and implements renewable / efficient energy equipments and provides microfinance for the same for household business. Along with housing loans given by MHT, it provides design assistantship in terms of layout, light and ventilation, materials, which reduces heat and thereby also reduces energy consumption.

LAYOUT SUGGESTION

AWAAS SEWA PVT. LTD.

A company promoted by MHT and owned by poor women innovates and promotes technology green construction technologies and materials. This distribution company undertakes market search for appropriate technologies, tests them to get a better bargain for poor women. It distributes these technologies which includes, cool roof, solar reflective systems, water conservation technologies, etc.

MAHILA HOUSING SEWA TRUST

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