

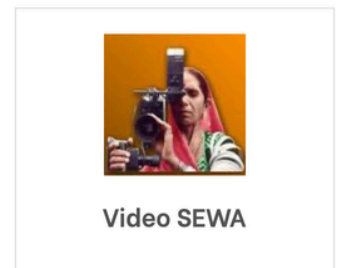
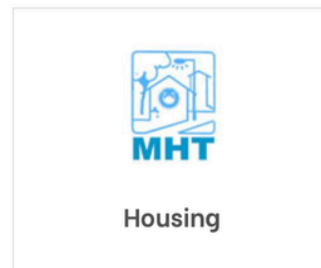
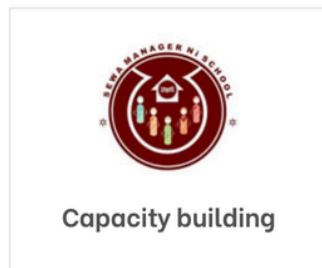
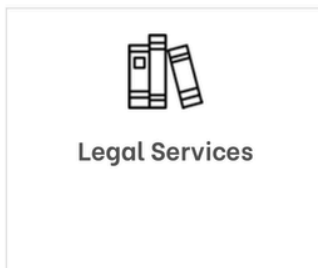
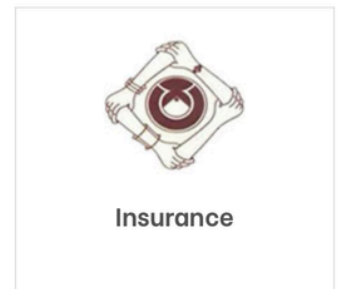
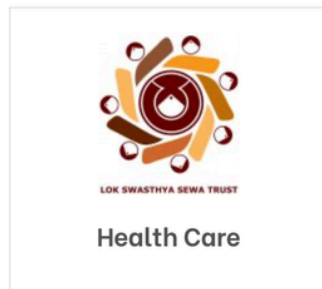
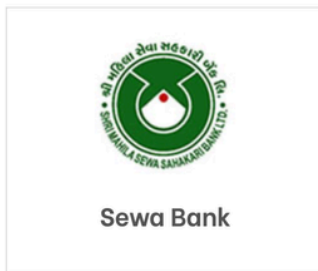
Founded: 1972
Sector: Education, Skill Development, Youth Employment

SEWA Foundation was established in 1972 by Ela Bhatt in Ahmedabad, Gujarat as the operational arm of Self-Employed Women's Association (SEWA) to provide economic and social security for poor, self-employed women workers through cooperatives, training, and services.

Founded by Padma Bhushan Ela Bhatt amid Gujarat's textile crisis, SEWA Foundation grew from 300 women vendors forming India's first women's trade union to a 2.5M+ member network across 20 states. It tackled informal sector women's lack of bargaining power by creating women-owned cooperatives (VimoSEWA insurance, SEWA Bank), skill training, childcare, and healthcare—pioneering "barefoot management" where illiterate women lead enterprises.

They belong to the vast, unprotected working population of our country, who are considered informal workers. Although the informal economy constitutes 93% of India's labour force, yet they do not have any work security, income security or social security. Our significant contribution to the nation's economy is largely uncoun- ted, undercounted or invisible. Their approach is to address the needs of the workers as a labourer, as well as a woman. Their goals are full employment and self-reliance.

CORE SERVICES:



IMPACT:

3.7M members across 20 states/UTs—world's largest trade union for women informal workers, representing 93% of India's unorganized workforce; spans vendors, home-based workers, agricultural laborers, salt workers, construction .

SEWA Bank: Disbursed ₹3,000+ crore in collateral-free microloans to 1.5M+ accounts; 98% repayment rate (highest among microfinance); pioneered cash credit for weekly markets; economic multiplier creating sustainable enterprises .

Lok Swasthya Health Cooperative: 1.2M women served by 3,000+ community health workers across 15 states; 500+ clinics reducing maternal mortality by 40%, chronic disease management; integrated TB/HIV screening for informal workers .

Swachh Akash (Clean Skies): India's first heatwave insurance for 50,000+ outdoor workers; waste-to-wealth cooperatives (10,000 women); solar enterprise training; influenced national climate adaptation policy for informal economy .

SEWA SELF EMPLOYED WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION

Ela Bhatt Legacy: Right Livelihood Award (1984), Padma Shri (1989), Padma Bhushan (2006); SEWA model replicated by ILO/UN in 100+ countries; "barefoot management" training illiterate women as CEOs .

112 Cooperatives & Collectives: 65 active cooperatives, 88% financially viable, 1.65L shareholders representing 15.84L workers; 25% youth board participation.