

The Self Employed women's association is both an organisation and movement, also an outcome of legacy of Mahatma Gandhi.
Discuss.

Self employed women's Association is a trade union established in 1971 by noted Gandhian Dr. Ela Bhatt solely for the welfare of women textile workers in Ahmedabad. Its major goal is to tend towards women causes, informal sector, bring about reform attitude.

SEWA → An organisation

- 1) SEWA works towards awarding benefits to the informal sector of the economy, of which 94% are female.
- 2) They organize to build around the challenges work for
 - (1) Poverty upliftment
 - (2) employment
 - (3) food
 - (4) childcare
 - (5) Health and Housing.
- 3) SEWA extends micro credit, micro finance through SEWA banks, mobilizing women to set up cooperative societies

SEWA → As a movement

- 1) SEWA which was bore out of TLA as a struggle to achieve women's self esteem.
- 2) It has been amalgamation of 3 movements
 - ↳ labour
 - ↳ cooperative
 - ↳ women'smovement
- 3) To current date, with rapid globalisation, economic development, they provide leadership, bargaining power, funds to impoverished.
- 4) This movement has branched out to become a ngo for official

Government activities like fund mobilisation.

(2)

examples:- solar panels for Azania saltpan tribals of Gujarat.

SEWA → Gandhian roots

1) Origin of Union:-

TLA was set up in 1917, post Ahmedabad Mill strikes headed by Anusuya Behn and Mahatma Gandhi. Post SEWA split, it continues to adhere to Gandhian philosophy, taken over by Dr. Ela Bhatt.

2) It believes in the right to struggle non-violently for the truth - Satyagraha and ahimsa principles.

3) As Mahatma Gandhi envisioned that 'India lives in villages', SEWA works the local level government grievances, advancing the cause.

4) All forms of training and welfare activities are given to women, to break the stereotypes of women oriented society, make them independent - Self employment and Self confidence.

5) In current Menard SEWA has branched out its activities to impart civic responsibility, environment, cleanliness, service, that has been living Gandhian principles.

As a legacy of Mahatma Gandhi, SEWA has seen worldwide recognition from world banks, embassy officials, to outlive the Einstein challenge.