

ELA R. BHATT

Born in 1933, Padmabhushan Ela R. Bhatt, a Gandhian, is widely recognized as one of the world's most remarkable pioneers and entrepreneurial forces in grassroots development. Known as the "gentle revolutionary," she has dedicated her life to improving the lives of India's poorest and most oppressed women workers. In 1972, she founded the Self-Employed Women's Association (SEWA), a trade union with more than 1.2 million members now. She founded SEWA Cooperative Bank in 1974 which has an outreach of 3 million women now. She was a Member of the Indian Parliament Rajya sabha and subsequently a Member of the Indian Planning Commission. She founded and served as chair for Women's World Banking, the International Alliance of Home-based Workers (HomeNet), Street Vendors (StreetNet) and Women in Informal Employment: Globalizing, Organizing (WIEGO). She also served as a trustee of the Rockefeller Foundation for a decade.

She has received several awards, including Padmashree, Padmabhushan, the Ramon Magsaysay Award and the Right Livelihood Award, George Meany-Lane Kirkland Labour Rights Award by AFL-CIO, US and Légion d'honneur by France, Madrid Creatividad Award, CGAE Human Rights Award by Spain as well as honorary doctorates from Harvard, Yale, Natal and other Universities. Member of the Council of The Elders brought together by Nelson Mandela (2007). She has authored "We Are Poor but So Many" book published by Oxford University Press, NY (2006). Ela R. Bhatt popularly known as Elaben is based in Ahmedabad, India.

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Ahmedabad - 380 001. India
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Positions : Founder General Secretary, SEWA
Founder Chair SEWA Cooperative Bank.

Positions Held: Member of Parliament (Rajyasabha), nominated by the President of India.
Member of the Planning Commission of India.
Chair, National Commission on Self-Employed Women.
Founding Trustee and Chair, Women's World Banking, New York.
Founding, Chair, Friends of Women's World Banking, India.
Member, National Commission on Labour.
Member, Consultative Group to Assist the Poorest (CGAP),
The World Bank, Washington.
World Commission on Urban Future, Berlin.
Founding Chair, STREETNET : International Alliance of Street Vendors.
Founding Chair, HOMENET : International Network of Homebased Workers.
Member, Board of Trustees, Rockefeller Foundation, New York (1991-2003).
Member, Board of Trustees, Enterprise Works Worldwide, Washington.
Chair, WIEGO (Women in Informal Employment : Globalising Organising),
Boston.

Current Positions : Member, Governing Body, Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad.
Member, National Innovation Foundation, Delhi.
Advisory Committee, Insurance Regulatory Development Agency, Delhi.
Chair, Association of Micro Finance Institutions of India - 'Sa-Dhan', Delhi.
Member, Independent Commission on Poverty Alleviation, SAARC (South Asian Regional Cooperation).

Member, Board of Directors, Women's World Banking, New York.
 Member, National Integration Council, New Delhi.
 Chair, Indian School of Microfinance for Women
 Member, Advisory Committee, Asia Society, New York.
 Member, Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority, Delhi (2006-)
 Member, The Elders, Johannesburg (2007-)
 Member, National Integration Council, Delhi (2009-)

Publications : Gujarat ni Nari. 1975 (Gujarati).
 Profiles of Self-Employed Women. 1975.
 Grind of Work. 1989.
 Aapni Shramjivi Baheno. 1992 (Gujarati).
 Hum Savita. 1995 (Hindi).
 Doodri Azzadi (Gujarati and Hindi) National Book Trust, 1997.
 'Laari Yuddha' (Gujarati, Hindi), 2001.
 We Are Poor But So Many (English), Oxford University Press, 2006.

Honours Conferred : Ramon Magsaysay Award for "Community Leadership". Manila, 1977.
 Susan B. Anthony Award for National Integration. India, 1982.
 Right Livelihood Award (The Alternate Nobel Prize) for "Changing the Human Environment". Stockholm, 1984.
 Padmashree, Government of India. 1985.
 Padmabhushan. Government of India. 1986.
 Women in Creation Award. Alliance de Femme. Paris, 1990.
 CARE Humanitarian Award. Washington D.C., 1994.
 Vishwa Gurjari, 1996.
 Yashvantrao Chavan Award for National Integration, 1999.
 Nagar Bhushan, Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation, 1998.
 2000 Humanitarian Award, Inter Action, Washington, 2000.
 Asia Society Award: Builder of Bridges between Asians and Americans, 2000.
 FICCI's Millenium Life-time Achievement Award, Delhi, 2000.
 Diwaliben Mehta Award for Rural Upliftment, 2002.
 Dr. V. Krishnamurthy Award for Excellence, Centre for Organisation Development, Hyderabad, 2003.
 Economic Times Award, Businesswoman of the Year, 2003
 Lal Bahadur Shastri Award for Excellence in Public Administration, Academics and Management, 2004.
 Sahakar Ratna for leading cooperative movement in Gujarat, 2005.
 LakshmiPat Singhania - IIML National Leadership Awards, 2004
 Global Leadership for Lifetime Award by Women's Global Summit in Mexico, 2005
 Women Together Award by Fundación Forum and Women Together, Madrid, 2006
 Légion d'honneur by France, 2006
 George Meany-Lane Kirkland Human Rights Award by AFLCIO, Washington, 2005
 The Sat Paul Mittal National Award for outstanding service to humanity, Nehru Sidhant Kender Trust, 2006
 Madrid Creatividad Award by Madrid World Centre for Creativity, 2006
 CNBC TV18 India Business Leader Award for Social Enterprise, 2006
 Zee Astitva Awards for Lifetime Achievement, 2006
 Isabel Ferrer Award by Government of Valencia, 2007
 William Benton Medal for Distinguished Public Service, University of Chicago, 2007
 Ernst & Young Entrepreneur Award, 2007
 FLO Women Achievers Award for Excellence in the field of Social Activism, The Women Wing of FICCI, 2008

The Lifetime Achievement Award of Excellence, Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs), 2008.
 Lifetime Achievement Award, Real Hero, CNN-IBN and Reliance Industries, 2009.
 Construction Industry Development Council Vishwakarma Award for Achievement for Social Upliftment, 2009.
 BMA Life Time Achievement Award for Social Entrepreneurship, Bombay Management Association, 2008-2009.
 Bank of Baroda Sun Lifetime Achievement Award, 2009.
 Gandhi Peace Prize, Simon Fraser University, Vancouver, 2009.
 CGAE Human Rights Award 2009, *Consejo General de la Abogacía Española*, Spain, 2009.

- Honorary Degrees** : Doctor of Letters, SNDT University, Bombay, India, 1991.
 Doctor of Humanities, Haverford College, USA, 1993.
 Doctor of Humanities, Temple University, USA, 1994.
 Doctor of Letters, MS University of Baroda, India, 1997.
 Doctor of Humanities, St. Francis Xavier University, Canada (1999).
 Doctor of Humane Letters, Harvard University, USA, 2001.
 Honorary Doctorate in Social Sciences, Yale University, USA, 2002.
 Honorary Heroes of Health, Berkeley School of Health, University of California, USA 2003.
 Honorary Doctorate in Social Sciences, University of Natal, Durban, South Africa, 2003.
- Education** : B.A., Ll.B (Gujarat University), Int. Dip. in Labour and Cooperatives (Israel)
- Family** : Husband : Late Prof. Ramesh M. Bhatt
 Children : Ami and Mihir
 Grandchildren : Arjun, Maya, Somnath and Rameshwar.
- Date of Birth** : September 7, 1933, Ahmedabad.