

SEWA Hariyali : Clean and Sustainable Solutions for Urban Energy Issues of for Poor Informal Economy Women Workers



Manila, Phillippines

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SELF EMPLOYED WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION (SEWA)



Established in 1972 by Shri Elaben Bhatt

Over 1.8 million poor, self employed women as members

Largest recognized national level union of informal sector workers with presence in 14 states of India

Confluence of three movements - Trade Union, Labour and Women's movement

Members Profile : 125 trades –4 categories viz. Home-based Workers, Vendors & Hawkers, Small Producers and Manual Labourers



The membership and work of SEWA has spread across 14 States in India – Starting from Gujarat to Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Uttaranchal, Kerala, Maharashtra, Assam, Meghalaya, Bihar, Jammu & Kashmir and West Bengal

AND

Our Neighboring SAARC Countries – Afghanistan, Bhutan, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Maldives and Srilanka.

GOALS & APPROACH

Organise women workers to achieve **Full Employment**
i.e. work security, income security and social security

Self Reliance – individually and collectively :
economically independent and capable of making their own decisions

Organizing
Collective organized strength
to influence policy making

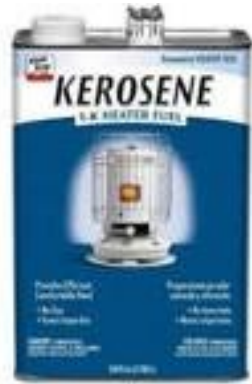
Capacity Building
To stay competitive
in the market

SEWA's
Integrated
Approach

Social Security
Mitigation of stress crisis and
chronic health problems to
protect erosion
of income and assets

Capital Formation
Encouraging Enterprise
Ownership Individually and
collectively

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Urban Energy issues and its solutions carried out by Hariyali working with various urban members and trade representatives The exercise focused on the resources spent by the rural poor on accessing energy for trade related and domestic purposes mainly comprises of Lighting, Cooking, Running small tools etc.

The deep dive discussion with the members, understanding the issues, information collected, education and awareness on clean and sustainable solutions.

The main outcomes are :

1. Energy requirement in various trades : vendors, wastepickers, home based workers.
2. Domestic Requirements : Lighting, cooking etc
3. High spending from their income to buy Fuel and drudgery involved
3. Energy Planning and budgeting could lead to energy saving, cost saving, increased income and livelihood

The big learnings :

- a) The poor did not realise the real cost they were paying for accessing energy, but after this exercise, have started demanding clean energy.
- b) Understanding the issues, creating awareness and education among the members on Energy Efficiency, planning and budgeting could lead to energy saving, cost saving and increased income and livelihood
- c) SEWA trains them on how to use different clean and sustainable energy sources to increase their livelihoods in their chosen trades.



The poor spend more on accessing energy than we do

SEWA's Methodology for clean and Sustainable Energy access

a) Bottom up approach :

- need based, demand driven as per the poor women members
- emerging from the Energy Planning and Budgeting conducted by SEWA with its members
- identifying the main uses of energy, and current costs of time, effort and money in accessing energy

b) Customise energy products and services :

- understanding the need of energy in the trades that the poor are engaged in building
- specifications required for meeting the need
- searching for products that meet these specifications

c) Tailor the finance :

- understanding the underlying cash flows of the trades that the poor women are engaged in identify
- the affordability of the poor women for accessing clean energy
- search and map to available finance such that the loan installments match to these cash flows making it
- affordable ensures the poor women are able to pay for accessing clean energy

d) M&E :

- Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) activities to measure impact, especially financial impact
- Measure whether the energy access for the poor women has led to either reduction of expenses or increase in incomes or both ?
- How does it lead to their empowerment ?

e) Importance of an organisation like SEWA working at the grassroot :

- Build awareness at the first mile, especially on benefits and uses of clean energy products and services Deliver
- training on usage, maintenance, installments, etc
- Deliver energy products and services, at the door step in remote rural homes Build
- systems and processes designed to scale up

Reduce poverty by using clean energy

Addressing Energy Issues and Promoting Sustainable Solutions



Trade Related Energy Issues	Sustainable Solutions
Poor waste picker members faces troubleshoot in sorting the waste in late nights and early morning before the rise of sun.	SEWA facilitated them with LED lights, solar lanterns to increase their productivity, for sorting the waste and enhances their outreach to dark dumping sites which reduces their cost on energy and increases their income.
Poor Vendors or hawkers needs light to gravitate customers after sunset in the market, which is one of the peak period of their selling. The vendors pay Rs. 15 / day as a rent for the Kerosene / lead battery lighting solutions	SEWA has provided quality tested solar lanterns with upfront financing solutions to purchase thereby enhances saving the cost of rent, increased satisfied customers increase income / livelihoods, increased customers.
Home based workers such as tailoring members need light to stitch during night hours	SEWA facilitated its women members and their younger generation with electrical sewing machines with solar based solutions resulting into enhanced quality / better product line of stitching leads to increased and better marketable skills, increased livelihood and continuation of heritage practice of stitching in our country
Domestic Consumption Issues	
High Electricity Cost and Cost of living	<p>Providing Energy Solutions through Awareness and Education among the members in usage of electrical products that consumes less WATT of electricity and financing solution thereby reducing the cost of operation</p> <p>SEWA is creating awareness and linking members with Ujala schemes of providing LED bulbs at subsidized rates with upfront financing solution and save energy by using LED of 9 watt in comparison of 60 watt thereby cost saving of Rs 282 / bulb / year reducing the cost of living leading to sustainability as well as climate mitigation</p>
Need Energy efficient cooking stoves as they use Chullah that need puff or kerosene stoves to enlighten it.	SEWA created awareness among the members and linkages with LPG cylinders subsidized rates with Ujawla schemes, financing solutions, education on usage and cost effectiveness of the LPG stoves resulting into savings of time and energy of the women, improved health , education etc. It has been revealed that the cost is @Rs 7.50 daily if LPG cylinder runs for 2 months calculating the average cooking time and average no. of family members

Core interventions already being implemented



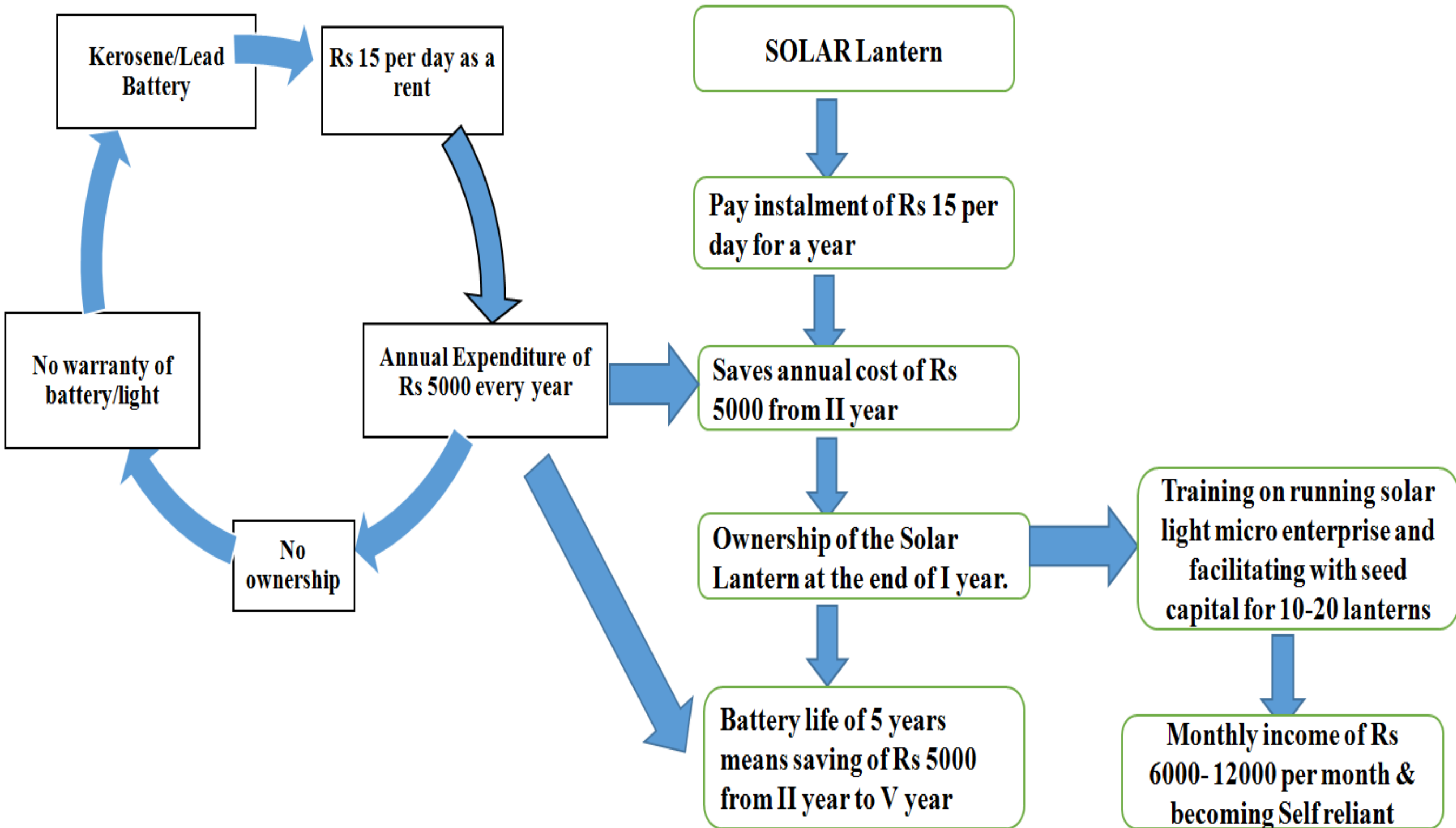
20,000 solar lanterns



4,000 L.P.G.

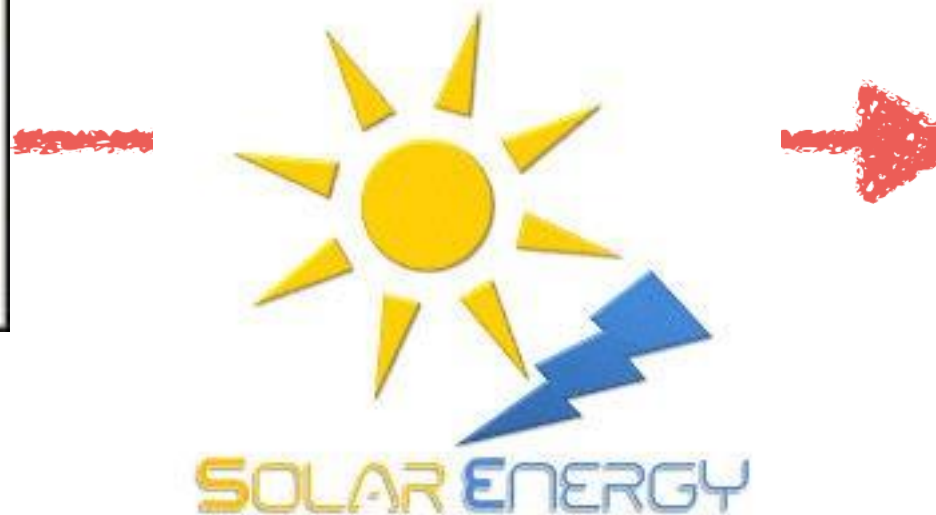
Already improving the quality of life and livelihoods

Solar Lights solution to Kerosene/Lead acid Battery for Vendors



Ending poverty of vendors, better livelihoods with green energy & climate mitigation

Why solar energy improves the lives of SEWA members



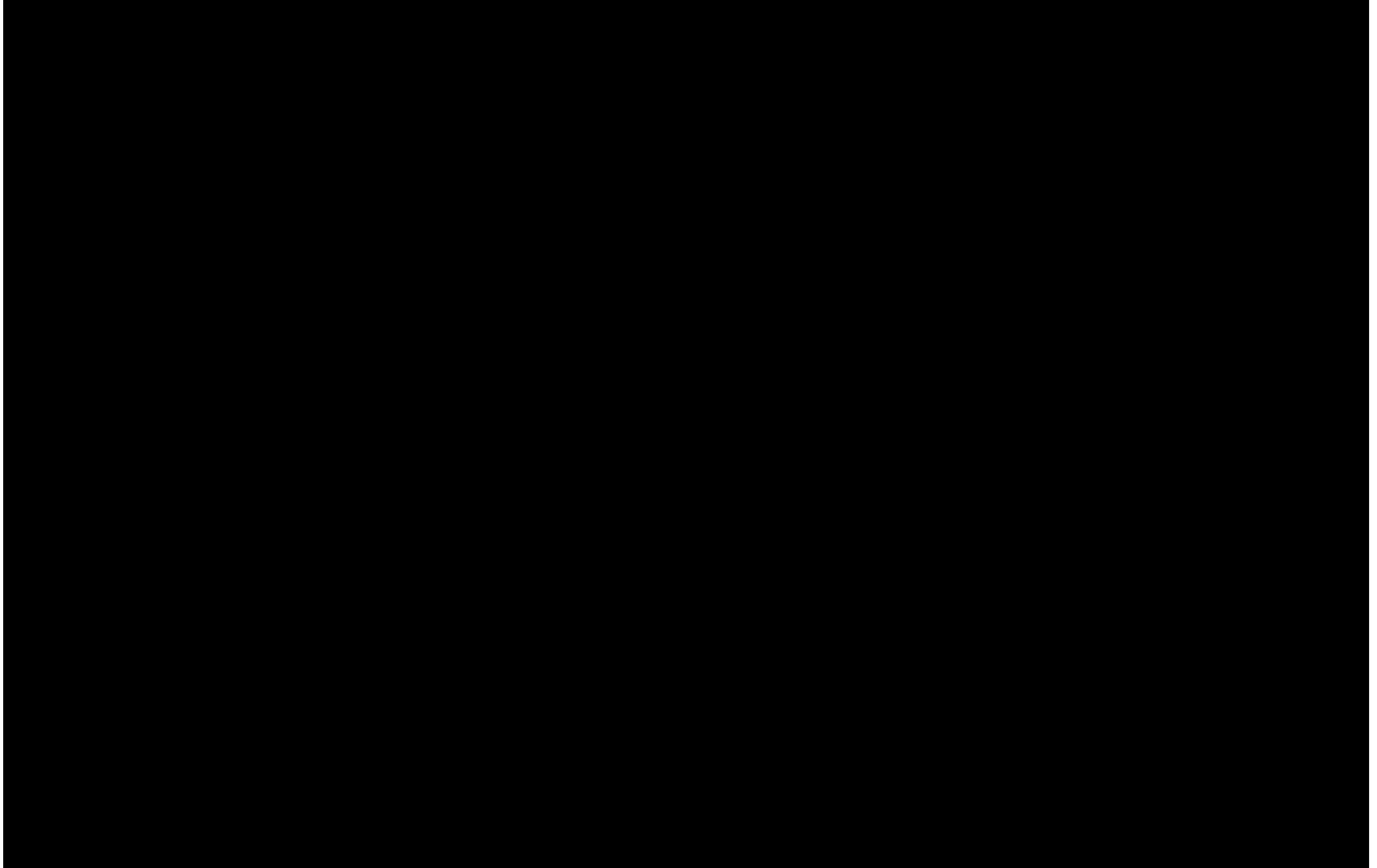
Solar energy : improves productivity, enhances production & incomes.

... and how solar energy improves their livelihoods.



“Energy is the key to poverty reduction” - Ela Bhatt, Founder, SEWA

Video : Sun at Night





**Thank
you**

SEWA

SELF EMPLOYED WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION