



Manos Unidas

Completion Report

Reporting Period: December 2018 - November 2020

Daksh

(Reviving Self-Capacity of Women Leaders)

Reference Number - IND/73630



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ABBREVIATIONS

ASHA	Accredited Social Health Activist
CBO's	Community Based Organizations
COVID	Coronavirus Disease
DISHA- RCDSSS	Roman Catholic Diocesan Social Service Society.
DSSS	Diocesan Social Service Society
IEC	Information Education and Communication
KCC	Kisan Credit Card
MGNREGA	Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act
PDS	Public Distribution System
PPE	Personal Protective Equipment
SHG	Self Help Group
UKSVK	Uttar Kshetriya Samaj Vikas Kendra



GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT

DAKSH (reviving self-capacity of women leaders) is a two-year project, commenced from December 2018-November 2020, implemented in three States of India – Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttarakhand. The expected outcome of the project was to address the challenges faced by women in rural and informal settings and to enhance their skills, access to social security schemes and services and livelihood.

Capacity development starts from the principle that people are best empowered to realize their full potential when the means of development are sustainable. The enlightenment of women, shakes the mindless rituals of society. This project targeted 240 women leaders (20 each from 12 DSSS) in rural areas. It was designed to increase the understanding and access of social protection measures and capacitating them to seek this entitlements and livelihood opportunities through different income generation activities. The project design also included advocacy with duty bearers for women's access to markets and social protection measures.

The selected women leaders voluntarily participated and were content to be part of the following: (i). Social Security Schemes & Services (old age, widow, differently abled and palanhar schemes etc, (ii). Livelihood and skill development-based services for different Income Generation Activities and (iii). Services of banks and financial institutions. The aforesaid trainings enhanced and updated their knowledge on how the government departments and other financial institutions function, the different schemes and services run by them and how they can avail of and benefit from these schemes. The women leaders were further engaged in disseminating the learning to the community members, especially the women and liasoning with government departments. The women's participation in all workshops and follow up activities was coordinated by the partners.



The coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, which originated in the city of Wuhan, China, has quickly spread to various countries, with many cases having been reported worldwide. In India too the Covid cases were increasing, several measures were taken to fight against Covid. Lockdown was implemented throughout the country and gatherings in any form was made punishable.

The govt. guidelines led to the proposal of two trainings of phase II: i. Social security schemes and services and ii. Services of banks and financial institutions which was cancelled and shared with Manos Unidas team. As per the advice and inputs from Manos Unidas team activities were refurbished to suit the most urgent needs. The revised plan was disseminated to the partners, inputs and suggestions were analysed and finally the partners agreed on distributing raw rations to 12000 families (100 families from each DSSS).

PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION

Six workshops were planned for the women leaders, only four could be conducted as follows:

Workshop Details	Date	Venue
Year One: 2018-2019		
1. Social security schemes and services	February 06-07	Dausa (Jaipur)
	February 12 –13	Ajmer
	February 27 – 28	Meerut
	March 01-02	Kotdwar (Bijnor)
	March 16 – 17	Gorakhpur
	March 18 -19	Lucknow
2. Services of banks and financial institutions	June 18 - 19	Ajmer
	June 20-21	Dausa (Jaipur)
	July 15 – 16	Meerut
	July 17 – 18	Kotdwar (Bijnor)
	August 05 -06	Lucknow
	August 07 - 08	Gorakhpur

PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION

3. Livelihood and skill development-based services for different income generation activities	November 01-02	Ajmer
	November 04-05	Dausa (Jaipur)
	November 07-08	Lucknow
	November 09-10	Gorakhpur
	November 19-20	Meerut
	November 21-22	Kotdwar (Bijnor)
Year Two: 2019-2020		
1. Livelihood and skill development-based services for different income generation activities	February 07 – 08	Banswara
	February 14 – 15	Agra
	February 24 – 25	Varanasi
	February 26 – 27	Allahabad
	March 04 – 05	Jhansi
	March 16 – 17	Bareilly
2. Social security schemes and services	Cancelled	
3. Services of banks and financial institutions	Cancelled	



Training of women leaders



RESULT STATEMENT

“Trained women leaders are disseminating functionality of different departments/institutions and providing handholding support to the community in application & follow up of concerned schemes and services.”

“Women & ID”

Identification will enable women to access services & participate in all events. The role of women leaders was accepted by the community.



Main activities undertaken, outputs delivered and progress

Output 1: Training of women leaders in Social Security Schemes and Services.

The training workshop in Social Security Schemes and Services was conducted for 120 women leaders. The workshop was the first in a series of skill-building trainings implemented for selected Women leaders. The main purpose of this 2-day training was to enhance their capacities and disseminate their learnings among the community members and ensuring their access to social security schemes and services.



Training of women leaders in Social Security Schemes and Services.

The main objectives of this training workshop were:

- To enhance the knowledge and understanding of women leaders on Social security schemes and services.



- To understand the different steps of identifying beneficiaries and appropriate process of application.
- To understand and develop skills for application of schemes and availing the benefits.
- Disseminating the workshop learning with other members of the community.

The training focused on:

- Deeper understanding of govt. schemes and services, beneficiaries, documents required for availing the services.
- Understanding and practicing the planning steps on how to apply and avail the services, advocacy and lobbying with govt. officials and follow up.
- Disseminating the learnings to the community members through community meetings, home visits, group discussions etc.
- Community have re-engineered their knowledge on various govt. schemes and have started utilizing the benefits.



Session being organized by women leaders for community members

Outcome of the workshop:

No. of beneficiaries/target identified by the women leaders	13656
No. of beneficiaries applied for govt. schemes and services	8824
No. of beneficiaries benefitted	7936



Benefits availed of by community members of 6 DSSS

List of schemes	Ajmer			Dausa			Lucknow	
	Target	Applied	Benefitted	Target	Applied	Benefitted	Target	Applied
1. Pension (Old age, widow, divyang)	221	65	42	188	75	15	171	137
2. Ayushman Bharat	0	0	0	-	-	-	418	104
3. Bhamasah	205	31	230	210	10	3	-	-
4. Palanhar Yojana	185	36	26	50	20	7	-	-
5. Sahyog Yojana	187	10	8	85	0	0	-	-
6. Khad suraksha (PDS)	206	0	0	36	47	12	257	249
7. Labor card	251	116	26	145	50	37	199	84
8. BOCW (Buiding and other construction work)	198	0	0	96	0	0	-	-
9. Pannadhya Yojana	145	28	12	102	0	0	-	-
10. Parvarish Yojana	0	0	0	-	-	-	147	25
11. Sukanya Yojana	-	-	-	50	10	7	275	139
12. Parivarik labh	-	-	-	-	-	-	27	3
13. MGNREGA	-	-	-	200	138	40	40	31
14. Agriculture Scheme (KCC, Kisan samman Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bhima Yojana)	-	-	-	-	-	-	40	49
	1598	286	137	1162	350	121	1574	821



	Meerut			Gorakhpur			Bijnor		
Benefitted	Target	Applied	Benefitted	Target	Applied	Benefitted	Target	Applied	Benefitted
338	382	360	275	610	348	228	264	215	114
79	389	367	194	770	441	757	452	1167	864
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	109	1	1
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	93	84	75
39	209	205	317	532	268	489	178	65	44
48	293	289	254	740	401	352	290	286	202
-	269	255	16	611	350	257	145	60	100
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	0	0
19	-	-	-	239	175	239	-	-	-
169	291	279	190	442	438	442	75	71	71
1	56	55	66	235	123	123	-	-	-
30	-	-	-	1137	533	490	-	-	-
220	-	-	-	578	411	474	140	130	101
943	1889	1800	1312	5894	3488	3851	1539	2079	1572

Benefits availed of by community members of 6 DSSS



A step towards sustainable development
by community members...



Output 2: Training of women leaders on Services of banks and financial institutions.

Mostly women in rural India face multiple issues for gaining digital literacy, such as lack of education, awareness, accessibility and often restrictions because of their gender. The second training on, “Services of banks and financial institutions/digital literacy” was organized to enhance the ability of women leaders and communities to understand and use digital technologies for meaningful actions within life situations.

After the training few participants demonstrated proficiency in many key functional mobile internet skills, but seemed to do so only within the context of the applications they were familiar with. Gradually with the assistance of diocesan staff the women leaders started enhancing their digital literacy. Around 70 women members are having direct access to smart phones and have used various govt. portals for addressing their own as well as community issues.



Training of women leaders on Services of banks and financial institutions.

The main objectives of this training workshop were:

- To enhance the knowledge and understanding of women leaders on Services of banks and financial institutions/digital literacy.
- To increase the access and approach of women leaders to bank operations, financial institutions and mobile literacy.
- To understand and develop skills for application of schemes digitally.
- To disseminate the workshop learning to other members of the community.

The training focused on:

- Increasing the ability of women leaders and communities to understand and use digital technologies for meaningful actions within life situations.



- Create digital leadership amongst women and help them use technology to empower and enable them to make smart choices.
- Access to mobile and filling of e-forms.

Outcome of the workshop are as follows:

S. No	Name of Schemes	Form filled through mobile	No. of applicants benefitted
1	Labour Card	77	56
2	Sukanaya Yojna	54	39
3	Shadi Anudan Yojna	58	49
4	Parwarish Yojna	10	4
5	Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojna	47	34
6	Old Pension Yojna	66	48
7	Widow Pension Yojna	78	66
8	Divyang Pension Yojna	79	56
9	Ayushman Yojna	60	20
10	Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojna	82	74
12	MGNREGA	86	72
13	Sumangla Yojna	52	25
14	Ration Card	106	102
15	Aadhar Card	54	47
16	Voter Id Card	10	5



Women leader explaining on online mobile application



Output 3: Training of women leaders on “Livelihood and skill development-based services for different income generation activities”.

Livelihood comprises of capabilities, assets and activities required for living a specific household livelihood strategy. A livelihood is sustainable when it maintains or enhances its capabilities and assets without deterioration of the natural resources available. The inhabitants of the DAKSH program are from rural areas and are mostly dependent on agri related activities or labour. Many women own livestock and a majority of livestock owning households are small, marginal and landless households.

Raising livestock remains a risky business for the rural communities of our region. The biggest risk in livestock management remains disease, shortage of fodder and market linkage.

A participatory action research design was adopted for improving women capabilities in livestock management, especially on goat, hen and duck rearing. The program was designed on need assessment, self-reflective and critical inquiry into their own problems of livestock rearing.

The training on “Livelihood and skill development-based services for different Income Generation Activities” was organized for 240 women leaders.

The workshop was the first in a series of skill-building training implemented for selected Women leaders. Based on problem identification interventions formulated included are breed selection, fodder management, immunization and vaccination against endemic diseases and mineral mixture supplementation required for nutrition and introduction of high yielding breeds, azola plantation, vermi compost pits and schemes on agriculture.



Training of women leaders on Livelihood and skill development based services for different income generation activities.





The main objectives of this training workshop were:

- To provide technical knowledge on goat breed, backyard poultry, fodder health & housing management, azola plantation, vermi compost and agriculture schemes.
- To help participants in understanding existing goat and poultry market structure.
- To share reason of success & failure of goat as commercial goat enterprise & develop a clear-cut perspective on opportunities & challenges.
- To understand government/other welfare schemes in goat and poultry and agriculture.
- To prepare and use of organic manure through modern techniques of farming etc.

The training focused on:

- Decision-making and empowerment of women leaders in livestock management.
- Income generation and self esteem.
- Access to credit.
- Disseminating the learnings to the community members through community meetings, home visits, group discussions etc.
- Community re-engineering their knowledge and increase their livelihood.

The outcomes of Livelihood training is as follows:

- More than 350 women have started goat rearing.
- More than 230 women have started hen rearing.
- 18 Azola units and 120 vermi compost units are being developed. The officials of Krishi Vigyan Kendra are assisting the community in developing the units.
- More than 200 farmers have initiated the process of soil testing, use of organic manure and are availing the agri related schemes and services.



Women leader mobilizing the community members... together we can do so much.



FOLLOW-UP ACTIVITIES

Follow-up is a way to accompany learners from being recipients of learning activities, to actively utilize their skills and knowledge and ultimately being active agents of change in their own environment. Post-training follow-up sessions were organized to provide supplementary lessons or use these opportunities to let trainees practice their skills or discuss their experiences. These sessions were ideal for trainees to ponder whether they are facing challenges as they seek to use their skills at work, and how they have implemented the key concepts and what were the results.

Self Help Group (SHG) is the platform through which the necessary information can be transmitted to the women of the community effectively. The skill training organized for the women leaders provided them with information on various government schemes and livelihood opportunity. The information which these women leaders received through the trainings, were given to other women in the SHG meetings. During the discussions, the leaders tried to resolve the problems related to the application procedures of various government schemes.



Follow-up activities by women leaders



The women leaders are not only restricted to SHGs but they also disseminated the information at individual level too. The women leaders shared the knowledge in their family and in neighbourhood, and are being approached by the village members as the reference point of the information of various government schemes.

Field level activities were monitored closely by the local partners and it was ensured that intended results are being achieved as planned. The follow up training organized by women leaders were attended by SHG women leaders, CBOs and community women. Women leaders successfully connected many beneficiaries with government schemes and livestock management.

The follow-up activities consisted of:

- Home visits by women leaders.
- Organising workshops in community for SHG groups, CBO's and community members.
- Listing of beneficiaries and assisting in filling their forms.
- Liasoning with the village head, frontline workers, line department and government officials.
- Developing Azola grass pits and vermin compost pits.
- Promoting goat and hen rearing and its management.

The project coordinator of each DSSS studied the role performance of women in livestock farming activities. Data were collected personally from goat and hen owning families through interview. Independent participation of women was noticed in the practices of feeding, grazing of animals, collection and disposal of pellets, feeding, watering, care of pregnant animals, care at kidding time, providing special feed to kidded animals and cleaning of pens. Joint participation with the spouse, however was found in the activities like cleaning and grooming of animals, chaffing of fodder. In reference to the care of young one immediately after birth, providing special feed and medicine to sick and deworming of animals was not upto the level, this also lead to mortality at many of the places in the area.

The outbreak of Covid-19 and lockdown completely halted the progress and field activities of DAKSH. The women volunteers could not organize any meeting or generate awareness among people and this continued till 30th June.

Later from July 2020 onwards, the govt. eased some restrictions and the women leaders started meeting and approaching people. The women leaders adhered to government regulations and protective measures while organizing the meetings. Since

The corona period is going on, meetings were organized with minimum participation and in different batches. One of the women leaders, Mrs. Santosh Sharma from Bhawani Village, Dausa District has opened an E-Mitra Shop and is earning her livelihood by filling forms.

The women members of the villages appreciated the efforts of women leaders for helping them in establishing their income generation activities. Being inspired and motivated by the women leaders, many families approached them for several issues/reasons related to livestock keeping. Households also showed interest in goatry and poultry. Gradually the women leaders started giving technical guidance to the people who had kept goat and hen earlier and are taking more care in terms of vaccination, fodder, development, management etc.

Many farmers who have buffaloes and cows are planning to setup vermin compost in the coming months. The women leaders have reached around 800 families of their respective diocese during the project period.

COVID Relief Activities

During COVID-19 the women volunteers collaborated with the anganwadi workers who have also become frontline responders in the fight against coronavirus in their communities. On top of their usual responsibilities, they assisted the DSSS in distributing dry rations and cooked food, screened people for COVID-19, and spread awareness of the virus.



Distributing dry rations

The major responsibilities carried out by the volunteers are:

- The volunteers facilitated the ASHA, Anganwadi workers and teachers in conducting the household survey.
- They identified and collected the primary data of the needy families for COVID relief work.
- They created awareness among the families of the COVID-19 through distribution of IEC materials.



- They distributed dry ration kits, cooked food, sanitizers, masks, soap and sanitary pads in the community.

Besides the aforesaid, a situational analysis was conducted to learn the situation at the grass root level. It was found that many who migrated had returned, daily wage workers and members of the unorganised sector are the worst hit by the current lockdown. With all establishments remaining closed since lockdown, sources of their livelihood have dried up. Series of meetings were organized by UKSVK partners with the local administration: Collectorate Office, Police Station, Health Department, Village Pradhan etc, and assured of contributing in combating the spread of Covid.

UKSVK had organized dry ration kits to about 1200 families, 100 families from each of 12 dioceses. The items included in the kit were as follows:

- i. Wheat Flour (Atta) - 5kg
- ii. Rice - 3 kg
- iii. Dal - 2 kg
- iv. Salt - 1kg
- v. One Litre Oil
- vi. One packet chilli powder - 100 gm
- vii. One packet turmeric powder - 100 gm
- viii. Bathing soap and washing dish bar

The beneficiaries who availed of the kit were:



Besides distribution of grocery kit, community sensitization activities such as: creating awareness through Water, Sanitation and Hygiene promotion, distribution of masks & sanitizers. The community was instructed to follow social distancing, regular hand wash to ensure health and hygiene. UKSVK also distributed sanitary pads to 10,000 Adolescent girls & PPE kits to 40 diocesan staff.

Every life counts for us...



CHALLENGES ENCOUNTERED DURING THE IMPLEMENTATION PHASE

- After the first training 10 women leaders dropped out due to family problems. Details are as follows: Ajmer - 4, Meerut - 5, Gorakhpur - 1. New members were brought in and new contracts made with them.
- A few members faced difficulty in disseminating the learning to the community members. This happened because in the past some organizations had misled the community with the hope of availing of government schemes.
- Some indirect beneficiaries are fully dependent on volunteers' (women leaders) after being helped. This increases the work load and is not cost effective.
- Follow up events/field level activities has come to an abrupt stop.
- Due to their new normal events are being organised in multiple batches. In some places people restricted themselves by not participating in the follow up sessions.
- Many beneficiaries could not avail of benefits of social security schemes due to the staff crunch in govt. institutions.
- There were communication gaps between the volunteers and organization during the covid-19 pandemic hence the desired results could not be achieved.

Box 1: Integrating gender equality in training programs.

Networking among women builds their confidence and generates ideas. The women participants reported an increased sense of solidarity. The women leaders expressed satisfaction with being able to exchange ideas with one another in the training workshops. Engaging men is essential. Gender equality is about both men and women. In many contexts, it is important to work with men in order to build understanding, acceptance and even advocacy for women's potential contribution in livestock management.

“Testimony by women leaders”



CONCLUSION

Three overarching conclusions emerged from DAKSH program as a whole:

- There is clear demand from women, especially at the grass-roots level, to have their priorities heard so that they can contribute more effectively to the human and economic development of their families, communities and countries. This was evidenced by the great demand for participation in DAKSH training sessions.
- Mobilizing women leaders at the grassroots level requires a holistic approach. The innovative aspect followed by UKSVK and its partners was its drive to mobilize the leadership potential of women in enhancing their access to govt. schemes and services, digital literacy and improved skills in livestock management.
- DAKSH project is an important beginning, but because of Covid pandemic and its uncertainty and constraints, its full potential has yet to be realized. A longer-term approach could be a solution to embedding the capacity and scaling up.

UKSVK remains indebted to Manos Unidas, 12 diocesan partners, resource persons, women leaders and community members for the continuous support and guidance.

Confidence in the project

“I learned how to avail of the govt. schemes and services, bank operations and possible alternatives of livelihood. Involvement in the DAKSH program which has enhanced my knowledge and skill. Therefore, we will be able to make extra money and buy things for the house. My family and I believe in the project very much and that is why we joined it from the very beginning.”



Work done by DAKSH volunteers during the Covid-19

“During the Corona epidemic when people were not getting out of their homes DAKSH volunteers helped the community in different ways. Miss Komal Mahawar, a DAKSH Volunteer of Bhatari village, spent her time on wall writing to awaken the villagers on Corona virus. Rekha Saini volunteer from Gokulwadi village made 50 Domestic masks and distributed among the adolescent girl’s and community members. Rekha Mahawar and Mrs. Menka Sharma helped in foot kit distribution.”



A new initiative for sustainable income...



This story is of Bhagirath Meena, a farmer from Pavta village of Jamwaramgarh block in Jaipur district. For Bhagirath Meena's family agriculture is the only source of income and he has only 1.5 bighas of agricultural land. Bhagirath's family also accompany him in

agriculture related works.

Ms. Santosh Sharma, the woman leader of Pavta village participated in the DAKSH program and thereafter had organized sessions in her village for women and community members. In the livelihood session Bhagirath Meena too participated. Through this session he understood the importance of livestock management, azola plantation and vermi compost. Though he was aware of the importance of organic fertilizer he never had the concept of constructing a vermi compost pit. With the help of Santosh Sharma, DAKSH volunteer he visited Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) and realized the methods adopted in vermicompost production. To enhance the farm production Mr Bhagirath established a vermicompost unit in a cool, moist and shady place and also did the soil test.

Once the compost was ready, Bhagirath Meena discontinued using chemical fertilizers. Organic manure were used for crops and horticulture fields. As a result, his field now has more yield than before and the vegetables are also of good quality. This time Bhagiratha made a profit of more than Rs.10, 000. He is thankful to Santosh Sharma and team of KVK for the improved income and is also mobilizing other farmers to adopt the use of organic farming.

A ray of hope...



Manju Devi Mahawar w/o Ramwatar Mahawar, lives in Bassi block of Jaipur district. There are five members in her family, Manju, her husband and three daughters. Her husband works as a daily wage labourer. The outbreak of Covid – 19 and the lockdown has devastated their livelihood. Though the lockdown has been called off their but employment opportunities still remain meagre.

Ms. Rekha Mahawar was part of DAKSH program and after participating in all three training programmes she had organized sessions on, i. Social Security Schemes and Services, ii. Services of banks and financial institutions for the community members. Manju Devi too had participated in the sessions.

After attending the sessions, she contacted Ms. Rekha Mahawar and the staff of Jeevandhara Samaj Kalyan Sanstha (JSKS). She shared her grief with them and urged them to assist her in acquiring a job to sustain her family. Rekha shared her interest of enrolling herself in MGNREGA. Earlier too she had applied but never got the job card. This time with the help of DAKSH volunteers and JSKS staff she re-applied for the job card. Within a month she received the job card, but hardly had any chance to work under this scheme.

Manju Devi contacted DAKSH volunteers and shared her situation. Soon the village Pradhan was met and was informed of the plight of Manju Devi. The Pradhan assured of all help and within a week she got enrolled for work in MGNREGA. Manju Devi is thankful to DAKSH Program volunteers for enabling her in promoting her livelihood and self-reliance.



Our limitation—it's only our imagination...



They say that everybody in this world has been gifted with some talents which we need to use to create something magical. But in most cases, many of us are not able to identify and recognize god given talents and strengths, thus, we tend to waste what we possess. There are also many who are either born with some limitations or they acquire them due to some unfortunate event in their lives.

Here is a story of one such lady, Ms. Santosh Chauhan from Ajmer. Being a physically disabled of her left leg since she was 12 years of age. Due to a severe accident in the middle of a busy road she suffered injuries on her left leg and since then she has been walking with a crippled leg. But that incident never made her stop achieving her dreams. She completed her studies and graduated in Bachelor of Arts. She then started teaching in a private school near her home. In 2010 she joined Disha RCDSSS and from then on she never looked back. When she joined the organization she was very timid and lacked confidence in her dealings. While working in various projects over the years she gained knowledge, skills and confidence to work in the villages. She is working with women SHGs and managing 45 SHGs in Srinagar block which shows how good is she at her work.

In the DAKSH project she participated in all 3 trainings. These trainings helped her in sharpening her skills and talents. The experience of these trainings made her work even more passionately with the community members. The dedication in her work is such that through her liaisoning and efforts she managed to provide 101 assistive devices to persons with disability. She is a perfect example of sheer strength and courage who despite of her limitations came out to be a victor. An inspiration for men and women alike, fighting all odds, she is a role model for those who think their limitations are the block in their lives but she has proved that our limitation are just our imagination.



**“When life throws stones at you,
pick them up and learn to use them to build the strongest,
firmest foundation that no one could ever destroy”...**



Life is full of struggles and tribulations for those who decide to give up and surrender, but it is a blessing for those who decide to fight against all odds. Here is a story of one such lady, Savita, who chose to come out to be a champion against all her troubles and sufferings. Savita was born in a poor rural family where she and her 5 siblings used to stay with their parents. From a very young age she has faced many problems, her family was financially very weak and being the second eldest among the six siblings she realized the importance of education and hard work at a very early age. Her father, being a policeman, wanted his daughter to study and that's how she completed her class 12. But as the custom of the villages to marry a girl as soon she reaches the age of 18 years, Savita too, was married.

Her husband was an unemployed person, having no adequate education for a job. From here on, the life of Savita, started becoming miserable day by day. The family condition was such that they didn't have enough money to get food and a healthy diet. Seeing, the pathetic situation, Savita started working in a pipe factory with her father-in-law. She worked for five years in that factory and in these years she gave birth to four children, two boys and two girls. These were the most challenging days for her, as she was working in tough conditions and as well as looking after her children. She also ensured that her children were never being deprived of education. In these circumstances, anybody can get disturbed and make him/herself feel depressed, but in the case of Savita it was just the opposite.

They say, 'when the going gets tough, the tough gets going', this popular phrase clearly depicts the personality of Savita. When the Nari Abhyuday Project started in Jawaja block, Savita showed her interest to work for empowering the women folk of her village. She was selected for the position of field animator and worked wonderfully in the area. Later, she participated in three trainings of the DAKSH Project which enhanced her capacity and sharpened her skill in social welfare. These trainings helped her to gain a sense of belief of herself and motivated her to reach out to those women who are deprived of their rights. She is now an active member of the village who is helping other women like her to enroll themselves in various social security schemes run by the government. She has linked her two daughters with the Sukanya Yojana, which is an example of what she professes she does the same too.



Reason to smile...



This story is of Sarita Devi, 35, from Balakranpur village, Allahabad district. Sarita Devi's family consists of husband and children. Her husband is a daily wage labourer and children are studying. The meagre income of her husband hardly suffices to meet the family needs and so the family could not afford nutritious food. Sarita often accompanies her husband for an extra income. Since the children are small Sarita can't do regular jobs.

DAKSH volunteer, Ms Vidyawati a member of Balakranpur village had organized a series of workshops on Livelihood for the community members. Sarita Devi ensured her participation in the workshop. This was the first time that she attended any workshop. She got engrossed with the knowledge and livelihood opportunity shared in the workshop.

Sarita Devi expressed her desire of initiating a poultry farm, since it requires less investment. Soon she bought six chicks and followed all precautions as shared in the workshop. After six months of managing chickens in her backyard, she has many reasons to smile. Her efforts yielded, and she is in a position to add eggs and meat in her platter and allow her children grow up with adequate protein intake."

Sarita is planning to buy more chicks and is planning to sell eggs and meat to enhance her financial income.

"I would never be able to do anything like this on my, but in this environment with the motivation of the other people, [it] has just been amazing."

- Sarita



Training on Social Security Schemes & Services



Training on Services of Banks and Financial Institutions



Training on Livelihood and Skill Development Based Services for Different IGA



Covid - 19 Relief Activities



Covid - 19 Relief Activities





Uttar Kshetriya Samaj Vikas Kendra (UKSVK)
The Northern Regional Forum

Diocesan Pastoral Centre, Cathedral House,
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