

AN ORDINARY VILLAGE GIRL OF “SAKHI” BECOMES THE WARD PANCH OF THE AREA - BANSWARA

Miss Veena Garaciya a resident of Chattrakutta Panchayat, Sajjangarh Tehsil, Banswara District, Rajasthan is a Bhil Adivasi girl from a poor family. Her parents are farmers. She is the eldest among six children. At present she is a B.A 2nd year student in college.

Two years ago she joined the kishori group initiated by SAKHI project. She regularly participated in the meetings, trainings, awareness programs and many other activities run by the project which enabled her to become active and enthusiastic.

She says she had a dream to become a leader and do something for the betterment of society especially for women. She knew women were no longer to be channels as producers or collectors of meals and of taking care of children. She realized that each women/kishori has to struggle in one way or the other against discrimination to win self-respect and self-confidence.

As she was involved in different programs and activities with projects on property rights, domestic violence and gender equality, child marriage and so on, she found that it is necessary to understand the system which keeps women dominated over and subordinated. As she grew up and became more active in the group she expressed her wish to her parents and friends. They supported and motivated her at their level best. She decided it is time to start her career as a leader. Really it was challenging, but she was determined. The recent Panchayat election 2020 brought a golden chance to make her dream come true. She stood as a candidate for ward panch. There were four candidates against her. She prepared well and contested the elections.

Finally her dream came true and she won the election. She got 127 votes and was declared the ward panch. She is very much appreciated and respected by the villagers and panchayat authorities. Thus she has become a role model for the village and for other kishoris. She states that if women leaders unlike male leaders do not pass domestic legislation that benefits women and increases gender equality, then no one will be able to do it. She questions if female facilitate the adoption of gender-specific measures and policies that benefit women, then it can be argued that women's political empowerment, particularly in the developing world can be a tool to bridge the gap and improve the social conditions of women and society as a whole. Now she wants to bring about changes in the villages by changing the life of women. she is determined to make available to them all the government schemes for the needy.

In conclusion she gives all the credit to SAKHI project through which she developed her knowledge and awareness. It helped her to think of doing something for the women/kishoris. Whole-heartedly she thanks UKSVK for the SAKHI project and thanks SJVS for the implementation of the project in the villages. Surely her success is an achievement and an inspiration for every kishori to come up in future with a new hope.

