

## **Women, the agents of change in Uday CDP Aulia**

Uday Community Development Project Aulia covers an area of ten villages. This is a women focused community development project which organizes women through SHGs as well as Integral Development of Children supported by IBC (Italian Bishops' Conference). Presently we are working with 40 SHG groups, of which 28 are linked with bank and have availed government benefits. The rest of the groups are inter-loaning among themselves to meet their needs. It was a hectic task initially to organize these women and to orient their role in building up their villages.

During the past months, we at Uday CDP organized different trainings with the aim of enhancing leadership and to strengthen the government facilities'. They are;

**School Management committee (SMC) Training of Govt. schools:** We organized 5 Trainings in different villages for the members of SMC to orient them with their role in managing the school and ensuring education of all children of the village. In most villages the teachers were very positive about the outcome of the training. They reported now the SMC members regularly visit the school and enquire about the school matters. The SMC of Dabi School was mobilized to apply for compound wall and drinking water facility in the school to the Janapadh Panchayat. All these are the after effect of the training on SMC

**Medical Camp:** On 6<sup>th</sup> October 2014 we organized Medical Camp in Burkhedi and Bilkhedi villages as these villages are away from medical facilities and has no means of conveyance to reach the hospital. 80 patients benefited from the camp through medicines and investigations.

**Children's Camp:** A three day's residential camp for capacity building and leadership training was organized for the children studying in government schools from 24<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> October 2014. The camp included a session on leadership, different competitions, film show and analysis. All the activities were aiming at Building leadership and creative thinking in these children. An exposure program was organized for these children as most of them have not seen a railway station, Collectorate, post office, water purification center, and Naptune lake. It was indeed a time of wonder and learning experience for these poor children.

**Training for ICDS Teachers/Anganwadi (Integrated Child Development Scheme):** On 21<sup>st</sup> Nov 2014 we organized the training on **Psychological, Safety Physical Needs of the Toddlers** and the resource person was Sr. Vinita Singh SSpS. 16 teachers participated in the training; this training aimed at capacity building of these teachers.

**Female Child Day:** On 19<sup>th</sup> Dec.2011, the United Nations General Assembly passed a resolution to celebrate 11<sup>th</sup> October as the International Girl Child Day. By observing this day, the girls gets opportunity and increase awareness of gender inequality faced by girls worldwide in areas such as access to education, nutrition, medical care and protection from discrimination, violence and child marriage.

This year we celebrated international Girl Child day in Bondwa village as it is one of the most backward in providing access to education of girl child. We organized different competitions to bring out their hidden talents. They included dace, singing, rangolie, painting, speech on women's changing role in the society. And the winners were awarded, 62 girls participated in the event.

**Awareness Training on Women Participation in Panchayat Election:** The federation leaders from eight villages participated in the awareness training. This training awakened our women regarding their right to participate in the local level administration.65 women participated and benefited.

Together with these activities, the major result is found in the following activity where the women take initiative towards the community development programs of the villages. Once they are given the opportunity, they really excel in their leadership. **Training and exposure for the Federation Leaders:** SHG's slowly began creating some women leaders for social action, thus we have formed eight village level federations in different villages. The leaders of these federations were given a 2 days training on the role of a federation in social action by Samavesh organization from Khategaon. An exposure program to Samavesh field area (Kidkiya) helped our women to interact with the empowered illiterate tribal women of Bavadiya village. The women from Bavadiya village shared their initial struggles in standing for their rights and for the community development of the village. They awakened our leaders that the need for federation should be felt by themselves for its continued action. They should move beyond cast and class to work against social evils. They also paused a question, what is your identity as women of your village? Your identity is your husband

because he goes to public place? They explained the need for creating their own identity as women of the village by organizing Mahila Sammelan (women's gathering) now and discuss on different issues of the village. The training concluded with action plan to implement when they are back to their villages. It was indeed an enriching experience in four villages. The members who went for the exposure, motivated women of other villages and organized Mahila Sammelan by themselves in Aulia Cluster and the staff of Uday was invited as guest. This was the first time the people of the village realized the need to get involved by themselves in the community issues. They felt it is their responsibility to work towards the development of the village and others can only motivate and encourage them.

The aim of our mission in Aulia is getting gradually materialized - the people take initiative for the community needs, not that we go ahead and plan for the people.

Reported by

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