

Uday Vikas Manch Aulia becomes the watchdog of public property.....

Ms. Neetu Khushwah is one of the active members of Vikas Manch, lives in Karoli village Aulia Cluster, district Khandwa. She and her colleagues in the SHG not only learned saving of money but also to raise issues which affect their life, family and community. A concrete road was sanctioned for this village and the work left incomplete. In the meantime she realized the cement which was kept for the work was reduced in number. Under her leadership, some of the members of Vikas Manch, united together and enquired from the Sarpanch regarding the missing sacks of cement which should be used for road construction. Later, they found the sacks of cement taken by some individuals for their vested interest and it was reported by women to the Sarpanch. Ms. Neetu and her team managed to bring back the lost 300 cement sacks and the road work is complete. She was one among the leaders who was awarded cash prize on International Women's Day Rs. 3001/- for her courageous efforts. Likewise many innovative strategies were adopted by Vikas Manch to curb corruption.

Step towards swach Bharath in Koladit village

Ms. Chandra Kushwah lives in Koladit village and she was selected as the leader of Vikas Manch in this area. More women began to participate in awareness programs and Gram Sabha with her innovative methods approaching them and improved their self-confidence. After being appointed as the Graam Saathin (village volunteer), Chandra, actively participated in every program and motivated others to join the programs. The Govt. local institutions like aaganwadi, Govt. schools and non-formal education centres run by Uday were monitored by her. She observed that there was no drainage system in their village due to which the concrete road was getting damaged and children were facing difficulties while going to school. She gathered all the members and meet Sarpanch for making drainage system on both side of the road. This is again the role of an empowered woman who made use of her leadership skills.

Persons affected by Hansen's disease get their due pension for a dignified life.....

A colony near CDP Aulia office is inhabited by people affected with leprosy where 16 patients were not getting their pension for last 8 months which affected their daily living. Uday team member Mr. Narayan took the lead to help these persons through online system of Govt. and motivated the pension holders to file an application in Public hearing. After 15 days of filing application no actions were taken place by the Govt. but they did not gave up

and continue to pressurize the Govt. officers. As result of the persistent efforts, in one month all pension holders received pension which have been withheld for many months.

Narrated by Chandra and Neetu

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Women at the forefront: The role of Uday Vikas Manch in banning alcohol - Sirpur Cluster

In some of the Indian states, we see banning alcohol by the state Govt. such as Bihar, Kerala, Gujarat, Lakshadweep, Manipur, Nagaland, Andhra Pradesh etc. The debate surrounding prohibition can go on endlessly. But key questions increasingly being raised are definitely valid. Should the issue of personal freedom, that is, the freedom to drink, override the safety and wellbeing of millions of women and children? A great deal of domestic violence in India, and elsewhere, is related to drunkenness. Families with alcoholic men suffer poverty and ill health because the men drink away the income and suffer physical and mental abuse.

There was a time in Madni village of Sirpur cluster which was dejected due to liquor consumption, around 75% males used to drink alcohol daily. This shop was situated at the centre of the village for nearly 10 years which favoured the atmosphere. It was not merely limited to drinking liquor but it affected the entire life of women and children. They suffered a lot facing domestic violence, vanished all income and some of them destroyed their lives. In the evening often incidents of quarrel and abuses were taking place, women and children were beaten up by the drinking husband.

Ms. Geeta is one of the active members of Self Help Group and she attended many capacity building trainings by Uday. She was one of the victims of domestic violence and her husband was an alcoholic due to which she has endured a lot. The issue was discussed in the meetings of SHG and further in Vikas Manch. After the discussion, the members of these forums talked to the

owner of the shop and counselled Geeta's husband to dissolve the issue and live a peaceful life. During the Gram Sabha once again women raised this matter and filed a complaint in the police station.

Since continuous carefrontation did not work out, Geeta telephoned nearby police station against her husband and owner of the shop. Immediately the shop was shut down by the Police depicting the unity among women in this patriarchal society which does not provide equal rights to women. Consequently now the life of Geeta and other women in the village have become peaceful and positive changes were observed in the village. There is adequate transformation found in the life of Geeta's husband who left the habit of drinking. This incident encouraged Geeta and other women of Vikas Manch gradually to empower themselves. Her family received Indira Awas scheme for housing and PDS card (for ration). The families of Madni village are very blissful today and idyllic, experiencing peace and harmony.

The very concept of SHG and Federation (we call it Vikas Manch) is achieved these ways and this becomes one of the examples of the result based activity which lasts for a longer period. These types of models are seen in other places of Uday units that is- the members help one another especially when they are faced with trouble. Once we have formed leaders of SHGs in a non-monitory manner, we can mostly expect outcome as mentioned in the above example.

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