

Women become agents of social changeUday Aulia CDP

One of the goals of Uday Social Development Society is creating women leaders to take up developmental works in the communities towards progress. All the Uday team members in the 6 units are aiming towards this objective. Uday CDP Aulia (Community Development Projects) is presently working in 10 villages and has initiated many activities through the medium of Self Help Groups (SHGs) of women and other works.

Gobariya village is located at *Pandhana* Block in Khandwa district. There are SHGs formed which brought a ray of hope to the people of the village. Gradually the members got united together to address the village issues which is the ultimate aim of SHGs formed. At this juncture, a federation of SHGs has been formed naming it as *Vikas Manch* which will take up programs in a larger level through women leaders.

Ms. Sangita is one of the active members of Durga SHG and she was elected as secretary of the group. She plays a vital role in organizing the women of the village and selected as Gram Saathin (like village leader). Alcoholism is a serious problem in the village due to which everyone especially women and children have suffered a lot. She encouraged all the women of Gobariya village to campaign against those persons who are selling liquor. They requested Uday team to help them write the complaint and 9 women went together to police station, pressurized the police to take quick and appropriate action. The police immediately registered FIR against the liquor seller. Consequently after the proceedings were completed, the police arrested the liquor seller and now selling of liquor is prohibited in the village. Being a leader and for her initiatives, she faces lot of criticism from villagers and few men taunt her with abusive words whenever Sangita pass by the road or at bus stand.

What we appreciate is her effective and uncompromising leadership towards community change. Today she is a model to other women in the villages. These are types of outcome of SHGs formed in all our villages and working towards the same goal that the women will take up issue based programs.

At another event, unity among women brought changes in Aulia

Krishna Bai is an inhabitant of *Niharwadi village in Aulia Cluster*. Krishna is associated with Uday CDP Aulia by becoming a member of SHG and she is also one of the designated members of *Vikas Manch*. *The members of SHG and Vikas Manch are frequently provided with capacity building trainings to address the issues of their villages.*

By working in the agricultural field Krishna earns in a day Rs. 80/- But she noticed that the wages paid in the nearby villages is slight better than (i.e Rs. 100-150) what is paid in her own village although Rs.100/- is not a livable wage. She started to organize all the members of SHG and decided to bring some change in relation to the daily wage paid to these workers.

Under her leadership, she gathered some community members to give information to the *Gram Sewak* (who is appointed by Panchayath) for making the announcement in the village. Next day an announcement was made in the village that ***“No one will go for any kind of labor until the owners pay to us Rs. 100/- as daily wage”***. All villagers agreed this condition and showed their camaraderie towards increasing wages in their village. It was really a triumph over the feudalism existing in the village. No villagers including men went for any kind of labor for two days and the *Sarpanch (Village president)* also supported the inventiveness. This incident has been proved the turning point of increasing wages of labors in the village. Consequently wages have been increased from Rs. 80 to Rs. 100 more over it is very minimal. In this way Krishna Bai united all villagers for addressing this issue and in this entire process men also supported her in order to achieve this aim.

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Upholding UN values by being Child Right promoters

Uday CDP Badi Dhamini has started five Shiksha Sehayog centers (educational coaching centres) began in July 2015 to support the children who are studying in the primary sections of Govt. schools. The class begins in the morning (9.00-10.30 am) just before the children attend the school. These supporting centres are located in Mujal, Kotada and Badi Dhamini village of Badi Dhamini Cluster.

As part of the process, planning meetings were conducted in the month of June with parents, Sarpanch (village president) and teachers of the Govt. schools to discuss the matter and apparently all were in support of the same.

Meanwhile it was found that few teachers were not happy about this initiative because if the children come regularly to the school, there should be teachers and mid-day meal is to be provided to all the children. In fact the Govt. is providing all the facilities required for the prescribed number of children who are admitted in the schools but actually it is not implemented as it should be. The tension of the school teachers was that they may not receive any advantage if all the children daily come to the school. They tried to create obstacles in this inventiveness and made plans to prevent the children from studying at Shiksha Sehayog Kendra. Many efforts were taken by the parents and local authorities in order to resolve this issue but some teachers showed resistance. Even the Sarpanch of the Panchayath supported but it was difficult to convince the teachers. The Uday team of Badi Dhamini took permission from Block Education Officer (B.E.O.) and State Education Centre, Bhopal.

However the team did not relinquish and made continued efforts towards the better implementation of this program for child education. The result of persistent endeavours and synchronization has reflected in the success of this program and children daily attend the coaching as well as schooling. Today the team in Badi Dhamini feel satisfaction of being child right promoters for education. The children are learning the foundation accurately and get opportunity for extra co-circular activities and the kids are progressing towards better performance.

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