

## **Educate, Organize, Empower; Tidings from Uday**

In his first Christmas *urbi et orbi* message, Pope Francis issued a impassioned pleas for peace in the Middle East and war-torn countries in Africa. Looking at the Child in the manger, he said "our thoughts turn to those children who are the most vulnerable, victims of wars, elderly, battered women, sick, trafficked persons and refugees.

Christmas is a celebration of God with us. When I reflect on this facet, my thoughts are with our sisters in INC who are involved in the mission of education, child care institutions (boarding & hostel) health, JPIC, media, art and music etc. with passion and compassion as envisaged by our Pope. Every mission work in the Province is carried out with commitment and competency in an innovative manner without much going for infrastructural development; purely forming and empowering the stakeholders of rural & urban community.

In this regard, I take the reference of 6 units in INC coordinated through Uday social development society started in 2003 with right based approach among the deprived community especially for women and children. At present the sisters involved in these units are Sr. Rosily Panjikanan - Indore Domestic Workers' Solidarity (IDWS), Sr. Rosina Joseph- Slum Development Project Bhopal, Sr. Nirmala Marandi - CDP Badi Dhamini, Sr. Anna Tirkey- CDP Sirpur, Sr. Roslin Pathiyotil - CDP Aulia and Sr. Jency T O -CDP Dharampuri. The purpose of this non-

institutional or non-infrastructural approach is towards bearing everlasting fruits -John 15:16. Once we form people, they will engage in the issues and developmental works; only it requires accompaniment. Thereby people start taking responsibilities and effective leaders emerge in the society. We take this as our priority because our General Chapters and Provincial Chapters give sufficient prominence towards preparing leaders for our ministries.

The various articles of this chapter from the mission are a reflection of how people are trained to address the needs of their own community issues. The members in these centres are provided with professional guidance to carry out the planned activities. During the Review Visits, based on the annual plan we discuss the previous quarterly plan & implementation, and plan for the next quarter; field visits are arranged as part of the visits.

The team members of Uday have organized women through SHG and its federation is also formed naming it as Vikas Manch in order to deliberate on the development work. Women of this forum have taken initiatives to address the local issue like ban of liquor, unemployment, quality education of children, Public Distribution System (ration) etc. These women not only address the local issues but also motivate other women to join hands with them in the programs of Panchayath as Mrs. Angoori, Mrs. Sangita, Mrs. Krishna, Mrs. Rashmi and many more leaders. The leadership

### *Ministry*

and contribution of our sisters, staff and women are recognized by the people wherever we work, our empowering and collaborating presence is felt. Despite of various hindrances the women continue to take up activities with vigour and enthusiasm.

A new venture is begun in order to provide quality education to the children who are studying in Govt. schools. Uday has implemented 24 Shiksha Sehayog Kendra (special tuition centres) in the rural areas and 1 coaching centres in Jatkhedi slum of Bhopal. These centres are supporting the children from deprived community by providing them additional coaching classes. 24 Bal Mitra (volunteers) are appointed in order to teach these children through activity based learning. Initially the team faced much opposition from the Govt. schools saying the children do not require this facility. But the parents supported this plan because they wanted their children to be educated. The model is adopted from Goeka project and we have begun this program with 2 objectives. (1) To improve the quality of children's education studying in Govt. schools (2) To reduce absenteeism of children and teachers in the schools.

Child labour is rampant in urban areas and we see many children going for work without getting education. Among the 65

children who were identified as labourers, 41 children are admitted in the Govt. school. If this step was not taken, all of them would have been victimised of child labour and abuses. Thanks to our SSpS Generalate Rome & Central Govt. Delhi who supported this mission; today their future is secured in safe hands.

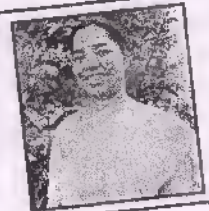
The rights of domestic workers are another priority for us who are vulnerable to several abuses and exploitation. They are accompanied by providing leadership trainings to be organized. More than 7000 domestic workers are registered with IDWS from 105 slums of Indore, Bhopal and now it is initiated in Khandwa too. Till date 2920 members are enrolled in union of domestic workers to collectively demand their rights. Trainings and workshops are periodically conducted to enhance their skills and capacity.

Malnutrition is a burning issue in Madhya Pradesh especially in the tribal belt. Additional Prevention & Promotion of Health initiatives have proved a better step towards community health. We provided nutritious food and health check up to the children in the non-formal-education centres.

**Sr. Lizy Thomas SSpS, Bhopal &  
Ms. Sheetal Arya (Uday Program  
Officer)**

**Thanks! Sr. Philo George**

Thank you very much for all your efforts in making RAYS more colourful and effective. Wish you God's blessings in your mission!



## WOMEN BECOME AGENTS OF SOCIAL CHANGE UDAY-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 others.



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 passes by the road or at bus stand.

What we appreciate is her effective and uncompromising leadership towards

### *Ministry*

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 per 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 consent 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 even though 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.

**Sr. Roslin Pathiyotil SSps (Director  
of Uday CDP Aulia)  
& Mr. Raju Oswal (Community  
Organizer)  
Aulia Cluster - Uday**

*Only God can turn a mess into a MESSAGE  
a test into a TESTIMONY  
a trial into a TRIUMPH  
a victim into a VICTORY*

## SHG, a strategy towards empowerment .....

Empowerment is a process by which a person realizes the various capacities concealed in her or him. When we talk about women empowerment what is understood is that women should get equal opportunities for actualizing the various capacities present in the individual. A positive self image, better self confidence and self reliance are important components towards empowerment (from WOMEN EMPOWERMENT THROUGH SHG by Fr. Jacob CMI\*). Very often the women of underprivileged community lack opportunities to achieve the above mentioned goals. Therefore Self Help Groups (SHG) is found to be one of the best medium to empower the women of marginalized areas.

Jai Maa SHG was formed 5 years ago in Salyakheda village of Sirpur Cluster of Uday with 10 members. The performance of this group was very poor in the initial period. When the members needed money for any imperative work, they borrowed money from moneylenders at a very high interest rate and thereby people were exploited.

With the guidance of Uday CDP Sirpur, the groups opened account in the bank and they obtained the Govt. schemes from the bank. After six months of opening the bank account, the group applied for Revolving Fund. This is a special fund provided by the Govt. for the SHGs purely based on the performance of groups and not required



to refund. During the grading by the bank, the group fared well in their performance. Jai Maa SHG cleared the grading and they have received 15,000/- to the capital amount of the group as revolving fund. Three years after the SHG began functioning well, the members received assortment of benefits: the group received 50,000/- loan for income generation activities. They have invested this amount towards various programs like animal husbandry, grocery store, agriculture and related small scale business in order to enhance their economic condition. The loan amount was reimbursed by the group to the bank without any default.

Today the women of this group are economically self-reliant and supporting their family. Ms. Angoori is one among the members of Jai maa group who has taken Rs. 10,000/- from SHG @ Rs.2/- as interest per Rs. 100/- per month is to be paid by her. She has supported her family by purchasing a flour machine in her home. Gradually this Income Generation Activity

### *Ministry*

has proved a profitable business for Angoori. She has returned the complete amount of loan with interest to the SHG within 6 months. Now she has good employment and helped her son to put up a general store. Therefore SHG has proved a strong source of income for her family in order to enhance their economic condition.

Another important objective of the SHG is taking up community development issues through Panchayath. Today she is an effective leader (Gram Saathin) who takes along other women and motivates them. Before the existence of this group, there was no proper Gram Sabha taking place in their Panchayath. Today the women in big number attend all the four Gram Sabhas

of the year in Salyakheda which is a major change in the village. Frequently trainings are arranged for the women to take up developmental programs and address the issues of their villages. As members of SHG, they meet the Govt officers, discuss the village related problems and some of the women are members in Panchayath and they motivate children to attend school daily. They made facilities for drinking water by installing two hand pumps, electricity etc.

**Sr. Anna SSpS (Director of Uday  
CDP Sirpur)  
& Mr. Rajesh kanade (Community  
Organizer)  
Sirpur Cluster - Uday**

## A RAY OF HOPE...

"The greatest accomplishment is in never falling, but in rising again after you fall"- Vince Lombardi. Ms. Rashmi (name changed) lives in Gondwadi of Uday Dharampuri Cluster. In the year 2013 she was married to Mr. Jagdeesh who is working in Forest Department, Madhya Pradesh. When he realized that even after two years of their marriage, they did not have children and she often suffered wife-battering. Inability to handle the situation he found solace in ill-treating and beating her up. In fact both of them did not know the causes of infertility which can be from either male or female side and she became the victim of his ignorance. As for any woman, for Rashmi too, it was very difficult to be called barren. The situation had become worse day by day and he left her

at her maternal home (Dharampuri). Devastated by the situation she was broken down.

After six months, Rashmi approached Uday CDP Dharampuri team for assistance. After listening to her, few counseling sessions helped her to overcome the after-effect of harassment and she decided to divorce Jagdeesh. I imparted information and knowledge on both- the legal process of divorce as well as to settle the issue according to the village customs and traditions. Her family discussed the problem with leaders and elders of the rural community and they proposed to resolve the matter as per the rule. Finally both agreed upon for the divorce and settled the case according to the village norm.



Although she is facing derision from the community, she has gained confidence after the settlement.

After motivating her, she takes membership in SHG trying to strengthen her economical status and earns her living by working. Every woman has a story to tell, it's her personal story and she has succeeded in living a positive life with all struggles. One who has felt the deepest grief is best able to

experience supreme happiness. "Live, then, and be happy, beloved children of my heart, and never forget, that until the day God will deign to reveal the future to all human wisdom is contained in these two words, wait and hope" Alexandre Dumas.

**Sr. Jency SSps (Director of Uday  
CDP Dharampuri)**

**Mr. kashiram & Mr. Pravin  
(Community Organizers)  
Dharampuri Cluster - Uday**

## **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 we 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 come daily 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.

### *Ministry*

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 curricular activities and the kids are progressing towards better performance.

**Sr. Sr. Nirmala Marandi SSpS  
(Director of Uday CDP Badi Dhamini)  
& Ms. Vidhya Vasunia (Community  
Organizer)  
Badi Dhamini Cluster - Uday**

## **NATIONAL DOMESTIC WORKERS MOVEMENT MP**

From the year 2006 onwards, our animators are taking regular meetings with the domestic workers and making them aware of their rights. We also created awareness to domestic workers that we are aware of trafficking the girls and young women. We alert them if someone offers easy money for without education then be careful to take up the job without the details. We also rescued three girls by net work with NGO's and child line. Two girls were from Odisha to Delhi to Indore. One girl is from Indore to Nagpur.

Idris Nagar, Indore: After reading the news in the morning dailies on 17 July 2012 people were stunned to learn typical breaking news.

The story starts when Mrs. Sitabai Chouhan w/o Mr. Sohanlal Chouhan consumed poison to attempt suicide. She was rushed to the hospital for recovery. While examining doctors found a lock on her genital. On enquiring, they learnt that her husband had a suspicion on her and he locked.

After marriage of 30 years, Sitabai Chouhan has five children, three boys and two girls. She says that her husband drinks liquor regularly and beats her and children. Nevertheless, she

complained about this to anybody. From last five years, he doubted that his son has sexual relations with his mother. Therefore, he screwed a lock in her genital.

Sitabai Chouhan says that every morning at 6-30 a.m. he used to send his three sons to the garage; Mr. Chouhan then use to collect Tiffin then lock both her daughters with their mother in the last room of the house and go to garage. In the evening when three sons use to come home, they were supplied with food plates in the front room itself; their father told them not to enter the inner rooms. The eldest son did not see her mother's face from last five years. Mr. Chouhan did not even get electricity connection for house. Even then, Mrs. Sitabai bore all problems but never complained to anyone.

Recently, from last 8-10 days he was compelling Mrs. Chouhan to booze. Mr. Chouhan wanted to have sex with his daughters but Sitabai refused very firmly. From last 8-10 days, this issue was creating fights between husband and wife. On July 16, 2012, also same issue was the reason



for the conflicts. On July 17, 2012, Sitabai consumed the rat poison to attempt suicide. After this, only the whole episode came into news.

Sr. Rosily, director of NDWMMP was asked to help Sitabai with some clothing, as she had to change the dirty cloth. Since Sr. Rosily was out of Indore she arranged with the staff. They visited Sitabai at Maharaja Yeshwantrao Hospital to give her moral support. Food and clothing were supplied. The union was in touch with her through phone and enquired about support and help from other organizations, NGO's and government.

Sr. Rosily and team discussed the issue with Mr. Vishal Nadkarni, Women and Child Welfare Officer and asked him to help Mrs. Chouhan. Mr. Nadkarni arranged the hostel for her 2 daughters and Fixed Deposit of Rs. 20,000/- each was made. Mrs. Chouhan was financially helped of Rs. 10,000/-. Her case is on the follow-up by the department.

When Mrs. Sitabai Chouhan recovered her health she came to the union office she said that many government and NGO's contacted me for getting the details of the case to make a issue for their benefit but, nobody asked about my children, their whereabouts, their food and clothing. She said that she was worried about the children's life as their father was in jail and she was in hospital.

She, with a sore throat said, that only Domestic Workers Solidarity and St. Raphael's school cared about her children and arranged for their 'rashan' (livelihood). The union only paved my way to the Women and Child Welfare Board office for getting help. She blessed us from the core of her heart.

On 14 September 2015, union area leader Ms Savitri Vishwakarma wanted to go to police station regarding the rape case with minor girl. Ms Savitri Vishwakarma requested the support from the union. Seeing the seriousness of the matter, we contacted Mr. Brajesh of child line for help. He at once got ready to help out and asked us to send the lady to Rajendra Nagar Police Station. Child line team after investigating in the matter and working hard for two three hours found out the culprit and put him behind the bars at Rajendra Nagar Police Station.

On 15 September after the statement of the culprit in front of the TI there was no medical checkup done. Union animator Pooja Lodwal and Sr. Rosily seeing the seriousness of the matter insisted for further investigations. On 16 September after approaching the women's police station and court, the minor girl was sent for medical checkup. In medical checkup, it was clarified that the minor was raped. On 19 September, animator Pooja contacted the girl and her mother who is a domestic employee to discuss about the case. It was clear that she was raped but the culprit's name was not mentioned in the case.

We tried to find out the reason but the DNA test was not positive. Whole incident was very cleverly decided and planned. Afterwards we called the girl and asked about the incidence. The girl said that the culprit used precautions by using the condom. We told the mother and relatives of the girl that if they want justice they have to come forward. We discussed this case with Sr. Rosily that due to negative report the police is supporting the culprit and are trying to get bail. However, we made it sure that he got seven years imprisonment.

**Sr. Rosily SSpS & Staff.**

## COMMUNITY EXPERIENCE AT HOLY SPIRIT CONVENT, BHOPAL

We are grateful to our God for the wonderful opportunity given to us to experience the lives of people with our sisters here in Bhopal. On 31st may 2015, the beautiful sunset accompanied us, as we began our journey towards the mission station, where our sisters awaited joyously to welcome us. As we reached the convent, we felt the sweet fragrance of love and the joyful faces which welcomed us warmly. Next day, we proceeded to the slum where our sisters are involved with women as well as dropout children. Sr. Rosina explained to us everything while introducing us. The task given to us was to teach the children about 70 of them. For us, it was first experience of the slum. As we started teaching them, time went very fast.

Being with them we enjoyed their very presence, as well as their joyful and cheerful nature. We admired their goodness and inner talents that God has gifted them with. All are good in one way or the other, whether singing, dancing, art, or study. Early in the morning they wake up before others and go to different places to collect the plastics and bottles to have their income for the day. We really appreciate their interest to learn something from us inspite of their daily earning. They are also very pure in heart if you love them they will love you. Their life style is not so good like others, but we acknowledge their religious practices. They are taught from their childhood strictly about religious rituals as well as spiritual. They do not have fear of anyone but of God whom they call "Allah".

We also have learned how to teach them creatively, to be patient with them, to tolerate and love them. We also feel edified by the tireless efforts of the Uday team who prepared these children with regular classes and admitted them to the government school. Out of 75 children, 35 are being registered in the school and attend classes daily.

The happiest moment for us here was to see the joyful smile on their parent's face, when they got a cheque from the government school for their uniform. Our



### *Formation*

spirit was energized by seeing their interest of learning and we could give them the best of what we had. The aim of our teaching them was to prepare them for the government school for their good future. Someone rightly said, that God's plans are always best, sometimes the process is painful and hard to accept, but we should never forget that when God is silent, He is doing something, the best thing for you. "Being here we too experienced some difficulties and challenges like to build a trust relationship with them and to get support from them. Due to the lack of support from the few leaders of their own caste, we had to make extra effort to persuade the parents to send their children to school. The Uday Slum Project staff worked hard for making ID proof, Bank accounts and get the money for the uniform.

As we think our community life, it was a cherishing moment we had there with our sisters. We had lot of joy and fun sharing of the day's activity together during supper. On 18th June 2015 we officially began our community with the theme "Journeying together where Fr. Anbu SVD celebrated Holy mass for us with enriching reflection

on community life. We cherished the presence of one another accepting and appreciating the goodness and weaknesses. We also had an opportunity to visit many families through which we came to know their pain and suffering and could console them. Beside these we also had experience in the school. We helped the pre-primary teachers in teaching. We were given opportunity to learn to write stories and music etc. We felt loved and accepted by the teachers and children.

We appreciate the hard work of our sisters here and commitment in bringing changes in the lives of students, people in the slum and other units of Uday and parishioners. We are grateful to Sr. Geeta, the Provincial (INC), her team members and Sr. Jessy Mary Paul for giving us the beautiful opportunity to experience different ministry and people where our sisters are associated with. It was a golden opportunity to learn and experience the missionary life of an ssps.

***Novices***

***Naho Tad and Anjana Tirkey***

*Anger and rudeness is false show of strength by a weak person;*

*While politeness and a cool mind reflects dignity and strength of a strong person.*