



BACKGROUND

The constitution of India has provided equal rights in order to live life with dignity, in a secure environment.

Right to safe and secure shelter is one such right. After marriage, a woman leaves her natal family to reside with her husband's family. She considers this new home as her own and works day and night fulfilling her duties. But there is always a fear that the husband or his family might ask her to leave at the slightest conflict within the family. Post marriage it is considered that husband and wife act as a unit and whatever they own, they have equal share within it.

In order to address this dilemma, it is important to provide equal and rightful share of husband's property. In order to address this issue the government of Maharashtra has passed a resolution on 20th November 2003 to register the house on the name of husband and wife (jointly).

JOINT HOUSE OWNERSHIP - JHO

STEPS

- A discussion should be initiated among both, man and woman. Both of them enjoy the benefit of household, but men are generally the owners and women are just care-takers.
- Women should be informed that joint house ownership can be passed with a consent of women in Mahila Gram Sabha and Gram Sabha.
- If there is any opposition over this issue, one can explain/ pose about how this norm makes any village a gender equal entity.
- Women should be informed that the receipt should be collected on their name after the process.
- Name plate should be put up in the houses displaying the name of both husband and wife.
- Local representatives should be made aware of this law.

OBJECTIVES

- To transfer and share equal ownership of house .
- To promote women to live with dignity in the family.



INDICATORS

- Households in rural areas will be jointly owned by husband and wife.
- Joint house ownership will also help in to reduce the fear and insecurity amongst women.
- The registration under section 8 A will be on women's name.
- No women in village shall be homeless or thrown out of the house for petty issues at odd times

OUTCOME

- Men and women will have equal rights and share over the property.
- This will reduce the phenomena of homeless women/ deserted women.
- Society's perspective towards women will improve and change.

CHALLENGES

- Men with Abundant property might oppose this decision.
- In case of multiple wives and joint families, there will be complexities or it won't be possible.
- Women will oppose this idea themselves with the fear of initiating conflict at home.

STRENGTHS

- Women will develop the sense of security and confidence.
- This will spread the message of gender equality.
- Men will not be able to sell the property independently without the consent of their wives.
- This will increase women's resource ownership.

REPLICATE

JHO is executed in 1200 villages in 25 districts where MRA is active

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BACKGROUND

The constitutional 73rd and 74th amendment have made provision for reservation of women in local governance institutions. This has drastically increased the number of women in village development activities in decision making processes. However very few women had the experience of active politics and it was observed that the newly elected women representatives lack knowledge of their rights, duties, responsibilities, governance structure and overall Panchayat activities. This limits their capacity to participate to their full potential in village development activities. This in return creates a space for the society to comment on women's capacity/ capability to govern.

Knowledge is power and Karbharni BOSS Course (KBC) is an effective method of long distance education program that focus on learning, training and guidance that helps women to complete their Panchayat duties along with the ease of fulfilling their household responsibilities. This course deals with important concepts like Panchayati Raj System, Gram Panchayat Budget, Orders, Services and Village Development Schemes. This helps in capacity building of elected women representatives, enhancing their skills and encouraging their active participation in village development activities.

KARBHARNI BOSS COURSE - KBC (Budget, Order, Services and Schemes for women in governance)

STEPS

- Newly elected women representatives as well as former women Panchayat sarpanchs should be selected for this course.
- An application along with the registration fees should be collected from these women.
- A total of six papers (Bi-monthly) should be sent by post to these women's. (i) Panchayati Raj System (ii) Budget (iii) Government Orders (iv) Government Schemes (v) Village Institution and Services (vi) Village Development
- Each course paper should be divided further into 3 parts: The first part is information and activity plan, the second part explores relevant questions on the same information and the third part deals with their experience of implementing the activity plan.
- A program should be organized at the Block and District level and these participants should be felicitated with certificate on completion at the end of this course.
- The women completing this course should be further encouraged as Panchayati Raj Trainers.

OBJECTIVES

- To design simple, workable distance education course on Panchayat for EWR's and women leaders.
- To empower EWR's by doorstep training.



INDICATORS

- The available and relevant information on Panchayati Raj will reach the elected women representatives.
- Elected women representatives will be educated on (i) Panchayati Raj System (ii) Budget (iii) Government Orders (iv) Government Schemes (v) Village Institution and Services, (vi) Village Development etc.
- This will help to overcome the fear and inhibitions of women representatives.

OUTCOME

- The information learnt through this course will help to create pressure to resolve village issues
- This will lead to increase in the dignity and self-esteem of elected women members
- This will also help to increase transparency in people centered policies and implementation of schemes
- EWR's will understand the village development process
- This will increase their rapport and communication with government officials
- This will help women to train themselves within the domestic framework

CHALLENGES

- Gram sevak or other opposition leaders might create obstacles in completing this course
- During implementation, if a crisis situation occurs, there is a limitation in communicating with the facilitators.
- Financially dependent women will not be able to avail this course
- Illiterate women members will be dependent on literate members.

STRENGTHS

- Elected women representatives will confidently raise important issues at the Panchayat level
- This will activate the ongoing village development work
- This will reduce the interference of others
- This will also minimize the space for corruption

REPLICATE

4500 Elected Women & Leaders participated.

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BACKGROUND

The questions affecting people's everyday lives are political in nature.

These needs to be addressed within the constitutional framework.

To deal with these questions at the state level, we have institutions like assembly, where people's representatives pose these questions in assembly Session. Legislative Assembly work towards preparing rules and regulations on such issues in order to facilitate good governance.

During session, different sections of the society try to raise their questions in several ways like in peaceful demonstration, delegation and protest in order to bring their issues to the notice of the different institutions like administration, and media.

It is important to understand the procedure followed during such Session in order to utilize this space in a more effective manner through the help of people's representatives. The pre-session workshops can be helpful in terms of drafting these crucial questions as a crucial raw material for people centred policy advocacy.

PRE SESSION WORKSHOP

STEPS

- The People's representatives can draft their questions and present them during the session in the assembly
- Invites should be sent to the local Social activist/ people working on social issues to be part of this 2 days' workshop at district, regional or state level.
- They should attend the workshop with all the relevant materials/ documents
- On the first day, the sessions should focus around understanding the functioning of the assembly, its structure and its format
- On the second day the participants should work towards preparing a draft on issues and important questions that need has to be presented in the session through thorough study
- The people's representatives should be requested to raise these crucial questions in the session
- Special invitation should be extended to the MLA's and MPs to be part of this workshop

OBJECTIVES

- To advocate issues of marginalized in a systemised way of the session.
- To orient grassroots women towards role of State Assembly.



INDICATORS

- This will help in discussion and dialogue on important issues concerning people's everyday life.
- This will bring the people's issue on mainstream agenda
- Social activist will understand the functioning of the Session and how to utilize this space
- MLA's and MPs will be diverted towards poor people's issues and concerns

OUTCOME

- This will help in raising the questions of the most marginalized and vulnerable groups including women
- Social activists will be acquainted with the work of Session and its importance
- This will help the people's representatives in developing new contacts and good rapport in their constituency
- Serious issues will become part of the public agenda and their severity and implications will be discussed.

CHALLENGES

- This can be looked upon as an auto justice which may reduce the spirit of people's struggle and collective victory.
- Finding like minded people's representatives is difficult.
- There can be a dilemma at the personal level due to the difference in the political ideology of the party and vested interests of the individual.

STRENGTHS

- After posing the questions in the session, a pressure is created on the Government to address those issues
- This also helps to sensitize media and gain their support to social issues on a larger platform
- The government has to take a stand on social issues
- Social activist become a part of policy making process and understand its importance in the long term.

REPLICATE

More than 150 pre-session workshops organized for policy advocacy

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BACKGROUND

Earlier the elderly/ power holders of the village would sit at the chaudi/ common meeting place and take decisions for the village.

There was lack of representation of women or other marginalized sections of the society in this group. Even post independence, when this power shifted from chaudi to the Gram Panchayat, the presence of women was negligible in the decision making processes.

The constitutional 73rd amendment act has provided the Gram Panchayat a statutory status. The responsibility for deciding the direction of village development and implementation of schemes has been bestowed upon this institution. It has also brought in the participation of women and other marginalized sections of the society. However the traditional power structures limit women's participation in grassroots governance.

In order to increase women's participation in decision making processes, women need to be acquainted with the day to day functioning of the Panchayats, the technical know-how & responsibilities of people's representatives etc. Thus in order to prepare women to overcome their fears and concerns in a better way and develop their capacities to handle the Panchayat affairs, Gram Panchayat Darshan is very helpful.

GRAM PANCHAYAT DARSHAN

(Village Panchayat Exposure for Villagers)

STEPS

- Initiate a discussion among women on the importance of Gram Panchayat in their everyday lives
- One should also enquire from these women on how many of them have seen the Gram Panchayat Office, specifically focusing on knowing the reasons of non-entry from the never visited ones
- The next step is to make women aware about the importance of understanding how the GP members work, how the village development budget is decided etc.
- Decide the date and time as per the convenience of women, and send a formal request letter with signatures to the Gram Sevak and the Sarpanch
- The women should be prepared to be more attentive during the visit & open to learning
- Finally have a meeting in the Gram Panchayat office with the Sarpanch and Gram Sevak and record their observation.

OBJECTIVES

- To know our own village governance in a simple manner.
- To strengthen gram sabha member's participation in Panchayat system.



INDICATORS

- This will help the village women to learn about Panchayat office and its activities.
- This will increase communication/ accountability within the local representatives/ Panchayat members.
- This will increase women's contact and communication with the Panchayat.
- Women will get access to Panchayats and will get their work done fearlessly.

OUTCOME

- This will increase women's participation in social and cultural activities.
- This will also help to challenge traditional stereotypes (socio-cultural).
- This will increase the confidence and self-esteem of elected women representatives.
- Women will get acquainted with the struggles of important women leaders and activists within the Indian freedom movement.
- This will promote and instill the values of gender equality.

CHALLENGES

- The Gram Sevak/ Sarpanch can deny permission for the visit with a fear of women's pressure groups
- There is also a possibility of non-cooperation from the Panchayat body in terms of providing information to Panchayat members or to women from opposition party.
- Women can become depressed or aggressive if the experience of the visit was depressing.

STRENGTHS

- Women will be acquainted with the village governance
- It will help to break the traditional stereotypes related to Panchayat structure.
- This will develop confidence among women to act as an individual
- This will also help in strengthening the women's collective/ women as a group

REPLICATE

250 visits
have been done

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BACKGROUND

The provision of reservation for women and other marginalized sections has opened avenue for this new groups to participate in the governance process. People with no political history/ background/ connections now have been able to join active politics. The Gram Panchayat functions as per the framework/ mandates of the 73rd amendment act. There is no fixed policy on training and development for these newly elected women representatives. Hence, these people face lot of challenges while performing their duties and exercising their rights. The state government regularly amends different laws. The gram Panchayat is responsible for implementing government schemes and policies. This information is not shared with women and representative from other marginalized communities that limits their capacity to work independently. Thus Panchayati and Resource Centre's are established at the District level in order to address the gap in information regarding Panchayati raj system, schemes, policies or any issues faced during implementation

PANCHAYAT RESOURCE CENTRE

STEPS

- Panchayat resource centre are established jointly with the help and support of like-minded organisation/ groups who are ready to provide basic support.
- Establishment of PRGRC needs two important components (a) experienced key resource persons and (b) resource material like on panchayati raj & government resolutions etc.
- To create an awareness about this centre, post card invites should be sent at the time of opening ceremony to all the elected panchayat member.
- If the centre receives good response from the people, the former panch-sarpanch should be recruited to help.
- Database should be created to provide time to time guidance to the people
- A monthly report should be prepared to initiate different activities to spread more awareness
- A feedback should also be taken from people seeking guidance in order to upscale centre activities

OBJECTIVES

- To disseminate PR (Panchayat Raj) information in time and in a decentralized manner.
- To increase EWR's curiosity towards learning.



INDICATORS

- New centres will be established for guidance and resource sharing for local representatives
- Even common people will gain access to information on Panchayat and its related activities
- This will help people's representative to efficiently fulfil their responsibilities/ duties

OUTCOME

- The local representatives will benefit the most
- Information will be available to these representatives in simple and easy to understand language/ form
- Guidance and counseling will be available in time of need/ crisis
- It will help to increase transparency in village development activities
- This centres can also be used as training centres.

CHALLENGES

- It is difficult to keep a balance between the activities of the partner organization and PRGRC
- Opposition can create problems for partner organization thinking PRGRC as a political entity
- If information is not updated regularly there will be no use of the centre.

STRENGTHS

- Information will be available to these representatives in simple and easy language/ form
- This will help the EWR's to work efficiently
- Women representatives will have long term positive benefits from this centres.

REPLICATE

MRA is running 17 Panchayat Resource Centres at District level.

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BACKGROUND

Several social reformers have contributed to the struggle to achieve equal status and dignity of women. There are historical evidences in Indian culture that are progressive in many ways. Today women have excelled exceptionally in nearly all fields. Although the article 14 of the constitution mandates 'Equality before law', the traditional patriarchal mindsets, cultural stereotypes and strict gender roles have posited women to a secondary status or citizen. Violence against women over trivial issues is still not considered as violence at all. There are several laws addressing this violence but the male mentality fails to understand how violence has dire consequences for the family. Men need to be made aware of implications of such violence at all levels. "Wife beating free village" activity is important in order to value the efforts and hard work of women and promoting the message of women are also human beings.

MARHAN MukT GAON (Beating free village)

STEPS

- A study should be conducted with the help of gender sensitive men in the village to understand the reasons behind beating women in the village. Documenting these cases will help in further course of action
- A discussion should be initiated in the gram Sabha on the findings of this study focusing on the impact of such violence on women, children, families and the society
- The gram Sabha should also discuss and develop strategies & pass resolution to address violence against women
- Gender sensitive and aware people should be nominated as a team to provide guidance/ counseling to the family members particularly women.
- An open felicitation program should be organized in the village to felicitate gender sensitive families/ families practicing gender equality on 15th Aug and 26th Jan events
- Efforts should be made with the help of the local representatives to bring in policy level changes on the issue of violence against women

OBJECTIVES

- To create an environment against women's beating with the support of PRI.
- To increase men's support to stop atrocities against women.

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INDICATORS

- A platform will be created to discuss the issue of violence against women at the village level
- It will enable to create safe and secure environment for women in the household as well as in the village
- The public discussion on the issues of violence will also help to generate pressure to behave properly on the men/families where violence against women is rampant/regular
- This will help to raise and strengthen social support to the victims of violence/ women facing violence

OUTCOME

- New role models will be created for the coming generations
- This will help to reduce indecent behaviors'/ inferior treatment meted out to women and girls
- Gram Sabha will discuss any act of violence against women taking place within the village
- This will reduce the instances violence against women through law and social pressure.
- This will promote the idea of personal is political- challenging the traditional ideas that violence within the domestic context is personal

CHALLENGES

- There can be fierce opposition from men on discussing family/ personal issues at a public level
- This can also further pose men against women and increase the already existing gender divide
- It will be difficult to negotiate with individual(s) believing in the deep-rooted traditional patriarchal structures/ culture

STRENGTHS

- This will strengthen the idea/ notion that any form of violence against women is inhuman in nature and unacceptable
- This will also challenge the traditional notions that invisibilize the acts of violence and maintains silence on such issues
- The issue of violence will also help to mobilize women into a group/ collective

REPLICATE

150 Grampanchayat passed resolution for Wife beating free Village

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BACKGROUND

Women constitute nearly 49% of the population of which 80 % reside in rural areas. In order to strengthen the grassroots governance and increase active participation of women, several policy changes have been adopted and implemented. Still, Gram Sabha has not yet achieved its real essence due to lack of participation of women. Although women are invited to the Gram Sabha their views and opinions are not considered important. Women's participation in decision making is further hampered by overall negative environment which is non-supportive due to the deeply rooted caste, class and patriarchal structures. Women defer posing their views/ ideas in front of their husband/ father-in-law or other male counterparts. This in turn affects their ability to participate and engage in the decision making processes. In order to address this gap women need to be made aware of their rights and duties. Also strict action needs to be taken against people who create obstacles for women's active participation in decision making processes. The idea of conducting Mahila Gram Sabha at night before the general Gram Sabha works in multiple ways to enhance women's political participation/ facilitating women's political empowerment.

MAHILA SABHA (Women's Pre-Gramsabha Assembly)

STEPS

- The potential women leaders of the village should call for the meeting to discuss and inform women on the importance of gram sabha as an important tool for the development of village.
- These potential women leaders should explain/ present the relationship of different development issues like water, hygiene, street lights, health, girls education etc. with women's everyday lives.
- After discussing on the gravity of issues faced by women in their everyday life and discuss their problems, a demand for Mahila Sabha should be presented before the Gram Sabha and it should be put forth in GP
- Issues presented by Mahila Sabha (minutes) should be discussed on the priority basis in the Gram Sabha.
- The potential leaders should focus on mobilizing more and more women to organize such Mahila Sabha before every general Gram Sabha.

OBJECTIVES

- To provide space for village women to share her issues to resolve it as an institution.
- To increase women's intervention in panchayat at village level.



INDICATORS

- Most marginalized women are able to raise their issues and concerns.
- Women across caste, class and religious communities will collectively participate in women sabha.
- This will initiate a discussion on the core issues those are affecting women's lives.
- Women will be active participants in village decision-making processes.

OUTCOME

- Increase in women's participation in village development activities.
- Women's Issues and concerns will be addressed.
- Will create a support system for women members and sarpanch.
- Women will be recognized as active gram sabha members.
- Women will be acquainted with village development activities.
- Women will play an important role in implementing pro-women, pro-poor policies.

CHALLENGES

- Separate Gram Sabha's can deepen the already existing divide between men and women.
- This can also lead to less participation of women in the general gram Sabha.
- Women's decision may challenge the male mentality creating more conflict.

STRENGTHS

- Women will get formal platform to discuss and present their issues.
- Women will come collectively to address developmental issues beyond their class, caste and religious identities.
- This will help to increase women's pressure on local governance institutions.
- Development activities will gain momentum due to women's active participation

REPLICATE

Change at policy level
by Maharashtra
Government

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BACKGROUND

Since time immemorial women have been relegated a secondary status in the social, economic, political and cultural spheres. There are lot many restrictions on how women should behave in public spaces or in cultural gatherings. Due to the restriction on women's mobility and sexuality, there is lack of space for women to publically socialize. Hence the Constitution of India provides a framework to protect and secure equal rights for women. Through the constitutional 73rd and 74th Amendment, many women are gaining the respect/ position of becoming the first citizens at the village, block, district and state level. However it has also been observed that women are not treated as the first citizens of their respective constituencies. Especially during national events like Independence day (15 Aug) and Republic day (26 Jan), there have been several incidences where women are not given their right to flag hoisting. The situation is even worse for Dalit and Adivasi elected women representatives as the power holders and men with strong patriarchal values opposed their right to flag hoisting. To instil respect and dignity in elected women representatives and to help them to assert their right to flag hoisting in the presence of large number of women the program of flag hoisting should be undertaken in every village.

FLAG HOISTING By Women Sarpanch (Village Leader)

STEPS

- Mahila Sabha should be called a day before the events like Independence Day (15 Aug) and Republic Day (26 Jan) to discuss the events and programs for the same.
- Large number of women should be mobilized to attend this meeting and the discussion should be initiated on why elected women representatives should be allowed to assert their rights of flag hosting.
- Women should be made aware that celebration of any national days' is not only for men.
- The Gram Sabha should send a notice to all the self help groups, Mahila Mandals and other women groups to participate in large number.
- A Resolution should be passed in the Mahila Sabha that flag hosting will only be done through the hands of first citizen (Sarpanch's) irrespective of their sex.
- Speeches on contribution of women in the freedom struggle should be presented.

OBJECTIVES

- To make women's leadership more visible.
- To recognize women's freedom as a citizen.



INDICATORS

- There will be an increase in the number of women attending the flag hosting program.
- Women Sarpanch will get their dignity and gain respect as the first citizen of the village.
- This will help women to participate in socio-cultural processes.
- This will restore the faith and respect in the constitutional rights provided to men and women.

OUTCOME

- This will increase women's participation in social and cultural activities.
- This will also help to challenge traditional stereotypes (socio-cultural).
- This will increase the confidence and self-esteem of elected women representatives.
- Women will get acquainted with the struggles of important women leaders and activists within the Indian freedom movement.
- This will promote and instill the values of equal treatment & gender equality.

CHALLENGES

- The vested interest groups/ power holders of the village will oppose such change.
- The opposition might also create problems for the women Sarpanch to assert her rights.
- Household responsibilities and getting their children ready for the flag hosting program will affect women's participation in the actual event.

STRENGTHS

- The large participation of women and actual assertion of their rights will help to increase the confidence of women Sarpanch.
- Women will get an opportunity to socialize and connect on the days of national importance

REPLICATE

Resolution is passed by the Government of Maharashtra

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BACKGROUND

Today, with freedom and liberation, women have received a space to venture out of the conventional boundaries. Education has opened up new avenues for girls. Although there have been certain changes within the family and the society, the traditional attitude towards girls has not yet changed. Gender relations are both constituted by practices and ideologies, in interaction with other structures of social hierarchy such as class, caste, religion, ethnicity and race. There is lack of space for girls to discuss many issues affecting them like the changes in their body, love, attraction, harassment, eve-teasing and other concerns. Since, these issues or concerns are not addressed at any level it's likely that girls will develop anxiety, fear and loneliness affecting their potential to grow and develop. "Yuvati Sunvai" is an open platform for adolescent girls. It tries to raise and address several of these issues like education, health, violence in families, social hierarchies, gender inequality, social obligations, and restrictions over choosing one's partner etc and make girls aware of their rights.

REPLICATE

Organized in 500 villages where MRA is active

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YUVATI SUNVAI

(Public Hearing for Adolescent & Young Girls)

STEPS

- This program can be organized anywhere in consultation with the gram panchayat at the village, schools or college level
- Active girls from the village can be grouped together/ mobilized in organizing this program.
- Time, date and venue can be decided as per the convenience of girls and invitees.
- Schedule for "Yuvati-Sunvai" should be arranged in such a way that half-day is allotted for encouraging their talents by having competitions etc. This will help in icebreaking and rest of the day can be kept for open discussion.
- The girls should be asked to write their concerns or issues on a piece of paper with or without disclosing their names. These issues can be personal, family, social, etc. This paper can be dropped in the common drop box.
- Experts like women police, advocate and psychologist or women rights activists, should discuss these issues.

INDICATORS

- In an open and friendly environment, this activity is successfully conducted with huge participation of adolescent & young girls.
- Through such forum, many issues and concerns faced by young girls are discussed that helps to develop strategies to address them
- Conducting the program in the Gram Panchayat, School or College also helps to develop a good rapport with these institutions.

CHALLENGES

- This program may lead to a negative response from the male students
- Not all young girls participate equally, thus limiting the space of dialogue and discussion with individual girl students.
- There is a limitation in following up on the issues and concerns shared by the young girls.
- The institutions like school, colleges may also reject the program fearing that issues of the school/ college authority will come into light.

OBJECTIVES

- To voice out inner issues of violence and atrocities against young girls.
- To create fearless environment for young and adolescent girls.



OUTCOME

- This helps to have a discussion and dialogue with large number of young girls
- The presence of experts from different fields helps in addressing concerns in a scientific manner
- The attendance of young girls is high as solutions to their issues and concerns is provided immediately
- This program helps to bring forth the intensity of issues faced by adolescent girls and which furthers helps to develop strategies to address them.

STRENGTHS

- This is an excellent medium to initiate a discussion on issues of young girls
- It gives scope to maintain confidentiality of the person complaining about any particular issue.
- It helps in clarifying the doubts and providing the right guidance.
- This also helps in developing a good rapport with school/ college institution for further communication



BACKGROUND

Savitribai Phule has played an important role for equal rights of women and untouchables. She never backed down even when faced severe obstacles/ opposition in path. She has spent her entire life to achieve education, individual freedom and equal human rights for everyone. She has also struggled to address social inequalities, injustice, domination of upper caste ideologies and privileges by birth. Even today women, underprivileged and social backward castes have been deprived of their rights. On the name of caste and religion they are victim of violence, atrocities and injustice. The daughters of savitri bai have still a long way to go to achieve/ create a society where all vulnerable, poor, weak, worker, backward caste-class groups can assert equal rights to be independent, free from exploitation, egalitarian in all respects. Rendition of Savitri's story can act as an inspiration for women facing several obstacles in life to create an egalitarian society. This will help them to deal better with present situation and problems.

SAVITRI GATHA PARAYAN

Rendition of Savitri's Story

STEPS

- A book divided into seven sections covering concepts like the life of Savitribai, her work for women's empowerment, government schemes and policies for the marginalized sections, government resolutions etc. should be prepared and published.
- This is a weeklong event/ program where women collectively read and discuss one section per day.
- This program is generally conducted from 3rd Jan to 9th Jan (3rd Jan being the birth anniversary of Savitribai Phule).
- A public announcement should be made to encourage all to attend this program.
- The program begins with garlanding Savitribai's photo, followed by 'Savitrichi Ovi' (poem on her work) and ends with collectively giving slogan.
- Towards the end of every session an open discussion is initiated to discuss issues.
- Responsibilities should be given to two women every day for reading & explaining the text.

OBJECTIVES

- To propagate Savitribai's contribution towards women's empowerment.
- Promote discussion on Women's Policies and Schemes.



INDICATORS

- Due to the event of Savitri gatha women will come together.
- This will also instill the value of collective reading in women.
- This will also help women to discuss the critical issues of social importance.
- This will spread the word of gender equality amongst the villagers.

OUTCOME

- Women will gain inspiration from Savitribai's life story.
- Women will be collectively come together at the village level.
- Women will gain a platform to discuss domestic issues.
- This will also facilitate discussion on women's specific government policies and programs.
- Women will be acquainted with Savitribai's work.
- Women will develop an interest in social welfare programs.

CHALLENGES

- The upper caste or powerful people in village might oppose the ideas of such change.
- Women will be hesitant to discuss controversial issues like widow remarriage, unmarried mother etc.
- Since 'Parayan' is the Hindu concept, women from other caste and religion may not participate

STRENGTHS

- This will replace the mythological role models with savitri bai.
- This will question the traditional patriarchal ideologies.
- This will inspire women to face challenges/ obstacles confidently.
- This will help women to be a gender sensitive leaders.

REPLICATE

This programme has been conducted in MRA's 980 villages from 25 districts

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