

The Influencer bulletin

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When we welcomed you to the Influencers journey to empower the disempowered, we had promised that your support and voice will enable millions of nameless, faceless women to access social justice and equal opportunity. This issue, in the milieu of the #MeToo illustrates the criticality of giving a voice to women in vulnerable situations and brings you stories of hope and triumph at the last-mile from our grassroots coalition partners Ibtada, Jan Sahas and Sanjog.

In the news



Taking MeToo past the confines of social media

A perspective piece by Flavia Agnes, women's rights lawyer and co-founder Majlis

"Why now? At that time, there were no internal complaints committees and the idea of approaching the police was scary. Does this mean that the incidents did not occur? The lesson learnt is that women have to stake a claim. They will not be given their rights on a platter. They have to snatch them from a patently patriarchal system of corporate governance."

Read the full article [here](#).

Systemic change for sustainable impact

Our partner NGO in West Bengal, [Sanjog](#) works for the community-based rehabilitation of survivors of trafficking and builds their leadership potential to advocate for their rights. This group of survivors, christened Utthan (which means to rise) participated in a National Consultation on the [Trafficking of Persons \(Prevention, Protection and Rehabilitation\) Bill 2018](#) in Delhi. Here, they spoke with 3 MPs, and addressed the media seeking early passage of the Bill in the Rajya Sabha. They have further scaled the momentum of their advocacy by writing to the PMO and 10 women MPs of India as well.

#antitraffickingbill



Our partner [Jan Sahas](#) alongwith the Madhya Pradesh Police Department organised a state-level training on sexual violence against women and children for 150 police personnel at the Police Training Academy, Bhopal which were chaired by the District Collector and District Superintendent of Police.

The importance of collaboration with Government departments, in the words of Ashif Sheikh Director, Jan Sahas

"Every one girl out of two faces sexual assault. One of five girls face it in a very severe form and has to undergo consequences of social stigma attached to it. They all are in need of protection. We sensitised stakeholders of respective districts and built their capacity to intervene such cases effectively around the same issue. The objective of conducting workshops and seminars in collaboration with government departments like Women and Child Development, Education and Social Justice is to sensitise the stakeholders working with children closely and to strengthen their knowledge with respect to the laws and acts protecting children's rights. Child rights are as important as civil rights, but usually there is wide ignorance around them. The second objective of such programs are to strengthen the coordination amongst the local government departments that are working with children."

#accesstolegaljustice



Enabling grassroots leadership



Community members interacting with Government officials during the training

[Ibtada](#), our partner NGO whose work is facilitating educational, skill building and entrepreneurship opportunities for women and girls from the conservative Meo Muslim community in Alwar, Rajasthan believes that only community-owned and driven change, can be sustainable.

It works with and builds capacities of Village Right Committees (VRC) to advocate and act positively for women empowerment, including leveraging Government machinery in their favour.

Villagers in this committee who were earlier apprehensive or even fearful of engaging with Government functionaries participated in a day-long training, as part of which they also interacted with Block officials. They came back 'feeling confident' with their 'hesitation reduced'; a positive development we hope will influence their future interactions with the officials.

#grassrootsleadership

कार्यशाला में जनकल्याण की योजनाओं की दी जानकारी

लक्ष्मणगढ़ @ पत्रिका. इब्रिदा संस्था लक्ष्मणगढ़ के द्वारा संचालित महिला अधिकार परियोजना के अंतर्गत आने वाले गांवों के सरपंच, वार्ड पंच तथा पंचायत समिति सदस्यों की एक दिवसीय कार्यशाला का आयोजन कस्बे के जालुकी रोड स्थित जाट छात्रावास में शुक्रवार को पंचायत समिति प्रधान शीला मीना की अध्यक्षता में आयोजन किया गया।

इब्रिदा संस्था से परियोजना समन्वयक अमरदीप सैनी ने बताया कि कार्यशाला में केन्द्र व राज्य सरकार के द्वारा गरीब, पीड़ित व किसानों के लिए संचालित जनकल्याणकारी योजनाओं का लाभ आमजन तक पहुंचाने की विस्तार से जानकारी दी गई। साथ ही उपस्थित महिलाओं व जनप्रतिनिधियों को सरकार के द्वारा संचालित जनकल्याणकारी योजनाओं के बारे में विस्तार

संचालित जनकल्याणकारी योजनाओं के बारे में विस्तार से जानकारी देकर ज्यादा से ज्यादा योजनाओं का लाभ उठाने की बात कही। वक्ताओं ने जनप्रतिनिधियों से योजनाओं का लाभ लेने के लिए आमजन को प्रेरित करने व उनका सहयोग करने की अपील की। प्रधान शीला मीना ने उपस्थित लोगों को बेटी बचाने व बेटीयों को पढ़ाने की अपील कर पंचायतीराज विभाग के द्वारा संचालित योजनाओं के बारे में जानकारी दी। कार्यशाला में 24 गांवों के 49 जन प्रतिनिधियों ने भाग लिया। कार्यशाला में सरपंच संघ अध्यक्ष वजीर खान, सरपंच कल्लू खान, उपसरपंच गुरुनाम सिंह के अलावा इब्रिदा संस्था से परियोजना समन्वयक अमरदीप सैनी, ब्लॉक कॉर्डिनेटर आसम दीन, मंच मैनेजर मौसम खान, साहब सिंह, हरदीप कौर, राजेश शर्मा, सपना चौहान, कमलेश प्रजापत, सुरजन, राजकुमार, हरवीर ने भाग लिया।

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