

# The Influencer bulletin

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Thank you for joining us on the Influencer journey. This month, as we mark the beginning of the new volume of the Influencer Bulletin, we would like to bring you our special issue bearing opinions, stories of hope and achievements, fact checks and campaigns shared by our 15 inspirational, grassroots partners in 10 states.

Join us as we celebrate their work in ensuring women and girls' freedom from violence and discrimination, access to legal justice, grassroots leadership, rights and entitlements and freedom from economic dependence.



**“There is a need to strictly implement the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013 in both organised and unorganised sectors.”**

AALI's exhortation to the nation through media.



**“Give us our rights, give us our jobs, give us our wages. We won't stop until we get them.”**

Around 300 women from ANANDI's Panam Mahila Sangathan, a village women's leadership group, participated in a rally to demand their MNRGEA rights.



**“We see boys playing kabaddi everywhere, girls don't really play. So we started a playgroup for girls who wanted to play kabaddi.”**

The effect of Breakthrough India's *Taaron ki Toli* programme in Haryana.



**“I am only 17. Still studying. Why should I marry at such a young age? Why should I go against the law? I wish to study further and get a job first.”**

Siddhi, a 17 year old, who learnt to fight for her rights at the young girls group in her village created by CORO.



**“Sonbai of Solpuri Village in Alwar Rajasthan says most of the village would have got displaced due to indebtedness induced landlessness if SHGs had not been formed.”**

Ibtada had mobilised SHGs as a means to empowerment.



**“Women care about being online, but here too, they are gender conservative as the social burdens of digital encounters gone wrong are simply too huge.”**

IT for Change research insights.



**“She shouldn't be the one covering and hiding her face. Her rapist should be.”**

The mother of a minor girl who was raped multiple times in the past few years, speaking at the Jan Sahas Dignity March, emboldened by the presence of many other survivors and family.



**“Does the ‘development discourse’ ignore women? No, it homogenises women's experiences and contexts, and is content to have counted women as participants, beneficiaries, victims, and case studies.”**

Sushma Iyengar Kutch Mahila Vikas Sanghtana opines.



**“The plight of women litigants in India: Women victims of sexual offences and domestic violence are often the ones most let down by the legal process.”**

Flavia Agnes of Majlis speaks.



**“The hard-working rural women who toil to build a better life, brighter future for their families are my teachers & sources of strength. Your courage is my capital.”**

Mann Deshi Foundation founder Chetna Gala Sinha on winning Nari Shakti Puraskar.



**“I want girls to look at me and think they can achieve anything they want to.”**

7 year old Rani, from Varanasi, India, a Girl Icon nurtured by Milaan Girl Icon Leadership Programme.



**“We believe that unless we generate awareness and resistance within women themselves, social vices cannot be uprooted from the community.”**

Mina Das of NISHTHA on the journey of women empowerment.



**“I realised I had nothing to be ashamed of. The trafficker was guilty.”**

Survivors of trafficking are bold leaders in Utthan, Sanjog's community based collective for survivors.

#SanjogUtthanspeaks



**“We are reassured to hear boys say “we won't take dowry or that I and my wife have equal rights.”**

Jameela Nishat of Shaheen speaks on the need for gender sensitisation workshops for men and boys.



**“Sabah Wajid Ali Siddiqui's confidence in herself bloomed at a VACHA Resource Centre where she found the tools to carve her future.”**

An aspiring accounts and economics lecturer Sabah knows that this is just the beginning of an exciting journey ahead.