

IMPACT STORIES FORMAT

Story Title	Empowering Change: The Journey of Pushpa Meena
Date	01/10/2024
Prepared by	Gayatri Seva Sansthan
Name of partner Organization	Gayatri Seva Sansthan
Name of Daksha/Daksh	Pushpa Meena
Name of SKB centre	Magdhara Fala
Cluster	Suhagpura
Block	Peepalkhunt
District	Pratapgarh, Rajasthan

BACKGROUND/CONTEXT:

Pushpa Meena, a 25-year-old woman from Kanpura village in Pratapgarh district, Rajasthan, holds a Bachelor's degree and joined the Sakhiyon Ki Badi (SKB) program in 2017. With a strong desire to make a difference in her community, she established the 'Magdharafala' SKB Centre as a 'Daksha' on October 2nd, 2017. Pushpa has a family of four, including her husband, who manages both studies and farming, and two children who attend the same SKB centre.

CHALLENGES FACED:

In the early stages, Pushpa faced multiple challenges. Many of the girls she intended to enroll were engaged in household chores and had little access to education. Families in the community were hesitant to prioritize their daughters' schooling over domestic responsibilities. Additionally, Pushpa herself came from a financially constrained background, which made it difficult to focus solely on her teaching efforts. The task of building trust within the community and convincing parents to allow their daughters to study was a slow and challenging process.

INTERVENTION/ACTIVITIES:

Pushpa conducted a baseline survey and enrolled 30 out-of-school girls at the Sakhiyon Ki Badi (SKB) Centre. She took a holistic approach, building strong relationships with the community and actively engaging with the families of her students. Her teaching was driven by her passion for education, and she went beyond the classroom by picking up and dropping off students, showing her deep dedication to their learning.

Pushpa also attended teacher training workshops organized by IIFL Foundation and Gayatri Seva Sansthan, where she developed her teaching skills further. These workshops equipped

her with the tools and methodologies necessary to make learning more engaging and effective for the girls in her community.

OUTCOMES:

Pushpa's efforts resulted in significant improvements in the lives of the girls she taught. Many of them had never attended school before, and through her guidance, they gained not only educational skills but also a new sense of self-worth and purpose. Pushpa's ability to inspire confidence and determination in her students transformed the learning environment.

Over the years, Pushpa's work in the community led to her own personal growth. Her role as a Daksha provided her with financial independence and helped improve her confidence. After five years of hard work, she achieved her dream of passing the Rajasthan Police competitive exam and was selected as a police officer on October 1st, 2022. She is now undergoing training for her new role while continuing to be a source of inspiration for the girls at the SKB centre.

Pushpa proudly reflects on her journey: "When I joined the SKB program, my financial condition was very poor, but now our condition is better than before because by joining the SKB program, I got financial help and a job in the Rajasthan Police. My life has changed significantly, thanks to IIFL Foundation and Gayatri Seva Sansthan."

GOOD QUALITY IMAGE: - 3-4 IMAGES (Attach below)

