

IMPACT STORIES FORMAT

Story Title	Transforming Lives: Bapu Devi Meena's Journey with Sakhiyon Ki Baadi
Date	01/09/2024
Prepared by	Gayatri Seva Sansthan
Name of partner Organization	Gayatri Seva Sansthan
Name of Daksha/Daksh	Bapu Devi Meena
Name of SKB centre	Richdi
Cluster	Ghantali
Block	Peepalkhunt
District	Pratapgarh, Rajasthan

BACKGROUND/CONTEXT:

Bapu Devi Meena, a 30-year-old woman from Pratapgarh district, joined the Sakhiyon Ki Baadi (SKB) program on January 1, 2019. Coming from a large family with limited financial resources, Bapu Devi faced significant challenges throughout her life. Due to economic constraints, she had to marry during her 12th grade, an experience that disrupted her education and dreams of a better future. After her marriage, Bapu Devi found herself solely focused on managing her household and raising her two children. Her husband, a farmer, provided for the family, but their economic situation was stable yet limiting. Despite these challenges, Bapu Devi was determined to create a brighter future for herself and her children, yearning for independence and self-empowerment.

CHALLENGES FACED:

Bapu Devi faced numerous challenges throughout her life that significantly impacted her journey. The harsh reality of child marriage cut short her education after 12th grade, forcing her into a life filled with domestic responsibilities. This early marriage left her with feelings of lost potential and unfulfilled dreams, as her aspirations for a better future were abruptly halted. Additionally, Bapu Devi initially struggled with shyness and a lack of confidence, which prevented her from speaking in public or expressing her opinions. This low self-esteem further held her back from seeking new opportunities for growth. Although her family's financial situation was relatively stable, it was not conducive to upward mobility, leaving Bapu Devi feeling trapped in her circumstances with limited prospects. Moreover, her limited skillset—resulting from minimal exposure to professional training and opportunities—left her feeling unequipped to pursue a career that could elevate her economic condition, adding to her feelings of frustration and helplessness.

INTERVENTION/ACTIVITIES:

Bapu Devi's life underwent a significant transformation with the opening of the Sakhiyon Ki Baadi (SKB) center. Joining this program provided her with a supportive environment where

she could learn new skills and build her confidence. As a resource teacher at the SKB center, Bapu Devi gained valuable experience that empowered her to take on a leadership role within her community. The comprehensive Daksha training offered by the IIFL Foundation and Gayatri Seva Sansthan equipped her with essential competencies, ultimately enabling her to secure a job as an Auxiliary Nurse Midwife (ANM) at a local hospital.

In addition to her professional growth, Bapu Devi was inspired to bring her children to the SKB center, ensuring they had uninterrupted access to education. Her active involvement in the center's activities not only helped her develop crucial leadership and communication skills but also fostered a sense of community and belonging. Through the SKB program, Bapu Devi transformed her life, emerging as a confident woman dedicated to creating a brighter future for herself and her family.

OUTCOMES:

Bapu Devi has experienced a remarkable transformation, emerging as a more outspoken and confident individual. Her role as a resource teacher at the Sakhiyon Ki Baadi (SKB) center provided her with a platform to actively participate in community discussions and share her perspectives, highlighting her significant personal growth.

Through her dedicated work as an Auxiliary Nurse Midwife (ANM), Bapu Devi has not only improved her family's financial stability but has also developed essential money management skills, allowing her to save for her children's future. This newfound financial independence has empowered her to dream bigger and pursue opportunities she once thought were unattainable.

Furthermore, Bapu Devi has ensured that her children attend school regularly, nurturing their education and instilling hope for a brighter future. She believes that the opportunities they receive will pave the way for their success, breaking the cycle of challenges that she faced.

Her journey from the struggles of child marriage to becoming an ANM exemplifies the power of education and skill development. Bapu Devi has emerged as a role model in her community, inspiring others with her resilience and determination. She now actively encourages young girls to pursue their dreams and empowers them to take control of their lives, proving that it is possible to overcome adversity and achieve one's aspirations.

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

