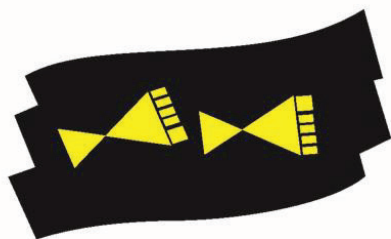


Ibtada the beginning

शुरुआत ... इब्तिदा



OF
GRASSROOTS
CIVIC ACTION

ABOUT US

Ibtada is a non-governmental organisation established in 1997 to address the backwardness of women and children in the Mewat region of Rajasthan. '*Ibtada*' is an Urdu word that means '*the beginning*'.

Ibtada's team is headed by its Founder Executive Director, Rajesh Singhi, who comes with a strong background in non-profit management and has a Masters in Public Administration & Rural Management (IRMA). It is chaired by Ms. Mamta Kohli, Senior Social Development Advisor at DFID, UK New Delhi



VISION

Ibtada envisions a society where poor and deprived social groups are economically, socially and politically empowered to take part in development processes and have equal rights and access to resources that abridges poverty, deprivation and discrimination.



MISSION

Empower communities, especially women, to play an influential role in reducing social and economic poverty and inequality.



AREA OF OPERATION

Ibtada works in about 400 villages in 6 Blocks of Alwar, Rajasthan. The focus area is Mewat region of Rajasthan. Mewat is synonymous with Meo Muslims, the traditional peasantry class. The Meos converted to Islam 14th century onwards, but still practise many Hindu customs and traditions. The region suffers extreme social and economic backwardness due to lack of resources, awareness, education, health and poor gender status.



STRATEGIES AND APPROACHES

Build Capabilities of Rural Women

- Organise – SHGs, Clusters, Federations, Producer Co's focusing on:
 - Capacity Building
 - Leadership development
 - Strengthen livelihoods
 - Rights and Entitlements
- Cadre of Women Resource Persons – Pashu Sakhi, Krishi Sakhi, Samuha Sakhi, Adhikar Sakhi

Empower girls to lead through change

- Change community and stakeholders mindset towards girls education and careers
- Direct education and educational support programs
- Provide platforms for peer support, learning and collective action
- Develop girls as role models for change

PROGRAMME INTERVENTIONS

For Women Empowerment

- Forming Savings and Credit Based Women's Institutions- Self-Help Groups > Cluster Orgs > Federations
- Livelihoods promotion through Agriculture, Animal Husbandry (Dairy and Goat rearing)
- Three Women Owned Producer Companies –1. Women farmers 2. Milk Producers and 3. Goat Rearers
- Promoting women's rights and entitlements through village Rights Committee
- Creating Women Change Agents- Pashu Sakhies (for livestock), Krishi Sakhies (Agriculture), Samuha Sakhies (Institution Building cadre), Adhikar Sakhi (Rights and Entitlement worker), Internet Sakhi, Solar Sakhi, etc.



For Girls' Education and Empowerment

- Formal education for girls via Taleemshalas and an Upper Primary School for girls
- Supplementary education program for girls in class 6 to 8
- Life skills education and leadership development
- Village level Girls Resource Centres for mutual learning, support and collective action
- Computer Training, Vocational Training, Career Guidance
- Transport facility to school and college and tuition-fee support for College education

For Strengthening Education in Govt. Schools

- Providing and maintaining libraries in govt. Schools
- Improving learning outcomes and providing remedial education
- Bridging the gap between schools and communities through School Management Committees
- Developing leadership and responsibility through Bal Sansad

PHILOSOPHY

Women have long been the deprived gender especially in rural and minority communities. Therefore, by organising them, building capacities, educating, and providing a platform for leadership, Ibtada has been able to not just boost their confidence but also enhance their status in the family and society. It is not just women that need the support, but also adolescent girls who traditionally are confined to and take the burden of supporting the family. It is important to spread awareness about the necessity of educating girls and giving them equal opportunity as boys to follow their dreams. Good quality formal and informal education prepares them for adulthood and to pursue higher education and careerist goals for life. Girls when nurtured rightly are able to handle the challenges of life, express opinions, and contribute to better family and society upon marriage. With this philosophy at hand, Ibtada is changing lives of women and girls in Mewat through cultivating leaders, role models and change-makers. Women impacted by our interventions have progressed personally as well as helped others progress. They are not shy to voice their opinions, they have become better managers and leaders, participate, and contribute to family economy and livelihoods, and are also able to participate in and contribute to development of their community.

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