



Preparing the Youth for the Future

Development Alternatives (DA) and Honda Motorcycle and Scooter India Pvt. Ltd. (HMSI) have collaborated to transform lives of girl children across villages in Manesar (Haryana). The project 'Unnati... Aao Saanwarein Apna Kal' is an attempt to contribute to Government's 'Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao' flagship programme; the objective being transforming the lives of 250 girls from being perceived as a liability to becoming leaders of change, in the Manesar region of India, over a period of three years. At the same time, creating and generating awareness through street plays, community meetings and rallies. The project also extensively focuses on organising vocational training, promoting entrepreneurship amongst young girls, to enable them to become self-reliant.

One of the major components of the endeavour is to counsel, motivate and guide the community members on education, career opportunities, entrepreneurship, etc. Counselling sessions have been organised in the villages on regular basis. The main objectives of the counselling session are:

- Counsel, motivate and guide candidates on the career prospects and future opportunities based on their qualification and experience
- Understand the problems, concerns, issues from the students which they face while deciding on what they can do and guide them to reach a solution to their problems
- Provide them the necessary information and help them procure the forms etc. and help them in filling the forms so that the students do not feel perplexed
- Counsel, guide and aware the parents of the children to support them in achieving their dreams and goals

A total of 20 counselling sessions in the 4 villages (5 counselling sessions per village) over a period of 5 days have been conducted. One to one counselling sessions have been conducted for all the individuals visiting the centre including parents of the students. Most of the candidates were girls as they have very

less exposure to the outside world and are unaware of any growth opportunities. The community has been very responsive to these counselling sessions and felt it to be a good initiative for their children. The girls/students were interested to know about good colleges for pursuing higher education, its admission procedure, fees, and time of admission. However, most parents do not allow their daughters to take admission in a distant college due to security issues which is also a major hindrance in education of girls. So parents have also been counselled on this.

The students were interested in this workshop and the centres have seen a large footfall for enquiry about higher education, career prospects and entrepreneurship. Women have also shown interest in pursuing higher education and becoming independent. They also want to take up some income generation activity (business or job) to support their family financially and raise their standard of living.

Overall the counselling session has been a success and has been able to guide a number of girls, women and other community members on higher education, sports, career prospects and also counsel parents to support their child in pursuing her dreams. The counselled candidates were quite happy with the guidance provided as the vicinity lacks such information which is essential for them to take a step forward in their life.

In addition to above, potential candidates for the scholarship programme have also been identified under the project. Based on a preliminary screening, the team has shortlisted 40 potential candidates for the academic scholarship programme and 20 potential candidates for the sports scholarship programme. These candidates would undergo further screening process and would be under observation by the DA team on ground basis which the candidates would be finalized and recommended for the scholarship to HMSI.