



Stakeholder Consultation cum Competition on Leaders of Change

A workshop was organised for stakeholder consultation and competition on leaders of change by Development Alternatives and Honda under the “Unnati... Aao Sawarein Apna Kal” project on 22 March 2021. The project aims to transform the lives of girls and women around the villages of Manaser by creating an empowering environment for them and enabling them to become self-reliant individuals. To achieve the desired result, it is important to create awareness on gender equality and women empowerment issues among the local leaders (Gram Pradhan), government officials, parents, teachers, among others. The workshop was aimed at analysing the attitude of these stakeholders towards women and girls and thus help in further strategising the project implementation plan. This workshop became a major intervention for this project and was organised to build coordination among different stakeholders.

The workshop commenced with registration and high tea organised for all the participants, and a workshop kit was provided to all. It was formally started with facilitating the dignitaries – Kapil Puniya (Sarpanch , Pathredi Village), Laxman Singh (assistant to Sarpanch), and Maj. Gen Rahul Bhardwaj (Chief Administration, Senior Advisor and Lead - Implementation, Development Alternatives). The workshop session was attended by several trainees, who are certified from the Unnati skill development centre, parents, local leaders, and Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) Ambassadors. The workshop was organised to share the learnings from the ground with the stakeholders and felicitate 40 WASH ambassadors with certificates and kits. Awards were also given out to three parents from each of the four villages based on field analysis.

Post the welcome session, Maj. Gen Bhardwaj emphasised on the need for education and skill enhancement of girls and women. He also gave several examples of women who are renowned in their fields to further motivate the participants. To make the session more interactive, a short sketching exercise was held, where women depicted all the different kinds of work women undertake.

Laxman Singh also shared his views on the project implementation and the way it will support the community in creating a gender-equal society. He also communicated that several companies had

earlier approached their village for development programmes but none of them were launched, Unnati was the first project to provide support for women empowerment. He also assured that he would provide support required from him and would further provide land to the women to set up their enterprises.

Post this, an open discussion session was organised with all the participants to share their views on the project. Many trainees who have been certified from the skill development centre shared their success stories and the way it has impacted their lives. A few of them expressed their experiences through poetry recitation.