

Press Note

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5 years of NRHM: An overview by rural women themselves

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Education is very necessary for everyone but sometimes illiterate people set such examples in front of society that lot many well educated people can't think of. Women who set such examples shared their experiences today at an event organized on the occasion of International Women's Health Day for Action at ICCMRT. The event was organized with the joint effort of Health Watch Forum, Uttar Pradesh and Mahila Swasthya Adhikar Manch, Uttar Pradesh. The focus of the programme was to take a view on 5 yrs journey of NRHM. More than 100 women from eleven districts working with MSAM came up to share their experiences of their work. The topic of the discussion was *Uttar Pradesh mein NRHM ke 5 saal poore hone par mahilaon ki nazar* (NRHM: Women's view on the 5 years journey of NRHM).

Filled with life and enthusiasm, women representatives from five districts very confidently presented their views on their experiences of NRHM monitoring regarding untied fund and domestic expenditure. They also shared their IPHS monitoring experiences, results and their success stories with everyone. While sharing her experiences on untied funds, Tetra Pyari from Chandauli said that she was unable to get any information in her first effort. Even the village pradhan refused to provide information. She then filed an RTI and got the information from CMO office. Similar were the views of Lalpatti from Azamgarh. She told about her experiences that she was unable to get information even from CMO and ANM. She then decided to raise her voice to the public through press dialogue. Also she used her right to information. She was successful in both her efforts.

While sharing her experiences of IPHS subcentre monitoring, Mamta from Bareilly said that the condition of subcentres was very poor. Also they were not accessible by common masses. Replying to this the ANM replied that in certain cases they are helpless and they can't do anything. Carrying the discussion further, Manpheria from Chitrakoot said that MSAM provides them with an identity and after they became members of MSAM, doctors, ANMs, pradhans listen to them and communicate properly.

Women from five districts also shared their success stories in this concern.

On this occasion, senior journalist, Ms. Suman Gupta said that women should not think themselves to be less productive. She said that since women think therefore lot many women do not take care of them properly. They must understand that they are equally important for the society. Talking about NRHM scheme, she said that corruption is prevailing in the whole system and that is why the programme is not running properly.

Women representatives of MSAM also met State Health Minister Sri Babulal Kushwaha and submitted a demand letter to him.

Addressing the women, Ms. Jashodhara Dasgupta said that any programme can become successful only if it is accessible by common masses. Ms Kumkum Tripathi also presented her views on the occasion.

Several social activists and intellectuals were also present on the occasion.

**Mahila Swasthya Adhikar Manch and
Healthwatch Forum, Uttar Pradesh**