

Adhikar Sakhi Barfina becomes role model for development and social change in Piproli village

This is an inspiring story of Barfina and her fight against COVID-19 in Piproli village. Piproli a small village of 700-800 families located on the foothills around 7 km from Ramgarh block of Alwar district. About 20-25 families are of SC and 650-700 families are of OBC (Muslims) communities residing in this area. For last 4 years Ibtada is running a programme with focus on ensuring rights and entitlement in this village. Adhikar Sakhi Barfina has been instrumental in helping women get the benefits of government schemes in Piproli village. She has been constantly making people aware regarding their rights and government schemes for which they are eligible for the past 4 years.

In February, this year Barfina heard the news of the spread of corona virus which originated in China and has been spreading throughout the world relentlessly and the Indian government declaring a nationwide lockdown. Barfina took the news and started to consult the authorities regarding this disease and began her work of making the villagers aware of this disease. Barfina has been in regular touch with Panchayat representatives and officials, frontline health workers (ANM& ASHA) and anganwadi worker so that government guidelines about COVID-19 and benefits announced to deal with this crisis reach to the people. She keeps discussing about this pandemic and precautions with women, men and even children of the village. There is a grudging admiration for her work from men who have also started to realize the seriousness of COVID-19 and its implication.

Barfina's efforts to fight COVID-19 and help the needy in the village are following:

1. Firstly, Barfina started to paste posters and charts regarding the prevention of corona virus on village shops and water tanks and on the walls.
2. She talked with the village secretary and the sarpanch regarding the spraying of sanitizers and also helped them with this task
3. She gave information about the people coming from outside to the Anganwadi workers as most of the people are drivers who come to this village.
4. She made circles on the pathways of store for maintaining a 1 m distance for proper social distancing.
5. She made the workers who are involved in wheat cutting aware of the corona virus and also made them aware of the safety measures to be taken while harvesting wheat.
6. She informed the local authorities of the shops that are selling their goods on increased rates and with the help of the authorities to regulate the prices of the goods a price list was pasted on the shops.
7. She made a list of poor families and provided the information to the secretary and let Ibtada know.
8. She raised awareness among the shopkeepers and people working on fields (70-80) through telephonic conversations.
9. Barfina has made 15-20 masks on her own and has distributed them among her neighbours and fellow villagers.

Even today Barfina is known as someone who has played a pivotal role in raising awareness about the corona disease in Piproli village.



Image 1 Barfina stitching masks for distributing in the village



Image 2 Barfina putting up posters and charts in the village to raise awareness



Image 3 Barfina sanitising the village offices



Image 4 Barfina sanitising the village to protect from COVID-19