

The Influencer Bulletin

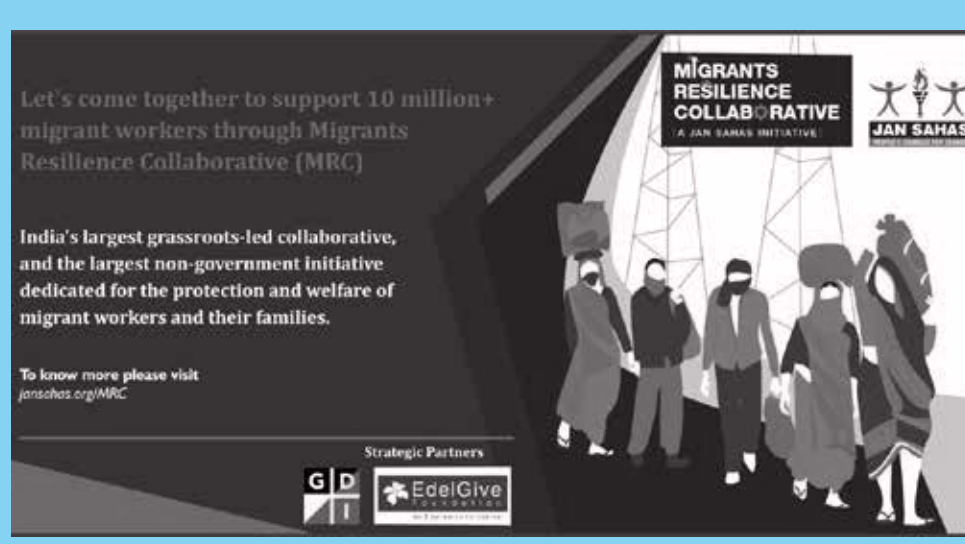
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Women are playing a pivotal role in their communities as the Covid-19 crisis continues to unfold. While some spheres of work and personal life are on pause, others face increased strains and new challenges, the lives of women and girls everywhere are changing. This issue we bring to you updates from our grassroots partners such as Jan Sahas and Mann Deshi Foundation, to highlight the power of collaborative action and address these worries. Read more about the voices from the ground from Ibtada, Kutch Mahila Vikas Sangathan and how the work of IT for change is sensitising audience at a larger scale.

Collective Action

We are very delighted to share that **Jan Sahas** recently launched the **Migrants Resilience Collaborative** that aims to cater to 10 million migrant workers across 100 districts in India over the next 5 years who have been adversely affected in the wake of COVID. As a grassroots-led multi-stakeholder collaborative with representation from diverse sectors, the Migrants Resilience Collaborative focusses on ensuring social security of migrants, with dignity, safety, and mobility for vulnerable migrant families across the country. With EdelGive Foundation and GDI as strategic partners to Jan Sahas in this much needed collaborative, we are proud to share that this would be India's largest grassroots-led non-governmental collaborative dedicated for protection and welfare of migrant workers and their families. [Read more.](#)



Collective Conversations



In collaboration with Georgetown University and RYTHM Foundation, **Mann Deshi Foundation** hosted a two-day virtual conference for the Zilla Parishad teachers in rural areas on 6th and 7th July.

The conference, witnessed a plethora of workshops conducted by experts from fields of education, research and training with a vision to empower teachers with skills in teaching strategies, developmental psychology and digital literacy to further support students. Mr. Bacchu Kadu, Maharashtra Cabinet Minister of State and Shekhar Singh, District Collector (Satara) were chief guests for the event. Click [here](#) to view the session.

Kutch Mahila Vikas Sangathan organised a webinar on 30th June 2020 around the issue of Sexual Harassment in Workplace. Presided by Varsha Mishra, legal expert in Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013 and currently associated with Catalyst Management Services, the session saw participation from a variety of stakeholders such as educators, Government officials and Civil Society Organisations, and discussed the role of the newly formed Internal complaints committee. Queries such as 'Can a woman complain against another woman?', 'what is role during the year when complaints are not received', etc were additionally discussed.

Our partner **IT for Change** hosted online strategy sessions around topics ranging from *claiming the data building block for digital commons*, to *Digital ID & personal data empowerment* at the **RightsCon Online 2020** held from 27th to 31st July 2020. The ninth edition of the summit brought together business leaders, policy makers, technologists, advocates, academics, government representatives, and journalists from around the world to address issues at the intersection of human rights and technology. Following were the sessions-

- **Going Co-op: A platform model for workers in the South** - Panel discussed the potential and challenges of getting locally situated innovation off the ground and build truly viable and resilient models of platform economy that maximize social and collective interests.
- **Claiming the data building block for the digital commons** - Panel discussed about the frameworks around data and how it can better serve the idea of a digital commons.
- **Localizing algorithms in trans-global tech:** Development impacts of AI in local economic contexts - Panel attempts to discuss the developmental impact of AI on local economies in the Global South to analyse how AI innovation can work for the benefit of all actors, specifically how 'AI for All' can work for a human-based economy.



Breaking the Convention



Happy to share that Devi's (an Adhikaar Sakhi from Ibtada) work with women collective in the times of the pandemic, was commended by South China Morning Post and featured alongside women across Asia as a stellar example of authentic, ethical, female leadership styles. Click [here](#) to Read More.

From Satara to San Francisco

Far from the access to professional coaches and opulent sports infrastructure, 22 years old Reshma from the drought prone village of Mhaswad, Satara proved to be a living testimony to young athletes, reiterating that hard work and talent are their biggest capital.

Thorough Mann Deshi Foundation's support to the Sports Academy, Reshma is counted among the top-21 km Marathon runners in Maharashtra and has represented the state at the national level. She has even won a silver medal, at the US Virginia State Cross-Country Invitational Championship. Read more on Reshma's journey [here](#)



Voices from the Grassroots

Do take a look at EdelGive Foundation's **Voices from the Grassroots** video series, bringing to you the perspective of our NGO leaders, their experiences and possible solutions to some of the most difficult issues the social sector is dealing with, as they navigate through the COVID-19 crisis.

Renu Mishra, Executive Director, **Association for Advocacy and Legal Initiatives** (AALI) highlights the challenges faced by women during the COVID-19 lockdown. She describes the interventions undertaken by AALI to enable women to approach the administration for grievance redressal and relief measures. [Watch here](#)



Jameela Nishat, Executive Director, **Shaheen Women's Resource and Welfare Association** discusses the challenges that girls and women had to face during the lockdown. She describes how the young girls of Shaheen stepped and volunteered to help out those in need. [Watch here](#)