

The Influencer Bulletin

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Your support to the Influencers journey is ensuring women and girls' freedom from violence and discrimination, access to legal justice, grassroots leadership, rights and entitlements and freedom from economic dependence. In this issue we bring to you updates from our coalition partners Mann Deshi and Ibtada's extensive work towards promoting women's economic empowerment, education and skill development. Read more about the policy level work done by the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) towards empowering women during pandemic. Finally, we also reflect upon the work and journey of our grassroots coalition partners ITforChange and ANANDI.

Economic Independence: Advancing Women's Livelihood Capabilities

We are delighted to announce that **Mann Deshi Foundation** has recently launched their digital shopping platform "**Mann Deshi e-Bazaar**" for rural women micro entrepreneurs to sell a wide range of hand-made and locally-crafted products. In 2019, they had set up the Mann Deshi Udyojika Company to support women entrepreneurs by creating a platform for them to market and sell their products. The collective of women entrepreneurs have been working hard to ensure their customized products are now available online. Do check out all their traditional snacks, hand-made jewellery and many other wonderful products [here](#). Happy Shopping!



Peer and Community-based Support Systems



Through stellar efforts at grassroots, **Ibtada** recently inaugurated a new Girl's Resource Centre for girls in Kesroli village to empower the girls through education and skill development. The centre provides young girls with a safe space to openly communicate and share any kind of challenges that each of them may be facing in different walks of life. The peer group also helps and supports each other in academic matters and in building social capital.

Collective Conversations

IT for Change in collaboration with **Just Net Coalition** organised and participated at the 15th Annual Meeting of the Internet Governance Forum (IGF) hosted on 3rd November online by the United Nations under the overarching theme Internet for human resilience and solidarity. They collectively launched the initiative "**Digital New Deal : Visions of Justice in a Post-Covid World**" a compendium of essays and interviews from leading global scholars, activists and practitioners envisioning a future where digital technologies are democratically governed and committed to justice. Click [here](#) to view the recorded event.



ITforChange also recently launched a weekly community radio program in Kannada, "Nan Voice Nan Choice" for adolescent girls broadcasting on **Radio Active CR 90.4 MHz** in Bengaluru. The radio program provides a platform for young girls to motivate and share their experience, ambitions and goals. All episodes are broadcasted live and posted to **SoundCloud** as well. Click [here](#) to tune in!

Influencing Change at the Local Levels

ANANDI's work on addressing an age old practice called *Haraji* (the traditional practice of auctioning girls from tribal areas) in Gujarat was recently featured and appreciated in the news. It is noticed that such incidents often go unnoticed in the tribal region due to various socio-political challenges and barriers in the village however, we are extremely happy and proud to share the combined successful efforts of local women collectives and ANANDI anchored rescue operations to prevent these incidents affecting lives of young girls. Click [here](#) to read more about their efforts.

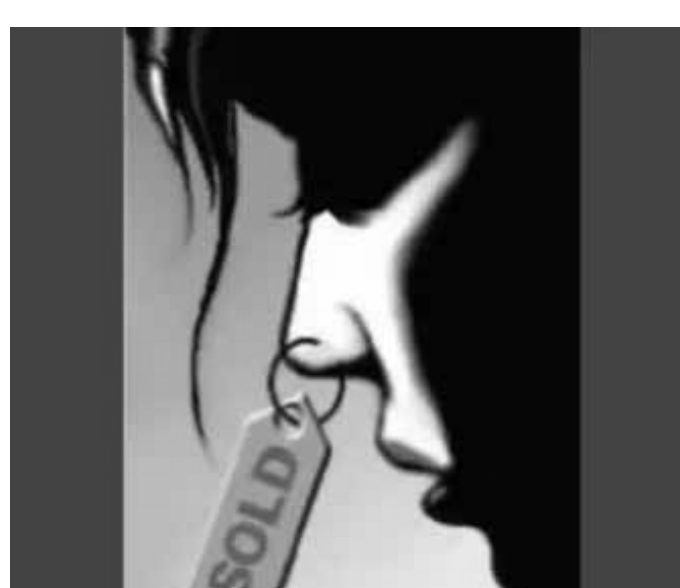


Image used for representational purpose only

Sowing the Seeds of Resilient Communities

On this National Women Farmer's Day or Rashtriya Mahila Kisan Diwas on 15th October, ANANDI, celebrated resilience of women farmer in Dahod, Panchmahal and Morbi in Gujarat.



Access to Justice- Awareness and Advocacy for Legal Justice



National Human Rights Commission (NHRC)

On 7th October the **National Human Rights Commission** (NHRC) issued an advisory notice to various Central Ministries, including the Women and Child Development, Health and Family Welfare and Home Affairs Ministries, and all States and Union Territories on protecting women's rights during the COVID-19 pandemic. The NHRC recommended a "coordinated and inter-ministerial health system response" to gender-based violence, a task force to ensure implementation of related laws, free contraception and extending

the moratorium on loan repayment, including for self-help groups and MUDRA loans taken by women workers. Click [here](#) to read more.