

The Influencer Bulletin

VOL III | ISSUE 12 | APR 2021



Your support to the Influencers journey has ensured 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 KMVS and Mann Deshi Foundation, and a story of change from CORO's 'Single Women's Organisation' initiative in Marathwada, Maharashtra, in the words of one of its core team members Laxmi Waghmare.

It gives us immense pleasure to share with you about the successful launch of EdelGive's Landscape Study on Women Entrepreneurship under the UdyamStree initiative, which was been in the presence of Mr Amitabh Kant, CEO, NITI Aayog, and Ram Mohan Mishra, Secretary, Ministry of Women & Child Development at an official launch of this report, in April.

Giving wheels to ambitions



In the arid regions of Kutch, some girls have vibrant dreams... this is their story. An India Fellow volunteer who was working with **Kutch Mahila Vikas Sangathan** has created a documentary named **The Chhakda Drivers of Kutch**, which narrates the story of young women (five of them from Devipujak community which is conservative in its outlook with respect to women's agency and autonomy), from urban slums of Bhuj, who went against all odds to learn how to drive chhakda (auto rikshaw); people who helped them and their dreams for future.

EdelGive has been supporting 'Safe District' programme since 2016, which aims to enable women to lead a gender transformative process within communities, citizens, youth and institutions. A significant aspect of KMVS' work in Bhuj has also been to enable and equip young women and girls to aspire for and attain a self-reliant life without fear of violence. The confidence demonstrated by these young *chhakda* drivers is a testimony of the impact of this work.

Mann Deshi's story never ceases to inspire

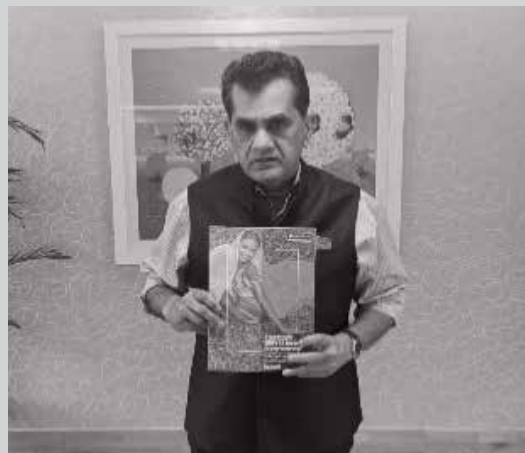


Mann Deshi Foundation's Founder Chetna Gala Sinha and her work towards empowering rural women reached newer audiences this month, with her conversations with Nas Daily, NDTV and Amazon's Minari Shah. **Nas Daily**, a famous millennial blogger blogged about Mann Deshi Foundation and its founder Chetna Gala Sinha's efforts towards enabling financial inclusion and rural women in finance. In **a fireside chat with Minari Shah** on

'Taking Financial Inclusion to the Indian Heartland', Chetna also spoke about starting Mann Deshi Udyogini, a business school for women who were unable to attend school. In an **NDTV feature**, Chetna spoke about why trust and confidence between lender and borrower is important for any financial initiative's success.

Launch of the Landscape Study on Women Entrepreneurship

In October 2020, we had shared about the launch of the **#UdyamStree Campaign**, which aims to boost the entrepreneurial spirit in women and gradually create a conducive ecosystem for women to thrive. As a primary step towards building the ecosystem for women entrepreneurship in India, EdelGive commissioned a Landscape study Through its research partner, Impact PSD, to develop a detailed research on the 'Landscape for Women Entrepreneurship'; and its challenges and impact on health, socio-economic security and family wellbeing outcomes of Women Entrepreneurs. This report will form the base against which we will facilitate the campaign ahead. This research study was launched in April in the presence of Mr. Amitabh Kant, CEO, NITI Aayog and Mr. Ram Mohan Mishra, Secretary, Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of India, and other dignitaries from the government, corporates, civil society, and others. You may view the launch **here**. you can access the report **here**.



*Report launched by Chief Guest of the event - Mr. Ram Mohan Mishra, Secretary, Ministry of Women and Child Development
Mr. Amitabh Kant, CEO, NITI Aayog facilitated the event as the event chair*

Grassroots leadership



"Through CORO's Leadership programme, I was able to build self-esteem and confidence, understand how to mobilise people and reach the roots of a social problem. To be able to enable and empower women, hold their hand and walk along with them on the path of self-discovery, is my ultimate purpose in life." - Laxmi Waghmare, shares her journey from vulnerability to empowerment in a blog by CORO **here**. Laxmi is a core team member of CORO's 'Single Women Programme', in Marathwada, Maharashtra. The association helps single women stand up to social stigma, claim their entitlements and lead an independent life. Laxmi's story is an inspiration to many and has been featured by **The Better India** and **IDR**.