

Case Study of Bhuvan

My name is Bhuvan Chandra. I am 28 years old. I am a native of Nainital district of Uttarakhand state. The name of my village is Gajaar, which is situated in Vikas Khand Betaalghat. I live in a joint family, with my parents, my brother and his family. I am also pursuing my studies these days. I am working with Prayas for the last four years, which is primarily working on the women's empowerment and also on violence against women. For the past one year, Prayas has started working on the sensitizing men on violence against women. I was not clear about this issue, frankly speaking, I did not think there was any need to sensitize men, as they were intelligent. For this work, I got an opportunity to participate in a training in Delhi organized by CHSJ from 23-26th June 2011.

During this training, I realized that gender discrimination begins at home. Education, Health, Nutrition and social malpractices are also responsible and patriarchal thinking also plays a part.

Along with this thinking, I got the work of sensitizing men towards women, in which I found that in today's youth there is an increasing habit of drugs, which makes their thinking more negative. I spoke to my friends about this, but they took it all in a joke. I realized that they were not to be blamed, this is the social thinking- which has been prevalent in society for centuries. Then I spoke to my senior friend, who told me that we can't even think of changing people through mere words. We have to first change ourselves and build an identification in our families so that other men in the family can get inspiration. Then I started with this. I started helping my sister in law with the household chores. But my mother did not like this. She used to think that I would get tired doing the household chores, and this would affect my other work.

One thing is still a problem- I have not played a role in the further studies of my younger sister, which I could have played. She wanted to study further but my family got her married at the age of 18 years.

Now I will try and emulate these teachings and experiences in my life. One more thing! My elder brother is also changing- I have sometimes seen him working with his wife in the kitchen.

Now my marriage has been fixed and it is in November this year. I am ready to start my new life with a new person and a new thinking.