

Jansatta Abhiyan : Peoples Empowerment Campaigns A case Study

Removal of the illegal paint manufacturing unit

In one of the slum areas where BUILD has a strong presence, in the midst of the crowded huts, a local thug started an illegal automobile paint manufacturing unit. He installed heavy machinery and erected two chimneys. It's needless to say that the unit created a number of health and safety hazards in the neighborhood. The dwellers suffered from respiratory and eye problems due to the fumes and the paint smell; the noise from the machines caused noise pollution. Hence, they requested the thug to stop the work. He ignored their repeated requests and further, started using by-lanes for painting vehicles.

After a patient wait the BUILD worker brought together the women of the neighborhood, under the Janasatta Abhiyan banner. They gave a written complaint to the Municipal Ward Officer. They also complained to the Police Station. This was followed by a visit of the Ward Officer to check the situation.

The paint manufacturing unit was soon shut down for some time. The thug removed the chimneys but continued the indoor manufacturing activity. The people are now planning to approach higher authorities to shut down the unit permanently.



The Story of Well

In Anandnagar community in one of the by lanes there used to be a traditional well which served as a source for drinking water. At some point of time in the past people stopped using this well. Over a period of time the water became dirty, people started throwing trash and filth in the well and soon it turned into a big garbage bin.

For the last few years during summers the community faced acute water shortage problem. People had to buy water from private supplier. BUILD brought up the issue with the locals in the BUILD group meetings. Members suggested that the well be cleaned and the well water be made usable for drinking. After elaborate discussions and consultation with the experts they approached the Corporator and requested him to clean the well. He happily did the needful and erected a two feet wall surrounding the well. The underground water was rejuvenated. To ensure the purity of water some fish and two tortoises were released in the water (the logic- If water is pure fish and tortoises would be easily visible).The people have now covered the well with an iron net to prevent littering. They use the water for washing etc. when the BMC water is not regular. The whole community is takes care that the water does not get polluted. It's amazing to see this as a reality.



Livelihood - Testimony

“Dear Friends, Greetings! I am your friend Mrs. Nanda Gajanan Raut. After my marriage at the age of 19 I came to Mumbai from Satara village in Maharashtra. The change from a calm village life to a hectic life in a congested slum in this city was disturbing and scaring.

Now I am 41 years old and we have four daughters and one son aged three.

My husband works in an Imitation Jewelry making unit and earns a meager income of Rs. 3000/- per month. I work as a domestic servant and also do a job at imitation jewelry making unit at a piece rate.

I used to often hear about SHGs but never knew what it was all about. Out of the curiosity, I managed to get in touch with Mrs. Shobha Sutar, a field worker of BUILD who explained to me in details the concept of SHG and the 74th CAA. I was happy to learn about the work of BUILD and wanted to undergo training programmes arranged for women and youth to promote livelihood.

With few women in the neighbourhood I formed a SHG, titled it “ Jhansichi Rani” SHG, with the guidance from a BUILD field worker, of which I am the Secretary. I felt happy being associated with the organization, could get most of the work done from the BMC.

With the help of BUILD I sent my daughter for a three month crash course in Catering and Hotel Management conducted by BMC. She has now joined the KFC and earns a monthly salary of Rs.7,000/-.

Our second daughter also got opportunity through BUILD to undergo training in Hospitality Management .She is now working in the Housekeeping department of a reputed hotel and earns Rs. 8,500/- per month. This came as a great help as her earnings has enabled us to overcome most of the difficulties our family.

Recently there was a training programme in Catering where I got an opportunity to learn cooking different dishes, knowledge in health, hygiene and diet. After the training I took a small loan from the SHG and started Tiffin services to workers in the nearby industrial units. Now there a steady increase in demand and my client line is increasing and partial food expenses in household are taken care of from this income. **Now our family is happy, secured and is leading an enhanced life.**

In the last two years my life has changed dramatically. For over 20 years I was just a housewife confined to the little tiny 100 sq. ft. room in the slum. Today I stand more confident and dignified. I can proudly say that because of the BUILD, I have savings of my own, my two daughters got good jobs and the rest are having better education.

I also learned banking formalities and the schemes that are available for people like us. Now people come to me to seek advice. I request my friends to take advantage of the facilities provided by BUILD.”

Livelihood Testimony

“My name is Kalyani Jadhav, I am an illiterate housewife. We are a family of five. My husband works as a mason, and I have a petty shop. My husband came from Sawantwadi in Maharashtra in search of a job and for the last 40 years has been living here.

For years, we struggled to make two ends meet and provide minimum education to the children. One day I came across the organization BUILD and the work that is being done by them in our locality such as improvement of lanes, organizing people to take up their case with the local government, training the women to earn, teaching the women to save even from the meager income, etc. I then managed to get the contact of their field worker from my neighbor and approached her. She was kind enough to explain to me about their work and the Self Help Group.

I enquired with her whether I could start a SHG. She happily guided me through the process. I got attracted to the employability training programmes available for youth through the BMC. My daughter who was working in an imitation jewellery unit was earning a meager salary of Rs. 2000/-per month. I sent her for a training course in Hospitality Management. Now she works in a Food Court of a mall and earns over Rs. 7000/- pm

This has come as a great help to us. We are sure now she will have a much better future than what I had. Apart from the financial advantage, I can now see positive behavioral changes in my daughter. I am grateful to the organization for all the help they have rendered to me and my family.

I too got an opportunity to undergo a training programme in catering. After the training I thought of starting Tiffin supply to workers in the small scale factories in our locality. Taking a small loan from the SHG I started in a small way of providing breakfast to few workers. As the days went by more orders came through. Now I supply breakfast and dinner.

I really do not know how much profit I make but one thing I know for sure is my whole family of five members is having good food three times a day for the whole month. **My husband’s income and daughters income is saved which gives us a secure feeling.”**

An Opportunity That Changed my Destiny

“My name is Asha Pandhare, aged 40. I was born in Wadala, Mumbai, got married in 1997 and shifted to Vakola. My husband is working as a Contract Worker with the BMC Drainage department. I have two sons who are studying.

I was a homemaker till six months ago when I came across the organization BUILD. Their field staff, explained to me about the 74th CAA and also about the work they are doing in the area- The concept of SHG, livelihood programmes, trainings etc. I got excited and thought that I should do something. So first, I joined the SHG and started saving regularly. Then I enrolled myself in the Self Defence training programme. On completion I got a job as a Security Guard with Axis Bank. I started earning Rs.8500/- p.m. I was really excited when I got my first salary!

After working for four months in the Bank I was offered a job as a Supervisor in a Shopping Mall. I readily accepted it as it would earn me a salary of Rs.10,000/-pm. AND supervising the house keeping staff, I felt as if I am the BOSS.

Now I and my family is secure. **I sincerely thank the BUILD staff for, without them, I would not have reached where I am today”**

