



# उkti

Towards A Brighter Future  
Stories From Ugam World

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## Deepening Reach

What began as a small effort to connect and learn from KGBV Alumni girls, has turned out to be a source of optimism, energy and pride for us at Ugam.

We started our engagement with KGBV Alumni in May 2021. Fresh from the covid related school closures we were keen to explore ways to build community leadership and catalyse local solutions.

We realize that the objective of KGBV is to ensure access to quality education for the girls from disadvantaged groups by setting up residential schools at upper primary level.

Typically, the outcomes of higher education in national development are measured in terms of individual accomplishments with a focus on the individual's economic success.

However, given the background of KGBV schools and their students there is an increased interest in understanding the broader benefits of higher education and its connections to empowerment.

**Beyond financial benefits, KGBV education also holds the potential of shaping one's attitudes to empowerment** by building skills and knowledge and establishing networks to address these issues.

## Understanding KGBV Alumni

Working closely with the Jharkhand Education Promotion Council (JEPC), with guidance from Dr. Avinav Kumar, Ugam collected data about alumni from 24 districts of Jharkhand. Ugam is the nodal agency for contributing to and shaping the Jharkhand State KGBV Alumni Program.

We share with you some highlights:



Out of all the girls  
**25%**  
are **graduates** and  
**40%**  
are on their way to  
**complete graduation**



Besides graduation  
their most preferred  
study option seems to  
be **nursing and para  
nursing courses**



Continuing the trend almost  
**10%**  
of the young women are  
working in the health related  
sectors; **as nurses, para  
nurses, in Anganwadis etc**

Other occupational choices include teaching, home guard and defense related sectors and interestingly  
**19 young women**  
are mukhiyas, sarpanches or ward members in their villages.

We understand that more data is needed as well as a systematic plan to regularly maintain the data. From our ground level experiences we know that many women are engaged in small businesses. Data for the same needs to be collected. Our biggest learning and desire is to deeply understand the effect on empowerment and social change.

## Collaborations

As part of our engagement with the JEPC we participated, facilitated and led some key workshops:



**Supported a 3 day Workshop for Budget Revision:** It was a great opportunity for Ugam to participate in and facilitate discussions on budget revision for all 203 KGBVs and 57 JBAVs.



**Support KGBVs for National Evaluation:** Ugam was a part of the support team for KGBVs for the NCERT led National Evaluation of KGBVs.



**State level warden meeting:** under the leadership of Dr. Avinav Kumar Sir (State in-charge, Quality education) Ugam facilitated an orientation workshop for all the wardens of 260 KGBVs and JBAVs. The central agenda of this virtual workshop was introduction and orientation to KGBV Alumni.

## Expanding Boundaries

**Sashakti Fellowship Again...**

Our first batch of Sashakti Fellows will complete their 2 year journey in April 2023. These 25 outstanding young women have demonstrated courage, curiosity, resilience and an ability to question, learn and reflect. They travelled, built rapport with Wardens,

learnt to work as a team, answered review questions in districts and facilitated sessions with girls. Ugam is deeply inspired by them and their journeys of change give us confidence and courage to launch the next round of Sashakti Fellowship!

In our diverse new fellowship batch we have 100+ fellows from 19 districts. The batch has



complementary skills and comes with different experiences to add to the fellowship experience. The cohort has a mix of young brides, young mothers, fresh graduates, some students, all motivated and enthusiastic!

**In addition to the sessions we conduct over zoom, almost 65 girls attended our 5 day residential training program in Ranchi!**

## Expanding Scope

Adolescent girls and young children, everywhere enjoy baalgeet and stories, they are curious to know about menstruation and anemia.

**55 Sashakti fellows learnt this as they designed and led 7 day Community Projects.**

In the **65 village communities** they reached not only adolescent girls, even married women came for the sessions.

**1,887** Women  
**738** Adolescents  
**730** Children

Filled with trepidation before starting the Fellows quickly became the "didis" in the community with invitations for lunch and stay.

## Our Sheroes- Sashakti Fellows

Ritika Pandey

**कपेटा गाँव में कम्यूनिटी प्रोजेक्ट का मेरा अनुभव**

किसी भी नयी जगह जाकर, अपनी बातों को समझा पाना आसान तो नहीं होता है, मेरे लिए भी नहीं था, जब मैं गोड्डा जिले के एक छोटे से गाँव 'कपेटा' में कम्यूनिटी प्रोजेक्ट के लिए गई थी। यहाँ मैंने दिसंबर महीने के आखिरी सप्ताह में 6 दिनों का प्रवास किया। इस गाँव में करीब 60 से 70 परिवार रहते हैं जिसकी कुल आबादी तकरीबन 700 है। मैंने गाँव और ग्रामीणों को समझने के लिए पूरे गाँव का भ्रमण किया। महिलाओं, किशोरियों और बच्चों से मिलती रही, उनके साथ बैठती थी, उन्हें सुनती थी। दूसरे गाँवों की तरह यहाँ भीलड़कियों पर कई तरह की पाबंदियाँ, स्वास्थ्य सुविधाओं की कमी, महिलाओं में एक असहायता की भावना देखने को मिली। दिन गुजरते गए और मैं धीरे-धीरे गाँव और ग्रामीणों के तौर तरीके और सोच-विचार से अवगत होने लगीं, उनसे घुलने-मिलने लगीं।

कुछ दिनों में ही, धीरे-धीरे चीजें बदलने लगीं- मैं बदली, लोग बदले और इसका एहसास मुझे तब हुआ जब एक दिन, एक बच्चे के दादाजी



**Deeper in Santhal**

Dumka Mahila Saksharta Mission: The administration and Education department of Dumka district launched a Mahila Saksharta Abhiyan to promote literacy among women in the district. To lead the program at the village level, **460 anudeshaks were identified by the administration. Ugam team was invited to facilitate 9 training sessions with these 460 anudeshaks.**

In addition Ugam team visited **21 villages and participated in 9 review meetings. The program reached approximately 13,800 women in 10 blocks of Dumka district.**



मेरे पास आए और कहने लगे कि 'मैं तीन दिन से बहुत खुश हूँ बच्चा लोग बहुत तारीफ करता है आप का' 'यूँ तो मैं उनसे पहले कभी मिली नहीं थी पर उनका आकर तारीफ करना मुझे बहुत ही अच्छा लगा। मेरे लिए दादाजी के शब्द, मेरे द्वारा किए जा रहे 'बालगीत और एकटीवीटी' का अच्छा फीडबैक थे।

मैं अक्सर महिलाओं से सुनती थी कि यहाँ के सभी लोग ऐसे हैं, जैसे है, कुछ करना ही नहीं चाहते, अकेले हम लोग क्या ही कर सकते हैं? इन बातों को ध्यान में रखते हुए मैंने कमला

भसीन को याद किया और एक चेतना गीत 'तू खुद को बदल- तू खुद को बदल, तब ही तो जमाना बदलेगा' महिलाओं के साथ शुरू किया और फिर उनसे पूछा कि आप इस गीत से क्या समझे? उन्होंने बहुत ही सुंदर जवाब दिया कि 'यदि हम अपने समाज में बदलाव चाहते हैं तो हमें शुरुआत खुद से ही करनी होगी'।

चर्चा के दौरान यह भी बात सामने आई कि घर के पुरुष कई बार शराब पी कर हम पर हाथ भी उठा देते हैं तो ऐसे में हमें क्या करना चाहिए? कुछ ने मायूसी के साथ यह भी कहा कि ये गाँव है यहाँ ऐसा ही होता है।

तो मैंने उनको एक और पंक्ति याद दिलवाई कि 'तू बोलेगी, मुंह खोलेगी, तब ही तो जमाना बदलेगा' फिर क्या था उन्होंने ये पंक्ति खुद याद कर लिया और कहने लगी कि हमलोग ही चुप रह जाते हैं, हमें सही तरीके से अपनी बात रखनी ही चाहिए।

उन्हीं के बीच में से किसी ने विचार का समर्थन करते हुए सति प्रथा की बात याद दिला कर कहने लगीं कि 'शुरुआत में सति प्रथा भी सभी को सही ही लगती थी पर किसी ने आवाज उठायी, तभी आज यह प्रथा खत्म हो पाई है'। और इसी तरीके से हमारी रोचक और सकारात्मक चर्चा आगे बढ़ती रही..

मेरी यात्रा आसान तो नहीं थी पर अर्थपूर्ण और प्रभावाशाली जरूर रही।



We have deep roots and have spread our wings across the State.

We are deeply committed to creating sustainable impactful models that stand on the pillars of system change, institution building and local leadership.

We are building a collaborative for the education and empowerment of adolescent girls in schools

and communities through partners.

We have set ourselves a significant task and we humbly appeal for support as we grow to reach more girls in more schools/communities.

We are now registered and visible on Benevity and Techsoup by the name Ugam Education Foundation!

## We Thank Our Donors

- Parle Biscuits Pvt Ltd
- SNL Bearings Ltd.
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We are very proud to be associated with **Ujwal Impact Advisors**

A special thank you to:

**Ujwal Thaker, Shridhar Sethuraman, Sekhar, and Ramya Rajgopalan**

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*Ugam Education Foundation is registered as a section 8 not for profit company in Mumbai in June 2015.*

*Ugam has 12A, 80G and FCRA certification.*

### **Our Gratitude to:**

**State Team:** Ms. Kiran Kumari Pasi, Dr. Avinav Kumar, Mr Shahbaz Alam, Ms. Anupa Tirkey.

**District Teams:** The District Collectors and Education teams (DEO, DSE, ADPO, Gender Coordinators)

**KGBV School Teams:** Wardens and Teachers

**Girls in KGBV/JBAV classrooms** are a joy to interact with and they fill us with hope for the future