



# उkti

Towards A Brighter Future  
Stories From Ugam World

NEWSLETTER | FEBRUARY 2024



November 2023  
February 2024

**50**

members of  
Ugam team  
visited

**104**

KGBVs/JBAVs  
in **17 districts**

Providing **7000+** hours  
of intervention

Girls engaged  
in sessions  
on remedial  
learning, gender  
education,  
menstrual  
hygiene

Schools  
engaged in  
empowering  
libraries,  
assemblies and  
baal sansads



Launch of  
Jharkhand State  
KGBV Alumni  
program



Creation  
of a Coffee  
Table book  
chronicling the  
program



Participation  
at the United  
Nations Girls  
Education  
Initiative (UNGEI)  
Workshop in  
Istanbul



## KGBV Alumni Program

State level launch of KGBV Alumni program- Under the guidance and leadership of the JEPC team of Mrs Kiran Pasi (IAS), Dr Abhinav Kumar and Mrs Anupa Tirkey, the work began in October 2022 to build Jharkhand's first-ever KGBV Alumni Program.

Empowered young women will catalyse positive change for more girls and schools – this is the bedrock of the program.

This state-level program was launched on the **8th of November 2023.**

District Alumni Program Orientation District level officers and wardens participated in District orientation on the program in **17 districts.**

## In KGBVs...

The Ugam team connects with KGBV Alumni, motivates them and builds their capacity to help KGBVs and students with library activities, planning their future and developing 21st-century skills.

Each school not only welcomed their Alumni, they created a special wall depicting their achievements as well as those of their school. The program is building and fostering a strong network of KGBV alumni and schools.

## With Alumni....

150 KGBV Alumni participated in a **300-hour capacity building program.** Sessions on self awareness, decision making, setting goals and gender, songs and stories were a great success with the alumni. During the residential training, they engaged with peers. The highlight was their conversations and learning from Jharkhand Education Project Council's Head for Quality Education Dr. Abhinav Kumar and Ex Education Secretary IAS Mrs. Mridula Sinha.

## Coffee table book

The journey, purpose and vision of the Jharkhand KGBV Alumni program was encapsulated in a coffee table book. At Ugam we feel proud to have been an integral part of the program and the book.

The initiative was conceptualised and led by the State Program Officer of Quality Education Dr. Abhinav Kumar (JEPC). The support from the Education Secretary and SPD were invaluable. The book chronicles several State level initiatives, best practices of KGBVs and highlights some KGBV Alumni and their journeys!



## FemNet4GTE by UNGEI

In November 2023, the United Nations Girls Education Initiative and Feminist Network for Gender Transformative Education brought together **120+ representatives from 50+ countries** to meet in Istanbul for a dynamic two-day event. Led by developing country expertise, civil society organizations and young feminist experts constituted the majority of participants.

Representatives from over 50 countries were selected to attend, bringing lived experience and on-the-ground expertise from around the world.

Ugam was represented by Lopa Gandhi in this wonderfully diverse and meaningful workshop.

## State level workshop

We were invited to a workshop on “Life Skills, Body Confidence, Well being and Psycho-social Safety initiatives in KGBVs: Reflections and Next Steps” which was organised by Jharkhand Education Project Council and UNICEF.

Our team of brilliant KGBV Alumni shared their extensive experiences around body positivity, addressing gender norms, future planning, menstrual challenges and the value of support and peer mentoring.

Jharkhand State Project Director Mrs Kiran Pasi was impressed with the courage, insights and articulation of the Alumni from Ugam team.

Our founder Lopa Gandhi also presented the work being done on the first ever KGBV alumni program. We are grateful for the amazing experience of interacting and listening to other CSOs as well.



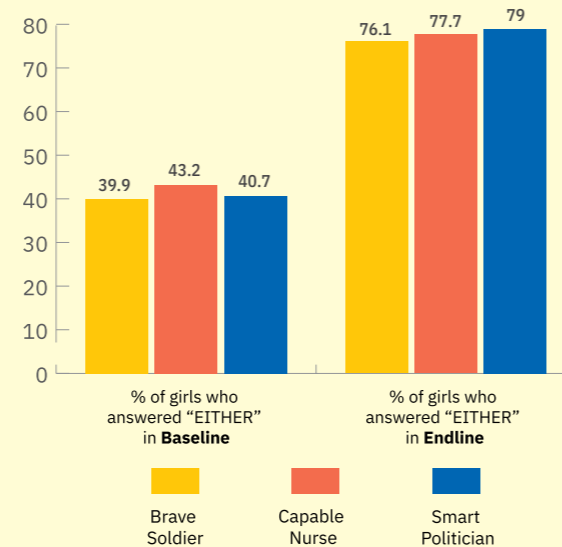
## Consolidation of Gender Program

Ugam designed and facilitated a Gender Education program in collaboration with Jharkhand Council for Education Research and Training (JCERT) in September 2023. Almost 2500 grade 9 girls from 40 KGBVs in 5 districts participated in the program.

We completed a baseline assessment for 500 girls and an endline assessment for 453 girls, post an 18 hour program delivered over 5 weeks.

Unfortunately, we did not see a significant change in their attitude to rejecting gender-based violence. We are debriefing the sessions and revisiting our sessions to make them more impactful.

### Some key highlights of the changes we found



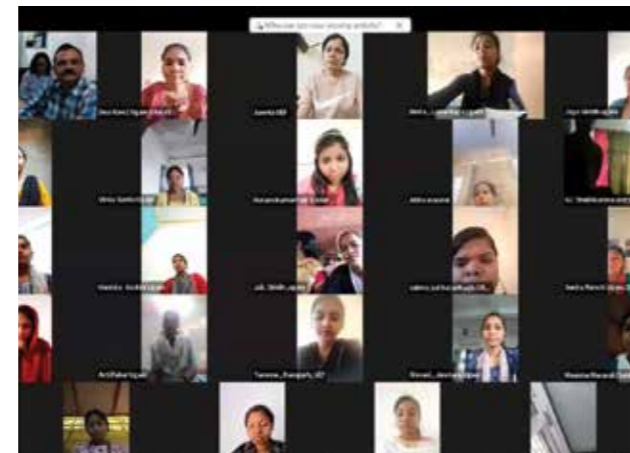
We observed a change in their notion of masculinity. For example, We asked if they agreed or disagreed with the statement - A shy boy can be a good husband. In the baseline, 49% of the girls selected agreed but in the endline, 56% marked agreed with the statement.



## Bokaro Teacher Training

A training workshop was organized with all the teachers of KGBVs and JBAV in Bokaro district.

The teachers were encouraged to think and reflect through various sessions like sharing best teaching practices, understanding the concept of mind mapping, use of mind mapping in various topics and discussing the foundations of quality education. The participation of the teachers was amazing. They appreciated the workshop and have started using the newly learnt teaching skills with the students in their classrooms.



## Virtual English Sessions

Ugam's Virtual English support sessions for class 10th were held in December and January. These sessions help the students prepare and revise their grammar concepts and writing skills before the Class 10 board examination.

This year we were invited to organise the sessions by 9 districts. The students and wardens appreciated and enjoyed these sessions. The students were especially vocal about the enhancement in their letter-writing skills.



## Aanganwadi trainings

Under the dynamic leadership of Bokaro DDC Mrs Keerthishree G, we organised a district-level orientation workshop under our Aanganwadi program for Lady Supervisors and CDPO of Bokaro districts. After the orientation workshop, the Ugam team trained 2300 Aanganwadi workers for 45 days in November on Foundational Literacy and Numeracy activities.

DDC Mrs Keerthishree G also attended the training and interacted with the Aanganwadi workers to understand their experience and gather their feedback.

Our fellow Bishakha shared: आज हमारे ट्रेनिंग के दौरान बोकारो जिला की DDC श्रीमती कीर्ति श्री भी आई थी। मेम ने सेविका दीदी से भी बातचीत कि- ट्रेनिंग कैसे हो रही है और आप सभी को सीख कर कैसे लग रहा है? और अभी तक मे जो भी सीखे है थोड़ा मुझे भी बताओ ताकि मैं समझ बना सकू की सच मे आप सीख रहे हैं।

सेविका दीदी पुरे उद्देश्य के साथ हर एक एक्टिविटी जोड़ कर बता पाए और बच्चों के लिए किस तरह से अच्छा रहेगा ये भी साझा किये। DDC मेम ने हमें लगातार आगे की ट्रेनिंग को करने को कहा, उस समय काजल ने कछुआ और खरगोश की कहानी भी कराया। ये सारे एक्टिविटी देखकर DDC मेम को भी अच्छा लगा इसलिए उन्होंने सेविका दीदी को बोला कि आप जो भी सीख रहे है वो अपने आंगनवाड़ी क्षेत्र में जरूर करिए!



## Community Project

50 of our dedicated fellows travelled to different villages to stay with the Aanganwadi workers to understand their work and complete a community project with adolescents and children on Menstrual Hygiene and FLN.

This project provided much-needed exposure to our team and also supplied us with insights needed for further intervention.



## Our Sheroes: Sashakti Fellows

आज सबसे पहले मैं और प्रियंका सुबह की असेंबली में शामिल हुए, असेंबली में क्या-क्या गतिविधि होती है ये सभी चीजों को आब्जर्व किए। वार्डन मैम का कहना था की, “हमलोग तो स्वच्छता को लेकर हमेशा ही स्टूडेंट्स के साथ बातचीत करते हैं, लेकिन आप लोग के बातों से सब बहुत प्रभावित होंगे तो कल के असेंबली में सभी स्टूडेंट्स को पीरियड्स के दौरान साफ सफाई को लेकर जानकारी दे दीजिए।”

शाम के असेंबली में चांदनी रात बड़ी सुहानी बालगीत कराएं। एवं पीरियड के बारे में विस्तार से बातचीत किए। स्टूडेंट्स पूरे झूम उठे बालगीत के दौरान। सभी टीचर्स और गार्ड दीदी सब भी बालगीत मनोरंजन के साथ देख रहे थे। मुझे इस केजीबीवी में सबसे अच्छा लगा की स्टूडेंट्स की अभिव्यक्ति बढ़ रही है, स्टूडेंट्स डरते हुए बोलते हैं, परंतु बोलने का प्रयास करते हैं।

प्रिया महतो

## Stories of change....

Lakhimani, a student of grade 7 was very quiet and did not feel comfortable in expressing her feelings in class. Our fellow Rajkumari noticed this during her session on Menstrual Hygiene. She shared her story of how she felt when she got her first period. How lack of support system and newer environment restrained Rajkumari in expressing her doubts and ask questions.

Lakhimani could instantly relate to this story and soon she began to smile and open up more in class. Later she asked many important and basic questions to Rajkumari.

---

**Our gratitude to all our donors, supporters, advisors and partners, without whom our work would not be possible!**

**We continue to count on you as we always have and look forward to deeper and wider reach!**

