

## **Ambari Khatoon: Empowering Rural Women and Transforming Lives through JEEVIKA**



Name – Ambari Khatoon

SHG – Muskan JEEVIKA SHG

Aspirational Block –  
Surajgarha, Lakhisarai

The tale of economic and social advancement in rural communities is being inscribed by the dedicated efforts of JEEVIKA didis in every village. Embracing the JEEVIKA initiative, rural women and their families are forging ahead on a path of continuous progress, inspiring others to follow suit. Among these success stories stands the remarkable journey of Ambari Khatoon, a resident of Haldipur village in the Surajgarha block of Lakhisarai district.

Since 2014, Ambari Khatoon has been an integral part of the Muskan JEEVIKA self-help group. She fearlessly challenged the purdah system prevalent in her village and achieved resounding success in her mission. As a conscientious member of the group, she extended her efforts beyond the confines of her home, rallying women together to embrace self-reliance. Ambari played a pivotal role in raising awareness about the importance of education, resulting in a significant rise in school enrollment among the youth in her community.

Ambari Khatoon reflects on her journey, recalling the initial challenges she faced while joining the JEEVIKA group, as societal norms restricted women from venturing outside. Undeterred, she assumed the role of a leader and was eventually

elected as the group's Community Mobilizer. Under her guidance, women were motivated to actively participate in group meetings, and their husbands and family members were encouraged to join as well. With the support of Ashiana JEEVIKA Mahila Gram Sangathan, Ambari initiated a public awareness campaign against prevalent social issues like the purdah system and child education. She also played a significant role in empowering members of the group to explore self-employment opportunities, providing them with loans tailored to their interests.

One poignant moment that truly highlighted Ambari's impact was when she intervened and prevented a woman named Vanamra from taking her life due to financial hardships. Ambari's compassionate counsel inspired Vanamra to pursue self-employment, which significantly improved the financial situation of her household. Ambari Khatoon's dedication extended to other public awareness campaigns, including promoting defecation-free practices, discouraging child marriage and dowry, and advocating against gender violence. Her impactful work garnered recognition from the District Administration of Lakhisarai, who honored her for her exceptional contributions.

Today, Ambari exudes confidence and radiates happiness, mirroring the contentment that now fills the lives of the women in her village and their families. Her two children, Sujan and Ali, now attend school alongside their peers, showcasing the transformative power of education and progressive change initiated by Ambari Khatoon.

Ambari's saga serves as a beacon of hope, inspiring countless others in rural communities to overcome obstacles, embrace self-reliance, and partake in the collective journey of progress and empowerment.