

Aheli Chowdhury, Delhi, India

About Me

- ◆ I have a PhD in Sociology from Delhi School of Economics, University of Delhi
- ◆ Have been Visiting Fellows at Institute of Development Studies, University of Sussex, UK and Centre for Modern Indian Studies, University of Gottingen, Germany
- ◆ Started my career working briefly with a multinational company as a HR professional and then moved to the developmental sector
- ◆ In 2004-2005, I got drawn to the RTI movement and then started working amongst youth on RTI
- ◆ In 2006 co-founded JOSH along with Saurabh Sharma and few other co-workers to work on RTI and governance with youth and larger community. I have been associated with Asha since then

Background



- ◆ I started my work with Asha by working with young people by training them to use the Right to Information Act to hold government accountable
- ◆ The work with volunteers evolved to linking them with various issues, especially education
- ◆ With emerging needs of employment, especially amongst urban poor youth, my focus shifted to looking at youth developments and skilling of youth to enhance their career opportunities

Work Areas



- ◆ Youth Development Program- which includes working with young girls and boys to provide them professional skills and job assistance
- ◆ Girls focused program- Working with young girls from minority community to get professional skills and job assistance and build their capacity to understand gender based violence and discrimination
- ◆ Program to provide assistance to cases of violence against women
- ◆ Advocacy and inputting in larger policy discussion on Right to Information and governance

Youth Development Program

- ◆ Course offered to both boys and girls with a minimum educational qualification of 12th grade
- ◆ English speaking course
- ◆ Computer operations course
- ◆ Professional training for retail, front desk and data entry jobs
- ◆ Job readiness training
- ◆ Exposure visits to retail outlets
- ◆ Job assistance done through reaching out to industry tie ups and collaborations

Girls Focused Skill Development Program

- ◆ Exclusive training program for girls of minority and Dalit communities. This course is designed to be sensitive to the needs of the most marginalized young girls and giving them all the assistance to gain skills to improve career opportunities
- ◆ English speaking
- ◆ Computer operations
- ◆ Training sessions of gender and legal rights of women
- ◆ Personality development activities- which includes volunteering in community initiatives
- ◆ Leadership and team building activities to enhance their self confidence

Program to Address Violence Against Women



- ◆ Working with victims of all forms of abuse and violence, including domestic and sexual
- ◆ Providing them with counseling and legal aid
- ◆ Linking with police station and helping them access legal recourse
- ◆ Constant handholding to help victims to deal with societal circumstances by regular community interaction

Impact



- ◆ The Youth Development Program in the last one year trained 187 youth out of which 112 students were placed
- ◆ Girls focused skill development program in the last one year trained 80 girls out of which 45 girls were selected and 38 girls joined their jobs
- ◆ Assistance provided cases of violence against women in the last six months has been 79. The nature of cases that was received were of domestic violence, sexual assault, dowry cases, divorce cases and others.
- ◆ The cases were referred to the Delhi Women Commission, Delhi State Legal Service Authority, Police Station and Social Welfare Department

Advocacy and Policy Inputs

- ◆ I am a member of the Working Committee of National Campaign for People's Right to Information, which requires me to input into different policy discussions and ongoing work.
- ◆ RTI related works involves me in inputting into the ongoing deliberations on Data Protection Bill vis-à-vis the RTI Act. At present there is a draft bill and report by the Sri Krishna Committee which I as part of NCPRI are working on.
- ◆ There are recent attempts by the government to amend the RTI Act, I have been involved in advocacy efforts to resist any such attempts

Short Term Goal (2-3 months)



Goals	Objective Verifiable Indicator (OVI)	Means of Verification (MoV)
To include more parental interaction in the program curriculum with girls so that we are able to help girls cope with hindrances faced by them from their families	More girls are able to join jobs after been selected	Reports and list of girls selected for interview and job joined

Mid Term Goal (6 months)



Goals	Objective Verifiable Indicator (OVI)	Means of Verification (MoV)
To expand the work with girls to include more leadership building activities and programs	Leadership building program that will help girls gain confidence will be started	Reports of program activities

Long Term Goal (1 year)



Goal	Objective Verifiable Indicator (OVI)	Means of Verification (MoV)
To strengthen the work with women by increasing community interaction, especially with elder men of the community so that the victims are able to get community support and back up during times of crisis and conflict	More instance of effective conflict resolution, especially in cases of domestic disputes and sexual assaults	Reports of cases resolved

The background features a dense collage of vintage postage stamps and postmarks. Visible elements include a red circular postmark from 'PAR AVION' (Airmail), a red rectangular postmark from 'MADRID', and a red circular postmark from 'COSTA RICA'. There are also various numbers and text fragments like '00.00', '100.00', and 'POSTAGE' scattered across the top half of the image.

Thank You!

