

Power of education, empowerment, and advocacy in bringing about positive change within a community.

Aarti resides in Ishwar Nagar slum. She is part of the Vishisht Panch in the Ishwar Baal Vikas Group. Aarti is a 10th-grade student and has three sisters and one brother. Her parents are private daily wages employees and to support the family.

INVOLVEMENT WITH CHILDREN'S GROUPS:

Aarti joined a children's group initiated by "Bachpan" NIWCYD NGO in her slum. Initially, she was not very confident but gradually became actively involved. Aarti started attending regular meetings and addressing issues affecting children.



ADVOCACY AND LEADERSHIP:

Aarti began to present her views confidently during meetings. She educated children and parents about issues such as gender, child labor, child marriage, and the importance of education. Aarti created a video expressing her desire to be a leader and highlighting key issues, leading to her selection as the Girl Icon 2020 by Milan Foundation.

GIRL ICON ROLE:

As a Girl Icon, Aarti formed groups of girls aged 15 to 20 in the slum. She conducted four meetings per month, discussing various issues and promoting awareness. Aarti emphasized the importance of education for girls, explaining its role in gaining respect and financial independence. She addressed gender discrimination and inequality, using her own experiences as examples.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT:

Aarti actively supported filling out forms for four girl icons and connected people with education opportunities. She aimed to inspire girls to become leaders and address issues in their communities. The Girl Icon Fellowship rewarded Aarti with a smartphone and an honorarium.

SAHYOGI DIDI ROLE: Aarti was selected by Milan Foundation as Sahyogi Didi after completing the Girl Icon Fellowship. In this role, she oversees and trains new girl icon groups, extending her impact and creating a sustainable cycle of leadership.

Aarti's journey exemplifies the power of education, empowerment, and advocacy in bringing about positive change within a community. Her dedication to eradicating discrimination and promoting education serves as an inspiration for others to follow.