

Gandhiji was a great leader. He took people along with him to achieve freedom for our country. Let us see the principles that he followed as a leader.

### Courage: **Courage to stand up and be accountable for your beliefs and opinions**

If your community's Right to Health is violated, as an ASHA you need to have courage to bring it to the notice of the concerned stakeholders. For example, if the ANM is not coming to your village regularly or she is not visiting the houses of socially backward families have courage to tell her that you have noted her absence and you will take the necessary steps if this continues. If she does not listen, be ready to inform the Sarpanch, SHG members and even the medical officer. Continue your efforts till you ensure that she visits all the people in your village regularly.

### Responsibility: **Carry out your role and responsibility honestly**

As a leader you need to be responsible, first person for your self and then for your community. As an ASHA you are given specific roles and responsibilities. You should inform your community of these. This will prove useful in two ways:

- If they are aware about your roles they will be able to bring it to your notice if you are not performing it effectively.
- They will also support you in carrying out your roles and responsibilities more effectively

### Encouragement: **Invite the community to join you in availing of their right to quality health care**

Every individual needs encouragement. As a leader, whenever you meet anyone read the unwritten words on their forehead "I am important." Encouragement comes by involving community members in the process when availing for them their entitlements from the public health system or by giving them some responsibility to improve the health environment in the community.

### Improvement: **Constantly enhancing your competencies**

As a leader, an ASHA should constantly improve her knowledge and skills. Be aware of any new decision made regarding the delivery of health services and any new schemes declared. Be in constant dialogue with the ANM as she is a good source of information. Your skills will improve by practising them. You may fail too. From failures you learn what should not be done. If you are repeating your mistakes it means that you are not learning. By learning you will be able to stand out.