



ASHA as a Health Activist

Your role as an activist to improve the access of marginalised and disadvantaged community members to public health care services is very important. Before we discuss your role in detail, let us visualise a situation.

Rami lives next to your house. She is five months pregnant. She is very weak, but has not registered her name with the ANM. Rami does not receive any healthcare services. Her husband is a drunkard. Everyday he drinks and shouts at Rami, sometimes even beats her.

You feel uncomfortable and want to stop this. You discuss this with other women in your neighbourhood. They understand your point of view. Together you decide that if Rami's husband creates problems, all of you will collectively go and stop him.

You all manage to do so. You inform Rami's husband that if this happens again, you would inform the police.

Next day when the ANM (Auxilliary Nurse Midwife) comes, you take Rami with you and register her name.

Well, admittedly a real situation does not get handled this smoothly, but you will never know just how it will fare unless you try it out. You need to take the first step towards bringing about change. Initially you will be alone but slowly, with your efforts of creating awareness through one-to-one approach or by addressing the issue in the village meetings you will have many to support you in your endeavour.