

Impact Stories

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Kavita Borawat

by the **Livelihood team**, CITTA INDIA



Kavita Borawat: A Story of Leadership and Empowerment Revisited

In the serene yet dynamic landscape of Kanoi village, Jaisalmer, Kavita Borawat's journey of empowerment and leadership continues to inspire. As the Community Resource Person (CRP) and a beacon of change within the NREGA scheme, her impact story unfolds with new dimensions of influence and success.





Quantitative Impact and Strategies for Success:

With Kavita's unwavering dedication, approximately 12 to 15 out of 40 women have seen a tangible transformation, earning an average of 1600 rupees. This achievement underscores the belief that persistence prevails, with Kavita leading by example that there are no quick fixes, only the reward for steady dedication.

Addressing scheduling conflicts with NREGA workdays to accommodate training sessions, Kavita's strategic approach ensured that women could attend the "Man Ki Tarang" (MKT) and EMDP sessions, particularly by utilizing Thursdays for broader participation. Her proactive communication and flexibility facilitated consistent engagement, reinforcing her role as a crucial link between the women and their opportunities for growth.

Personal Testimonies:

Kavita's husband expresses immense pride in her accomplishments, highlighting the profound impact of her educational endeavors not just on their family but on his perspective towards work and education. Kavita's children, too, regard her with deep respect, acknowledging her unique position and respected status within the community. These personal insights offer a glimpse into the transformative power of Kavita's journey, not only in public but within the intimate circles of her family life.



Kavita Ji in the Ratnavati school bus with Kanoi women going for the desert festival.



Community Leadership and Aspirations:

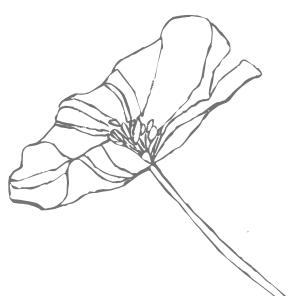
Kavita's influence extends beyond her immediate duties, establishing her as a role model and a testament to women's capabilities in leadership roles traditionally dominated by men. Her aspirations for further skill development, particularly her eagerness to engage with CITTA India's upcoming brand, Prabha, highlight her commitment to continuous learning and income diversification.

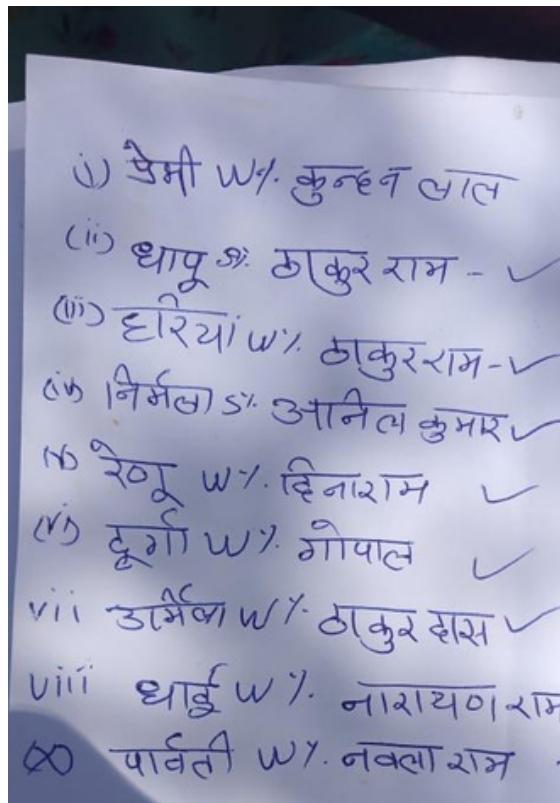


Kavita bringing the women for session in the Fellow House.

Partnerships and Community Bonding:

Kavita's collaboration with local panchayats, Rajeevika SHGs, government initiatives, and private entities exemplifies her expansive role in community development. Her ability to bridge various stakeholders underscores her popularity and the trust she commands within Kanoi. She is a part and a leader of the Durga Mata SHG.





Kavita ji making lists.



Kavita performing Balancing activity from MKT session

Purnima's POV: Reflections on Kavita's Growth and Character

When I first met Kavita Ji, she was quite reserved, often responding with nods. Her initial shyness quickly turned into a shared moment of laughter when I jokingly asked if she had five kids, to which she nodded yes before we both realized the humor in it. Our interactions opened up discussions about the importance of expressing oneself and facing issues head-on, like synchronizing women's gatherings with MNREGA schedules.



Kanoi women at MNREGA

In the beginning, Kavita would sometimes omit to inform me about session cancellations from the women's side. When questioned, she'd apologize and acknowledge her oversight, showing her willingness to learn from feedback and improve. This adaptability highlighted her growth into a leader who values communication and responsibility.

During the "Mann Ki Tarang" sessions, Kavita Ji became indispensable, assisting with translations from Hindi to Marwari, and facilitating my connection with the women. This



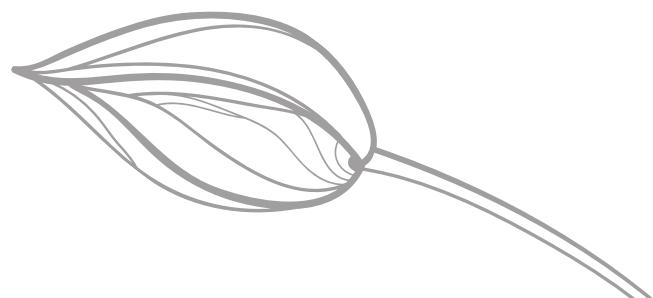
gesture was more than just help; it was an act of bridging gaps between cultures and understanding.

Kavita Ji's transformation from a follower to a proactive contributor is remarkable. She now brings her thoughts and suggestions forward in group discussions, displaying confidence and a readiness to tackle challenges directly. Her curiosity about learning beyond embroidery speaks to her ambition; she envisions herself in a managerial role, contributing to and enhancing the value of her team.

Yet, amidst all her responsibilities and aspirations, Kavita Ji prioritizes hospitality and warmth. Her insistence on offering a cup of tea before diving into work discussions is both endearing and reflective of her personality. It's her way of easing tensions, showing that sometimes, a simple act of kindness can be the most effective solution.



Women in our sessions



Kavita embodies the spirit of continuous improvement and compassionate leadership. Her journey from reservedness to assertiveness, coupled with her unique approach to problem-solving and community building, showcases the profound impact one individual can have on their surroundings. Her story is a testament to the power of personal growth, community engagement, and the subtle art of hospitality in fostering change.



Kavita Ji showing off her handmade stuffed toy, a bear.



After this impactful journey, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to the cornerstone of our initiative, Viviid Emissions Reductions Universal Pvt. Ltd., whose generous funding made the Livelihood project in Kanoi and Managaliyawas possible. This project has significantly impacted the lives of local women, equipping them with technical and hard skills alongside invaluable life skills and mindset development. While the changes may not appear drastic, they are profound, noticeable, and, most importantly, enduring.



Keep Learning

Special thanks go to Rohit Sharma, who was always just a call away, ready to assist with any queries and seamlessly collaborate with us throughout the project. Rohit has consistently provided valuable suggestions, connected us with a broader network of people for fresh ideas, and granted us the flexibility needed to adapt and innovate within the project. His patience, understanding, and deep insight into the nuances of groundwork have been invaluable.

We deeply appreciate Santosh Vishwakarma for his consistent engagement and meticulous oversight, ensuring that our project stayed on course. Santosh, your attention to detail and interest in our progress have significantly aided in overcoming obstacles, facilitating a smoother journey toward our objectives.

The introduction of the weekly update system has transformed how we track our progress, offering us a consistent and streamlined method to oversee our project's development. This approach has significantly improved our operational efficiency, thanks to its simplicity and flexibility.

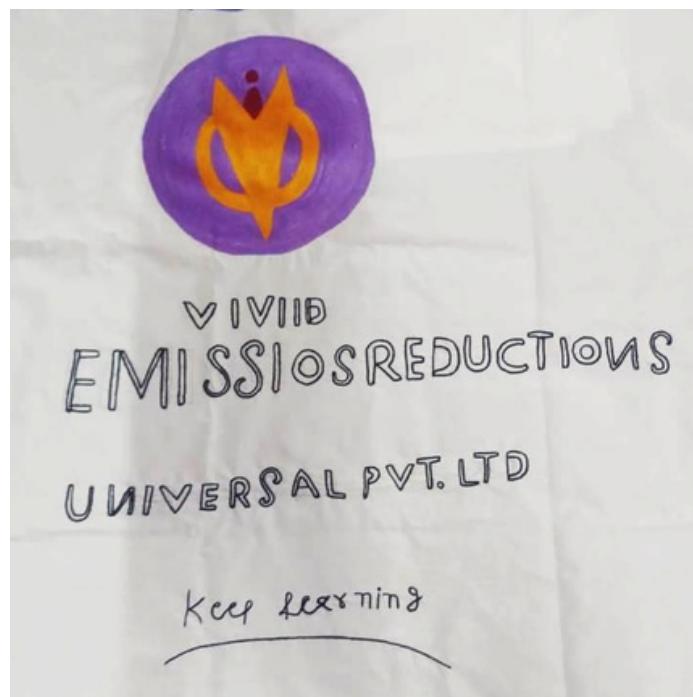




Your administrative team deserves immense recognition for their steadfast support and understanding. Their approach has fostered an environment where learning from mistakes is encouraged, enabling the women we support to grow sustainably and comfortably, truly empowering them.

We are also immensely grateful to Puneet Katyal, CEO of VIVIID, for championing this cause as part of their CSR efforts. has been instrumental in enabling social intervention and fostering long-term positive engagement with the local communities in challenging locations like Kanoi, and Jaisalmer.

VIVIID's support and commitment to making a difference has not only transformed these women's lives but also provided our team with a profound purpose, bringing us together to nurture these lives, young and old, toward a brighter future.



Thank you for your unwavering support and for believing in the potential of the women of Jaisalmer and our collective mission.