

Swasthya Sangini- A Friend in Need

Parvati Patel, a woman of Muralipali village, which is 12 KM away from Raigarh in Chhattisgarh, is a very busy person. She is not a high-rank official nor highly educated, but all the families in the villages, especially those pregnant and lactating mothers, always look forward to meeting her and seek her advice. She is just a Swasthya Sangini, a band of village health volunteer developed by JSPL Foundation under Vatsalya project to improve maternal and child health in 10 villages of Raigarh.



Parvati with her hard work and dedication, supported by JSPL Foundation, has earned the reputation of a 'friend in need' in the village. She motivates every pregnant woman for institutional delivery and takes them to the nearby PHC at Kashichua or district hospital, Raigarh for delivery. Parvati is quite sincere in ensuring antenatal checkup and postnatal checkup of every pregnant woman in the village. She keeps a tap on every child and woman of her village and facilitates their vaccination on time. At regular intervals, she shares about seasonal diseases with the village women. Adolescent girls are made aware of better hygiene practices, menstruation and other health-related matter. She informs and guides eligible and newly married couples in line with 'Small family is a happy family' norm.

Not just health, Parvati also informs people about various government welfare schemes, services, requirements meant for them. She helps people in getting necessary documents such as Aadhaar card, voter card, PAN card, caste certificate and residential certificate etc.

Hemlata Patel (45), who was suffering from a problem in the ovary, would never forget the support and guidance she got from Parvati. "It was because of Parvati, I could have had successful surgery," said Hemalata. Swasthya Sanginis like Parvati help in empowering women not only sensitizing them about health but also by making them aware about and helping them avail different services and welfare schemes by the government, she added.

Swasthya Sanginis, the Vatsalya project by JSPL Foundation, started working in 2010 to ensure basic health services to all the mother & children of the area. Over a short period, these 10 dedicated Swasthya Sanginis started keeping track of each & every woman and children in all households of theirs. Their work has resulted in better maternal and child health in the villages, improving the overall quality of life.