

## GRAMIN VIKAS TRUST, PIRULIA, WEST BENGAL

### Celebration of International Women's Day in GVT-West Bengal

International Women's Day (IWD) was celebrated in Gramin Vikas Trusts – West Bengal, like yester years in Purulia and Birbhum district on **8<sup>th</sup> March**, 2015, with active emancipation and spontaneous participation of Women folk in the operational areas along with their male counterparts.



The theme of this year's IWD program was “*Make it happen*”. Based on this theme, GVT-WB ,made an attempt to sensitize the Women folks of basic socio-economic ( Health, nutrition, Ante-post natal care, -- illiteracy and Gender issues and their major factors for impediments in the path of socio-economic empowerment through street plays, poster demonstration, time allocation analysis ( between men and women) debate, focused group discussion, and village rallies/ procession in their respective villages by upholding the banners, posters on evils of Gender discrimination, Gender injustice and rights for equal opportunity in upholding rights of dignity.



All together more than 1500 Women in Ajothya, Arsha, Suiiri-I, Khairasole participated in the programme and they themselves the entire programme by involving the local teachers, PRI representatives, Asha, ICDS workers, Wadi committee members, SHG leaders etc. In each program the Women took a oath for a better tomorrow based on the theme” *Make it happen*”. They adopted some concrete action plan- for next six months, one year, to transform the Practical Gender Needs in to Strategic Gender Needs based on the following issues:

- a) Strengthening of the WSHGs through SHG-Bank credit linkage and establishing suitable livelihood options with better marketing facilities.
- b) Incorporation of Women members in the Village Planning Committee, Wadi committees, Watershed development committees, farmers clubs tec.
- c) Strong involvement of Women SHGs in the ongoing intensive sanitation Program/Individual Toilet construction through overall management of the same.
- d) Addressing the local social issues like with hunting, early marriage, brewing of illicit liquor in the villages, domestic violence, human trafficking, poor ante natal, post natal care etc.
- e) Adult literacy programme for the Women SHG members in collaboration with local Gram Panchayets and Sarbasikha Abiyan.
- f) Effective nurturing of the Wadi’( Orchard) s as per their Action Plans.
- g) Taking active part to restrict deforestation in collaboration with forest protection committees.

The captioned programme has evoked immense response among the participants and other villagers and created a spiral impacts in the neighboring villages in terms of Women empowerment, which would be beneficial to GVT in the days to come with ensured spontaneous and effective participation of the “invisible *labor force*” in its development programme.