

International Women Day Celebrated

SWEEP Follow-up Convention on International Women's Day was celebrated with newly elected women representatives in *Panchayati Raj Institution*, The Event was organized by CUTS Centre for Human Development in *Hotel Padmini, Chittorgarh* on 8th March, 2015, under 'Strengthening Women Empowerment through Electoral Process (SWEEP) follow-up convention supported by The Huger Project. This was the first time when all newly elected women gathered under a one roof & shared their sweet and sour experiences during panchayat election, To celebrate this delightful convention, more than 225 people were participated, mostly were as Women *Sarpanch, Wardpanch, Members of Panchayat Samiti* from *Chittorgarh, Nimbhera and Suwana block*,

On this occasion, Mrs. Pooja Gilundia was Chief Guest of the programme whereas Mrs. Leela Jat Zila Pramukh-Chittorgarh presided over the event,

Mr. Gauhar Mahmood (Centre Coordinator-CUTS CHD) heartily welcomed to all the participants and guests and he shared about the objective



of the women convention given introduction of CUTS through his initial address, CUTS International (Consumer Unity & Trust Society) began its journey in 1983 in Rajasthan, from a rural development communication initiative, a wall newspaper Gram Gadar. This monthly wall newspaper is published regularly and has been instrumental in providing a forum for the oppressed classes to get justice, Currently, CUTS is working with its ten Centre's around worldwide including 5 centres in India. The aim of the program was

to introduced about their rights & duties as a PRI representative, This event is organizing on the occasion of International Women Day to respect newly elected women. He pointed out that besides being a salute to the spirit of womanhood, Women's Day is a reminder of vigilance and action required to ensure they gain and maintain equality in all aspect of Life, It is a day, not only to appreciate, respect women but a day to celebrate women empowerment achievements,



Mrs. Leela Jat (Zila Pramukh-Chittorgarh) addressed that Today, Girls is not behind from boys in any field. A woman representative can play her responsibility better than man. She pointed out with more emphasis on girls' education. She hoped to newly elected women to promote girls education.

Distinguished guest of convention, Mrs. Pinki Ahir (Up-Zila Pramukh) added that Indian Constitution provides equal rights to men & women. It needs to go against

violence & oppressiveness,

Mr. Virendra Shrimali (*Program Officer – The Hunger Project*)



The SWEEP campaign resulted in an increased participation of women, with the community being sensitized towards their role as responsible citizens and voters during elections. Both in the reserved and unreserved categories, women contested in larger numbers when compared to the previous years.

SWEEP is a campaign by the CUTS which aims at spreading awareness among women at the grass root through encouraging increased role in governance. This campaign given many success stories, it aimed

was at not only providing information but also the support for women to take bigger role in various electoral posts. The campaign aims to encourage political participation among women and participation in various local governance posts.

Mr. Sunil Kumar Jha (*Former-RAS officer*) benefited to the participants in his session on three



tier system of Panchayatiraj. He asked to organise fortnightly meeting regularly to make effective of *gram panchayat* and given knowledge about the gram panchayat works.

Mrs. Aarti Joshi, Women activist, spoke about rights & duties of women representatives in her session. She added her personal experience to obtrusion of male in working of woman representative so that women lost their role in development of village & taking decisions. She inspired the women to take right decisions in the favor of public welfare and focused on women centered development work.



Mrs. Asha Ved Prakash (Mrs. District Collector-Chittorgarh) inspired the women saying that In Modern Indian society women are playing key role, even challenging the males in Politics & other fields. She said The celebration of International Women's Day is an opportunity for us to renew our commitment to the security and welfare of women.

Despite numerous legislations enacted to safeguard women, there is much that still remains to be done. Legislation alone cannot emancipate our women. There is a need for a fundamental re-setting of our mental and moral make-up as well as social conduct.

Chief Guest of the programme, Mrs. Pooja Gilundiya (*entrepreneur & Social activist*) pointed out that women can manage panchayat as well as their home effectively. There are many women are in examples who reached in top positions as professionals in astronaut, prime minister, president, bureaucrats, entrepreneurs, sports, scientist, doctors, engineers, social workers and so many profession where they handle both efficiently and she expressed and confident these elected women are able to handle the panchayat work and family together,



After inspiration speeches, an open session was conducted, In this session, *former-women Sarpanch, Wardpanch, Panchayat Samiti members, newly elected women representatives* shared their experiences and views from this election, Mrs. Rekha Vyas (Panchayat Samiti Member) said that Women should work on priority of the village development without taking any burden or seduction,.



Mrs. Jeta Bai (Newly Elected Wardpanch) shared that she is very poor, won election as ward panch from her ward area after facing many problems,

One of elected member said village women are emerging out of their conventional role, realizing their unlimited potential and have begun to take major role in all way of life.



Mr. Madan Giri Goswami (Asst. Centre Coordinator, CUTS CHD) concluded about the objectives of program and taken an assurance to avail their rights & duties in village panchayats.

Mrs. Vandana Chouhan was the event coordinator, given her warm thank to women participants and guests for their valuable inputs in this special day of the women.