



Women's day celebrations

275 women clad in beautiful colourful saris from 15 villages from Wai, Mahabaleshwar and Jaoli block of Satara district gathered at Grampari on the 8th of March to celebrate Women's day at Grampari. Represented also were women Sarpanchs, Deputy Sarpanchs, Members, Anganwadi teachers, assistants, Asha Worker etc.

The programme was given a lively start by the singing of traditional songs by the women.



Dr. Ravindra Rao responding to the subject given to him on "What women should expect from men." said they should expect ijat, respect.

The meeting was filled with laughter and women enjoyed playing the few games that were organised.



THIS IS WHAT THE WOMEN SAID



Due to different interventions of Grampari, we became outspoken, could start an enterprise, now we can openly speak about women's personnel hygiene and about sanitary pads. We also decided to have **widows at our Haldi Kumkum ceremony and gave them the same respect**. Last month 60 women from a Pune slum visited our village and appreciated our work. It all started with a quiet time in which I said sorry to my husband for my part in the constant arguments we used to have.

- **Our village got united during spring development work.** Now our women have come out from remote area of Jaoli block and could speak in front of hundreds of women. This daring is only due to Grampari's work and their support. We have formed women's federation and are now helping each other to solve small problems and are contributing towards village development.

We want to give a unique identity to our village as a Village of Medicinal Plants, we women lovingly look after the plant planted in front of our house. We want to start a vermicomposting unit for promoting organic farming.

- Grampari has motivated us to do sanitation work and are doing work for providing safe drinking water from natural spring. This water will be available for 7 months for us.



- Because of the work of Grampari on our springs **our village is now free of water borne diseases.**
- Women need to become self-reliant and they have the capacity. Today we see women being torched and their talent is not allowed to come out. Killing of girl infants should be stopped.
- Grampari has done a variety of programmes in the villages for which we are grateful. Because of this, our **women are now attending village meetings and speaking in them.**

- **We feel that Grampari team has become part of our village they are not outsiders.**

Grampari team has taken a lot of effort for developing our village especially for promoting soak pits, waste management and covering gutter system. We have formed a Women's federation through which we are regularly saving some money. On 10th, 20th and 30th of every month women, men and youth **do Shramdan for village development.** Before Grampari's intervention our village was ignored by nearby big villages, but now they are taking note of our village. We want to make our village ideal in Satara district.



- We wish to start an enterprise for women development.

In her address chief guest Mrs. Aruna Shirke, President Jaoli Panchayat Samitee spoke on the subject

“Rights of Women in Rural Development”. Her personal story of how as a child she was discriminated against as a girl mainly by her grandmother and how much this used to hurt her stuck a chord with many women. After getting elected she went to touch her grandmother's feet and she acknowledged what she had done with tears in her eyes, though not from a



political family she was married into one, it was by chance that she became President of Jaoli Pachayat

Samitee she said. She knew that many of the women Sarpanch and Grampanchayat members were not directly involved in the decision making of their village, she decided that she would try to empower them to take part in Gramsabhas and also play a crucial role in village development.

She provided information about the rights of women in rural development like before Gramsabha, conducting Mahila Gramsabha is mandatory, women should go for such sabhas and raise issues like drinking water, waste water management etc. which are close to their heart. She also explained the rights of getting education for girls, health facilities for young girls and women from Public Health Centre etc. She emphasised the importance of taking

benefits of these facilities from their nearby Govt. offices.

At the end of the programme a activity of embroidery on a piece of cloth was conducted which was greatly enjoyed. Women expressed their gratitude for getting a chance to get out of their routine schedule of work. Many Women expressed how much they love to visit Grampari.

