

An Edelweiss Initiative

**Developing grassroot leaders to** engineer social change

Women Empowerment. Freedom of choice. Parity with menfolk, made little sense to sixteen year old Chitra Patil from Ambejogai, who was non-literate and unskilled, left isolated in a dominating patriarchal society, she did whatever she could to help other women and often found herself struggling to accept the status quo.

She found the answer through CORO Grassroots Leadership Program, which helped her develop confidence, gain knowledge about various issues and trained her in entrepreneurial skills.

Today Chitra is the block-in-charge of Ambejogai and has helped many women get jobs through MNREGA and works as an advisor to generate schemes for differently abled persons. She, along with a group of 350-300 women, spearheaded the building of a check dam under 'Paani Foundation'.

Chitra, not only leads an empowered life herself, but is leading societal transformation, changing lives for the many women in and around her village.



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