



District Akanksha Samiti

Who We Are

Akanksha Samiti U.P. was formed in 1987 by Mrs. Shyamala Kalyan Krishnan, wife of then Chief Secretary of U.P., with the aim to facilitate empowerment of women and girls, particularly those who are under-served and marginalized. She also laid the foundation of 'District Akanksha Samiti' in all the districts of U.P. to enable wide-spread positive contribution to the lives of women and girls at the district level.

Our Leadership Team

The Divisional Commissioner's wife is the Divisional Head of Akanksha Samiti U.P. and is responsible overseeing and guiding the District Akanksha Samiti of the districts in the concerned division.

The District Magistrate's wife is the President of the District Akanksha Samiti. The wives of district officials and select civil society ladies are members of the District Akanksha Samiti. There is no restriction on the number of members.

In the absence of the DM's wife, the CDO's wife is the default Acting President of the District Akanksha Samiti. In circumstances where the DM's wife and the CDO's wife are not available, the wife of Divisional Commissioner may identify an appropriate officer's wife to take charge as Acting President of the District Akanksha Samiti. In exceptional circumstances, the Divisional Head may retain the charge with her.

What We Do

The overarching purpose of the District Akanksha Samiti, as articulated above, is to facilitate empowerment of women and girls, particularly those who are under-served and marginalized. Facilitation is done through field visits in the district to identify gaps in service delivery; provide constructive suggestions & solutions to address the gaps; and carry out philanthropic activities wherever required by converging resources & services of different NGOs, like-minded associations & CSR funds of reputed organizations.

Our Areas of Work

Akanksha Samiti U.P and the 75 District Akanksha Samiti have focused on (all or some of) the following areas of work. This list is illustrative only and not exhaustive.

A. To Enable Skill Development and Employment Generation

- To enable women and girls to become financially independent through skill development in the areas of apparel design & manufacturing, food processing, handicrafts, beauty & wellness, computer applications etc.
- To enable women to organize themselves into self employment groups like 'Mathri Masala Kendra', Sanitary Pads Manufacturing Units etc.

B. To Empower through Awareness

- To conduct awareness workshops for women and girls to educate them about Women Power Line 1090, Domestic Violence Act and other safeguards available for Crimes against Women.
- To campaign for equity, fairness and justice; to campaign against gender stereotypes; discriminatory practices; child marriage; female foeticide and crimes against women.
- To facilitate awareness workshops for government programs & schemes, bank loans, and other public & private organizations' initiatives for empowering women.

C. To Promote Health, Nutrition & Sanitation

- To support in creating awareness about healthcare of women, pregnant ladies & children, institutional deliveries, infectious & vector borne diseases, sexually transmitted diseases, tuberculosis, contraceptive methods, menstrual hygiene etc.
- To support ASHA volunteers to achieve the targets of maternal & infant health and Anganwadi workers to achieve the targets of integrated child development.
- To facilitate voluntary blood donation camps, health camps, immunization drives, eye checkups/operations, mammography camps and facilitate distribution of nutrition supplements, sanitary napkins and medicines for women & children.
- To mobilize women to champion for sanitation, hygiene & open defecation free(ODF) village targets.

D. To Facilitate Improvements in Education

- To motivate women for adult literacy & education programs.
- To encourage parents to send all children to school for education & to motivate students (especially, the girls) to pursue higher education goals.
- To facilitate the availability of teachers, books, stationery, quality mid day meals, school infrastructure (building, boards, desks, benches, lights, fans, water coolers, repair & maintenance works etc) and development activities (teacher training etc.) in district schools.
- To sensitize teachers, parents & students about child abuse & mechanisms to avert such heinous crimes.

E. To Improve the Conditions of 'Homes'

- To visit the various homes like orphanages, old age homes, homes for blind and differently-abled children, "*NirashritMahila Ashrams*", "*Kushthashrams*" etc. in the District; to facilitate resource mobilization to ensure availability of quality food, clothes, books, beds, water coolers, general amenities, funds for building repair and maintenance, health checkups, counseling etc.

F. To Promote Inclusion for the Differently-abled

- To empower differently-abled women & children by organizing the distribution of wheelchairs, crutches, hearing aids, cochlear implants, teaching & learning aids etc.
- To facilitate access to schools for differently-abled, free computer training, skill development & other vocational courses to enable them to get quality education and gainful employment.

G. To Promote Handicrafts & Artisans in the District

- To document & disseminate promotional material about the handicrafts of the district in coordination with the Handicrafts Committee of Akanksha Samiti UP.

- To facilitate promotion of handicrafts and training, development & welfare of artisans.