

## Two Indian Women Stalwarts who Changed India Significantly

Dr Tarun Raval

Head, Dept of English, Nima Girls Arts College, Gozaria, Gandhinagar, Gujarat (India)

There is nothing in this world that can stop women from doing many good things in life. They are bound to achieve at a very young age, and also they are destined to get better and brighter when they become old. This paper highlights the significant contribution of two Indian stalwarts who induced radical changed and empowered Indian villages-the backbone of the country. They are P.G.Sudha- the beat forest officer and Dr. Shilpi Tekriwal – the entrepreneur.

To achieve phenomenal things in life a strong vision with intensity, tenacity of willpower is just enough to drive one forward. P.G. Sudha is not just a name but a countless of emotions that are pinned to it. That sums up the essential woman for you! The fact that P.G.Sudha set herself as an epitome of sheer class is something that others are really proud of.

### P.G. Sudha, beat forest officer

Hailing from Ernakulum district of Kerala, P.G. Sudha is a potential beat forest officer by trait. She deserves a certificate of excellence for coming up with an initiative of building as many as 497 toilets in the tribal colonies of the Kuttampuzha forest to get rid of defecation. She chose this activity as her personal interest because she always wanted to make the environment neat and clean.

With grit and determination, the beat forest officer put in a number of efforts to bring a slight change. Much to her constant hard work, there came fruitful news from Kerala Government as the state was declared open defecation free, making the third state to get this honor. The proud and belligerent woman won the Chief Minister's Open Defecation Free campaign award on November 1, 2016.

### P.G. Sudha tells her story

P.G.Sudha has her say on the whole story of her initiative;

"Life is tough in these tribal colonies, where facilities are minimal as compared to other parts of the area. One has to walk for three hours to reach the tribal settlements". She adds,

"The reason that the people here did not have toilets was that they were simply used to defecating in the open and even if someone did want a toilet, constructing one would have been too difficult. The area's terrain means that the transportation of construction materials is very difficult if not nearly impossible".

The beat officer told,

"Though people here can afford a toilet, the colonies had none. That is because they are comfortable with open defecation. Secondly, construction of toilets is not an easy task, bringing building materials from outside is a herculean task."

Ms Sudha tells NDTV,

"The biggest challenge was not the construction but actually transporting the materials. This is why everyone was reluctant to take up the job. These tribal colonies are remote; there are no proper roads to get to them. In fact, to reach some of these settlements one has to walk 15 to 20 kilometers because there aren't any other means."

"We had to be very careful. We had to avoid confrontation to ensure that the operation ran smoothly" she says.

"We would brainstorm and find different ways to transport the construction material to the site. We would be sometimes carting it for kilometers and at other times we would be using rafts to transport the material. Once the load was so heavy that raft capsized and the material swept away. But we did not give up" she concluded.

### Dr. Shilpi Tekriwal – The Tele- Clinic Developer in Indian Villages

The I.T. Revolution changed the country as well as the world. Dr Shilpi Tekriwal is one of the gems- entrepreneurs of India who initiated a smart clinic – Artem Health, with a view to availing medical services to the patients of remote villages in India with the help of I.T. Recently, a special equipment developed by her –Tele Medicine Kiosk- was launched by Shri Morari Babu and the C.M. Vijay Rupani at Savarkundala, Gujarat.

### Villages got Urban Doctors:

Explaining the concept of Tele- Clinic, Dr Tekriwal says, "It is very difficult to avail specialized or expert doctor in rural area. As a result, illness worsens and even getting primary treatment is difficult. As an antidote to it, we developed tele clinic solutions in which city doctors makes a tele –video- conference with rural doctors and patients and diagnoses the illness. This saves the transportation expense as well as the physical ailments of the rural patients and above all, perfect diagnosis is made by the specialized doctors."

### Smart Clinic Concept:

Dr. Tekriwal , hailing from Bihar, informed , "In order to avail standard medical treatment in remote rural areas, we developed the Smart Clinic Concept in which some medical equipments like digitalizer, ECG, Tele Device Multipurpose scope, T.V. Printer, B.P. instrument, Gloucometer etc. are required. We provide all these equipments which are connected to our In-house software so that a city doctor, sitting at home, can easily treat rural patients."

On being asked how she got inspiration for developing the concept, Dr Shilpi told that while in Bihar, her father in law had a severe chest pain, and later her son had acute pain in ears. In both the cases, she could not get specialized doctors in her village. This made her determine to do something worthwhile both for rural areas and for the medical field.

**Affordable Treatment:**

Dr Shilpi added, "At present, this model has been launched in the villages of Gujarat, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh which has got tremendous response. At a quite reasonable rate, consultation and treatment of critical diseases by specialized and eminent doctors is availed. 70 percent population living in rural Indian villages will have access to good and affordable medical services with the help of tele – clinics. Since the price of the software and equipments is minimal, Smart Clinic Models can easily be developed in rural areas." She concluded that at present, they were working on mobile application to make the concept handy.

**Achievements:**

- More than 200 operational Tele – Medicine Nodes across India.
- More than 35000 services delivered.
- Tele Consultation nodes present in Gujarat, Rajasthan and M.P.
- Rapidly growing network.
- Easy acceptance by patients and medical fraternity
- Empanelment of renowned specialists.

**Concluding Remarks:**

While there are several women who go on to perform well in their chosen fields outside their homes, there are many who sit at home and still own the world. The last, but definitely not the least, Every Indian Mother is an achiever we just cannot leave out.