



Savitri Patil – Arogya Sakhi

33, Dongoan village, Solapur

“Today, auxiliary nurse midwives invite me to help them with certain procedures”

For the shy resident of a sleepy village in the Solapur district of Maharashtra, life was about waking up to household chores and retire to the mundane routine of a new day. However, one incident changed her life. Today, Savitri Patil is a confident entrepreneur, providing affordable healthcare services to women and children in Dongoan village, all thanks to ARMMAN’s Arogya Sakhi home-based Antenatal and Infancy Care programme.

Savitri recalls with a heavy heart, “Last year, a woman and her baby died in the womb due to lack of healthcare services in my village. The thought disturbed me.” The journey of Savitri’s transition began when she enrolled herself in Arogya Sakhi—a programme that focuses on training women on making affordable antenatal and infancy care available in villages with fractured public health system and at the same time, empower such women by turning them into health entrepreneurs. “There, I learnt how to check blood pressure, blood sugar and haemoglobin level among other things,” adds Savitri.

“One day, I was putting my learnings to practice by checking my husband’s blood sugar level and found his blood sugar was high. The doctor validated my reading and told me that I did a good job by bringing my husband to the hospital in time.”

However, the villagers did not have confidence in her services. “They said you are not a doctor, why should we trust you? The doctor who trained us had to intervene and explain to the villagers that how my services will be beneficial,” informs Savitri. Today, ANMs invite Savitri to help them with certain procedures. “The foetal doppler machine is not available at the sub-centre. Therefore, they refer patients to me.”