



Vasanti Nilesh Gaikwad

35, Utawali village, Palghar District, Maharashtra

“Becoming an Arogya Sakhi has made me self-sufficient.”

Arogya Sakhi Vasanti Nilesh Gaikwad has been a frontline health worker (ASHA) since 2008. When she applied for the post of an ASHA worker in Vasuri village in Palghar, the position was already full, so she agreed to work as a helper, who would carry the luggage of ASHA workers and help them during health camps. She worked as a helper for one year and in the meantime, completed her Bachelor's degree in Arts from Jawahar College.

Soon, her hard work paid off and she was chosen as an ASHA worker. Her dedication to her work got her promoted to the position of a Block Facilitator within a few months, where she supervises other ASHAs.

Vasanti became an Arogya Sakhi in 2020, and she is happy to have learned new skills and become financially independent through the program. She always aspired to become a nurse but due to financial constraints, she couldn't pursue it earlier but becoming an Arogya Sakhi has helped her fulfill her dream.

Arogya Sakhi Home-based Antenatal and Infancy Care Program creates women health entrepreneurs offering home-based counseling, diagnostic services, high-risk factor tracking and referrals during pregnancy and infancy. 87 Arogya Sakhis have been trained in Palghar District, Maharashtra as part of an ongoing project. This is one of their stories from the field.