



# Pratiksha's transformation: story of courage

## From Aspiring Teacher to Community Leader

Pratiksha Nipanikar always dreamed of becoming a teacher, but marriage forced her to drop out of 12th grade. Instead of giving up, she found a new purpose—empowering her community. She joined the Marathwada District Transformation Model (MDTM) and became a Village Leader (Sakhi) in Nipani village, Kalamb block.

## Bridging the Gap Between People & Government

Pratiksha believes engaging with Sarkar (government) is crucial, as marginalized communities—especially women—lack access to essential schemes. She:

- Connects her village to government programs
- Mobilizes community demands
- Strengthens ties with Panchayat officials
- Advocates for women's participation in decision-making

## Driving Change: Water Security & Rural Development

- Raised awareness on water conservation and engaged villagers in security initiatives
- Led Transect Walks and Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) to identify key local issues
- Facilitated integration of 1,103 soil and water conservation plans into the Grampanchayat Development Plan (GPDP) 2024-25, including:- Well/Bore Recharge
  - Cement Nala Bunds
  - Gabion Bunds
  - Vermicomposting Units

## From Nervous Speaker to Influential Advocate

Pratiksha recalls shivering with nerves at her first Grampanchayat meeting. Today, she confidently participates in Gram Sabhas and has generated 300+ individual demands for:

- Soil & water conservation plans
- Animal sheds
- Other critical village development needs

Her efforts have led to active participation of women farmers, creating lasting community impact.

## Scaling Success: MDTM's Wider Impact

Thanks to Pratiksha and 150 similar Village Sakhis, alongside support from Swayam Shikshan Prayog (SSP) and government departments, MDTM has achieved:

- 25,000+ soil & water conservation demands generated in the GPDP 2024-25
- 3,591 applications approved through govt. schemes, and 1,606 works completed
- GPDP 2025-26 expansion to 50 more villages
- ₹32.80 crore unlocked for water infrastructure & conservation