

Breaking Barriers – A Mother's Triumph

Usha was in the 3rd class when she got her sponsored friend, which was a moment that not only impacted her future but also sparked a transformation in her mother, Mamta's life. What unfolded was not just the story of a child being supported, but of a mother rising against all odds.

Mamta, originally from Uttarakhand, had moved to a small village in the DPP region after her marriage. Living in a traditional joint family, she faced deep-rooted restrictions and constant challenges. With three children to care for, even securing basic education for them felt like an uphill battle. But when CFCA/Unbound sponsorship came into their lives, it brought a new light into their home.

Within a year, Mamta, who once was soft-spoken and unsure of her voice, was leading her group as a **mother's leader**. With CFCA/Unbound's support, she learned how to **speak confidently in meetings, go to the bank alone**, and **support other mothers** who, like her, had always been told to stay behind the scenes.

As her confidence grew, so did her role in the community. She became an active part of the **coordination and core committees**, helping shape decisions, representing her community, and building networks of support among women. She wasn't just participating, she was leading them.

Through the **Income Generating Program (IGP)**, she picked up practical skills that changed the way she saw herself. She learned how to make electric bulbs and prepare achar (pickles) for sale. These small yet powerful skills gave her a sense of **financial independence** and **self-belief**. No longer dependent or invisible, she started contributing meaningfully to her household.

More than the technical skills, what CFCA/Unbound truly gave her was **exposure and experience**. She became better at explaining ideas, planning group activities, and encouraging other women to find their voice. She helped build women's committees, organised community functions, and was even involved in planning and celebrating events like **Annual Day** and **Mahila Diwas**, where she laughed and played games like musical chairs- something she never imagined doing in her adult life.

For years, the orthodox mindset around her had made her believe she wasn't capable. But CFCA/Unbound opened her eyes to her **potential**. It gave her **a platform**, a **community**, and a **purpose** beyond the walls of her home.

Today, Usha has voluntarily retired from the program because of her growth. Her family has become **self-sufficient**, and Usha can now **pursue her dreams** confidently. But the real success lies in her mother's journey - from a silent, suppressed woman to a bold community leader. Her story is a reminder that when a child is sponsored, a whole family begins to rise.