

# Concept note URMI-Wave of change



## Nurturing grassroots women changemakers

The progress of society is measured through the progress women have made in different fields, thus believed DR BR Ambedkar, the chief architect of the Indian Constitution. The constitution makers led by him through fundamental rights, directive principles, and social justice principles have ensured the equal right and empowerment of women.

Realizing the enormous need for women's contribution to civilization building in terms of economy, polity, and social advancement, International agencies, treaty bodies, and conventions have also advocated for law and development policy frameworks for women's advancement. Over the years, many schemes, policies, and initiatives have been aimed at it nationally and at the state level.

The state of Odisha has been pioneering in women's empowerment in recent years. Under the flagship Mission Shakti program, it has encompassed 70 lakh rural women; under the Self Help Group fold, It has reserved 50% seats for women in local panchayat bodies; financial support is provided to pregnant and lactating women under Mamata Scheme, under the Biju Swastha Kalyan Yojana, the women have been insured sum of 10 lakhs, Indian Chamber of Commerce for Women has been launched to facilitate women entrepreneurship and several initiatives were taken to address the gender violence in the state.

However, despite all noble intents, various starts indicate that the share of women in victims of violence, poverty line, illiteracy, and other forms of deprivation is high compared to their male counterparts.

The misery continues to hurt women, especially rural women. The Economic Survey of 2018-19 says that women earn less than three times the men, indicating economic deprivation among women. The NCRB data of 2021 says there is 23% surge in crime against women in Odisha. The much talked about declining sex ratio, high prevalence of child marriage, low life expectancy, lack of access to services and others continue to haunt us when we talk about equal society based on gender.

We at Atmashakti Trust, Odisha Shramajeebee Manch and Shramajeebee Mancha Odisha believe that women in rural areas face comparative deprivation as their voices are not heard. The women in rural Odisha has been vocal but there is lack of enabling conditions of their narratives. The well intended policies are not befitting the most need as we lack bridge between the policy makers and community. The Policy makers need to be updated on real time basis from the beneficiaries. The greater and solid accountability has to be demanded from grass root people themselves. For this nothing better than trained enthusiastic women from different walks of life coming together to make the change happen.

Thus the idea of URMI generated. In this initiative we have selected 29 women from 15 blocks of 9 districts through rigorous process. They will be trained on legal, policy aspects of women, their skills will be sharpened with collective approach from various civil society organization in the state.

Do join us for the ambitious launching program of URMI on 9th December 2022 and guide firebrand women for better society.

**List of the URMI leaders:**

<b>Districts</b>	<b>Blocks</b>	<b>Name of the Leaders</b>
Koraput	Laxmipur	1. Silparani Miniyaka 2. Jayanti Himirika
Nayagarh	Daspalla	3. Sushama Naik 4. Rashmita Behera
Sundergarh	Hemgir	5. Kabita Sa 6. Rima Naik
	Subdega	7. Manjuprava Barla 8.
	Kutra	9. Rasalia Kulu 10. Sumant Kalu
Sambalpur	Rengali	11. Gitanjali Garud 12. Sita Bhoi
Deogarh	Barkote	13. Rita Bindu Tappo 14. Puspanjali Behera
Mayurbhanj	Udala	15. Sehati Soren 16. Sasmita Madhei
	Kaptipada	17. Monali Murmu 18. Abanti Behera
	Khunta	19. Durgi Tudu 20. Chanamani Soren
Balangir	Balangir	21. Sasmita Mugri 22. Soudamini Mallick
	Patanagarh	23. Manisha Sahu 24. Purnima Kumbhar
Kalahandi	Koksara	25. Binapani Sunani 26. Premila Panigrahy
	Kesinga	27. Tarulata Bag
Nuapada	Sinapali	28. Dullabhi Bag 29. Rekha Majhi