

## **Celebration of International Women's Day in the Province**

The Day, March 8, 2014 echoed all over the world the untiring Journey of Women towards Equality and Justice with a strong determination that **'We can turn things around. We can build a better World!'** **"Equality for Women is Progress All"** was the theme of the day promoted by the UN Women. Many shouted the Slogan **"Where men and women have equal rights, Societies Prosper", "Teach Your Son to Respect Women!", "Stop Violence to Women and Girls".** On the Day UN Women also launched #HeforShe – a new equality branding campaign, in which men all over the world are being encouraged to speak out against the inequalities faced by women and girls.

**We, the sisters in the Patna Province, too gave our voice and renewed our commitment along with thousands of our grassroots women on March 8 to build a better tomorrow.**

**Here are some of the clips of the Celebrations in Bihar:**

### **Women's Day Celebration at Jamalpur - Sister Mary Anupriya SND**



The International Women's Day is an occasion for the women of our villages to gather, celebrate and display their talents on stage before a larger audience. They know that it is their day and they will have a great gathering at Notre Dame, Jamalpur. Like every year this year too we had a beautiful celebration on the day. Our Chief Guest was the Mrs. Shipra Devi, the Director of Women's Guidance Cell, Munger. Some political leaders and beaurocrats also were there assuring their support and encouragement to women in their journey of empowerment. Around 1000 women, adolescent girls and few men gathered in the Notre Dame School Ground for the celebration. The women and the adolescent girls really have touched the hearts of the audience with their thematic presentations on female foeticide, child marriage and dowry and made everyone into tears. They sang and danced depicting their daily struggles and the ways they

have now found to rise above those struggles. It was a liberating experience for many of these women to see how their life has changed as they are united now.

### **Navjeevan Development Centre, Sasaram - Sister Mary Ajita SND**

Women's Day Celebration is a major event that our women wait for. Around 1500 women from 12 panchayats of Nokha block belonging mostly to the Self Help Groups came at the premises of a Government Girls High School at 10.30 AM. Several of them hired tractors or other vehicles to reach there as group. They had their cultural programmes on the evils of alcoholism, dowry demands, domestic violence etc. The women communicated their plight under domestic violence and insecurity that they experience in the society and requested the audience to be sensitive to the plight of women. There were large numbers of audience from the market place and passers by from the road.



### **Women's Day Celebration 2014, Piro- Sister Mary Grace SND**

International Women's Day was celebrated by the Women Self Help Groups of Piro and Charpokari Blocks at Pushpa High School campus, Piro, in Bhojpur District of Bihar. It is indeed a DAY our women look forward to and had been celebrating for the last eight years. The women take pride in their contribution to initiate and challenge the world around them to be agents of change. Awakened they stand together to act upon for the cause of restoring the dignity and Rights of women and girls.



The theme for the day was Education of girls. Nearly 600 women participated in the event and brought much color and vitality to the celebration. The women folks made it sure that their presence and identity

was felt, as they sat and talked together, sang and danced with freedom and discussed and made decisions together. It was indeed an admirable and an enriching Day for all.

### **Women's Day Celebration at Gahiri- Sister Mary Sunanda SND**

We, the Sisters of Victoria Mission Gahiri, celebrated the International Women's Day along with over 1200 women. The Day's programme was highlighted with meaningful cultural items prepared and performed by the Self Help Group (SHG) women. We were privileged to have the presence of a few priests, sisters and the local leaders. The cultural programme was marked by lively skits, beautiful dances, awareness song,



sharing the experiences of SHG women and motivational speeches. The main theme was on women empowerment, benefits of being the member of SHG and the development taking place in the villages. Another theme was on the election of a right leader who would stand by people and commit themselves for the welfare for the people. It was indeed a motivational event generating vitality and positive vibrations in women for change.

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