

**Karuna Rawale (31)**  
**Village Health and Social Worker**

***"As a VHSW everyone in my village knows me. People treat me with lots of respect and appreciation for my work."***



Karuna Rawale lives in Daheli, a remote village south of Nagpur. Working as a cook in a Government Primary School, her salary is very modest. However, after participating in the **VHSW Training Course in 2003** she is now working as a VHSW in the evenings. By rendering health services to her village community, Karuna is able to add to her income while helping her community. There is no pharmacy in her village, so people are respectful and thankful for her services.

**Deepali Gavarale (20)**  
**Trained Birth Attendant**

***"At the age of 17 I worked as a field worker for only 25 Rupees a day. Thanks to Sangam I have become a nurse in Nagpur with a monthly salary of 3,000 Rupees. Now I can save money regularly and send it back to my family in the village whenever there is a need."***



Deepali is from Bhondsula, a village located in Wardha district. After finishing the VHSW course in 2004, she was selected to join the Sangam's Trained Birth Attendant course in Nagpur. Since 2005, Deepali has been working in Shonali Nursing Home in central Nagpur.



**Sangam's**  
*Health Training Programmes*

**VILLAGE HEALTH & SOCIAL WORK TRAINING  
TRAINED BIRTH ATTENDANT COURSE**



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## About Ecumenical Sangam

Founded in 1993, **Ecumenical Sangam** is a non-profit Health and Community Development Organisation aiming to empower the poorer sections of society through the provision of **healthcare, education, general awareness-raising and long-term skill-building**. In Bamhani village, 35 km south of Nagpur, the Sangam has a Base Centre which runs a Training Centre for Technical and Sewing Classes, a Kindergarten and a Rural Village Health Centre.



In order to seek involvement and participation of the village community the Sangam Health Team is reaching out to **45 villages** south of Nagpur.

## The Village Health & Social Work Training



Every year, the Ecumenical Sangam offers a **2-months training** for women from the villages to become Village Health and Social Workers (VHSWs) for their own community.

This Training enables participants to provide diagnosis and treatment of the most common diseases as well as counselling on difficult subjects like dowry, alcoholism in the family and unemployment.

Since 1993, approximately **350 Village Health and Social Workers** have been successfully trained.

## The Trained Birth Attendant Course

The Trained Birth Attendant Course is a **1-year follow-up training** programme for VHSWs who wish to pursue a career as a professional nurse. The course is run in cooperation with the **Association for Reproductive and Child Health of India** (NARCHI) and imparts practical training in Nagpur's clinics and hospitals, and intensive medical and English classes.



The trainees are provided with food and accommodation in the Sangam's Training premises in Nagpur. In order to make the training affordable for the village girls the Sangam is subsidising 60 % of the total costs for each student.