



Bharti Rokade: A Case Study

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ABSTRACT

Jhunjhar Bharti resided in the village of Surdi, Osmanabad. She held the position of LIC Agent and was actively involved in social work. Due to her professional commitments, she and her family decided to relocate to Osmanabad. Jhunjhar Bharti held a bachelor's degree in Arts and initially aspired to pursue a career in Law. However, due to familial circumstances, she had to put this dream on hold. Nevertheless, she persevered and completed her Law degree. Within her family, Jhunjhar Bharti faced numerous challenges daily. With an absence of a husband and a substantial debt of 4.65 lakh rupees, she resided in a dwelling constructed from tin for nine tough years. This dwelling presented numerous issues, including street animals, snakes, and disturbances caused by rain. Despite these hardships, she cleared all her debts and made her family stand with pride and strength, Jhunjhar Bharti's intelligence shone through. During the early stages of her career, when her husband left the family, Jhunjhar Bharti faced dire circumstances. There were days when her household lacked sufficient food, and she did not possess a ration card to alleviate this hardship. However, her compassionate nature led her to embark on a journey as a social worker with Lok Pratisthan, a feminist organization, then a lawyer and then a successful social worker who brought a significant positive change in the social dynamics of the places she worked. In conclusion, Jhunjhar Bharti's story is one of resilience and determination. Despite facing numerous obstacles, she overcame adversity and emerged as a beacon of hope for others.

Key Words: Struggler, Child Marriage, Resilience, Social Worker, Lawyer, Challenges, Feminist, Women Empowerment, Determination, Beacon of hope, Perseverance.

1. Introduction

Bharti Rokade was not just a woman, daughter, sister, wife, mother, friend, lawyer, and social worker but also an inspiration to many like her younger self who were willing to take a chance against all odds. Bharti Rokade was born in Apsinga, Tuljapur taluka, Osmanabad district, Maharashtra. She was born in a "so-called lower caste" not-so-well-to-do household. Her father left the house soon after she was born. Then after she lived with her brother and mother, her aunts from the paternal side cared for and looked after her when she was a baby. Growing up, she worked a lot, whether helping at home or going on the field to help her mother. She always had a fire for studying and making her family situations better in her inner self. She was married

very young, just when she was in 10th grade. Her husband was her cross-cousin from the paternal side. Her husband let her complete 10th grade and BA. They were blessed with four children together, three girls and one boy; by then, she had started working in LIC as an agent, where she won the best five-star agent. But soon due to some personal issues between the family members the support started taking a decline and the journey of Bharti to become advocate Bharti Rokade from LIC star Bharti Rokade became tough. But being Jhunjhar she became a lawyer (Fig.1) on her own and started her independent practice. It is easier to enter the law field with connections, but she worked very hard to earn her position and, with her earning, built a home of two storeys' as she had dreamt of. Unfortunately she passed away in 2021 at a very young age of 46 due to the disastrous pandemic of Covid-19.

In the quiet corners of Apsinga Village, nestled away from the bustling world of progress and development, Bharti Rokade was born. Her extraordinary journey from humble beginnings to becoming an esteemed social worker stands as a testament to her unwavering determination and unyielding spirit. This essay aims to delve into the remarkable life and background of Bharti Rokade, shedding light on her challenging beginnings, her pursuit of education against all odds, and her influential work in various spheres of social development.

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Article Information:

Article Received for review: 25 Feb 2024

Article Reviewed: 8 March 2024

Revised Comments: 15 May 2024

Accepted for publication: 20 October 2024

Available Online: 31 December 2024

How to Cite this Article:

Gajanan T. H, Pranav S, Sambhavi W, Ayush S R, Zeeshan A (2024): Bharti Rokade: A Case Study East African Journal of Pastoralism, 5(2):8-12.

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Figure 1: Picture of Advocate Bharti Rokade

Tough Beginnings: Born into a village untouched by the waves of modernization, Bharti faced arduous circumstances from the very start. The weight of societal norms pressed heavily upon her as she was married during her 8th grade. However, her indomitable spirit yearned for something more, something beyond the confines of societal expectations. Driven by a desperate desire to educate herself, she made the difficult decision to part her ways away, defying the conventions that bound her. **Educational Triumphs:** Bharti Rokade's unwavering determination propelled her forward on the path of education. She embarked on a quest to carve out a future that transcended the limitations imposed upon her. Despite the hardships and adversities, she persevered, becoming one of the few individuals in her village to graduate from college. Her thirst for knowledge was insatiable, and she recognized that education held the key to transforming not only her own life but also the lives of others in her community.

The Journey of a Social Reformer: With her own struggles fueling her passion for social justice, Bharti Rokade embarked on a mission to bring about positive change in her community. She dedicated her efforts to address critical issues such as women's development, food security, gender rights, financial inclusion, and the empowerment of socially marginalized groups. Bharti recognized that these issues were interconnected, and by tackling them holistically, she could uplift her community as a whole.

Through her visionary leadership and tireless advocacy, Bharti Rokade became an esteemed social figure, revered by all who knew her. She fearlessly challenged the status quo and championed the cause of those whose voices often



Figure 2: Bharti Rokade's professional and personal environment

went unheard. Her relentless pursuit of justice and equality touched the lives of countless individuals, bringing hope and opportunities to those who had long been deprived of them. **The Legacy of Bharti Rokade:** Tragically, the world lost Bharti Rokade to the unforgiving clutches of COVID-19. Her untimely departure left a void in the hearts of all those who had been inspired by her unwavering resilience and remarkable achievements. However, her legacy lives on, etched into the fabric of her community and imprinted upon the souls of those whose lives she touched.

Bharti Rokade's story serves as a reminder that one's background does not determine their destiny. Her tale of triumph over adversity inspires us to challenge the limits imposed upon us and strive for greatness, regardless of our circumstances. She demonstrated that education is a potent weapon that can break the shackles of oppression and pave the way for a brighter future.(Fig.2)

In conclusion, Bharti Rokade's life was a testament to the transformative power of determination, education, and unwavering commitment to social justice. From her tough beginnings in Apsinga Village to her remarkable contributions as a social worker, she defied the odds and left an indelible mark on the world. Bharti Rokade's unwavering spirit continues to inspire us to overcome obstacles, fight for what is right, and create a more equitable and inclusive society for all.

1.1. Problem of the Statement

A case study on Bharti Rokade to explore about her struggling life and how she overcomes it to become a successful social worker.(Fig.3)



Figure 3: A State level Activist Award in 2012 Bharti delivered a lecture at Murud, dist. Latur on occasion of Mararthwada Bahujan Mahila sahitya sammellan. Uttam kambale sir, chief editor of daily Sakal newspaper visited Bharti's tin shed in 2012, Lahu kanade also with him

2. Materials and Methods

Background Research: To establish a solid foundation for our case study, we conducted extensive background research on Bharti Rokade. This involved studying available literature, news articles, and online sources to gather preliminary information about her upbringing, accomplishments, and notable contributions. This step enabled us to familiarize ourselves with her work and identify key areas for further investigation. **Site Visit and Interactions:** To gain firsthand knowledge about Bharti Rokade, we visited her maternal house in Apsinga Village, Osmanabad. (Fig.4). The visit allowed us to engage with her immediate relatives, who shared valuable insights into her personal life, upbringing, and early influences. By talking to family members, we were able to grasp her character, motivations, and the factors that shaped her as a social worker (Malale).

Interviews and Consultations: To obtain a comprehensive understanding of Bharti Rokade's work and impact, we conducted interviews with a wide range of stakeholders. This included individuals who had collaborated with her on various social projects, beneficiaries of her initiatives, local community leaders, and experts in the field. We also consulted advocates who had worked with her to address legal aspects of her social work. These interviews provided diverse perspectives on her achievements, challenges, and the lasting effects of her initiatives.

Proposition Discussions: We actively engaged in discussions with stakeholders to explore their viewpoints on Bharti Rokade's work. This included deliberations on the



Figure 4: Jhunjhar Bharti's House, Neighbours and Village

significance of her initiatives, the challenges she faced, and the sustainability of her projects. These proposition discussions allowed us to critically analyze her methods and gauge the broader implications of her work within the community. **Data Analysis and Synthesis:** After collecting a substantial amount of qualitative and quantitative data, we analyzed and synthesized the information. This involved identifying common themes, significant events, and recurring patterns within the data. By organizing and categorizing the information, we were able to construct a cohesive narrative that showcased Bharti Rokade's journey as a social worker.

Conclusion: The research methodology employed for this case study on Bharti Rokade involved a multi-faceted approach. Through field visits, interviews, consultations, and proposition discussions, we were able to gather diverse perspectives and insights into her life and work. The systematic analysis and synthesis of the collected data allowed us to present a comprehensive portrayal of Bharti Rokade's contributions to society. It is our hope that this case study will shed light on her remarkable achievements and inspire future generations of social workers

3. Results and Discussion

3.1. Rationale

A woman like her is a true inspiration for everyone in today's world in which morals, (Fig.5) ethics are on the verge of declining. People don't want to help others by giving excuses like they are busy, they can't or they will try. She faced adverse situations on every step since early childhood like - father left her mother so she was her only support, she was forcefully married to a person which she never wanted and this led to birth of several



Figure 5: With granddaughter of Jotiba Phule on birth anniversary of Fule At Nagpur on 26th November 2017 national meet for social and economic equality forum, where Sukhdev Thorat sir ex-chairman of UGC was present

family problems in later part of her marriage life. Along with financial problems, she had to face mental traumas of living alone and social adversities which hurt her deep down. But she never revealed her feelings in front of anyone, not even in front of her own children. No one helped her in her hard times whenever she needed someone to act as a support. She helped everyone by following the path of justice and non-discrimination. She would be a true idol for students who want to become social workers, as she played a vital role as social worker very efficiently that too in adversities.

3.2. Family Background

What can be the worst situation for a child to grow up as a woman in today's era of social structure? Early child marriage, lack of proper parenthood, lack of focus on women's education, and absence of women empowerment, are just a few of the obstacles that Bharti Rokade faced. Hailing from an extremely impoverished background, Bhartiji's family struggled to make ends meet. Her mother worked as a farmer, while her father toiled as a daily laborer. When her father abandoned the family, they were left in dire financial and emotional straits. To survive, Bharti and her mother had to work in the fields and take on various labor jobs, earning a meager wage of just 2 rupees per day.

Bhartiji's family consisted of two paternal aunts, one residing in Osmanabad and the other in Apsinga. Additionally, she had a brother who earlier worked as a Karate teacher and later became a bodyguard for renowned wrestlers. Despite facing the harsh reality of child marriage, Bharti was eventually married to her own relative, giving birth to four

children - three daughters named Priyanjali, Swaranjali, Panchsheela and one son named Prateek. Bharti's passion for education was met with little support from her family members, resulting in regular conflicts and a severe breakdown of trust. Unable to tolerate the family's circumstances longer, Bharti made the difficult decision to part her ways apart. Complicating the matters further, her husband, an LIC worker, had accumulated debts of Rs.4.65 Lakhs from various customers before he left her. Determined to rectify the situation of her family's pride and her respect, Bharti tirelessly worked to earn every penny, paying off the loans left behind by her husband.

With no support from her own family, Bharti found solace in the unwavering dedication of Sudesh Malani, who played the role of a true brother. Despite the numerous challenges she faced, Bhartiji's resilience and determination allowed her to overcome adversity and create a better life for herself and her children.

3.3. Education

The educational journey of Jhunjhar Bharti was characterized by unwavering determination and relentless hard work. From a young age, she displayed exceptional academic prowess, despite hailing from a disadvantaged background. Driven by her desire to succeed in life, she made a firm commitment to pursue education. Tragedy struck when Jhunjhar Bharti's father passed away during her third or fourth grade. This devastating loss plunged her into a state of despair, casting a dark shadow over her life. However, she refused to succumb to despair and remained resolute in her pursuit of knowledge.

In the ninth grade, Jhunjhar Bharti's family, particularly her mother, began contemplating her marriage. Consequently, she was introduced to a potential suitor recommended by her aunt. However, their initial meeting left her dissatisfied with the proposed relationship, prompting her to reject the young man. Subsequently, the boy informed Jhunjhar Bharti's family that he could not marry her due to personal reasons. Despite this setback, she was coerced into marriage yet she remained undeterred in her academic pursuits. Remarkably, she successfully completed her tenth and twelfth grades even after getting married. In 2001, Jhunjhar Bharti achieved a significant milestone by clearing her airline exam, a moment of immense joy and accomplishment. In 2006, she commenced her career at LIC (Life Insurance Corporation). However, her burning desire to assist the underprivileged in India led her to embark on a journey to obtain an LLB degree in 2007. Unfortunately, due to familial issues with her husband, she had to temporarily halt her pursuit of this degree. Nevertheless, Jhunjhar Bharti's indomitable spirit refused to be deterred, and in 2013, she resumed her LLB studies, ultimately completing them in 2015. True to her nickname "Jhunjhar," which means fighter.

3.4. Marriage Life

Bhartiji was going to marry a man working at a post office. However, as her aspirations did not align with the soon to be her partner, she wrote him a letter stating that



Figure 6: Family members of Bharti

if she were to marry her, they would not be happy together as she had to study further and earn a name for herself. Nevertheless, as the wedding cards were printed, the family wanted her to get married somehow, so they married her to her cousin, he helped her getting a graduate degree, and then Bharti got a job in LIC as Policy Agent, where it was going smooth, and the couple soon started going together for work. Soon they shifted to Osmanabad for their work, where they lived in a rental house;(Fig 6.) soon, she started her study in law, but by the second semester, the relations between them got weaker due to many personal issues. It resulted in an informal departure of the relations between them and thus he left the house and they parted their ways off. But it was not as easy for Bharti now as it was a high point when her husband collected 4.65 Lakhs from different LIC customers, without the knowledge of Bharti. By the time, he went away, Bharti was left to pay for his debt. She did so diligently and had to shift to a tin house, where snakes, pigs and scorpions were regular visitors, but Bharti was a courageous woman who was never afraid of any of these. Soon after, Bharti became a lawyer and divorced her husband, who left her in 2008. To conclude, her marriage life was not cakewalk for her, but still managed to pull herself together.

3.5. Professional Life

Words will stop, but the people she used to work with or encountered will never stop talking about her. Bharti started working in Lok Pratishthan in Osmanabad, where she visited villages, spread awareness, and helped start SHGs and empowered women. She was a star there, loved by all as she knew how to approach society, and she earned 500 Rs. a month then. Soon she started working as an LIC Agent,



Figure 7: Advocate Bharti Rokade with her junior at Poona district Court

earning 25k-30k a month in commission. She was awarded best agent thrice and became an expert in bank work; as per her colleagues, she was friendly and high-spirited and never let her personal life affect her professional life. She started studying law again in 2013 and became a lawyer in 2015. She started independent practice and got two cases on the very first day, which was an achievement. The milestone case of her Law journey,(Fig.7) “The Sarangi Mahajan case” made her famous, this was important because the advocate against her made a statement to her that “Your age is the number of years I have been practicing law as an lawyer” yet Bharti in place of reacting to him made a beautiful statement that “If I win today please give me blessing to be as successful as you in this field and If I lose it will be a great experience for me to learn something from you that will help me a lot in my future” But due to her strong knowledge in the field and pure intentions Bharti won the case gracefully . She built a house with her own earnings in 2016, and in 2021, she earned 1.5 lakhs a month, coming a long way from 2006, when she earned 500 Rs. then. As she said, money earned and then spent, but we should learn to earn and treasure people. She did wonders in her lifetime and supported many. She provided education for 8 Pardi community girls and helped those in need, and got many awards to her name. As per her then colleagues, she was the best activist, social worker, speaker, thinker and worker.

3.6. NGO Life

In 2001, Jhunjhar Bharti successfully passed the LIC agent exam, which allowed her to receive a monthly stipend of 500 Rs from the Lok Pratishthan NGO. Over the years,



Figure 8: Jhunjhar Bharti serving as a chief guest at working women forum, Latur on international women's day

her hard work and dedication paid off, and she eventually started earning an impressive 1.5 lakhs per month. This was a significant achievement for her.

In 2006, Jhunjhar Bharti made the decision to move from her village of Surdi to the city of Osmanabad. This marked the beginning of a new chapter in her life, filled with various challenges and struggles. As time went on, Jhunjhar's children grew older, and her income as an LIC agent played a crucial role in supporting their education. By 2006, Jhunjhar Bharti was earning an impressive 25-30 lakhs per month, allowing her to live in a rented 3000 sq. ft. plot. The support provided by the Lok Pratishthan NGO was instrumental in her career success.(Fig.8)

Additionally, Jhunjhar Bharti played a vital role in the establishment of a Mahila Bachat Gat federation, which consisted of approximately 140-150 self-help groups. Within this federation, she served as the cashier, gaining expertise in economic transactions. Some individuals even went as far as to say that if the bank faced any issues, Jhunjhar Bharti was the woman capable of handling all related problems. Her exceptional performance as an LIC agent earned her the prestigious title of a 5-star agent, making her the highest-earning commission agent in the Osmanabad district. Her dedication to her work was truly commendable, as she would even feed her child before taking the LIC exam. However, her husband, driven by jealousy, strongly opposed her involvement in the organization and would sometimes resort to physical violence against Jhunjhar Bharti.

3.7. Life as a Lawyer

In May 2015, Bharti Rokade successfully completed her LLB from Bapuji Salunkhe Law College in Osmanabad. Throughout her time at the college, she actively participated in various campus events. Following the completion of her final exams, she promptly registered herself with the Bar Council of Maharashtra and Goa. Embarking on her legal career, Bharti began as a junior lawyer and reached out to several lawyers she knew for guidance and support. Remarkably, on her very first day, she managed to secure two cases. Her reputation started to grow, thanks to her involvement with the Lok Pratishthan NGO and her work as an LIC agent.

On the 14th of October 2015, Bharti took the significant step of renting an office space. She also hired two of her classmates, Priyanka Samble and Dishiganda Shir Sagar, as junior lawyers. Her primary focus has been on family law, and she has been highly regarded by family court judges for her ability to convince 30-40 families to reconsider divorce through her strong and persuasive attitude. One of Bharti's most notable cases was the Sarangi Mahajan Case in 2018, where the husband, Pramod Mahajan, was accused of murdering his brother. The case revolved around a land dispute with a value of 9 crore. Bharti's husband, Milind Patil, who happens to be one of the most esteemed advocates and the President of the Maharashtra and Goa Bar Association, supported her throughout the proceedings. After two years of diligent work, Bharti emerged victorious in the district court, earning the admiration and appreciation of Milind Patil.

However, the husband appealed the decision in the high court and hired Adv. Shastra Buddhhe, who had recently resigned from his position as a district judge after serving for 20 years. Despite this formidable challenge, Bharti once again emerged triumphant, successfully defending her case against Advocate Shastra Buddhhe.

3.8. Social Initiative

Jhunjhar Bharti has spearheaded numerous social initiatives aimed at assisting those in need. Her philanthropic efforts have included providing food to the hungry and destitute. Additionally, she has identified children who yearned for an education but were hindered by their impoverished or nonexistent family backgrounds. In response, Jhunjhar Bharti took it upon herself to ensure these children received the education they so desperately desired. However, among all her commendable endeavors, Jhunjhar Bharti's most remarkable initiative has been her unwavering commitment to women's empowerment.(Fig.9) As a woman hailing from a disadvantaged background in the Osmanabad district, she understands firsthand the challenges faced by women in similar circumstances. Consequently, she has made it her mission to extend a helping hand to any woman in need of her support.

Jhunjhar Bharti's dedication to uplifting the lives of others is truly inspiring. Her selflessness and determination serve as a shining example for all, reminding us of the power of compassion and the potential for positive change.

3.9. Helping Hand for others

Jhunjhar Bharti dedicated her entire life to helping others, making her a true beacon of compassion in society. She consistently extended a helping hand to those in need, embodying the essence of selflessness. One notable incident involved an encounter with a woman from the RSS seeking assistance with a case pertaining to women's property rights. Despite being an advocate for Ambedkar's principles, Jhunjhar Bharti chose to accept the case, driven by her desire to empower this woman. Remarkably, she emerged victorious against a highly experienced senior lawyer, showcasing her exceptional legal acumen.



Figure 9: Article published in newspaper: P. Sainath at Bharti's tin shed while draught tour to Osmanabad district Economic development workshop at Aurangabad, Dr. Sukhdev Thorat was chair person Bharti's public speaking

Another incident showcased Jhunjhar Bharti's quick thinking and decisive action. A man suffering from a kidney stone found himself in dire straits near her residence. Recognizing the urgency of the situation, she promptly rushed him to the hospital. The doctor's diagnosis revealed that any further delay could have proven fatal for the individual. These instances merely scratch the surface of Jhunjhar Bharti's extensive repertoire of benevolent acts. She consistently lent a helping hand to countless individuals who were desperately seeking assistance. Her unwavering commitment to alleviating the suffering of others serves as an inspiration to us all.(Fig.10)

3.10. Community Engagement

Bharti Rokade, an exceptional social figure, dedicated her life to inclusive development by actively engaging with every segment of society. Her profound impact on women and youth, through her unwavering fight for women's rights and education, was nothing short of transformative. Through her unique outlook and unparalleled dedication, Bharti Rokade became an emblem of change, leaving an indelible mark on the lives of thousands. Embracing Inclusivity: Bharti Rokade's community engagement efforts were anchored in inclusivity. She recognized that sustainable development could only be achieved by involving individuals from all walks of life. Whether interacting with women, youth, or marginalized groups, Bharti ensured that their voices were heard and valued. By promoting inclusivity, she created a sense of belonging, fostering a united front that drove social change. Personal Connections: One of



Figure 10: Article showing Bharti's regular involvement in dealing with social issues like Women Empowerment.

the defining aspects of Bharti Rokade's community engagement was her ability to establish personal connections. She believed in the power of genuine human interaction, investing time and effort to understand the challenges and aspirations of individuals she engaged with. By forging authentic relationships, she built trust, empathy, and rapport, enabling her to inspire and mobilize community towards collective action.

Empowering Women: Bharti Rokade's commitment to women's rights and empowerment extended beyond rhetoric. She actively engaged with women, empowering them to take charge of their lives and communities. Through dialogue, mentorship, and skill-building initiatives, she instilled a sense of self-worth and confidence in women, nurturing their leadership potential. Bharti's approach to community engagement centered on empowering women as catalysts for change, enabling them to drive grassroots initiatives and address gender disparities.

Education as a Catalyst: Education played a pivotal role in Bharti Rokade's community engagement strategy. She firmly believed in the transformative power of education and its potential to break cycles of poverty and marginalization. Bharti engaged with youth, emphasizing the importance of

education and providing guidance to navigate educational challenges. She established mentoring programs, scholarship initiatives, and career counseling sessions, ensuring that young minds had access to the resources and support necessary to realize their full potential.

Collaborative Problem-Solving: Bharti Rokade's community engagement approach revolved around collaborative problem-solving. She understood that lasting change required collective action, where community members actively participated in identifying and addressing local challenges. Bharti organized community forums, facilitated dialogue, and encouraged open communication among stakeholders. By involving the community in decision-making processes, she fostered a sense of ownership and responsibility, ensuring that solutions were tailored to the specific needs and aspirations of the community.

Leveraging Traditional Practices: Bharti Rokade recognized the importance of acknowledging and leveraging traditional practices and cultural values within community engagement. She respected the rich heritage and knowledge embedded in local traditions, integrating them into her approach. By merging modern solutions with traditional wisdom, Bharti created a sense of continuity and respect, bridging the gap between past and present, and strengthening community bonds.

Sustainability and Long-Term Impact: Bharti Rokade's community engagement efforts were driven by a vision of sustainable development and long-term impact. She recognized that sustainable change required building local capacity and fostering self-reliance. Bharti invested in training programs, skill-building initiatives, and capacity development workshops, equipping community members with the tools and knowledge to continue the work beyond her involvement. Her approach ensured that communities were empowered to sustain progress and continue driving positive change even in her absence.

Conclusion: Bharti Rokade's unique approach to community engagement serves as a blueprint for transformative social work. Through inclusivity, personal connections, empowerment, and collaboration, she created a platform for collective action, driving inclusive development and empowering marginalized communities. Bharti's commitment to education, her focus on Women's rights, and her unwavering dedication to community upliftment left an indelible mark on the lives of thousands. Her unconventional outlook and creative strategies continue to inspire future change makers, reminding us of the immense power of community engagement in shaping a more equitable and compassionate society. Bharti Rokade's legacy serves as a guiding light, urging us to embrace the diverse strengths of communities and work collectively to create a brighter future for all.(Fig.11)

3.11. Social Involvement

She can be described as a true exemplar of a social worker. A social worker is not merely someone



Figure 11: Articles on Bharti Rokade

who assists others based on their own resources, but rather someone who goes above and beyond their own comforts to help those in need. This remarkable individual has provided financial support to numerous underprivileged students, enabling them to pursue their education, and has even provided nourishment during her own challenging times. Her unwavering commitment to prioritizing the needs of others above her own is a testament to her genuine dedication to society. Through her association with LIC, she has extended a helping hand to countless individuals during their most difficult times. By offering them sustenance, financial aid, care, love, and kindness, she has instilled hope in the hearts of the less fortunate and fulfilled their aspirations. Working diligently at the NGO Lok Pratishthan in Osmanabad, she has tackled societal issues at their core, earning immense respect and admiration from the local community. People were drawn to her not solely due to her profession, but because of her innate nature and genuine compassion. Her commitment to social welfare is further exemplified by her active participation in various social functions, wherever she was called upon. Her daughter attests to the fact that she never grew weary or disheartened by her fieldwork, showcasing her unwavering dedication to the betterment of society.

3.12. Social Reformation

Jhunjhar Bharti is primarily dedicated to promoting free education and providing free food to those in need. She is also actively involved in initiatives for women empowerment and advocating for fair justice, regardless of caste barriers. Additionally, she actively participates in discussions on social and economic equality forums, where she has shared the



Figure 12: Social Involvement

platform with Sukhadeo Throat, the former Chairman of the University Grants Commission (UGC).(Fig.12)

3.13. Family Life

The family life of Bharti Road can be understood on the basis of three major facets:

3.13.1. Her relationships with Family Members

Bhartiji's early childhood was marred by unfortunate circumstances. Just 1.5 years after the birth of Bhartiji her father left his own family and that too in severe conditions of economic repercussions and no or mere emotional support for the family. Later on, when Bhartiji grew up battling emotional and financial problems Bhartiji was forced into a marriage with a relative, which subjected her to several emotional distress and mental trauma. Ultimately, this led to a divorce, further exacerbating the negative impact on Bhartiji's mental well-being and that of her children.

Bharti hailed from a destitute and a very poor background, where there was little or no emphasis on education. However, these challenging conditions forged her resilience and determination to overcome societal obstacles. She emerged as a die-heart fighter in both professional and social arenas. Despite her struggles, Bhartiji's daughters remember her as a loving and playful mother, always ready to engage in mischievous pranks and lend a listening ear to their conversations about one another. Unfortunately, her brother, driven by his own self-interests, never supported Bharti in any phase of her life.

3.14. Housing

Moving on to the second aspect, Bhartiji's housing situation was far from ideal. Initially residing in a village, she later moved to a rented house due to her pursuit of education. However, due to family problems she faced, Bharti was compelled to abandon this dwelling and seek refuge in a tin house made by her in a period of three days. This shelter provided minimal protection during the rainy season, a boiling feeling in summer season and a shivering night in winter seasons. A remarkable specialty of that house was that its location and its structure invited various animals, from pigs to snakes and insects, to freely enter. Guests were unable to be accommodated properly, as the house merely offered a partial covering for their heads.



Figure 13: A memory in tin shed, Bharti with Pratik and Panchshila Paternal Aunt of Bharti' Ji

3.15. Emotions

Bhartiji's emotions played a significant role in shaping her family life. Despite facing different types of emotional, physical, mental, financial and many others in her life journey, she remained a loving mother, deeply devoted to her children.(Fig 13) Her home was a sanctuary where she showered them with affection and care. She was stringent in her professional life and also towards her personal problems. However, she still managed to become a model of trust, resilience, and empowerment in society. She never let her dark journey of struggles affect her bright future. This clearly demonstrates and proves her to be Fighter Jhunjhar Bharti.

3.16. Nature of Bharti Rokade

Every person is a product of their environment; most criminals, when you check with history, have had some disturbing event or have had family problems, poverty or societal pressure, but some flourish even in the worst conditions, just like our Bhartiji. Being born in a Dalit home with almost no money and a father leaving her, she still managed to become a successful person, and with every hardship she faced, she looked on the brighter side and became stronger. Every person who talks about her never speaks ill; they say that she is an outstanding lady who never lets any problems be the reason for her anger. Even with very little, she was helpful and still helped others with so little. She had a very humble and kind heart, as Once you reach the top, it is challenging to keep your stand on the ground, but she was so humbled that she never forgot her true beginning and was emphatic as she could understand what the next person is feeling and helped them to the best of her ability. The people she engaged with only had good things to say. Everyone

constantly said she was very strong and wanted to study and succeed.

3.17. Finding about Bharti Rokade

We talked to the people of her village-

3.17.1. FAMILY

1. Her house was at the end of the village, almost like an outsider.
2. Her mother lives alone in Apsinga.
3. Two of her parental aunts are also alive. One of them lives in Apsinga and other in Osmanabad.
4. Her brother lives in Tuljapur in a flat system, the nearest town to her village, Apsinga.
5. Her kids, two girls, are married, one is studying, and the boy is studying law.
6. Her husband is not dead; He lives in Shurdi and he lives there with his own family.
7. Bhartiji was present, she would get to play with her grandchild soon.

3.17.2. NATURE

1. She was a force to reckon with as she never lost hope, even in the worst situations.
2. She had the spirit of learning independently and started working to support herself.
3. She was very struggling, loving, caring and a lady with a bold personality.

3.17.3. LIKINGS

1. She always admired Babasaheb Ambedkar as her idol
2. She was a die heart tea lover.
3. She always liked to eat Methi ki sabji, Peanuts pickle or chutney.
4. Her favorite dress was a black and white saree with a black coat.
5. Her favorite actor was Aamir Khan and favorite actress was Madhuri Dixit.
6. Her favorite movie was "Jo Jeeta Wo Sikandar"
7. Her favorite song was "Aadhi Raman Jhale"

4. Analysis

Jhunjar Bharti, a resilient woman, endured immense struggle, suffering, and pain deep within her heart. However, she always remained ready to extend a helping hand to those in need, regardless of their age, gender, or caste. Despite the hardships she faced, Jhunjar possessed a kind, loving, and caring heart that embraced all.

From her early childhood, Jhunjar grew up without a father, a painful experience indeed. Compounding her challenges, she was married off in the ninth grade against her wishes, as she Earned to continue her education. At a tender age, she shouldered numerous responsibilities, while her husband, instead of supporting her, constantly doubted her abilities.

Nevertheless, Jhunjar defied her husband's wishes and pursued her studies, earning a BA degree from YCMOU and

later an LLB from Osmanabad University between 2013 and 2015. Despite giving birth to two daughters, her husband's relentless desire for a son placed immense daily pressure on Jhunjar. Unfortunately, fate dealt her another blow as she gave birth to yet another girl while residing in "Shurdi."

Jhunjar began working for an NGO called Lok Pratisthan, which required her to commute 20 kilometers daily. Despite this demanding schedule, she still managed to prepare meals for her husband, daughters, and herself, along with handling other household responsibilities. Even as a working woman, she received no support from her husband, who expected her to continue working at home.

In 2001, Jhunjar finally gave birth to a son, alleviating the burden of bearing a male child. However, her health had significantly deteriorated. Her husband's constant suspicion and mistrust took a toll on her mental well-being. Seeking solace, she turned to her last hope, her mother and brother, only to be met with their refusal to support her, insisting that she must endure her husband's presence regardless. She began to feel that things were finally falling into place. However, her husband had left her burdened with a debt of 4.65 lakhs due to his suspicious nature. In 2008, she found herself alone once again, forced to reside in a dilapidated tin shed infested with insects and prone to leaks during rainfall. The situation was truly distressing, as we learned that she had resorted to taming snakes, insects, and other small creatures to cope with her solitude.

Nevertheless, she refused to give up and resolved to rebuild her life, diligently repaying every penny of the debt her husband had incurred in the name of LIC. She continued her employment with LIC until 2015, when she embarked on a new journey as a practicing advocate in court. In 2018, she achieved a significant breakthrough by winning a major case for Sarangi Mahajan.

Despite enduring a lifetime of hardships, she never wavered in her determination and even extended a helping hand to those in need during her own difficult times. She generously provided financial assistance and nourishment to numerous children, serving as a true inspiration to us all. Tragically, she succumbed to the devastating COVID-19 pandemic in 2021, leaving behind a profound sense of grief for everyone who knew her.

5. Conclusion and Recommendations

5.1. Conclusion

Bharti Rokade, also known as Jhunjar Bharti, was an exceptional individual whose achievements are too much to be adequately praised in this report. She was a lady of salute who had overcome numerous social challenges with an exceptional strength that never wavered, enabling her to achieve all her desired goals. Despite facing family tensions, social and gender pressures, economic imbalances, and professional challenges, she had managed to win through these obstacles without any substantial support. Not only has she triumphed over adversity and discrimination, but she has also extended her knowledge, education, experience, and

unwavering determination to assist others who have encountered similar hardships. Bhartiji's success extends beyond her personal achievements; she has also excelled in raising her daughters and son both socially and professionally, establishing herself as a successful mother, daughter, lawyer, student, and social worker.

Bhartiji's story is one that is entitled to a wider recognition, serving as an important lesson and an inspiration for individuals facing their own challenges. She exemplifies the true spirit of a fighter, conquering the trials that life throws her way and breathing new life into her existence, all while inspiring others to do the same.

5.1.1. Lessons

Bharti Rokade, a towering figure in the realm of social work, epitomized the virtues of resilience, empowerment, and perseverance. Her journey, from the humble and forgotten Apsinga Village to becoming a symbol of hope and change, offers invaluable lessons for all. This essay delves into the life and legacy of Bharti Rokade, exploring the transformative lessons we can glean from her remarkable achievements in the fields of women empowerment, education, and social development. Lesson of Resilience: Bharti Rokade's early life was fraught with adversity. Married during her 8th grade, she faced a path paved with hardships. However, it was her unyielding will to educate herself that ignited her resilience. Her courage to undergo a divorce and pursue her education demonstrated that setbacks and societal expectations need not define one's future. Bharti's story teaches us that resilience is not merely bouncing back from challenges, but a tenacious spirit that propels us forward despite the obstacles we encounter.

Lesson of Empowerment: Bharti Rokade's transformative work in women empowerment serves as an empowering lesson in itself. She recognized the importance of breaking free from the shackles of traditional gender roles and empowering women to realize their full potential. By advocating for women's rights and challenging patriarchal norms, she created a ripple effect that empowered countless individuals. Bharti's life teaches us that true empowerment lies in lifting others up, amplifying their voices, and creating opportunities for their growth and success.

Lesson of Education: Bharti's unwavering commitment to education resonates deeply as a vital lesson for all. Despite the societal pressures and limitations placed upon her, she pursued her education with unwavering determination, becoming a beacon of inspiration for her village and beyond. Bharti's story underscores the transformative power of education in breaking cycles of poverty, ignorance, and oppression. It reminds us that education is not merely a means to acquire knowledge but a catalyst for personal growth, social progress, and the realization of one's dreams.

Lesson of Perseverance: Bharti Rokade's life is a testament to the power of perseverance. She encountered numerous challenges on her journey, yet she never succumbed to despair or gave up on her dreams. Her unwavering resolve to overcome obstacles and make a positive impact on her



Figure 14: Fearless Bharti ji Bharti ji with Sharangi Mahajan / her Milestone case Bharti Ji with Medha Patkar Bharti ji with Hari Narke Bharti Ji with Dr. Ramesh Jare

community exemplifies the lesson that true change requires perseverance and an unrelenting spirit. Bharti's story teaches us that setbacks are not permanent roadblocks but stepping stones towards achieving our goals if we persist and remain steadfast in our endeavors. Lesson of Making Dreams a Reality: Bharti Rokade's transformative impact on the lives of many serves as an inspiring lesson in turning dreams into reality. She dedicated herself to uplifting socially weak classes, facilitating education for the youth, and addressing societal injustices. Through her tireless efforts and visionary leadership, she turned the aspirations and dreams of countless individuals into tangible outcomes. Bharti's life teaches us that with passion, dedication, and a willingness to take action, we have the power to bring about meaningful change and transform the lives of those around us.

Bharti Rokade's journey from a village burdened by neglect to becoming an eminent social worker teaches us valuable lessons in resilience, empowerment, perseverance, education, and turning dreams into reality. Her life story serves as an embodiment of the human spirit's ability to rise above adversity and make a lasting impact on society. Bharti Rokade's legacy inspires us to embrace challenges, champion the cause of empowerment, and strive for excellence in our pursuit of positive change. By embodying the lessons gleaned from her remarkable journey, we can foster a more inclusive, empowered, and compassionate world for all. (Fig.14)

5.2. Recommendation

To gain a comprehensive understanding of Jhunjhar Bharti, it is imperative to conduct intensive research. This

research should focus on identifying her notable works, as well as exploring her aspirations as a social worker. Furthermore, it is crucial to delve into her life story, as it is a powerful motivation for young women facing challenges and striving to make a difference in society. Jhunjhar Bharti's journey can serve as an inspiration not only for aspiring social workers but also for women who endure domestic violence on a daily basis. By examining her remarkable achievements and unwavering determination, individuals can find the strength and courage to overcome their own obstacles.

Conflict of Interest

Authors declare there is no conflict of interest involved in publishing this research paper.

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