On the occasion of 69th Independence Day of India, 15th August 2015, more than 600 inhabitants of Bundelkhand came together with great enthusiasm to celebrate the day with a cause, vowing for a sustainable future. Series of activities, spearheaded by the community, were organized in 12 villages of Jhansi, Niwari, Shivpuri and Orchha clusters targeting a healthy, safer and greener future for generations to come.

In Jhansi the celebration started with a rally, with bal panchayat and community members rendering slogans on Swatchh Bharat - Freedom from garbage followed by inauguration of the water supply pipeline by the District Development Manager (DDM), NABARD, which was remained defunct for last five years. The Pradhan of the local panchayat hosted the national flag with women federation members performing the national anthem. Speaking at the event, Dr S N Pandey applauded the villagers for their cohesive action in operationalizing the defunct pipeline and reiterated the role of every stakeholder in the cause of caring for their village and thus for the nation. The programme ended with a street play by the bal panchayat on Save water for better tomorrow.

Plantation campaigns were organized in Kamhar village of Datia and Rajpura village of Orchha with the support from the Watershed Committee and local Panchayat respectively. 50 farmers participated in these campaigns through planting fruit and timber plants in their fields with the pledge of greening the blue.

There were participations at gram sabhas in all locations. In Orchha, community of Ladoura panchayat voiced their opinion for the participatory village planning and scrutinized the progress of the last gram sabha resolution. In Biharipura, Niwari the meeting was led by the women Pradhan and women secretary of the panchayat and it observed major discussions on human development indices contrary to the norm of considerations of only infrastructure development as before. The panchayat resolved to take prioritized actions on improving water and sanitation scenario of the village. In Shivpuri, the gram sabhas in five panchayats saw an astonishing participation and involvement of especially women. The change has come after months of engagement and advocating the concerns of local governance and developmental issues by Development Alternatives with the stakeholders.

The ‘freedom day’ ended with putting up pledges on bringing more changes through encouraging the grass root stakeholders to make responsible choices in their own lives and to take collective action in the areas of social security, health, sanitation, agriculture, women’s dignity and the economy, “Towards True Freedom”.

“Freedom is not worth having if it doesn’t include the freedom to make mistakes” - Mohandas k Gandhi

In Partnership With:
Snapshots of Independence Day 2015 Celebrations from Bundelkhand

To share stories of change in Bundelkhand or to learn more about our endeavours on local environmental action, write to us at bkpalert@devalt.org or visit us at www.devalt.org