

**Abolition of the Parda System
in Kshipra, Madhya Pradesh**



Parda system, a tradition in which women are supposed to cover their faces in the presence of men, is still strongly practiced in the rural and uneducated communities of Kshipra, Madhya Pradesh. HCDI through its implementing partner Khrist Seva Kendra in Kshipra, MP, attempted to uncover the parda in the target villages. Initially, there was plenty of resistance from the women themselves, but the project persisted and motivated the group leaders. Women, then slowly started responding and gradually the Parda System started vanishing from the project villages. This opened up doors for the women to participate in public affairs and they started talking face to face with men within and even outside their villages.

As a result, 12 women became office bearers of the Gram Panchayat of their respective villages. They have been oriented in the political processes and are better informed about the Panchayati Raj Institution. This has encouraged many more women to contest in elections for Gram Panchayat.

Holistic Child Development India is a Christian humanitarian organization working towards bringing lasting improvement in the quality of life of children, their families and communities through different types of development projects with a child-centered approach that promotes rights, interests and dignity of children. It is a partner of Kindernothilfe e. V., Germany, a child development organization which works in 28 countries in Africa, Asia, Latin America and Eastern Europe