



## Sanjay Pawar , GAP Changemaker

### Social Activist

Procuring land for Pardhi Community and elevating their Social Status

Location: Ratnadatta Nagar, Dhoki, Osmanabad

## His Story

As an individual, Sanjay is a focused, self driven and a well aware person. A Farmer by occupation and the only graduate among his people, Sanjay has emerged as a leader for his community which is one of the most deprived communities in India, the Pardhis.

The Pardhi community faces isolation from the village which strips them off the basic necessities of permanent shelter and income source. They currently inhabit a forest land in the outskirts. The community has been stigmatized by the criminal status marking it out for discriminatory treatment.

Sanjay has dedicated his full time in leading his community to struggle against social stigma and get their constitutional rights. His focus is initially on providing a permanent shelter to the community inside the village premises. He believes that a permanent shelter would provide identity and access to livelihood options through SHG formation and micro enterprises.

**Sanjay considers education to be an essential tool in bridging the gap of inequality and building a better future for his community.**

### Impact on the Society

1. Sanjay has enrolled 400 children (including the drop outs) from the Pardhi community in local sainik and residential schools in Osmanabad.
2. With his efforts, he has got Voter IDs and Caste Certificates for over 500 people of his community.
3. He has managed to mobilize his people and has built a support team.

### Future Plan

Sanjay wants the government to take the census survey of Paradh community in different areas, to get the right numbers in order to provide BPL list, Ration card, Election cards and land for shelter. His primary focus is on procuring and registering 2 acre of land to establish the community. He also suggests that the police can help in removing the stigma of crime.

### Current Challenges

1. Requires guidance and documentation.
2. Requires financial support to procure land for his community.
3. Requires GAP Connect to identify schemes and officials to sanction land for Pardhi/ Tribal Development in Maharashtra.