



### Building Soft Skills of TARA Sahelis

Two batches of TARA Sahelis were provided with training as part of the Gyan Chaupali phase, marking a milestone for the TARA Akshar+ (TA+) programme. The first session was conducted from 3<sup>rd</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> April in Bhagwanpur, Haridwar, and the second from 7<sup>th</sup> - 9<sup>th</sup> April 2018 in Kahli Village of Kachauna Block, Hardoi. A total of 80 participants were involved, including the entire field team comprising block coordinators, senior supervisors, supervisors and facilitators. Funded by IKEA Foundation and HCL Foundation, respectively, the two trainings were conducted by a project team from the Development Alternatives (DA) Headquarters - Aquil Ahmad (Manager), Divya Mehrotra (Deputy Manager), Parveen Kumar (Project Coordinator), Rajeev Pandey (Project Coordinator) and Trina Das (Deputy Manager). Following a process of identification, selection and recruitment, the recommended TARA Sahelis underwent a three-day training that included an introduction to the TA+ programme and Gyan Chaupali, description of their roles and responsibilities, and training on the daily activities to be conducted, the qualitative aspects, such as communication skills, life skills and qualities of a TARA Saheli, and gender sensitisation. The TARA Sahelis were acquainted with and trained on the intricacies of running a Gyan Chaupali. Importance was given to the softer aspects of the programme, for example, how to conduct oneself in a centre, how the training will help women in their lives, and the importance and impact of literacy on an adult woman's life.