

## Narendra's Story

*Banda, Uttar Pradesh, January 2017*



During the Kadam Badhate Chalo (KBC) Sports Leadership Workshop in Banda, **Narendra Kumar** amazed everyone with his quick learning skills and creative instinct. In a group of participants that found it hard to understand the purpose of the games being played, Narendra stood out with his logical capabilities and assistance towards his peers. He is a team player who believes in working together and learning together.



Narendra is a 22 year old boy who lives in Bharkhari village of Banda District in Uttar Pradesh. Narendra's father works as a carpenter and his mother is a homemaker. Narendra started chewing tobacco at an early age, just like most of the other youth in his village. And within a short span of time, this habit turned into an addiction. It was during the final year of his B.Com that Narendra was detected with severe Tuberculosis. This illness almost took his life and he had to drop out of his undergraduate studies. After continued medication and ample rest for four months, Narendra came to recover from his ailment. This incident had a transformational impact on him. He realized that he came so close to losing his life at very young age and decided to make use of the second chance that life had given him.

In January 2017, there was a rally in his village regarding an upcoming Kadam Badhate Chalo sports leadership workshop. He thought of this workshop as a good opportunity to re-start his social life and get back with people his age again. Despite a tragic past, he entered the workshop on a positive note and decided to make the most out of it. With each day of the workshop, Narendra's confidence kept increasing. He was fascinated by the unconventional multi-sports activities and how they carry a message about equality,

teamwork, leadership and effective communication. Due to his humble attitude and caring nature, Narendra was loved and respected by all the other participants. Being new to the KBC program, Narendra learned the games and the rationale behind them pretty fast. On the second day of the workshop, Narendra expressed his views,



"I have completely enjoyed this workshop so far. I read the entire games manual at home after the Day one of the workshop. I not only learned how to play these games but also how to deliver them. I really like the fact that these games give us an opportunity to apply our own creative ideas via progression. It really boosts my confidence when all the participants

and trainers appreciate and applaud me for my opinion and ideas”.

*\*The above quote has been translated in English, from Hindi, in which it was originally narrated.*

Narendra displayed exceptional leadership skills during practical assessment on the final day of the workshop. He was so motivated by the workshop that after its completion, he decided to conduct a sports gathering in his village. Narendra, along with two other participants, successfully conducted a sports gathering in two villages of Banda district. During these two gatherings, he made sure that all the participants enjoy the games as well as learn to address unmentionable issues on gender, violence and equality. Narendra’s problem-solving skills, forward-thinking attitude, responsible nature and pro-activeness make him an epitome of an influential leader.

