Today’s MARVI worker 25 years old Jaya Paradha was born in a poor family in a village called Parkar. Soon after she was born her family moved to village Kolhi Daro when a conflict between Kolhi community and Khosa tribe started over a dispute of land.

Village Kolhi Daro is a small village and overly populated with a life standard below poverty line. Health, Education and safe drinking water were the major problem faced by the community. Unawareness about Family Planning and Reproductive Health was making the situation worst.

In the baseline survey held by Health Program of HANDS it was seen that most of the child births conducted were at home by unskilled Traditional Birth Attendant (TBA) who is commonly known as “Dai” in the villages. Around 63%, deliveries conducted by Dais which are unsafe and unhygienic. Lady Health Workers cover only 56% of the population all over the Pakistan and lack of family planning and reproductive health services is a crucial issue. Village Kohli Daro, were following the same pattern as other villages in the country. Serious pregnancy cases with complications usually transported to Umerkot city emergency service. As the transportation is also a big concern for the deprived absence of vehicles or ambulance service, so carrying the patient on an uncovered donkey carts worsen the cases.

HANDS team selected Jaya Paradha as a MARVI Worker on the basis of her skills and ability to learn, Due to cultural restrictions the idea was not appreciated by most in the village. By working hard and by providing awareness sessions, people started to learn how important health is and to have someone who can help at the time of need. Gladly many in the village then accepted her and she was labeled as MARVI Worker. Jaya Paradha started visiting houses door by door and helped the community learn about their rights as well as created awareness in them about health and hygiene. They were quite comfortable with Jaya as she used the local language to communicate.

To help families in different communities like Jaya Paradha’s community, HANDS and TRDP under MARVI project selected 350 MARVI Workers to improve Reproductive Health and Family Planning status in marginalized communities of Umerkot.

These MARVI Workers are the best part of HANDS & TRDP community mobilizing teams, who creates awareness in families about the health rights and encourages them to get relief if they have health problems. In last three years, HANDS & TRDP community mobilizing teams have given relief to thousands of rural communities and now the community is utilizing and performing healthy practices with commitments.