Grooming women’s entrepreneurial and business management skills is one of the core objectives of our livelihood interventions. Identifying ’Women Entrepreneurs’ amongst rural women is at the forefront of our community initiatives. Considering this, in the last one quarter we organized 6 inclusive trainings on Entrepreneurship, Financial Literacy and SHGs Management, which helped 106 women start their entrepreneurial activities through assembling and production of market ready products like LED bulbs, Nutritional Supplements, Legging Garments, Paper Plates and Detergent Powder.

Ensuring good health and wellbeing of adolescents and women is essential for building a nation, hale and hearty. In the last quarter, our workshops on health, hygiene, sex education and safe motherhood ensured key takeaways for 191 adolescent girls and women with regard to balanced diet, menstrual cycle, safe physical relationships, contraceptives, pregnancy, 108 ambulance services, child health, and immunization, covering all significant aspects of RMNCH+A laid by ‘National Health Mission’.

Within our Sustainable Livelihood through Grassroots Mobilization initiative with support from ‘Missio’, we organized multiple village level activities to make the masses aware of violence against women and its ill effects on society. Through these rallies, we reached out to 98,006 men and women, orienting them about their rights and proper legal assistance in case of any violence against women within their families or surroundings. JVS stood with women like Mrs Lakshmina Devi and Ms Reeta to take firm action against domestic violence and substance abuse while simultaneously collectivizing local women to raise voice against these evils.
During this quarter, we also trained 425 women from Harahua, Pindra and Kerakat blocks of Varanasi and Jaunpur districts to manufacture market ready products like Nutritional Supplements, Sanitary Pads, LED Bulbs, Detergent Powder, Paper Plates and Legging Garments. These trained women are now manufacturing their own products, promoting them within their own native villages at minimal prices, earning sustainable incomes for themselves.

CELEBRATION OF 'INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY'

Celebrating the spirit of womanhood and advocating equal rights for women, we celebrated 'International Women's Day' on March 8 with the theme of 'Women in Leadership, Achieving an Equal Future in COVID-19 World'. The day was marked with a 2-kilometer-long women's 'swabhiman rally' voicing their rights, and raising the issues of domestic violence and substance abuse along with cultural performances. A total of 2,670 women turned up at this event, unambiguously displaying the strength of 'women's power'. Ms. Meena Devi, Ms. Gudia Sonkar and Ms. Rubeena Bano from Harahua, Kerakat and Pindra bagged the 'JVS Best Entrepreneur Award' whereas, Ms. Chinta Devi, Ms. Sunita Devi, Ms. Mayawati Gautam and Ms. Manju Maurya received 'JVS Best Women Leader Award' on this annual occasion.

EMPOWERING DISABLED PEOPLE THROUGH MOBILE APP

Making the best use of mobile technology and internet, we introduced 'DivySewa' mobile application which has a pan-Uttar Pradesh reach and can be accessed by anyone with a smart-phone. This app intends to reach out to Persons with Disabilities and connect them with government schemes that may benefit them through Disability Certificates, Free of Cost Assistive Devices, Education/Business Loans, etc. A total of 3,094 persons with disabilities have been identified through door-to-door survey out of which 188 have already been registered with the app.

TRAINING ON TELE-REHABILITATION

In our efforts towards building capacities of other community-based organizations, we organized a 5-days residential training over early identification and intervention of disability in children through 'Tele-Rehabilitation'. Fifteen participants from 8 different states of North Western, North Central and North Eastern states of India participated in this training, getting detailed knowledge over physical rehabilitation of children with disabilities through tele-mode.
GM NABARD VISITS JVS CAMPUS

Mr. Raymond B D'Souza, GM, National Bank for Agriculture & Rural Development (NABARD) along with Mr. Anuj Kumar Singh, AGM visited the JVS campus to interact with women from Self Help Groups (SHGs) of our project locations. The guests had a candid interaction with women entrepreneurs who displayed their self-produced items such as Nutritional Supplements, Legging garments, Disinfectants and LED Bulbs. Orienting women over the benefits of NABARD's E-Shakti SHGs portal, they even emphasized working towards microenterprises' sustainability.

KNOWLEDGE SHARING WITH ORGANIZATIONS IN THE DISABILITY SECTOR

Working earnestly towards the cause of rehabilitation for children with disabilities, JVS conducted a residential training for 16 participants from 6 states, giving them essential knowledge of 'Community Based Rehabilitation' (CBR) topics like Models of Disability, Community based Inclusive Development, Causes and Types of Disability, Individual Educational Plan, Teaching Learning Methodology (TLM) making, etc. Visiting experts as well as our in-house trainers disseminated the knowledge through interactive sessions and playful activities.

'BANSUNWAI' (Public Hearing) FOR GRIEVANCE REDRESSAL OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

A constructive public hearing, i.e., 'Jan Sunwai' program was also organized in the month of February when 125 persons with disabilities registered their grievances out of which 63 were resolved on the spot in the presence of District Disability Empowerment Officer, Mr. Rajesh Kumar Mishra and Block Development Officer (Harahua), Mr. Dharmendra Prasad Dwivedi. Complainants like 24-year-old Sunil Kumar suffering from Locomotor Disability were guided to avail the government schemes for free commuting vehicle and residence through Unique Disability Identification (UDID) card. Similarly, 20-year-old Pooja Kumari doing BA from Saraswati Takneeki Mahavidyalya of Gahni village too was oriented to register for UDID Card and avail the benefits of disabled pension scheme, residence and disabled-friendly toilet for easy accessibility.

BLOOD DONATION CAMP AT JVS

Taking an extra step towards community service, a blood donation drive was organized at JVS campus on February 24, where 15 of our team members donated one unit of blood each to the Blood Bank of Popular Medicare Hospital, Varanasi. The donors were given certificate of appreciation along with medals for their active participation towards this noble cause.

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LIVELIHOOD INITIATIVES BY WOMEN

Women trained by JVS in sewing and stitching have come together and established 'MVS Women Boutique Stores' in Pindra and Harahua blocks of Varanasi, ensuring sustainable income sources for tens of women from these areas, who are allotted 'paid' sewing and stitching assignments for producing products such as Women Leggings, Kurts, Ankle Length Trousers, etc. These and other 'MVS Boutique Stores' are not only boosting the morale of these budding 'Womenpreneurs,' but is also instilling within the team a sense of confidence that when given a chance they too can rewrite their paths to prosperity and success.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

This quarter also became memorable for a range of awards and accolades that JVS earned for our persistent efforts towards empowering communities, especially people with disabilities within state of Uttar Pradesh and beyond. Most importantly, during this period our endeavors were acknowledged by the Department of Disability Empowerment, Government of Uttar Pradesh as JVS was awarded the 'STATE AWARD FOR THE EMPOWERMENT OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES – 2020' in Category of Best Institution for Promoting Inclusive Education for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities by the Minister for Backward Classes Welfare and Disability Empowerment – Mr. Anil Rajbhar. Ms Savitri (JVS Employee) also was awarded as the 'Best Disabled Employee – 2020' in the Category of Locomotor Disability.

JVS also received other awards, like 'Pratigya – Stand for a Cause Certificate of Excellence 2020' for exceptional contribution towards the upliftment of weaker sections of society by 'Brands Impact', 'Mahatma Award for Social Good 2020' by 'Aditya Birla Group' and 'Special Jury Appreciation for Empowering the Rural Population' by Indian Chamber of Commerce (ICC)