

JVS SAMACHAR

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HAND HOLDING SUPPORT TO PREGNANT WOMEN AND LACTATING MOTHERS

JVS is committed to ensure safe motherhood in 25 panchayats of Harahua and Badagaon blocks of Varanasi district. Our team performed several activities this quarter to ensure better awareness among rural communities, especially among pregnant and lactating mothers. This included 20 wall writings and 18 street plays on related themes by which about 2,270 people benefitted. Likewise, we also coordinated 4 workshops on health and hygiene for adolescent girls and young mothers in which 234 young women along with adolescent girls participated. Moreover, 24 health camps were also organized in which 2,340 people had their health check-up done and they were supported with appropriate medicine. We also organized 12 workshops with 102 Ambulance Services to bridge the gap between pregnant women and lactating mothers and their need for emergency healthcare and transport services, thus linking 917 pregnant and lactating women with 102 Ambulance Service. In partnership with the local health department, 6 HRP (High Risk Pregnancy) camps were organized through which 109 pregnant mothers were guided regarding their pregnancy and safe delivery.



CELEBRATION OF INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

The biggest event for JVS during the year is the Women's Day celebrations. This year the international women's day was celebrated twice, in a limited way on March 08 and in a larger way on March 29. For the programme on March 08, forty officials from Rajya Bhasha Vibhag, NABARD joined us with the focus of discussion and exchange of views on livelihood programmes. The programme on March 29 was on the theme 'Gender Equality Today for a Sustainable Tomorrow' which had a gathering of more than 1200 women from our SHGs in Varanasi and Jaunpur districts. Different events were organized during the day like public march from Aayar to Murdaha during which women voiced their needs in the form of slogans, followed by a gathering in JVS campus. Among the guests were Mrs Poonam Maurya (President, Zila Parishad), Mrs. Mamta Rani (ADC, IPS, Varanasi), Mr Anuj Kr. Singh (AGM, NABARD), Dr Neelika Ambesh (Sangam Hospital), Mrs Ranju Singh (Director, LCS) and Mrs Ribu Srivastav (Ex-Cabinet Minister) who addressed the women and motivated them to continue their struggle for equal rights, health and safety and livelihood initiatives. Many women pradhans too participated in the gathering and encouraged the rest. Women made the day more colour ful with their sharing, skits, songs, etc. The best entrepreneurs received awards at the end of the programme.



MAHILA SAMMELAN BY RURAL ENTREPRENEURS

Our efforts to empower rural women, are taking a strong base as a good number of women are already into running their own small enterprises. With the aim to motivate more rural women to start such ventures, we organized cluster level gatherings of SHG women in Harahua and Pindra blocks of Varanasi district and in Kerakat block of Jaunpur district. During these gatherings, the women who are already successfully running different income generation activities shared their stories and how their life-situation is slowly changing. The women also discussed about possible initiatives which could be successfully carried out by themselves, including production as well as marketing. During this quarter, 40 such *mahila sammelan* meetings were organized in these three blocks, through which 4,680 women were motivated to carry on with their activities or come forward to start new activities. The JVS team also shared and discussed about possible group entrepreneurial activities based on out-of-the-box ideas, keeping in mind the sustainability aspect of business.



BUILDING EFFECTIVE NETWORK

Government and non-governmental agencies need to work together and complement each other in order to ensure proper implementation of governmental schemes and policies for the betterment of the stakeholders. JVS has been coordinating and facilitating various activities around Disability and Development themes for the past two decades. Taking this initiative further, JVS organized two meetings in Varanasi (Uttar Pradesh) and Imphal (Manipur) to strengthen the existing networks of NGOs and DPOs. During these sessions, various topics were highlighted such as roles and responsibilities of NGOs, leadership, governance and effective management of networks, and decision-making. This training will help members of DPOs and NGOs to come together and discuss their future strategies for effective network building and sharing their knowledge and skills.



CAPACITY BUILDING ON IDENTIFICATION AND REFERRAL OF HIGH RISK BABIES

One of the major focus areas of Jan Vikas Samiti (JVS) is prevention and early identification of developmental delay and disabilities in the area of rehabilitation of children with disabilities. Preterm infants are the most recognized and targeted population of high-risk infants. Premature (less than 37 weeks) and low birth weight (weighing less than 2,000 g) babies are considered as high-risk babies. These newborns are at higher risk for immature lung, hyperglycemia, heart, intestinal and brain conditions. There is a high mortality risk among such high-risk infants. It can be reduced with better maternal health and neonatal care. To facilitate timely referral for early interventions and neonatal care of high-risk infants, JVS organized a training programme, which was attended by 22 participants who learned about prevention, identification, assessment, intervention and referral of such high-risk babies. Early and quality intervention and long-term assistance improve their quality of life altogether, minimizes the secondary complications and improves the cognitive functionality of infants at high risk.



CAPACITY BUILDING FOR WOMEN LEADERS

Learning is a life-long process as it helps one remain updated of the fast changing technologies and almost everything else. For rural women, capacity building sessions are a felt need as they otherwise lack the opportunities to update themselves. In rural areas, women shoulder the bigger part of family responsibility as they have the double task of looking after the home and the fields. Taking time out from their regular routine for a learning session is indeed a happy-time as they wait for such opportunities. JVS organizes these learning sessions at panchayat/block levels to reduce travelling. During the last quarter, eight such one-day training sessions were organized on different topics such as problem solving, decision making, leadership, gender rights and equality, etc. We witnessed lively participation of a total of 251 women for these trainings. Every training session is also a celebration as women get to share with one another their stories and learn something new for life from one another as well.



TO T ON INDIAN SIGN LANGUAGE & ORIENTATION AND MOBILITY

Lack of awareness about the various issues of persons with hearing impairment, particularly the absence or lack of knowledge of sign language among the general public makes the biggest barrier for the hearing-impaired adolescents to integrate themselves into schools and the society. Due to communication limitation, children with hearing impairments suffer relatively more than other children with disabilities in the classroom. Lack of trained teachers also multiplies their problems. To bridge this gap, JVS conducted two training programmes to enable the CBR workers to learn and practise Indian Sign Language with their children and youngsters with hearing impairment in their work areas. A total of 39 CBR workers from Bihar, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh took part in it. The participants learned the basics of sign language like English alphabets, Hindi alphabets, name of months, name of days, name of fruits, body parts, name of animals and many more common words used for day-to-day communication. Mr. Anurag from National Association for the Blind (NAB), New Delhi facilitated these trainings.

Handling the children with low vision and blindness at the community level has also been a concern for CBR workers due to their own lack of knowledge and skills. JVS also conducted two training programmes on Orientation and Mobility skills, which are important to be developed in infancy. During the training, Mr. Anil (NAB, New Delhi) covered sensory awareness, spatial concepts, searching skills, independent movement, sighted guide, protective techniques, cane skills, etc. with the fundamentals of brail.



UPSKILLING ON LIVELIHOOD

Livelihood promotion of rural women is one of the core areas of JVS programmes and activities. Jan Vikas Samiti has had a set target of facilitating 900 rural women entrepreneurs for the past three years in Varanasi and Jaunpur districts, Uttar Pradesh together. The January-March 2022 being the last quarter, JVS organized different up skilling training sessions. Two hundred fifty one women engaged in different activities, like leggings production, paper plate production, bag making, spices packaging attended these up skilling training sessions. During these sessions, greater focus was given to understanding effective marketing strategies for sustainability. Livelihood training sessions have always been of great interest to women and their participation has been lively and total both during the training as well as post-training. Forty-four women expressed their interest to either start a new livelihood activity or improve on the one already up and running.



LEARNING THROUGH EXPOSURE VISITS

Our women, during different levels of interaction, have expressed their desire to work on dairy and food processing. In the coming two years, JVS intends to enable women to initiate new products. One of such initiatives would be 'training and hand holding' support to a group of women to set up a food processing unit. With this intent, we organised 6 units of exposure visits during this quarter with 25 women each to different start-ups/large level manufacturing enterprises like Parag Dairy, Parle Food Processing Centre, Sapt Rishi Pickles and Jam Production Centre. These visits helped our women to get a first-hand idea of how the start-ups and enterprises function. They also received useful tips on marketing strategies and how to make their products sustainable in the market.



WE RING THE BELL CAMPAIGN

Jan Vikas Samiti organized 'We Ring The Bell Campaign' from March 10-25, 2022 in collaboration with 34 organizations from 11 states working in the field of disability. A total of 1,10,016 persons, including children, parents, teachers, government officials and people's representatives participated in the campaign.



TRAINING ON ACCESSIBILITY

Access for people with disabilities further develops access for everyone. Making public spaces and facilities physically accessible for people with disabilities like wise further improves accessibility for the common people. Nationwide Accessible India Campaign (Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan) has an index to measure the design of disabled-friendly buildings and human resource policies. Due to poor publicity and lack of awareness on accessibility, things are not moving as desired. JVS initiated an awareness cum sensitization programme on accessibility through the organisations working with persons with disabilities with a training, giving detailed information on physical accessibility at home and in work places.



JAN VIKAS SAMITI has been awarded with the Zero Project Award 2022 during the Zero Project Conference in the Office of the United Nations in Vienna on 23rd February 2022 for its Project Sambhav. It is tele-rehabilitation of children with developmental disabilities through Web Portal and Mobile Application

