



## Highlights

### PRA:

40 Panchayat Profiles were prepared with resource maps for project implementation on promoting livelihood

### IGA:

118 Women have initiated small-scale start-ups towards self-reliance

### Capacity Development:

437 women have improved leadership skills through seminars and workshops

### Aids and Appliance:

9 Children with disabilities have improved mobility with their new aids and appliances

### Baseline Survey:

Database of 3094 persons with disabilities has been created for linkage of social security schemes

### Awareness Campaign:

652 persons expressed solidarity and assurance to raise voice against all forms of violence and discrimination

### Volunteers:

28 youngsters joined hands to promote the vision and mission of Jan Vikas Samiti

## Identification of Local Resources through Participatory Rural Appraisal

Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) is often used as an approach and learning process to include the knowledge and opinion of local people and local resources in the planning and development of programmes and projects. JVS carried out the PRA exercise in 20 panchayats each both in Pindra block of Varanasi and Kerakat block of Jaunpur to prepare the village



profile by identifying the local resources and livelihood opportunities at village and panchayat levels, before starting the second year of activities of the project on promoting livelihood among rural women in the selected panchayats. This exercise helped JVS to draw an action plan for the effective implementation of the project.

## Workshop on Gender Equality and Domestic Violence



Gender equality is an important concern, especially in the background of the increasing number of domestic violence during the lockdown due to Covid-19. Domestic violence is a serious threat for many rural women.

It often takes many forms, including emotional, sexual and physical abuse. Reports suggest that domestic violence reached a 10-year high during the recent lockdown. JVS organized five seminars from July to September 2020 on Gender Equality and Domestic Violence in Pindra (Varanasi) and Kerakat (Jaunpur) blocks in which a total of 179 persons participated. Ms. Neeti, speaking on Gender Equality, emphasized the need for men and women to play complementary roles to build up a strong and caring society. She also motivated the women to play positive and supportive roles for women who may face gender discrimination from their own family members or others. Ms. Renu Upadhyay explained to the participants the meaning and forms of domestic violence and the various ways to protect oneself and seek justice under the Domestic Violence Act, 2005.

## Workshop on Financial Literacy and SHG Management

Financial management is an important component in the functioning of Self Help Groups. As most members of the SHGs are not so good at bookkeeping and financial management, JVS organized four workshops on financial literacy and SHG management from July to September 2020 in Kerakat and Pindra blocks. The workshops focused on enhancing the skills of SHG leaders on bookkeeping, expenditure management, savings, investments, remittance and other financial concerns.



## Women Entrepreneurship and Income Generation Activities

Studies suggest that in the recent years, women unemployment is on a chronic increase due to various reasons, including rising education, discrimination against women in labour market, etc. JVS focuses on developing women entrepreneurs by introducing opportunities for learning skills and initiating small scale enterprises with support from SHGs or bank loans. During the lockdown in July-September 2020, the following were the highlights:



- 65 women and young girls learned how to assemble LED bulbs. Post-training, many of them are engaged in assembling LED bulbs and earning an average income of Rs. 250 to 300 per day.

- 61 women and young girls completed a 21-days' training in leggings and kurti making. Post-training, 21 of them are engaged in production, earning an average income of Rs.200 to 250 per day.
- 20 women have set up petty shops in their homes from where they are selling all the products of the SHGs.
- 141 women participated in four trainings organized on IGA and marketing skills. 54 of them have shown interest to start some kind of income generation activities post training.

## Women Leadership Training

The role of women in leadership is inevitable for societal change and transformation, which is the motto of social organizations. As JVS works with rural women through SHGs we focus on enhancing leadership skills of women through regular training programmes. During the quarter July-September 2020, JVS organized three training programmes in which a total of 93 women leaders participated. The resource person enabled the participants to identify and affirm the innate leadership qualities they have and urged them to put the same to maximum use for social change.



## Awareness Campaign against Domestic Violence

In order to create mass awareness against the increasing instances of domestic violence, JVS initiated a campaign by sticking awareness posters in public places in villages and by screening a documentary against domestic violence, namely, 'Bol Basanti, episode 4 & 6'. The purpose of the campaign was to make people in the villages aware of the issue and create and strengthen a support system among women when faced with such situations. After the screening of the documentary,

discussions were held with the participants (463 in all) on ways and means to protect oneself and others from domestic violence.



### Health Awareness Seminar

JVS organized two health awareness seminars in Durgawati, Kaimur (Bihar) from July to September 2020 in which a total of 122 persons, including persons with disabilities participated. The seminars focused on the importance of health and hygiene in villages and the role of different stakeholders, including Village Sanitation and Water Committee (VSWC), to maintain health and hygiene in the villages.



- 3 families in Durgawati block were financially supported to construct disable-friendly toilets.
- A CBO meeting was organized in Gousepur panchayat in Durgawati block to put pressure on PRI members to take necessary steps to improve hygiene in the panchayat.
- Village Sanitation and Water Committee meeting was organized in Gorar panchayat in Durgawati block in which 39 members of the VSWC participated and assured to become change agents.

### Seminar on Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016

With the enactment of the Right of Persons with Disabilities Act 2016, the number of persons with disabilities increased many-fold, which according to the World Health Organization is around 10% of the total population.

The RPWD Act, 2016 has enabled millions of persons with disabilities to have their identity, besides making them eligible for government schemes and benefits. However, there is greater need to make the stakeholders aware of the different types of disability, especially the 14 newly added disabilities. JVS, working with over 6300 persons with disabilities in North and North East India is committed to spread this awareness across the country. Two seminars were organized on this topic from July to September 2020, the first one in Varanasi by JVS and the second in Gorakhpur in collaboration with PGSS.



### Legal Literacy Camp

The RPWD Act 2016 provides for notifying Special Courts in each district to try offences against persons with disabilities. Many districts including Varanasi are yet to have such special courts notified. Under such a situation, it is even more difficult for persons with disabilities to seek justice.



JVS organized a legal literacy camp in Varanasi and requested the Secretary, District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) who was the guest of the day, to take up the matter with the competent authority to notify the Special Court in Varanasi. The Secretary, DALSA also distributed aids and appliances to 9 persons with disabilities during the occasion.



### Disability Baseline Survey of Sevapuri Block

Sevapuri, the NitiAyog adopted block of Varanasi, is in the process of becoming the first model block in the country. JVS joined hands with the Varanasi district administration in this effort by volunteering to take up a door-to-door survey of all the 87 panchayats to gather information about persons with disabilities. The survey has created a database of 3094 individuals with disabilities of which 36% are female and the rest, male. The survey results show that about 50% of them have made their disability certificate while the others haven't. The survey also shows that only 2.1 % of them have UDID cards while the majority hasn't. The database will soon be placed before the Varanasi district administration for appropriate action and follow up.



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Your contribution will help us continue in our mission to create a more equitable, just and sustainable society for the marginalized sections of the society, especially women, children and youngsters with disabilities.

### ACCREDITATIONS



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