

# JVS SAMACHAR

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## COVID-19 AWARENESS AND VACCINATION

JVS went full steam ahead during the COVID-19 second wave scare to prevent the dreadful pandemic COVID-19 among the communities we regularly work with. To achieve this, JVS engaged with various stakeholders such as local health departments, local elected leaders and funding partners to maximize COVID-19 immunization, especially in the rural areas. We kicked off a month-long COVID-19 Awareness and Vaccination Campaign on August 01 in 8 states through modified vehicles with recorded audio messages for this purpose and created mass awareness among over 11,03,000 rural population and facilitated COVID-19 vaccination for close to 6,000 people. Again, on September 01, we initiated another COVID-19 awareness and vaccination campaign in 5 districts of Uttar Pradesh through door-to-door counselling with the help of 40 volunteers. Through this campaign we counselled 1,66,711 people to take the COVID-19 vaccination and facilitated the COVID-19 vaccination for 40,327 people in the month of September.



## FLOOD RELIEF IN MIRZAPUR

Mirzapur was one of the worst hit districts by the flood in the Ganges in early September 2021. Hundreds of villages were under water for more than a week, causing great damages to crops, livestock and properties. As the people in the area were in need of immediate help in the form of food and water, we intervened in 25 villages in Sikhad block where JVS works on Women Empowerment programme. During the one week's relief work we reached out to 7,244 people with cooked food. After the water level receded, we helped the people with dry ration kits. A total of 2,123 kits containing rice, wheat flour, pulse, onion, potato, edible oil, mosquito net, gram, soya bean and basic medicines were provided to the people in these 25 villages. We also cleaned and repaired 150 hand pumps in 23-village panchayats of Sikhad block to help the people have safe drinking water.





## EMPOWERING WOMEN AT GRASSROOTS

JVS organizes regular training programmes and workshops to build the capacities of women, who are members of our SHGs. Maintaining the Covid-19 protocol, we were still able to organize 15 trainings sessions in this quarter, mostly at the community level on different thematic areas such as financial literacy, problem solving and decision making, constitutional rights, gender rights and equality, national and international legal framework for the protection of women's rights, etc. A total of 461 women from different SHGs have gained better knowledge and confidence through these trainings.



## ENSURING SAFE MOTHERHOOD

Aiming to reduce maternal mortality rate through an improved reproductive health system, JVS organizes various community activities to sensitize the rural community, especially pregnant women and young mothers in Varanasi. During this quarter, JVS organised 25 street plays in rural parts of Varanasi to create awareness about lactating mothers' and pregnant women's health concerns and nutritional needs. We also organised 21 health camps in which 1,988 people had their health check up and were provided with appropriate medicine. We also organized workshops with 102 Ambulance Service to bridge the gap between pregnant women and lactating mothers and their need for emergency healthcare and transport services.



## EMPOWERING "MISSION SHAKTI"

To ensure better health and sanitation among adolescent girls and young women working or pursuing studies in rural areas, JVS installed 14 semi-automatic sanitary pad vending machines in different educational institutions of Varanasi and Jaunpur districts. The intension is to ensure easy availability and accessibility of good quality sanitized sanitary pad at minimum price. This has been welcomed by both girls as well as the institutions as it has been an area of concern for the institutions. Our SHGs have been linked with these institutions for refilling and maintenance of these machines so that they enjoy the benefits of the profit from this endeavour.



## PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOOD

Livelihood being one of the main thematic areas of JVS, we organize frequent training programmes and workshops to facilitate members of our SHGs to initiate their own livelihood activities. During this quarter, we organised training programmes on 3 thematic areas, namely, mushroom cultivation, manufacturing of washing powder and marketing of sanitary pads in Varanasi and Jaunpur districts. One hundred and eighty-one women were trained through 6 training sessions, of which 14 women started mushroom cultivation, another 28 initiated manufacturing and marketing of washing powder and 32 got engaged in marketing of sanitary pad.





## AWARDS & RECOGNITION

JVS received the **CSR Health Impact Bronze Award** from the IHW Council under Rural Health Initiatives for the project SAMBHAV (Tele-rehabilitation services for Children with disabilities). The project SAMBHAV aims to capacitate CBR facilitators on rehabilitation diagnosis, making custom made treatment/rehabilitation plans and providing appropriate therapies to children with physical disabilities in the rural parts of India. Nineteen collaborative organisations from Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Uttarakhand, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan, Manipur and Meghalaya are together working to rehabilitate over 700 children with disabilities through this project. Jan Vikas Samiti also received the **Mahatma Award for COVID-19 Humanitarian Efforts** recently for the commendable work done during the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> wave of COVID-19. The Mahatma Award is an initiative of the Aditya Birla Group and the award was given out by Dr Kiran Bedi.



## TRAINING ON UNCRPD AND RPWD ACT 2016

The UNCRPD is a broad vision and provides guiding principles for realizing the rights of persons with disabilities. Realization of UNCRPD principles in reality is essential for elimination of the barriers for a full and effective participation of persons with disabilities in all walks of life through RPwDs Act 2016. JVS organized training on the similarities and gaps in UNCRPD & RPwD Act 2016 for wider dissemination and dialogue among various stakeholders at the local and national levels to remove the barriers for persons with disabilities. Eleven participants from five organisations working in the field of disabilities participated in the training in Kolkata. We also organized another training session on gender and child rights for grass roots facilitators, in which 22 participants from Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh attended and improved their knowledge and skills.



## TOT ON MOBILITY TRAINING AND SIGN LANGUAGE

Orientation and Mobility is a critical area for children with low vision and visual impairments as it is essential to learn to move safely and efficiently and as independently as possible through all environments. There is a lack of trained professionals and CBR facilitators to teach the children to move safely and efficiently through their environment. JVS conducted 4 days' training of trainer (ToT) programme in Delhi and Kolkata, which were attended by 19 persons from 18 organisations working in Uttarakhand, J&K, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and West Bengal. Training was focused on how to get around in special situations like halls, stairs, doorways, curbs, banks, hotels, pools, parks, etc. and also on special protective techniques. Participants learned different movement concepts like go, start, stop, fast, slow, push, pull, scribble, draw, trace, bend, close, open, slide, fold, hold, insert, place (put), put together, reach, sit, squeeze, turn, take apart, follow, etc. An understanding of movement concepts is important for following directions as well as in the development of orientation and mobility skills. By keeping children with hearing impairment and multiple disabilities, participants also

got basic knowledge of American and Indian sign language to establish better communication with children.





## TOT ON SKILL DEVELOPMENT

JVS aims to change the perception by enabling the skills of persons with disabilities and their families through different skills trainings such as manufacturing washing powder, toilet cleaner, floor cleaner, assembling LED lights, etc. Such entrepreneurship development and sustainable livelihood programmes have enabled rural entrepreneurship by providing necessary technical support. JVS conducted a 6-days'-ToT for 17 participants from 13 organisations from Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. The participants are expected to initiate similar steps to train people in their own areas to enhance livelihood options, especially for persons with disabilities.



## AUGMENTATIVE & ALTERNATIVE COMMUNICATION

For some children with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Down Syndrome, and other disabilities, speech does not fulfil all of their communication needs. For these children with complex communication needs, the use of Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) has important benefits. To fill the gaps of communication in between CBR facilitators and children with disabilities, JVS conducted a three-days' training programme in Indore for 22 participants from 14 organisations of Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh. During the training they learned to use a wide range of AAC techniques available, including, picture, symbol, alphabet, word board, signs and gestures including speech-generating devices. Training has given an introduction to the ways children can use AAC to participate in communication and classroom activities. The trainer also facilitated to develop AAC with the help of local resources available in the community.



## TRAINING ON WHEELCHAIR MODIFICATION

Developmental devices or assistive devices help children with developmental disabilities better engage with everyday activities and tasks in their home, school and community by improving or compensating their limitations. For example, a child with a developmental disability who uses a wheelchair has improved mobility allowing them to move more freely around their home, travel within their community and access their school. In order to realize these benefits, JVS conducted two training programmes in Ajmer and Indore on fabrication of developmental devices and wheelchair modification with mobility training. Thirty-two participants from 19 organizations attended the training programmes. Participants got a hands-on practice to measure and fabricate developmental/assistive devices as per the need of children and availability of materials.



## TRAINING ON TLM DEVELOPMENT

To enhance the learning skills of children with disabilities focusing on their specific needs, JVS conducted 3 training programmes to develop teaching learning materials, which were attended by 24 organisations from Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Chhattisgarh. These trainings helped the participants to use multi-sensory approach, i.e., audio, visual, tactile and kinesthetic while dealing with children having special needs. Training has also widened the base of knowledge for the participants who are working in the field of disability rehabilitation in their local areas. As special educators are not available in remote and rural areas, such trainings help them to transfer these skills to the parents and caretakers for early education or school preparedness to their children.

