Wheelchair Modification cum Mobility Training

In addition to providing mobility, an appropriate wheelchair benefits the physical health and quality of life of the users. Effective training of wheelchair modification skills in rehabilitation and community settings is key to increasing participation by individuals with mobility & functionality limitations. Thirteen participants from 10 collaborative organizations in six states from North India participated in a three-days hands-on practice to learn propulsion techniques, transfers in and out of the wheelchair, provide maintenance to the wheelchair and navigate barriers such as curbs, ramps and rough terrains during this wheelchair training.

Seminar on Inclusive Education and Child Rights

A two-day state level seminar on Inclusive Education and Child Rights was organized by JVS in Lucknow on August 26-27, 2022 in collaboration with Composite Regional Centre for Skill Development, Rehabilitation & Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (CRC), Lucknow. Over 120 persons, including Rehabilitation Council of India registered rehabilitation professionals and special educators, attended the seminar. Ms. Aloka Guha (Ex. Chairperson, National Trust, New Delhi) and Mr. K. D. Mishra (Consultant from Bal Sakha Patna) facilitated the sessions on Inclusive Education and Child Rights, respectively. Ms. Guha enlightened the participants and deepened their knowledge on Right to Education, New Education Policy and Universal Design for Learning (UDL) and guided the participants on improving teaching and learning for children with disabilities in an inclusive set up. Mr. K. D. Mishra shared his expertise and experience on Child Rights through the different acts related to child rights like Juvenile Justice (Care & Protection) Act, Integrated Child Protection Scheme, POCSO, etc. He answered many questions from the floor on how children can be protected from different kinds of abuse and exploitation.
Formation and Strengthening Organizations of People with Disabilities

In order to advocate for oneself, people with disabilities need to build and strengthen their solidarity, express their opinion and voice against rights' violations. An empowered DPO and its members are able to better access government facilities and schemes in health, education, jobs, and other services. Formation and strengthening of Disabled People’s Organizations (DPOs) at villages and panchayats leads to stronger disabled people’s movements at district and higher level. The two-days' training organized by JVS at Bethiah, Bihar helped 17 community facilitators from 4 collaborative organizations to learn the art of organizing persons with disabilities at the grassroots. DPOs aim to ensure that development process at all levels are inclusive of the voices and needs of people with disabilities and that they are aware of their rights and participate on an equal basis as others in all aspects of society.

Persons with disabilities have the right to the enjoyment as well of the highest attainable standards of health, education, livelihood and social inclusion like anybody else without any discrimination. It is essential to the sustainable development of the entire society. However, persons with disabilities regularly experience violations on their rights on the ground due to various reasons. Lack of knowledge and awareness among persons with disabilities leads their exclusion from the society. JVS in its regular work takes up the task to strengthen the essential service provisions for persons with disabilities to ensure their rights. During this quarter, JVS conducted eight sessions with 89 persons with disabilities, their parents and other community members at grass-roots level to educate them on disability rights and help them access facilities and provisions provided by the state and central governments. Through these sessions members of DPOs are empowered to handle their needs and concerns, including disability certification, UDID, social security schemes, etc.
Health Services to Expectant and Lactating Mothers
Under the initiatives of the “Safe Motherhood” programme, our aim is to protect the over-all health and well-being of pregnant women and lactating mothers in twenty-five panchayats of Harahua and Badagaon blocks in Varanasi District. The ‘target’ population in these panchayats have been greatly benefitting from the various activities being conducted under this programme. One can see the positive changes this programme has brought on the wellbeing of would-be and young mothers and it has been proven that this project can make greater impacts in any similar situations. During this quarter:
- 750 institutional deliveries facilitated
- 1951 people received medical care through 24 health camps
- 49 high risk pregnant women counselled
- 701 pregnant women took pregnancy tests and received iron and calcium tablets
- 75 Peer group and 75 VHC meetings organized on maternal and child health care

Oyster Mushroom Cultivation - An Attempt to Double the Income
Mushroom cultivation can help reduce vulnerability to poverty and strengthens livelihoods through the generation of a fast yielding and nutritious source of food and a reliable source of income. Since it does not require access to land, mushroom cultivation is a viable and attractive activity for both rural farmers and peri-urban dwellers. Small-scale growing does not require any significant capital investment.

As part of our initiatives to maximize livelihood opportunities for SHG women, 80 women from 8 SHGs in Harahua block in Varanasi were trained in mushroom cultivation during the last quarter. The women went through the entire process and learned from identifying suitable straw for cultivation to types of chemical formalin and Bavistin to spawn identification to process of measuring, mixing and soaking chemical into water to making beds to harvesting mushroom, etc. Post training, members of 8 SHGs cultivated 200 mushroom beds. Forty-five k.g. of mushroom was harvested in the first round and sold in the local market at Rs. 200 per k.g. The profit ratio which is 3 times the investment is motivating more women to come forward to learn mushroom cultivation.

E-Commerce Platform for Online Marketing of SHG Products
SAMUHMART, an online marketing platform was launched by JVS for promoting and maximizing the sale of products made by SHG members, other women groups and persons with special needs. Currently, the portal has over 120 unique products prepared in different parts of the country, including G.I products and state specific items. The products are carefully identified, catalogued and completed with description and all marketing specifications. The portal connects the women producers directly with the customers. The portal has started shipping products and hopes to make a difference in e-marketing connected with women entrepreneurs in the coming months.

Inclusive Education Programme
Often, teachers in regular schools are not sufficiently aware of disability rights and the provisions of inclusion as prescribed in the Right to Education Act and Rights of Persons with Disability Act. Due to lack of knowledge in teachers the process of inclusion, especially in a school set up gets slower. The level of awareness and efforts towards inclusion in rural areas is more demanding. JVS continues its efforts to bring greater awareness among different stakeholders, including school teachers, care givers, parents, DPO & PRI members and frontline workers. During this quarter, JVS conducted 6 refresher trainings, 3 workshops for school managements and 18 community meetings for the stakeholders on Inclusive Education and the provisions of Right to Education Act.
Celebrating the Nutrition Week

As the saying goes, well-nourished mothers are more likely to give births to healthy infants. Good nutrition in the first 1,000 days supports a healthy start for children. Eating a balanced diet is not only important for children or the would-be and young mothers, but also provides the energy one needs to keep oneself active throughout the day. Nutrition Week is celebrated to raise awareness among the general public about the value of healthy eating practices and (proper nutrition for) upholding a healthy lifestyle. JVS in collaboration with Welspun Foundation, Vitamin Angels and other collaborative organizations organized various events and programmes during the Nutrition Week in different areas in Uttar Pradesh. Women and adolescent girls in large numbers participated in the week’s events and learnt on different topics like the Cycle of Malnutrition and Anaemia, Nutrition in Children and Adolescents, Importance of Nutrition in Adolescents, especially during menstruation, How to Maintain Health and Hygiene, etc.

Capacity Building of Co-operative Members

Our aim to empower women from marginalized communities for sustainable income by building and strengthening their own institutions, viz., Co-operatives and Farmer Producer Organizations towards economic independency is making progress. A series of training programmes were organized this quarter from expanding existing Self-Help Groups to form a Co-operative Society to building a system of facilitating easy access to microfinance to learning new skills to start individual and group business activities and to find market linkages, etc. The following is the list of training programmes we organised:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl. No.</th>
<th>Name of Training</th>
<th>No. of Participants</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>01</td>
<td>Formation of Co-operative Society, its Concept, Functioning, Work Structure and Memorandum of Association</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02</td>
<td>Development of Tools and Criteria for Identification of Co-operative Members</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>03</td>
<td>Development of Operational, Financial, H.R. Manual of Co-operative Societies</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>04</td>
<td>Financial Management for Women Entrepreneurs</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>05</td>
<td>Documentation and Book Keeping for Women Entrepreneurs</td>
<td>83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>06</td>
<td>Entrepreneurial and Management Skills for Women Entrepreneurs</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Manual Release on Inclusive Education

The development of a manual on Inclusive Education has been a long-desired agenda and the same was released on August 27, 2022 during a state level seminar on Inclusive Education. The manual is a joint effort by Jan Vikas Samiti, SPARK India - Lucknow, Holy Cross Welfare Trust - Sitapur and LogicBox - N. Delhi. Mr. Pawan Sachan - A.D., Basic Education, Dr. Uttam Ojha – Member, Central Disability Advisory Committee, G.O.I, Mr. Lalit Narayan, D.D. Inclusive Education in the presence of other guests and 120 special educators and rehabilitation professionals released the manual at Integrated Regional Skill Development Rehabilitation and Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities Center (CRC), Lucknow. The manual will serve as a handbook for school teachers and other professionals in their efforts to make inclusive education a reality.