



## Highlights

### Capacity Building

145 community facilitators capacitated on different thematic knowledge.

50 core team members of Co-operatives & FPOs capacitated on FPO & Co-operative management.

58 Collaborative Organizations capacitated on Early Identification & Early Intervention.

630 SHG members capacitated on livelihood activities & 78 women began own livelihoods.

### Employment

171 Youth with disabilities participated in Job Fair & 15 got placed.

86 Persons with disabilities had face-to-face meeting with govt. & PRI members and presented their concerns.

### Health Services

Facilitated 250 institutional deliveries, health check-up for 1102 children & women, iron & calcium tablets for 250 expectant mothers.

### Donor Visit

Representatives from Manos Unidas, Spain made visit to JVS to understand their projects.

## Workshop on Accessibility

Any place, product and activity can cause an accessibility problem for persons with disability. Improving accessibility brings increased quality of life, creates more independence and better social inclusion and also leads to better health and education facilities. JVS observed a wide gap in the area of knowledge and skills towards accessibility among CBR workers and other professionals. To equip our CBR workers and professionals, JVS conducted a two days' workshop on accessibility in Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh on October 17-18, 2022. Altogether 18 participants from 12 organizations joined the training programme. This training was focused on disability sensitization and awareness with legal and policy framework related to physical accessibility, mainly to buildings. During training, participants got practical experience regarding independent approach, entry, evacuation, and/ or use of a building and its services and facilities by all the users. Participants also interacted with each other on accessibility features, universal design, sanitary facility, accessible toilets, etc. The training improved the knowledge and skills of the CBR workers related to accessibility, which will be useful for their day-to-day work. Later on, JVS conducted an access audit of ATMs, banks, police stations, public toilets, schools and primary health centres in 8 districts of Jharkhand, West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh.



## Inclusive Job Fair

Youngsters with disabilities got an opportunity to expand their perspectives with the help of an inclusive job fair organized by Jan Vikas Samiti on December 28, 2022 at Bhojuveer in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh in collaboration with local partner organizations from Uttar Pradesh. JVS works with a focused approach towards the skilling, training, placement and self-employment of persons with disabilities at local level. In this inclusive job fair, 15 companies from banking, micro finance, hotel, insurance, travel and retail store sectors came forward to give an opportunity to the needy and skilled youngsters with disabilities. Altogether, 171 participants took part in the interview and 8 were selected by the employers, while many others were shortlisted. It was an eye opening event for many of them.



## Training on Life Skill Education and Sexual Reproductive Health

Life Skills Education (LSE) and Sexual Reproductive Health Education have been introduced by JVS as an integrated initiative. The training on this combination aims to enable our CBR workers and professionals to acquire knowledge, values, attitudes and skills to equip youngsters with disabilities to avoid contracting sexually transmitted diseases and HIV/AIDS, as well as to cope with the challenges of everyday life. In the month of November and December 2022, JVS conducted three training programmes at Kolkata and Varanasi for 28 staff and 56 adolescent boys and girls with disabilities on Life Skills Education and Sexual Reproductive Health. This life skills-based sexuality education programme increased their life skills levels, knowledge about sexuality and sexual and reproductive health, and helped the participants identify appropriate behaviours when facing sexually risky situations.



## National Seminar on Early Identification and Early Intervention

In order to diagnose at an early stage, it is necessary to establish that a child is experiencing some kind of difficulties during his/ her day-to-day life. JVS focuses much on the need to identify children with developmental delay and disabilities at an early stage to start early intervention. Early intervention is vitally important for any child at risk for physical and educational rehabilitation. To give more stress on early identification and intervention, JVS conducted a national seminar on early identification and early intervention at ISI, New Delhi on December 10, 2022. The seminar was focused on key concepts, principles, foundation and mandates for early identification and early intervention initiatives. It was attended by 58 programme heads and directors who took a pledge to implement early identification and early intervention strategy in their respective working areas.



## Workshop on Child Rights and Gender Equality

The healthy development of children is crucial to the well-being of any society. Whatever their age, all children have human rights, just as adults do. This includes the right to speak out and express opinions, as well as rights to equality, health, education, a clean environment, a safe place to live and protection from all kinds of harm. JVS conducted two training programmes in the month of December 2022 to equip 27 staff for a peaceful, prosperous and sustainable future for children by avoiding gender-based discrimination and violence at home, school and workplace. In-depth knowledge of different policies and guidelines will help our team members to protect children with disabilities from exposure to harmful practices besides helping them drive away abuses from their homes and communities.



## Training on Inclusive Children's Parliament (ICP)

The voice of all children, including children with disabilities, is important for us. JVS noticed that children themselves rarely get the opportunity to share their views and desires, their likes and dislikes, and their opinions about the things they believe to be essential to their own development. A lack of proper communication between adults and children and a lack of involvement of children in the decision-making process have hindered the development of their health, their education, and their ability to make their own choices. It is to counter this non-participation that JVS has tried to focus on the concept of Inclusive Children's Parliaments. To fulfil the desired outcome at grassroots level, JVS conducted a two days' (November 28 & 29, 2022) training programme on Inclusive Children's Parliament at JVS. Fifteen participants from 7 organizations took part in the programme. During the training, participants learned about the importance of ICP, its origin, functions, election methodology, role of ICP members, etc. Participants also practiced in a mock election of Inclusive Children's Parliaments and oath ceremony of their ministers.



## Interface Meeting

The government has to constantly develop, evolve and change its systems and policies to meet the ever emerging needs and demands of the people, especially persons with disabilities. Persons with disabilities still face many barriers and challenges in society. This requires a paradigm shift in mind-set and governance. To facilitate this process, JVS initiated interface meetings with different stakeholders, including government officials and PRI members in Bihar and Madhya Pradesh. Two interface meetings were organized in collaboration with Fakirana Sisters Society (Bettiah, Bihar) and Samaritan Social Service Society (Satna, MP) during the months of November and December, 2022. More than 190 persons with disabilities and their parents took part in the interface meetings to raise their demand and grievances. These meetings provided an opportunity for persons with disabilities and their caregivers to engage, negotiate and voice their concerns on service delivery and systems. Eighty-six applications regarding pension, loan, assistive devices, Indira aawas, toilet, motorized tricycle, etc. were given by persons with disabilities to the District Disability Empowerment Officers. Participants also raised their concerns related to disability certificates and UDID cards.



## Ensuring Health and Safety of Expectant and Lactating Mothers, and Newborns

India is among the list of countries with high infant and maternal mortality, the major reasons being poor utilization of services, lack of knowledge of such facilities, inaccessibility, belief in traditional remedies, low female education and poor rapport of health workers. A healthy mother starts a cycle of intergenerational health, while a mother who has inadequate access to nutrition or is exposed to excess biological stress may give birth to a child who may face greater challenges in remaining healthy. Our programme on Community Mobilization for Safe Motherhood is an initiative to promote the health and well-being of newborns, expectant and lactating mothers through various activities, including services and awareness programmes. During this quarter, our team members facilitated 250 institutional deliveries, 12 Health Camps through which 1102 women and children had their health check-ups, 250 expectant women were provided iron and calcium tablets, and 75 peer group meetings and 75 VHC meetings were organized. The programme has created a positive change among the communities in the project area as the people cooperate with the project team and benefit from the programmes organized under the project.



## Skill Development of Women Entrepreneurs

Many people in India, especially in the rural communities, relate women to mere care responsibilities. A few women have set examples of managing successful enterprises, and their number in rural and small-scale entrepreneurial activities is on the increase. Women face an additional set of gender-based barriers that limit their access to resources and opportunities. Jan Vikas Samiti tries to address this challenge by promoting and developing women's skills in entrepreneurial and livelihood related activities. Skilled women entrepreneurs not only contribute to the family income, but also are role models for their peers, especially in the rural communities. Several skill development and other training programmes were organized during this quarter, including Documentation and Bookkeeping, Financial Literacy, Production and Marketing of Mushroom Cultivation, Hand Wash, Toilet and Washroom Cleaner, Washing Powder, Spices, Sanitary Napkins, etc. in Varanasi and Jaunpur districts. A total of 630 SHG women participated in these training programmes. The participants learned about the technical aspects of producing and packaging besides marketing skills and strategies. The training programmes strengthened the confidence level of the women as many of them started production and marketing of different items in small groups in the villages. Twenty-two women are engaged in production and marketing of hand wash, toilet cleaner, and washroom cleaner; 18 in washing powder; 18 in spices; and 20 in sanitary napkins. Women sell their goods both in the villages as well as in the local markets.



## Empowering Rural Women through Co-operatives and FPOs

Co-operatives are socio-economic enterprises which are democratically managed to empower their members to safeguard themselves against exploitation while dealing with market competition. Co-operatives not only give women access to savings and credit but reach millions of people worldwide, bringing them together regularly in an organized manner. Our past 25 years of engagement with rural women and Self-Help Groups has helped to understand that economic and social empowerment of women can be realized through formation of Co-operatives and their participation in sustainable activities. JVS initiated the development of Co-operatives and Farmer Producer organizations (FPOs) to address the economic and social needs of our SHGs. A total of 50 core team members of Co-operatives and FPO are being trained through a training schedule covering various topics and areas that are important for an effective and sustainable co-operative movement. The core team has learnt about risk management, internal control mechanisms, financial product design, monitoring financial, etc. The membership drive for the co-operatives and FPOs is picking momentum as the SHG women are taking membership in the cooperatives and FPOs. They are also motivating and encouraging other women SHG members to take membership in Co-operatives and FPOs.



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