

Highlights

Capacity Building

- 120 Women trained in entrepreneurial activities
- 25 Board members capacitated on Co-operative & FPO Management
- 116 CBR Facilitators trained in Project Cycle Management

Success Stories

- 28 Short success stories of persons with disabilities published in Social Media as part of 1 Billion Rising Campaign

Health Awareness

- 50 Wall Paintings done on healthy diet, nutritional supplements during and post pregnancy, mother and child immunization

Jan Samvad

- 105 persons with disabilities placed their grievances before the govt. authorities during Jan Samvad

Donor Visit

- Ms. Alodia Santos from Liliane Foundation, the Netherlands visited JVS for Project related meeting

Community Services

- 3 community libraries set-up in 3 panchayats of Varanasi & Jaunpur Districts
- 10,000 liter water tank fitted with solar power installed in Bedi village in Varanasi

International Women's Day Celebration

JVS celebrated International Women's Day with the theme "DigitALL: Innovation and Technology for Gender Equality." This was a great opportunity to celebrate the commendable progress our women have made toward gender equality and empowerment. Simultaneously, it was also an occasion to reflect on those achievements with a critical approach and strive to gain more momentum towards gender equality. The event began with a 3km march by 1160 women from Varanasi and Jaunpur districts. A public meeting was held at the end of the march on the JVS campus, where women presented cultural programmes and shared their experiences, stories, and entrepreneurial endeavours. Our Chief guest, Mrs. Poonam Maurya (President, District Panchayat) graced the occasion with her presence along with our special guests, Mr. Tribhuvan Ram (MLA, Ajjara), Mr. Dharmendra K. Vishwakarma (Block Pramukh, Pindra), Mrs. Anju Yadav (In-charge, Varanasi Rural Women Police Station), Dr. Santosh Kumar (M.O.I.C. Harahua). During the programme, our esteemed guests motivated the women to speak up for their rights and pursue their ambitions.



Entrepreneurship Development of Women

Women have been transcending all imagined boundaries, including operating successful businesses, which were always considered as a man's terrain. Yet persistent gender inequities continue to produce significant gaps in their business prospects. Their enterprises are smaller than those of men, focused in sectors with minimal value addition potential, and over-represented in the informal economy. These challenges are exacerbated by women's care responsibilities, which put an additional strain on the women entrepreneurs' time, workload, and wellbeing. Entrepreneurs from both genders face similar economic obstacles; however, women are given an extra serving of gender-based obstacles to deal with, which limit their access to resources and opportunities. Bearing in mind these challenges, the Women's Entrepreneurship Development Programme of Jan Vikas Samiti aims at redressing existing gender imbalances in the enterprise development space with the help of approaches aimed specifically at women. Additionally, the programme is working with its constituents to ensure that gender dynamics and inequalities are taken into consideration by enterprise initiatives in their formulation and roll out stages. The programme employs a set of tried-and-true tools along with a set of effective approaches, that aid in assisting and creating the desired conditions for aspiring women entrepreneurs. This enables them to start, manage, and grow their businesses with a strategic and innovative approach. Through agricultural and allied products such as paper plate manufacturing, mushroom cultivation and small eateries, a total of 120 women entrepreneurs have had their expertise and more importantly, their self-confidence enhanced.



One Billion Rising' Campaign

'One Billion Rising' is a global and the biggest mass campaign to end violence against women, rise for justice and promote gender equality. The statistics are appalling, where 1 in every 3 women across the planet is physically or sexually abused during her lifetime. JVS joined the One Billion Rising drive by initiating a nationwide awareness campaign to inform/educate, mobilize, engage, and join people to end violence against women and girls with disabilities. On February 6, '23, Ms. Alodia Santos from Liliane Foundation, the Netherlands launched the 'One Billion Rising' social media campaign. At the end of the campaign, JVS developed a short documentary featuring some iconic persons and some eye-opening examples to create further awareness within society. Additionally, JVS published 28 short success stories of women and girls with disabilities who have had several accomplishments in their challenging lives.



Campaign on Safe Motherhood

Community Mobilization for Safe Motherhood is an initiative which focuses on the health and wellbeing of newborns and expectant/lactating mothers in the rural communities of Varanasi. This is done through health intervention activities, including health awareness programmes. During the first quarter of 2023, mass health awareness was created through wall paintings in 50 panchayats of Harhua and Badagaon blocks, Varanasi. The wall paintings highlighted the issues related to obesity, healthy diet, nutritional supplements during and post pregnancy, mother and child immunization and routine gynecologist consultation for safe motherhood.



Project Cycle Management Training

JVS is actively implementing a project on “Inclusive Development of Children and Youngsters with Disabilities” in collaboration with local organizations and consultants at 60 different locations in North and North East India. In order to systematically manage the project, between January and March 2023, JVS developed an App (JVSM2r) and conducted 4 training programmes on project cycle management through the App in Varanasi and Guwahati. This training helped 116 CBR consultants to use and understand the JVSM2r App for streamlining their day-to-day work through the application. JVSM2r App is a single platform for planning, reporting, monitoring, reviewing and documentation of the project.



Donor Visit

Jan Vikas Samiti is the strategic partner of Liliane Foundation, the Netherlands for India North. Ms. Alodia Santos, the Organizational Development Advisor for India, visited JVS from February 2-6, '23 to understand the different programmes and projects implemented by JVS. Besides evaluating all the running projects, she generously offered valuable suggestions and insights for our upcoming project on “Early Identification & Early Intervention” of children with developmental disabilities.



Developing Bedi as a Model Village

Based on the 'Ideal Village Guidelines' of the government of India, Jan Vikas Samiti has undertaken an initiative for the development of Bedi village in the Varanasi district. After surveying all the Musahar bastis in the Harahua block in Varanasi, Bedi village was chosen to undertake developmental activities towards building (making /transforming/turning) it into a model village. The ideal village guideline speaks of relatively high-quality housing with integrated community amenities and an attractive physical environment. The term "model" is used as an ideal state to which other developments could aspire to reach. In this context, as a preliminary work, an overhead water tank (10000 liters) fitted with solar power has been installed to meet the scarcity of safe drinking water for the 22 families residing there. Besides this, each of the 22 families was supported with a pair of goats for their livelihood. For the management of wastewater, raised platforms and soak pits for each of the households were created. Along with these assistive engagements, three houses which were in a dilapidated condition, were repaired in the village as well. We aim to continue working with the villagers and making Bedi a model village in the locality.



Empowering FPO Members

A team of 25 Board of Directors from JVS FPOs visited the Naman Seva Samiti's FPOs in Bethul, Madhya Pradesh from January 6-10, 2023. The purpose of the exposure was to gain a deeper understanding of Naman Seva Samiti's FPOs, their various structures, day-to-day operations, financial products, and their business plans. The exposure helped the participants to understand the struggles the members had to go through to reach where they are today. The visiting group was particularly impressed by the large membership base of Naman Seva Samiti's FPOs. They were reassured and agreed to mobilize and encourage more individuals to join in order to develop stronger FPOs.



Community Libraries and Coaching

India's educational system has evolved gradually, yet phenomenally in the last few decades. From a literacy rate of 18% in 1951, we have moved up to 73% as of 2011. As a Fundamental Right, the Constitution (Eighty-sixth Amendment Act, 2002) inserted Article 21-A in the Constitution of India to provide free and compulsory education for all children in the age group of 6 to 14 years. The RTE 2009 and NEP 2022 are landmark legislations to ensure quality and inclusive education for all. However, millions of children from marginalized groups are still often left behind and deprived of their right to avail of quality education. We are attempting to bridge this gap through our creative interventions to increase the interest in learning among children of marginalized communities by setting up libraries and coaching centres. Three such libraries (in Chhitauna Panchayat, Kerakat, Jaunpur district; Ayar panchayat, Harhua and Odar Panchayat, Pindra, Varanasi district) have been set up during this quarter with the support of Kutchina Foundation, Kolkata. After setting up the libraries, regular coaching has been initiated with the help of two volunteers in each of the centres. It does not need to be stated that watching the children attend our coaching classes regularly at these centres and seeing their innocent smiles brings us immense happiness and a sense of fulfilment as well.



Empowering Women Leadership in Co-operatives

'Capacity building' is the method of developing and strengthening the skills, talents, processes, and resources required for an organization or community to succeed in a competitive environment. A Co-operative Society highly depends on the collaborative effort of the members that the society comprises of. Capacity building improves the skills of people across levels, leading to better governance in society. It also enhances the leadership capabilities and decision-making skills of the higher management. Keeping this in mind, Jan Vikas Samiti organized a series of capacity-building programmes for the core team members and the board of the Co-operatives on leadership, conflict management, development of policies, etc. These programmes have helped the members gain increased levels of confidence, improved skills & knowledge, and the ability to envisage and act accordingly within their Co-operatives.



JAN SAMVAD of Persons with Disabilities

On February 25, '23, JVS and the District Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities Department, Varanasi, jointly organized a JAN SAMVAD/Public Dialogue in Harahua, Varanasi. More than 150 participants (including 105 people with disabilities) took part in the Jan Samvad. Mr. Kamal Kishore (IAS), Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Sadar, Varanasi, listened to the grievances of several participants with disabilities, including issues like disability pension, medical certificate, U.D.I.D. card, Ayushman health Card, BPL ration card, assistance for motorized tricycles, issues related to employment, water, housing, etc. A total of 105 written grievances were submitted by persons with disabilities with all necessary documentation. Subsequently, these were segregated and submitted to the concerned departments. The Jan Samvad proved to be a positive and effective way to raise the concerns and issues of persons with disabilities.

