

# JVS SAMACHAR

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## Collaborative Organizations' Meet 2023



JVS has been spearheading a programme on Inclusive Development of Children and Youngsters with Disabilities in 14 states in North India focusing on the overall rehabilitation of over 6000 children with disabilities for the past two decades and more. In 2023, this programme has directly impacted the lives of 5619 children across 60 locations in 14 states with the support of 127 field facilitators and in collaboration with 60 local CSOs. At the end of the year, we organized two regional gatherings with field facilitators and CSO heads to take stock of the effectiveness of the programme as well as to gain knowledge for effective fieldwork. The first gathering was held on December 13-15, 2023 in Varanasi, and the second on December 17-19, 2023 in Kolkata. A total of 101 patives of the Network and worked on strategies for engaging with stakeholders. This draft document is to be deliberated at local DPOs and the final document will be drafted at the regional meeting in early 2024.

## Stakeholder Consultations



To formulate concrete action plans and strategies that stakeholders and well-wishers of persons with disabilities can implement to improve the enforcement and effectiveness of RPWD Act 2016, Jan Vikas Samiti conducted three stakeholders' consultations during this quarter at Ajmer (Rajasthan), Kolkata (West Bengal) and Gorakhpur (Uttar Pradesh) in collaboration with Rajasthan Mahila Kalyan

Mandal, Indian Institute of Cerebral Palsy and Purvanchal Gramin Seva Samiti. These stakeholder consultations foster our networking opportunities among stakeholders, encouraging ongoing partnerships and collaborations in promoting disability rights and inclusion to avail the benefits and entitlements provided by the government. A total of 269 participants, including 104 persons with disabilities took active participation in the consultation meetings.

## Garv Se Centre: An Initiative for meaningful employment of Persons with Disabilities



In collaboration with EnAble India a Garv Se Centre was inaugurated at JVS on October 20, 2023. The centre aims to strengthen livelihood ecosystem for persons with disabilities aged between 18 to 45 in Varanasi.

We also launched the Enable Vaani programme on November 02, 2023. Enable Vaani is a platform for persons with disability, NGOs, companies, parents, and other enablers who can use Enable Vaani to listen to and share information regarding opportunities, employment, education, schemes, solutions, etc with one another. Enable Vaani (9266344222) uses mobile phone connectivity to reach the unreached and connect the community of persons with disability with employment, education and government programmes and schemes.

## Special Days & Events

The International Day of Persons with Disabilities was the biggest event during this quarter. JVS, in collaboration with local CSOs and other Representative Organizations and Governments, organized Disability Day celebrations at 63 locations in December 2023. A total of 7752 persons, including persons with disabilities, parents, and other stakeholders participated in these events with colourful programmes such as sharing successful life stories, awareness programmes, medical certification camps, sports and cultural programmes. The events witnessed encouraging participation of many dignitaries, including Members of Legislative Assemblies, Deputy Collectors, Chief Medical Officers, District Education



Officers, Teachers, Block Development Officers, etc. These events have enabled the persons with disabilities to strengthen their unity in DPOs and build solidarity for their rights and entitlements.



The International Day of Girl Child was celebrated in different blocks of Varanasi and Jaunpur districts, namely, Baragaon, Harahua, and Dobhi. The event featured approximately 1450 girls who showcased their skills through speeches, skits, and cultural programmes. The events served as testimonies to our efforts towards creating a society where girl children enjoy equal rights with their counterparts. These programmes were opportunities to create awareness on gender equality, especially girls' equal rights to education.



### Rehabilitation Camps

In collaboration with KIRAN Society, JVS organized Health and Assessment Camps for children with disabilities. During this quarter there were 8 such camps: Durgawati-1, Bhitari-1, Tilmapur-2, Murdaha-2, and Sevapuri-2. A total of 205 children with various disabilities, including Cerebral Palsy, Learning Disabilities, and Down Syndrome were screened. The team, including ortho technicians, special educators, and physiotherapists of KIRAN and JVS assessed each child's unique needs and prepared goal planning and rehabilitation plans. The accompanying parents were provided guidance on home-based education, therapy and ADL. Eighty-eight assistive devices were also provided and those requiring specialized services were referred to higher centres.



### Safeguarding Vulnerable Communities Against Biting Cold



In response to the pressing needs of marginalized communities amidst the harsh winter, JVS launched an initiative to reach out to them. This endeavour involved the distribution of 2376 blankets to vulnerable groups, including persons with disabilities and socially as well as economically backward communities in Varanasi and beyond. This blanket distribution initiative is a humble act of solidarity, fostering a sense of community and care. Through such small initiatives, JVS strives to make a meaningful difference in the lives of the vulnerable and excluded communities.



### Empowering Mothers for Home-based Therapy

JVS conducted a two-day Mother's Training for home-based therapy to enhance the overall wellbeing and developmental outcomes of the children with disabilities. The training was held on December 28-29, 2023 attended by a total of 29 mothers along with their children. The training focused on Understanding and Reducing Barriers, Early Intervention and Developmental Progress, Consistency and Continuity of Care, Goal Planning, Home-based Therapy Plans, and Improving Mothers' Confidence in Child's Rehabilitation. The hands-on demonstration of basic therapeutic exercises motivated the mothers and created positivity on their role in the rehabilitation of the child.





## Campaign to Educate Marginalized Children through Responsible Student Award

JVS initiated a campaign a couple of years ago to ensure that children from disadvantaged communities remain in school. Under this initiative, the Responsible Student Award was instituted wherein school children contribute their old textbooks and notebooks and the proceeds goes for the educational needs of the children from the marginalized communities. The students who contribute maximum old textbooks and notebooks in each class in turn are awarded with Responsible Student Award. We appreciate the contributions from the students of St. John School, Ledhupur, Jeevan Jyoti Higher Secondary School, Sarnath, St Joseph's School, Shivpur, and St Mary's Schools, Hinauli, and Ghazipur in this quarter.



Children from the disadvantaged communities lag behind in education as they absent themselves while accompanying their parents in work places. To help them cope with their education, JVS started Community Learning Centers and Libraries in such villages. During this quarter, another 9 Community Learning Centers (CLCs) and Libraries were opened totaling the number to 12. Approximately 450 children are regularly tutored in these CLCs by volunteers from the villages around.



## Community Health Camp

Under the Safe Motherhood Project, Jan Vikas Samiti is actively working towards reducing maternal mortality and improving reproductive health rates in rural areas. Through community mobilization, education, training, and empowerment



programmes, we aim to empower rural women and adolescents, enhancing their access to and control over maternal health services. During the quarter, we conducted 18 health camps, positively impacting 1561 lives, including 362 pregnant women, 249 lactating mothers, 104 newlyweds, 286 adolescents, and 560 others. Beyond medical aid, these health camps fostered a sense of unity, leading to community group meetings, formation of village health committees, formation of adolescent girls' groups, etc.

## Exposure & Field Visits

The students of Certificate Course in Rehabilitation Therapy are making progress in learning and, as a part of the course, they undertook field visits to the Primary Health Centre, Harahua, KIRAN Centre, Madhopur, and Divisional District Hospital, Varanasi. These visits provided hands-on experiences and practical skills to the trainees.



A team of 30 FPO members made an exposure visit to Namami Gange Farmer Producer Company Limited in Sevapuri, Varanasi to understand the different activities of FPO, and its different style of doing businesses and FPO management. The visit was helpful in terms of future collaboration between the two FPOs, and learning particularly about fish farming.



23 students and staff of Bachpan Day Care Centre, Varanasi visited Jan Vikas Samiti on October 4, 2023 for an exposure visit. The visiting students were offered an overview of JVS's work through a short documentary film. Our guests interacted with our Muskaan Day Care Center students later, and had games and fun together, making the day a unique one for both the sides.





## Empowering Adolescent Girls through Skill Development

Jan Vikas Samiti continues its impactful journey, empowering adolescent girls and young women through skill development. During the quarter, a total of 86 girls were enrolled in tailoring while another 106 in beautician courses at our Skill Centres in Saharsa, Durgavati, Theresapur, and Varanasi, Twenty-nine girls completed the course in cosmetology during this quarter and most of them have opened their beauty parlours in their respective villages.



### Capacity Strengthening

During this quarter, a total of 334 persons were empowered through different training programmes:

S.No	Training Topic	Venue	No. of Participants	Participant Types
1	Training on Production and Marketing of Spices	Pindra	30	Women Entrepreneurs
2	Training on Business Development Plan	Varanasi	60	Women Entrepreneurs
3	Training on Value Chain Development System	Kerakat	30	Project Staff & Women Entrepreneurs
4	Training on Inventory & MIS Management of E-commerce	Kerakat	64	Women Entrepreneurs
5	Workshop on Development of Digital Marketing Strategy	Pindra	30	FPO Core Team
6	Workshop on Identification of Product Categories	Pindra	30	FPO Core Team
7	Workshop on Ideal Model Co-operative and MFI	Varanasi	30	FPO Core Team
8	Training on Mushroom Cultivation and Marketing	Varanasi	30	Women Entrepreneurs
9	Leadership Training	Kerakat	30	FPO Core Team & Women Entrepreneurs
10	Margdarshi Workshop	Varanasi	51	DPO members, Parents & Enablers
11	Training on Home-Based Therapy	W.B, Bihar & U.P.	1939	Parents of CWDs
12	Training on early Identification & Intervention	W.B, Bihar & U.P	127	ANM
13	Training on early Identification & Intervention	W.B, Bihar & U.P	399	ASHA Workers
14	Training on early Identification & Intervention	W.B, Bihar & U.P	139	Aaganwadi Workers
15	Training on Formation of DPO	W.B, Bihar & U.P	251	PWDs
16	Sensitization on Disability Related Issues	60 locations	1964	PWDs & Others
17	Sensitization on Inclusive Education	60 locations	1590	School Teachers
18	Training on ADL	60 locations	1282	Parents of PWDs
19	Formation & Strengthening of ICP	60 locations	3068	Children
20	Training on Income Generation Activities	Agra	237	PWDs

