

JVS SAMACHAR

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International Women's Day Celebration



Jan Vikas Samiti marked International Women's Day on March 07, 2024, as an important occasion to honor the remarkable achievements of women in advancing gender equality and empowerment. It served as a platform to realistically assess these achievements while striving to further progress toward gender parity. The event, held in collaboration with NABARD, saw the participation of 1500 women from Varanasi and Jaunpur districts. Women and adolescent girls showcased their talents through folk songs, group dances, and engaging dramas, while also sharing inspiring stories and experiences. District Panchayat President Poonam Maurya, Anuj Kumar Singh from NABARD, and the Plant Head of Amul were among the distinguished guests who encouraged women to advocate for their rights and pursue their aspirations throughout the event. The event recognized exceptional women leaders and entrepreneurs from various fields, including Self-Help Group Leaders like Amravati Devi, Patrika Devi, and Rekha Devi, Top Shareholders such as Pramilla Devi, Nagina Devi, and Mahima Devi, and Best Farmers like Urmila Devi, Sushila Devi, and Lalita Devi. Additionally, Outstanding Entrepreneurs like Malti Devi for Paper Plate Entrepreneurship, Hansa Devi for Outlet Entrepreneurship, Tara Devi for Product Selling, Anita Devi for Food Vending and Subhawati Devi as the Best Field Facilitator-2023 were also honored.



Empowering Lives: Assistive Devices for Inclusion



In addition to facilitating mobility and independent living, suitable assistive devices play a crucial role in enhancing the quality of life for individuals with disabilities. Various assistive devices, such as wheelchairs, walkers, twin devices, white canes, and hearing aids, address the diverse requirements of individuals living with disabilities. JVS provided support to 278 individuals across North and Northeast India including 88 wheelchairs, 30 walkers, 80 digital hearing aids, 48 twin devices, and 32 other assistive devices. These aids and assistive devices enable children and young adults with disabilities to continue schooling and actively participate in community activities, thereby fostering their inclusion in the society.

Inauguration of Prosthetic and Orthotic Unit



On March 11, 2024, Jan Vikas Samiti inaugurated its Prosthetic and Orthotic Unit with the mission of delivering cost-effective assistive devices to individuals with disabilities, with a particular focus on those residing in rural and remote regions. Utilizing a non-profit, sustainable approach, the unit will produce and disseminate prefabricated orthoses and prostheses. The unit's primary objective is to guarantee inclusivity for all individuals with disabilities by providing follow-up services for device maintenance and customization, along with comprehensive gait training programs.

Health and Assessment Outreach



JVS, as part of its ongoing Community-based Inclusive development program, conducted 3 Health and Assessment Camps during this quarter. A dedicated team of specialists, assessed 71 children with various disabilities, including Cerebral Palsy, Learning Disabilities, and Down Syndrome. In addition to providing comprehensive assessments and setting goals, the team also extended invaluable guidance to their parents on implementing effective home-based education and therapy. This collaborative initiative was designed to significantly improve the quality of life for these children by offering essential support and resources.

Educational and Physical Assessment Training for CBR Consultants



Rehabilitating children with disabilities poses a significant challenge, requiring collaboration among parents, professionals, and CBR consultants to ensure the delivery of expert care. It is imperative for parents and professionals to jointly develop educational and physical goals tailored to each child's unique needs. To address these needs, Jan Vikas Samiti organized two training sessions this quarter focused on educational and physical assessment, as well as goal planning for children with disabilities.



A total of 61 CBR consultants from 12 states attended these sessions, aiming to enhance their abilities in assessing children and establishing both long-term and short-term rehabilitation goals. These training sessions have empowered the participants to effectively set rehabilitation goals aligned with specific outcomes.

Nutritional and Educational Outreach



Jan Vikas Samiti remains steadfast in its commitment to fostering inclusive development, marking significant progress in the first quarter. Through our project "Inclusive Development of Children and Youngsters with Disabilities," we have reached out to 560 children with disabilities, providing them with essential nutritional supplement kits. Additionally, 160 children have benefited from the distribution of teaching and learning materials, thereby enhancing their educational journey.



These initiatives play a crucial role in supporting the holistic development of children and youth with disabilities, ensuring they have access to the necessary tools and resources for a brighter future.

Strengthening DPOs for Disability Rights



JVS empowers persons with disabilities by facilitating grassroots advocacy through Disabled Persons Organizations (DPOs). This quarter, JVS organized meetings for 7 DPOs, focusing on disability rights. A total of 280 individuals with disabilities and 40 parents actively participated, addressing concerns such as disability cards, UDIDs, voter cards, disability pensions, and education. Additionally, three parent meetings engaged 39 participants, delving into topics including child development, therapy, special education, and healthcare.

Employment Development Training



In collaboration with Enable India and Jan Vikas Samiti, Union Rural Self-Employment Training Institute (RSETI) successfully concluded a ten-day Entrepreneurship Development Training program aimed at empowering individuals with disabilities for livelihood and entrepreneurial opportunities.



This marked the first time such a program was conducted at RSETI in Varanasi. Thirty-five young adults with disabilities participated in the program. Post training 30 of them either expanded their existing livelihood initiatives or embarked on new entrepreneurial ventures.

Enhancing Maternal and Newborn Health



Our Community Mobilization for Safe Motherhood initiative is dedicated to improving the health and wellbeing of newborns and expectant/lactating mothers in rural areas. During this quarter, we organized 17 health camps, making a positive impact on the lives of 1438 individuals.



We also put up 27 street plays on health and nutrition, effectively sensitizing 2671 individuals, including lactating mothers and pregnant women. Through these efforts and with the support of the community groups, such as, village health committees, Kishori groups, and SHGs we strive to create lasting improvements in maternal and newborn health and wellbeing of rural communities.

Breaking Barriers Through Entrepreneurship



In many rural areas of India, societal norms often confine women to traditional roles centered around caregiving, limiting their opportunities for economic empowerment. Despite these challenges, there is a growing number of women venturing into small-scale and rural entrepreneurship, with some achieving notable success. During this quarter, we supported 14 women with carts to kickstart their own businesses. Through this endeavor, we aim to break down the barriers and foster economic independence among women in rural communities.

Transforming Young Adults through Skill Development



Helping teenage girls and young women learn new skills and find employment opportunities is crucial for their success. We assist these women in overcoming obstacles, boosting their confidence, and increasing their income by teaching them practical and trade skills. In the past three months, 58 girls finished sewing classes and 69 completed beauty training at our Skill Centers. Most of them then opened beauty parlors and began sewing in their own villages.

Capacity Strengthening

Throughout this quarter, a series of training programs were implemented, leading to the empowerment of several individuals as given below:

S.No	Training Topic	No. of Participants
1	Training in Packaging and Marketing of sanitary pads, and spice	101
2	Training on hand wash, toilet and floor cleaner, paper plate, incense stick making, and washing powder	312
3	Workshop on Best Practices of MFI & FPO	32
4	Training on Food Processing	108
5	Training on Financial Literacy	34
6	Workshop on Entrepreneurship Model and Challenges	33
7	Training of Parents/ Caregivers on Home-based Therapy	1263
8	Training of ASHA Workers, ANM, AWW on Early Identification of Disability & Referral	1673
9	Training on MHM, Family Planning and Nutrition, etc.	4099

