



Highlights

8 state-level Associations of persons with disabilities ready to launch the Regional-level Association to ensure equal rights for persons with disabilities

1362 frontline health workers trained on early identification and intervention of children with developmental delays and disabilities.

2617 mothers and caregivers of children with disabilities guided on early identification of disability and referral services

32 rural women initiated small-scale entrepreneurship through eateries on cart

100 women from SHGs trained in food processing and managing small-scale food production unit

4016 people made aware on health and hygiene practices, such as MHM, STI/RTI, WASH

680 women took membership in credit and thrift co-operative society

16 CBR Facilitators trained on physical assessment educational and goal planning

Empowering Persons with Disabilities: Towards Building a Regional Platform for Disability Rights

JVS envisions a society where persons with disabilities enjoy equal opportunities to participate in every sphere of life. To realize this vision, JVS is actively working to establish a regional-level association for persons with disabilities, which will serve as a platform for rights advocacy, inclusion, and empowerment. This association will be the culmination of efforts at various levels, formed from 82 block-level, 30 district-level, and eight state-level associations of persons with disabilities. To achieve this, in the last quarter, JVS empowered 77 leaders from within the disability community, equipping them with vital training on disability rights. Leaders from disability community are being capacitated to play key roles for advocacy and empowerment of persons with disabilities through the regional association. With this initiative, JVS continues its mission of fostering an inclusive society.



Refresher Training on Rehabilitation Services



A refresher training programme for community-based rehabilitation consultants was organized to enhance their skills in rehabilitation services. The training focused on equipping the CBR facilitators with rehabilitation techniques, including individualized education plans, speech therapy, developmental device fabrication, and various therapeutic methods. The programme adopted a hands-on approach, ensuring personalized attention as trainers worked closely with each facilitator on a one-to-one basis. The training strengthened the CBR facilitators' ability to provide effective services to children with disabilities.

Capacity Building of Healthcare Workers

Strengthening the skills and capacities of frontline health workers, including Auxiliary Nurse Midwives, Anganwadi Workers, and ASHA workers on disability-related issues is one of the focus activities of JVS. Between July and September 2023, 34 training sessions were conducted at various locations, with 1,362 health workers participating in these meetings. These trainings focused on equipping the frontline health workers with the knowledge and skills to address disability-related challenges in their communities. In addition, JVS organized 10 interface meetings aimed at strengthening early identification and intervention programmes. These meetings fostered collaboration between the Departments of Primary Education, ICDS, and Social Welfare, bringing together 654 education and health professionals to improve early identification and intervention for children with disabilities.



Health Awareness Initiatives

Health awareness and training for mothers and caregivers of children with disabilities is essential to inpour them with essential knowledge and skills for effective care, leading to improved health outcomes and overall well-being of their children with disabilities.



JVS conducted 87 training sessions during the quarter to empower caregivers to better support their children with disabilities. 2,617 mothers and caregivers gained valuable insights from the training sessions. In addition, 24 health awareness meetings on Disability and Community-Based Rehabilitation were organized to educate the community about the impact of disabilities and the importance of early identification and intervention. A total of 1,086 participants attended these meetings, helping to spread critical information about disability and support services at the grassroots level.

Strengthening Resource Mobilization Skills of Collaborative Organizations

Resource mobilization is crucial for NGOs to ensure organizational and programme sustainability amid growing economic uncertainty and rising social needs. To help and equip collaborative organizations to effectively mobilize the resources needed for their social interventions, JVS conducted a three-day workshop on Resource Mobilization which was attended by 31 representatives from across 9 states. The initiative aimed at equipping these organizations with tools to sustain their programs and amplify their impact.



The sessions on fundraising strategies, donor mapping and management, CSR funds, online fundraising, etc motivated the participants to commit themselves to developing a fundraising plan for their organizational sustainability. This capacity-building workshop was meant to strengthen the collaborative network's ability to mobilize resources effectively and ensure lasting community impact.

Eateries on Cart: A model of Women Livelihood Initiative.

Livelihood gaps among women, especially in rural and marginalized communities stem from limited access to education, skills, and resources, resulting in low participation in income-generating activities. This affects the overall economic situation of families, often leading to dependency on a single earner and increased vulnerability to poverty. Empowering women to lead small-scale businesses not only boosts household income but also enhances financial independence and stability, and improves the quality of life for the entire family. To achieve this, JVS organized two training sessions on the production and sale of small eateries aimed at promoting livelihood opportunities for women. The participants learned the art of preparing popular street-food items and received guidance on managing small-scale food businesses. The hands-on training also covered sourcing ingredients locally, maintaining quality, and customer engagement. The training empowered 32 women participants to start their own small eateries on the cart in local markets.



Promoting Healthy Living Through Targeted Training:

During the quarter JVS organized a range of training programme in 30 panchayats of Varanasi and Jaunpur focusing on key health and hygiene concerns including menstrual health management (MHM), anaemia, sexually transmitted infections (STI), reproductive tract infections (RTI), WASH practices, family counselling, and reproductive health management. These training sessions initiatives aimed to empower marginalized women and adolescents with vital knowledge on preventative health practices and risk reduction strategies. Key achievements include 24 MHM sessions that reached 1296 participants, enhancing awareness on menstrual hygiene. Additionally, 20 anaemia sessions engaged 974 individuals, promoting nutritional education to combat anaemia. sessions 26 STI/RTI workshops reaching 1317 participants, fostering discussions around sexual and reproductive health; 10 WASH training sessions, attended by 429 individuals, promoted clean water and hygiene practices crucial for disease prevention.



Promoting Sustainable Income through Food Processing:

Three training sessions on Food Processing for members of the Farmer Producer Organization were organized during the quarter aimed at enhancing food processing skills and generating income through value-added agricultural products.

The training covered essential techniques in processing locally available produce, ensuring product quality, and exploring market opportunities for the processed goods. 100 participants learned how to effectively preserve food, manage small-scale food production units, and tap into market demand to increase profitability. This initiative directly contributes to JVS's efforts to boost rural livelihoods by equipping farmers and rural entrepreneurs with the skills needed to establish sustainable food processing ventures.



Credit and Thrift Co-operative Society: An initiative toward Women's Economic

Credit and Thrift Cooperative Societies play a transformative role in the socio-economic empowerment of rural women. JVS initiated a women-owned credit and thrift Co-operative society in Pindra Tahsil to provide rural woman a platform for financial inclusion, skill-building, and economic independence

These sessions enhanced the participants' understanding of the operational structure and management of the Co-operative, thereby empowering them to make informed decisions within their institution. In parallel, awareness campaigns were also conducted in the project locations, promoting the benefits of joining the Co-operative to further support financial inclusion in marginalized communities. The success of the training initiatives has enabled 680 women to take membership in the Co-operative Society.



Training on Physical Assessment, Educational & Goal Planning

JVS is committed to making rehabilitation services more accessible by enhancing the knowledge and skills of the grassroots rehabilitation workforce. An eight-day training programme aimed at equipping CBR workers with essential skills for effective field implementation of "Inclusive Development for Children and Youngsters with Disabilities" programme was organized for 16 participants. The training focused on home-based management strategies to enhance the functional abilities and mobility of individuals with various disabilities. Participants learned systematic approaches for conducting educational assessments and rehabilitation planning for children.

Awareness on Health and Hygiene Practices:

JVS conducted a series of impactful awareness programmes aimed at improving health and hygiene practices among marginalized communities, particularly for pregnant women and lactating mothers, across 30 panchayats in Varanasi. These initiatives centered on promoting breast cancer self-examination, organizing health camps, screening educational films, and conducting street plays. 130 health camps were held, benefiting 1185 participants, including pregnant women, lactating mothers, adolescents, and other community members. These camps provided essential health screenings along with educational sessions focused on preventative care, with a strong emphasis on breast cancer awareness. In addition, 14 street plays and training sessions on menstrual health management engaged 1374 individuals, promoting vital hygiene practices for women's well-being. These collective efforts have successfully raised awareness and fostered community participation, contributing to healthier living practices across the target populations.



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