



# *Vacham*

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## *The Janaki Foundation's Newsletter*

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Years 2007 and 2008 has been an year of internal reflection – in terms of resources utilized, program escalations and defining the medium and long term goals and approaches of the Janaki Foundation. How would the communities where we are working would look to us in terms of facilitation inputs, defining their livelihood status, thinking patterns and health seeking behaviours. How would the women of our groups would expect us to support them in their day to day affairs so as to facilitate sustained development.

What has been our strengths, challenges and learnings during the past years since our inception and the way forward points and agenda to fulfill the expectations. This is keeping in view the program priorities, internal and external development agenda's viz-a-viz the 11<sup>th</sup> five year plan and the Millenium Development Goals.

Another glaring concern were issues related to resource mobilization for a sustained program intervention and thus institutional development.

### **Health Interventions**

#### **Family Life Education Training**

A three-day training was conducted at Adityapur where a group of 12 adolescent girls were trained on family life education in July 2006. During the training, the girls shared their experiences and issues concerning their daily life apart from discussing their views and understanding on family life. The girls appreciated the training and felt it useful for them and shared that they are would be happy to invite more girls to take part in this kind of training. Topics covered included good hygiene practices, their identity and information on future prospects, apart from others.

#### **Mothers Mela**

Mothers Mela was organized in February 2007 for pregnant and lactating women where participants were briefed on safe pregnancy and safe motherhood. HB test for pregnant women was also carried out to screen the anaemic cases.

#### **Training on Breastfeeding and Growth Monitoring**

This training was organised in collaboration with Care India – Jharkhand in April 2007 at Gamaharia. 25 community volunteers and health point persons from Adityapur and Gamharia PHC and APHC participated. The objective of the training was to promote breastfeeding as the safest, most complete and efficacious method of achieving healthy growth and development up to the sixth

month. The training also covered topics like physiology and management of breast feeding; counseling skills; social and political issues; and special situations such as feeding sick babies.

## **Training and Development**

### **Orientation on Food Processing Training to women self help groups**

Food Processing Orientation was facilitated for the unemployed youths as part of vocational training at Gamharia Block in District Saraikela Kharsawan.

### **Training for Members of Panchayat representatives**

One day training for members of panchayat representative of Bhatwari block was held on 18 February 2008 at the Gamharia Block of the district Saraikela Kharsawan operational area. The main purpose of the training was to sensitize the panchayat representative on gender issues which are prevalent in their community. The panchayat representatives acknowledged that discrimination between girls and boys still exists in the society and that there is a strong need to identify and resolve such issues. Issues like gender inequality, the role of women in decision making etc were discussed. It was felt that an effective mainstreaming of village level development program needs to be done.

### **Vocational Training**

Under the short term job oriented vocational trainings run by JF Aditya Foods Supported project in Jharkhand, 89 youngsters in the 18 to 25 years age bracket have completed the training in the Customer care & sales, driving and Hospitality during the FY 2007 - 2008. 42 trainees have also got placed with reputed agencies like ICICI Bank as Debt Recovery Agents, Pantaloon Retail as Salesman / Brand Stoppers Drivers. This is a tripartite agency collaboration between Aditya Foods, JF and Pantaloon Retail which has resulted in gainful employment for unemployed youngsters in the JF intervention area.

## **Education**

### **Platform Children Voice Concerns with Railway Authorities**

Around 25 children from Adityapur and Tatanagar railway platforms shared their experiences and voiced their concerns in front of the authorities in a unique interface with police, media and stakeholders at Tata nagar, one of the major stations covered under 'Education Initiatives' on 22 December 2007. It was an opportunity for the children from Tatanagar and Adityapur railway station community who were involved in selling eatables, or begging at the stations to raise their voice in front of the railway authorities with whom they face problems in their day to day lives.

Police personal including Station Head Officer (SHO) of Government Railway Police (GRP,) Railway Protection Force (RPF) were present in the program to listen to the problems of these children. The GRP, SHO requested JF to sensitize the parents of the children towards this issue and added that they will extend all support to JF in this regard. The children expressed their interest in more interfaces like these at other stations like Kandra etc. where more children will be able to voice their concerns in front of the authorities that often reprimands them.

**Inter school competition** with the involvement of children and school teachers was also organized where activities like sports events, rangoli competition, spring event, etc. were held in December 2007 at Jamshedpur. To commemorate the event, school going children along with volunteers of JF went on an exposure trip to zoological park situated at Jubilee Park where children were delighted to see wild animals and eager to know about the different types of animals.

## **Policy Analysis and Public Advocacy**

### **Celebrating National Youth Day**

To mark the occasion of National Youth Day, JF organised a cricket tournament for six teams of senior and junior youth groups of Adityapur I and II youth clubs to strengthen the solidarity amongst youths. Before the game started, participants were briefed about the achievement and teachings of Swami Vivekananda after which discussions centered around the responsibilities of youth leaders towards the development of the society. Issues like food security and aspects of gender discrimination were also discussed during the program.

### **Advocacy Paper on declining sex ratio**

JF analyzed the census data and prepared an advocacy note on declining sex ratio and female foeticide – causes, concerns and way forward. The paper was suitably shared with all the key stakeholders in the area after a personal interaction and discussion on next steps that the concerned can take to arrest this major social concern. The status of implementation of PC-PNDT Act in Jharkhand was also shared with them.

## **Technical and Managerial Support**

JF provided support to the district health team, Department of health and family welfare, Govt. of Jharkhand in preparing the district health action plans for FY 2006 – 2007 and FY 2007 - 2008.

## **Orientation of Aanganwadi Workers**

A three day orientation program for 81 Paramedics- Anganwari workers was organised in three batches in the Saraikela Kharsawan operational area in September 2007. Main focus was on reproductive child health, roles and responsibilities of the service providers to reduce maternal mortality and infant mortality rate, promotion in institutional deliveries and preparation for safe delivery. The participants were also given a demonstration on how to identify risk signs of pregnant mother and preventive measures. Participants agreed that male participation in mother and child health is an important factor and will definitely help if support during Ante-Natal and Post Natal checkup and proper care is given during the time of pregnancy and delivery.

*"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world, indeed, it is the only thing that ever has....."*

— Margret Mead