



JWP

ANNUAL REPORT

2021-2022



FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK



For my message in the year 2019-2020, I had written that "We will never give up". And we "did not", despite the continuing COVID pandemic. There was lack of employment which threatened our grassroot communities the most. There was disease and related tragedies. Children were at a loose end, with no schooling, no proper food at home, no safe and clean environment. As the pandemic weakened, children began to flock into our JWP-Mera Sahara Centres, hoping to connect with their friends and teachers, learn and play. Women also wanted to share their experiences with others. They all wanted the programme centres to reopen. We did so though in a part-time way. Our Centres were there to give them the necessary and much required attention. The Children wanted their old space to learn and play with each other and get back to their classes. The families needed food, health care and medicines.

We were prepared with a new system, with small batches of students from each class, coming together for interaction. A few new laptops were made available for online teaching. Of course, we had to tide over several constraints namely, slow internet facilities, acute shortage of tablets and smart phones, due financial problems. Our teachers did not give up. Volunteers and friends found ways and means to educate, inform, and reach out to children, parents, and community members. Several children were saved from forced labour and teenage girls were prevented from being sold or forced into marriage. There were several cases of domestic violence too. However, we could only deal with some of them due to the lockdown. Our Skill Training and livelihood programmes continued in a limited way.

During this period all our Centres attracted a number of volunteers, university students, research scholars and social workers. They came to study our work and interact with the children and community members. They shared information about the necessity of education, mental and physical health, nutrition and need for environmental protection. They discussed continuing violence and the need to be aware about the existing laws that protect them.

We have never given up!! We are here to stay! We hope our friends, supporters and volunteers will continue to help us in the future too. We thank all of them, local, national, and international.

Dr. Jyotsna Chatterji
Director & Secretary
Joint Women's Programme

INTRODUCTION

The Joint Women's Programme has been relentlessly working in the field of women and child development since 1977. Headed by Dr. Jyotsna Chatterji, it is a movement for women, for their freedom and identity. It believes in creating a society where women are in equal partnership with men. It encourages all women, men, and children to join the struggle to protect human rights. On April 26, 2004, it was registered as a Society in Delhi under the Societies Registration Act, 1860.

JWP fosters issue-based campaigning and networking among women's groups and others at the regional and national levels. As a non-profit, secular, and rights-based organisation, it has reached out to the government, law enforcement agencies, civil society organisations, grassroots organisations, and concerned people, among others, to advance the cause of women and children's human rights concerns.

"We strive to enable women and children to lead informed and safer lives" For JWP, the women's question in India is both concern of the female sex and the interrelated phenomena involving caste, class, ethnicity, culture, and religion, which leads to discrimination & exploitation. It organises seminars, conferences, and workshops to inform, analyse and build the capacity of functionaries and thus, promote necessary action.

In the context of children, JWP recognises that child rights must be prioritised in India's development process. Its initiatives are therefore designed to assure holistic procedures and laws, interventions, and infrastructure for each child's survival, protection, growth, and participation, regardless of gender, caste, class, or religion.

JWP PROJECTS

JWP PROJECT MERA SAHARA - EDUCATION AND SKILL DEVELOPMENT



"Education for all", "Leave no one behind" "Education cannot wait"

JWP's core mandate to bring literacy to girls and women who are deprived and underprivileged poses a challenge and satisfaction at the same time.

During pandemic lockdown families who migrated, almost all of them lost their jobs or fell sick. JWP needed to keep in touch with the students by providing rations, health advices and continue structured literacy programme. Many children from other local schools were disallowed to rejoin due to parents inability to pay fees for the previous year. The financial conditions of these children were such that they were forced to stay home.

'Mera Sahara' provided relief by way of providing education and nutrition. Timings, syllabus and teachers schedule were organized to fit the needs of these children so that they continue to study. we hope to send many of these children to the mainstream schools once their financial conditions stabilise. Free adult literacy too has seen rise in numbers with a few mothers attending with their children!

JWP PROJECT MERA AANGAN – FARIDABAD CENTRE

Along with a primary focus on education and awareness generation, JWP's major area of focus has been on skill development. Literacy is necessary for skill development and has been recognized as a crucial need for women and girls to become self-reliant and economically independent. With this in mind, our Faridabad centre conducts Cooking, Beauty Culture, and Tailoring courses for women of all ages. We believe in uplifting women and helping them to sustain themselves in the long run, with knowledge of certain skills and their use. This prevents them from becoming a burden on anyone. It also ensures a sense of pride in themselves.

COOKING COURSE

The Faridabad cooking unit introduced online cooking classes in its skill training programme. They now run a small kitchen programme to make food for local residents affected by lockdown. The course started in a small way and with time expanded to various Indian dishes being taught and several localities being reached.



TAILORING COURSE

This group conducted a training programme from January 2021 with 10 girls, on 3 days a week. They learnt basics of stitching and now some can stitch a whole suit by themselves. In this unit we have introduced the making of Cloth bags and masks which have become the need of the hour. This has also helped administration's campaign to wear masks and to replace plastic with cloth bags. Along with stitching we often generate awareness on women's safety and laws related to their protection. They are a part of the Beti Bachayo Beti Padhao andolan.



BEAUTY COURSE

It runs 3 days a week. Several girls have completed the course and have started working independently, providing beauty services in their nearby areas and supporting their school fees. The beautician course has been suspended for the time being due to rising covid cases.



MEERA LANGAR- HUNGER MITIGATION PROGRAMME



This project happened to be the most successful outreach program.

Three months of Mera Langar Programme was initiated when a few children from our center approached 2 of our teachers hesitatingly to ask for food. On enquiring they came to know that many parents were finding it difficult to provide 2 meals to the family.

After consultations with the members of JWP we decided to start the kitchen in our center.

RATION DISTRIBUTION FOR CHILDREN BETWEEN 2 TO 6 YRS



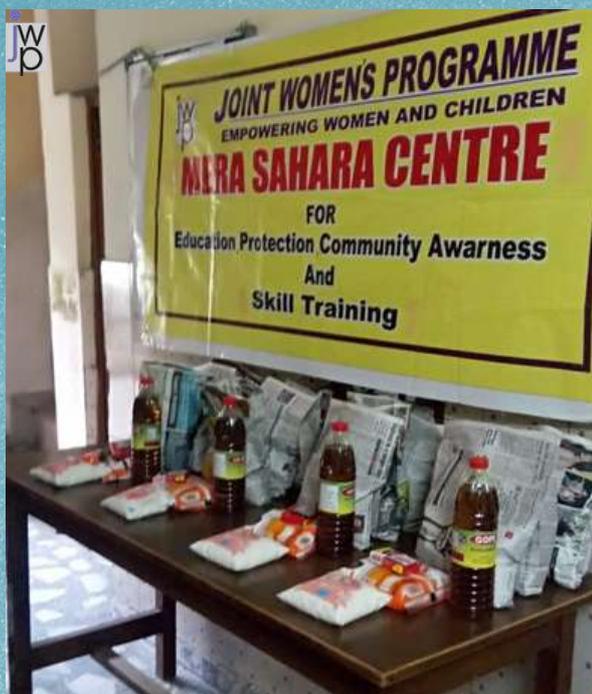
A special coordination was taken up with our national NGO partners to provide nutrition for children between 2 and 6 years.

While the lockdown continued during the second wave, some of the NGOs were engaged in a research to find out how young mothers were deprived of nutrition for themselves and their babies.

JWP as one of the partners was consulted to prepare a nutritious meal kit for the children. Our suggestions were taken in consultation with other partners and the kits were distributed. This was carried out in two sectors, Nithari and Sector 123, Noida.

We distributed around 145 kits in 2 villages.

DRY RATION DISTRIBUTION IN NITHARI CENTER



We continue to provide dry rations as and when the resources permit. So far the kit consisted of rice, atta, oil, dal, salt and sugar . Sometimes vegetables were added when donors proposed the contents. This was carried out in two sectors, Nithari and Sector 123, Noida.

SKILL DEVELOPMENT CLASSES IN ALL CENTERS



Tailoring centers in all our three projects have been successfully running with student population of older girls coming for tailoring classes after school hours, home makers, women after working hours and school dropouts. They undergo a structured syllabus for 3, months and 6 months after which they are provided with a certificate of completion from Usha silai school.

Feedback from the students of **Mera Sahara, Noida, Mehka Angan, Faridabad** and **Kausani** single women project has been very encouraging. Skill training at these centers not only empowers them financially but our sustained efforts to make them literate and educate their children has proven to be useful and rewarding.

CONTACT PROGRAMME IN NITHARI CENTER



When there was relaxation in lockdown we had started with one hour contact program for children of Mera Sahara center.

At the same time we had also collaborated with Enactus International of Delhi university's Kirorimal College .

We had started these projects for women and young adults but soon it was discontinued because of Second wave's lockdown.

COMPUTER CLASSES IN NIHARI CENTER



We have seen a steady rise in the number of students to Mera Sahara computer skill training center.

Our computer teacher has also trained other teachers to use **Literacy India** app based education. Teachers use the app regularly.

Children look forward to learning through the colourful visual medium. We now use our projector to beam it on a larger surface so that more students can be accommodated.



MOMENT TO CELEBRATE!!

With a certain amount of satisfaction and with a greater sense of achievement, we have started tutoring girls and boys for appearing in the National Institute Of Open School(N.I.O.S.). The mentor and tutor Mr. Praveen Kumar has been engaged in the lengthy process of getting their admissions in the mainstream school, preparing required documents and taking on systematic teaching for appearing in exams.

We have been successful in stopping 3 of the girl students from being married off!!!!

Timely intervention and counselling and funds to admit them in the mainstream school put a stop to one of the biggest roadblock to educating girls- early /child marriage!!!

MENSTRUAL HYGIENE AWARENESS & KIT DISTRIBUTION



JWP has been creating awareness on menstrual hygiene in all our projects.

For two reasons this campaign had to be undertaken on war footing. We observed girls and women were deprived of hygiene supplies due to lack of financial resources. There were health issues to be addressed and women who had delivered babies during the lockdown had to manage physical stress along with medicines, nutrition and hygiene supplies.

Sometimes we added sanitary products to their ration kit and on other occasions we had sessions to educate and carry out distribution. We invited doctors to talk about health and hygiene in small groups.

Covid lockdown saw huge amounts of plastic being generated too.

We needed to create awareness on using gel based hygiene products from the market polluting the landfills and its environmental destruction on water bodies.

Our organization has distributed more than 800 such kits.

EARTH DAY AWARENESS AND ACTIVITY PROGRAMMES



It is becoming more and more important to generate awareness among younger children about climate change and environmental degradation.

Basti Me Masti – we had slogan writing, drawing and market visits to create awareness among our children. This included identifying wastes which need segregation at source (home) saving water, cleanliness and garbage disposal.

Children had a great time singing slogans and jingles while going through the local markets.

JWP participated as panelists on 3 of the meetings on zoom where members of Noida Authority and HCL foundation were present. JWP emphasized the importance of segregation at source and natural composting for homes, in one meeting and banning single use plastic, its destructive effects, and soil contamination.

We are also seriously pursuing distribution of compostable and long lasting sanitary hygiene supplies for young adults and women in 2 of our projects. We discussed the ill effects of plastic layered products on skin and soil.

So far we are one of the very few organizations who are involved in such activities.

This year too the Noida administration appreciated local volunteers for our contribution towards efforts to spread awareness on reduce, reuse and recycle.

Skill center students had stitched 1000 cloth bags for local partners generating small amounts of cash flow for them.

DISTRIBUTION OF HYGIENE PRODUCTS ON INDEPENDENCE DAY



Mrs. Mathur and Mrs. Raghavan distributed compostable sanitary products to the girls.

Jagriti Club of Lioness India, Noida sponsored distribution of hygiene products to young adults & women on Independence day.

JWP was invited as one of the panelist in MITU foundation who are working in Karnataka on menstrual hygiene.

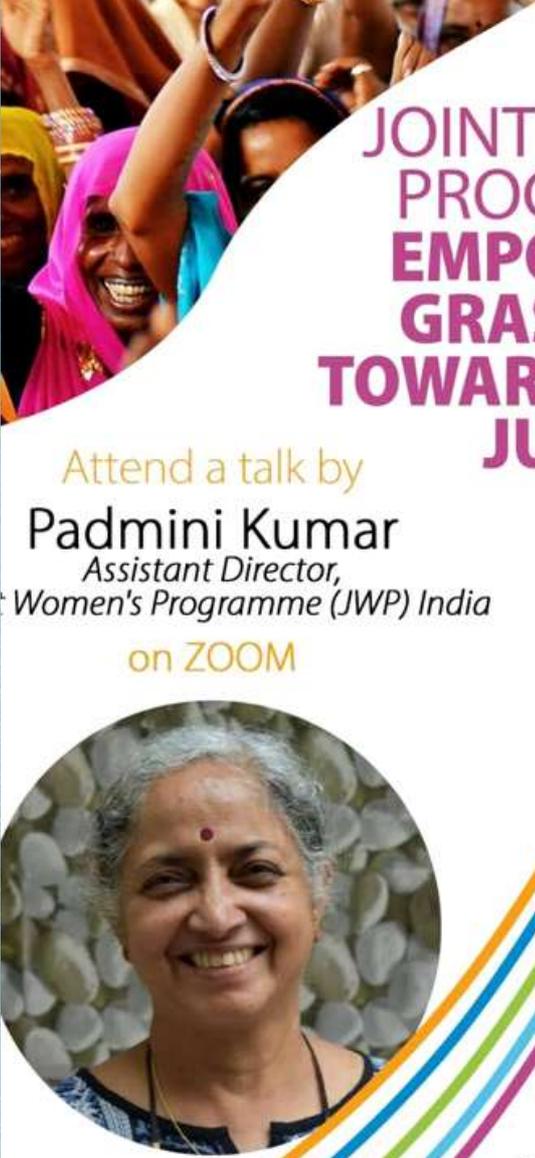


EYE CAMP

Under the community health awareness programme an eye care camp was organised at Mera Sahara Center, Nithari, in collaboration with Sagar Trust. More than 150 community members went through a thorough check up of their eyes. Dr. Anjali Mehta and her team conducted a detailed eye health check up. The beneficiaries included many old men and women. They were given multi vitamins, free spectacles and free tele consultations for a few children and women who needed short term treatment. 3 cataract surgeries were also conducted by the trust, free of cost.



5ELEMENTS WEBINAR



JOINT WOMEN'S PROGRAMME: EMPOWERING GRASSROOTS TOWARDS GENDER JUSTICE

Attend a talk by
Padmini Kumar
*Assistant Director,
Women's Programme (JWP) India*
on ZOOM

Date:
8 November 2021
Time:
8:00 - 9:00 PM IST
16:30-17:30 Swiss Time
Register at:
5elements.sdg@gmail.com

Organisers:
5 Elements SDG
Gender Justice India
www.5elements-sdg.com



Padmini Kumar was invited to speak at the Nov. Edition of Webinar at 5Elements on gender justice.

5Elements, SDG is a series conducted on zoom, which invites and engages with thought leaders, academics, entrepreneurs, and activists on pertinent issues of gender justice, which form a key component of the quest for a more sustainable and a just world.

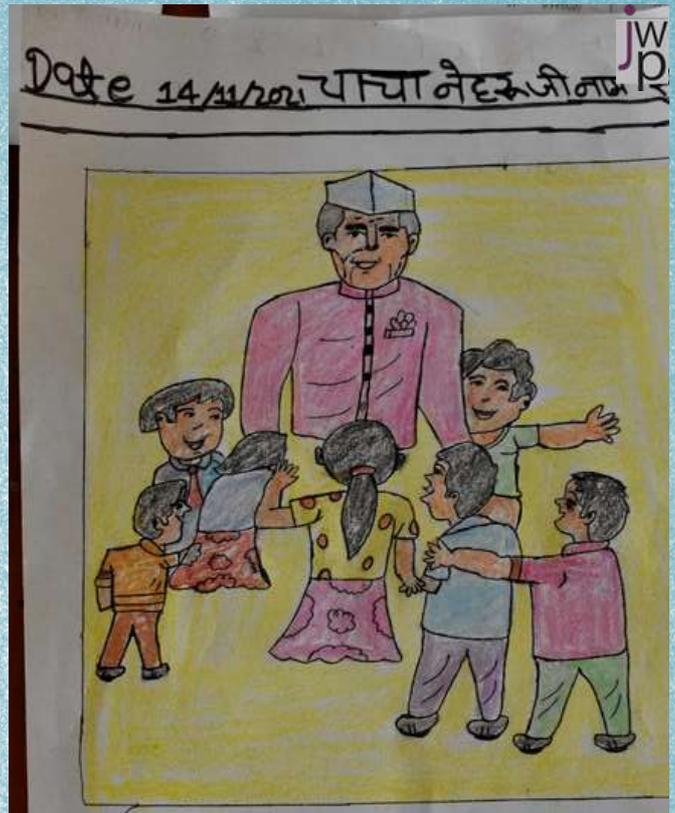
DIWALI CELEBRATION

Children and our staff members had a wonderful time. Children made rangoli and earthen lamps with the help of teachers. Sweets were distributed among staff members and children.



CHILDREN'S DAY

Children had an enjoyable time drawing , coloring and singing songs. Talks on Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and his childhood were discussed and the importance of every child being educated in the country. He loved children and as a mark of his concern for the future of children of India, we celebrate children's day at all our educational centers.



HOME COMPOSTING, AND SEGREGATION

Sifar Zaya , an organization working on home composting and banning of #singleuseplastic, conducted a workshop on segregation and home composting. With very limited space in their homes how a small initiative of composting can be done which could also become a source of earning for the community women. The clean composting methods were demonstrated by Capt. Manju Minhas (retd.), who heads the organization. Waste bins were distributed at the end of the workshop.



WORKSHOP ON PEN MAKING WITH PAPER

Kirorimal college students who represent and conduct workshops on behalf of Enactus International, had very interactive and fun sessions with young adults and women. They taught them to make Pens out of rolled paper to reduce plastic outer covers which end up in landfills. Very useful sessions to educate and create awareness on #singleuseplastic.



LIBRARY INAUGURATION

As part of #16daysofactivism JWP inaugurated a small library on its premises. This especially was very important to inculcate a habit of reading, absorbing and storytelling. More importantly girls in the community needed the free uninterrupted time to enjoy reading from books other than the school books. It has been a long pending dream of JWP which aims to keep literacy and girls together. We thank Ms. Radhika Tulsiani, a social worker, who donated children story books and inaugurated the library. Khaitan Public School, Noida and our supporters donated books and online materials which has generated enthusiasm to explore and question. #betipadhao #saksharbanao



BLANKETS DISTRIBUTION

With the onset of winter we took up distribution of blankets to the children of Mera Sahara centre in Noida. We also donated blankets to rag pickers and construction workers to keep them warm during the winter.



CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS

Christmas was celebrated joyfully by the children and teachers. Children put up a small cultural show at Mera Sahara centre . Gift boxes were provided by INFO EDGE to the children and staff members and we appreciate their gesture.



REPUBLIC DAY & NATIONAL GIRL CHILD DAY CELEBRATION

Republic Day along with National girl child day was celebrated in Mera Sahara Centre, Nithari. Joint Women's Programme conducted meetings , one to emphasise 'Matdan ka Mahatva' and the second on Girls and their equal rights to education provided in the constitution. First time voters (students) were excited to get their index finger marked with ink. Our students also had actively participated in STUDENTS PARLIAMENT with another partner organisation. A few who did not have voter identity were helped to register themselves. As part of Active NGOs we also spread awareness on being a responsible citizen and perform the duty of electing their leaders.



FOOD ON THE PLATE

The Community through the programme Sampark or Samvad has kept in contact with children by providing nutritious food, medical aid etc.



HOME COMPOSTING PROJECT

The Community through the programme Sampark or Samvad has kept in contact with children by providing nutritious food, medical aid etc.



INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY A WEEK LONG CELEBRATION

Mera Sahara celebrated International Women's Day throughout the week in all the Centres. Community members, teachers and children attended. Interactive sessions were held on Safety, Protection, and the Right to Information. At the Women's Organization's celebration at Jantar Mantar, JWP sang songs on women's rights and women's participation in promoting equality and peace in the world. In Kausani, Uttarakhand JWP organized the village women to come together and share their life experiences as caregivers, workers, breadwinners, and participants in social development. At our Mehka Angan Centre at Faridabad, JWP organized a community women's meeting to discuss "Women as responsible citizens for the development the country". Community teachers, our helpers and children attending skill training in spoken English. JWP had earlier started a small library to enable and facilitate the reading habits in children. Special attention is given to girls from the community who come to read in our library.



HOLI CELEBRATION

Children and our staff members had a great time . Sweets and gujyas were distributed among children and ur staff members.



DIRECTORS VISIT AT MERA SAHARA CENTRE, NITHARI

Dr. Jyotsna Chatterji visited the centre to interact with the Children in the newly opened Mera Sahara community library. The Children enjoy the books. Occasionally, community women also visit the new library.



BOOK DISTRIBUTION

The Uttarakhand project supplied school books just before the schoolyear began. Children of single parents were encouraged to continue their education until they reached the 12th grade. It was emphasised that Girls be given special consideration as often they get left out.



FACT FINDING SESSION

We conducted a research session with parents to understand the reasons for the prevalence of violence against children, including child marriages and trafficking. The researcher person was Ms. Keishia DeSilva, a PhD student from Bangalore. It was a wonderful workshop as women opened up and asked several questions concerning violence in their immediate families as well as in their extended families. Many action points were discussed to prevent the same.

conducting a research session with parents to determine the prevalence of violence against children, including child marriages. The resource person was Keishia Desilva from Bangalore. It was a wonderful workshop where women asked a lot of questions concerning violence in their immediate families as well as their extended families.



ONE BILLION RISING

To commemorate One Billion Rising, an event was conducted at Mera Sahara to highlight discriminatory practices in the education of girls and prepare a blue print for the authorities to help in controlling such practices.



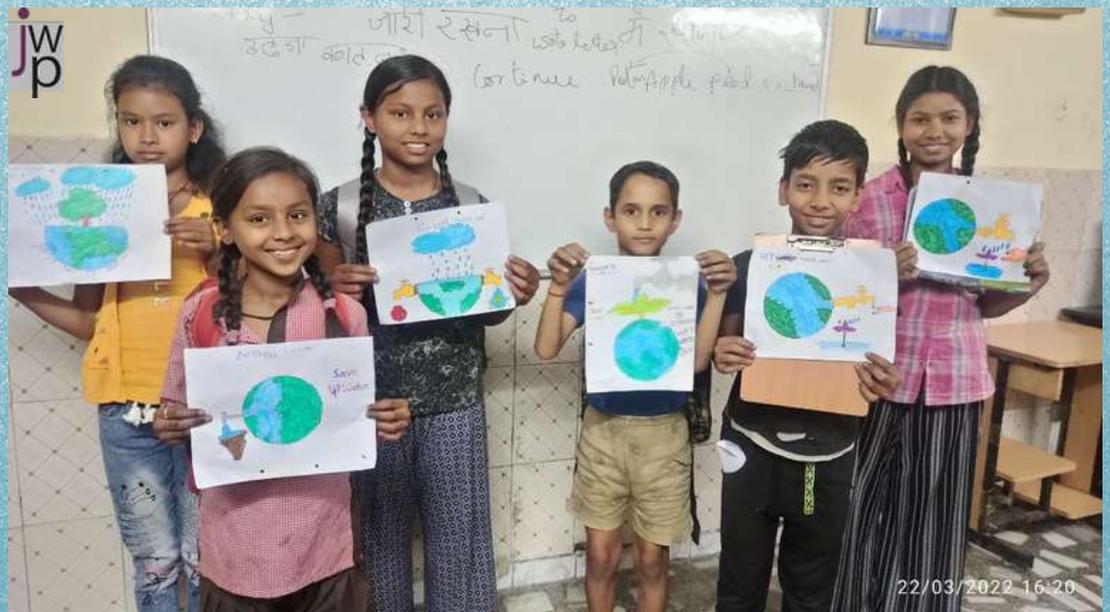
HEALTH & HYGIENE

A special session was held on Menstrual Hygiene and its impact on the health of a woman, a much-needed discussion at our Mera Sahara Nithari centre. A Sanitary pad dispenser was installed, and its necessity was informed to the 'first time' users. Protection and care were explained to ensure good health.



WORLD WATER DAY CELEBRATION

On the occasion of World Water Day at Mera Sahara Centre, Nithari, we conducted a poster making competition to raise awareness about the importance of water in our lives and the need for its conservation. Several children asked questions on the short supply of water and wanted to know how it reaches them and where it comes from.



COMMUNITY MEETING

A community meeting on reproductive healthcare was organised with the women and men, in the context of healthy living and a healthy population. Very few men were present. The discussions were lively and informative.



OPEN DISCUSSION ON THE CONSTITUTION AND ITS IMPACT ON WOMEN

A discussion on equality before the law was organised to reaffirm women's equality before law and equal protection of the law. Several questions were troubling the women who needed reaffirm their rights as equal citizens.



REDUCING HARDLABOUR FOR WOMEN IN THE FARMS IN OUR UTTARAKHAND CENTER

Our Uttarakhand project has been struggling to minimise hard labour for women farm workers. Several meetings to plan action has been conducted to ensure that forest resources are protected. The women's participation in the community has increased and the discussions have become more lively and informative.



CERTIFICATION DISTRIBUTION

Beauty parlour diploma certificates handed out on International Women's day at our center , Mehka Angan, Faridabad.



OUR CENTRES

Uttarkhand

Free tutorials for the dalit children in remote Chani village continues to function for 2 hrs every day. Meanwhile the research work on developing environmentally friendly home appliances using minimum resources is also being continued. This is being experimented along with community women.



Faridabad

Cooking classes and beauty parlor courses to upgrade the skill at Mehka Angan , Faridabad.



Nithari, Noida

Computer literacy programme continues to draw more students and exams are being conducted on regular basis.

Tailoring classes are also functioning regularly.



Our children had also participated in many events in October and November

They participated in drawing competition which was organised by K. K. Education Foundation Nithari, Sector 31, Noida on the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti.



Our children who took part in 'cooking without fire' competition in which they secured 2nd position. This was conducted by Shri Memorial Public School, Sorkha, Sector 115, Noida.



They have also been participating in many other competitions which included Mehendi competition and they made some beautiful designs.



These extra curricular activities and interaction with other school children give them a great opportunity to learn and develop their personality.

FEW PICTURES OF OUR PROGRAMME



MEET ON DIWALI GET TOGETHER OF NGOS IN NOIDA



OUR NIOS PROGRAMME



DRAWING COMPETITION



WASTE SEGREGATION WORKSHOP



VISIT BY KHAITAN PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS AND TEACHERS



PAPER PEN WORKSHOP



BLANKET DISTRIBUTION IN SECTOR 123



INAUGURATION OF LIBRARY



CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION



CHILDREN'S DAY CELEBRATION

JWP continues to run its projects on education, nutrition and skill training in all its three projects, with full strength. Our centers attendance in computer literacy and education program continued at regular pace with half yearly exams and computer certification exam completed in the month of December. Faridabad's cooking classes, beauty parlor, Uttarakhand's education and skill training program continues. Small initiative by JWP for the children of construction workers has been added in sector 123, Noida. JWP and its network partners locally and nationally have been conducting and consulting through zoom meetings on issues like school dropouts during pandemic, their education, health and nutrition and crimes against children and women.

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