



2018-19 ANNUAL REPORT

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK



As I look back at our work during the past year 2018-2019, I realize that our Centre and its activities for children, women and the community has branched off in many directions, participating in various activities related to our mission “justice and development for all, and peace on earth”.

While we are primarily concerned with the imparting basic activity of education, protection and participation of children along with their mothers and the community, we have opened up to other related areas of concern, issues and activities that affect children and their families. Starting with a serious look at the kind of education that needs to be imparted to children, the atmosphere of comfort and care required, the learning necessary for community members regarding general knowledge, health and environment issues, skills for economic

empowerment, protection and safety of people, training of the local law and order machinery, we have joined hands and forged networking with other likeminded organisations in the area and across the country. This has strengthened our work and emphasis on community and youth participation to provide an atmosphere for equal development affecting every aspect of life.

Our colleagues, volunteers and trainers and I personally, have faced several barriers with courage and faith in our mission and belief that we can strengthen the process for change and development in the community, where children are denied their right to equal development and education, where women in domestic and menial labour are prey to violence and discrimination on the basis of gender and caste, and where communities are ignorant of laws, policies and schemes for their empowerment.

We have shown great conviction in the belief that every child needs to learn and grow in a clean and healthy atmosphere to be fully informed about their rights and responsibilities towards each other which is necessary for them to become leaders of change in society in the future. Women and the community are empowered to recognise their rights and responsibilities through adult education and legal knowledge. Health services and prevention from domestic and social violence are strengthened. Skill training for economic empowerment and identity is also provided. Overall, our effort has been to inform all those we work with about the need for change in the people's mind-set, by emphasising the Constitutional position- equality before law and equal protection under the law.

We are made for each other and dependent on each other for happiness, protection and development. Our motto “**Mera Sahara**” explains our work. Together, we need to change the world, create conditions for free and informed life. Children, women and men need to work together, help each other as equal partners for the development of the Nation. We need to wake up, recognise our responsibilities as equal citizens to provide a dignified Life for all.

“Where the mind is without fear and the head is held high;

Where knowledge is free;

Where the world has not been broken up into fragments by narrow domestic walls;

Where words come out from the depth of truth;

Where tireless striving stretches its arms towards perfection;

Where the clear stream of reason has not lost its way into the dreary desert sand of dead habit;

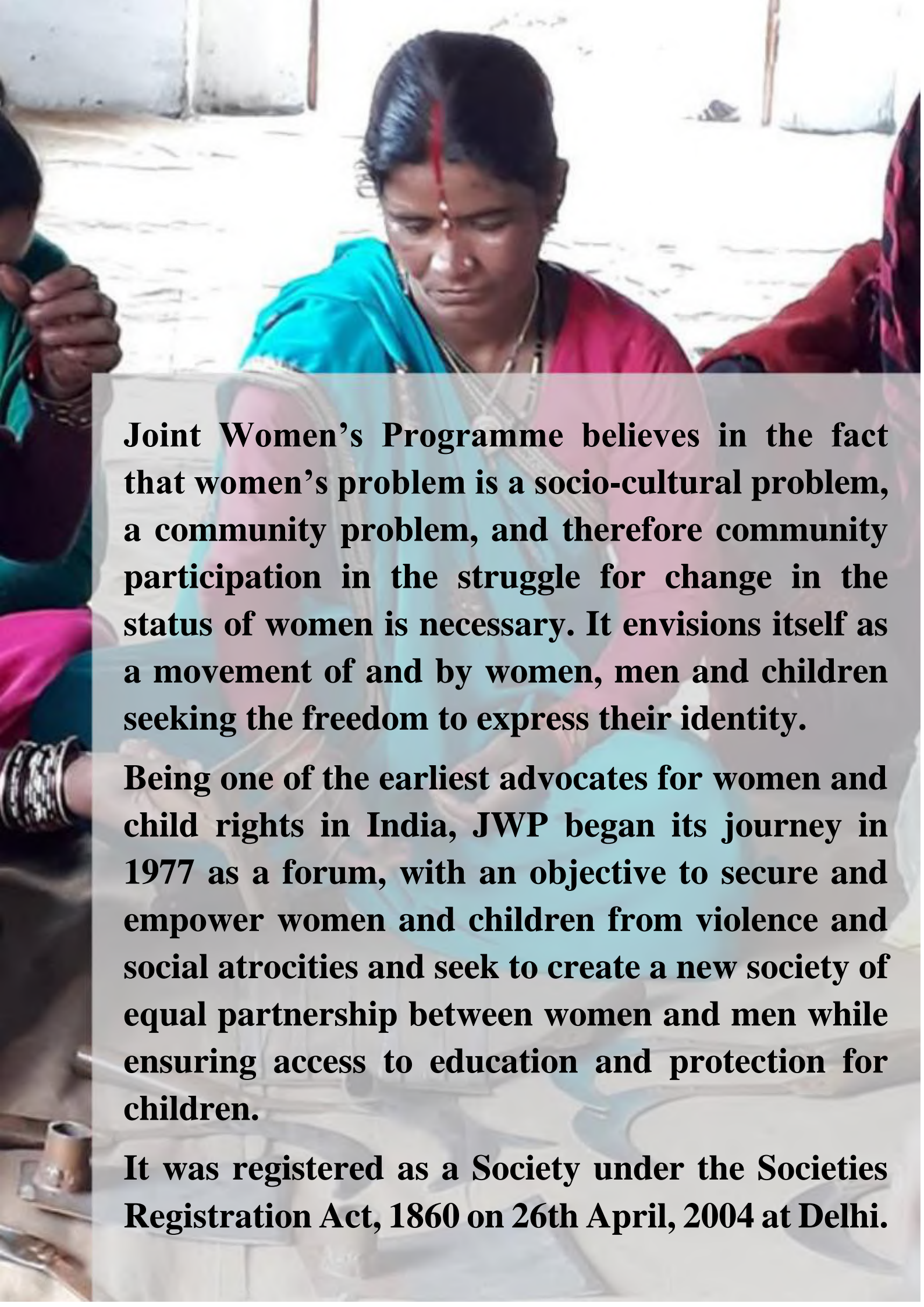
Where the mind is led forward by thee into ever-widening thought and action

Into that heaven of freedom, my Father, let my country awake”

- “Geetanjali” by Nobel Laureate, Gurudev Rabindranath Thakur.

Dr. Jyotsna Chatterji

Director & Secretary



Joint Women's Programme believes in the fact that women's problem is a socio-cultural problem, a community problem, and therefore community participation in the struggle for change in the status of women is necessary. It envisions itself as a movement of and by women, men and children seeking the freedom to express their identity.

Being one of the earliest advocates for women and child rights in India, JWP began its journey in 1977 as a forum, with an objective to secure and empower women and children from violence and social atrocities and seek to create a new society of equal partnership between women and men while ensuring access to education and protection for children.

It was registered as a Society under the Societies Registration Act, 1860 on 26th April, 2004 at Delhi.

CONTENTS

CHAPTER I- Vision, Mission and Strategy	1
EVENT CALENDER	3
CHAPTER II- Our Centres	10
CHAPTER III- Education	12
CHAPTER IV- Awareness and Action Against Violence-Community Participation	15
CHAPTER V- Health, Wellbeing and Counselling	17
CHAPTER VI- Child Rights	18
CHAPTER VII- Networking with Other Organizations	19
CHAPTER VIII- JWP's Annual Day Function-30th March 2019	21
CHAPTER IX- Our Team	24
CHAPTER X- Our Gratitude	25

CHAPTER I

Vision, Mission and Strategy

The Joint Women's Programme is a non-profit and rights-based organisation. It works to empower women and children by building a movement for freedom from violence in all forms. JWP has been developing platforms through various activities, where anyone can participate and express themselves the way they want, on the need for constitutional rights. It has been creating awareness in the community and the law and order machinery about a healthier and violence-free democratic society.

The JWP has an active presence in both urban and rural areas, as well as urban villages. With emphasis on research, awareness-raising, need for policy change, and gender sensitisation through grassroots organising, JWP conducts issue based meetings; and networks at the regional and national levels among women's groups, children and other members of the community. Systematic research and documentation; cultural activities; seminars; conferences and workshops related to empowerment, are some of the means of awareness-generation and action employed by the organisation. Issue-based legal information & action, especially for battered women, has also been an important function of JWP.

With the aim of nurturing and promoting ordinary women's role in the decision-making process at different levels JWP has played an important role in contemporary issues related to women such as the demand for 33% reservation of seats for women in Parliament – the Women's Reservation Bill. It has actively participated in national and international campaigns against rape and forms of gender-based violence. JWP has where relevant, linked up with like-minded national campaigns –for example, Clean India Campaign, Beti Bachao-Beti Padhao Campaign, Bell Bajao Campaign and started the campaign Hame Jeene Do.





Other function of JWP are related to education and skill building programmes with women and children. The organisation conducts adult education programmes for adults, teenagers and school dropout children. It provides computer education to the young and to school dropouts. Skill is an important part of any person's dignity and economic well-being. Thus, JWP conducts skill training programmes such as tailoring, designing, durrly-making, nutritious cooking and training in beautician skills among the women and young girls. It has recently started a programme for training rural women in Kausani, Uttarakhand to make agricultural implements.

Education and protection for the children is a major concern of JWP; therefore, the organisation runs education and protection centres for children in slums and rural areas such as Mera Sahara in Nithari Village, Noida, UP and others in Delhi, Kolkata, Faridabad and Kausani in Uttarakhand. JWP centres provide a safe, healthy and happy zone for children to learn and grow with a feeling of safety and togetherness. Providing nutritious food to school children with the help of other institutions is another central activity of the organization. At the beginning of every academic year, JWP organizes a two-day teacher's training programme for the staff at the Mera Sahara Centre. The teachers play a very important role in the lives of the students, and hence, it is mandatory for the ethos of the organisation to train the teachers to embody the vision and mission of the organisation.



30th MAY, 2018

JWP PARTICIPATED IN THE DELHI STATE CONSULTATION ON ENDING CHILD MARRIAGE IN SOLIDARITY WITH NHRC AND SAIVAC, CONVENED BY THE DELHI COMMISSION FOR PROTECTION OF CHILD RIGHTS AND CSO COALITION OF INDIA (IACR EVENT)

1st June, 2018

AMITY SCHOOL STUDENTS PERFORMED A NUKKAD NATAK AT THE MERA SAHARA SKILL CENTRE AND INTERACTED WITH THE STUDENTS TO RAISE AWARENESS ABOUT CHILD MARRIAGE.

JUNE, 2018

SIGNATURE CAMPAIGN FOR WOMEN'S RESERVATION BILL AS A PART OF THE NATIONAL ALLIANCE FOR WOMEN'S RESERVATION BILL.

5th June, 2018

AN AWARENESS CAMPAIGN WAS ORGANISED TO CELEBRATE WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY IN NITHARI, NOIDA

JUNE, 2018

PADMINI KUMAR, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, JWP VISITED CHENNAI TO MEET WOMEN WORKING IN GARMENT FACTORIES TO RAISE AWARENESS ABOUT THE WOMEN'S RESERVATION BILL AND DISCUSS ISSUES PERTAINING TO THE TRANSGENDER COMMUNITY.

24th July, 2018

JWP PARTICIPATED IN A NATIONAL SEMINAR ORGANISED BY BONDED LABOUR LIBERATION FRONT AND ONGC ON RIGHT TO WORK AND LIVING WAGES IN THE CONTEXT OF WOMEN LABOURERS.

6th Sep, 2018

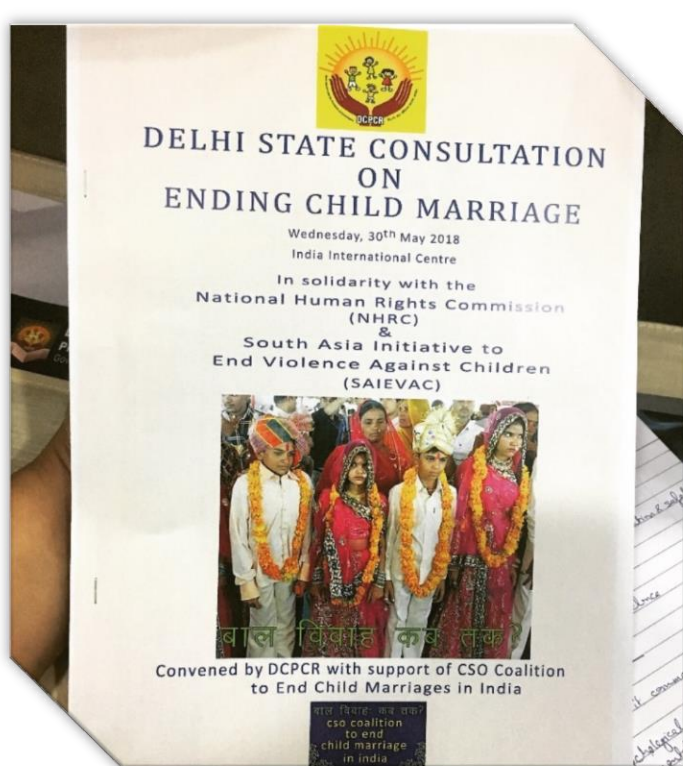
LAVNEETA JALAN, ORGANISATION AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT OFFICER, REPRESENTED JWP AS AN INVITED DELEGATE AT THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON GENDER EQUALITY THROUGH THE STRATEGY OF GENDER MAINSTREAMING AT THE PRESIDENCY UNIVERSITY, BANGALORE.

14th Sep, 2018

JWP WAS INVITED TO THE RASHTRAPATI BHAVAN BY THE PRESIDENT'S SECRETARIAT'S OFFICE TO ATTEND A MEETING ON 'HEALTH AND NUTRITION FOR THE UNDERPRIVILEGED'.

16th Sep, 2018

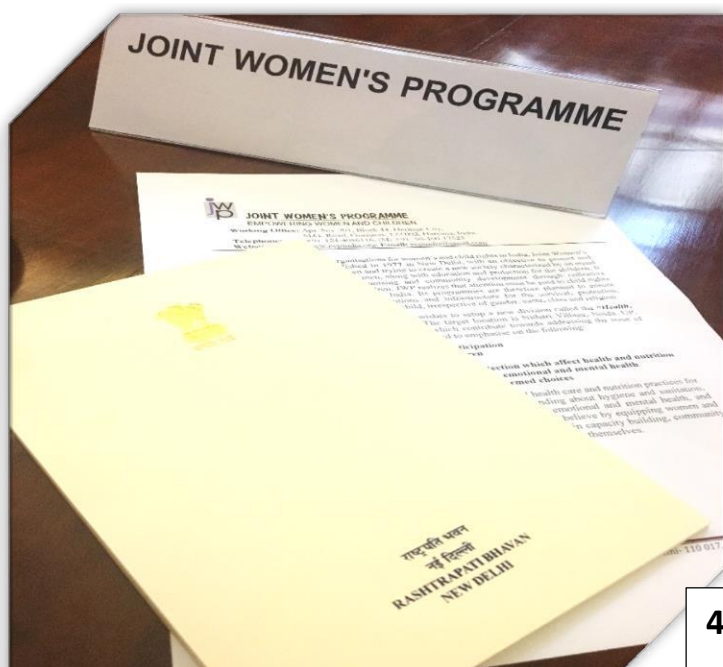
JWP AS A PART OF THE NATIONAL ALLIANCE FOR WOMEN'S RESERVATION BILL ATTENDED A MEETING WITH THE CHIEF ELECTION COMMISSIONER OF INDIA TO DISCUSS THE ISSUE OF INCREASING THE REPRESENTATION OF WOMEN IN THE PARLIAMENT AND POLITICAL PARTIES.



(Left) JWP participates in Delhi State Consultation on ending Child Marriage; (Above) Amity School students perform a play to raise awareness about child marriage.



(Left) JWP at Presidency University Conference in Bangalore, (Above) World Environment Day awareness campaign at Nithari, (Below) JWP invited at the Rashtrapati Bhavan to discuss issues of health and nutrition for the underprivileged.





(Left) Lavneeta representing JWP at the 13th GYPF 2018 at Chandigarh, (Top) Dr. Chatterji attends the 70th CSI Fellowship in Bangalore, (Bottom left) Mera Sahara children at Bal Divas event, (Below) JWP recognised at the SABERA awards under the Education category.



(Left) JWP organised a peace walk in Noida, starting from Nithari village to Brahmputra market in honour of 'Nirbhaya day' to raise our voice about violence against women.

30th Sep, 2018

LAVNEETA JALAN
REPRESENTED JWP AS AN
INDIAN YOUTH DELEGATE AT
THE 13TH GLOBAL YOUTH
FEST, CHANDIGARH WITH A
FOCUS ON SDG 5, GENDER
EQUALITY.

15th Oct, 2018

STUDENTS FROM
MIRANDA HOUSE
VISITED OUR MERA
SAHARA CENTRE TO
INTERACT WITH THE
STUDENTS ABOUT
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE.

10th Oct, 2018

DR. JYOTSNA
CHATTERJI, DIRECTOR,
JWP WAS INVITED TO
SPEAK AT THE 70TH CSI
WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP
CELEBRATIONS IN
BANGALORE.

22nd Oct, 2018

JWP ATTENDED A
MEETING HELD IN THE
CENTRE FOR SOCIAL
RESEARCH TO INTERACT
WITH DR. BARBEL KOFLER,
MEMBER OF GERMAN
PARLIAMENT AND
FEDERAL GOVERNMENT
COMMISSIONER FOR
HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY
AND HUMANITARIAN AID
ALONG WITH MS. MIRIAM
STROBEL, POLITICAL
COUNSELLOR, GERMAN
EMBASSY.

14th Nov, 2018

NERA SAHARA
STUDENTS
PERFORMED AT THE
BAL DIVAS
ORGANISED BY WAR
WIDOWS
ASSOCIATION.

6th Dec, 2018

JWP'S MERA SAHARA
PROGRAMME WAS
RECOGNISED AND
AWARDED AT THE SOCIAL
AND BUSINESS
ENTERPRISE RESPONSIBLE
AWARDS (SABERA) 2018,
UNDER THE 'SHIKSHA' OR
EDUCATION CATEGORY,
ORGANISED BY SIMPLY
SUPARNAA, IN
PARTNERSHIP WITH UN
GLOBAL COMPACT
NETWORK INDIA AND MSC

16th Dec, 2018

JWP ORGANISED A
PEACE WALK IN NOIDA,
STARTING FROM
NITHARI VILLAGE TO
BRAHMAPUTRA MARKET
IN HONOUR OF
'NIRBHAYA DAY' TO
RAISE OUR VOICE
ABOUT VIOLENCE
AGAINST WOMEN.

19th Dec, 2018

JWP STAFF LAVNEETA
JALAN AND
MAHESWARI
CHAUDHARY
CONDUCTED A NSS
GENDER
SENSITIZATION
WORKSHOP AT THE
MMH COLLEGE,
GHAZIABAD WITH
OVER 80 GRADUATE
STUDENTS.

10th Jan, 2019

OUR DIRECTOR,
DR. JYOTSNA
CHATTERJI,
CELEBRATED HER
80TH BIRTHDAY.
SHE IS THE
CONSTANT FORCE
AND VISION
BEHIND ALL OUR
PROGRAMMES.



(Top) JWP staff conduct a Gender Sensitization Workshop at MMH College, Ghaziabad. (Below) Dr. Chatterji celebrates her 80th Birthday with JWP members and friends.



(Top Left) Lavneeta represented JWP at the Telangana Jagruthi International Youth Conference held in Hyderabad as a Moderator for a Panel; (Top Right) Students of Miranda House performed a street play to raise awareness about domestic violence; (Left) JWP organised a Free Eye Camp in collaboration with Bharat Petroleum and Sagar Trust in Nithari, Noida.



(Top left) Mera Sahara students performed at the One Billion Rising Movement; (Top right) Saheli organised a workshop to discuss sexual harassment and the #MeToo Movement; (Left) Shashi Kiran Charitable Trust conducted a workshop on menstrual hygiene and also distributed hand-made cotton pads to our community women.



(Top) Launch of 'Womanifesto' for Women's Reservation Bill, (Top right and Bottom left) International Women's Day March, 2019, (Right) JWP and Uber collaborate for Drive for Self Reliance



19th Jan, 2019

LAVNEETA JALAN WAS INVITED TO BE A MODERATOR FOR A PANEL ON QUALITY EDUCATION (SDG 4) AND DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH (SDG 8) AT THE TELANGANA JAGRUTHI INTERNATIONAL YOUTH LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE, HYDERABAD

30th Jan, 2019

STUDENTS FROM MIRANDA HOUSE PERFORMED 'NUKKAD NAATAK' OR STREET PLAY BASED ON ACTION AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AT THE SKILL DEVELOPMENT CENTRE OF JWP AT NITHARI VILLAGE.

1st Feb, 2019

JWP ORGANISED A FREE EYE CAMP WITH THE SUPPORT OF BHARAT PETROLEUM AND SAGAR TRUST AT NITHARI, NOIDA.

10th Feb, 2019

AS A PART OF THE ONE BILLION RISING MOVEMENT, JWP ORGANISED A CHILDREN'S PLAY ON 'CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISIONS ON EQUALITY FOR ALL'.

Feb, 2019

A MEETING WAS CONDUCTED IN COLLABORATION WITH SAHELI ON SEXUAL HARASSMENT IN THE WAKE OF THE #METOO MOVEMENT IN INDIA. MEMBERS OF LIONESS CLUB DISTRIBUTED SANITARY NAPKINS AND URGED THE WOMEN AND GIRLS TO USE PADS TO MAINTAIN HEALTH AND HYGIENE.

22nd Feb, 2019

SHASHI KIRAN CHARITABLE TRUST ORGANISED A WORKSHOP ON MENSTRUATION HYGIENE AND CARE AT THE MERA SAHARA CENTRE AND DISTRIBUTED 40 HAND-MADE PADS TO THE WOMEN AND ADOLESCENT GIRLS.

6th Mar, 2019

MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL ALLIANCE FOR WOMEN'S RESERVATION BILL HELD A PRESS CONFERENCE TO LAUNCH THE 'WOMANIFESTO', A 11-POINT MANIFESTO DETAILING THE DEMANDS OF INDIAN WOMEN, PREPARED AFTER EXTENSIVE CONSULTATIONS WITH OVER 1 LAKH WOMEN FROM ACROSS INDIA.

8th Mar, 2019

TO CELEBRATE INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY, A 3 KM MARCH WAS ORGANIZED BY A COLLECTIVE OF WOMEN'S ORGANIZATIONS UNDER THE BANNER OF '8 MARCH SAATH MARCH'. MANY MEMBERS FROM JWP PARTICIPATED IN THE EVENT IN SOLIDARITY

23rd Mar, 2019

JWP ORGANISED A SESSION "DRIVE FOR SELF RELIANCE" IN PARTNERSHIP WITH UBER TO TALK TO COMMUNITY WOMEN ABOUT THE PROSPECTS OF LEARNING TO DRIVE AND BECOMING WOMEN DRIVER-PARTNERS WITH UBER, AN INITIATIVE TO MAKE THEM SELF-RELIANT AND ECONOMICALLY INDEPENDENT.

CHAPTER II

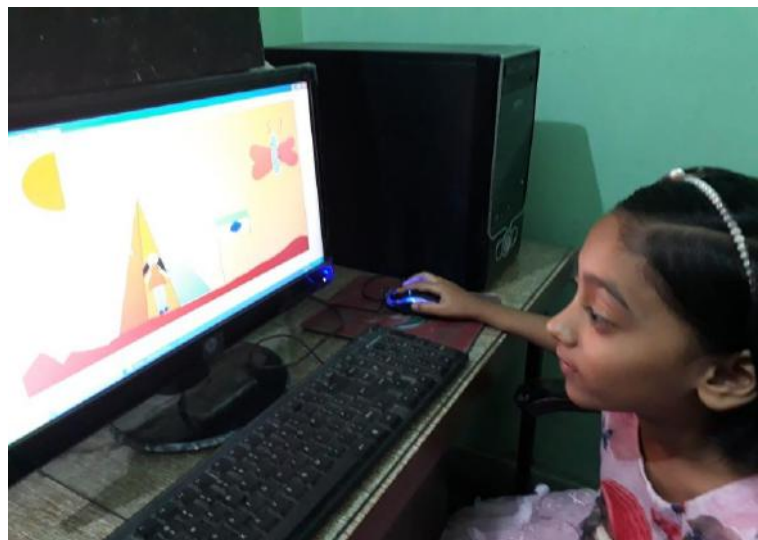
Our Centres

JWP has centres in several Indian states working to further its mission of development for women and child, along with community participation. Our centres are in:

- **NITHARI, NOIDA:** This is our main field office, also home to the JWP's Mera Sahara Protection and Learning Centre, Usha Sillai School and our Adult Education and Skill Training Programme. The Centre is managed by Ms. Vimla Pant, Ms. Padmini Kumar and the teachers of Mera Sahara.
- **OKHLA, NEW DELHI:** This centre is coordinated by Ms. Husna Subani and it conducts legal awareness and literacy programme for over 60 women and young girls from the Muslim community. The Centre also started a new tailoring unit in 2018, which also included adult education classes.
- **FARIDABAD, HARYANA:** The JWP 'Mehka Angan' Centre in Faridabad was headed by our coordinator, Ms. Kiran Arora and Ms. Nishi Kinger. It is our deep remorse that Ms. Arora passed away in December 2018. The Centre is now managed by Ms. Kinger and volunteers. This centre covers women and girls from seven neighbouring resettlement colonies. This Centre provides adult education and legal literacy classes along with a dedicated skill training programme in tailoring and cooking. The tailoring unit has been successful in making women aware about the need for their economic empowerment. The items made here are also sold in the market-helping these women to become economically self-reliant. New upgraded cooking classes have enabled domestic workers to earn better wages as trained cooks.
- **ALIGARH, UTTAR PRADESH:** In the JWP Computer Centre in Aligarh, we conduct computer literacy classes for children of underprivileged sections who want to develop the skill. Our coordinator Dr. Neelam Kumar who has been trained by our organisation also conducts regular awareness-generation group meetings in the area.



(Left) Okhla Centre,
(Bottom left) Faridabad Centre,
(Bottom right) Aligarh Centre.





• **KASAUNI, UTTARAKHAND:** The JWP ‘Chandra Pranam’ Centre in Kasauni is primarily a skill-based programme, focused on imparting knowledge of transferable skills to women, and is monitored by our coordinator Ms. Prema Joshi. This Centre conducts durry and shawl making classes for single women, mothers and widows, which are sold in the market. The Uttarakhand projects aims to develop skill along with adult literacy and legal awareness programmes. The skill training programme has also helped us in empowering women to make small agricultural tools, as was demanded by the local women. Regular meetings with the community provide a platform for discussion on local problems and ways to address them and individual needs. This also acts as an interactive time for them to talk to each other, observe and learn.

In 2018-2019, the Kasauni Centre has made considerable progress in reaching out to more women and children in neighbouring areas. Regular interactions and awareness meetings has bonded a strong community together. In February, a meeting with local police was held to discuss the issue of domestic violence, and also make women familiar with the system of reporting and FIRs. The intention was also to remove the fear and stigma of police interaction.

• **WEST BENGAL:** The JWP Halishahar Women’s Programme in West Bengal, is headed by coordinator Mr. Ajay Mazumdar. It runs a regular education programme for community women and children, with plans of extending it to children living near railway lines. This area consists of migrants who are extremely poor and are mostly engaged in rag-picking and begging. The children often become prey to trafficking for prostitution and forced labour. The programme primarily emphasizes education, health intervention, legal rights and skill training for the women such as sewing and doll making. The highlight of this year was a training session which was conducted to discuss about importance of skills, such as tailoring, and how it can help SHGs become more entrepreneurial. It was supported by the Government of West Bengal.



CHAPTER III

Education

Joint Women's Programme has been engaged in campaigning for free, mandatory primary education for all children including those in slums and rural areas across the country, and wherever it interacts with women and the community for their rights as citizens of the country. It believes that every child has the right to basic education and strives to provide them with a safe, inclusive learning environment.

MERA SAHARA PROTECTION AND LEARNING CENTRE

Project Mera Sahara is one of the most successful endeavours undertaken by the Joint Women's Programme. Currently in its eleventh year, this project started in 2007 with minimal resources in Nithari, Noida. Currently, the Centre provides non-formal schooling (upto class 5) and crèche facilities for infants along with running an adult literacy programme for young adults and women, which includes training in legal literacy. It has a Skill Development Centre which provides different types of skill-based classes to women and young girls, including computer classes, and tailoring for economic empowerment.

MERA SAHARA TODAY:

Following the frightening incident that took place in December 2006, JWP envisaged starting a Protection and Learning Centre, which would both function as a school for children, young adults and women, along with providing crèche facilities for infants. The Mera Sahara Centre in Nithari Village, Noida, Uttar Pradesh, continues to provide learning, protection and day care for children and promotes interaction with the community for empowerment of women and children and their well-being.

Non-formal education is provided for classes that are conducted for children of different age groups. Subjects taught in these classes are the following: English, Hindi, Sanskrit, Science, Social Studies, Mathematics, General Knowledge, Environmental Studies and Computer Literacy. Art and craft, music and dancing, morning yoga and outdoor exercises are all part of the overall programme for healthy development of the mind and body. Visits to museums and places of historical interests expose the children to the reality around them. The Mera Sahara Centre follows the Uttar Pradesh Educational Board syllabus, with the aim of educating the children to become eligible for admission in government schools and other mainstream schools after they leave the Centre.

We also organise occasional interactive sessions with the parents of the students to keep them informed and involved in their child's education. This also functions as an opportunity for the Centre to get involved in the community, spread awareness about our work and understand the needs of the local people. It is very important for any child to have a safe learning and growing environment both at school and at home, and through these sessions, our organisation attempts to contribute in that direction.





JWP believes that women's empowerment can only be achieved with the interlinked social, legal and economic factors. It envisions empowerment of women through adult literacy, legal education and skill training programmes. Women and young girls come regularly to our centres to learn and participate in these classes. Occasionally men also participate and share their concerns.

ADULT LITERACY AND LEGAL EDUCATION

JWP organises adult literacy for school dropouts, women and youth, especially those who were unable to continue their schooling. We provide basic literacy classes aimed at equipping the women with simple reading, writing and comprehension skills along with spreading general awareness. Literacy is also imparted in both tailoring classes and 'durry' (rug) making classes by encouraging them to write whatever they measure or learn through oral teaching. Some women and girls attend both tailoring and literacy classes.

Legal education and awareness is very important for everyone and JWP strives to impart legal literacy amongst women, children, and men who attend our community meetings. In the meetings and interactive sessions, we discuss laws regarding women's care and protection, domestic violence, wellbeing, rape, sexual harassment, child protection, child marriage, child labour, etc. In the past, our facilitators had become aware of some cases of violence against women or child marriage as a result of these discussions. Hence, in these situations, counselling becomes an extremely important area of concern. Interaction with the local police and administration has helped JWP to help women affected by violence in the home and society.

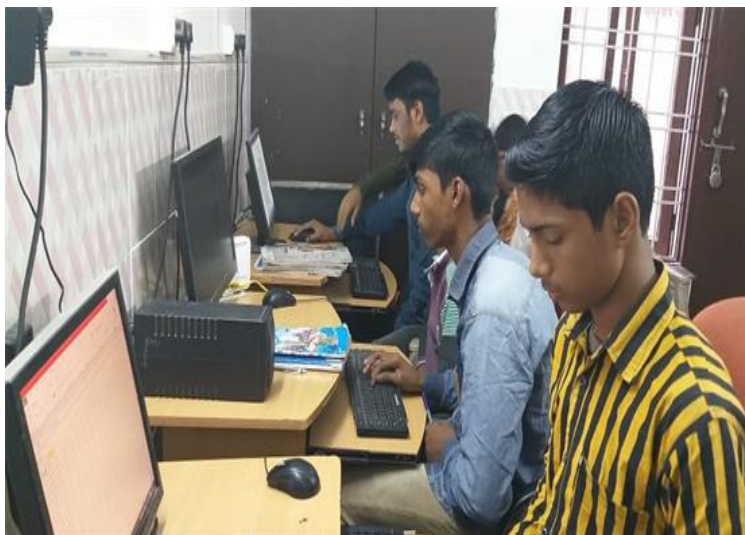
Along with JWP Director, Dr. Chatterji and her staff, our resource persons are Advocate Zeenat Malik and Advocate Bulbas Das, who help us in conducting legal awareness classes and guide us in addressing cases which are brought to us.

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF OPEN LEARNING (NIOS)

Last year, JWP conducted a survey among the youth and women and found that several of them who had been forced to strike off their names from school for various reasons were anxious to complete their education. JWP then began to prepare 8 students for the Secondary school examination under the National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS). The students will appear for the examination this year, and then prepare for the Senior Secondary Examination to be held next year. Engaging children to inform the community through meetings on how environmental pollution and lack of cleanliness affects the health of the community is another impact area. This has helped children from disadvantaged backgrounds to receive formal certification of education, which they were unable to afford earlier. Our NIOS coordinator is Ms. Maheswari Chaudhary has worked tirelessly to establish this for our community children.

SKILL TRAINING CENTRE

Systematic skill training programmes in computer use, tailoring and embroidery are conducted for girls in the age group of 12 to 20 years in the slums to provide an alternative to domestic work. Training is also imparted to young women to become health workers and on nutritious cooking. The skill training programmes primarily help women to learn transferable skills, which can be used by them to become self-sufficient and economically independent. JWP has had a long association with the **M/s. Usha International Ltd.**, who have continually supported it in training women. They conducted a 7-day course, under their scheme 'Usha Silai School' for the community women in Nithari. Women, who trained under the scheme, had received free sewing machines at the end of the capsule course. The certificate enabled them to start tailoring centres and stitch clothes on order. This self-reliance skill training has trained many women and these women continue to train many others in their own community and also earn their livelihood.



CHAPTER IV

Awareness and Action Against Violence- Community Participation

Violence against women and children has been a major area of concern for JWP. It believes that merely having the necessary laws in place is not sufficient. Extensive preparations have to be made at the level of the community and implementing mechanisms, as well as the grassroots level governance to make the laws effective for all. JWP handles cases reported to it on the following matters:

- Rape and child sexual abuse
- Dowry harassment and death
- Sexual abuse and violence at the workplace
- Various forms of domestic violence
- Child marriage
- Honour killings
- Foeticide and infanticide
- Kidnapping, sale and trafficking of children and women for prostitution and labour.

JWP has taken proactive action on the issue of violence against women and children and has been successful in making it a public issue. Interactive sessions have been conducted, information, education and communication materials have been prepared, self-defence training has been organised and advocacy conducted at the highest decision making levels in order to address the issue and provide necessary legal measures. JWP's effort on this issue has been to look at it from both viewpoints - a rights based development concern and a matter for law enforcement.

JWP places a lot of importance on community awareness and participation. It is only through community acceptance and participation that we can envision any social interventions. Therefore, regular bi-monthly meetings are conducted for community women and men in different areas to encourage those living nearby to learn about their constitutional rights, duties, existing policies and laws for protection; and how to use them.

Women are also given awareness on basic legal procedures on legal separation and divorce and how to file a First Information Report (FIR) when faced with domestic violence and sexual harassment in the workplace. With minority women, special attention is paid for imparting information pertaining to their personal laws and how to use the family courts to address their complaints.

We organise regular community sessions with experts on various issues, such as:

- (a) Child Marriage and Domestic Violence
- (b) Rights and responsibilities of Domestic Workers
- (c) Equality- Our rights under the Constitution of India
- (d) Child Marriage and Trafficking of children
- (e) The Role of Police as partners in preventing violence
- (f) Environment Protection
- (g) Menstrual Health and Hygiene for women

Unfortunately, not many men attend these community meetings, but JWP continues its efforts to involve them in every way possible. It believes that equal partnerships between men and women can be the only effective tool to foster development.

CHAPTER V

Health, Wellbeing and Counselling

There is a rampant need to address the situation of health and nutrition for women and children in our country, especially in the rural and semi-urban areas. Based on years of experience at the grassroots levels, JWP believes one of the most crucial aspects of any developmental intervention is the need to emphasise on community-based responses and capacity building, along with wide-spread awareness. Thus, JWP engages in promoting optimal health care and nutrition practices for women and children. Through effective counselling it spreads awareness and understanding about hygiene and sanitation, meeting micronutrient requirements and preventing and treating severe acute malnutrition. The emphasis is on promoting a concept of total health and nutrition, which includes not only physical health but also emotional and environmental protection. We believe by equipping women with good health practices, we can ensure increase in capacity building, community participation, spreading awareness, and better healthy lives for themselves and children.

JWP has organised several health camps with the help of local doctors and the Lioness Club, who handle preventive and curative aspects of health.

Major areas of work for JWP have been:

- Regular discussions with women's groups and community leaders on general medical problems and diseases
- Discussing issues related to women's reproductive health and STDs, HIV/AIDS, etc.
- Community health-awareness about malnutrition, immunization and emphasis on health problems related to early marriage and sexual abuse.
- Community health-awareness about maternal health and post and prenatal pregnancy
- Training of health workers, who organise people to recognise problems of ill-health
- Interaction with local administration and political leaders to ensure cleanliness and hygiene is maintained in surrounding areas
- Better and safer housing conditions for the people
- Access to clean drinking water
- Occasionally students and women take out rallies through the areas with placards to emphasise the need for clear environment and cleanliness. There were four such rallies last year emphasising Swachh Bharat.



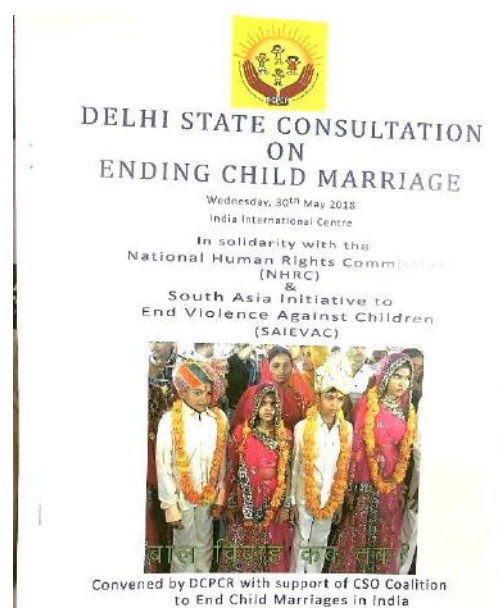
CHAPTER VI

Child Rights

JWP's vision for the holistic development of children includes education, protection and freedom from violence in any form. It has been associated with prominent child rights and human rights organisations to ensure that all basic rights are provided to all children, without discrimination. JWP's action for child rights includes:

- A child's identity as a human person and citizen
- Basic human rights such as food, shelter and right to education
- Action against child marriage, child labour, child abuse, trafficking and child prostitution
- Good health, mental wellbeing and medical attention
- Recognition of the equal status of the girl child
- Prevention of malnutrition and promoting good health practices
- Educational and extra-curricular opportunities for all children
- Gender-sensitization workshops held for children to make them more aware about the subject

It has also taken action against various forms of child sexual abuse and demanded necessary changes in existing laws and formulating new laws and a stronger commission for protection of child rights. Some of the major areas of concern have been prevention of child marriages, child labour and child trafficking for various purposes. Questions of child sexual abuse and rape has been continually addressed by JWP. Several campaigns with children in the slums have been conducted against child marriage and child labour to primarily sensitize children both boys and girls in order to prevent them from becoming victims. Counselling women and children on violence and sexual abuse is one of the mandates of Joint Women's Programme.



Awareness meetings on child labour and victims of child abuse by known family members are a major area where JWP is seeing results by the increase in number of reporting and increase in attendance in Mera Sahara's Protection and Education system. Domestic violence, missing / kidnapping / trafficking of young women and children has reduced considerably due to this community reporting system. JWP is also regularly in touch with the local police thanas.

JWP has been involved with the India Alliance for Child Rights for many years, collaborating on several projects as well as studies. On the 30th of May, 2018 JWP participated in the Delhi State Consultation on Ending Child Marriage in solidarity with NHRC and SAIVAC, convened by the Delhi Commission for Protection of Child Rights, CSO Coalition of India and India Alliance for Child Rights. It was a one-day conference to discuss the issue of child marriage in India, factors leading to its occurrence and also the preventive measures that can be taken to put an end to it. We came up with a list of Recommendations that were later forwarded to the Delhi Commission for Protection of Child Rights.

CHAPTER VII

Networking with Other Organizations

JWP has been actively working towards providing informed and safer lives for women for over three decades now. In the process, it has collaborated and networked with several organisations across the country to further its vision. Networking, both on a regional and national level, is a crucial part of the organisation. In the recent years, most of our networking has centred around issues of violence and decision-making for women.

Women and Decision-Making

JWP is one of the seven National Women's organizations (The seven sisters), who since 1984, have jointly demanded 33% reservation of seats for women in State Assemblies and Parliament. This women's network has succeeded in its attempt to influence the government to bring about changes in the Rape Law, the Dowry Act, the Immoral Traffic Prevention Act, Property Rights for Women, and the setting up of the National Commission for Women. The demand for 33% reservation was a logical step forward towards strengthening democracy at the grassroots following the reservation of seats for women in the Panchayati Raj. To this day JWP is an integral part of the campaign for the Women's Reservation Bill, conducting several public meetings and signature campaigns at the grassroots level while also meeting with political leaders including Parliamentarians to table this issue.



In 2018-2019 JWP participated in several events and meetings concerning the Women's Reservation Bill. On 6th March 2019, members of the National Alliance for Women's Reservation Bill held a press conference to launch the 'Womanifesto', a 11-point manifesto detailing the demands of Indian women, prepared after extensive consultations with over 1 lakh women from across India. This manifesto details the need to include women in politics and the current statistics of the same.

Women, Safety and Self-Reliance



JWP envisions a safe environment for women and children and has always worked relentlessly in making women self-reliant and economically independent. To further this cause, JWP organised a session called "Drive for Self Reliance" in partnership with Uber to talk to community women about the prospects of learning to drive and becoming women driver-partners with Uber, an initiative taken by Uber too help women achieve their goals while giving them flexibility in work. We also shared success stories of women who have taken initiative and have managed to make a better life for themselves and their families.

Violence Against Women

JWP has proactively taken action towards violence against women and assisted in resolving cases regarding the same, as elucidated in Chapter IV. Some highlights of the year are as follows:



1. JWP organises several workshops and sessions in partnership with other organisations. One of the meetings conducted recently was in collaboration with Saheli on Sexual Harassment in the wake of the #MeToo movement in India. We have also had a long association with the Lioness Club, who distributed sanitary napkins and urged the women and girls to use pads and napkins to maintain health and hygiene.

2. On the 30th January 2019, students from Miranda House performed 'nukkad naatak' or street play based on action against domestic violence at the Skill Development Centre of JWP at Nithari Village. The energetic and dramatic performance of the students got a lot of appreciation and intrigue from the members of the community. It was interesting that we saw a lot of participation from men, who watched the play and also took part in the discussion around violence against women.



3. JWP has been associated with the One Billion Rising Movement since its inception in India. It is coordinated by Ms. Kamla Bhasin. As a part of a world-wide movement, OBR strives to end rape and violence against women. Thousands of women, along with representatives of NGOs, civil society organisations, journalists, students, etc. attend the celebrations every year to show their solidarity. In 2019, as a part of the OBR, JWP organised a children's play on 'Constitutional Provisions on Equality for All'. (Bottom Left)
4. To celebrate International Women's Day, a 3 km march and event was organized by a collective of Women's organizations on 8th March, 2019 under the banner of '8 march Saath March'. Many of our community women from Nithari, along with other members of the JWP participated in the march with full fervour to show our solidarity on the multitude of issues faced by women, and to hope for a more gender-just society. Our students also performed a play. (Bottom Right)



CHAPTER VIII

JWP's Annual Day Function-30th March 2019

On the 30th of March, 2019, JWP organised its Annual Day Function at the premises of the Mera Sahara Skill Training Centre in Nithari, Noida. It was a day of celebration and reflection on the activities and achievements of the past year. Amongst the audience, we welcomed our Chief Guest, Col. Jitaram (retd.), Chairman, Naidisha Free Education Society, Guest of Honour, Col. Dr. Venish Rai (retd.), Special Guest, Col. J. C. Kohli (retd.), Principal, Sainik School. In attendance, members of the War Widows Association and Mr. Suman Doval were present along with several friends, colleagues and other supporters.

Children from classes 1 to 5 of Mera Sahara, along with infants from the crèche facilities, put a great show to celebrate the spirit of togetherness. The students and teachers of Mera Sahara along with some staff members and volunteers prepared some informative plays, covering issues of gender discrimination, domestic violence, Constitutional Justice, etc. A prize distribution ceremony was also organised as a part of the Annual Day Function to encourage the students who performed exceedingly well in their exams. Dr. Chatterji also distributed tokens of appreciation for the teachers, for their dedication and hard work to make Mera Sahara successful.

This year we also saw performances from our other centres. An energetic Qawali performance was put up by students of the Okhla Centre, followed by a sentimental, yet uplifting song by members of the Faridabad Centre. The students from Mera Sahara Skill Development Centre who attend tailoring and computer classes also performed a 'Saraswati Vandana' and a skit to raise awareness about gender equality.

The heightened spirits along with the feeling of togetherness and belongingness amongst the students, teachers and staff members of JWP was the highlight of the event.







CHAPTER IX

Our Team

The Director of JWP, Dr. Jyotsna Chatterji meets the team every Tuesday and discusses various matters like overall administration, academic concerns local affairs and violence and action required. She shares and discusses local and national issues pertaining to women and child rights, laws and how to use them. She also discusses domestic and sexual harassment cases, and connects with other organizations in order to inform women workers about their rights, laws and policies for their protection. As a consultant and expert on the matter, she gives suggestions to solve difficult situations arising among the staff and their families, domestic violence cases and how to handle them. She regularly checks on administrative, financial matters and fund raising.

Ms. Padmini Kumar, Assistant Director, visits the Nithari Centre every day to oversee the implementation of all aspects of protection, care and education, handles domestic violence cases, networks with local government authorities like the District Magistrate of the area, local police, village head, local partners and supporters.

Ms. Vimla Pant, Financial Manager and Supervisor, looks after overall day to day management of JWP and counsels the teachers, staff and children on issues concerning local centre matters. She also looks after financial matters along with **Mr. Dharam Narayan**, the Accounts Manager.

Ms. Lavneeta Jalan, Organisation and Community Development Officer, works with us as a consultant to handle the strategy, communication and networking for our organisation, along with all the youth engagement ventures. She also oversees our efforts at the grassroots level and is responsible for organising events, talks and conducting community meetings. She is responsible for drafting project proposals and fundraising, along with making the Annual Reports and Brochures for JWP.

Ms. Husna Subani, Consultant, is responsible for overseeing the Okhla Centre of JWP, where she conducts awareness generation meetings for Muslim women. She also visits the Mera Sahara Centre once a week to oversee the daily workings of the Centre and counsel the teachers and community women as the need arises.

Ms. Maheswari Chaudhary, is responsible for overseeing the NIOS project and giving tuition classes to students of class 8, 9 and 10, along with conducting community meetings in Nithari.

In Mera Sahara, Nithari, senior teachers **Ms. Renu Chaudhry** and **Ms. Manisha Sharma**, regularly counsel children in the age group of 9 to 14. The teachers and helpers (**Preeti Singh, Neeta Tiwari, Rubina Begum, Gayatri Sharma, Santosh Bhandari, Rakesh Sharma, Pooja Rani, Sheela Singh, Radha Bhag, Soniya, Saroj**) are active, capable and informed members of Mera Sahara Centre. They conduct adult education classes as well.

In Faridabad, **Ms. Nishi Kinger** and her group of volunteers carefully handle the programme in awareness generation, skill training in tailoring and nutritious cooking, with sensitivity and care.

In Aligarh, **Dr. Neelam Kulsreshtha** conducts the computer and tuition classes for children, especially on subjects of Science and English.

In Kausani, **Ms. Prema Joshi** and her team, pay special attention to the needs of single mothers and widows and their children as they handle awareness programmes, skill training, legal knowledge and protection in the context of their hilly area and social conditions.

In Halishahar, West Bengal, **Mr. Ajay Mazumdar** carefully handles gender sensitization programmes, legal education and skill training with the community of migrants and their children living on the both sides of the railway lines and the local villagers.

CHAPTER X

Our Gratitude

We are grateful to Asha for Education, the Asia Foundation, The Women's India Association of the UK, Info Edge (India Limited), The Ford Foundation, M/s. USHA International Ltd., War Widows Association and Smt. Urmila Devi Mittal Memorial Trust, Mr. Sunil Kumar Talwar, Mr. Bhupendra Jain, Mrs. Priyali Prakash and Mr. Dhruv Prakash and individual donors for their support.

Our gratitude for gifts in kind for our children, Larsen and Turbo, Lioness Club of Noida, and other donors. Our special thanks to Sai Sewa Samiti, Sector 40, Noida, UP, for providing freshly cooked and nutritious food for our children every day.

We are very grateful to our Board Members who are concerned about JWP's development and advise us on action to be taken.

JWP's accounts are audited by M/s. A.K. Nair & Co., Chartered Accountant, New Delhi, who have stood with us for professional advice and support.

We are also grateful to all those who come as experts and give their valuable advice to us.

We specially thank Vaishnavi Ganesh from Miranda House who has trained our children in cultural activities. We also thank volunteers from Slam Out who contribute their time to Mera Sahara and interact with children.

We thank Commodore Chopra and Mr. Joshi for their contribution and support to our education programme.

Finally, we are grateful to the Director of Joint Women's Programme, Dr. Jyotsna Chatterji, all staff, friends and community people. With their continuing encouragement, they are the real pillars of the programme.

- Prepared by:

Lavneeta Jalan

Organisation and Community

Development Officer



INVOLVE WITH US

It is an uphill struggle to carry on this movement, with limited resources. You or your organisation may involve and contribute in the following ways:

- **Participate in programme/projects, advocacy training programmes amongst women and children in urban slums and rural areas**
- **Contribute as a professional towards various activities**
- **Volunteer with us**
- **Information sharing and participation in events**
- **Financial aid or aid in kind towards our projects and centres**



JOINT WOMEN'S PROGRAMME

Apt. 201, Block 44, Heritage City Complex,
M.G.Road, Gurgaon - 122 002 Haryana,
India

+91 124-4056116/+91 98100 17523

Email: jwpindia@gmail.com

Website: www.jwpindia.org

FIELD OFFICE (MERA SAHARA CENTRE)

Near Government Primary School,
Sector 31, Nithari Village, Noida, U.P.,
India

+91 124-4056116/+91 98100 17523