

ANNUAL REPORT 2019-2020



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Director's Note



As I write this message for the 2019-2020 Annual Report, we are fighting the war against COVID-19. A world war, in which women and children of all countries are worst affected. Along with the fear of catching the infection, the mental disturbance caused by isolation, the accompanying violence, there is a sense of gloom. The government has declared a complete “lockdown”. No schools, no games, no markets, no visits to friends, no gatherings.

Social distancing of 6 feet apart between two persons has led to denial of personal contact and interpersonal relationships.

JWP's programmes primarily focus on Child Education and Protection and Women's Empowerment. In our all centres, children come for their classes 1-5 standards, to study according to prescribed syllabus and the women regularly meet for interaction about their rights, and skill training. We fear that this process of learning will be severely affected, and violence and abuse of women and children will increase. The freedom we have had to learn and grow, to solve problems together, and demand better conditions for marginalised groups, will have to be delayed till things are back to normal.

For us at JWP, there is no turning back!! We need to continue to move forward, to find new ways to ensure that education, awareness, and training do not suffer. We will have to find ways for people of these communities to have equal opportunities for development, and the possibility of competition with the privileged communities.

Our Report will inform you about our development in 2019-2020:- the number of children that we have impacted, the number of women and families which we have strengthened, the bridges which we have built with other groups and organisations to encourage change in their lives-educational, social and economic. The various programmes in which women and children have participated, the studies, examinations, and competitions that they have appeared for, have been successfully conducted.

We require continuing support from friends, organisations, and authorities so that this process does not breakdown, and the learning continues. I am reminded of a rhyme that we had to sing when I was in primary school in St. Mary's Convent. Children are singing this now-

*“Give me oil in my lamp keep it Burning, Give me oil in my lamp, I pray
Give me oil in my lamp keep me Learning, Keep me learning, Keep me learning through all the days”*

-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 of and for the women, for their freedom and identity. It believes in creating a society where women are in equal partnership with men. It extends its call to all women, men and children to join the struggle to uphold human rights. It was registered as a Society under the Societies Registration Act, 1860 on 26th April, 2004 at Delhi.

As a non-profit, secular and rights-based organisation, it has been reaching out to the government, law enforcing agencies, civil society groups, grassroots organisations and concerned individuals, among others, with the objective of furthering the cause of women and children with regard to their human rights concerns, especially addressing those who belong to the distressed and disadvantaged sections of the society, in both rural and urban areas.

"We strive to enable women and children lead informed and safer lives"

For JWP, the women's question in India is both a concern for the female sex and the interrelated phenomena involving caste, class, ethnicity, culture, and religion, which leads to discrimination & exploitation. Our vision grew to encompass the organization of women at the grassroots level and building communities in rural and urban areas. It conducts studies, research and documentation of information along with organizing seminars, conferences and workshops to inform, analyse and build the capacity of functionaries and thus, promote necessary action.

In the context of children, JWP realizes that considerable attention must be paid to child rights in the development process in India. Its programmes are therefore planned to ensure holistic processes and laws, interventions and infrastructure for the survival, protection, development and participation of each child, irrespective of gender, caste, class and religion. The Mera Sahara Education and Protection Centre, in Nithari Noida, is one of our most successful endeavours.

VISION AND MISSION

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 seeks to create a new society of equal partnership between women and men while ensuring access to education and protection for children. It envisions itself as a movement of and by women, men and children seeking the freedom to express their identity. It works to empower women and children by building a movement for freedom from violence in all forms. It believes in the fact that issues faced by women and children are socio-cultural in nature- a community problem, and therefore, community participation is essential in the struggle for change in the status of women and children.

FOCUS AREAS



Child Development and Women's Empowerment

Access to Education and Health



Skill Development

Training and Awareness Generation



Action against Violence

Focus on Sustainability



Community Participation and Collective Action

OUR CENTRES

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 is coordinated by Ms. Nishi Kinger. This Centre covers women and girls from seven neighbouring resettlement colonies and provides adult education, legal literacy along with a dedicated skill training programme in tailoring and cooking.



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.



KASAUNI, UTTARAKHAND

The 'Chandra Pranam' Centre in Kasauni is monitored by our coordinator Ms. Prema Joshi. This Centre is primarily a skill-based programme, focused on imparting transferable skills to women along with adult literacy and legal awareness. The skill training programme has empowered women by conducting durry and shawl making classes and making small agricultural tools, as was demanded by the local women.

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. The programme primarily emphasizes education, health intervention, legal rights and skill training for the women such as sewing and doll making.



K A U S A N I



C E N T R E





FARIDABAD CENTRE

JWP's IMPACT REPORT

**14+
years**
in service

**20,000+
families**
impacted at grassroots

**500+
children**
enrolled in primary
education and skill
development annually

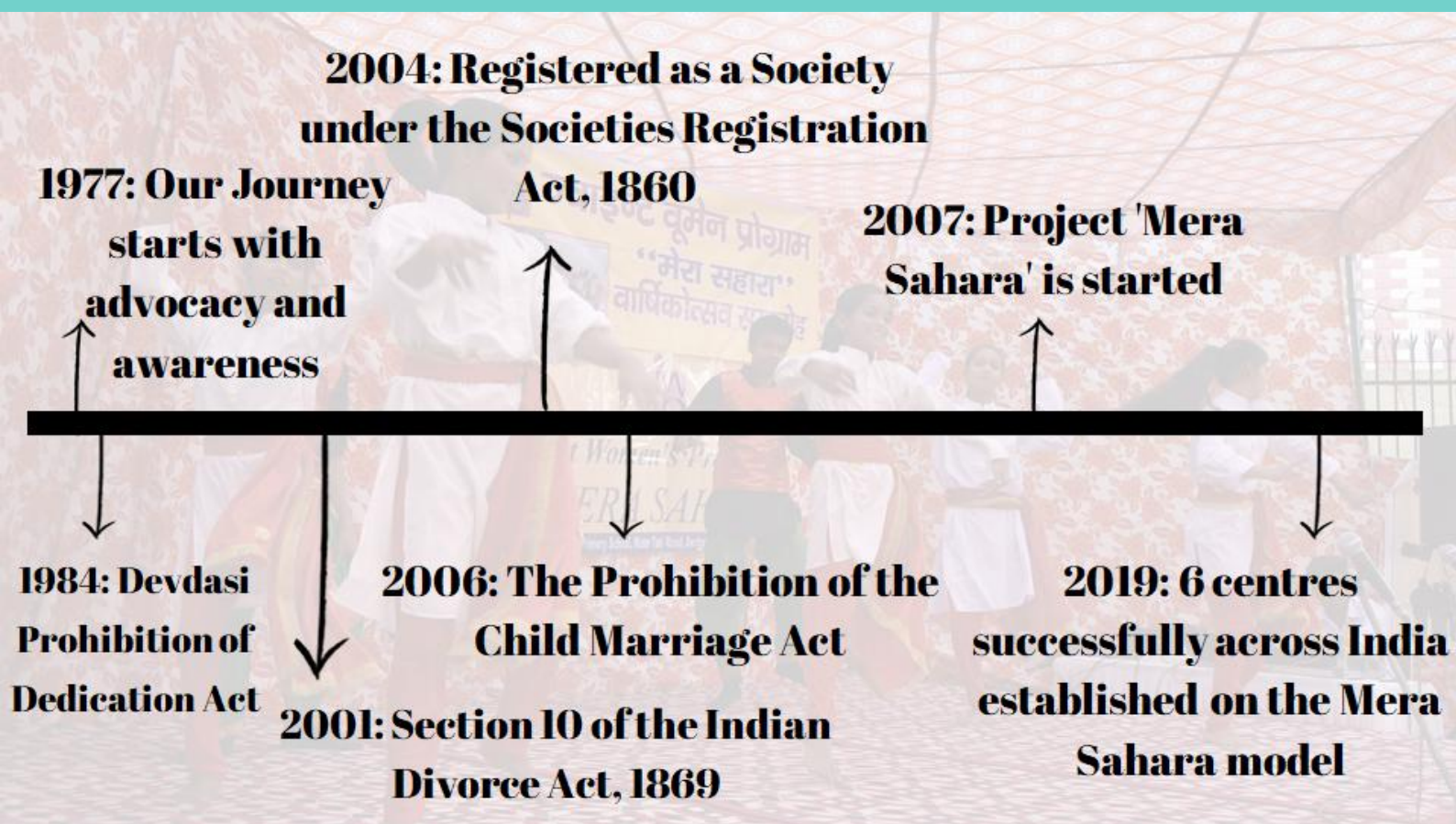
**1500+
women**
attended community
meetings and awareness
campaigns annually

**1000+
beneficiaries**
directly enrolled in our
centres annually



Representatives from Larsen and Toubro visited the Mera Sahara Centre to interact with our students





JWP has been a part of the Seven National Women's Organisations which have successfully worked on amending and the passage of laws on:

- (a) Dowry Prohibition Act**
- (b) Laws on Rape**
- (c) Women's Reservation Bill**
- (d) Sexual Harassment in the workplace**
- (e) Land Rights for Women**
- (f) Prohibition of Child Labour**
- (g) PCPNDT Act**

- (h) Domestic Violence Act**
- (i) JJ ACT**
- (j) National Policy for children**
- (k) National Policy for Women**
- (l) Immoral Trafficking Prevention Act**

PROJECT MERA SAHARA

EDUCATION AND SKILL DEVELOPMENT

Joint Women's Programme has been engaged in campaigning for free, mandatory primary **education** for all children including those living 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.

JWP's work for the past decade has primarily been targeted in the "Mera Sahara Protection and Learning Centre", along with the new "Mera Sahara Skill Development Centre", in the Nithari Village in Noida, Uttar Pradesh. The primary aim of this Centre is to provide for every child, a space for development, survival, protection and recreation, with special emphasis on the girl child who will be the empowered women of the future. It also provides a space for women and adolescent girls to continue their education and learn skills which are fundamental in making them economically independent.

The history of the village has been one of horror, and we have come a long way to see how the community has transformed itself today. JWP started its journey in the Nithari Village after the gruesome murders of over 40 children and recognized the need for a protective and learning environment because there was lack of protection and absence of safety nets such as schools and hospitals that led to alienation of the community. This made them extremely vulnerable to crimes such as kidnapping, sexual abuse, trafficking for prostitution and labour, and drug peddling, etc.

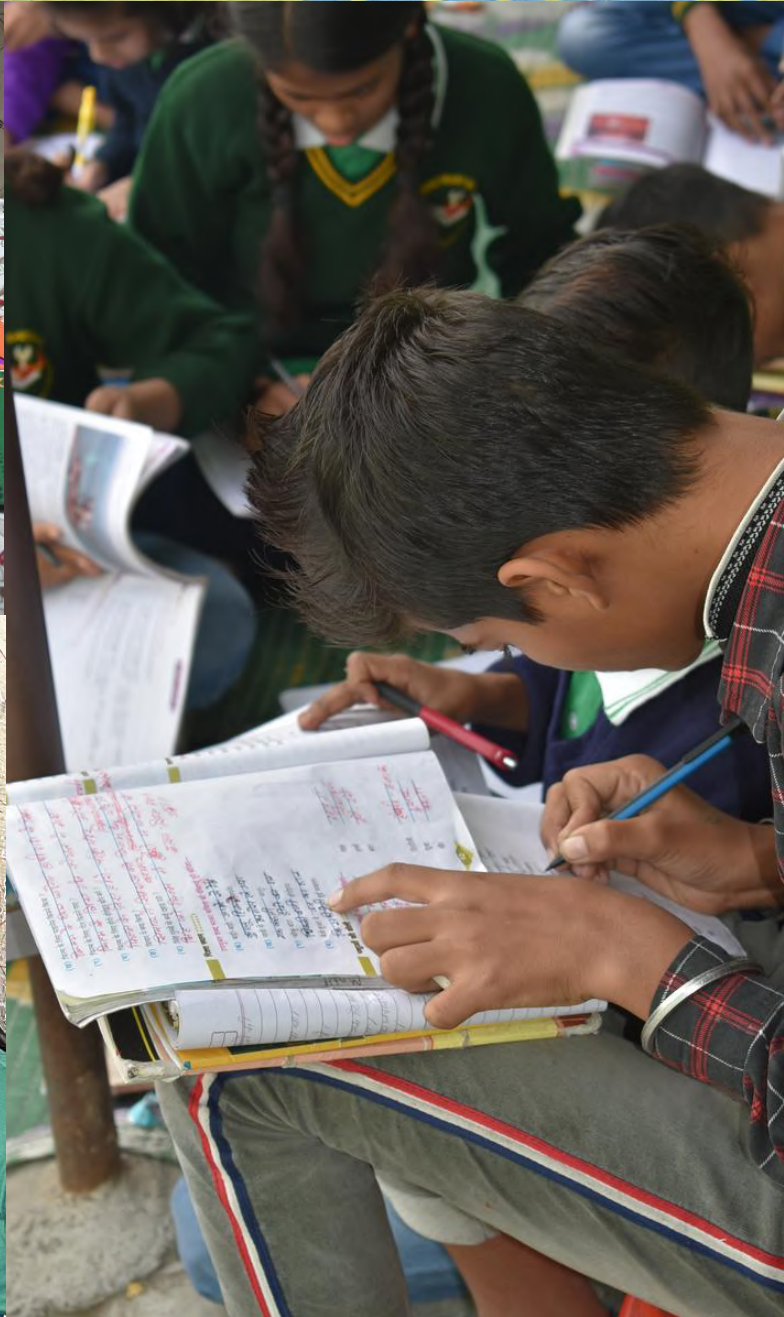




In the past 12 years JWP has engaged with the community thoroughly, through education, skill programmes, community participation and awareness meetings. What started as a small protection centre for mothers to keep their children safe, has now grown into a big family of over 250 students annually and over 20000 members of the community, who have directly benefited and been associated with us since the inception of the Centre.

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. 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.

JWP started preparing some students for the Secondary school examination under the National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS). 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 Development Centre

Along with primary focus on education, JWP's major area of focus has been on skill development. Skill development has been recognized as a crucial need for women and students to become self-reliant and economically independent. Thus, in 2018 JWP established a Skill Development Centre under Mera Sahara, in Nithari.

We have actively engaged in skill training for young adults and women throughout all our centres. 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. Our dedicated skill training centre at Nithari conducts tailoring classes, bag-making classes and computer classes.



JWP has had a long association with the **M/s. Usha International Ltd.**, who have continually supported it in training women. They conducted a seven day course, under their scheme 'Usha Silai School' for the community women in Nithari. Women, who trained under the scheme, have 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.

YEAR AT A GLANCE

2019-2020 has been a very eventful year for us at JWP. We have participated in a number of exciting projects and collaborations and conducted sessions on various topics around education, awareness, environmental preservation, action against violence, child rights, etc. We at JWP believe in the philosophy of 'leaving no one behind' and hence, try to extend our outreach not only to our students, but their families and neighbours and other members of the community. We keep learning about the various needs of our people and attempt to design the programmes in a way that can empower them and allow them to exercise their agency. The programmes are designed based on discussions and consultations which are conducted through bi-monthly meetings by our staff. This process has helped to transform the community to be proactively involved in its own development. It is with this vision that our organisation continues to grow and lead to actionable impact.

Key events are divided into 5 themes:

- **Highlights of the year**
- **Awareness**
- **Health and Nutrition**
- **Program Engagement and Outreach**
- **Sustainability**

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR

We started the year with an encouraging and exciting visit to the Rashtrapati Bhavan. JWP was invited to the Rashtrapati Bhawan to recognise and appreciate the organization's contribution to the community and grassroots level work. During our conversation, Hon'ble President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind was happy to note that JWP was giving hot and fresh midday meals and morning snacks to the students of Mera Sahara and spoke about the importance of proper nutrition and access to education for marginalized children. We were very happy to receive a Certificate of Appreciation from him. What made the event all the more special was that we were chosen as one of the 40 individuals and organisations which were invited from all over India. We are grateful for the honour!

SANJAY KOTHARI
Secretary to the
President of India



RASHTRAPATI BHAVAN
New Delhi - 110004
e-mail : secy.president@rb.nic.in

To,
Joint Women's Programme, Gurgaon.

As we celebrate 150th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, making incremental changes in our society can be our tribute to "Father of the Nation". It is these small changes-which add up significantly in Nation building exercise.

From Rashtrapati Bhavan, we commend the contribution made by **Joint Women's Programme to empower women and children in rural as well as urban areas**. It is hoped that your success story will spur other initiatives across the country and we will get closer to realizing dreams of Mahatma Gandhi.

Kindly accept our sincere thanks for visiting Rashtrapati Bhavan on 3rd January, 2020 and sharing your experiences with Hon'ble President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind. We look forward to continued association with you.

Sanjay Kothari
(Sanjay Kothari)

Visit to Rashtrapati Bhavan, 3rd January



Social Audit in collaboration with India Alliance for Child Right and World Vision: October 2019

A social audit was conducted at our Centre to assess the access children have to their rights and the extent to which they can access them, based 20 articles under the UNCRC. Over 50 students between 10-18 years (boys and girls) along with male and female caregivers participated in the audit.



Salesforce event: 12th October, 2019

JWP was invited to participate at the Noida Trailblazer Community Mega event in collaboration with the New Delhi Nonprofit Group and Salesforce as a local NGO partner in October, 2019. Students from Mera Sahara performed a dance to raise awareness about Domestic Violence and a play on the Constitution of India.

Republic Day Celebrations: 26th January, 2020

Republic Day was celebrated at the Mera Sahara Centre and the students prepared a cultural show with dance, songs and poem recitation. Army Veterans Brig. Gupta and Col. Amjad Ali were invited as our Chief guests.





Dr. Jyotsna Chatterji chairing the session on International Day of Single Women and Widows, an event organised by The Guild for Service in partnership with UN Women- 19th February, 2020



Assistant Director, Padmini Kumar was invited as a speaker to talk on Women's Reservation in the Parliament by Shaheed Bhagat Singh College's Women's Development Cell in February, 2020



To celebrate International Women's Day, many of our community women from Nithari, along with Mera Sahara teachers participated in the march with full fervor to show our solidarity on the multitude of issues faced by women and to hope for a more gender-just society.



JWP has been associated with the One Billion Rising Movement since its inception in India. It is coordinated by Ms. Kamla Bhasin. OBR strives to end rape and violence against women.

AWARENESS GENERATION

To bring about a change at the grassroots level, it is important that the community members/beneficiaries are aware and self-invested in their growth. JWP's work emphasizes on building awareness around several topics such as gender justice, action against violence, mental health, and several other social and environmental factors. It is important to create dialogue around these issues and changing the false narratives or the hopelessness with which people look at them. At the heart of it, we strongly believe that an impact can only be sustained when the communities become actively engaged in it and therefore, raising awareness around issues is one of the areas we primarily focus on.



As a partner of the One Billion Rising Movement, JWP organised a movie screening and discussion around gender-based violence- November, 2019



World Disability Day- Awareness presentation given by Ms. Maheshwari Chaudhary, JWP Resource person- 3rd December, 2019



Advocate Bulbul Das was invited as a resource person JWP to facilitate a discussion on marital discord and domestic violence- January, 2020



A session was conducted to facilitate discussion between young students on how safe girls are outside their homes and what best can they do as Mera Sahara students to spread awareness among the peers.

In honour of Shaheed Diwas and Gandhi Smriti, students, teachers and volunteers of Mera Sahara celebrated 30th January, 2020 as Non-Violence Day.



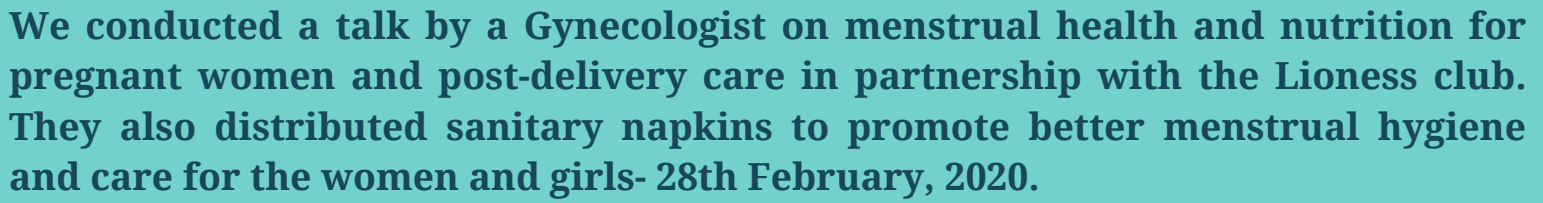
HEALTH AND NUTRITION

There is a serious lack of understanding and prioritising 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 a healthy community where people are not curtailed from the basic right that is fundamental to their life, the right to health. Therefore, over the years, JWP has prioritised promoting health in the communities where they work for women and children. The emphasis is on championing the cause of total health and nutrition, which includes not only physical health but also emotional and social well being.

JWP in partnership with Lioness Club collaborated with a Noida based health organisation called 'Roko Cancer' on 11th November, 2019. Awareness around cancer along with a health check up was conducted.



Blood group and Hemoglobin checked for our community women and children at the Mera Sahara Centre-in partnership with the Lioness Club-December, 2019



SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENT

When JWP started working with the communities, we noticed how sanitation was a massive problem in the area. We also realised that it was impossible to emphasize on health without discussing the implications of poor sanitation on it. In our effort to do that, we decided to introduce sustainability to our communities. Through various initiatives, JWP continuously strives to encourage a sustainable way of living for the members of the community. We also noted that it wouldn't just lead to a change in their health but also make for excellent economic alternatives for their livelihood.

Mera Sahara children were community leaders for Swachh Bharat Abhiyan and participated in meetings to spread awareness in the local vegetable markets- September, 2019



Volunteers from Larsen and Tourbo, one of our partners, came to interact with the children about the anti-plastic campaign and taught the students how to recycle plastic and make paper-bags- October, 2019



Kanchana Veerakoon from Sri Lanka was invited to talk on reuse, recycle, refuse single use plastic and how to make eco-bricks out of existing plastic bits. HCL representatives working with administration had attended along with many activists from other sectors- 18th November, 2019

Ms. Padmini Kumar participating in an Anti-Plastic Campaign in Noida. She has been relentlessly training students to avoid using plastic and is raising awareness and distributing paper-bags as an alternative.



Lioness club members collaborated in spreading awareness on banning single use polythene bags and donated cloth to make cotton, sustainable bags.

PROGRAM ENGAGEMENT, OUTREACH AND NETWORKING

At the crux of it, JWP believes in building capacity in the women and children of the communities and thus, enabling them to be the change that they want to see. In a bid to enhance program engagement and increase investment for beneficiaries, several activities were undertaken in the year 2019-2020. The idea is to promote the notion of "I'm because we are" and make women and children as involved with the interventions as is possible to ensure maximum voice in the project and palpable outcomes. We also try to collaborate and network with several organisations and events so that our children gain exposure and experience of various kinds of activities.

One of our volunteers from Slam Out Loud came and interacted with our students on various topics of poetry, elocution and storytelling. The students got certificates from the Jijivisha Fellowship and Slam Out Loud.



JWP Mera Sahara students participated in two drawing competitions as a part of their exposure visits. Mayur School Drawing Competition and Rang Bharo organised by Chinmaya Mission.

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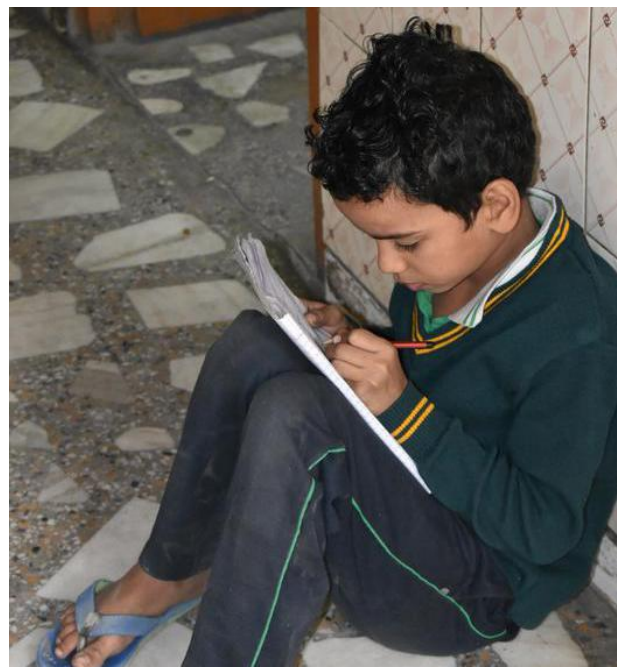


PICNIC



GALLERY









OUR TEAM

The Director of JWP, Dr. Jyotsna Chatterji meets the staff every Tuesday at the Mera Sahara Centre and discusses various matters like overall administration, academic concerns and local affairs. She 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. She regularly checks on administrative, financial matters and fund raising. She is also responsible for conducting the teacher's training and development every year.

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, handles the external networking events for our organisation, along with all the youth engagement ventures. She visits the Mera Sahara Centre to engage with the students and teachers, along with organising events and talks. 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.

Ms. Maheswari Chaudhary, is responsible for overseeing the NIOS project and giving tuition classes to students of class 8, 9 and 10.

In Mera Sahara, Nithari, **senior teachers Renu Chaudhry and Manisha Sharma**, regularly counsel children in the age group of 9 to 14. Our teachers **Gayatri Sharma, Neeta Tiwari, Pooja Singh, Preeti Singh, Rubina Khan, Sheela** and helping staff - **Radha, Razia, and Saroj** are active, capable and informed members of Mera Sahara Centre. **Rakesh Kumar** is responsible for running the Computer Centre and **Santosh Bhandari** handles the Tailoring Centre at Mera Sahara, Nithari.

Our outstation centres for skill development and empowerment also have informed and effective colleagues and trainers. They conduct adult education classes as well. **Ms. Nishi Kinger** and her group of volunteers handle the Faridabad Centre with focus on awareness generation and skill training in tailoring and nutritious cooking. **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 Kausani, Uttarakhand. **Dr. Neelam Kumar** handles the computer classes and awareness generation at the Aligarh Centre. 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.

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, Mr. Devendra Jain, and other individual donors for their support.

Our gratitude for gifts in kind for our children, Larsen and Toubro, Lioness Club of Noida, Mr. Ashok Srivastava - Founder President of Navratan Foundation, Mrs. Priyali Prakash and Mr. Dhruv Prakash, and other donors. Our special thanks to Sai Sewa Mandir, Sector 44, 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 Accountants, New Delhi, who have stood with us for professional advice and support.

We thank all other friends and donors who have helped us in the past. We are also grateful to all those who come as experts and give their valuable advice to us.

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 storytelling programme.

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

- Prepared by:
Lavneeta Jalan
Program Consultant



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
- Indian taxpayers: Your donation is exempted from Income Tax u/s 80-G of Income Tax Act 1961.

HEAD OFFICE- JWP

Apt. 201, Block 44, Heritage City
Complex,
M. G. Road, Gurgaon - 122 002
Haryana, India
+91 124-4056116/+91 98100 17523
jwpindia@gmail.com
jwpindia.org

FIELD OFFICE (MERA SAHARA CENTRE)

Government Primary
School, Sector 31, Nithari
Village, Noida, U.P., India
+91 124-4056116/+91
98100 17523

DONATE AND HELP US CONTINUE OUR EFFORTS

Name of account: Joint Women's Programme
Name of Bank: IDBI Bank, Siri Fort Branch
Account no: 010104000138512
IFSC: IBKL00000010