

JAN CHETNA MANCH

BOKARO

Annual Report 2013 – 2014



Chamrabad, Chandra, Chandankiari, Bokaro, Jharkhand, 828134

Registered under Societies Registration Act, 21/1860

Registration No.918, 2006-07, Jharkhand

JAN CHETNA MANCH BOKARO

(Forum for People's Awareness)

Jan Chetna Manch, Bokaro (JCMB) is a registered society, based in Chandankiari, Bokaro, Jharkhand. Its mission is to help improve the lives of the poorest and weakest section of society, especially women and other marginalised sections of society. It believes that empowerment is the key to improve the lives of the most impoverished.

Most of the activities of **JCMB** have continued to increase throughout the year. The demands and needs of the community for better health care – for women, children, mental illnesses; problems related to malnutrition; setting up women's self help groups; and accessing their entitlements continue to grow.

In our endeavour we have been helped by many organisation and individuals. In the sphere of women's health the **Sir Dorabji Tata Trust** has been a source of solid support for the critical health services for women. During the year we initiated a much-needed mental health programme, with the support of **Jamsetji Tata Trust**. We continued to provide support to poor women during pregnancy and their newborns with support from the **Edelgive Foundation**.

For increasing the awareness of the women's groups regarding the functioning of the 'panchayati raj' (local self governance) and the various government schemes, we continue to receive the support of the **Paul Hamlyn Foundation**.

The **Centre for Women's Development** has supported JCMB's involvement in the study of indigenous birthing practices in the 'Jeeva Project'.

JCMB's long standing concern for the environment, and the degradation of barren land in the area led to a tree-planting project during the year, with the support of **Global Green Grants**.

The **Department of Health and Family Welfare** of the Government of Jharkhand, through the local health administration, continued to provide us with financial support to enable payments under the 'Janani Suraksha Yojana' programme, and to enable us to provide quality sterilisation operations for poor women.

We would also like to thank the following friends and well wishers for their support: Vijay, Arun Kr Basant, Sarmishtha Gupta, Nandula Raghuram, Salil Mishra, Prabhat Kr Basant, Vasudha Bannerjee, Janaki Nair, Sukla Gupta. Friends from Colgate University and JAN-NHS have also provided much needed financial support.

Pancham Prasad
Secretary

July 2014

Women's Health Programme

JCMB has been involved with women's health-related activities since its inception. It continues to be a major focus of the organisation. Though villagers' spending capacity has increased, and in spite of the various interventions of the government, malnutrition and anaemia, amongst women and children in particular, are rampant. Lack of access to quality health care has exacerbated the problem. JCMB's approach is multi-pronged: to address the poor health of women necessitates their empowerment – to eat, access health care, look after themselves and their children. The role of the self help groups facilitated by JCMB has been crucial for this. Along with empowerment JCMB has also endeavoured to provide quality, rational and accessible health care services for the poor women in the area. Most of JCMB's health-related activities continue to be supported by a generous grant from the **Sir Dorabji Tata Trust**.

The table below gives an indication of the range of services currently being provided by JCMB. The total number of consultations in the outdoor clinics – in the health centre and in the outreach programmes has slightly increased. There has been a slight fall in the number of women accessing delivery care at JCMB, mainly because the government has been putting in a lot of effort into providing incentives for both delivery and sterilisations this year. If the public health system improves, and poor people get free – good quality – health care, JCMB welcomes this development, and will focus upon those areas of health that the government are not addressing – infertility, cancer screening, mental illness, etc.

The nutritional supplement programme – for babies and women during pregnancy – along with the free iron sucrose injections, came to an end this year, with the end of the grant from the **Edelgive Foundation**. However it gave us a much needed break to assess the impact of these interventions, and plan for improving such activities in the future. An evaluation of the programme indicated that the roasted gram flour provided to pregnant mothers did improve birth outcomes.



Twin pregnancies at JCMB – both girls, stayed for nearly a month

Health Services at a glance from 2012-13 to 2013-14 (April to March)

Health Service	Numbers 2012 - 13	Numbers 2013 - 14
Outdoor patients at Health Centre & Outreach Programmes		
Total number of consultations in health centre & outreach programmes	9811	11584
• Women registered for antenatal care	1126	1149
• Children for immunisation	2168	1687
• Acupuncture	1219	1106
• Ultrasonography	132	588
Nutrition programme		
Pregnant women given 'chana sattu' during pregnancy	352	149
Babies given weaning food	342	170
Women given free iron sucrose injections for severe anaemia in pregnancy	31	19
Indoor patients at Health Centre		
Total indoor admissions	1034	909
Deliveries total	642	604
• Normal	621	569
• Cesarean section	21	35
Deliveries referred to a higher centre	13	26
Gynecological Surgeries (other than Cesarean sections)	15	6
Sterilisation operation for women	64	44
Minor operations (D & C, etc)	78	63
Pre-term/small babies kept in baby care unit	13	8
Other illnesses (typhoid, dysentery, malaria, etc)	209	158
Investigations undertaken in laboratory		
Total investigations	6833	7111
Hb	2207	2320
Urine for protein & glucose	1795	1939
Routine urine examination	819	825
Blood grouping	938	914
Malaria	142	109
Semen analysis	47	43
Others (TD/DC, HIV, Widal, sputum for AFB, etc)	885	961

Mental health Programme

From June 2013, with the support of the **Jamsetji Tata Trust**, JCMB initiated a mental health programme in Chandankiari. This is a new area of activity for us, but fulfils a huge unmet need for addressing the problems of mental health in this area. The only psychiatrists available in the district were in Bokaro General Hospital, whose services are not freely available to non-steel plant employees. Some patients access services from mental health institutions in Ranchi, but the vast majority rely on traditional healers, local nonqualified practitioners or, mostly, none at all.

The programme not only involves providing for treatment, but also entails awareness programmes in the villages. Meetings with the self help group members and their families were held, and discussions on the issue of mental health were organised. Leaflets were distributed in the village fairs in Simulia and Sabra – which generated much enthusiastic response. As a result the number of villagers accessing the services of the psychiatrist – Dr Deepak Giri – has gradually increased over the months. Starting in November he has attended monthly clinics in JCMB, with over 40 patients accessing treatment each month.

Training of the community health workers, and the *swasthya sakhis* has also been organised as a part of this programme. During the annual women's day meeting, held this year on 9th March, a drama on the issue of mental health problems of adolescent girls was enacted by them.

Environment and the land

JCMB has retained an interest in the issue of the environment since its inception and is greatly concerned by the rapid degradation of the land in the area. This year JCMB took forward this concern in a more concrete way by promoting the planting of various types of plants and trees on the small holdings of poor villagers. It helped to set up a plant nursery in Simulia, which was run by a group of four women. This eco-friendly business was good for the land, and for the women too. Around 20,000 plants were grown and distributed to around 300 villagers.

This programme was supported by a generous grant from the **Global Green Foundation**.

Women's Self Help Groups, Empowerment and 'Panchayati Raj'

JCMB continues to facilitate the formation and on-going activities of the women's self help groups – the 'mahila mandals'. JCMB helps the women's SHG cooperative the 'Chetna SHG Mahila Swabalambi Sahakari Samiti Ltd.' in their day to day operations. It is through the SHGs that most of the activities of JCMB are undertaken. Though the SHGs provide a much needed source of credit to poor families, saving them from being indebted to the moneylenders, they are an effective strategy to empower poor, village women.

It is through the SHGs that JCMB has taken up a programme to empower villagers to access entitlements under the Panchayati Raj system. SHG leaders have been trained by JCMB regarding their rights and responsibilities, the elected representatives have been sensitized and a dialogue has been facilitated. Meetings, street plays, wall writings and training programmes have all been undertaken. This programme has been supported by the **Paul Hamlyn Foundation**.

Research Activities

JCMB has continued to facilitate the Jeeva Project, which is a research project supported by IFIG and the AYUSH department of the government of India. The project seeks to document the valuable traditional methods of childbirth.

Felicitation and support

At the end of the year – in March 2014 – Lindsay was felicitated by the **Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists** during their annual conference in Hyderabad. This was in recognition of the whole health team and the services provided by JCMB, not only Lindsay, for their role in providing quality care to poor women during childbirth. Lindsay was made an honorary fellow of RCOG, and the members generously donated to JCMB during the event.



Lindsay receiving a generous donation from Dr Das Mahapatra during the World Congress of the RCOG

Expansion of Jan Chetna Manch's infrastructure in Koromtandr

The new building in Koromtandr is slowly getting built. JCMB is trying several innovations, which have entailed delays. One such was the use of rat-trap bond for the bricklaying. Initially the local masons were unwilling to try this technique, since they had never seen it before. With persuasion, training and finding a bright mason, the work started. This method of building uses less brick and cement, makes for better insulation since it leaves a gap inside the wall. Many villagers are keenly watching whether the building will collapse!



Boundary of the land



Rooms taking shape



Arches not cement lintels



Hollow rat trap bonding...

