

JAN CHETNA MANCH

BOKARO

Annual Report 2012 – 2013



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, particularly women. It believes that women's empowerment, in particular, 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 for better health care, nutrition, setting up women's self help groups, and accessing government programmes are growing. Due to the pressure from the community and lack of space in the health centre for all the various health-related activities, **JCMB** purchased another 12 decimals of land in Koromtanr, around 3 kms away from the Women's Health Centre.

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. A welcome add-on programme was a grant provided by the **Edelgive Foundation** to enable us to provide nutritional support to poor women babies.

The **Department of Health and Family Welfare** of the Government of Jharkhand, through the local health administration, continues 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.

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 have been supported by 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'.

We wish to thank all these organisation, as well as countless individuals, friends and well wishers, for their continued support.

Pancham Prasad
Secretary

July 2013

Health Services at a glance 2012-13

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

Women's Health Programme

Women's health-related activities continue to be a major focus of JCMB. Women's health in Jharkhand – and in the villages of the Chas & Chandankiari blocks of Bokaro – remains a cause for concern. Malnutrition and anaemia amongst women are rampant – even in families that are not below the poverty line. JCMB's approach is multi-pronged: to address the poor health of women necessitates some amount of empowerment – to eat, to access health care, to look after themselves and their children. Several activities have been undertaken to improve the health and wellbeing of poor women in the villages of Chandankiari and Chas. The facilitation of women's self help groups, and the establishment of the women's health programme has been growing, hand-in-hand, from the very beginning of JCMB's activities.

Though delivery-related care continues to be a major component, other health problems affecting women are also being addressed. The Women's Health Centre in Chamrabad is being accessed by more families for health care, and for a growing range of services. The number of consultations in the outdoor of the health centre and in the outreach programmes has increased from 8046 to 9811 this year. There has been a levelling off in the number of women coming for deliveries, but this is a welcome development, allowing us to focus

more on quality of care rather than quantity. This is levelling off is probably due to the massive push from the government for the promotion of institutional deliveries in the public health centres: financial incentives for the family, free transportation – 'Mamta Vahan', and motivation payment to the 'sahaya' (Jharkhand's ASHA). The Women's Health Centre continues to be accredited by the district health authorities for institutional delivery, so all the women who delivered here last year – 642 women – received payment under 'Janani Suraksha Yojana'. Sterilisation operations have also been undertaken free of charge to poor women, with financial support from the government. Again we have focussed more on quality than quantity. The health-related activities continue to be supported by a generous grant from the **Sir Dorabji Tata Trust**.



Waiting for sterilisation operations at the health centre

The nutritional support programme has also benefitted many women and babies this year. Over six hundred women and babies were given 'sattu', which has provided crucial nutrients when it is most needed. Over 30 women were given free injections of iron sucrose in the later stage of pregnancy. This has been a life saver for many of these women who went on to have a safe delivery. Thirteen small and pre-term babies have been provided free long term – from 2 weeks to one month – care in the baby care unit this year. The **Edelgive Foundation** supported us financially for this programme.

This year we have invested in an ultrasound machine which is increasingly necessary for complications in pregnancy and diagnosing gynaecological problems, including for infertility. Another issue that we have started to address is cervical cancer. This was initiated with a training programme of our health workers and 'swasthya sakhis' conducted in February by Dr Subha Sri of RUWSEC in Tamil Nadu. We have already started village screening programmes, and plan to start other diagnostic procedures in the near future.



Receiving iron sucrose for severe anaemia



'Swasthya sakhis' with Dr Subha Sri



Small pre-term baby with mother in baby unit



Getting ready for community based cancer screening

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

Jan Chetna Manch 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. The membership of the 'Samiti' has grown from 4307 to 5867 this year, with over 400 groups now part of the cooperative. The savings with the 'samiti' has grown enormously this year, from Rs.278,089 to Rs.1357,620. Loans to members from this fund has also increased from Rs.666,807 to Rs.1825,773. These loans have been taken for a variety of purposes: income generating activities, medical treatment, marriages, and so on.



SHG member in shop facilitated by loan from the 'samiti'

This year the 'samiti' organised the election of their Board of Directors with much fanfare. Voting booths were set up in 5 different villages on 5 days. Members came

from their respective groups to vote for their preferred candidates. Eleven candidates stood for election, out of which seven were selected.



Members arriving to cast their votes

Stemming from JCMB's concern for women's empowerment, the strong network of SHGs, and the recently held 'panchayat elections' we have taken up a project to empower the group members regarding their entitlements. This project is being supported by the Paul Hamlyn Foundation (UK). For several years now the SHG members have been voicing their dissatisfaction with the implementation of various government schemes. Although two have passed since the 'panchayat' elections have taken place, but nothing much seemed to have changed. Panchayat buildings have been built, offices with computers set up...but mainly lying idle and not utilized. Since elections had not been held in Jharkhand for around 30 years, people's expectations were also low. Touts continued to get villagers' work done...for a price, from the block office. The elected members of the different 'panchayati raj' institutions themselves had little idea about how to go about their activities, with no guidelines or instructions from above.

During the last year JCMB has initiated an awareness campaign on 'panchayati raj'. We have started with our SHG leaders, and started a dialogue with the 'mukhias' and other elected representatives of the PRIs. Though the project was started in November 2012, the results can already be seen. Lots of women members of the SHGs who never dreamt of participating in 'panchayat' meetings have begun to take active part. Applications for death, birth, caste or income certificates are pouring in. Earlier bribes had to be paid for getting these certificates from the block. Now, at last, people getting these as their right.

Meetings with SHG members and 'panchayat' members



Annual Women's Day Meeting in Murrabad



Following this issue, the theme for the Women's Day Meeting on 8th March, 2013 was 'Panchayati Raj'. Around four thousand 'samiti' women gathered in Murrabad village to celebrate International Women's Day, where an extensive poster exhibition on the issue of Panchayati Raj was arranged. The annual event also included songs by members, a stall for demonstrating breast self-examination for cancer, dances by the health centre staff and local santhal women, food stalls and so on.

Research, Training & Advocacy

JCMB has continued to facilitate the training of health workers from other organisations. This year we had women health workers from PRADAN in Purulia, West Bengal; Omon Mahila Sangathan in Noamundi, West Singhbhum; health workers from PRADAN, Sundarpahari, Godda; and from Ekta Niketan in Madhupur.

We also hosted visits from PANI, an umbrella organisation working in UP on women's rights and from the Eleutheros Christian Society in Nagaland. In January we were visited by two trainee midwives from the Netherlands who stayed for a month to observe birthing practices at JCMB.

The Jeeva Project on birthing practices is still underway, documenting the valuable traditional methods of childbirth.



Visitors from Nagaland



...and from West Bengal





