

# Jan Chetna Manch Bokaro

Newsletter No. 3

April 2015

Greetings again from **Jan Chetna Manch!** (Forum for Peoples' Awareness) We are based in the small village of Chamrabad in Jharkhand, India. In spite of the scenic rural and rustic surroundings and vibrant cultural diversity the area is still plagued by the problems of poverty, malnutrition, inadequate healthcare, illiteracy and corruption. JCM and its hardworking team continue to work for the betterment of the people of the area in the field of health, sanitation, education, micro-finance, environment etc. Today, through its various services, JCM serves a population of over a 100,000 rural and needy people.

## Expansion in Koromtanj....

The existing health centre located in the building in Chamrabad seems to get smaller by the day. With the expansion of our health activities, and the need for more indoor care – the necessity for the new building is being felt increasingly. The new building in Koromtanj is, thankfully – slowly, but surely – getting there. One of the most expensive parts of the building – the roof of the building – of the ground floor – is finally on. It was with a lot of fanfare that the roof was put on in November 2014. It takes weeks for the bamboo and wooden props to get hammered together and then the iron rods to get all wired up. Then on one fine day everyone – it seems – ensures that the roof is put on. Until it is in place no one goes home....all helped by the fact that once it is done a feast is prepared.



*Snacks being prepared for the labourers – and observers – during the roof laying at Koromtanj*

*The building in Koromtanj is being built with community contributions & friends from UK through the **Cadmere End and Lane End churches**. A huge thanks to them all!*

## Improvements in health care at Jan Chetna Manch



*Dr Jyothi Unni & Dr Ashok Shroff with JCMB's OT Team*



*Dr Varuna Verma & Dr Alok Jha with OT Team*

This year **Dr Jyothi Unni** – a gynaecologist/obstetrician from Pune, and **Dr Ashok Shroff** from Seattle, US, volunteered to spend their much appreciated time with us here in Chamrabad in November 2014. Apart from the operations, they spent lot of time with the Operation Theatre team, upgrading their skills, and particularly focussed on maintaining hygiene and rational antibiotic use. As a result the use of antibiotics and post operative infections has decreased.

### **Operations October 2014 to March 2015**

	C-sections	Sterilisation	Others	Total
October	6	5	0	11
November	2	8	3	13
December	4	6	0	10
January	6	20	0	26
February	6	34	0	40
March	1	9	0	10
<b>Total</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>110</b>

*Just in case you are worried about the increasing numbers of caesareans, during the same period 401 women had normal deliveries – still a low 6% of all deliveries!*



*Dr Rachana Dwivedi teaches JCM's health workers*

**Dr Rachana Dwivedi**, a gynaecologist/obstetrician from UK came to spend a few days with us in April 2015. She taught us more about the importance of screening for cervical cancer, and helped us to organise a screening programme using our newly acquired colposcope. Twenty eight women were screened, out of which 4 women were advised immediate cervical biopsy to exclude cancer. All 4 women subsequently came for biopsy, and fortunately none were found to have cancer. Colposcopy is now being undertaken by the health centre nurses.

## Team work saves Champa's daughter



During an outreach programme in Sialjori in February, one of the health workers – Patu – brought along Champa Devi with her newly delivered daughter. She was 8 days old, born 3 months early – at only 29 weeks – and was barely alive. She weighed only 1.2 kg. The mother was not much better herself. Not having bathed since birth, neglected by her in-laws – she was filthy, and half starved. We brought her in the jeep to the health centre. She stayed for a month, and weighed nearly 2kg when she left. One month later – at 2 months old – she was a chubby 3.5 kg baby.



## Activities in the health centre

<b>Health at a Glance: April 2014 to March 2015</b>		
<b>Activity</b>	<b>April - Sep</b>	<b>Oct - Mar</b>
<b>Total Outdoor Patient Consultations</b>	<b>5528</b>	<b>5568</b>
• Antenatal Check Ups	2856	2520
• Gynaecological	356	453
• Infertility	74	101
• Children	238	161
• Immunisation	852	1097
• Acupuncture	771	474
• Mental health	200	357
• Other	181	405
<b>Total Indoor Patients</b>	<b>521</b>	<b>766</b>
• Deliveries	423	426
• Severe anaemia	27	24
• Preterm/small babies	12	15
• Others	59	301
<b>Investigations</b>		
• Laboratory tests	4820	5494
• Ultrasonography	513	452

## Helping other organisations

Many other organisations in Jharkhand are struggling to deal with the appalling condition of health care for women, particularly during childbirth. One such organisation is the 'United Mill Forum' in Sahebganj, one of the most backward in the state. They selected two young women – Sajeda and Firoza - to come to us for two months, for training in midwifery.



Sajeda & Firoza with JCM's other health workers

*The health centre is being significantly supported by the Jamshetji Tata Trust, with much appreciation!*

## Protest against denial of rights!

As part of our agenda to empower the poor and vulnerable, we helped to organise the most dis-empowered in our society – poor elderly villagers – for claiming their entitlement, a pension. Although many programmes exist, most do not manage to access them, mainly due to corruption and lethargy by government officials. The office staff do not even deign to receive their applications! On 7<sup>th</sup> April a protest against this was organised, and around 3000 people – mostly elderly widows led the protest.

Thanks to the **The Paul Hamlyn Trust** for supporting JCMB for the programme to help empower the women's groups to get their entitlements

## Women's Day Celebrations: 8<sup>th</sup> March 2015

Every year we celebrate International Women's Day, supporting the women's cooperative. Most members of the women's groups look forward to this annual event, and there is much competition about hosting it! This year it was held at Bodma More in Chandankiari, and attended by around 5000 women.



Following the success of the tribal group from Monipagar last year, the girls turned up with an even better performance this year to welcome all the participants!

## A BIG Thanks!

Thanks to all our friends and well wishers in supporting our endeavours. Without such support our activities here in Bokaro would be unable to continue.



Banner reads: "Movement against corruption"



Sports events proved to be a great attraction

The sports events were hugely popular. Women hardly get an opportunity to let their hair down and have 'fun'. There was much competition for all the events!

## Do Contact Us

We'd love to hear from you! Get in touch via email ([janchetnamanch@rediffmail.com](mailto:janchetnamanch@rediffmail.com)) or phone (+919431128882).

We're always on the lookout for motivated, good hearted people to help us! We need all sorts of people to help us in the various activities we are involved with.

Please get in touch via email – the phones here rarely work!