Holistic Rural Development Program for 15 Villages

With support under CSR initiative of HDFC Bank, NBJK has launched a Holistic Rural Development Program (HRDP) for 15 villages of Kodarma district. This was initiated in October 2016 with coverage of 2056 households from 15 villages in Koderna Sedar and Jainagar blocks of the district. The project is for three years and it goals to strengthen integrated development of the villages to secure food, health care, sanitation and quality education with environmental sustainability. This is to promote different means of livelihood by adopting appropriate technology in farm/farm sector, improve quality of education, enrollment and retention of children in government schools, improve sanitation & hygiene and to introduce renewable solar energy in villages.

Through HRDP, Libraries have been established in 15 schools of 15 villages and 800 plus quality books provided to each library. Each school library has books worth Rs. 50,000, the schools devote 1 hour library period daily for each class and benefitting more than 3000 children. There are Awareness sessions with 3321 school children on hand washing practice and importance of sanitation. Also they got orientation upon roles & responsibilities of Baal Sansads. The program has activated School Management Committees of 16 schools in 15 villages, tried to regularize their meetings and workshop/meeting held with stakeholders including district level officer of education department. 14 villages have been provided 13 competent teachers of Science, Maths & English at Remedial Coaching Centers for 434 weak & poor school students. 2 schools have been renovated with boundary wall, main gate, flooring, tiles in toilets, running water etc. while wall painting & pictorial decoration for Child friendly class rooms took place in 15 schools of 15 villages.

HRDP has ensured renovation & de-siting of 7 Ponds in 6 villages that provided better irrigation facility for 601 farmers. Also 128 hand pumps repaired in 15 villages for safe drinking water. Repair and construction points for irrigation facilities have been identified and farmers are being trained in advance cultivation. This achieved renovation of 135 toilets with tiles & other basic amenities in 4 villages and construction of 5 new model toilets took place in village Pahridih to make it ODF. The process began to refund Swachh Bharat Mission contribution there for convergence purpose.

HRDP has ensured installation of 108 Solar Street Light in 15 villages for promotion of green energy and natural resource management. Also this facilitated 50 SHGs with 500 women to get institutional credit in future. There is a health awareness campaign in villages and two eye checkup camps were held at Koderna and Jainagar that catered 295 patients from 15 villages and 52 Identified cataract patients got surgery atLNJP eye hospital, Bahera (Choupuran).
Ajab Singh at NJBK

20-21 April, Hazaribag: Mr. Ajay Kumar Singh, an IRS officer and the main character of the film "Ajab Singh Ki Gazab Kahani" has paid a promotional visit at NJBK office on 20th April. He has addressed a meeting with the team NJBK and appealed all to watch the movie which depicted his life story against all the physical and socioeconomic odds.

Mr. Singh was born in an extremely poor farmer’s family and became partially deafblind due to an accident during his childhood. His parents couldn't afford proper medical treatment in time. But Mr. Singh's genius and his deep commitment to the dream of parents has opened new pages of life that he wanted to share through this biopic directed by Mr. Rishi Prakash Mishra. This is first time in Indian Cinema's history that the same person has played his own role based on his real life events. The Hindi movie "Ajab Singh Ki Gazab Kahani" was released on 21st April nationwide and featured Ajay K. Singh himself as Ajab Singh. Music is contributed by Tannay Pathwa and Ved Sharma. NJBK staffs have watched the movie at Laxmi Cinema Hall, Hazaribag. They appreciated an unconventional journey of a Handicapped IRS officer.

Activities under Disability Rights Program

May, Hazaribag-Giridih-Koderma-Gaya-Nawada: In the month of May, a number of activities took place under Disability Rights Program with support of AVI - BLF, UK. There were 21 panchayat level media advocacy meetings in 5 districts with more than 1600 people on issues of certification, pension, aids & appliances, BPL enlisting and inclusion with Govt. schemes on housing/job/food security etc. with PRI member, Mukhiya, Sarpanch, Rjogar Sewak, Anganwadi Sewika, Jal Sahyog, Warden Member and other community leaders. Also 3 block level advocacy meetings held at Dobhi, Chandwara and Hisua with 222 participants along with BDO, CO, BMO, PRI members and others. They focused upon Adhar Card-Bank linkage for service delivery. 19 block level meetings of DPOs have discussed regarding registration, DSHGs linkage, certification, vocational training, office venue, Govt. Schemes, Tricycle repair campaign etc. In Bodhgaya block, 2 PWDs were provided tool kits for carpentry and bicycle repair works after training while 2 female PWDs were linked to Rjogar Training Center at Giridih for short term vocational courses. 21 PWs were benefitted in 4 districts (except Koderma) with their Tricycle repair. 26 DSHGs have been provided with saving box & necessary documents/pass book etc. while 30 PWs got Micro-credit support worth Rs. 1 lac 70 thousand. At Giridih, a representation of PWs have demanded for smooth certification. A training on the new PwD Act 2016 enabled EPO members a fresh head over the law.

Sharab Mukti Yatra Across Jharkhand

4 –11 June, Jharkhand: Jharkhand State Lok Samiti, NJBK and partner organizations have launched a state level Sharab Mukti Yatra (Journey for Liberation from Liquor) or SMY from Hazaribaug under leadership of Mr. Girija Satish (President, National Lok Samiti). Messrs Kaushal Ganesh Azad, Shriyee Singh, Shyam Kunwar Bhar, Shanti Rana, Filman Bakhtia, Sujit Mishra, Paras Mahato, Vinay Bhatia, Rajiv Singh, Sadagaur, Kranti Rasoli, Minty Verma, Punam Bhati, Dr. Umesh, Meghnath & group (Female Artists) were other members of this travelling team. This began with an anti-liquor convention at Hazaribag, passed through Koderma, Giridih, Deoghar, Dumka, Jamada, Dhanbad, Bokaro, Jamshedpur, Sarakeila-Kharwars, Chibasa, Khunti, Lohardaga, Gumla districts and concluded at Ranchi with demand for an anti liquor law in Jharkhand. There were meeting, street play, press conference, handbill distribution at each destination. SMY was responded warmly by the people and youth/Women groups, PRI members have welcomed the caravan with much dedication. District Units of Lok Samiti and local VOs were supporting organs for this campaign. Mr. Girija Satish has said that since liquor serves disease, anti-
women crime, road accident only, it’s ban should be viewed as a developmental issue. At Ranchi convention, Mr. Girija Satish thanked all the people for their unconditional support and referred to Indian constitution that directs the state to ban liquor and reminds citizens to oppose any anti-women custom prevailing in the society. Padmashri Mr. Ashok Bhagat (Head, Vikas Bharti) has presided over the function. He said that Liquor Ban will strengthen moral fabrics within our society and needs unity of social forces as well as mass awareness also.

Campaign against Child Labour

12-18 June, Chouparan: Childline India Foundation, Mumbai supported Chidline1098 Sub-centre by NJBK at Chouparan has launched a week long campaign against Child Labour. Chouparan based government officers like Mr. Amit Kumar Shrivastava (Block Development Officer), Mrs. Savita Kumari (Child Development Project Officer) and Mr. Lakshneew Singh (Child Welfare Police Officer) have supported the campaign and discussed about their active roles during any operation if required. The campaign team has organized a quiz competition among children of Government Middle School, Singhwarah and promoted them against Child Labour. There was a meeting with Aanganwadi Sewikas at CDPO Office, Chouparan and they were sensitized towards intervention in the case of Child Labour. The Childline team has visited roadside dhaba hotel operators and appealed them to shun recruiting children as daily wage laborer. Also they distributed thematic handbills at all important nook & corner around Chouparan and disseminated the message amid mass. Mr. Birendra Kumar Sinha (Team Leader) has led the campaign comprised with Mrs. Punam Kumari, Mrs. Maya Mahara, Mr. Narayan Rajak and Mr. Navratan Pandey (all team members).

Ranchi Mayor distributes Certificates among RTC Trainees

17 June, Ranchi: Mrs. Asha Lakra Mayor, Ranchi has distributed certificates among the trainees of Rojarar Training Center (RTC). Piska More - Ranchi after completion of their 3 months skill development training in the trades of Computer Software/ Hardware, Mobile Repair, Tailor, Beautyician and Tailoring. She was the chief guest of this function held at RTC and accompanied by Mr. Satish Girija (Secretary, NJBK), Mr. Anand Prakash (Program Manager), Mr. Randeer Kumar (Center In-charge) and faculties. Mrs. Lakra has motivated the youths towards a sustainable future, they may carve with the skill learnt here and appreciated their effort for self-reliance. The passing out batch has performed with cultural programs also and made the event much attractive. On this occasion, Mr. Satish Girija has welcomed the chief guest and thanked for encouraging the youths. Mr. Randeer Kumar (Center In-charge) has informed that RTC-Piska More has produced more than a thousand skilled youths with high placement ratio and supported them to lead lives with dignity. There were about 150 trainees gathered on the day and they have contributed to organize the day memorable. NJBK runs 11 RTC at 10 districts of Jharkhand under the Program of Sustainable Livelihood with support of Axis Bank Foundation, Mumbai.

Training upon Carers Federation

15 - 17 June, Hazaribag: 3 days training for carers under their promotional program with support of Carers Worldwide, UK was held to outline a district level federation of Carers SHGs facilitated by NJBK in Hazaribag district. There were 30 carers/representatives and volunteers from Hazaribag Sadar, Katkamadag, Katkamsaandi, Ichak, Daroo and Chouparan blocks in the training. Mr. Ramakrishna and Mr. Natesh (Resource Persons) have discussed about basics of the federation and issues for advocacy. They talked about government schemes and their benefits. Disability certificates, pension, aids & appliances, treatment, school enrollment and other services can be propelled by such a body, they opined. Mr. Ramakrishna has said that the carers must get support from society and government for caring people and themselves. It’s significant that NJBK works with about 1300 carers of physically challenged, old aged people and promoted 81 Carers’ SHGs.
Symposium on Respect for All religions & Dawat-e-Iftar
20 June, Hazaribag-Dumka: A symposium on Respect for All Religions followed by Dawat-e-Iftar (Evening Dine for Rozedars during sacred month of Ramadan) was organized under joint auspices of NBJK and Hazaribag District Lok Samiti. The very theme of this symposium was introduced by Mr. Girija Satish (President, NBJK) who has placed main characteristics of Sanatan/Hindu, Islam, Christianty, Sikh and Jain sects. He said that all the faiths support oneness of the God, compassion, mercy, non-violence, purified heart, respect to women and reject superstition, liquor, gambling, bad companion to establish a humane society. Any hatred in the name of religions should be refused as Indian constitution treats all the faiths equally and makes us responsible, NBJK president has reminded.

Mr. Lalan Prasad has charged colonial mindset for communalism in India and appealed to correct this for national unity. Sardar Jaswant Singh has praised the very month of Ramadan for cleanliness of soul & body. We don’t fight for religions rather we want supremacy, fulfill our vested interest while any religious faith is meant to uplift humanity only. Mr. swarup Chand Jain elaborated the idea of Live & Let Live as the real message of all religions.

Also Messrs Arjun Yadav, Batehawar Mehta, Shamsher Alam, Abdul Mazid Ansari, Chulam Zilani, Santosh Pandey have expressed their views in the symposium. Mr. Shankar Rana (Coordinator, Jharkhand State Lok Samiti) has conducted the dais and thanked all for their presence. Soon after Dawat-e-Iftar was participated by around 200 people including women and children. A similar event was organized at GP Sah Sadan, Dumka also on 21 June and many important members of Chamber of Commerce, Bar Association, bureaucracy, local community were present in the symposium-Iftar headed by Mr. Girija Satish.

CASE STUDY

Master Arun or Arun Kumar Das (13 years) is only son among three daughters of Mr. Ashok Das and Mrs. Maya Devi at village Baschara of Lokai panchayat in Kodarma sadar block of Koderna district, Jharkhand. Arun is a student of class VII in Upgraded Government Middle School at his village but he was anirregular, ill-disciplined and unpredictable student. During School Management Committee (SMC) meeting, Holistic Rural Development Program team has paid attention towards this boy and decided to support him for schooling. When SMC has made query, the members have identified a number of reasons behind Arun’s absence from the school. He is a slow learner in study but tasted smoking, gutka and other bad stuffs under peer pressure. Also he goes to pick Mica remanis in the area for money. Since he belongs to SC category and has a poor family background, some class fellows used to tease him. This was a tough case but Mr. Gulam Baki (Teacher, Remedial Coaching Center) has accepted the challenge. He met the parents and convinced them to ensure their ward’s presence in the school.

There were counselling sessions for Arun and he was encouraged to play cricket as he likes forever. His school was provided new sports kit and he has been enrolled at RCC also for extra academic support as well as to shun bad company. Now Arun enjoys his school as these measures have made some differences indeed.