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JHARKHAND



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Witch Hunting Prevention Campaign

Street play takes the message against witch hunting to the villagers

Witch-hunting is perhaps one of the worst social evils that the state of Jharkhand faces. Unfortunately, Jharkhand has the dubious distinction of being at the top among the states where murders related to witch-hunting are the highest. Women are first stigmatized as witches and then they are often killed. Those who are lucky enough to survive, lead a life that is doomed and full of hardships for no fault of theirs.

Awareness is perhaps the first and the most important step to combat this deadly social evil. And with that belief, a campaign to prevent witch-hunting and help the victims was launched in the Khunti district. One of the important objectives of the drive was to identify women who have been branded as witches and to rescue them. The campaign aimed to help these victims come out of this

social stigma and lead a dignified life and avail all legal entitlements.

During the campaign, teams consisting of 10 participants stayed in the target villages for 2 days. The first day was spent in building rapport with the villagers and informing them about the objectives of the campaign.

Street play was conducted for target a large audience to impart the message effectively. The message was straight and simple: a woman who is a daughter, a mother and plays so many other caring roles in her lifetime cannot harm anyone and cannot be termed as a witch. The woman who gives birth to a child cannot kill anyone or anyone's child.

At the end of the play, the villagers were asked if there were any such cases in the village. The team also took stock of the available medical facilities and asked the villagers if they visited doctors or the local Bhagats/Ojhas in the village. The villagers were told to always consult

a doctor in case of any medical illness and not turn to the Bhagats and the Ojhas.

The women, who were targeted as witches, were helped by providing them with forms for availing government benefits.

The campaign was followed by a public hearing in the respective blocks. During these hearings, the cases were presented before the jury, which comprised the BDO, the CDPO, the SDO, the SP, president of PRADAN, Board didis of BLF PRADAN and the staff of JSLPS. The cases and the situation of each victim were presented before the jury. The panel then decided the legal and social entitlements that were to be made available to the victims.

The Witch Hunting Prevention Campaign not just helped the victims, but also successfully created awareness that could go a long way in helping those who have fallen prey to this social evil in the rural pockets of the state.

Enhancing Effectiveness through Stress Management



Stress today has become a part and parcel of our life. In the pursuit to earn money and run after material benefits, we tend to compromise on several aspects of healthy living and also at times leave behind the virtues of love and compassion that enrich our lives. This affects our health, both physical and mental, in a negative way and tends to push us towards leading a stressful life.

To counter the issue head on, a two-days' training programme was organized for the personnel of Jharkhand Livelihood Promotion Society. The objective of the programme, organized at Le Lac, Ranchi on November 09 and 10, 2017, was to help prepare the staff cope with stress and lead a healthy professional and personal life.

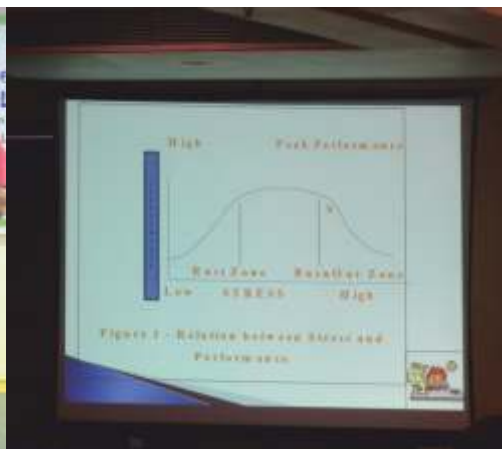
The programme started with the introduction of the participants. The trainees got to know about the stress level of the employees and the reasons behind it. Much to the surprise of many, the trainers told the participants that stress was not always harmful. At times, a little bit of stress

could help get the best out of people for successful accomplishment of work. Thus, having a moderate amount of stress could be positive.

During the two-days' training programme, the participants were divided in groups and did various activities to understand the relationship between stress and performance. The participants were also told about the various types of personalities based on the kind of stress they took in life.

The trainers emphasized that the art of forgetting is a gift and we need not take everything to the heart. Work is important, but not at the cost of family and love.

About 30 participants from the state and the district team attended the training. Dr. Parul Rishi and Dr. BK Upadhyay, the faculties of Human Resource Management from Indian Institute of Forest Management, imparted the training.



Medicinal Plants – a new Livelihood Intervention



Sakhi Mandal members cultivate medicinal plants in barren lands.

Jharkhand is blessed with a rich reservoir of natural resources in the form of medicinal and aromatic plants. The state can boast of more than 1,500 species of these plants, which together contribute to 5% of the overall herbal medicinal production in the country. At the same time, Jharkhand is also recognized for its Non Timber Forest Produce (NTFP).

The Jharkhand State Livelihood Promotion Society, through its MKSP project, has made an intervention in the agricultural activity involving medicinal plants. The target is to help around 12,500 beneficiaries through scientific and justifiable intervention. The project has been initiated in 500 villages of 10 blocks in four districts of Jharkhand - West Singhbhum, Gumla, Khunti and Simdega. It covers 25 farmers from each village in these districts.

The Sakhi Mandal members of Kalamati village in Khunti district have started cultivation of tulsi, lemon grass and khas. It is for the first time that the villagers here are cultivating something other than rice and vegetables and that too on barren land.

Kanchan Linda, a member of Jeevan Jyoti Sakhi Mandal, sharing her experience said, "Through our Sakhi Mandal, we got to know about the cultivation of medicinal plants and also received one-day training for it. We cleared our unused barren land and sowed tulsi, lemon grass and khas on it."

Another member of Jeevan Jyoti Sakhi Mandal, Johney Linda said, "The cultivation of medicinal plants is easy compared to paddy cultivation. Medicinal plants do not need extra water as they can grow with rain water. Also,

there is no danger from animals, as they don't eat these plants."

Seema Linda, who is also a member of the same Sakhi Mandal, said, "We are hopeful of a good production and income through market linkage."

Way to go to a secure future.

Collaboration with Jharkhand Poultry Federation



The Jharkhand State Livelihood Promotion Society (JSLPS) signed a MoU with the Jharkhand Poultry Federation on November 13, 2017 at its state office. Under the agreement, the Jharkhand Poultry Federation will provide technical and implementation support to JSLPS for the Johar project. It's one of the first tie-ups with a cooperative for the implementation of the ambitious project. The tie-up will result in assured income to the federation throughout the year.

“Sakhi Mandal - A Ray of Hope”



Sakhi Mandal shines light in the dark days of Laxmi.

“Singiturtun” in Ho language used in the West Singhbhum district of Jharkhand means “light of the sun”. And true to this meaning, the “Singiturtun Mahila Samuh” has dispelled the darkness in the life of 33-year-old Laxmi Padiya.

A resident of Jamunbeda village (Bhoya cluster) of Khuntpani block in West Singhbhum district, Laxmi has fought against all odds to transform her life with help from the Singiturtun Mahila Samuh.

Ninth grade pass Laxmi got married in the year 2002 and was living happily with her husband and her child. Unfortunately, five years later in 2007 tragedy struck when her husband suddenly died in 2007. Four years later in 2011, her parents got her remarried.

The second marriage was a new beginning for Laxmi and she settled in Bengaluru with her new husband. But once again her happiness was shortlived. A little over a year into their marriage, her husband decided to leave her and her two children at her parent's house without any reason.

Dejected and upset with the turn of events, Laxmi lost all hope. “I was becoming a burden on my poor parents and I decided to end my life,” she says disclosing the darkest days of her past.

It was in these times of despair that someone told her about the Sakhi Mandal in the village and advised her to seek help. The year 2014 marked the dawn of a new beginning in her life as she joined the “Singiturtun Mahila Samuh”. Soon, she could see a ray of hope.

She took a loan of Rs 30,000 from the Sakhi Mandal to purchase a buffalo and started a small dairy. Dairy farming became her main source of income and she started earning Rs 15,000 to Rs 20,000 per month.

With a steady income from dairy farming taking care of all her immediate needs, Laxmi decided to branch out to sugarcane cultivation. She took a new loan of Rs 15,000 to start the new venture and is the only one cultivating sugarcane in Bhoya. The choice of sugarcane was not random or instinctive. “When I was traveling to Bengaluru, I saw sugarcane cultivation in a field. I don't know why but since then I always wanted to cultivate sugarcane too,” Laxmi says explaining her choice. “So, when I got the opportunity and financial support from Sakhi Mandal, I decided to follow my interest,” she says.

While the decision to cultivate sugarcane was more out of interest, soon it turned out to be a masterstroke becoming the second source of income for her. Last year, she earned Rs 30,000 out of the business and she is confident of doubling her earnings this year. Sugarcane cultivation involves one-time investment, but provides returns for 4 years.

Laxmi sells sugarcane in nearby markets. During the Durga Puja and Chat Puja, she gets lots of order for sugarcane at home. In future, she plans to increase the production and also buy a juice machine. Her dream is to offer sugarcane juice to the Sakhi Mandal members during training and meetings.

Today, Laxmi earns almost Rs 3 lakh per annum (including her seasonal source of income). She has been elected as the secretary of the Sakhi Mandal.

Laxmi, who once contemplated suicide due to the hardships she faced in life, now, takes care of 8 members of her family.

She has helped her two brothers financially. One of them has joined the BSF while the second is studying mechanical engineering. She also pays for the education of her two sisters who are studying in Class 11 and Class 9.

With tears of joy in her eyes, she says “How life changes. My second husband, who had left me without giving any reason, now wants me to come back. But now, I don't want to stay with him. I want to be with my Sakhi Mandal family that helped me during my tough times.”

Mega credit camp at Purnia

Rs 2.75 crore disbursed to 275 Sakhi Mandals by the Jharkhand Gramin Bank.



The District Mission Management Unit of the JSLPS organised a mega credit camp on November 20, 2017 at the Purnia football ground of Khuntpani block in West Singhbhum district.

Sri Brajla, Chairman of the Jharkhand Gramin Bank, was the chief guest on the occasion. Other dignitaries present included RS Lal, Regional Manager, JGB (Singhbhum Region), Fudan Murmu, LDM, West Singhbhum, and the head of the Khuntpani block Rajani Banra.

During the camp, Rs 2.75 crore was disbursed to 275 Sakhi Mandals by the Jharkhand Gramin Bank. While handing over the cheque, Chairman Sri Brajla shared the steps taken by the Jharkhand Gramin Bank for better, long-term fruitful ties with the Sakhi Mandals in the state. He also urged the Sakhi Mandal members to avail cheap and hassle-free Bima Yojanas that are being offered by the bank.

Supporting the chairman's views, LDM

Fudan Murmu highlighted how the bank provides loan to the Sakhi Mandals at a meagre interest of 4% per annum. "This cheap financial resource can be effectively used to uplift the society," he said. His speech focused on how the Sakhi Mandals can avail more benefits from the bank in the future by regularising repayments.

Regional Manager RS Lal advised the SHG members to complete Aadhar

seedings in their bank accounts and start using their ATM Cards. "This will provide the members automatic insurance coverage," he said.

Gurubani Gope, a member of a Sakhi Mandal, shared her journey till now and discussed her plans for economic uplift after receiving the amount. Rajani Banra, head of Khuntpani block, was all praise after listening to the words of Gurubani Gope and said, "Now, I can proudly say that our rural women are heading towards upliftment of the rural society".

Consultant FI, JSLPS, West Singhbhum, encouraged the Sakhi Mandal members to come forward and become the messengers of cashless economy in the villages by working as Banking Correspondent Sakhi.

"These avenues may lead to regular income and add to the social prestige of the involved Sakhi Mandals," he said.

In his vote of thanks, the District Programme Manager emphasised on the importance and benefits of cashless transactions.





Solar Lamp Igniting Rural Jharkhand



Sakhi Mandal Members taking Garu Honey collection as a livelihood intervention



DDU-GKY : Skilling up Rural Women



Leveraging Technology to empower communities



Medicinal Plants : Transforming Agriculture... Touching Lives...



Sakhi Mandal Members taking the SBM-G campaign forward

An Initiative of Knowledge Management & Communication Cell

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National Rural Livelihoods Mission

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