



**CREATING A
DIFFERENCE IN THE LIVES
OF
THE POOR IN SUNDARBAN**

An Overview
of
Joygopalpur Gram Vikash Kendra

January, 2015



National Award- Indira Gandhi Paryavarán Puruskar

In recognition of its outstanding contribution to environmental protection, regeneration and awareness, Joygopalpur Gram Vikash Kendra received the Indira Gandhi Paryavarán Puruskar '2010 from the Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India. On behalf of JGVK Mr. Biswajit Mahakur, Secretary received the Puruskar (Award) on February 19th 2014 from Mr. Verappa Moiley, Hon'ble Minister of Environment and Forest, Government of India. This is the first time, the Puruskar is received by an organisation from West Bengal state. This award has special significance for importance of conservation of fragile Sundarban eco-system.



INTRODUCTION

Joygopalpur Gram Vikas Kendras (JGVK) over 15 years history reflects the evolution of its own learning from experiences generated in the course of intervention to promote and create a change, transformation in the conditions of the poor in South-East Sundarban. In this overview historical tracking of JGVK's intervention has been documented.

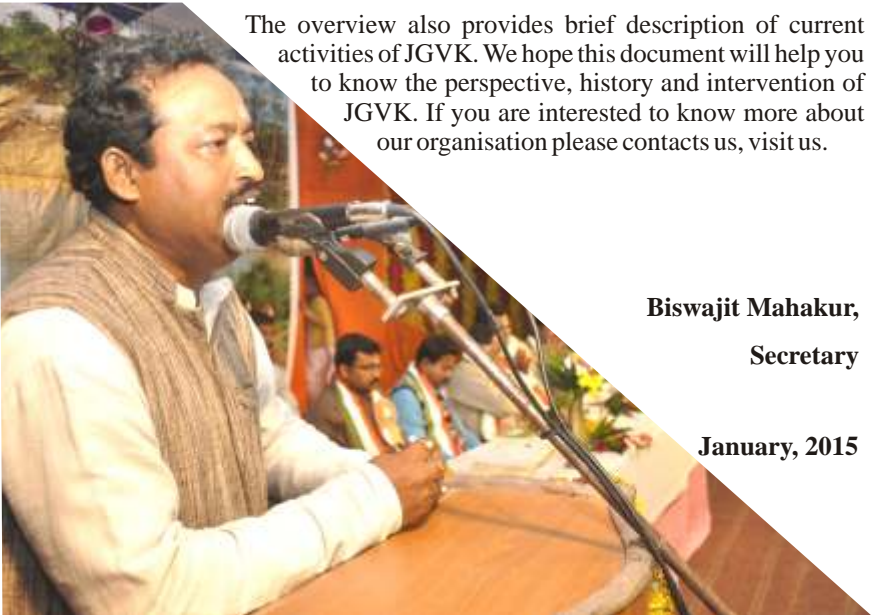
The development process was initiated by the local youth. At the beginning JGVK focused upon livelihood development of poor, marginalised households through the optimum use of local resources by providing additional skills on their existing experiences and practices. Since beginning JGVK focused upon empowerment of the Grassroots (the poor and marginalised, deprived women) through mobilizing and organising poor into groups. All activities are planned and executed through Women led Village Committees (VC).

As the experiences showed positive results, demands for social development emerged. Then primary education, mothers and child health, public health, water, sanitation etc. became major intervention. Based on grass-root experiences and continued empowerment of the Grassroots, JGVK now roped in three essential parts in functioning (1) Networking at the regional level (2) Advocacy at the district, state level and share experiences for policy formulation and in operational guidelines for effective implementation of existing policy (3) Building partnership with academic institutions for generating new knowledge, synthesizing JGVK's experiences.

The overview also provides brief description of current activities of JGVK. We hope this document will help you to know the perspective, history and intervention of JGVK. If you are interested to know more about our organisation please contacts us, visit us.

Biswajit Mahakur,
Secretary

January, 2015



State Award West Bengal Biodiversity Award (2014 to JGVK)

West Bengal Biodiversity Board acknowledges remarkable contribution made by GO/NGO/individual for conservation of biodiversity around West Bengal. Joygopalpur Gram Vikash Kendra was honoured to receive **Biodiversity Award 2014 from West Bengal Biodiversity Board** as “*Saver of Biodiversity*” for its valuable work in the most fragile island of Sundarbans. On behalf of Joygopalpur Gramme Vikash Kendra Mr. Biswajit Mahakur received the award from Mr. Jose P N Mathew, Member Secretary, WBBDB, Dept. of Environment, Govt. of WB on May 22nd. 2014 at Asutosh Birth Centenary Hall, Indian Museum on the International day for Biodiversity. The program was graced by the presence of Shri N.C Bahuguna, IFS, Principal Secretary of Forests & Head of Forest Force and Prof. Binay K Dutta, Chiarman, WB Pollution Control Board and eminent Panelists for panel discussion.



Genesis and Contextual Trends

West Bengal in India is home of the World's largest delta and mangrove forests, **the Sundarbans**. The 20,000 sq.km. forest delta stretches across the lower reaches of the Bengal basin. About sixty percent of Sundarbans is in Bangladesh and the rest is in West Bengal State. Sundarbans also act as South Asia's largest 'carbon sinks'. The Indian Sundarbans occupy about 9630 sq.km. There are 102 islands of which 54 are inhabited by over 4.5 million people. Recent studies show few more islands are emerging and some are under the threat of submergence. **Basanti island is one of the 54 inhabited islands of Sundarban where Joygopalpur Village and Joygopalpur Gram Vikash Kendra (JGVK) is located.**

Joygopalpur village is about 90 km south of the city of Kolkata. 15 years ago one has to cross two rivers through a ferry boat to reach the Basanti Island. Now one can reach directly by car within two and a half hours' journey. On the eve of the new Millennium, this Basanti island like many other islands of Sundarban was badly affected by geographical barriers coupled with strong and exploitative institutional structure, majority of people living in economic distress, income generation opportunities were virtually non-existent in the island villages. Agriculture was the major economic activity but it was predominantly mono-cropped area with extreme low productivity. There was virtually no functional health centre in the island, infant mortality was very high, literacy rate was around 50% and gender gap in literacy was over 30%. Very few afford for college education. Thus the confidence level of local people was low. Moreover the cyclones and the fury of the floods have been causing havoc every year in the area. Storm surges with waves of five to eight metres in height present a considerable marine invasion.

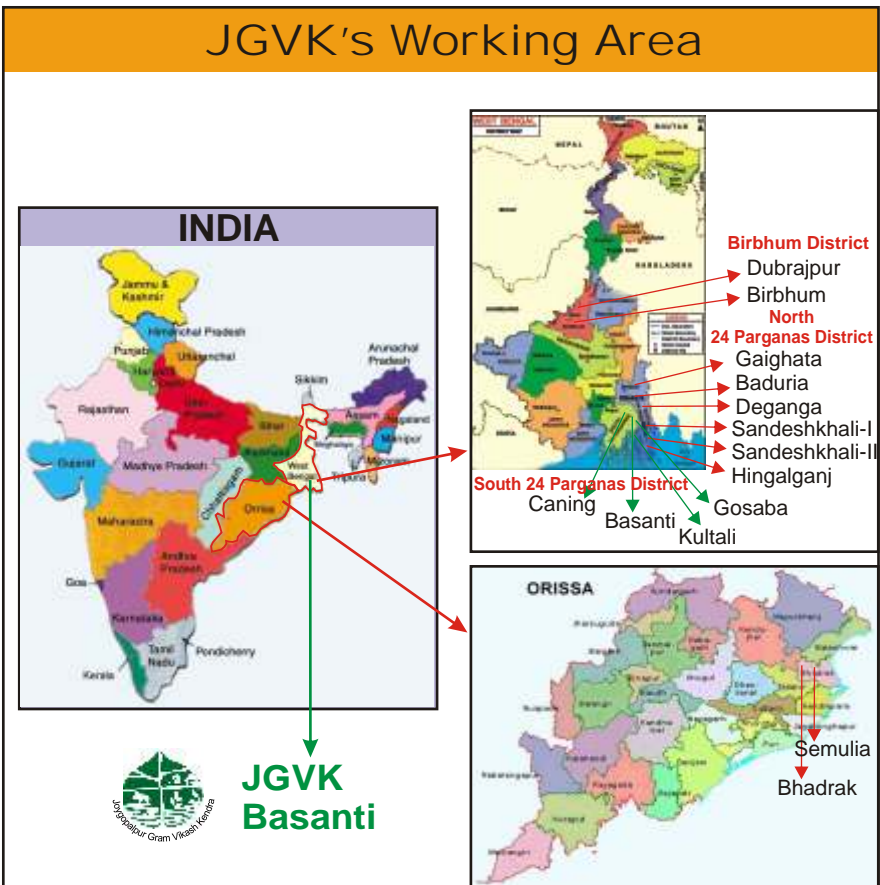
In this context, few village youth join together to create a change in the lives of poor people in Joygopalpur and its surrounding villages. Slowly this youth group (1) mobilise, organise poor women into groups for building collective initiative and self confidence (2) address the issue of involvement and retention of children in primary school (3) develop local health workers for care of pregnant women, newborn mothers and newborn babies (4) skill training and follow-up support to the poor women for additional livelihood options. The youth group later came to know that Basanti block is the most backward (in terms of various socio-economic indicators) among the 29 blocks of the district.

Even for a long time 'the **Organisation**' was not aware about the Millennium Development Summit in September 2000, the largest gathering of world leaders in history which adopted the Millennium Declaration which also known as targeted 8 Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), accepted as targets to be attempted by 2015. Some of the targets were directly related to the work of JGVK. The activities of JGVK was started to address the above and still continuing. There are evidence based changes over the period.

In its founding, JGVK focussed upon the empowerment of the grassroots, the poor, marginalised as the dominant social change approach. JGVK strengthen the village level women's collective (known as Gram Committee or Village Committee). JGVK promoted organising the poor, confidence building of the poor as the twin processes of grassroots empowerment.

As JGVK's experience grew, it began to acknowledge the relationship among the academic research and grassroots practice, practical activities. JGVK now working with various state and international universities, research institutions in systematizing new knowledge based on practices in JGVK's working area. This is known as **“Practitioners Researchers Engagement”**. Since its inception, JGVK believe in **“present generation not inherited the earth and its natural resources rather borrowed it from future generation”**. The sustainable use of fragile coastal natural resources, protection of plants, trees, animals, soil, water are integrated in all the programmatic interventions of JGVK. Environmental education, awareness and its practice are reflected in all the programmatic activities of the organisation.

Working with and influencing local governance institutions to open up greater spaces for peoples participation gained momentum since 2010 when JGVK working with few local governing institutions (Panchayati Raj Institutions). The focus is on to promote and practice accountable, participatory local governance like functional ward sabha, gram sabha, regular panchayat meeting, participatory planning, reporting etc. JGVK also develop linkages, building, partnership with the stakeholders whose contribution to village level participation, empowerment and providing various facilities available for the poor could be crucial. In the following pages these are elaborated.



ABOUT JGVK

Joygopalpur Gram Vikash Kendra' (JGVK) means “*Village Development Centre*” is a non-government organization for 'rural reconstruction and development of environment and conservation of fragile coastal region of Sundarban' : JGVK has been actively involved in development activities since late 1990s and has grown to have significantly outreach in different blocks of South 24 Parganas, North 24 Parganas, Birbhum and Purulia districts of West Bengal state and adjacent Balasore and Bhadrak districts of Odisha state. Head office of JGVK is located at Joygopalpur village about 100 kms south of Kolkata. With 215 staffs volunteers (January' 2015) JGVK has been able to reach 120 villages with populationa of over 250,000 in the above areas.

Few village youth from Joygopalpur and its surrounding villages have joined in late 1990's to do some development work for the local poor households. The organisation has been registered as 'Joygopalpur Gram Vikash Kendra' in May'2001.

Mission

Improve the quality of life with respect to food and social security through strengthening civil society, particularly through community based organizations in the selected rural areas of West Bengal and Odisha state.

VISION

To secure basic livelihood and equal rights for all as well as sustainable development in the social, environmental and economic context

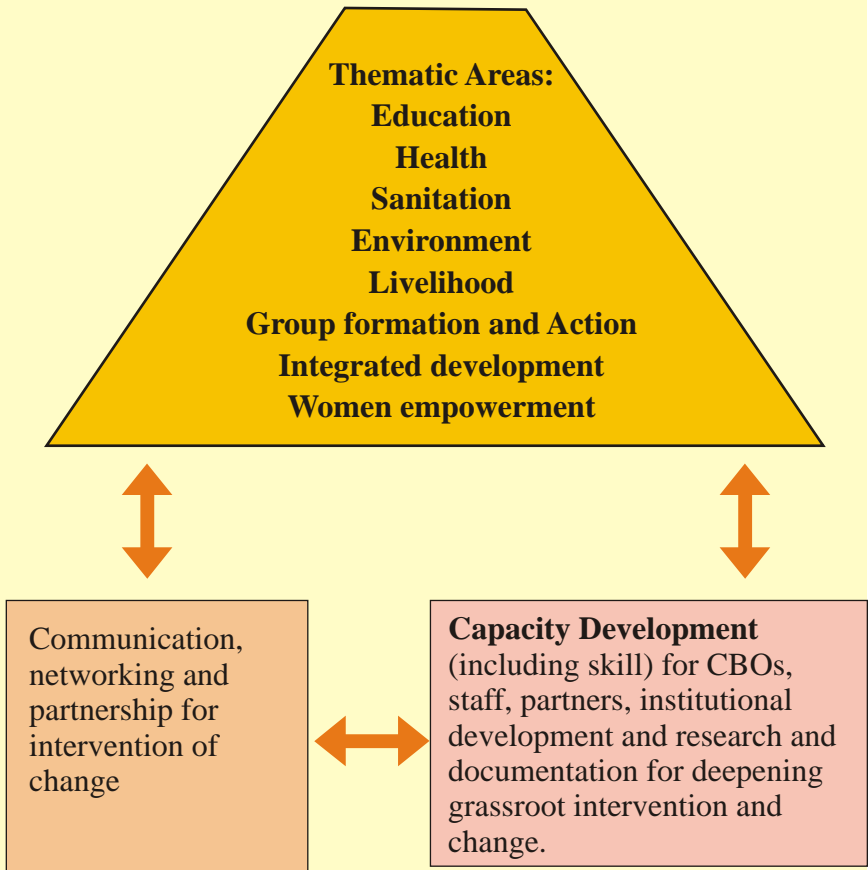
Registration Details:

- ♦ **Society Registration Act,** : S11/3567 of 2001-2002
Government of West Bengal dated May 17'2001
- ♦ **Income Tax Act, Government of India.** : DIT(E)s-21/BE/300/2002-2003
May 26, 2003
- ♦ **Foreign Contribution Regulation Act** : 147110715
(FCRA) Government of India December 30th2005
- ♦ **Income Tax (80-G) Act,** : DIE (E)/112/8E/300/2002,2003
Government of India June 10'2008
- ♦ Permanent Account Number (PAN) : AAA-TJ-5403A
Income Tax Department, Government of India.

Strategy

JGVK is an organization for social and economic transformation, dedicated to the participation and empowerment of poor, deprived, and marginalized households. The medium of work is through the poor organized women led, women now control and manage village committees and, the community based organizations (CBOs).

Field Based Activities of JGVK



Children of Sabuj Sathi after their stage performance



Farmers received seeds and micro-nutrient

15 YEARS HISTORY OF JGVK

KEY ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

LESSONS

(1999-2001)

A few young members of “Taru Tirtha” from Joygopalpur village started the social work in Joygopalpur and surrounding villages like flood relief, teaches poor students, provide them text books, arrange support for marriage of daughter etc. of poor parents.

2000: The local boys & girls came in contact with Mr. Ganesh Sengupta Chairperson IGF, Denmark in 2000. He arranged some funds. He also acts as mentor of the organization.

- ◆ Clear realization “charity destroys, works builds”
- ◆ Need to involve, the rural poor for their own development
- ◆ Socio economic empowerment for rural poor women is the key to community development



(2001-2005)

2001: The local group obtained registration under society registration act.

2001-04: Pilot Animal Husbandry project activities started with the first funding of IGF.

2001: The First three SHGs formed in Joygopalpur.

2004: Started Non-formal Schools (but serious efforts) in Joygopalpur and few other villages. The school “Vivekananda Shiksha Niketan started operating with 25 children since then, now having 184 students & 18 teachers teaches upto class VIII. (2014) funded by Holdor Topse A/S Safe drinking water through removal of arsenic funded by UBU/IGF -Denmark

2005: The organisaiton got FCRA registration.

- ◆ **Income generation** among the local poor are needed and that too through home Industry revived and was able to bring supplementary income in the families.
- ◆ Organizing women's in groups (as CBO's) paves the way for better impact in community development initiatives.
- ◆ Children's quality education is the foundation for sustainability of all good moral values in traditional Indian society.



2005-2009

2005-06: Started Public/Social Health Programme in 20 villages for pregnant women.

2008-09: Health Clinic started in JGVK.

Ambulance service started

- ◆ **Observed** that the fall in infant mortality rate and increase in life expectancy are the outcome of improved public health programmes which includes sanitation, safe drinking water and health education.

- ◆ **2008:** Started integrated programme on water, sanitation and Hygiene.
- ◆ **Water and sanitation related diseases reduced.**
- ◆ Pond sand filter-an innovative water filter installed at Gosaba block health centre. The system is still functioning & people attending the hospital as well as local inhabitants are drinking the water.
- ◆ Made people aware on the arsenic problems in some affected areas in the North 24 Parganas district.
- ◆ Collaboration established with Royal Veterinary and Animal University, Denmark, Bangladesh Agricultural University. Collaborative research on 'Experimenting Scientific fish farming with poly-culture'.
- ◆ Developed a 4.25 acre canal area as Demonstration fish farm.
- ◆ **2009:** Established fish Hatchery. Now about 600 local farmers are earning average Rs. 12-15000/- year from nursery pond and fish farming
- ◆ **Practice of participatory farmers field school methodology in natural resource management based work.**
- ◆ **2007: 15 days international workshop with scientists from six countries** shaped the perspective, strategies and intervention of sustainable organic farming in the area.
- ◆ **2008:** Established 8 acre farm for organic farming, for demonstration, training and production of organic products, experiment of new products.
- ◆ **2008:** Continuation of home industry programme with a focus on group based training of local women to produce skill based products and sale.
- ◆ **2009: An integrated initiative of education started;** coaching for weak students, computer training for students and youth, model school, non formal school centres etc.
- ◆ Small saving programme among the students for higher education, form
- ◆ **Realised** that women from the village itself can be trained as health educators and bring the changes.
- ◆ **Need to create pollution free rural environment.**
- ◆ **Realised** the need for more diversified local resource based economic activities for the local poor.
- ◆ **There is increasing womens involvement (Feminisation) of agriculture** in families with small and marginal holding due to out migration of men. So JGVK focuses on kitchen garden, compost preparation and training of women on organic farming practices is the answer for combating bio degradation and soil conservation.
- ◆ **Felt the need for** setting up a fish hatchery to produce good quality fish need.
- ◆ **Realised the need for conservation and sustainable consumption of small local fishes for malnutrition reduction & availability of small fish varieties.**
- ◆ **Realised** that destruction of land, water, plants due to excessive use of chemical fertilizer, pesticides, insecticides, and decided to promote organic farming in the area.
- ◆ **Realised** that combination of farm base agriculture and allied areas based work (fishery, animal husbandry) and cottage Industry can provide the viable livelihood to local population.
- ◆ **Felt the need for quality school education with additional learning support .** To reduce drop out at primary, high and secondary schools among the first generation learner's, support system like special coaching classes helped those children to continue studies.
- ◆ **Need for Activity based education.**
- ◆ Networking and linkage building is essential to support wider level intervention and sharing of experiences for replication in other areas.

functional' students environment groups'

- ♦ **2008: Publication of Ajker Basundhara** monthly periodical started.

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- 2010-2013**
- ♦ **2010:** Focus on Institutional and staff development through intensive capacity building through 'Partnership approach'.
 - ♦ Scholarship for school students.
 - ♦ **2011:** International exposure of JGVK staff, **participation in training workshop on 'Aid Effectiveness'** in Denmark.
 - ♦ Pilot IEC (2010-11) work followed by long duration IEC programmatic activity through partnership approach.
 - ♦ **2011-13:** Involve with a another programme in Kolkata Urban areas with 700 street food vendors with InnoAid.
 - ♦ Linkages with research institutions, academia were broadened to enhance greater synergy of theory and practice related to JGVKs work.
 - ♦ Involvement with government departments and access to government research and expertise in JGVK's work, involve in district and state level government committees.
 - ♦ **Started Literacy classes** for adult women.
 - ♦ Integrated development of poor households to develop as model effort.
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- ♦ **Realised the need for institutional strengthening** and professional development of staff.
 - ♦ **Large-Scale indepth-intervention is needed in strengthening elected local bodies and ensuring participation of villagers especially women group members in Governance.**
 - ♦ Need for more user friendly information dissemination.
 - ♦ Improved processes and systems of documentation are needed to capture work experiences and contribution of JGVK.
 - ♦ Need for continuation of work with community based organizations, with particular focus on collectivization of SHGS into village level committees and strengthening them.
 - ♦ **Need to develop higher learning centres** and skill based training centre for the benefit of local people.
 - ♦ Village level bigger women groups as Village committees (leaders from each SHG form village committee) is a meaningful platform to address bigger issues in the villages
 - ♦ **Realized that literacy is an essential skill** for village women in JGVK's, efforts to improve their livelihood options and quality of life.
 - ♦ **Holistic development support require** for the development of poor households in the region.



Sharing resource map by Village Committee



Women taking care of her kitchen garden



Workshop with Panchayet functionaries



Poultry farm



Adult literacy programme



Children's rally on small fish preservation



Demonstration on disaster rescue operation by NDRF



Training on Kantha Stitch



Sanitary Mart production unit at JGVK



Antenatal check up of pregnant women



Village Committee meeting



Goat rearing



Ambulance service



Nirmal Gram Avijan rally by school children



Vermi compost production in the demonstration farm



Tailoring training for SHG members



Hand washing before supplementary nutrition at ICDS center



Women received certificate after successfully completion of literacy programme



Aila affected people waiting to receive resque materials

JGVK STRUCTURE

GENERAL BODY (26 MEMBERS)



**GOVERNING BODY (7 MEMBERS)
AND
MANAGING COMMITTEE
(*SECRETARY AS CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER*)**



Units of JGVK

FIELD BASED ACTIVITIES

**HOME
INDUSTRY**

**NR BASED
DEVELOPMENT**

EDUCATION

HEALTH

IEC

ADM

HRD

F&A

SUPPORT UNITS



35 VILLAGE COMMITTEES (VC)



Vcs



SHGs



Vcs



SHGs



Vcs



SHGs

CBOs, CSOs and BENEFICIARIES

SYNOPSIS OF THE ACTIVITIES

1. ANIMAL HUSBANDRY PROGRAMME



The overall goal of this two phase programme (2003 to March 2010) was to raise living standard among the poorest families of 20 selected villages in Sundarban and to also contribute to sustainable environmental and social development. The programme has three separate but interrelated objectives. These are to : (1) organise the farmers in SHG's and then involve SHG leaders into village committee (VC) (2) raise living standards among the poorest families through Income generating

activities, particularly livestock and thereby also improve their social life. (3) build the technical and extension capacity of JGVK and the partner organisation and the community Based organisation (CBOs) like SHG, VC, so that they become able to independently train and provide service to others.

As a result about 4800 women (4600 households) have been able to increase their income through this programme. JGVK is continuing animal husbandry programme in the interior, areas with poor households. That programme was implemented together with IGF and supported by DANIDA.

2. FISHERY PROGRAMME



Every family in this area of Sundarban has backyard ponds. They put these ponds in fish farming but systematic scientific culture is rarely seen. So the production rate is very low.

The purpose of this programme are (1) to raise household income through the development of scientific sustainable fish farming (ii) to increase nutritional intake (Protein) among the poor household (iii) to Preserve local small fish species. The 4.25 acre farm area provide as a production cum demonstration and training centre for scientific fish farming. Till now 600 farmers have been trained and provide on-site support for improved fish farming.

These farmers have learnt how to prepare a pond, how to measure and maintain water quality. They are now able to collect and record the data related to growth and production. Now they are earning about Rs. 4,000 to 12,000/- additional income per annum from fish farming. The hatchery of JGVK provides good quality fish seed to the local farmers. This is the only hatchery in the locality. In the coming five years 3000 farmers will be covered and it is planned to set up a training cum research centre at Joygopalpur. The project support was from KVL (Copenhagen University), Denmark, Tollo Foundation, (USA) & Tips fund, Denmark.

3. SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE PROGRAMME



The purpose of this programme is to secure sustainable cultivation throughout the year along with higher production of agricultural products. Providing nutritional supplement to rural women, children in particular through vegetable cultivation, kitchen gardening and, multi-layer farming are the approach for intervention. JGVK has developed a 3 hectare experimental cum demonstration; training farm. It aims at developing of village level model farm. Till now 1200 farmers got trained in organic farming, new

varieties of crops and cropping, production of organic fertilizers, pesticides, insecticides and many of them are now engaged in environmental friendly agricultural practice. These initiatives were supported from Tips fund, Denmark.

In the coming period JGVK plans to (1) provide scientific inputs to the farmers e.g. soil testing and prescribe method of cropping practice (ii) institutionalize the 'Farmers field school concept' and its practice beyond JGVK, (iii) establish functional collaboration with government departments and research institutions, national and international experts (iv) processing of crops like sugarcane, maize, vegetables (v) Demonstration farm will be better organized in term of crop planning, experiment of introducing new crops, better documentation, training and extension (vi) sale / marketing of organic products (vii) access to a quality tag of JGVKs organic products.

4. HOME INDUSTRY PROGRAMME



The purpose of this programme is to increase the income of rural women living below poverty level through skill training and organize them, support them for home based activities. JGVK's massive movements for organizing rural poor women in SHG's and involve them in additional income generation are made sustainable through backward linkages with technology, raw materials and credit and forward linkages with market.

Till 2013 about 3500 women were trained in tailoring, pupped rice preparation, knitting, doll making, katha stitch, other hand embroidery, incense stick making etc. 1600 of those women are now working and earn Rs. 500 to 4000/- per month. In the coming period JGVK will (I) support them to form 'Producers Group' to develop business plan and to access finance from financial institutions and establish marketing linkage (ii) set up a vocational training school for rural youth (both girls and boys) for skill development / enhancement in mobile repairing, electrician, motor repairing fruit processing etc. The programme activities are supported by CISU, Denmark through a Danish partner IGF.

5. SOCIAL HEALTH PROGRAMME



The purpose is to improved local health condition like reduction of child mortality, maternal mortality, increase of institutional delivery, develop local women as health personal through training, peoples (women in particular) awareness on health issues. The extension activities concentrated in 20 villages and results have shown improvements compared to villages outside of project areas. The outpatient department at JGVK campus is a useful service to the local

population with support from CISU, Denmark through the Danish local partner IGF.

A low cost pathological laboratory started functioning recently. A group of 35 village women, SHG member have been trained in basic medical care, women and children's care and started working in the villages. JGVK have a plan to set-up a small affordable Hospital for low cost quality treatment of local patients.

6. EDUCATION PROGRAMME



This is an integrated programme of JGVK with 7 components. Its purpose is to improv quality of primary, secondary, technical and vocational education as it is critical to the rising aspirations of India's young people.

This is the flag-ship programme of JGVK. Successful implementation of this programme linked with human development, the development of future generation. This project

is supported by Holder Topsoe A/C, Denmark.

- (i) Running a secondary model school 'Vivekananda Siksha Niketan' with residential facilities at JGVK campus with all facilities – computer training sports and games, library, recreation, etc.
- (ii) Community learning Centre in different needy areas (NFS);
- (iii) Running of 10 NFS in different villages ;
- (iv) Computer training for youth ;
- (v) Coaching for slow learners, first generation learners;
- (vi) Development of adolescent on healthy minds, moral values and its practices (Sabuj Sathi);
- (vii) Vocational training for school dropouts and others through livelihood school.

7. DRINKING WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE PROGRAMME



The clear purpose of this programme is to improve the quality of life of the poorest of the poor through reduction of water and sanitation related disease problem. Besides support for awareness and innovative experimentation, there are two distinct contribution of this programme at the community level (i) awareness and action for use of toilet and wash of hands before taking food (ii) simple participatory study on arsenic content

measurement, depth of water level, extent of garbage generation and its disposal. These are possible with regular interaction among students, researchers and teachers of the Danish technical University (Denmark) and workers/volunteers of JGVK, Self help group members, villagers and partner organisations. There were other innovative contributions from this programme which includes installation of pond sand filter, arsenic removal filter, rain water harvesting, construction of low cost toilet and sanitation infrastructure in schools. This program we are implementing with technical support from UBU, Denmark and local Government with economic assistance from CISU, Denmark.

In the coming period the above activities will continue and expand the scope of the work.

8. RESILIENCE IN NORTH & SOUTH 24 PARGANAS Preparedness for future water related disasters



JGVK initiated a new project with fund resource & technology support from UBU, a Danish organization by the name water disaster resilience in North & South 24 Parganas since August 2014 till December 2017. The program started in four & three Gram Panchayets from Basanti & Gosaba Blocks respectively from South 24 Parganas and two each Gram Panchayets from Gaighata & Sandeshkhali

Blocks from North 24 Parganas. Around 54 village & block level volunteers are engaged in the project activities, working under the supervision & guidance from JGVK & UBU and DTU. JGVK is the primary partner of this project with five Civil Society Organizations (CSO). The three fold strategies included:

- Management of flood risks from cyclone and monsoon rainfalls
- Arsenic mitigation
- Investigation of decline of ground water tables in Basanti island

The primary activities encompass:

- Awareness, sensitization in the villages, school children, PRI functionaries to

understand the reason of flooding & ground water depletion and identify appropriate mitigation, preparedness actions

- ?Advocacy with Public Authorities, local- district- State level govt. functionaries to implement the disaster mitigation plan
- ?Conduct research on ground water table, GP GIS, identify disaster prone areas in the villages

The activities are supported by CISU, Denmark.

9. INFORMATION EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATION PROGRAMME (IEC)



There are four important aspects of this programme. These are (i) improvement of the status of MDGs in the 8 Gram Panchayats through involvement of village committees and its SHG members (ii) making Panchayati Raj Institutions accountable to provide services, facilities to the poor people (iii) provide orientation to the SHG members on the government facilities available for them and assist them to access these facilities (iv) dissemination of information among the target

group. This program is supported by CISU, Denmark through local Danish partner IGF.

10. HOUSE RE-CONSTRUCTION, STUDENT SPONSORSHIP, ADULT LITERACY PROGRAMME



Joy Du Bangla, a French organization supports programme aims at enhancing local condition through education and sustainable livelihood. Three main projects are implemented: classes for illiterate women, students school sponsoring and integrated house reconstruction program.

So far, the results obtained from JDB programs are the following : (a) 11 illiterate women schools have been implemented which bring more than 150 women basics in Bengali, Mathematics and English, (b) 9 students are sponsored (school fees, books, tuition fees ...) until they hold the class 12 diploma and (c) 30 houses have been rebuilt (including toilets, kitchen garden, animal to be raised, fishery) and trainings on hygiene practices, animal rearing, fishery and organic cultivation have been provided

11. KOLKATA STREET FOOD HAWKERS PROJECT



Learning's and experiences of the pilot phase (2011-2013) the second phase of Street Food Project Kolkata has been officially launched on 1st July, 2014 which has been plan to be implemented by Joygopalpur Gram Vikash Kendra along with another NGO named as Gana Unnyan Parshad in the new area under Kolkata Municipal Corporation & Salt Lake sector V and local organization in partnership with INNOAID, a Denmark based NGO with fund support from CISU, Denmark. The

objectives are:

- Create a scalable model of urban street food vending based on basic principles and guidelines of street food vendors legislation for 400 old vendors.
- To ensure street food safety provides safe, hygienic and organic environment friendly high quality raw materials to street food vendors which will be produced by rural entrepreneurs in collective or individual mode.
- Previously tested educational and technical messages will be delivered through participatory workshops with 1000 street food vendors & the impact will be assessing through Randomized Control Trial methodology.

12. OTHER PARTNERS SUPPORTED TOWARDS SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CAUSE

JGVK also anchorage with many other organizations, partners locally and nationally and received support in a diverse field. The major ones are :

- (a) Manabata Trust: we were provided with Ambulance and it is helpful to several poor families at the Basanti island to transport emergency patients as far as to Kolkata.
- (b) West Bengal Marwari Siksha Kosh: every year WBMSK provide school uniforms to almost 70 primary schools students
- (c) Calcutta Charity Friends Club (CCFC) : every year provided school learning materials to students of very poor families, otherwise it would have been difficult to continue studies for those poor families. They also worked for environment protection by distributing plant saplings worth of Rs. 2 lakh
- (d) Kolkata University, Botany department conducted research work on Algae as fish feed in collaboration with JGVK.
- (e) Dept. of Science & Technology, GoI: fund support to hold seminars on Science Day Observation for school students & village committee members
- (f) Sundarban Development Board: provided fund towards agriculture activities, primarily on excavation of Rain Water harvesting tanks in Basanti island
- (g) Human excellence society : support us with funds to address social issues in the communities
- (h) Mamraj Agarwal Society: provided fund for organizing Eye Check Up camp, with disaster rescue materials after Aila storm, clothing's for very poor families.
- (i) Art of Living: helped with environment protection activities like saplings distribution to school students

Future Programmatic Intervention of JGVK

1. Set-up Model Vocational Training Centre cum Industrial Training Institute:

JGVK increasingly realise that young people of South and Coastal Sundarban are facing an uncertain future. Youth unemployment rate are at least double the adult rate in the area. These low educated young people often migrate to various towns and cities to do some unskilled temporary job. JGVK felt the need for **value addition** in this work-force. There is an urgent need to provide them with such vocational skills to increase their ability to become part of the solution as well as reduce the risk of them adding to the problem. Greater emphasis will be placed on the transition from being out of work or school to working particularly in the increasing automobile repairing, farm implement repairing, electrician, mobile repairing etc. job and also become small entrepreneur.

JGVK is going to set-up a Industrial Training Institute (ITI) (with a plan to upgrade polytechnic) for providing various skill training to these young people at a subsidised cost. This ITI will provide various job oriented courses. Even these ITI students can also go to polytechnic and engineering college. This initiative will also relate with **National skill policy framework** detailed out by National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC). JGVK will develop this through PPP model. We at JGVK hope, this will bring a change in the employment scenario of coastal Sundarban.

2. Integration of skills and literacy training for better livelihoods among the poor village women:

Since 2006, JGVK is providing training and follow-up support for poor semi-literate local village women for their livelihood. The experience from decade long work shows there is a close relationship between training in livelihood skills and basic education (also functional literacy) to semi-literate middle age or higher middle age women. The combination of these two help, improve poor women's livelihood. **Firstly**, there is a widely noted visible **empowerment effect** that learners acquired enhanced confidence and social acceptance (Resources) which help them take initiative to improve their livelihood. **Secondly**, literacy and numeracy skills are a clear advantage in market transaction in the formal/informal economy and thus especially important for entrepreneurship (e.g. working as producers group). **Thirdly**, more productive agricultural, livestock, home based hand related work results from learning new vocational skills. So, in the coming period JGVK will relate these in the programmatic intervention for better impact on the lives of the poor women.

3. Formation of cluster level co-operatives:

JGVK will form co-operatives by involving and integrating the trained and experienced **producers groups** at the cluster of Gram Panchayat level. Support, guide, assist them to function as independent entities with in a targeted time period.

4. 'Total education of students: A model approach:

JGVK continue to provide quality teaching, education in model school **Vivekananda Siksha Niketan**. The school will stress on innovative curriculum management, new tool to enhance the development of the students. In recent years the need of the learning has changed. So there is a need to prepare the learner / students to become a **national citizen / global citizen**. The school will continue to follow the National Curriculum Framework (2005) which emphasis on child centred, student focussed pedagogy with constructivist approach.

(2) In addition, **JGVK will promote quality education in the 140 government aided primary schools** in southern part of Basanti block; through providing teaching learning materials, on-site training support to the teachers. So as to create enabling environment to practice, promote NCF.

(3) JGVK realised the need for quality school teachers, Now after getting the approval, GVK going to set-up a **Primary Teachers Training (PPT) Centre** at the JGVK campus.

5. Build Hospital to provide low cost-quality health care : The last 10 years experiences from community Health Project realised the need for a improved permanent health infrastructure in this area. This infrastructure, a hospital will provide services like : (i) timely medical treatment of serious patients, special care for pregnant women, new born mothers, children, delivery, treatment like snake bite, heart attack etc. (ii) various diagnostic tests at low cost. This hospital will be managed by experienced MBBS doctors and trained para-medical staff. The OPD, outreach **programme** and training of village health workers will continue in a more planned, systematic and professional way.

6. Policy dialogue and model implementation of existing government policies and programmes : In the coming period JGVK will share its experiences with the concerned departments, administration at block, district, state level for integration of these experiences at the intervention level of government. JGVK will also execute some of the existing government programmes, schemes in a better way. JGVK will continue to mediate between the poor people and the administration for accessing facilities available for the local poor. For this JGVK (1) will further develop documentation of work and institutional learning and (2) build linkages, working relationship with similar organisations at the state and national level.

7. Institutional strengthening: Organisational Development (OD) will continue to be an important area of JGVK's work (1) **Staff development** (accessing new skills, entrepreneurial and managerial capacity, systematic orientation and integration of new staff etc.) (2) **develop new system, procedure and its practices**, (3) **financial management and administrative systems** for complex diversified operation (4) **documentation and timely reporting to the donors** (5) **local fund raising** etc are the important areas to concentrate in the coming period.

8. All other existing programmatic intervention will continue.





Ambassadors of NORDIC Countries Visited JGVK:

On May 9th 2013, five Ambassadors from five Nordic countries including Denmark, Finland, Norway, Sweden and Iceland visited Joygopalpur Gram

Vikas Kendra. The team interacted with the students, teachers of Vivekananda Siksha Niketan, Women led village Committee members and programme staff. The team also walk along the village road and talk to the villagers. This visit is also a recognition of JGVKs work for the improvement of education among the poor children and work towards empowerment of poor women in remote Sundarban. This visit encourage and inspire JGVK team.





Paryavaran



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