



COHORT MEETING

In April 2024, the DJMV organization attended a three-day cohort meeting at Bhopal. A team of the Azim Premji Foundation reviewed the program.

Empowering Grassroots: Women-Led Organizations Forge Ahead

An enriching overview session was recently convened, bringing together 20 women-led organizations with the active participation of teams from the National Foundation for India (NFI) and the Azim Premji Foundation (APF). This collaborative gathering was a cornerstone for exchanging key lessons and illuminating the invaluable insights derived from the grassroots experiences of these Civil Society Organizations (CSOs).

During the session, the Azim Premji Foundation offered insightful suggestions to amplify the program's overall impact, fostering a deeper understanding of the mission and vision driving these organizations. The discussions highlighted how their societal work transforms communities and inspires profound changes in personal and professional realms.

The National Foundation for India underscored its unwavering commitment to nurturing the development of women leaders, demonstrating their deep engagement and dedication. This session underscored the critical role of sustained partnerships in empowering women-led organizations, enabling them to drive substantial change at the grassroots level.

Dear Reader,

In May 2023, DJMV and the NFI organization initiated a significant effort to bring educational opportunities to coastal village girls. This initiative is a collaborative effort between DJMV and the NFI organization, aiming to provide free education and empower young girls in these communities.

A review of the project took place in Bhopal, facilitated by the Azim Premji Foundation. The discussions focused on the project's progress, recent changes, and the implementation plans for the coming year. The review highlighted the need for continued support and strategic planning to ensure the project's success and sustainability.

One of the most happiest moments of the year was the celebration of DJMV's 24th Foundation Day. An array of activities aimed at empowering the community marked this milestone. Following the work key point, DJMV organized training sessions focused on empowering tribal women in the agricultural sector. Members of the Girls' Club eagerly participated in these sessions, demonstrating their commitment to personal and community growth. Additionally, children in the community received computer training, equipping them with essential digital skills for the future.

We remain dedicated to empowering girls and women, enabling them to lead healthy, dignified, and fulfilling lives. Your ongoing support and best wishes are crucial to our mission, and we look forward to continuing this journey together.

Awareness on Natural Farming



Past and present agricultural practices demonstrate a significant degree of harmony.

To boost natural farming in communities, DJMV has trained 300 tribal women farmers in Ganjam district's Kukudakhandi block, investing considerable resources. This initiative empowers women in agriculture, helping integrate them into the social and economic mainstream. DJMV's project coordinator works closely with these women, guiding them in adopting organic farming methods that avoid pesticides.

Reviving Tradition: The Shift Back to Natural Farming

Agriculture has been central to human survival since ancient times. For generations, tribal communities have relied on farming as their primary livelihood, using organic methods that work in harmony with nature. Over time, these traditional practices have been replaced by modern agricultural techniques. The adoption of chemical fertilizers and pesticides, driven by the need to increase yields and reduce costs, became widespread. While these methods aim to boost efficiency, they have brought significant unintended consequences, adversely affecting both human health and the environment.

Shifting from natural farming to modern techniques has caused soil degradation, water pollution, and reduced food nutrition. These changes raise critical concerns for sustainable agriculture and future well-being. Reconnecting with organic farming practices is vital to restore balance and ensure a healthier, more sustainable future.



Cultivating Sustainability: Harnessing Indigenous Resources for Better Yields

Training on Organic Manure

To enhance crop yields, many turn to pesticides and fertilizers. Yet, utilizing local resources like (Handi khata and Jiba mruta) can achieve similarly bountiful harvests. Embracing organic farming practices not only promotes a healthier environment but also produces nutritious animal feed.

Recognizing these benefits, DJMV is organizing training sessions across 15 villages to educate locals on preparing Handi khata and Jiba mruta using indigenous resources.

Training for community carders on Natural farming



Divya Jyoti Mahila Vikash (DJMV), in collaboration with the National Coalition for Natural Farming (NCNF), organized a two-day training program for 30 women farmers at Kankia Panchayat in the Ganjam district to promote the advancement of women in agriculture.

The event was honored by the presence of the Honourable Mr. Ekadashi Nandi, Chief Facilitator of NCNF, and Dr. Md. Imran Ali, State Facilitator of NCNF, both of whom actively participated in the program.

Empowering Women in Agriculture: Reviving Traditional Farming Practices

The program proved to be highly educational for the participating women. On the first day, Dr. Md. Imran Ali set a positive tone by starting the session with a song about natural farming. He then provided an in-depth explanation of women's roles in agriculture and elaborated on the nine principles of natural farming. Dr. Imran emphasized the importance of maintaining soil fertility through the cultivation of diverse crops throughout the year. He also highlighted the significance of animal husbandry, underscoring that livestock is a valuable asset for sustainable agriculture.

Dr. Imran meticulously explained each step of farming, beginning with the use of indigenous seeds. He stressed that adopting indigenous farming methods can protect agriculture from floods, storms, and climate change. Additionally, he shared valuable techniques on seed preservation to ensure sustainability. To conclude, Dr. Imran used awareness posters to illustrate the principles of natural farming to the women farmers. The two-day training program wrapped up with another inspiring song by Dr. Imran. Overall, the initiative by Divya Jyoti Mahila Vikash (DJMV), in partnership with the GGF, USA, is a commendable effort to advance women in agriculture and revive traditional farming practices. This initiative not only empowers women but also aims to bring back to life the traditional, sustainable methods of agriculture that are crucial for our environment and communities.

Children Education



The remedial classes at the education centers focus on helping children improve their academic performance.

Understanding the unique challenges faced by families in the fishing community, where parents are often engaged in demanding work and have limited time to oversee their children's education, these centers provide much-needed remedial classes. These sessions, held for two hours each in the morning and evening, are designed to support and enhance the children's learning. Through this initiative, DJMV and NFI are making significant strides in bridging the educational gap in the fishing community, offering these children the tools and support they need to succeed in school and beyond.



DJMV Celebrates 24th Foundation Day

On May 10th, 2024, DJMV commemorated a significant milestone: its 24th anniversary. This joyous occasion marked the day when DJMV was officially registered as a women-led organization dedicated to empowering women and providing quality education to children.

A Day of Celebration and Reflection

Since its inception, DJMV has been a beacon of hope and progress, initially starting its journey in a modest fishing village. Over the years, the organization has expanded its reach and impact, making substantial contributions to women's empowerment and skill development, particularly in agriculture.

The 24th Foundation Day celebration took place at Markandi Village, bringing together DJMV's Board members, 30 women from the local community, and the entire team. This event was not just a celebration of DJMV's achievements but also a tribute to the collective effort and resilience of everyone involved in the organization's journey. DJMV's commitment to uplifting women and children has been unwavering. By providing educational opportunities and empowering women with agricultural skills, DJMV has played a pivotal role in transforming communities and fostering sustainable development. As DJMV celebrated its foundation day, it reaffirmed its mission to continue expanding its reach and making a positive impact. The spirit of unity and dedication that has driven DJMV for the past 24 years was evident in the festivities, setting a hopeful tone for the future.

Here's to DJMV's remarkable journey and to many more years of making a difference!

NFI Team Field Visit

In May, the National Food India (NFI) conducted a comprehensive two-day field visit to the DJMV organization, focusing on evaluating and enhancing their ongoing programs.

Day 1: Engaging Discussions and Community Interaction

The first day kicked off with an in-depth discussion on the structure and strategic plan of DJMV. The team from DJMV presented detailed program metrics and outlined their social media strategy, highlighting their efforts to reach and engage with the community effectively. In the afternoon, the NFI team visited the Children Education Center in the local fishing community.

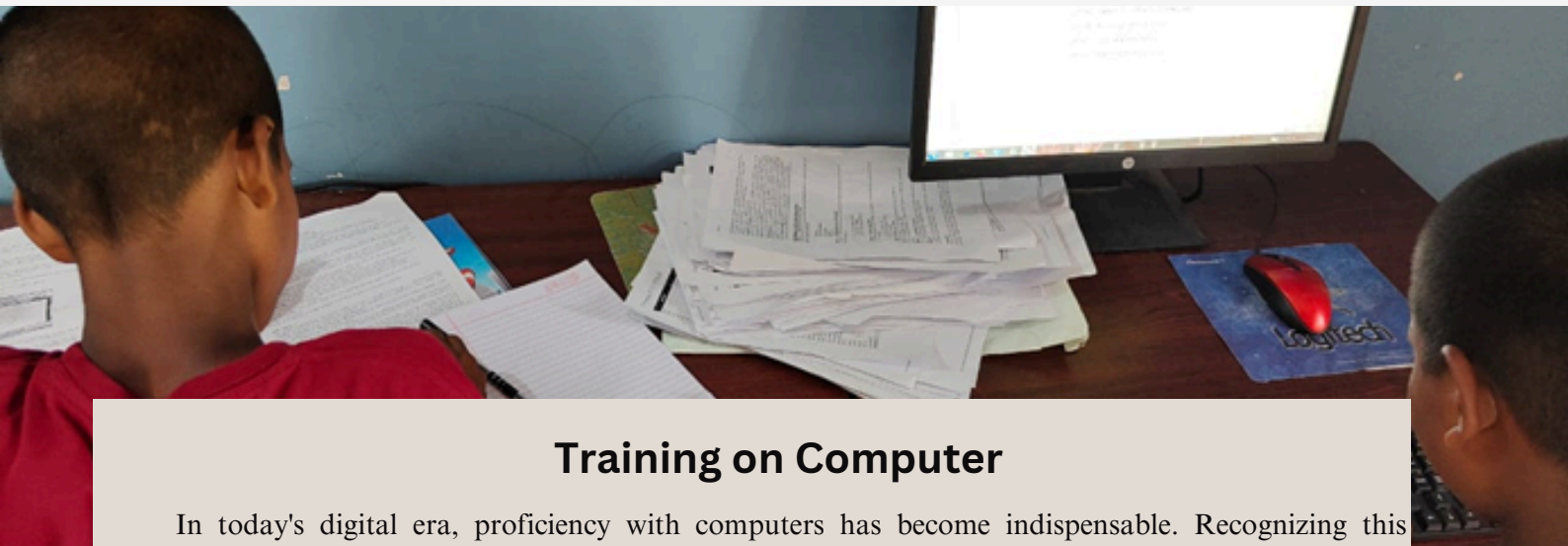


A Collaborative Effort for Community Development

Day 2: Addressing Needs in the Tribal Community

On the second day, Ipsa and Samira from the NFI team visited a tribal area as part of a proposed expansion plan. They conducted interactive sessions with women, youth, and children, listening to their challenges and gathering valuable insights. This engagement led to the formulation of a plan aimed at facilitating and improving educational opportunities for children in the village.

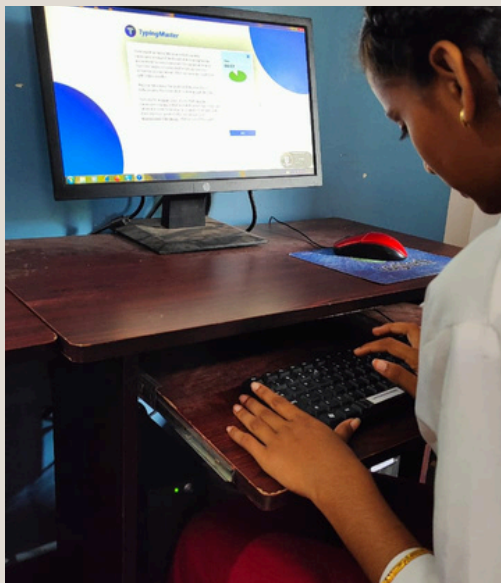
Here, they engaged directly with the children, inquiring about their educational experiences. The children at the center delivered insightful presentations on issues affecting girls, while the adolescents shared their experiences managing the Girls' Club, emphasizing the importance of their role in fostering a supportive environment for young girls.



Training on Computer

In today's digital era, proficiency with computers has become indispensable. Recognizing this essential need, DJMV, with the support of SAC Netherlands, has established a Digital Training Center in Gopalpur. This initiative is aimed at equipping rural youth with vital computer skills and empowering them to thrive in the digital world.

Understanding that digital literacy is a gateway to numerous opportunities, DJMV has focused on making youth in rural areas aware of the vast potential in the digital field. The Digital Training Center is a key step in this direction, providing comprehensive training to help young people gain the necessary skills to navigate and excel in the digital economy.



Empowering Youth for Income Generation: The primary goal of this center is not just to impart computer skills, but to enable youth to leverage these skills for income generation. By becoming adept in various digital tools and technologies, the youth are better prepared to pursue job opportunities, entrepreneurial ventures, and further educational endeavors.

The collaboration with SAC Netherlands has been instrumental in bringing this vision to life. This partnership underscores the commitment of both organizations to empower the next generation with the skills and knowledge required for sustainable development and economic self-sufficiency.

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