

A photograph of a rural village scene with several traditional houses with blue roofs and brick walls, surrounded by greenery and a clear sky.

JAGORI RURAL CHARITABLE TRUST

A photograph showing a group of women sitting on the floor in a room with red brick walls, engaged in a workshop or meeting. They are looking at documents and talking to each other.

EMPOWERING CHANGE: WORKSHOP FOR MONITORING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

In a bid to foster meaningful change at the grassroots level, JRCT spearheaded a transformative three-day workshop, bringing together 38 members of the

Monitoring Committees from development blocks across Kangra and Chamba districts. Led by Sunita Thakur, advocate, the workshop served as a crucible for exploration, dialogue, and action on pressing issues of gender equality and legal empowerment.

Throughout the intensive sessions, participants delved into the intricate nuances of gender discrimination, gender-based violence, and the fundamental rights enshrined in our constitution. Through illuminating discussions and interactive learning modules, they gained a deeper understanding of the role they play in advocating for gender sensitization and legal assistance within their communities.

A pivotal moment emerged as JRCT forged a strategic partnership with Jagori Rural, uniting their efforts in the shared mission to eradicate gender discrimination and promote inclusivity. This collaboration signifies a powerful step forward, amplifying the impact of their collective endeavors and laying the groundwork for tangible change on the ground.

Together, as allies in the fight for equality, they embody the spirit of progress and resilience, forging a path towards a more just and inclusive society for all.



RISE FOR FREEDOM: EMBRACE PEACE, LOVE AND HARMONY

On January 9, 2024, history was painted on the vibrant canvas of Chambi Ground in Dharamshala. The stage was set for the "Rise for Freedom" event, orchestrated by JRCT, echoing the resonant call of the One Billion Rising campaign. With love, peace, and harmony as its guiding lights, this gathering of 700 individuals stood as a testament to the collective yearning for a world free from oppression.

The heartbeat of the event pulsated through the OBR song, a powerful anthem that transcended barriers and united hearts in solidarity. As the music soared, barriers dissolved, and hands intertwined in joyous dance, echoing the shared commitment to social justice.

The soul-stirring performance by Reeta Purhan, a local folk singer from Kangra, wove a tapestry of harmony and emotion, punctuating the air with melodies steeped in the spirit of the mountains. Her choice of songs by feminist icon Kamla Bhasin further amplified the message of unity and empowerment that reverberated throughout the event.

Amidst the celebration, CDPO Rait Santosh Kumari, the esteemed Chief Guest, illuminated the occasion with insights into government schemes for women and children, casting a broader societal lens on the path towards equality.

The cultural tapestry was rich and vibrant, with contributions from Ashwani Memorial School, Lunj School students, and the Chanani Dance Group. Through powerful mime, traditional Gidda, and Gaddi dance performances, they added layers of depth to the collective expression of diversity and resilience.

In essence, the "Rise for Freedom" event was a powerful reminder of our inherent ability to drive lasting change and inspire unity through the celebration of diversity. As the echoes of the event fade into memory, its message continues to resonate, igniting sparks of hope and solidarity in hearts around the world.

EMPOWERING TOMORROW'S LEADERS: A TRANSFORMATIVE WORKSHOP



In the picturesque landscape of Rakkar, Dharamshala, a three-day residential workshop unfolded, igniting the spirits of 60 adolescent girls with the promise of empowerment and transformation. Organized by JRCT, this immersive experience was designed to be more than just a gathering; it was a catalyst for change, rooted in the foundational principles of gender equality and the dismantling of gender stereotypes.

Under Anupama's guidance, the workshop unfolded from the 21st to the 23rd January, offering a deep dive into the complexities of gender issues and the pathways to creating an inclusive society. From the outset, the atmosphere was charged with anticipation, as introductory rounds, energizer activities, and trust-building exercises paved the way for meaningful connections and shared journeys.

The workshop's structure mirrored its ambitions, blending interactive sessions, critical discussions, and empowering activities to nurture a holistic understanding of gender dynamics. By dissecting societal norms and exploring their impact on individuals and communities, participants were armed with the tools to challenge the status quo and pave the way for a more equitable future.

Emphasis was given upon fostering empathy, inclusivity, and confidence—cornerstones of effective advocacy for gender equality. Through introspection and dialogue, participants were encouraged to cultivate these qualities within themselves, laying the groundwork for meaningful engagement and transformative action.

As the curtains drew on the workshop, the echoes of empowerment lingered in the hearts and minds of its participants. Armed with newfound skills and insights, these adolescent girls stand poised to become catalysts for change in their communities, championing gender equality and reshaping the narrative of possibility for generations to come. In the tapestry of tomorrow's leaders, they are the vibrant threads of progress, weaving a future defined by equality, empathy, and boundless potential.



BASELINE SURVEY

Baseline assessment is conducted to understand and validate the ground realities of young girls. The qualitative data was collected through open end questions & discussions with a selected group of adolescent girls were undertaken, which were facilitated and moderated by project team members. The survey will be conducted in 150 villages which will include villages in Kangra & Chamba district. 320 girls & boys aging from 14 years to 22 years are randomly selected for the baseline survey.

NEW VILLAGE MAPPING

As the project has been launched again and we decided to spread our activities in 50 more villages. So our team decided to continue village mapping in different blocks of Chamba & Kangra districts, where we have not reached before. In this process we engaged with local governance bodies like Panchayat, Awanganwadis, ICDS offices etc.



WEEKLY REMEDIAL CLASSES

From January 2024 a new activity has been introduced to support the students from marginalized community who cannot afford personalized tutoring. A total no of 61 students from 5 different blocks started attending the classes regularly which is completely managed & funded by Jagori Rural Charitable Trust.



The cleanliness drive, organized in the village Panchayat Abdullahpur under the One Billion Rising campaign under the theme of 'Love, Peace, and Harmony', witnessed active participation from 123 community members. Kicking off with the villagers diligently cleaning their surroundings, the program transitioned into a gathering at the Abdullahpur Panchayat house courtyard, where the women shared their insights from the campaign. The event commenced with the enchanting tunes of Pahari folk songs, resonating with themes of farming and nature, setting the stage for a holistic approach to environmental stewardship. Village Panchayat representatives, alongside school teachers and monitoring committee members, shared illuminating discourse on nature's delicate balance and the catalysts of climate change.

The attendees were inspired to foster a lifestyle rooted in peace, love, and harmony with the earth, championing the message of communal living. Discussions also highlighted the impactful initiatives of Jagori, underscoring the importance of community-driven endeavors in nurturing sustainable change.

In a proactive stance towards environmental preservation, the community pledged to manage waste effectively and promote the proliferation of medicinal plants around the village and households. Embracing the ethos that nurturing the earth with love and peace begets the same for humanity, participants resolved to cultivate a harmonious coexistence with nature.

HARMONIOUS EARTH: COMMUNITY CLEANLINESS AND CONSERVATION INITIATIVES UNDER ONE BILLION RISING

In a parallel effort, JRCT spearheaded a similar initiative in Lakhamandal Panchayat under the One Billion Rising campaign, themed around 'Love, Peace, and Harmony'. With 135 individuals, including Panchayat representatives and "Waste Warriors," actively engaged in cleaning three wards of the Panchayat, the drive showcased a collective commitment to cleanliness and sustainability.





Post-cleanliness drive, participants reconvened for introspective conversations, paving the way for continued initiatives and leadership roles in maintaining cleanliness within their respective wards. As the event drew to a close, the JRCT team and attendees united in song, celebrating the shared goal of environmental conservation.

In another event in Manjhgran Ladwada Panchayat, One Billion rising campaign was connected with environmental conservation, people were reminded that just as violence against women persists, we also perpetrate violence against our earth. Continuously, we are poisoning our earth to such an extent that it has become fatally toxic. Additionally, the use of plastic is increasing in our daily lives, and beneath the weight of this plastic burden, the earth is suffocating. Through these actions, humans, animals, birds, water bodies, forests, and our land are becoming sick. If we want clean food, air, and water, it is imperative that we reduce plastic usage and plant more trees. Our planet also calls out to us for love, peace, and harmony; by keeping it clean, we can truly provide it with genuine love, peace, and harmony.

In the program, messages about environmental protection and "Remove Plastic, Save Earth" were conveyed through songs, speeches, and discussions by Panchayat representatives, women's group leaders, and members of various communities.

Approximately 250 participants from different communities, castes, religions, genders, and other countries ensured their participation! At the end of the program, people took an oath regarding environmental protection and "Remove Plastic, Save Earth". Together, these endeavors epitomize the power of collective action and community spirit in fostering a cleaner, greener tomorrow.



EXPOSURE VISITS



The team members of Jagori Rural Charitable Trust from Kangra and Chamba, along with the Monitoring Committee members, visited the School for Democracy in Rajasthan for a Learning Exposure from February 7th to 12th. The purpose of the visit was to understand the organization's functioning and implement it in Jagori's work. Through the Learning Exposure, the Jagori team and Monitoring Committee members had the opportunity to learn about and understand the struggles of women sitting in protests for urban employment guarantee, the Constitution, public information portals, ration shops opened for the convenience of the general public,

SCHOOL FOR DEMOCRACY

libraries, the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act 2005, the Right to Information Act 2005, and the rights of information and employment.





MUHEEM SOCIETY

The Jagori team members visited Muheem Society in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh. This visit marked a profound journey of learning and inspiration. We were welcomed with heartfelt warmth, setting the tone for an immersive experience. At Muheem, we witnessed the transformative power of grassroots initiatives firsthand. From the inclusive educational leadership of Pathshala to the impactful advocacy of #WomenWithPocket, Muheem's commitment to equity and empowerment shines through every program.

The Sui Dhaga center stood as a beacon of economic empowerment, showcasing the creativity and resilience of marginalized communities. Through skill-building programs and awareness campaigns, Muheem is paving the way for sustainable development and social change.

Our time at Muheem reaffirmed our belief in the importance of community-driven solutions. As activists, we're inspired to continue our work in creating inclusive spaces and driving meaningful impact.



KIRAN SOCIETY

The Jagori team's inspiring visit to Kiran Society in Varanasi took place in February 2024. Founded in 1972, they empower specially-abled children through every possible means. Inclusive classrooms, a focus on rehabilitation, and parental involvement make a lasting impact. Jagori's team also conducted a session on personal safety for adolescent girls. Kiran Society serves as a beacon of hope.

FORMATION OF DISTRICT-LEVEL FEDERATION THROUGH MONITORING COMMITTEES



Over the past year, monitoring committees were established at the block level with the primary goal of organizing and eventually creating a district-level federation. Through continuous meetings, workshops, and exposure sessions, committee members were informed about various issues, contributing to the progressive development of the federation.

On February 18, 2024, the culmination of these efforts was witnessed during the third federation meeting held in Rakkar. A core group comprising 12 members, representing both genders, was formed. This diverse group was selected after a year-long process of education and collaboration.

Following the formation of the core group, a 3-member election process was conducted to identify the leaders who would guide the federation. Suryabhan Ji, a retired government school teacher from Nagarota Bagwan, emerged as the head, securing the highest number of votes.





EMPOWERING YOUTH: AGAJ PROGRAM ORIENTATION AND ANIMAL COMPASSION WORKSHOP

A one-day meeting was organized by Jagori Rural Charitable Trust with 60 boys and girls from 4 development blocks of Kangra district (Kangra, Dharamshala, Rait, and Nagrota Bagwan). The agenda of this meeting was to introduce old peer leaders with

the newly added members through experience sharing. Along with this, members of Dharamshala Animal Rescue were also introduced, who shared information on safe encounters with stray dogs, rabies infection & overall individual responsibility towards animal compassion.

Through a presentation, the Jagori AGAJ team informed all the participants about the activities to be carried out under the AGAJ program for the next 4 years. They were also informed about the activities done in the last 6 years, which have increased the understanding of adolescent girls on various issues.

GENDER AWARENESS AND VIOLENCE PREVENTION TRAINING

Jagori Rural Charitable Trust conducted a transformative 3-day residential training program at Rakkar Dharamshala from February 22 to 24, 2024, targeting 30 Anganwadi workers from Chauwadi block in Chamba district. The training, led by Ms. Sunita Thakur, focused on fostering awareness about crucial topics such as gender equality, various forms of violence, including physical, mental, economic, and

emotional aspects, domestic violence, and the POCSO Act.

The sessions were designed to be engaging, incorporating various activities to effectively convey the information. This initiative marked a significant milestone for the Anganwadi workers,

as they expressed that it was their first participation in such a workshop. The commitment and enthusiasm of the workers were evident as they pledged to apply the knowledge gained not only in their professional roles but also in their personal lives.

This training program reflects the dedication of Jagori in empowering frontline workers and creating positive impact within communities.



ORIENTATION MEETING



“When I was not associated with Jagori hesitation and lack of confidence was my main weakness. And today I am sharing my journey in front of you all.

This is the change I have made in my life after attending Jagoris workshops”

Recently we have conducted an orientation meeting where we discussed what activities have been done in past 6 years from the last program. 60 participants attended the meeting including old and new youths from all blocks in Kangra. The old adolescent girls represented as peer leaders shared their experiences with the new adolescent groups.

This experience sharing activity helped others to understand the role of individuals in this project as well as motivated.



CELEBRATING HERSTORY ON INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY



On March 8th, 2024, Jagori Rural Charitable Trust commemorated International Women's Day with a poignant event centered around the theme, "Celebrating HerStory". The event aimed to empower survivors of domestic violence and promote resilience, hope, and unity among women from the surrounding blocks and beyond. Approximately 32 resilient women graced the

event with their presence, marking a significant turnout for the occasion. Tripta, initiated empowering discussions on embracing change and exploring livelihood opportunities. The focus was on fostering self-sufficiency through crafting items like leaf plates and suits, empowering women to thrive independently. The ambiance resonated with the melodious tunes of pahadi folk songs, echoing the challenges faced by women in marital settings. Engaging games under the sun symbolized unity and perseverance, reinforcing the message that challenges can be overcome with determination. A game designed to challenge stereotypes and promote body positivity encouraged women to embrace their bodies and exude confidence, fostering a sense of empowerment and self-acceptance. The event culminated in a jubilant dance to traditional tunes, dance to



traditional tunes, symbolizing liberation and celebration of womanhood. A plantation drive served as a poignant conclusion to the event, symbolizing growth, renewal, and gratitude. Women planted flowers in the Jagori campus, strengthening their bond with the organization and fostering a sense of community and empowerment. As the event drew to a close, the women departed with genuine smiles, imbued with a newfound sense of empowerment and liberation.

ONE BILLION RISING



RISE FOR FREEDOM FROM WAR AND CONFLICT- EMBRACE PEACE, HARMONY AND LOVE

Empowering communities and commemorating the One Billion Rising campaign and International Women's Day, Jagori Rural Charitable Trust organized a transformative event held at the Dharamshala College Auditorium on March 11th. With a gathering of 800 attendees, comprising villagers, students, and IPS Dr. Kushal Sharma as the esteemed chief guest, the event resonated with a spirit of empowerment and solidarity. Various educational institutions such as Eurokids, TCV School, and Gyan Jyoti College took center stage, showcasing their talents through music, dance, drama, and other forms of creative expression to oppose violence against women and spread awareness.

The Jagori team members shared their inspiring journey; while Gagan Singh's mesmerizing performances left everyone captivated, igniting the audience with joy and enthusiasm. It was an evening filled with purpose, unity, and the collective determination to drive positive change within communities.



PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOP



The Jagori team members had an amazing journey at the 3-day photography workshop with Jogi at the Jagori campus, where every picture told a thousand stories. Throughout the workshop, participants learned the basics of photography and delved into crafting compelling narratives. They explored different perspectives and thoughts, learned to create multiple stories from a single photo, and discovered ways to showcase stories creatively by combining photos and words. The workshop also focused on creating impactful case studies, understanding diverse perspectives, and exploring poetry and storytelling. As the workshop concluded, participants felt empowered to continue their photography journey, build an Image Bank, and master the art of storytelling through photos, equipped with new skills and perspectives gained during the immersive experience.

BUILDING LASTING BONDS: STRENGTHENING RELATIONSHIPS FOR NEWLYWED COUPLES



A session was conducted with 18 newlywed couples from Kangra district. In a world where relationships are the cornerstone of our lives, taking the time to nurture them is crucial. This session provided essential tools and insights to strengthen the bond between partners, fostering love, trust, and communication. We believe that prioritizing your relationship is key to a fulfilling and happy



life together. Your dedication to attending this session demonstrates your commitment to each other's well-being and the journey you're embarking on together. From exploring effective communication strategies to fostering trust and understanding, each moment was dedicated to nurturing the foundation of their marriage. It was an incredible journey filled with love, laughter, and invaluable insights to strengthen the bond as partners.



ADOLESCENT GIRLS NETWORKING MEETING

Jagori organized a Networking Meet with 45 adolescent girls from Dharmshala, Nagrota, and Kangra block to raise awareness about the 'Kishori Panchayat'. During the session, the girls gained an understanding of the three-tier Panchayat system, Panchayat quorum, and the roles and responsibilities of the Pradhan and Secretary. They actively participated in a Chart Paper activity, identifying village-level problems and personal challenges, which they presented to the group. The session concluded with a Mock Election using a ballot box, providing the girls with practical exposure to the electoral process in India. The girls are now enthusiastic about initiating their own 'Kishori



Panchayat' in their respective villages, empowered and eager to drive positive change in their communities.

CRAFTING FUTURES: EMPOWERING WOMEN THROUGH SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS



The Federation Formation Workshop with women from Kangra district focused on discussions surrounding sustainable livelihoods. The outcome of this recent workshop with our talented community members was truly amazing.

These remarkable women demonstrated not only their creativity but also their determination to empower themselves through their skills.



They crafted beautiful items such as pen stands, trays, and more from pine needles, wove intricate baskets with bamboo, created stunning embroidery designs on cushion covers and bed sheets, and skillfully wove shawls and customized handkerchiefs. Their work included woolen sets and shoes, showcasing their diverse talents and dedication to sustainable livelihood practices.



MONITORING AND EVALUATION WORKSHOP

Our Jagori team had an enriching experience at the two-day workshop led by Varsha Rathore on monitoring and evaluation, specifically focused on "M&E for tracking and monitoring indicators of financial variance". During the workshop, we delved into the theory of change, gaining deeper insights into essential tools and strategies to effectively monitor and track variances, ensuring greater transparency and accountability in our projects. We are grateful for the opportunity to enhance our skills and better serve our community through this invaluable training.



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