

## Annual Report (2020 – 2021)



**JanMitra Nyas**

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## BACKGROUND

JanMitra Nyas (JMN) celebrated its glorious 20th foundation year. Since foundation JanMitra Nyas has been tirelessly working with the marginalized/excluded communities for creating people-friendly society (Jan Mitra Samaj) through an inter-institutional approach.<sup>i</sup> In these 20 years JMN made a direct presence in Uttar Pradesh and Jharkhand states and encountering engagement in 16 states of India as its voluntary state chapters. JMN has established the issue of hunger, malnutrition of children, police torture, extra – judicial killing and witch-hunting through the multi – layers and multi-dimensional advocacy with different stakeholders.

JMN believes **Local is true universal** as Local thinking, local-global action. In 2007 JMN organized first folk school – space for free thought in Belwa of Varanasi. Organization created free space for critical and free thinking at groups meeting, duniyabi talim in Madarsa and kindergarten to teach basic from grassroot level. It developed self – confidence and we witness change in knowledge, attitude and practice in their behavior. In 2009 JanMitra Nyas streamlined its structure and professionalize its thematic wise strategic plan for planning, monitoring and evaluation of the direct service delivery as well as mapping of the Knowledge, Attitude and Practice (KAP). The strategy was later revised based on the finding and assessment with the community leaders.

JMN work was appreciated and recognized by various stakeholders<sup>ii</sup>. But it was not easy to make changes at the grass- root level. JMN two founders and staff of PVCHR/JMN also charged with public tranquility under 505 B and Our two founders (Lenin Raghuvanshi and Shruti Nagvanshi) faced the malicious prosecution for advocating the case of the domestic violence.

For this interview on Relentless Minds, its founder traveled (virtually) to India, and interviewed long-time activist and change maker Lenin Raghuvanshi. Lenin is the cofounder of PVCHR (People’s Vigilance Committee on Human Rights) Founded with his wife Shruti in 1996. PVCHR is a community-based organization, which focuses on breaking the feudal hierarchies of conservative slums and villages in India by building up local institutions and supporting them with a high profile and active human rights network. The ultimate mission is to provide basic

rights for all and to eliminate situations that give rise to exploitation and marginalized groups. Lenin's principle focus is on advocating for the basic rights of marginalized groups in India's society and over the last 25 years of work he, along with his wife through PVCHR, has managed to impact 200 communities and thousands of individuals. During this interview Lenin discusses the injustices that the Dalits and women experience through the caste system and the influences that continue to oppress marginalized communities, as well as the actions that PVCHR has taken to uplift these communities and fight against the caste system<sup>iii</sup>. In one year, the compensation of 5799691 INR (79882.80 USD) was awarded and received in 27 cases of human rights violation. <http://pvchr.blogspot.com/2021/02/5799691-inr-compensation-awarded-in.html>.

**Please find few glimpses of outcome of works of JMN in 25 years for children and women as follows:**

**Child Survival (Children and maternal health):** The organization is intensively working in 4 blocks and urban slum in Varanasi district for changing the knowledge, attitude and Practice of the most marginalized/excluded communities. It is also creating resilience among health service providers.

- θ Working with 13691 people of 2726 families on maternal, neo natal and reproductive rights.
- θ Created 512 women and girls cadres for greater awareness and consciousness among community on health, hygiene and reproductive rights<sup>iv</sup>
- θ 451 families, who first time did kitchen gardening produced 8885 kg of different types of vegetables. After publishing in outlook magazine, it was replicated by Government of Chhattisgarh.
- θ The organization organized food festival for making community aware of nutritional value of local and seasonal food and vegetable.<sup>v</sup>

**Child Participation:**

In 2001 formed children parliament now 10 parliaments are functioning in 22 with the participation of 195 children (127 female 94 male). The children group raised their voice against the child sexual abuse and child marriage.<sup>vi</sup>

**Child Education:** Since inception PVCHR/JMN provided education to 34526 children and girls of the most marginalized/excluded and minorities communities.

- θ In three years provided duniyabi talim (Education for life) and ITE to 3981 children (2192 Male and 1789 Female) in 20 Madarsa of Bazardiha and Lohta
- θ Providing quality education to dalits and minorities children. Providing scholarship to 150 girls for the higher education and provided bi-cycle to 85 girls as freedom to girls.
- θ Provided human rights educations and linked with mainstream education to twenty-five thousand children and youths.

### **Child Protection:**

Intervention and providing psycho – social support to survivors of rape, trafficking and child marriage,

- θ Built the capacity of 53415 girls on Government helpline number and personal safety.
- θ Created 150 model villages on child protection and against gender based violence in Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Jharkhand states of India.
- θ JMN is collab organization of Child Line (1098) for Badaun district of UP.
- θ Successful national campaign against child sexual abuse with collaboration of Human Rights Watch.<sup>vii</sup>

### **Women**

- In 2012 Built “Savitri Bai Phule women center”-a short stay home for women in Baghwanala, Varanasi. In 2002 created a platform/forum “Savitri Bai Phule Mahila Panchayat.
- Launched neo dalit campaign and organized women Folk School as a process against hegemonic masculinity.
- Provided psychological support through testimonies therapy to 1011 survivors of Gender based violence.
- θ Provided legal and Meta legal support to 7000 survivors of violence against women and girls.

### **JMN Humanitarian support during pandemic**

Next day of official announcement of lockdown in 2020 JMN team started work from home to provide support to the people who are in need. Without mobility it was challenging but the grass – root presence, volunteer and Aguwas (Community

leaders) has helped in bringing the information and data for providing multi – layers and multi – dimensional support.

The communities with whom we are working are mostly belonging to the vulnerable communities or excluded from Government schemes such as Musahar, Nut, Noniya, Ghasia, chamar etc. These communities are mostly working as landless workers, bonded labour, begging and selling leaf plates. Only a few families converted as farmers and did agriculture on teesariya (one third of the grown crops). Due to the restriction of movement, they were unable to go and work outside. They became from poor to poorest and living in the verge of survival. They are having place to stay but didn't have money to sustain their life. JMN has successfully utilized the information technology and social media to reach out to the target communities, intervention and support from the stakeholders.

JMN created follows space on social media for its work in time of COVID:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/208011423809563>

<https://pvchrfightagainstcorona.blogspot.com/>

### **The work of JMN was acknowledge and appreciated**

1. NitiAyog appreciated our effort<sup>viii</sup> and the National Commission for Women (NCW) appreciated our advice.
2. Even 26 April, 2020 was a day of immense satisfaction for all of us in the People's Vigilance Committee on Human Rights (PVCHR). Sri Narendra Modi, Honourable Prime Minister of India during his 'Man Ki Baat' programme talked about the slogan our organisation has coined to underline the need for physical distancing to fight COVID-19 virus. This is an acknowledgement of our advocacy work during the pandemic. The slogan created by our field workers to reach out to the rural population in their own colloquial language.<sup>ix</sup>
3. The life of Musahar changed after intervention was published in many newspaper and channels.<sup>x</sup>

Mr Mangla Prasad Rajbhar, staff of JanMitra Nyas has been falsely implicated in criminal charges relating to who had first reported about their starvation ordeal on Facebook. The online petition was started on change.org<sup>xi</sup>

and letter was sent to various concerned authorities. International Rehabilitation Council for torture Victims releases statement in support of him.<sup>xii</sup> Honorable High Court gave bail order in favour of Mangla and NHRC issued notice.

## **DIRECT SUPPORT TO THE MARGINALIZED COMMUNITIES DURING LOCKDOWN:**

### **Frontline workers:**

1. Distributed 1000 high quality mask and 1200 gloves to community workers, health workers, doctors, safaikarmi (sanitation workers) in and police in Varanasi district with the United Nation Voluntary Trust Fund for Torture Victims (UNVFVT) and Helma Ritscher.
2. Distributed 17500 Masks with the support from CRY to the doctors in which 5000 masks were donated in Pandit DeenDayal Upadhaya dedicated to COVID 19 patients<sup>xiii</sup> and 15 cartons (2,160 packets) of biscuits for the patients.
3. Provided dry ration to 2 safaikarmies (sanitation workers)
4. Distributed 1000 masks to Kashi Viswanath trust frontline workers who are distributing food in hotspot areas.
5. The staffs and volunteers prepared 6000 masks for distributing it to the frontline workers.

### **Migrant labours:**

1. 1235 migrant workers received food and other support through our intervention and network in various states of India.
2. Financially Supported two daily workers from Varanasi and Delhi by providing 2,000 INR for food grain and other essential commodities.
3. The hot, cooked food from 14 April 2020 to 3 May 2020 is routinely packed in protective foils and later served to 300 poor and deprived members of 70 families of non-formal sector, apart from 35 migrant labour families. The

kitchen's beneficiaries live at Dhelwariya and Chaukaghat area, which is inhabited by the city's most poor and deprived sections of people.<sup>xiv</sup>

#### 4. Lenin celebrated his fifty birthdays to support migrants in Varanasi.<sup>xv</sup>



#### Maternal and Neo-Natal health:

1. Jan MitraNyas distributed 3000 packets of food and juice to children with the support of CRY
2. 60 protein packs as nutritional supplement to pregnant and lactating mothers, 2,500 Calcium and vitamin D tablets, 100 multi-vitamin drops to children up to 3 years and 55 folic acid and iron syrup to women with the support of United Nation Voluntary Trust Fund for Torture Victims (UNVFVT).
3. We distributed 1,200 packs of biscuits to the children.

#### Vulnerable communities:

1. Distributed sanitizers to 700 people
2. Provided a list of 15,000 families to the state government and the district administrations in ten districts, who then received food grains; two communities received drinking water facilities;
3. Distributed 1200 soaps to members of the most marginalized communities and community workers.
4. 105 vendors received the 1000 INR from Pradhan Mantri Garib KalyanYojana



## Advocacy

1. On 24<sup>th</sup> March, 2020 we wrote letter to the Prime Minister of our country and the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh *for* URGENT CALL FOR ACTION ON THE PART OF Indian GOVERNMENT: IN THE FIGHT FOR SURVIVAL OF THE PEOPLE OF THIS COUNTRY FACED WITH THE DEADLY EPIDEMIC. It is based on our knowledge which inculcates from our work of child right protection under VOP (Voice of the People), one of the largest child right network of UP supported by CRY, one of the most prestigious child right organization of India<sup>xvi</sup>
2. JMN also contacted Ms Claudia Roth, Vice President of German parliament for support to India in context of intensive investigation of coronavirus, and the office of Ms Roth wrote further to the Foreign Ministry of Germany to take necessary actions.<sup>xvii</sup>
3. Intervened to concerned authorities for High level investigation in the attack on frontline worker and advocated with the Government for providing PPE Kit, Mask and gloves.
4. Government of India issues order to State/UTs to facilitate Inter-State movement of stranded people migrant labour, in the country. JMN staff as changemaker started petition at change.org "Provide Food and Safe Transport to Stranded Migrants during COVID-19 Lockdown" The petition was supported by more than 80,000 people.
5. Urgent: Additional Proposals for the Short-term Relief of Vulnerable Workers and Populations Deeply impacted by Strategies to Contain the Spread of the Corona Pandemic<sup>xviii</sup>
6. Impact of regulations and restrictions issued to contain the COVID-19 pandemic on migrant workers.<sup>xix</sup>
7. re: suggestions about the female migrant workers stranded in other states in the make of COVID 19<sup>xx</sup>
8. provide nutritious dry ration, mask and soap to the Pregnant and lactating mother to prevent further IMR, CMR and MMR.<sup>xxi</sup>
9. Many interventions with the State Government and District Administration for providing ration to the people and demanded for the temporary ration card.



10. Request for providing support to the survivors of domestic violence, single women and divorce<sup>xxii</sup>
11. Providing financial support to the weavers of Varanasi to prevent further hunger death and malnutrition.<sup>xxiii</sup>
12. Many interventions with National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), Director General of Police and Chief Ministers in the cases of police torture, police inaction, child sexual abuse and killing.<sup>xxiv</sup>

## COMPREHENSIVE PROGRAM ON WOMEN, CHILDREN, ADOLESCENCE AND YOUTH

### Education:

- **Madarsa Improvement Program:** Provided duniyabi talim (Education for life) to 5657 children (2510 Male and 3147 Female) in 20 Madarsa in Varanasi district
- **Integrated Approach to Technology in Education:** Provided ITE education to 337 children (223 Female and 114 Male) in 5 Madarsa in Varanasi district
- **Education in remedial center:** Provided education to 78 children (39 male and 39 female) in Raja Suhail Dev JanMitra Sikshan Kendra, Baghwanala, Varanasi.
- **Scholarship:** scholarship to 130 girls and 2 boys from most marginalized communities to continue their further higher studies with support from Parul Sharma, Helma Ritscher and Raj Dulari Foundation



### **Child Protection:**

1. 210 children were benefitted in the childline center in Badaun district of Uttar Pradesh.
2. 74 interventions in the cases of police torture, child marriage, rape, condition of homes.

### **Youth exchange program: With the support of NOREC as part of PVCHR & INSEC Orientation and training of the fellows:**

1. On 23<sup>rd</sup> January, 2020 participants learned about PVCHR history, context, comprehensive plan and its guiding principal manual in the orientation workshop. Later participants in person interacted with project/thematic program head and visit to the location.
2. 1 February, 2020 the participants were informed about weekly planning and orientation on reporting format. The participants later prepared the weekly plan both for their work and in-house planning.
3. On 4th February, 2020 the participants participated in the monthly planning, monitoring and evaluation (PME) of the child rights centric project of the PVCHR. The participants learned how to work in group for achieving a broader goal.

4. On 6th February, 2020 the participants learned about intervention, advocacy and communication skill in the orientation and supervision workshop. The participants learned about intervention skill.
5. On 7th February, 2020 participants learned about testimonial therapy, a brief narrative therapy. On 8<sup>th</sup> February, 2020 the participants practiced active listening, empathetically body posture and touch therapy.
6. On 11, July, 2020 famous journalist (founder of [www.junputh.com](http://www.junputh.com)) and writer trained the participants on writing skill.
7. On 14<sup>th</sup> April, 2020 we organized zoom call for all the participants. In the call it to provide motivation to improve their well- being to overcome with the stress of pandemic. The participants also planned for the work.

#### **Training of youth:**

1. On 8<sup>th</sup> November, 2020 the dialogue with girls and boy to tackle gender disparities for building a sustainable future for all organized in PVCHR office. In dialogue, 44 girls and boys from Varanasi districts participated.
2. On 20 October, 2020 Kick for hope: Life skill and motivation workshop for psycho – social rehabilitation of adolescence and youth. In the work 48 people participants.

#### **Field visit:**

1. Frequent visit of participants visited Non – Formal Education (NFE) School in Baghwanla and interacted with the students from vulnerable communities.
2. 27 January, 2020 the participants help in organizing health camp organized in Ramaipatti village, Pindra block of Varanasi. The health camp was integrated organized by PVCHR and CRY. Before organizing the health camp the participants learned about maternal and neo – natal health.
3. On 5th February, 2020 the participants help in organizing Health Camp in Puari khurd in Harhua block of Varanasi. The health camp was organized by PVCHR and CRY.
4. On 19 February, 2020 the participants visited Aaura village of Harhua block in Varanasi district. The participants met and prepared the case study of Shivani (2 years old child) suffered from severe Malnutrition.
5. On 20 February 2020 Gaurav garg went to Marudih, village block Pindra to Participate in Mushar community meeting.



### **Participation and learning for organizing program.**

1. On 25<sup>th</sup> January, 2020 the participants participated in the program on the issues of Bonded Labour “India Voluntary National Review (VNR) 2020 with bonded laborer. The participants learn about organizing program as well as the problems faced by bonded laborers and how human rights organizations and governments take steps on that issue. In the program 65 people participated including representation from labour department, civil society and human rights activist working on this issue.
2. On 13th February, 2020 participants discussed about weekly meeting reporting and discussed about next week planning. The participants present in welcoming Ms. Ritscher (Chair women of Indo- German Society of Reimschied) and Mr. Frank Hoffman, FNST at PVCHR office.
3. On 14th Feb, 2020 the participants participated in the inauguration the Orange Cafe and Restaurant. The restaurant will be operated by the acid attack survivors. The quotation of fellow Zainab was published in India Today ““I am a law student and every lawyer should fight cases of these victims without charging any fee. It is very important that they should be given speedy justice. We as a society must help them in the best possible way”<sup>xxv</sup>.
4. On 16 February, 2020 the participants participated in the inauguration of the family counseling and health center in Baghawanla. The center was built

with the support of Inwent and Global Engagement. The current participants and former participants helped in organizing the health camp. They took responsibilities of doing registration, measuring height, weights and blood pressure and distributing medicine.

5. On 28 February, 2020 the participants participated in the Panel Discussion increasing women participation in Indian politics by Dublin City University Global India Marie Sklodowska-Curie European Training Network global fellow Ms. Proma Ray Chaudhary and the suggestions by the speakers at the one-day discussion organised by the Peoples' Vigilance Committee on Human Rights in Varanasi. The participants were involved in writing invitation letter, distributing it to all concerned guest. On the basis of the program online petition 33 percent reservation for enhancing women participation in Indian politics.<sup>xxvi</sup>

**Due to the pandemic the participants were not allowed to visit field and were informed to work in office.**

1. On 9 March, 2020 participants attended a weekly review meeting and planning for next week.
2. On 10 March, 2020 participants prepared a power point presentation to deliver it in our on-going NO HORN AWARENESS campaign on third week of March.
3. On **12 March, 2020 the participants were informed about the COVID-19 Pandemic.** The participants were informed about the guidelines provided by NOREC, WHO, INDIAN Government. The participants were given mask and sanitizer for the protection.

**COMPREHENSIVE PROGRAM FOR THE SURVIVORS OF TORTURE AND ORGANIZED VIOLENCE**

**Psychological:** Individual therapy: The project provided psycho – social support through **testimonial therapy to 112 survivors (40 women and 72 men)**. During lockdown due to COVID – 19 the organization provided **telephonic counseling to the 97 survivors**. Organization released the two helplines' numbers to providing support to the survivor of torture and organized violence. On the basis of the testimonies/narratives project created urgent appeal and for providing solidarity

to the survivors. The fourth session in TT is a follow up session, in which the survivor and community workers meet to re-evaluate the survivor's well-being (WHO 5), Pain analogue, anger analogue and participation scale are the measures were used for the pre- to post intervention outcome comparison and analysis. The project completed the follow-up of all 112 survivors.

**Social:** The project organized 45 folk school and honor ceremonies (in which 8 folk schools and honor ceremonies were organized in group and the honor ceremonies of 37 survivors were done individually). The group ceremonies were organized in Varanasi, Sonbhadra of Uttar Pradesh and Koderma of Jharkhand state of India. In the program **262 people (Female- 102 and Male 160 Male) participated.**

**Legal:** The project did **346 interventions in 266 cases multi – layers and multi-intervention to the various concerned authorities related to the cases of police torture.** Now it is much easier to lodge complaint and do further follow-up of the cases with the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) through online system. HRC.net. During pandemic the complaint was filed through email. The project also used Right to Information Act to know the proceeding of the case and submitting comment to concerned authorities for providing justice to the survivors. The project is not only doing the intervention for providing justice but also engaging various stakeholders and authorities for the institutional reform. Such as in many cases National Human Rights Commission issued showcase notice to the concerned authorities for not making compliance of the orders of the honorable commission such as killing in Umbha due to firing, minor sexually harassed by police. **The 16 cases are in the court for the legal intervention** as in many cases chargesheet had been filed in the court.

**Bonded labour:** Bonded Labour: **Rescue and Rehabilitation of 79 bonded labours** from eastern part of Uttar Pradesh.

#### **Violence Against Women:**

- Provided psycho- social support through testimonial therapy and counseling to 93 survivors of Gender based violence.
- Provided meta- legal support to various concerned and also to Rani Lakshmi Bai Asha Jyoti Kendra (One stop center for women). Ms. Farhat, counsellor on psycho- social rehabilitation is providing counselling in Women center run under the Senior Supritendent of Police, Uttar Pradesh police

## **COMPREHENSIVE PROGRAM FOR MODEL VILLAGES AND MODEL BLOCKS**

JanMitra Nyas is creating child and maternal health friendly villages in **50 Hamlet of 21 villages Panchayat in 4 blocks and 2 slums of Varanasi district.**

1. RBSK organized 6 health camp in the above mentioned target areas. In the health camp 620 people were diagnosed and 9 serious children were referred to district hospital in Pandeypur.
2. Organized health camp in 4 villages of three blocks. In the camp 533 people (310 male and 223 male) and 227 children were diagnosed and received medicine.
3. In the Chief Minister's Arogya Mela organized on 6 Sundays in 4 Block 1 Slum, 1062 (normal pregnant 190, high risk pregnant 25, lactating 104, teenager 91, child 24 and other patients 411) were given counseling services
4. 111 mothers of six-month-old babies were taught to keep the babies warm by wrapping them in clothes in winter season
5. Eight poshan and swasthya mela was organized by JanMitra Nyas and 14 in collaboration with the ICDS. In the mela built the capacities of the adolescence, pregnant and lactating mothers on the handwashing, nutrients in food, need of nutritional elements in the body, clean drinking water etc.
6. The complaint was filed to the CM Portal with the list of the pregnant mother who has not got the benefit of Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY).
7. After intervention under the Communicable disease control and dastak campaign 41 targeted and 16 non – targeted was sanitized.
8. Nine new Anganwadi center were built in the project area. 375 children will be benefited with this center.
9. 774 work under MNREGA for cleaning canal, making pond, road and animal husbandry. 156348 rupees was dispersed.
- 10.48 houses were constructed under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana.
- 11.29 children received birth certificate.
- 12.The project observed special breast feeding week. In the week the team reach out to 97 lactating mother on the benefits of breastfeeding, positioning skills of breastfeeding, milk production through mother-child interaction, etc.



13. 1695 children up to the age of 5 years were given dose of Vitamin A solution. Counseling services provided to the 445 mothers.
14. Hemoglobin test of 82 adolescence girls in 11 villages.
15. 350 adolescences received sanitary napkin after advocacy with the Government.
16. JMN distributed vegetable seed to 501 families and Guava plant to 41 adolescence, 23 lactating mother, 18 pregnant mothers, and family of 36 malnourished children, 11 migrant and 2 sick families.
17. On 16<sup>th</sup> February, 2020 Ms. Helma Ritscher, the Chairwomen of Indo-German Society Remscheid, inaugurated the family health and Nutritional Counseling center at Baghwanala urban slum in Varanasi district of Uttar Pradesh India.

### **Baghwanala Health center:**

The inauguration ceremony was followed by the inaugural speech of Ms. Hema Ritscher. She handed over the message of Mr. Steven Wolf, the Member of the State Assembly, Germany, and Mr. Timo Bliss of Engagement Global. In the message both of them conveyed their good wishes on the inauguration of the center and its future success.

The purpose for establishing a well-equipped center with testing facilities for blood pressure, hemoglobin, diabetes, weight, body mass is to build the knowledge of the people through participatory dialogue, so that local community develop the health and hygiene practice among themselves and their health consciousness increased.

In the inaugural ceremonies many dignitaries from city, NOREC Fellows, PVCHR staffs and local resident were also present. Soon after the inauguration ceremony, a free health camp was organized in this center where Dr Mahendra Kumar Mishra, general physician, and gynecologist Dr Sheetal Tripathi diagnosed a total of 150 people (61 girls and 18 boys between 0-18 years, plus 61 women and 10 men).

Before the diagnosis the trained ANM do free tests for hemoglobin, blood pressure, weight, diabetes, body mass index etc. On the prescription of doctor free medicine was also distributed to them.

Many cases were referred to Hospital for the surgery and few women informed that they faced violence in their families due to the health condition.

### **Few activities as follows:**

1. The organization did baseline survey for collecting primary health information about the village.
2. Follow-up of the referral case.
3. Weekly health camp (i.e. Sunday) by Dr. Sheetal Tripathi. She diagnoses around 20 – 40 patients.
4. Every day 5 – 10 people are visiting the center to get the health advice.
5. During this global pandemic ANM informed to the people about hand washing and maintaining physical distance.

## COMPREHENSIVE PROGRAM FOR NATIONAL LOBBY, CAMPAIGN, ADVOCACY

1. **Domestic violence and COVID time:** Domestic violence on women and mothers directly influence on psyche of children. Shruti interview published in News 18 and Yahoo News, *“In the rural parts of Varanasi too, Shruti Nagvanshi, Founder of 'People's Vigilance Committee on Human Rights, said that domestic abuse has escalated. "There's hunger and no income. The men are going through a feeling of helplessness and turning that into violence on women. Gaali, maarpit, torture have become regular," she said. But the activist, too, has been telling the women to 'not fight' in this period of lockdown. "We are telling them they have to tolerate," she said<sup>xxvii</sup>. Another founder Lenin mentioned in quote in Pioneer article titled Amid lockdown, domestic violence goes north, “The situation accentuated during lockdown as families have been forced to stay indoors for a long time. Domestic violence often increases in times of crisis and with restrictions being imposed, couples become frustrated and bicker. These changes have made husbands cranky and stressful, who in turn subject wives to more abuse,” convenor of People’s Vigilance Committee on Human Rights (PVCHR), Lenin Raghuvanshi said.<sup>xxviii</sup>*
2. Lenin launched a column on a newsportal.<sup>xxix</sup> He wrote on mental health in COVID time<sup>xxx</sup>, Case of Mangala in COVID time<sup>xxxi</sup>, discussion on funded civil society<sup>xxxii</sup> and spiritualism during COVID time<sup>xxxiii</sup>. His article on Spiritualism during COVID time also published in English titled “Questions of Life That We Must Ask Ourselves under the Lockdown” and describes ,

“While Shruti and I have been involved in social work, my parents and all of us are getting food from the our collective kitchen. All this while, our colleague Mangla Prasad has been implicated in a fake case for raising the matter of the *mushar* community children eating ‘*akri*’ (type of grass) to beat hunger, while Resident Editor of Jansandesh Times Vijay Vineet was served a notice by the district magistrate. At the same time, Abhishek Srivastava, who lives out the quintessential Varanasi lifestyle in Delhi and Noida, has been bewildered by the corporate work culture akin to how Kashi has treated Mahadev.”<sup>xxxiv</sup>

3. **Shruti and Lenin spoke in webinar on role of media and Human Rights activists in Corona time** as guest speakers and they talked about their work, which is also published in Media.<sup>xxxv</sup>
4. Lenin also mentioned in an article titled **attack on journalists during COVID time in story of Lokmat and the Quint.**<sup>xxxvi</sup> *“Journalists at the state or the national level can be ‘managed’ via their management or through some kind of incentive by the ruling dispensation [such as government advertising] but that’s difficult at the district or the village level,” said Lenin Raghuvanshi, founder of People’s Vigilance Committee on Human Rights, a local human rights group. “That’s why the only way to stop them from doing their job honestly is by targeting them with legal cases,” he said.*
5. **Advocacy of PVCHR and Bunkar Dastkar Adhikar Manch of JMN on issue of weavers published.**<sup>xxxvii</sup>
6. **Reuter, a prominent news agency published story on impact of change in labour laws,** which is published in more than 16000 news papers in world including Aljazeera and other. Quote of Lenin, *“The new rules will create more conflicts and increase slavery,” said Lenin Raghuvanshi, convener of non-profit People’s Vigilance Committee on Human Rights. Raghuvanshi, who has heard from workers being asked to work longer hours during the lockdown or being denied leave to go home, said states could have implemented softer measures such as overtime provisions instead of suspending labour laws.*<sup>xxxviii</sup>

7. Famous weekly newspaper Patriot published titled No love lost for labour on far from looking after the interests of their vast workforce, states like UP and Gujarat seem to be exploiting their desperation by doing away with their right to decent, regular employment. Story published on interview of Lenin and documentation of Shruti. Please see mentions, *“However, a measure like increasing shifts from eight to 12 hours defies all logic and norms of a welfare state. Moreover, it will lead to an increase in forced and bonded labour, believes Lenin Raghuvanshi, Dalit rights activist and one of the founding members of People’s Vigilance Committee on Human Rights (PVCHR). Shruti Nagvanshi, founding member and managing trustee of PVCHR, also told us that at least three labourers she had spoken to in Baghpat, UP were stuck in abusive conditions. “Their work in the agriculture field finished on 10th May but they are being made to work extra hours without any payment. They asked for our help, to be brought back home to eastern UP. We are making efforts through calling the toll-free numbers of the government and trying to speak to them. We also spoke with the MLA of Baghpat (Yogesh Dhama) personally for help in transporting them. But it will take time.”<sup>xxxix</sup>*
8. Wire published special article titled ‘Abused, Married Off and in an Emotional Crisis: Children Bear the Brunt of the Lockdown’. Work of CRY and PVCHR also published. *Lenin Raghuvanshi, convener of the People’s Vigilance Committee on Human Rights, which works for marginalised people at Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh said that predators are all over – online and offline. “On one hand, there are parents who are unable to monitor the content their children access online, and on the other hand are children, unsafe around their own family. With social distancing, it is easier for the abuser to isolate the victim from the rest of the community. The number of abusers hasn’t risen but the opportunities have shot up, as the abuser does not go to work and the victim doesn’t go to school. There is a need to protect children by identifying a responsible adult in each community and family who would help draw the line by keeping the abused, safe from the abuser,” he said.<sup>xl</sup>*

**9. Pioneer published special article on child protection and child abuse in lock down titled Major issue of minors.** *Lenin Raghuvanshi Convener of People's Vigilance Committee on Human Rights (PVCHR) said that as people are almost locked in their homes small fights are common. But with people losing their income they go into depression lead to domestic fight. "But it is the child who is the real victim of these violence which are manifestation of lockdown fatigue. The adults are vocal and in case of violence can raise their voice. But it is the child who not only gets the beating for no fault of his but also fails to lodge complaint because during lockdown he does not know where to go," Raghuvanshi says<sup>xli</sup>.*

**10. Talk of Shruti Nagvanshi on COVID-19, Migrant Labourers crisis, Livelihood, Dignity & Human Values (Hindi)<sup>xlii</sup>.**

**Podcast:** On 22 April, 2020 launched podcast to share the work of JMN in context of human dignity, hope, reconciliation and honour. Our podcast also came on important platform Listen Notes<sup>xliii</sup> and Apple Podcast too.<sup>xliv</sup>

1. JMN-PVCHR support to fight COVID 19<sup>xlv</sup>
2. Talk with Shruti Nagvanshi on her humanitarian work to fight back Corona.<sup>xlvi</sup>
3. Podcast on case of Mangala Prasad Rajbhar<sup>xlvii</sup> made impact to receive call from US embassy and Freedom Home, USA provided emergency grant.

### **COMPREHENSIVE PROGRAM FOR INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY, PARTNERSHIP AND NETWORKING**

1. Global Bar of Sweden (<http://globalreporting.net/en/global-bar/>) talked with Lenin Raghuvanshi on work of JMN in COVID Time and profiled work of JMN in Global Podcast of Global Bar.<sup>xlviii</sup>
2. Solidarity to JMN staff Mangla Prasad by IRCT,
3. Executive Director of JMN wrote to **Mr. Rasmus Helveg Petersen, Member of Parliament, Denmark<sup>xlix</sup>.**

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[https://pvchrfighttagainstcorona.blogspot.com/2020/04/blog-post\\_777.html](https://pvchrfighttagainstcorona.blogspot.com/2020/04/blog-post_777.html)

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