

NEWSLETTER FROM JAGRITI VIHARA – FEBRUARY 2021

Dear friends,
Namaste!

Thank you for your letter and the financial support to our corona project. On 5th of January we had our Executive Committee meeting at Jagriti Vihara. It was very successful meeting. We discussed about the plans and the projects of Jagriti Vihara. Members were very happy to see people working in the campus. Now we will start the work of repairing the broken boundary walls and the repairing of electrical wiring in the guest house and in the kitchen. We all are very happy with the support from JVV and sending our thanks and gratitude to you for your kind support. We will also send you the photographs of the activities in the campus.

The most important discussion was about the new rules and regulations of the government of India for the non government organizations who are giving their services to the society and adding support to the development of the country. According to the new rules and regulations the NGOs in India who are registered under the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA) have to open an Account at State Bank of India, New Delhi Main Branch as Designated FCRA Account. The account so opened at New Delhi Branch can only be used for receiving Foreign Contribution. One more Account has to be opened at SBI in the state/town where the NGOs are situated. This account is to be used as utilization account. It means we have to open a designated bank account at SBI New Delhi to receive donations from foreign countries and then we have to open another account in Ranchi (utilization account) to utilize the amount for the purpose it has been donated to us . We have been given time till 31st March 2021. After that we can not receive any amount in our present bank account in Ranchi. Earlier this facility was given to states in India but now it has been centralized. It is a time consuming and tiring work. I have been working day and night to prepare so many documents for this purpose. It was not necessary but once the rules are imposed on us we have to follow them. Hopefully we will complete the process in a few weeks and get a new bank account for future financial transactions . We will send you the details of our new banking account when we get them.

We organized a health check up camp in the village where about 85 people were examined by the doctors and nurses and given medicines. About 30% of the total patients had problems with their blood pressure and about 25% had problems with the blood sugar level. I was surprised to know that because I had the impression that villagers are hard working and they can not be the victim of the life style diseases. But this is the reality now. Under the corona project we have already distributed dry food articles, warm clothes and blankets to the poor and needy people in our region. We also distributed walking sticks and crutches to the needy people. We kept ourselves busy with these humanitarian activities. Your support added wings to our dream and we successfully carried out the activities.

For the last one year we have been fighting against an invisible enemy. It took a long time to understand what to do in this difficult situation. Suddenly we were locked in our houses. Everything was stopped. People have to walk miles and miles to reach home. They migrated to some other cities in search of jobs and suddenly had to come back with empty pockets and empty stomach. It was heart touching moment.

At home they had nothing to do. No earnings, no food. It was terrible. Many people lost their lives. Some of my friends have also become the victim of this fatal virus. Somehow we managed to survive . In this difficult situation the voluntary organizations in India played a very important role in making them feel good. We were also cooperating with the other organizations in Jharkhand and also with the government to provide some relief work to the needy and affected people. We were able to do that only because of the kind support from our friends and supporters. You always supported us in difficult situation. We extend our thanks and gratitude to all of you for your strong support.

We are very sorry to hear that two of our (JVV) board members and one of Perji's daughters got infected with the virus. How are they now? Praying for their quick recovery. Soon in India the government will start the move for vaccination. Because of the rumors spread around the country the government has decided to go for vaccination to the Covid Warriors, the health workers, policemen, Municipality workers and then the senior citizens etc. to create awareness and send a positive message to the people about the safety of the vaccine. To vaccinate such a large population in India is not an easy task. It will take a long time to provide vaccine to everyone. So, we have to wait for our turn with patience and precautions.

With very warm greetings,

Rajesh Prashant
For Jagriti Vihara