

**Jan Swasthya Sahyog  
Community Health Team  
MIT Consultation, March 2015**

**Mid-Level Health Worker Knowledge Systems**

**Dr. Yogesh Jain, Founding Member of JSS**



Dr. Yogesh Jain has an MD in paediatrics from the All India Institute of Medical Science, Delhi, but is a public health physician in practice. He has been principally involved in primary health care through founding and running a community health programme, Jan Swasthya Sahyog (People's Health Support group), in rural Bilaspur in central India. At Jan Swasthya Sahyog, people from over 2500 of the most marginalised villages access medical services for their major health care needs. Dr. Jain has been involved in addressing the issues--be they technical, operational, economic, or political--that determine health care for the rural poor through careful documentation, observational research studies, developing appropriate health related technology, training, and lobbying, all based on continual learning from this community health programme.

**Prafull Chandel, Program Coordinator, Community Health**



Born in Bilaspur District, Prafull began working in the villages of the district in 1996 in literacy campaigns. In 1999, at the inception of JSS, he was recruited to help build the village program. He has been in continuous service with JSS since then. His principal responsibilities have been to identify village contacts in 53 affiliated remote villages, recruit a total of 106 volunteer health workers and 53 dais (traditional midwives) in these villages, and organize the initial and on-going training programs for these health workers. In addition for eight years he has been responsible for monitoring and implementing the malaria control program. Prafull is the cluster coordinator for the villages in the Shivtarai sub-clinic catchment area.

**Ramkali, Senior Health Worker, Bahmni Sub-Center**



Ramkali is a Senior Health Worker (SHW) in the Bahmni Sub-Center. Before becoming a Village Health Worker and then an SHW, Ramkali worked her fields as a farmer, collected wood from the forest, and took care of her home. Ramkali commutes to the Bahmni Sub-Center from her home in Jakarbandha by cycle or foot. Ramkali has been

interested medical work since she played doctor as a child. The JSS SHW program gave her an opportunity to fulfil her dream and she is keen to learn much more as well as to increase health consciousness in the villages in which she works.

**Kaushalya Porte, Village Health Worker & Maternal and Child Health Worker, Katami (Bahmni)**



Kaushalya has been a Village Health Worker for JSS for thirteen years. She married at an early age and soon after became a VHW. For the past one year, she has also worked as a Maternal and Child Health Worker. Kaushalya lives in village Katami within the Bahmni catchment area. Her family primarily works in agriculture. Initially, Kaushalya's family disapproved of her work for JSS. However, she has been able to garner the respect of her community through her persistence and skill.

## **Chronic Diseases Patient Groups**

### **Benbai Ratnakar, Field Coordinator**



Benbai began working at JSS in 2001. As a Field Coordinator with fifteen years of experience, she has many areas of responsibility. As the Cluster Coordinator for the Semariya Sub-Center, she guides the Village and Senior Health Workers in the Semariya catchment area and provides them with ongoing support and monthly training. In addition, Benbai supervises a third of JSS's 27 Antenatal Clinics. She also supervises Non-Communicable Disease patient groups and manages the Kishori program, which provides teenage girls with health education, life skills training, and social support. Benbai graduated from Guru Ghasidas Mahavidyala in 2004 with a BA in Arts.

### **Anil Bamne, Field Coordinator**



Anil began working at JSS in 2009. As a Field Coordinator, Anil helps run three of JSS's important programs: the alcohol patient groups; the phulwadi program for children 6 months--3 years old; and the Mahila Samuh Baithaks, or women's groups. Anil is also a poet and singer whose work engages social and political themes.

### **Shruti Samant, Program Coordinator**



Shruti began working at JSS in 2015. As a Program Manager, Shruti is responsible for managing the Mental Health Program at JSS as well as helping coordinate logistics for the Community Health team. Shruti holds a BA and MA in Psychology and she practiced as a clinical psychologist for two and a half years before earning her MPH from the Tata Institute of Social Sciences in Mumbai.

### **Santosh, Senior Health Worker, Bahmni Sub-Center**



Santosh has worked as a Senior Health Worker for the past eight years. Prior to becoming an SHW, Santosh taught in a village school. Santosh is a resident of Bahmni village itself. Santosh feels that the JSS work in Bahmni has made a dramatic difference in people's lives for problems ranging from dog bites to chronic diseases. According to him, the biggest challenge facing JSS workers is the difficulty in changing people's minds and ways of thinking about how to manage their health.

## **Antenatal Care and Maternal and Child Health**

### **Manju Thakur, Field Coordinator**



Manju has worked for JSS since for sixteen years. In her work as a Field Coordinator, she manages a number of programs. She is the Cluster Coordinator for the Bahmni Sub-Center, meaning she supervises and supports the village and senior health workers in the Bahmni catchment area. She also runs JSS's Antenatal Care program, which currently provides 1000 women with pre-natal care. In addition, Manju is responsible for providing traditional midwives with modern medical training to ensure safe homebirths in JSS's Trained Birth Attendant program. Manju is the proud mother of daughters who are track and field stars.

### **Innaciamal (Kutty) Jacob, Principal, School of Nursing**



Kutty has worked for JSS since 2008. In 2010, she spearheaded the founding of the School of Nursing. Kutty holds a B.Sc. in Nursing from the Mid-India Board of Education. Kutty and the JSS team have ensured that students in the School of Nursing are well trained in both the medical and community aspects of nursing. Nursing students--all of whom come from the Bilaspur area--are selected not only on the basis of their intelligence but also on their social sensitivity and life experiences.

### **Ramkumari, Senior Health Worker, Semariya Sub-Center**



Ramkumari is a Senior Health Worker in the Semariya Sub-Center. She is a key link between the Village Health Workers in the Semariya catchment area and the hospital in Ganiyari. Ramkumari was nominated by her fellow villagers to work for JSS because she is well respected by all. Though she has only studied to the eighth grade level, she is capable of diagnosing and treating a variety of illnesses. Her family members are primarily engaged in agricultural work. Ramkumari works so that her community members will learn how to manage their own health and how to take advantage of the various government programs offered to them. Ramkumari is also the mother of three sons.

### **Ramshila, Village Health Worker, Newasa Village (Shivtarai)**



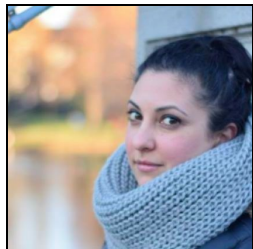
Ramshila is a forty year old health worker from Newasa Village in the Shivtarai catchment area. She has been a VHW for the past sixteen years and, like many members of her community, her family is primarily engaged in growing rice. Ramshila studied until the fourth grade and married at age 13. She was selected by the elders of her village to be a VHW. She is passionate about providing medical care to the members of her village. She is particularly interested in helping young children, newborn babies, and new mothers.

### **Mamta Jaiswal, Field Coordinator**



Mamta Jaiswal was born in Bilaspur District and has worked for JSS for eight years. As a Field Coordinator, she helps provide training in the Village Health Worker program and the Trained Birth Attendant program. Mamta also helps run the Antenatal Care program. She has a great eye for detail and she has committed her life to helping improve maternal and child health in her home district.

### **Dr. Annie Khan, HEAL UCSF Global Health Fellow**



Dr. Annie Khan is a native of the San Francisco Bay Area. As a first-generation child of immigrants, her personal experiences with diversity helped foster her interest in community-oriented health care leading to a career in Family Medicine. She completed residency at Boston Medical Center, which serves Boston's diverse urban underserved populations. There she worked with both prenatal and pediatric groups through the Centering model. She is now a Board Certified Family Medicine Physician. As a HEAL UCSF Global Health Fellow, Dr. Khan continues to gain global health experience working in Navajo Nation and rural India at Jan Swasthya Sahyog. She is fluent in Punjabi/Hindko and proficient in Urdu.

### **Dr. Rebecca Grapevine, Volunteer**



Dr. Rebecca Grapevine is a volunteer at JSS. She holds a PhD in modern Indian history from the University of Michigan. A former Fulbright scholar, she has taught ancient and modern Indian history in a variety of settings, most recently on a study abroad program in Bihar. Dr. Grapevine is fluent in Hindi and proficient in Urdu. Her projects at JSS focus on documenting the social context of disease.

## **Appropriate Technology**

### **Dr. Lokesh Tamgire, Program Coordinator**



Dr. Lokesh Tamgire began working at JSS in 2015 after graduating from the Tata Institute of Social Sciences with an MPH in Social Epidemiology. Dr. Tamgire is also a trained Ayurvedic doctor and he worked for three years in a hospital intensive care unit. Dr. Tamgire is a Program Coordinator responsible for the Maternal and Child Health, Handwashing, and Phulwari programs. The Maternal and Child Health program currently provides post-natal care to around 900 new mothers and babies. The Phulwari program provides early education, childcare, and nutrition to children ages 6 months-3 years in each of JSS's program villages. Dr. Tamgire is also a skilled flutist who loves photography.

### **Dr. Sushil Patil, Clinical Services Coordinator**



Dr. Sushil Patil is the Program Coordinator for Clinical Services at JSS. Dr. Patil completed training in Ayurveda (Indian system of medicine) and later earned his Master's in Health Administration from Tata Institute of Social Sciences in Mumbai. Dr. Patil is also currently a Fellow in the HEAL Initiative run by the University of California San Francisco. Dr. Patil coordinates efforts to improve both the long-term systems based and intervention-based services provided by JSS.

### **Harendra Sijwali, Coordinator**



Harendra Sijwali began working at JSS in 2013, after completing an internship here in 2009. Harendra helps run JSS's Handwashing, Maternal and Child Health, Appropriate Technology, and Clean Water programs. He holds Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Archaeology from Uttarakhand University. Harendra is currently completing an MSW from C.V. Raman University here in Chhattisgarh.

### **Janaki Bai Jagat, Senior Health Worker, Shivtarai**



Janaki has worked as a Senior Health Worker for the past eight years, after having served as a Village Health Worker since 2000. From village Manpur, Janaki works out of the Shivtarai sub-center, serving as a crucial link between the villages in the area and the hospital in Ganiyari. Janaki has two adult sons and one adult daughter. She is a talented organizer with a knack for simplifying complex ideas and is highly respected by all.

### **Ashok, Senior Health Worker, Semariya**

Ashok is a Senior Health Worker at the Semariya Sub-Center. He has been working in this role since 2008. A twelfth grade graduate, prior to joining JSS Ashok worked at building houses and cutting wood in the jungle. He is very enthusiastic about improving the the health and living conditions of the in which he serves.

### **Bhagwati, Village Health Worker, Karpaha Village (Shivtarai)**



Bhagwati is a 46 year old Village Health Worker from Karpaha Village within the Shivtarai catchment area. Bhagwati has been a VHW for the past 16 years, from the beginning of the program. Her family is engaged in farming rice. Bhagwati studied until eighth grade and married at age 19. She would have liked to study further. Bhagwati has two sons, one who is studying commerce and one who is studying biology. Bhagwati notes that through her work as a VHW she has gotten the opportunity to leave her home and meet many new kinds of people. She cares a great deal about her role as a health facilitator and is eager to study and learn more about providing medical care.

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