

REPORT ON JAN SUNWAI IN TELIPALI VILLAGE, PUSSOUR BLOCK,
RAIGARH, CHHATTISGARH



ORGANISED BY

JAN CHETNA MANCH, RAIGARH, CHHATTISGARH

Introduction:

Chhattisgarh erstwhile the part of Madhya Pradesh state, primarily due to its large tribal population has historically not been a part of the mainstream and has therefore remained underdeveloped. Critical indicators for education and health have remained low. This is evident that the prevailing oppressive, hierarchical social order was not accepted by the people, and from the ancient times, the social history of Chhattisgarh is marked by the process of questioning and protests in the form of a number of socio-religious movements.

The tradition of movements is still alive and vibrant in many parts of the state. Presently, there are a number of movements and field based organizations working for the tribal and other disadvantaged sections of the society, such as farmers, laborers etc. Today, the movements and the grass root organizations are fighting against the oppressive regimes of the industrialists encouraged by the policies of globalization and liberalization to protect the environment, and interests of the indigenous tribal groups.

Jan Chetna Manch is one such movement in Raigarh fighting for the people's Right to Food, Right to Health and Protection of Environment. Jan Sunwai that is Public Hearing is one of the strategies that the movement uses for the protection of the rights of the people. The report tries to catch glimpses of the Jan Sunwai on the Right to Health in Telipala Village of Pussour Block of the Raigarh District.

Jan Sunwai – An effective strategy of People's Control:

The Jan Sunwai is an effective strategy for people's control over the implementation of different government schemes and Jan Chetna Manch is using it in an effective way. While working on the people's Right to Health and Right to Food, it is one of the imperatives to ensure the proper implementation of the various government schemes and to ensure that, the benefits of the scheme must reach to the neediest person in the society.

Unfortunately, the state of implementation of the various government schemes does not show us this scenario. In fact, the scenario is exactly opposite. Especially, in the socially and economically backward areas, the implementation of the government schemes is faulty involving vested interests of different power holding groups, due to which the neediest person in the village remains away from the benefits, at all times.

Though there are efforts to bring transparency in the delivery mechanism of the various schemes, there is hardly any major transformation that visible. Likewise, there is no avenue for the people in the village that is simple and easily accessible where they can register their complaints and get immediate solution.

It is there, the strategy of Jan Chetna Manch comes into play. Jan Sunwai acts at this very juncture, providing an avenue for the people in the village to raise their voice against the irregularities in the implementation of the schemes and demand justice for them. Jan Chetna Manch has conducted many Jan Sunwais on the issues on Right to Food and Right to Health in their coverage area of five Blocks of Raigarh District.



The slogans at the Public Hearing

Jansunwai on Right to Health- The Behind the Curtains Scene:

Access to quality health services is one of the fundamental rights of all and it must not be denied at any cost. With this belief, the Jan Chetna Manch organizes the Jan Sunwai on the Right to Health.

Today, on one hand, the population that resides in the rural areas is being provided with a number of schemes such as Janani Suraksha Yojana, Nutritious Food Scheme, ICDS, and Provision of food grains through PDS, Old age Pension Scheme etc. These schemes are directly or indirectly related to the health of the population. But on the other hand, despite all the schemes, there is no major shift in the health indicators of the population.

On this backdrop, the one of the Jan Sunwais organized in the Telipala Village of the Pussour Block had undergone following preparations:

Before conducting the Jan Sunwai, the workers of the Jan Chetna Manch conducted intensive surveys at their level to identify the gaps in the health delivery system. The surveys that were conducted included

- The List of Births,
- The list of deaths happened and their reasons in the villages in their respective designated area,
- The facilities available at the PHC, SHC,
- The availability of tablets with Mitamin
- The utilization of untied funds in different villages
- The surveys related to Housing, Accessibility, Environment, Vacancies of the PHCs

With all these surveys, the workers of Jan Chetna Manch had strong database. The other thing that the workers gave preference to was the group meetings with the villagers in different villages. The agenda of these group meetings was the implementation of Public Distribution System, the Mid Day Meal Programme, ICDS and other problems that villagers face. These meetings were also documented.

The next step was to fix the place, time for the Jan Sunwai. The place, time was fixed in one of the meetings with the villagers where the Sarpanch and other Gram Panchayat members were present. When the place for the meeting was fixed, the workers mobilized the community by again meeting with the people, writing information on the walls etc. The invitations were sent to the Chief Executive Officer, the Collector, the Chief Medical Officer of the district.



Facts from the Survey of Jan Chetna Manch:

There are 7 Primary Health Centres (PHCs), of which all have the facility for delivery but all the PHCs do not have staff nurse. They found that all the PHCs have the vehicle facility.

There are 5 Sub Health Centres (SHCs), of which 3 SHCs have the facility for delivery. Out of 20 villages under the coverage area of Jan Chetna Manch, all the villages have health workers coming to the villages for check up regularly. All the villages have the regular immunization sessions. All the villages have Mitanins in different numbers. But they do not have regular supply of tablets.

The record of the untied fund given to the VHSC was also recorded. All the villages have received the amount of untied fund but almost all the villages noted that they have spent the amount on the cleanliness of the village, the drainage and the borewells. All the villages have spent more than 9000 from the amount 10,000.

The survey regarding the housing facility, it is found that, out of 8 Primary Health Centres, 6 centres have water facility, 5 have electricity supply, only 1 Primary Health Centre has the accommodation facility for 2 doctors and other 3 have accommodation for 3 doctors and the other 4 do not have accommodation for the doctors. No Primary Health Centre has the housing facility for the doctors. This was the same condition for the nurse. All the facilities are accessible by the road.

The workers have recorded that, in the 5 blocks of Raigarh which is the coverage area of Jan Chetna Manch, there are 11 deaths of the children due to malnutrition and 12 deaths of the expectant mothers during pregnancy.

Jan Sunwai on 19th Novemeber, 2010 :

The proceedings of the Jan Sunwai were expected to start at the 12:00 noon. At about 12:00, the proceedings were started with the speech by Rajesh Tripathi, convener of the Jan Chetna Manch. In his energetic and factual talk, Rajeshji discussed about the various incidences of violations of right to health, the incidences of death by Malaria etc. He talked in local Chhattisgarhi dialect. He asked for more and more people to talk about their problems and also to write it down for the follow up.



Mr. Rajesh Tripathi giving inaugural speech

Then the people started coming with their problems written on the piece of paper with their signature and they gave it to the workers of the Jan Chetna Manch. The people also talked about their problems in the speaker.



Mitanin from a village expressing her views

The major issues those came up were:

- Nonpayment of the amount under Janani Suraksha Yojana
- Non availability of the medicines with Mitani since 3 months
- Non utilization/diversion of the untied funds
- Mitanins being unaware about the untied funds with the VHSC and with the ANMs
- Nonpayment of the old age pension
- Help for severely disabled under the scheme for disabled
- Inclusion in the Below Poverty Line List

The people came from different village around such as Kawariya, Jampali, Jogitarai, Ghodatarai, Linjhi, Zharmura, Loharsingh, Amaldiha, Kawartal and Pacheda. Nearly, 200 people attended the Jan Sunwai.



The people from different villages gathered at the Public Hearing

Though there were no one was present amongst the invited dignitaries, the Chief Medical Officer sent the medical officer from the Kondatari Primary Health Centre to attend the Jan Sunwai. He attended the Jan Sunwai and answered all the queries and the complaints. The Jan Sunwai was

covered by all the leading the local news channels and print media such as Sahara Samay, Harsha News, Sadhana News.

There were over 100 written complaints related to the Old Age Pension, Inclusion in the BPL list, and the Nonpayment of the amount of the JSY with the workers of the Jan Chetna Manch. It is the proven track record of the Jan Chetna Manch that they follow up the complaints with the concerned department, even if the concerned official is not present at the time of Jan Sunwai. In similar way, the team of the Jan Chetna Manch assured that, they will be sorting out the complaints according to their nature and concerned department and they will be following up.

On the whole, the Jan Sunwai was a collective success of the team of Jan Chetna Manch. The due credit must be given to the selfless efforts of the workers of the Jan Chetna Manch and the base that they have created in the field. The strategy of carrying out the event with minimum requirements from outside and with utmost participation from the community highlights the principle of community participation and utilization of indigenous resources. This way, the movement has ensured that, there will be ownership of the community over the programme.



Doctor from Primary Health Centre responding to the queries

