

# Annual Report

**2010 - 2011**



**Janhit Foundation**

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## FOREWORD

*It is that time of year again and once more I am delighted to be compiling a short note to accompany the report of the undertakings of Janhit Foundation during my third year as Director.*

*It has been a rollercoaster of a year and a learning curve for all of us at Janhit Foundation as we evolve and progress as an organization and acclimatize to the forever changing needs of our environment and more importantly the people who occupy it; the human race.*

*I would like to thank all our staff, volunteers and supporters around the globe who have pulled together to once again make this a momentous year for Janhit Foundation and without who, our goals would not be realisable. I would also like to extend my thanks to Duncan Craig, for compiling and editing this year's annual report.*

*We face a daunting task, working within a state and country which has an alarmingly high level of the world's poorest people; a vast majority of whom have do not have access to safe drinking water or even the most basic of sanitation systems. Yet despite this, we live in a nation whose economy is among the fastest growing in the world. This fact alone is food for thought for all of us, and is a stark reminder of the harsh reality of the world we live in, a world where the rich are very much getting richer and the poor getting poorer.*

*I hope that this report is an interesting and enlightening read for you, but more importantly I hope that for some of you it may trigger that inner nerve and both inspire and challenge you to become a part of what we at Janhit Foundation strive for; a world where people don't just talk about equality from behind closed doors but actually get up, go out there and make it happen.*

*Reliance on others or on the state is something that all of us, no matter who we are, are guilty of at some point in our lives, but the reality is, we could well be waiting for something that never happens. We must remember that change is achievable and it is within our grasp to achieve it.*

*Let us not put off for tomorrow what can be done today.*

**- Anita Rana**  
*Director, Janhit Foundation*

## **Janhit Foundation's Mission and Goals**

Janhit Foundation is an independent, not-for-profit non-governmental organization, actively engaged in the promotion of human welfare through environmental protection since 1998.

Janhit Foundation was registered on August 04, 1998 Under the Societies Registration Act, 1860.

### **Key areas of work include:**

- Groundwater quality protection for human health.
- Provision of safe drinking water to marginalized communities.
- Protection of river water quality for aquatic ecosystems.
- Enhancement of available water resources through water conservation measures.
- Promotion of sustainable agriculture by organic farming methods.
- Environmental education and empowerment of local communities.

Janhit Foundation undertakes this work through scientific research, campaigns, advocacy and grass-root level community involvement.

As a public interest organisation, Janhit Foundation focuses on strengthening local communities through their active participation in decision making, to achieve sustainable development. We believe that environmental degradation can only be addressed adequately if local people are empowered in decision making at all levels and have control over resources.

To achieve our goals, we work in partnership with government, non-governmental, national and international organisations on environment and human rights issues.

## Program Areas and Fields

*Janhit Foundation works mainly in Western Uttar Pradesh, throughout various regions and districts.*

*The precise locality is indicated on the adjacent map.*



The key areas of work of the organisation are:

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Water Conservation and Protection</b></p> <p><b>Objective:</b> Provision of safe, sufficient and sustainable water resources for all.</p> <p><b>Activities:</b> Water Quality and provision of safe drinking water, Water Resource Conservation, Water Literacy</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Sustainable Agriculture through Organic Farming</b></p> <p><b>Objective:</b> Restored and protected agricultural land, providing nutritious and healthy food sustainably, for current and future generations.</p> <p><b>Activities:</b> Promotion of organic farming, Strengthening the agricultural economy</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Environment Education</b></p> <p><b>Objective:</b> Sustainable use of natural resources, to ensure that our environment does not pose a risk to human health and can sustain appropriate and diverse wildlife.</p> <p><b>Activities:</b> Public Interest Litigations, Environmental Education and Campaigns</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Human Rights</b></p> <p><b>Objective:</b> Empowerment of marginalized communities to improve their own environment and safeguarding their human rights.</p> <p><b>Activities:</b> Protection of Human Rights, Childline 1098</p>

## **We work to achieve:**

### **Provision of safe water, sufficient, sustainable water resources for all by:**

- Continuing to research location and extent of water resource contamination.
- Identification of causes and sources of this contamination.
- Identification of impacts of contamination on human health and environment.
- Lobbying government departments and other responsible bodies to take appropriate and timely action to remediate contamination.
- Promote the conservation of water resources by recharging natural water bodies and rooftop rainwater harvesting
- Undertake awareness raising and training of water conservation methods within local communities.
- Promote ownership and responsibility for water resources within local communities

### **Restored and protected agricultural land providing nutritious and healthy food sustainably, for current and future generations by:**

- Promote the adoption of sustainable, organic farming practices.
- Work to reduce external non-natural inputs to farms, including toxic pesticides and chemical fertilizers.
- Reduce and reverse soil degradation.
- Undertake awareness raising and training of organic farming methods through seminars, workshops and promotional literature.
- Strengthen the agricultural economy by promoting market for certified organic produce, increasing agricultural productivity and employment opportunities.

**Sustainable use of natural resources, to ensure that our environment does not pose a risk to human health, and can sustain appropriate and diverse wildlife by:**

- Use of media, Public Interest Litigations (PILs) and other publicity methods to raise profile of environmental pollution issues and demand appropriate action.
- Environmental education and awareness campaigns.

**Empowerment of marginalized communities to improve their own environment and safeguarding their human rights:**

- Promotion of participatory decision making for local communities to regain ownership of their environment.
- Acting on behalf of communities to raise environmental degradation and human rights issues to the attention of relevant official authorities.

## **THE YEAR IN RETROSPECT**

### **CHILDLINE ADVISORY BOARD (CAB) MEETING**

A Childline Advisory Board meeting was held on April 27, 2010 at Bachat Bhawan, chaired by the District Magistrate (DM) of Meerut, Mr. Bhuvnesh Kumar. Mr. Gaur, DPO Meerut was appointed by the DM to coordinate activities between Childline and the various government departments. The meeting was a step forward in realizing the smooth functioning of the Childline service and facilitating the integration of other government departments.

Perhaps the most important announcement from this meeting was the fact that representatives of local children's homes were requested to take in children in an emergency, regardless if they do not satisfy their entry criteria, thus ensuring the interest of the child is paramount at all times.

### **CLIMATE CHANGE COMMUNITY SOLUTION EXCHANGE**

On April 29 and 30, 2010, Janhit Foundation attended the Climate Change Community Solution Exchange at the Habitat Centre in Delhi. Janhit Foundation's involvement was sought primarily for the 'Knowledge Mela', during which a knowledge sharing exercise took place between participating members. Janhit Foundation shared its experience in institution building, enhancing energy efficiency and livelihoods based conservation measures.

### **CHILDLINE SE DOSTI WEEK**

Meerut Childline conducted 'CHILDLINE SE DOSTI WEEK' from 07 to 14 November 2010, in which different activities were organized to spread awareness about our program. The week began with a drawing carnival, and included activities such as Nukad Naatak, the tying of Suraksha Sutra to police and officials, awareness camps and a Baal Rally. The objective of the event was successfully achieved, with Janhit Foundation able to significantly increase their support base for Childline.

### **LIVELIHOODS INDIA CONFERENCE**

November 17 and 18, 2010, saw our Director; Ms. Anita Rana and Matthew Shanley attend the Livelihoods India Conference on behalf of Janhit Foundation. The conference considered various concepts, including two key lectures entitled "Agriculture based



Livelihoods: Challenges for small holders” and “Producer Collectives and Value Chains”. Janhit Foundation would like to thank Oxfam for subsidizing our attendance at this conference.

### **THE NATIONAL WORKSHOP ON LIVING SOILS**

The National Workshop on Living Soils was held on December 13, 2010 at the Constitution Club, New Delhi and was attended on behalf of Janhit Foundation, by our Director, Ms. Anita Rana. This workshop discussed a variety of subjects, including soil enhancement strategies such as Nutrient Based Subsidies (NBS).

### **WORKSHOP ON INTEGRATED DOMESTIC WATER MANAGEMENT (IWDM)**

A one day workshop was organized by Development Alternatives (DA), on December 23, 2010 in New Delhi in association with the India Water Partnership (IWP) with the aim of creating a common understanding of the concept of IDWM, and to explore policy measures needed to ensure widespread adoption of the concept. The workshop united representatives of different stakeholder groups from all over the country, during which they shared their experiences on IDWM and debated the policy influences required.

### **IASOWA (IAS OFFICERS WIVES ASSOCIATION) WINTER CARNIVAL**

The IASOWA Winter Carnival is an annual event which attracts a huge turnout every year. This year’s event was held on January 22, 2011 at Nehru Park, Chanakyapuri - New Delhi. The event was a huge success with Janhit Foundation successfully promoting the produce of our very own organic store, Organic Aaharam. Our special thanks go to Mr. Sodhi, the Director of the Centre of Environmental Education, for sponsoring our stall.

### **OXFAM INTERNATIONAL YOUTH PARTNERSHIPS (OIYP) KALEIDOSCOPE 2010**

Oxfam International Youth Partnerships (OIYP) Kaleidoscope 2010 was an initiative jointly conducted by Oxfam Australia and Oxfam India. As part of the program, a group of 25 organizations from various different countries visited Janhit Foundation. They received an introduction to the work of Janhit Foundation, followed by a visit to our organic store, Organic Aaharam. This was followed by field visits to a vermi-composting and liquid manure production site at Bhatipura and a visit to the Atrada village where *Lemongrass* and *Neem* are processed. Janhit Foundation was greatly encouraged by the response to this event and by the presence of the media, with a number of television interviews taking place and a follow-up article appearing in The Hindustan Times.

## **CLIMATE INDUCED FLOOD AND DROUGHT MITIGATION AND MANAGEMENT**

A two day awareness program was organized by the India Water Partnership (IWP) which was attended by our Director, Ms. Anita Rana and Matthew Shanley. The conference discussed many aspects of climate induced floods and drought, with key note speakers dealing with a range of issues, from forecasting and early warning systems to adaptation and mitigation strategies. Janhit Foundation would like to extend its thanks to the India Water Partnership for organizing this successful and innovative conference.

## **WORLD WATER MONITORING DAY**

World Water Monitoring Day is an excellent initiative designed to promote education and personal stewardship. Janhit Foundation has a rich history of working on water related issues, and as such, held a day of awareness in Meerut. We encouraged participants to examine and analyze their own water bodies through a series of seminars and awareness programs explaining the concept of the lowering of the water table, the pollution of groundwater, sanitation issues and the contamination of potable drinking water.

## **VISIT TO AUSTRALIA**

Janhit foundation Director Ms. Anita Rana approached Capre Foundation which is a non profit organization with offices in India and an office in Perth, to work collaboratively in a cross cultural policy setting in India and Australia. As a result of this visit, Janhit Foundation and Capre Foundation are now members of the TRUE FOOD NETWORK of Western Australia and SLOW FOOD of Perth, Western Australia. The trip was extremely successful and has resulted in collaborative work between two Non-Governmental Organizations from Uttar Pradesh, and a number of like-minded organizations in Western Australian and Singapore.

## **Sustainable Agriculture – An Introduction**

The environmental consequences of conventional, chemical intensive farming are no longer universally viewed as an acceptable method of production. The excessive use of pesticides has contributed to rapid degradation of land, the genetic homogenization of crops and the contamination of fresh water.

Organic, sustainable agriculture is both a realistic and necessary alternative to these practices. Worldwide there is now increasing evidence available to demonstrate that chemical based fertilizers, herbicides and pesticides are extremely harmful to human health. Conventional agriculture relies heavily on the input of toxic, agro-chemicals which enter the food supply, leach into water sources, harm livestock and wildlife, deplete the soil, destroy natural ecosystems, and contaminate the agricultural crop; for the benefit of which they are initially introduced.

In addition to which, there are over 7000 artificial and/or chemical preservatives and additives permitted in non-organic food including colorings, stabilizers, fillers, residual antibiotics, hydrogenated fats, etc; none of which are permitted in organic foodstuffs. In India, chemical fertilizers and pesticides have been aggressively promoted and heavily subsidized, primarily to keep the fertilizer industry afloat, without realizing the consequences that these chemicals are having on local communities and their contribution to the unsustainable agriculture.

To add to this already serious problem, the introduction of Genetically Modified (GM) seeds and crops to the market has drawn widespread condemnation from health and environmental bodies across the world. Farmers purchase these products annually, at an extremely high cost, and once planted, are then required to spray the crops heavily with chemical pesticides each year, which are of course produced and sold by the same companies as who produce the GM crops/seeds. Many Indian farmers have lost much of their ancestral farming knowledge and ancient seed varieties since the introduction of chemical based commercial agriculture and hybrid seeds.

The promotion of organic agriculture as a viable alternative to conventional farming practices is the only way forward in terms of creating a long-term sustainable approach to agriculture in India. Effectively implemented organic production systems require training and supervision for sustainable procurement methods that preserve rare and endangered wild plant species and the earth's natural bio-diversity. Organic agriculture relies on ecological processes, biodiversity and cycles adapted to local conditions, rather than the use of chemical inputs with adverse effects. This significantly improves both the health and working environment of the farmer, in addition to increasing his profitability through the production of organic foods. From a community perspective, water resources are kept free from contamination, whilst groundwater levels increase,

as organic production systems require less water usage than conventional production systems.

Through the adoption of organic agriculture, farmers learn sustainable farming techniques and begin to reclaim the wisdom of their ancestral heritage. Organic production systems enriches the soil quality year on year, with land becoming increasingly fertile. For the farmer, this increases the long-term yield, the nutrient value and potency of their crops. Organic agriculture can, as such, be viewed as a sustainable livelihood approach.

Janhit Foundation has been promoting organic agriculture as an effective, sustainable approach to farming for the past eight years. This year is no different, with a variety of projects continuing to be implemented, details of which are available in the following pages.

## Annual Endeavours

### 1. ENHANCING LIVELIHOOD OPPORTUNITIES THROUGH THE PROMOTION OF AROMATIC PLANTS CULTIVATION AND TRAINING PROGRAMS IN WESTERN UTTAR PRADESH

The farmers of Western Uttar Pradesh have for years concentrated their efforts on the production of sugarcane. India's ever increasing population puts pressure on the farming community to increase their production and in order to do so they have used chemical fertilizers and pesticides in abundance. Apart from increasing their own input cost, these harmful chemicals have had an adverse environmental impact, destroying the local ecosystems and their rich biodiversity as well as polluting the air, soil and water of the region with persistent organic pollutants, which impacts on the health of the local population.

The worst affected in this situation are marginal farmers and landless labourers; those belonging to schedule castes and tribes. With the ever-increasing input costs of fertilizers and pesticides, the financial returns are far less than the initial input cost and this pushes farmers into a vicious cycle of loans and debts. This problem has become so bad that an increasing number of farmers are unable to see a way out and as a result are committing suicide.

In 2009, Janhit Foundation began a project, supported by Oxfam, in an attempt to address some of these concerns. The project involved the cultivation and processing of *Neem*, a bio-pesticide effective on over 200 forms of pest and also an efficient bio-fertilizer. In addition to this, the farmers were encouraged to cultivate *Lemongrass* and *Citronella*, which are highly sought after in the pharmaceutical and alternative medicine industries. During the first year of the project, farmers' incomes began to improve, mainly due to high commodity prices in the national market. However, our data also showed that pollution levels were beginning to decrease, and biodiversity improved through the intercropping of other organic crops such as pulses and vegetables.

It was vital for this initial promising start to be continued into a second year, if the project was to be sustained over a longer period of time. As such, Janhit Foundation began the year with the aim of introducing the cultivation of organic *haldi*, which has excellent market demand. The main reason for this was that farmers did not find the cultivation of *citronella* easy, as the crop did not acclimatize to the soil conditions of the region as expected. *Haldi* and *sugarcane* on the other hand can be rotated and intercropped excellently and the farmers themselves suggested the introduction of *haldi* as an alternative option.

The cultivation of *lemongrass* and *neem*, however, has proved to be a success, with a notable rise in income, mainly due a reduction in input costs, seen during the first year

of the project. In addition to this, their cultivation has resulted in a rise in the region's water table and given these positive effects, the cultivation of both of these crops was continued into the second year of the project.

To put an international slant on this project, the cultivation of aromatic plants is considered to be one of the most profitable and environmentally friendly agri-businesses. Over the past decade, there has been a tremendous increase in the global production and consumption of essential oils. It is estimated that the entire global market may account for approximately Rs. 2 Lakh crores. Within this spectrum, India lies second, with a global share of 16 – 17%, with the capacity and capability to increase this share to around 35%. Despite these figures and the highly fertile soil of Western Uttar Pradesh, the cultivation of aromatic plants and *neem* has not taken off in the region. The second year of this project has aimed to address this imbalance, with the participating farmers provided with training on superior methods of production and quality control measures.

The second year began with an educational and awareness drive in Meerut District. Through Janhit Foundation's extensive contacts, one-to-one sessions were arranged with farmers, followed by group meetings in various villages, which took place three times a week. The purpose of these meetings was to encourage farmers to adopt the practice of organic agriculture. Following this campaign, over 800 farmers are now willingly participating in this project, with 500 of these farmers joined up for the first time in the second year.

Once the new batch of participating farmers had signed up to the project, they were provided with specific training about the project objectives and how they can improve their income through the cultivation of lemon grass, haldi and neem. Those farmers, who had already participated in the project throughout the first year, were given the opportunity to mentor the new farmers.

Organic agriculture, including the growing of lemon grass and neem is new to the farmers, as is the concept of intercropping. For decades farmers have been utilizing chemical fertilizers and pesticides, engaging in mono-culture and growing cash crops which reap quick financial rewards. It is, therefore, imperative to change their philosophical mind-set, to enable this project to be successful. Farmers must have the capacity to sustain organic farming, and be aware of the varying types of organic certification and marketing strategies.

By September of 2010, Janhit Foundation had held six capacity building workshops, one in each block, which have covered a variety of subjects, including alternative organic certification through a Participatory Guarantee System (PGS) and the packaging and marketing of organic produce.

From an agricultural perspective, farmers have benefited from detailed training on the principles and practices of organic agriculture, soil fertility management, organic input production technologies, use of natural resources and post-harvest techniques. These workshops were opened up to all interested farmers and were not confined to the participating farmers of this project, in order to have the widest possible impact.

Over the past few years, Janhit Foundation has organized a number of field visits to organic farms for the farming communities of Western Uttar Pradesh. These visits are designed to raise awareness amongst farmers to ensure that they understand the devastating effect that the use of chemical pesticides is having on their land and the benefits that a switch to the practice of organic farming can bring both in terms of productivity and financial profit.

This year, Janhit Foundation organized two more similar field visits for the participating farmers of this project. These occurred in February and March 2011 and Janhit Foundation is extremely thankful to the Malpani Trust in Nemawar, Madhya Pradesh and the Maharashtra Organic Farmers' Federation in Belapur, with whom we successfully collaborated to make these field visits a reality.

By July 2010, 180,000 saplings of lemongrass, haldi and neem were distributed amongst the farmers, exceeding Janhit Foundation's target for the year. The expected rate of survival was estimated to be 80%, however farmers reported an upturn in fortune with rates reaching 85%.

Farmers are also benefiting from the installation of a distillation facility through which they can obtain *neem* oil, which they are then able to utilize on their farm and also market commercially. They are also involved in the production of *neem* cake, *neem* bio-fertilizers and bio-pesticides. The data which Janhit Foundation has collected throughout this project has shown that on average, each farmer shares his *neem* based products with at least two other farmers, meaning roughly 2400 farmers have benefited from this project to date.

On average, the 800 farmers whom are participating in this project have experienced a 50% rise in their annual income, a 30% increase from the previous year, 2009/2010. This is largely due to Janhit Foundation's organic outlet, Organic Aaharam, which links the farmers to the local market and various initiatives from Janhit Foundation whom transport and sell local organic produce at the local 'haats' (markets) of Meerut, Muzaffarnagar and Ghaziabad on a bi-weekly basis.

## 2. A COMMUNITY APPROACH TO MINIMISE THE EFFECT OF LINDANE AND ENDOSULPHAN IN MEERUT DISTRICT

In 2007, The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Small Grants Project (SGP) supported Janhit Foundation in its implementation of a project entitled *“The elimination of persistent organic pollutants, namely Lindane and Endosulphan through the promotion of the use of bio-pesticides and organic manures through the practice of sustainable agriculture”*.

Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) are organic chemicals that persist in the environment long after their use, bio-accumulate and bio-magnify, whilst their presence has adverse effects on human health and the environment. Their removal from agricultural and industrial processes is therefore essential.

Lindane and Endosulfan are two chemicals which exhibit POP like characteristics and which are considered to have the same effect as POPs, but have yet to be officially designated as POPs.

**Lindane**, a neurotoxin, is extensively used both as an agricultural insecticide in many states of India, particularly Uttar Pradesh. In humans, Lindane affects the nervous system, liver and kidneys, and research also suggests that it may be a carcinogen. The World Health Organization classifies it as “Moderately Hazardous” and its international trade is restricted and regulated under the Rotterdam Convention on Prior Informed Consent.

**Endosulfan** is being widely used as an insecticide and acaricide. Due to its acute toxicity and its role as an endocrine disruptor, it is banned in more than 50 countries, including the European Union; however it is still used extensively in many other countries including India, Brazil, and Australia.

Both these chemicals are extensively used in agriculture and particularly in sugarcane cultivation in Uttar Pradesh. During this project, Janhit Foundation has not only highlighted this pressing issue, but has also coordinated various strategies to eliminate the problem through the practice of organic agriculture and sustainable farming techniques.

The year of 2010 saw the official publication of this report, with Janhit Foundation intending to use the findings to aid the government in their production of a National Implementation Plan, which is seen as a first step in implementing the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs). In addition to this, the research will be used as a basis for future projects, coordinated by Janhit Foundation, promoting the phasing out of the agricultural use of Lindane and Endosulfan and the adoption of organic agriculture as an alternative, environmentally friendly production system.



### **3. Organic Aaharam: A Plan for the Future**

Organic Aaharam is the first outlet of its kind in Meerut, exclusively selling organic produce. It was set up by Janhit Foundation as a medium for the local farmers to reach the consumer directly.

With demand for organic produce ever-increasing and a solid consumer base in place, Janhit Foundation now has a firm foundation from which to expand their sales and tap into the national market. Over the next 12 months, our focus will turn to building partnerships with organizations in the country's capital, New Delhi, and throughout Uttar Pradesh, with the overall aim of facilitating the wider sale of our organic produce and in time opening a number of new branches of Organic Aaharam.

### **4. Tackling the problem of Air Pollution in Meerut: A project with The Global Greengrants Fund**

The Global Greengrants Fund is a public charity that seeds environmental action through small grants. Their India Advisory Board works with India's rural and marginalized communities to educate and mobilize people about the detrimental environmental impact of chemical industrial agriculture.

Janhit Foundation has initiated a project with The Global Greengrants Fund which aims to offset growing levels of air pollution from rapid urbanization in Uttar Pradesh, through social forestry. The project focuses specifically on community participation and education, energizing the youth to understand their responsibilities with regard to the ongoing safeguard of their environment and locality as a whole.

Mitigation of air pollution in developing countries like India has emerged as one of the challenging tasks for environmental management agencies. The situation in small towns is likely to become more severe, due to an increased rate of expansion and with it, higher levels of vehicular pollution. India is a developing country, and a fast-growing one at that, and as a result it is neither technologically nor economically feasible to control emissions with an end-of-pipe strategy. As such, solutions must focus on mitigation techniques, like the restoration of the green belt or increasing the vegetation in polluted areas. These strategies reduce the level of carbon in the atmosphere, with plants acting as a carbon sink; reduce noise levels, in addition to checking the flow of dust in the air.

To address these problems, Janhit Foundation proposed the establishment and ongoing maintenance of a green belt on the premises of City Vocational Public School, Meerut.

The first stage of this project focused on setting-up an **Enviro-Green Centre** in the

school grounds. In this centre, a plantation of 300 trees was planted, with an active participation of students and community members offering their '*shramdaan*'. A variety of species were planted, including *gulmohar*, *avla*, *anuir*, *satavar*, *sarpghanda*, *safed massoli*, *stivia*, *aloe vera*, *lemongrass*, *mango*, *guava*, *lemon*, *neem* and *peepalsata*.

These plants and trees were selected because of their medicinal value and superior survival rates. In total approximately 1500 students have volunteered their services to help plant and maintain the plantation and the area in which it is located. A full-time gardener has also been appointed by the school to oversee the maintenance and cultivation of the saplings. Tree survival rates have been monitored and currently lie at 85%, and since the implementation of the project, the upkeep of the area has been completely handed over to the schools very own '*Eco Club*'.

In addition to this, Janhit Foundation has overseen the construction of a unique rainwater harvesting structure in the school, which is now a fully functioning live model. On average, this structure has the ability to harvest 80,000 litres of water annually, which will be utilized by the school.

On October 26, 2010, an official inauguration ceremony of the Enviro-Green Centre was held at City Vocational Public School. Students from other schools in Meerut were in attendance and educational tours of the centre were organized in which students were given a detailed explanation of the benefits of tree plantation and rainwater harvesting and how the two contribute towards the conservation of the environment and a reduction in pollution.

To further raise awareness levels of the effectiveness and success of this project, two interactive sessions were held in City Vocational Public School to ensure that the teachers and students are fully aware of the importance of the project and to solicit their cooperation in the ongoing management and day-to-day running of the project.

Janhit Foundation have also organized and chaired meetings in four different schools in Meerut District, which have been designed to inform students about the success of this specific project and to encourage school authorities to take on similar schemes in their respective schools.

## Water – The Elixir of Life

"The air, the water and the ground are free gifts to man and no one has the power to portion them out in parcels. Man must drink and breathe and walk and therefore each man has a right to his share of each."

**James Fennimore Cooper** (1789-1851), *The Prairie*, 1827

I was born in a drouth year. That summer  
my mother waited in the house, enclosed  
in the sun and the dry ceaseless wind,  
for the men to come back in the evenings,  
bringing water from a distant spring.  
veins of leaves ran dry, roots shrank.  
And all my life I have dreaded the return  
of that year, sure that it still is  
somewhere, like a dead enemys soul.  
Fear of dust in my mouth is always with me,  
and I am the faithful husband of the rain,  
I love the water of wells and springs  
and the taste of roofs in the water of cisterns.  
I am a dry man whose thirst is praise  
of clouds, and whose mind is something of a cup.  
My sweetness is to wake in the night  
after days of dry heat, hearing the rain.

**Wendell Berry**, *Water*, 1970

"For many of us, water simply flows from a faucet, and we think little about it beyond this point of contact. We have lost a sense of respect for the wild river, for the complex workings of a wetland, for the intricate web of life that water supports."

**Sandra Postel**, *Last Oasis: Facing Water Scarcity*, 2003.

Water has the power to move millions of people around the globe. Since the very birth of human civilization, people have traveled to settle close to it and moved away when they become overwhelmed by too much of it. Water is the basis for life and is essential for health and human dignity.

The total volume of water on the earth is about 1.4 billion km<sup>3</sup>. The total volume of freshwater resources is around 35 million km<sup>3</sup>, 2.5% of the total volume (UNEP). However, despite this, the total usable freshwater supply for ecosystems and humans is only about 200 000 km<sup>3</sup> of water, less than 1% of all freshwater resources.

Today, one in two people live in a city, 93% of urbanization occurs in developing countries, and nearly 40% of the worlds urban expansion is growing slums. One in four city residents worldwide, 194 million in total, live without access to improved sanitation facilities, whilst 27% of the urban population in the developing world does not have piped water in its house (UNESCO).

These figures are rapidly becoming worse year on year and this is extremely unlikely to change until water is universally recognized as a limited resource, both in theory and in practice.

## **Annual Endeavours**

### **1. Spreading Water Literacy on Wheels in Noida District**

This is a unique project which is facilitated by Charities Aid Foundation (CAF) and funded by ADOBE India Systems Limited. It has been ongoing since August 2009.

In view of the emerging water crisis and the deterioration in water quality in Noida District, Janhit Foundation believes that it is vital to educate the next generation about the importance of water conservation. This project aims to raise awareness amongst school children about the importance of good drinking water quality and better water governance.

The year began with Janhit Foundation paying two visits to each of the participating 25 schools. The first visit was designed as a revision session, providing the students with a recap of the first year's activities. The second visit involved the nomination of water leaders for each school. In total, 5 students were selected from each school with it being their role to formulate a water conservation strategy for their respective schools. They will be then be required to represent their schools at a number of functions on water conservation in the upcoming year.

### **2. Contributing Towards Policy Change - A State Groundwater Policy for Uttar Pradesh**

Uttar Pradesh (U.P.) is home to the two great rivers of India, The Ganga and The Yamuna, which, complemented by a network of small rivers and canals, have for centuries catered to the water needs of the population. Over the past five decades groundwater quality has rapidly deteriorated, to such an extent that it now represents a major threat to health, livelihoods and the local economy.

Research undertaken by Janhit Foundation and other partner institutes, has shown an increasing toxic chemical content in groundwater, whilst overuse has caused groundwater levels to diminish significantly. India's elaborate legal framework provides the necessary means for groundwater protection; however no policy to this effect exists in Uttar Pradesh. To this end, in February 2008, Janhit Foundation convened a national seminar on groundwater pollution in Allahabad, with the view to forming a draft groundwater policy for Uttar Pradesh.

This conference was the beginning of an extensive stakeholder consultation process, conducted in partnership with the India Water Partnership. The initial stage of this process focused on identifying all the relevant government agencies, departments and institutions who would be the major stakeholders of this project. Once identified, all

relevant bodies were consulted at each stage of the compilation of the draft groundwater policy, so that they could provide constructive feedback.

This stakeholder consultation process was completed on December 9, 2011, at a specially organized workshop in Lucknow, supported by the India Water Partnership. On this date Janhit Foundation formally presented a draft state groundwater policy to the government of Uttar Pradesh. This policy was a combination of contributions from various experts, scientists, renowned policy analysts, NGOs and community members.

As a result of this wide-ranging stakeholder consultation process and various policy workshops, the government of Uttar Pradesh pledged to incorporate the points raised in our draft groundwater policy, within an official groundwater policy for the state of Uttar Pradesh. Subsequent to this, the process of formulating this policy has been initiated.

### **3. Revival of Siddh Baba Kодиya Talaab**

On February 15, 2011, Janhit Foundation began work on a project to revive Siddh Baba pond with the support of Charities Aid Foundation (CAF) and Hindustan Coca Cola Beverages Pvt Ltd.

Initially, Janhit Foundation approached the Gran Pradhan of the target village (i.e. the head of the village Panchayat (committee)) and organized a number of small meetings with the villagers. During these meetings, villagers were provided with detailed information about the objective of the project and the various activities which would be undertaken. The Gran Pradhan found the idea of reviving Siddh Baba Kодиya Talaab extremely inspiring and as a result a No Objection Certificate (NOC) was obtained from the village Panchayat by Janhit Foundation.

The project began with the draining of the pond, with all the existing contaminated water, a total of 17,745 litres, pumped out. Once complete, the excavation work was ready to begin. Excavators, levelers and dumpers were brought in to deepen and level the pond bed, whilst the silt which was excavated was used to raise the embankments around the pond. To aid access to the pond, a number of brick stair cases were constructed around the sides of the pond, whilst a dry grass belt was developed around the pond, providing an aesthetically pleasing recreational space for visitors.

The project was completed on time and a 'Paani Panchayat' was organized on June 7, 2011 at the pond's location to mark the end of the project and to declare the pond officially open for use. The ceremony was attended by villagers, representatives from Coca Cola Ltd, CAF, the local government administration, local media and other neighbouring communities.

To mark the success of the project, Janhit Foundation is currently compiling a video documentary of the project, which is currently in the editing phase. This video will be made available to CAF and Coca Cola Ltd, as well as being accessible through Janhit Foundation.

#### **4. My Clean Meerut – An Update**

On November 1, 2010 Mr. Remco Van Santen came to Meerut to inspire the city to become a part of something beautiful that started in Nainital four years ago. A meeting of various local organizations and community figures was held, which was chaired by Janhit Foundation's Director Ms. Anita Rana and Mr. Van Santen.

Following this, various meetings were conducted with local schools (Devan Public School and Army Public School), the City Magistrate of Meerut and the Chief Development Officer; Mr. Pranjal Yadar. My Clean India (MCI) is a not-for-profit concept promoting the community and self empowerment, and this was Mr Van Santen's fourth visit to Meerut, which focused on continuing his work with Janhit Foundation.

On the February 21, 2011 Deva Nagri College held an end of year exhibition for its students enrolled under the National Service Scheme (NSS) and invited Janhit Foundation to give a presentation to its students on My Clean Meerut. The event was organized with the objective of instilling within the children, the value of a clean city and surroundings. This lecture was co-presented by Mr. Matthew Shanley, a volunteer at Janhit Foundation from Ireland, and Ms. Anita Rana, Janhit Foundation's Director. All the children participated in the seminar which followed, by giving their insights and various ideas to keep their city clean. In addition to this, the students also show-cased a wide variety of cultural programmes, through various dance routines, songs, stand-up comedy, plays, and a slideshow of the years work in photographs.

Following on from this event, on February 25, 2011, Janhit Foundation attended the 'Maharishi Vidya Mandir School', for a similar day's event, promoting and raising awareness of the My Clean Meerut programme.

## **Meerut Childline – An Introduction**

CHILDLINE is India's first 24-hour, toll-free, emergency phone outreach service for children in need of care and protection, linking them to long-term services for their care and rehabilitation. Any child and concerned adult can call 1098 and access the CHILDLINE service anytime of the day or night.

### **Who we are?**

CHILDLINE operates in 79 cities within the country, with Meerut being the **73rd city** running the service. August 2007 marks the beginning of the service in the city. **Janhit Foundation** has shared the responsibility of running the CHILDLINE service in Meerut. It is a 24 hours emergency toll-free service under the Ministry of Women and Child welfare (Govt. of India). The service focuses on the children in distress such as street children, children who have fled from their homes along with those in a situation of physical, mental and emotional abuse. Apart from it, the service also caters to the need of children forced into illegal and hazardous activities etc. Upon dialling 1098, the child or adult calling on their behalf, gains access to various services. We work with a child-based approach in which children themselves are active and leading participants in their own development.

### **Vision**

Meerut CHILDLINE'S vision is a child friendly nation where children are looked upon as the future and every child is ensured of his/her right to a childhood.

### **Mission**

Meerut CHILDLINE aims at responding to the emergency needs of every child in need of care and protection throughout Meerut district, enduring that there is an integrated effort between the government, non-governmental organisations, academic institutions, bilateral agencies, business corporations and the community in protecting the rights of children.

### **Recognition from the Government of India**

CHILDLINE is India's first national level response to the ratification of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC). Additionally, the CHILDLINE 1098 service receives special mention in the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection) Act 2000.



## Our Children

Meerut CHILDLINE works with the marginalized and excluded children in Meerut district. These include:

Street children	Child Labourers
Abused Children	Victims of the Flesh Trade
Physically disadvantaged children	Child addicts
Children in trouble with the law	Institutionalized children
Mentally ill children	Children affected by HIV/AIDS
Children affected by conflicts/disasters	Political refugees
Children from crisis families	

## What do we do?

- Reach out to every child in need of care and protection by responding to emergencies on 1098.
- Ensure access of telecom technology to the most marginalized and connectivity of 1098 through government and private telephone exchanges.
- Work together with the allied systems to create child friendly systems
- Advocate for services for children that are inaccessible, non existent or inadequate
- Strive for excellence in quality service to children in need of special care and protection and ensure that the best interests of the child are secured
- Provide a platform of networking amongst organizations and provide linkages to support systems which facilitate the rehabilitation of children in need of care and protection
- Learn from the experiences of CHILDLINE and the data generated and jointly determine strategies to reach out more effectively to children

## **How we work?**

- Child/concerned adult contacts CHILDLINE by dialling 1098 or coming directly to the phone receiving centre.
- The CHILDLINE team receives and responds to the calls.
- In response to the call either direct assistance is provided or emotional support and guidance is provided over the phone.
- In case of long term rehabilitation other agencies providing specialized services are contacted.
- The parents of the child are contacted and involved.
- A volunteer base is formed for the long term follow up of the children.

## **Annual Endeavours**

### **1. 80 Children Rescued From Child Labour**

Meerut CHILDLINE under the aegis of Janhit Foundation has been working in conjunction with the Police Department of Meerut, on a campaign known as 'Operation Masoom' designed to identify and rescue child labourers. The team spent 20 days working on the Operation, observing the various target groups and making a list of the labourers. On April 15, 2010, an intervention strategy was planned out and a number of divisions set up to deal with different areas. The operation was carried out on April 19, 2010, and was a huge success, with 80 children being rescued from child labour.

Most of the children rescued were aged between 7 and 14 years. They were subsequently placed at Bal Sadan Children's Shelter, whilst their addresses were traced and parents/guardians contacted. Janhit Foundation felt that in order to reduce such cases of child labour, it was necessary to change the psychology of the person involved, whether this be the labourer, or the child's parents or the employer (most of whom turned out to be 'dhaba' (local restaurant) owners. Consequently, counseling was provided to all parties concerned.

It is important to mention here that although some children were greatly affected by the whole situation and visibly wept whilst waiting for their parents to take them home, some of the children were very hostile, with these having the view that they were required to work in order to support their family. This is a significant portrayal of how deep and engrained the problem is in Indian society.

### **2. Childline gives Minakshi the greatest gift of all, her family back.**

Minakshi, a 13 year old girl, resident of Veer-Bandhu Bazaar (Hawra), Kolkata might not have imagined in her wildest dreams that the Brother-in-law whom she trusted so much, would one day turn her innocent life into a living hell. Minakshi lost her father at an early age and her mother is required to run a tea-stall to provide for their family. One day, while travelling from Delhi to Noida with her brother in-law, Minakshi met a girl named Raveena who took her and left her alone with another woman. It was not until later that she realized that her brother-in-law had sold her for 100,000 Rs. to the woman running a brothel in Meerut. As a result of this, she was forced into prostitution for around three years.

However, fortunately for Minaksha, she was finally rescued by an anti-trafficking team who handed her over to Meerut Childline. Our service then contacted our partners in Kolkata, who after a long and arduous search, eventually located Minakshi's mother,

who was absolutely overwhelmed to hear that her daughter was alive and coming home again.

### **3. Shana - She once was lost, but now is found.**

Shana, a six year old girl, who has a slight mental disability, was found, completely lost, by Meerut Police, whom handed her over to Meerut Childline. Upon investigation the team discovered that Shana was unable to furnish any information about her family or home.

With the prospect of locating her with her family diminishing, Meerut Childline published Shana's photograph and her story in all local newspapers and in the meantime made arrangements for her to stay at Jyoti Niwas children's shelter. Fortunately for Shana, within just a couple of days her parents came forward to take her back to her home in Mustuffabad, Delhi.

### **4. Building Friendships with the Police.**

Meerut City's police force received an interesting assignment on October 7, 2010, when they agreed to become a part of Janhit Foundation's initiative to forge better relations with the slum children of Meerut. The sole objective was to alleviate the children's fear of the police, so that invisible barriers can be broken down and children are no longer afraid to go and express themselves and their problems at the police station in times of need.

Our huge thanks go to Meerut Police Force who made a fantastic contribution to making this project a success. They answered various queries raised by the children about child rights and laws, help-lines and police treatment of criminals. This scheme has also helped the police to realize that they must take the children's issues more seriously in the future.

### **5. Nukad Naatak at Local Bus Stations**

In two separate dates in November and December 2010, the team of CHILDLINE along with a number of slum children conducted Nukad Natak at Mawana Bus Stand and Garh Bus Stand, Meerut to spreading literacy about 1098 and child rights.

On both occasions a huge crowd gathered and various people participated in the event and shared their views on the issues in question.

## **6. Children are the future, take care of them...**

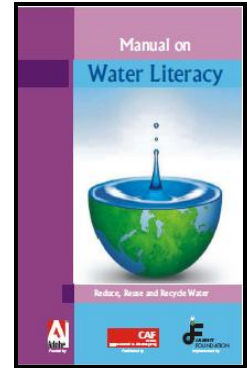
On March 10, 2011, Meerut Childline organized a one day workshop on Child Rights and Panchayat. Professor Shantha Sinha, Chairperson of the National Commission for the Protection of Child Rights (NCPR) was the esteemed Guest of Honour at this event.

The objective of the event was to ensure that the NCPR continues to take full responsibility for the protection of child rights in Meerut, continues to emphasize the principle of universality and inviolability of child rights and continues to push for the urgent formulation of child related policies in India as a whole.

## Publications

- Manual on Water Literacy

Authored by Kevin Mundy, this English publication explores the various issues surrounding water quality, availability and security from both a global and national perspective.



- A Guide to Rainwater Harvesting
- Janhit Foundation's Water Saving Tips

- Meerut CHILDLINE – Hello 1098 Newsletter



- Oxfam Pamphlets



## **Our Interns and Supporters**

### **Interns**

- ~ Kumar Vaibhav, PGP-IIM Indore
- ~ Tanvi Jain, Jaypee Business School, Noida
- ~ Matthew Shanley – Ireland

### **Supporters and Associates**

- ~ Australian High Commission (AHC)
- ~ Adobe Systems Inc.
- ~ Blacksmith Institute
- ~ Centre for Science and Environment (CSE)
- ~ Charities Aid Foundation (CAF)
- ~ CHILDLINE India Foundation (CIF)
- ~ Coca Cola India
- ~ Department of Science and Technology (DST), Gov't of India
- ~ Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO)
- ~ FoodFirst Information and Action Network (FIAN)
- ~ Ford Foundation
- ~ Freshwater Action Network South Asia (FANSA)
- ~ Global GreenGrants Fund
- ~ India Water Partnership
- ~ Indo-Global Social Service Society (IGSSS)
- ~ Institute of International Education (IIE)
- ~ International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements (IFOAM)
- ~ International Project on the Elimination of POPs (IPEP)
- ~ Ministry of Water Resources, Gov't of India
- ~ National Centre of Organic Farming (NCOF), Ministry of Agriculture, Gov't of India
- ~ One World South Asia (OWSA)
- ~ Oxfam Trust
- ~ Royal Netherlands Embassy (RNE)
- ~ Sir Ratan Tata Trust (SRTT)
- ~ Water Aid
- ~ UNINOR
- ~ United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) – CEE
- ~ 2Way Development

## Financial Summary



## The Janhit Family

<b>JANHIT Team</b>	<b>CHILDLINE Team</b>
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Santosh Hudda <i>Organic Aharam Manager</i>	Manmohan Singh <i>Team Member</i>
Sandhya Verma <i>Administration Incharge</i>	Shivesh Mukherjee <i>Team Member</i>
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Samay Singh <i>Astt. Programme Coordinator</i>	Kavita Sharma <i>Volunteer</i>
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Ravindra Kumar Saini <i>Programme Assistant</i>	<b>CHILDLINE Advisory Board</b>
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Bitin Giri <i>Volunteer</i>	Ruchira Singh
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Raj Singh <i>Security Guard</i>	Manju Singhal
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