



**Women Leadership Development Programme**

Development of leadership amongst women is one of JBGVS's major programmes. It has been our experience that women leaders perform much better as compared to their counterpart particularly in rural areas. What they lack is information. Presently, there is 50% reservation for women in all Government bodies. Because of lack of information, in many Grampanchayats, it is observed that the husbands play the proxy role on behalf of their wives. To tackle this issue, JBGVS started women leadership training for the SHGs, dairy co-operatives run by women, women members of Grampanchayats etc.

*The MPWs working in health and education are also trained. These training programmes emphasize on rights & responsibilities of women in various institutions, Government schemes, various Government departments running the schemes, how to fill up various forms, raising resources at village level etc. In last few years, quite a number of women trained by us while they were in SHGs, MPWs etc are now elected members in various bodies like Grampanchayats, school management committees etc. Some of them have now been working as Sarpanch (Head of committee) of Grampanchayats. This has led to large number of women coming to Gramsabhas (Village meeting) leading to participatory decision making. Great change is taking place at the grass-root level.*



**Mahila Melava** (Get together of women)

Women in the villages have to carry out multiple functions in home and outside. The day starts early and ends late at night. After completing all household chores, they go out in the field for farm work. This goes on day after day. JBGVS tries to involve them by forming Self Help Groups, Conduct study tours in organizations run by women, organize health check-up camps etc to break this vicious cycle. **Mahila Melava** is one such initiative. One day in every year 200 to 300 women from 5-6 villages come together, sing, perform street plays, dance together etc. This helps them to show their inherent skills.



The idea is to make them aware about their inherent strengths, give them a platform where they can spend some time of their own and share their views with others. On this day only every year, the men folk cook for the women. JBGVS organizes various types of competitions, special lectures on health & education of women, gives awards etc. This is a day for enjoyment which the women from our project villages look for every year.