

A report of the jeevan vidya shivir organized at Asha Samajik Vidyalaya , Rajatalab

(18-23 June' 2007)

A six day Jeevan Vidya Shivir was conducted at "Asha Samajik Vidyalaya", Rajatalab, Varanasi from June 18 to 23. About 30 teachers and volunteers of 'Lok Samati' participated in the 'Shivir' out of whom 15 could attend the full 'Shivir'. Lok samati is running presently 9 schools in 6 villages of Raja Talab employing 22 teachers and enrolling about 550 children. Out of 22, 12 teachers participated in the 'Shivir'. The speaker at the 'Shivir' was Kumar Sambhavji from "Manaviya Shiksha Sanskar Sansthan" (MS³), Kanpur.

"Jeevan Vidya Shivir" is a process of dialogue. The speaker puts forward the propositions which the participants verify at the level of their natural acceptance and present their views. At the 'Shivir', the goal presented was to establish a tradition of happy and prosperous society on the earth. To achieve this goal, the program put forward was to establish an education process which enables each individual to understand oneself, to identify the needs for physical facilities for one's family precisely and to fulfill them through production, to make out the feelings and emotions naturally acceptable within oneself and live up to them, insure justice in relations and actualize harmony in nature and society. The six day 'Shivir' elaborated on the innate harmony in the existence right from oneself to the whole existence, understanding which each individual can lead a happy and prosperous life.

The final day of the 'Shivir' had the evaluation session where all participants presented their evaluation of their journey through the 'Shivir'. Santoshji from 'Kala Manch' said that earlier he used to lose temper very fast. Now as soon as he is uncomfortable, he is able to reflect upon himself and tries to work for harmony in that relation. Earlier he used to get influenced by others, but now he tries to judge things on his own basis. Mahendraji said that the 'Shivir' has let him understand that for a joyous family, right understanding and relation are more important than money. Nandlalji told that equality can be ensured in the society only in terms of understanding, and not in terms of physical facilities. This has come out very clearly for him in the 'Shivir'. Even if we establish equality in terms of physical facilities in the society through hard work, it will never ensure happiness in individual and their interrelationships. As per him 'Shivir' also brought out the fact that 'Development' takes place only in the self ('I') and not in physio-chemical objects. Physio-chemical objects can only compose or decompose to serve for development of human beings. Nandlalji also expressed the need for fully residential 'Shivir' to make them more effective.

Suresh Rathorji opined that before the 'Shivir', he felt that movements bring a change in the order in the society. Now he feels that if we change the order in the society through movement but people lacking the right understanding, problem will keep cropping up, hence program for right understanding are a must. Sulekhaji expressed happiness over her achievement that after inter realizing the concept of 'I' and body (human being is a co-existence of 'I' and body), her thoughts have changed and now she feels very relaxed. She now feels that the physical facilities already available with her are more than her needs. Vidyaji was in conflict with her family over the issue of her respect and care in the family but now she feels very much resolved. She feels inspired to ensure

good relation based on self-examination. Amitji had attended one 'Shivir' earlier with his family at Kanpur. The process of dialogue in the 'Shivir' has let him understand and define the needs for physical facilities. Earlier he spent maximum time within himself pondering over the deficits in his living, assuming his needs to be infinite. He has also been able to free himself of the tendency to keep competing with others. Ram Bachanji had also attended the 'Shivir' at Kanpur. He has gained clarity about education through 'Shivir' and has increased his participation in production activities at home.

Urmila Patelji, another teacher at 'Lok Samiti' told that now she tries to ensure harmonious relation in the family and society through contemplation and self-reasoning. 'Shivir' has brought to her notice issues of 'I' (self), nature and space which she did not need to earlier. Neetu Raiji learnt about the limitedness of the needs for goods and services through the 'Shivir'. Her anger is also on the wane. Asha Mauryaji felt inspired to provide better education to the children through the 'Shivir'. Shiv Sumanji told that he now feels the need to judge things on his own basis, in place of assuming right away what is being said. Vijay Narayanji told that he feels encouraged to live peacefully with everybody around. The difference between happiness and physical facilities has become more explicit. Vimila Vishwakarmaji was also of similar opinion. Anjuji said that she used to rebuke her younger in the family quite often but now she can feel a difference. Suresh Kumarji noted in his evaluation form that he wants to enhance dialogue with his family members. The need to conserve natural resources become more appealing. Panch mukhiji also participated in the shivir with full enthusiasm.

Member of 'Lok Chetana Samiti' and wife of Nand lalji, Ranjuji said that she will try to live up to the value put forward in the 'Shivir' and wants to carry the message to others. Two members of organisation 'Vard', Hari Omji and Babulalji said that they could not attend the full shivir but after listening to the participants, they feel encouraged to attend the shivir fully.

The fooding and other arrangements in the 'Shivir' were made available by 'Lok Samiti' through local support. The evaluation session was conducted by Ranjuji. At the conclusion of the 'Shivir', the participants felt very emotional.