Program Fact Sheet

PROGRAM: Matrichaya – Jharkhand, India (In and Near Capital City of Ranchi)

MISSION: To bring about socio-economic change through education of women and children living in slums and rural tribal areas of India.

THE NEED:
While the Republic of India boasts the world’s fifth largest economy, 25% of its large population, or 300 million people, still live in poverty. Among the poorest are the indigenous tribal people, referred to collectively as “Adivasi” or “Scheduled Tribes,” and a mixed population of groups traditionally regarded as untouchables or outcastes, presently referred to as Dalits. Most of these people live in poverty-stricken slums and rural areas with lack of access to education, basic health, hygiene and sanitation. A large section of the society remains illiterate, especially females, and despite government affirmative programs, continue to face discrimination, exclusion, and widening economic and social disparities.

Jharkhand, a state in eastern India, is home to 32 tribal groups and one of the poorest and least developed areas in the country. Here, over half the women above the age of 15 are illiterate.

Republic of India

- Area slightly larger than 1/3 of United States
- Parliamentary form of government
- Population—1.2 Billion (2nd largest in world)
- 71% of population lives in rural areas
- ¼ of population live in poverty
- 2.4 million people w/HIV/AIDS (4th highest in world)
- 2nd highest in world for HIV/AIDS related deaths
- 16 official languages; 41% speak primarily Hindi
- English – national, political, and commercial language
- School life expectancy (male: 11 years; female: 9 years)
- Literacy Rate—65% (76% male; 54% female)

Jharkhand

- Created in 2000; Capital—Ranchi
- Population—27 million
- 13% of population lives in slums
- Almost ½ of households lack access to electricity
- Over ¾ of population are without drinking water
- 1 out of 10 people are exposed to mass media
- Only ½ of households have all children ages 6-14 in school
- Literacy Rate—54% (68% Males; 40% Females)
THE PROGRAM:
Matrichaya’s seeks to eliminate illiteracy and create social and economic independence for underprivileged women. They do so by providing primary education to children, literacy and vocational training to women and young girls, and basic health care in rural tribal villages and slum areas of Ranchi, Jharkhand.

Matrichaya was founded in 1994 by Chanchala Mishra, a prominent widow of Indian society. Ms. Mishra challenged societal norms by devoting her time and resources to helping the most marginalized and discriminated individuals. Matrichaya achieved US nonprofit status in 2004 with an office in New York. The founder's daughter, Dr. Archana Mishra, serves as Vice President and stateside contact.

Basic Literacy Program
• 2-year primary study
• 90%+ attendance rate
• Basic hygiene and first aid
• Art/culture training
• Speak rudimentary English
• Participate in keeping village clean
• Planting/maintaining village trees

Vocational training
• Handicrafts, Food Processing, Mushroom Production, Tailoring, Embroidery, Jari Works, Herbal Cosmetology, First Aid
• Organized Self-Help Groups
• Micro-Credit Loans

Healthcare
• Basic Hygiene and Sanitation
• Motherhood/Childcare
• Family planning
• Nutrition
• Water and Natural Resource Conservation
• Alcohol and Tobacco Abuse

FINANCIAL PROFILE:
School and vocational teachers hired for nominal pay. Medical volunteers organize camps and health programs, work clinics and provide sample medications. Administrative costs – $20/month for secretary, bookkeeping, and rent.

DFW Funding

DFW funds used for: Basic and Adult Women Literacy Programs; Vocational Training in Mushroom Cultivation, Stitching, Jewelry Design, and Beauty Parlor Assistance.

MATTRICHAYA’S SUCCESSES:
– 7 adopted villages and slum areas
– Primary education for 125 children/year
– Adult literacy for 80 women
– Vocational training for over 400 women and girls
– Microloans for over 100 women
– Literacy/vocational training for female inmates
– 2 Health Centers – 55 patients/week
– 5 Monthly health check-up camps
– 4-5 Eye Check-up Camps – 60 patients/camp
– 20-25 Cataract operations each year

DFW also provides separate scholarship program, Sarah Manly Fund, to support secondary education for girls beyond Matrichaya’s grade levels. DFW visited Matrichaya in 2007.

(Additional information at DFW Website)

SOURCES:
www.matrichaya.org
http://www.popcouncil.org/pdfs/PGY_AdolDataGuides/India2005-06.pdf
2001 India Census