The Jeeva Project (2011-14)

- collaborative, multidisciplinary, multicentric research on dais, their childbirth practices & public health significance in 4 remote sites.

- directed by six researchers from fields of public health, medicine including ISM, nurse-midwifery, natural childbirth and ethnography – the “Jeeva Shepherds”

- hosted and financially managed by the Centre for Women’s Development Studies (CWDS), New Delhi.
Broad Aim:

To study the role of experienced dais in their own social context with reference to neonatal and maternal survival and wellbeing – with a focus on stimulation of the placenta to revive a newborn – and to highlight the relevance of dais in meeting public health concerns.
Objectives of AYUSH Jeeva Study:

- To map and profile dais in the study areas
- To explore the socio-cultural context of the households in the villages where they work
- To conduct a 2-year retrospective births survey
- To interview dais and observe births to record their practices, use of herbal medicines, etc.
- To understand the relationships of the formal childbirth care providers’ with the dais, and
- To assess the value of dais in overall provisioning of maternal and neonatal care.
Study Partners / Sites:

1. *Jan Chetna Manch*, Bokaro, Jharkhand
2. *Janarth Adivasi Vikas Sanstha*, Nandurbar, Maharashtra

At Delhi:
- Centre for Women’s Dvlpt. Studies (CWDS)
- Jeeva Office
The current funding situation:

• The **AYUSH Dept’s first grant installment** came to CWDS in mid-April 2011. However, to draw on the grant we await the corresponding co-funding from ICCHN.
• **ICCHN** grant sanction came in February 2011. However, *organisational restructuring* on their side has resulted in procedural delay; the first funds are expected in June.
• In the preparatory phases **ICCHN** has enabled Jeeva to get a team together, publish the Pilot Report, conduct exploratory exercises, establish an office in Delhi, etc.
• Jeeva is a significant example of **public-private** support.
Preparatory work done or in process:

- Data from Pilot & 4 EEs applied to refine Study design and develop tools for investigation.
- Schedules developed for the four surveys are almost ready to be translated, field-tested.
- Qualitative interview question guidelines ready.
- Field researcher / translator recruiting going on.
- Partners confirming field parameters, arranging for team stay, recruiting local assistants, etc.
- Data management system is being developed.
- Preparing for Team Orientation-Training in July.
Those who inspire us...