CHETNA’s vision broadened from merely addressing the needs of Mother to wider Concerns of Women...

By now CHETNA was well recognized as a resource center for nutrition and health activities especially for capacity building, training and development of educational materials.

A year-long participatory evaluation process, facilitated by PEJA, New Delhi, enabled reflection and widening the perspective of CHETNA team. In this period we formulated our vision and mission and moved from mother and child health to women’s health in life cycle approach with focus on Traditional Health and Healing practices as a strategy.

Mission Statement
CHETNA’s mission is to contribute towards the empowerment of disadvantaged women, young people and children so that they become capable of gaining control over their own, their families’ and communities’ health.

The defining line between the ‘Inside’ and ‘Outside’ was the Dahleej – it was thin, invisible and unacknowledged.

Dahleej was the woman’s sexuality – it was controlled by patriarchy through shame, fear and silence.

The norms for crossing the Dahleej were separate for women and men.

The man could cross the Dahleej freely from Inside to outside and back.

Patriarchy creates gender inequality, within the family and community, consequently lowering the self esteem of girls and women.

But for the woman, once she crossed the Dahleej from Inside to Outside, patriarchy did not accept her as a legitimate member of the society.

With increasing globalization, capitalistic societies, reducing size of families, access to and influence of the media, the norms of the Dahleej are changing.

1986

1990