

COVID-19, Nizadmuddin Basti and The Hope Project

Dear friends,

Praying that you are safe and healthy. We are together in this crisis situation. We hope for a better tomorrow, for you, for us and for everyone!

We are all afflicted by this pandemic and our situations are more or less the same. Throughout the world, the best measure has been to practice Social Distancing. Here in India, a nation-wide lockdown was imposed in the country on March 2020. In March prior to the lockdown, Hope Project organized workshops and awareness programs in the community as well as for students attending our educational programs and members of Self-Help Groups. During these programs, the community members were sensitized and made aware about the basic hygiene measures that should be adopted and why self-quarantine is important during this time. Soaps were distributed to our beneficiaries. As a precautionary measure, we kept some stock of necessary ration items like rice, atta (flour), pulses, edible oil, salt and some daily use spices.

During the lockdown period, we established networking through telephone in the community and focused on beneficiaries and our staff since the staff and community belong to more or less the same strata of the society. We are constantly in contact with these families and through our linkages we could identify some families who needed food and money. We had been tracking and monitoring families of our students and SHG members who are facing difficulties. We started the distribution of ration items sometimes at their doorstep. We also ensured that our low-paid staff including support staff receive the bare minimum salary for their day to day expenses and survival. Since we had no access to our official bank accounts and our cheque books were inside the office, so transfer of money was done from some employees' personal accounts with the help of donations from friends.

For TB patients registered in our DOT Centre, we distributed medicines for a certain period of time and ensured that there had been no gaps as far as taking prescribed medicines by the patients were concerned. Besides, we furnished a list of our beneficiaries and their phone numbers to Mohalla clinic doctors who then provided telephonic counselling to the commu-



Ration distribution by Hope Staff



Ration given to needy students

nity members.

The Hope Project is also facilitating telephonic counselling on a micro level; our educators and outreach workers call people including relatives, neighbours, friends and our students and provide useful awareness information to adopt basic hygiene measures like washing hands and use of sanitizers to ensure prevention of COVID-19.

Amidst all the crisis, we believed education must continue for our students. We have started online classes for students enrolled in our Non Formal School (morning and evening). Teachers connect with their students everyday through social networking platforms and share knowledge through photos, audios and videos. Students are also responding well to this approach. They complete the assigned tasks and clarify their doubts. Challenges like connectivity issues and lack of smart phone arose. Our well-wishers came forward, helped us with online recharge of mobiles and donated some good quality smart phones. We have come up with the idea of library of smart phones for poor children.

In the months to come, we are preparing to open the OPD. The Hope Project will also continue to track more and more families and help them with cash and kind and also help those who lost their jobs in seeking livelihood opportunities. Since 100% of the families we work with live on daily wages, we understand that in the coming days the demand will be much more but we will keep helping them in every possible way. It will be difficult journey as our means are limited but we believe a small act of kindness will bring a smile to the hopeless faces. So far the Hope Project distributed ration items or helped monetarily to 74 individuals/families. Fresh stocks of ration have been procured to help more people to get rid of starvation.

We look up to you for your support in rebuilding their lives!



left:
Studying through online classes



right:
Ration distribution in the community

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Please send your donation to one of the following accounts.
Do not forget your name and address!

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Dargah Hazrat Inayat Khan Hope Project
Initiated by Pir Vilayat Khan in 1975

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