

DHAN Foundation

Enabling Community to End COVID-19!

RADAR (Rapid Assessment on Disaster and Response) Report

09st April 2020

Issue No: 03

COVID & Health Stress:

Globally the COVID attack crossed 15 lakhs+ people and now India is also started to feel the heat of it with crossing of 5000+ COVID cases, deaths counting 150+ and doubling of rate of spread in the past 5 days created more concern among development practitioners.

With 540 new cases reported in past 24 hours in India, the total number of COVID 19 cases in India has jumped to 5,734, showed latest figures from Union Health Ministry. The death toll from Covid-19 rose to 166 while 472 patients have been cured of the virus or discharged. Maharashtra remains the worst affected state with 1,135 cases, followed by Tamil Nadu at 738 and Delhi at 669, Telangana at 427 and Rajasthan at 381.

To contain the spread of coronavirus, India is under a 21-day lockdown since March 25, with only essential services exempted. Amid indications that the central government may not lift the lockdown in one go, Prime Minister interacted with chief ministers of all states to discuss various issues related to the coronavirus outbreak including the lockdown.

PM Modi told a conference of political leaders on Wednesday that several state governments had asked for an extension of the lockdown to cope with the outbreak, according to a statement issued by his office.

COVID & Economic Stress:

Now, India is undergoing double-side pressure. One is because of direct health impact of COVID and another side is economic losses and livelihood challenge of poor and vulnerable. So, it is going to hit very strongly to poor, labours and employees in informal sector because of loss of employment and declining cash-flow. Few rating agencies

Fact Sheet (As on 08th April 2020)

Global

Total cases	15,18,773
Confirmed new cases	85,135
Cured/Discharged cases	3,30,877
Total Deaths	88,531
Cases per 1M people	190.95
Death rate	5.8%

India

Total cases	5734
Confirmed new cases	540
Cured/discharged cases	472
Total deaths	166
New deaths (past 24 Hrs)	17
Cases per 1M people	4.21
Death rate	2.8%

The number of cases were almost **doubled during past 5 days in India** in 29 states/union territories

Source: WHO & Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, GoI

Top 10 Disturbed States with COVID 19

	04-Apr	08-Apr	Grw %
1. Maharashtra	423	1135	268.32
2. Tamil Nadu	411	738	179.56
3. Delhi	386	669	173.32
4. Telangana	158	427	270.25
5. Rajasthan	179	381	212.85
6. UP	174	361	207.47
7. Kerala	295	345	116.95
8. MP	104	229	220.19
9. Karnataka	128	181	141.41
10. Gujarat	95	179	188.42

These top 10 state constitutes 81% of total spread of COVID 19 in India

(Source: Livemint News (09th Apr 2020))

are making note that the Covid-19 crisis and expects the economy to grow at just 2 per cent in the current fiscal. It said the concerns on account of Covid-19 have morphed from the impact of imports from China on domestic supply chains, into a domestic and external demand shock, with social distancing and lockdowns leading to production shutdowns and job losses in some sectors.

Interestingly, this crisis is also providing us a learning curve to tackle the situation. It is so true that every crisis serves as a learning opportunity for organizations, and this pandemic is proving to be quite the lesson. Now value of collaboration is felt strongly and people are getting united to come out of the crisis. Rigorous research and resource sharing are happening in healthcare field to address the issue. Several organizations have started to develop systems on remote working models, ensuring safety measures for the employees, back to basics – spending only for essential commodities, stakeholders set an open line of communication to combat the global threat.

COVID 19: Updates from Government of India during past 5 days:

As part of World Health Day, several community organizations and citizens expressed their gratitude towards medical professionals and ensure a COVID free India by practising social distancing and maintaining proper health

- Railways to deploy more than 2500 Doctors & 35000 paramedic staff to fight COVID-19
- Lifeline UDAN flights delivers 39+ Tons of medical supplies across India
- DST approves funding for developing Gel for nasal passage to prevent COVID-19
- IT Department to release all pending IT Refunds up to Rs 5 Lakh immediately
- NGOs permitted to buy food grains directly from FCI for Relief operations
- MHA invokes Essential Commodities Act 1955, ensures availability of goods
- Cash benefits of Rs 1,000 - Rs 6,000 for construction workers under Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana
- SCTIMST scientists develop disinfected barrier-examination booth for examining COVID19 patients
- FastSense Diagnostics, Pune based Start-up is developing Rapid diagnostic for COVID-19 screening
- District administrations taking various measures to combat COVID in hotspots
- 139 ICMR labs made functional & along with 65 private labs
- MHRD launches Samadhan Challenge to fight against COVID-19
- Ministry of Agriculture reviews steps taken to facilitate farming activities
- 152 Lifeline UDAN flights operational; transports 200 tons of essential goods & medical supplies
- Pharmacists “Swasth Ke Sipahi” deliver essential services & medicines to patients & elderly under PMBJP
- 3 Types of facilities to be set up for categories of COVID-19 patients:
 - COVID Hospitals for severe or critical patients
 - COVID Health Centres for moderate patients
 - COVID Care Centres for mild or very mild patients/ suspected cases
- MoHFW lays down 3 classes of facilities to be set up for different categories of COVID patients
- Railways to make up-to 1000 PPE/ day for Railway Doctors & Paramedics
- Ex-Servicemen of Armed Forces assisting and providing services against COVID-19
- Ministry of Shipping ensures smooth shipping operations amid lockdown
- Integrated Online Govt Training (iGOT) courses for Corona Warriors available on DIKSHA <https://igot.gov.in>

Rapid Observation from the field

- Still the COVID spread is in stage 2 and the government is putting huge efforts to contain the spread, not letting it to grow to stage 3. By now, India could find hot-spots of COVID spread. The top five states constitute nearly 60% of total COVID positive cases. And within those states around 5 to 10 places are found very critical.
- At the same time, other parts of country can't take a chance. All the parts of the nation have to be vigilant to tackle the COVID spread. In such cases role of civil society organizations become very important in educating local communities, proactive measures in healthcare systems and enhancing local infrastructures.
- The social media become very powerful during the lock-down period. The virtual platform connects most of the communities and provides more strength. On the other hand, fake news about COVID spread, false fear creation, non-obedience of lock-down have also been observed.
- We are happy to see the **Community Swaraj in COVID prevention** in various parts of the country: It is observed that several villages across India have taking native initiatives in isolating villages as a whole. The local administration and community are making their villages to insulate themselves from outside's entry, provisioning isolation units out-side the villages.
- The national lock-down due to COVID is significantly affected poor and vulnerable families. Especially the migrant workers, street vendors, physically challenged have lost their livelihood and pushed in to economic uncertainty.
- Various States and central governments have rolled-out entitlement schemes for poor and marginal workers.it includes cash benefits and also provision of food and groceries for them.

Reporting from the field:

DHAN works in around 84 districts across 14 states of India. Our field team are doing Rapid assessment at their levels and help support our members in need. We are herewith sharing one such reports from each context.

Tribal context: Kalvarayan Hills (Tamilnadu)

KALVARAYAN HILLS

“1559 males and 1249 females are locked down in their estates.

They are out of work and wages

Estate owners are forcing them to move out of their estates

DHAN Foundation is working with tribal communities in Kalvarayan hills, Tamil Nadu. At the end of January, the tribal people (men and women) migrate to Karnataka, Kerala and Kangeyam to work as garden workers in different estates and return to Kalvarayan hills in the last week of April.

The tribal families are locked down in their own working estates and they are unable to go out to purchase groceries and vegetables. DHAN field staff are in constant touch with all the families who are familiar with their well beings.

“This year, 4000 tribal families have migrated from Kalvarayan hills to different parts of Karnataka areas viz., Kudagu, Simangalore and Sumuka. Due to lockdown they all are struck in their work places”

MIGRANT WORKERS' DETAILS

Panchayats Name	No of Villages	Male	Female	No of Kalanjiam members
Vanjikuzhi	11	51	53	27
Innadu	9	126	135	48
Kilakadu	10	236	170	99
Vellimalai	19	421	320	255
Vengodu	10	113	94	17
Maniyarpalayam	7	172	122	52
Kariyalur	8	108	82	77
Kundiyanatham	6	79	57	9
Kundiyanatham	6	127	81	56
Serappattu	10	126	135	48
Total	96	1559	1249	688

Voice of Lockdown Tribal

- There are no wages as there is no work in the estate
- Estate owners are reluctant to lend advances
- Owners are forcing us to move out of their estates though we came to work for them

All we need is a place to stay;
food to feed our stomachs

Rural Context: Ramnagara (Karnataka)

RAMANAGARA REGION:

DHAN Foundation's Ramanagara region works in two districts viz., Ramanagara and Bangalore rural. In Ramanagara, DHAN Foundation is working in three taluks – Kanakapura, Ramanagara and Magadi – with six federations viz., Kanakapura, Ramanagara, Kodihalli, Magadi, Kudur and Harohalli. In Bangalore rural, DHAN Foundation is working in two taluks - Doddaballapur and Nelamanagala – with two federations viz., Doddaballapur federation and Nelamanagala federation. Ramanagara region is having 47 clusters, 1481 Kalanjams covering 24152 members.

“35% of the community in Magadi and Kudur locations of Ramanagara depends on daily wages for their livelihood”

COVID-19 in RAMANAGARA

121 individuals returned to the district from different parts of the countries. 64 are in quarantine. As of now, there are no positive cases in both Ramanagara and Bangalore rural districts

OUR MEMBERS

Most of our members are farmers, agriculture laborers, construction workers, small business holders, and weavers. Due to lockdown, those who are doing small business are unable to earn their breads. Farmers are unable to sell their produces for a reasonable price due to lack of transportation facilities. Members having cattle are unable to provide fodder to their cattle.

REGION INITIATIVES

“SUHAM hospital in Kudur is providing telemedical facilities to its members”

Cluster associates are in constant touch with all leaders and members and creating awareness through calls and messages. Suham hospital in Kudur has distributed masks to Kalanjiam members. Through farmer associations and volunteers, DHAN regional staff are providing food for daily wage laborers. Our members in Chakkere Panchayat in Channapattana taluk identified the 146 S1 category families and distributed basic needs worth Rs.600 per family.

Coastal Context: Balasore (Odisha)

Balasore Region

In Balasore region, DHAN Foundation is working in Balasore and Mayurbhanj districts. So far, there are no positive cases of Covid-19 in the region. All the three positive cases are traced from the state capital (Khurda) district. In Balasore around 49 people who came from different countries are under surveillance. No registered case in Balasore is making the people to turn a blind eye toward social distances.

Impact on Livelihood

Most of DHAN member families in Balasore region depend on daily wages, petty shop, private companies, factories, agricultural works and some are migrant families as well. Almost all the shops are closed both macro and micro except vegetable shops, groceries and medical stores. The Most of the vendors are quoting their own prices regardless of the government decision to have the same nominal prices. The lockdown hit hard to all DHAN member families in the Balasore region:

Fisheries

Around 400 families with whom DHAN Foundation is working in Balasore region depends on fishing (both marine as well as inland). They are suffering due to lockdown.

Petty shops

DHAN Foundation in Balasore region is working with 1500-2000 members whose livelihood depends on small petty shops. They are suffering directly from lockdown.

The daily wage members are in distress. Their savings being minimal or zero they are uncertain of their future. The same is the situation with the tribal people DHAN Foundation is working in Balasore. Most of the tribals employed in labor work, living day-to-day, and their future is amiss amidst the lockdown. DHAN is working with migrant families in the region. The workers expressed their distress since they didn't receive any wages from their contractors despite they are in dire need of money. Agricultural families associated with DHAN verbalized their worries over the low or no availability of fertilizers and pesticides, and also they articulated their fears about the dubiousness of their livelihoods for the next agricultural season.

With our members

Responding earlier and fast, most of the federations disseminated the knowledge and awareness about Covid-19 to the members before the lockdown. Member families were given clear instructions on how to reach to the staff over phone for any issues, problems, or about their fears. Though the staff are unable to reach out to the members after the lockdown, they are in constant touch with the members and their families.

Wage Labors

DHAN Foundation in Balasore region is working with 5000 to 8000 members who work as daily labors. Due to lockdown they are suffering from credit burden.

Federations addressing Covid-19

Balasore team has created flyers about corona, do's and don'ts in the local languages and shared through WhatsApp groups to the field volunteers and members. Disaster Risk Reduction staff of DHAN Foundation in Balasore, Basta and Jaleswar have taken initiatives to lock down their villages and panchayats. They also involved in the process of maintaining quarantine centers, marking social distance circles near shops, PDS ration distribution to the villagers and distribution of soaps/sanitizers to people. The regional team of Balasore has been in touch with DRR staff, field associates and leaders who are working/volunteering to fight the Covid-19 in the villages: providing data from the valid sources to them, creating awareness on the fake news that's being viral in the social media platforms. DHAN Kalanjiam members are extended their support by providing ration and grocery items to the needy people in their working areas.

Poultry

Around 200 families with whom DHAN Foundation is working in Balasore region are running poultry. They have reported loss in poultry because of unable to get feed for chickens during the initial 4 days of lock down

Migrants

DHAN Foundation in Balasore region is working with 500 migrant families are in distress, as their family members are out of the state and in bad financial condition.

Voice of our members and leaders to tackle COVID:

Daily wage members belong to SC, ST communities, they are voicing for a minimum two-month relaxation on their loan repayments. Though RBI announced EMI relaxation for three months, the private sector and the retailers are not considering the options. Despite the government announcement for wage and ration at their doorstep, most of the families are voicing the reach of the wage as well as ration was minimal and slow paced in their areas.

Other vulnerable sections in Balasore:

People from different states usually find their ways into the region seeking wage works. Amidst lockdown, all of them have been put in quarantine centers and some of them were even forced to stay in thatched and temporary housing with the ration and grocery assurance from the government. Likewise, our member families seeking wage works travel to the nearby states. Amidst lockdown, all those members are lockdown in those respective states and their families are in distress in the fear of their family members. Odisha government has set up a special call centre, appointed five IAS officers to take care of the issues related to migrant workers. But the flipside of the approach being failing to identify at Panchayat-level and facilitate for the immediate support.

Urban Context: Kanchipuram (Tamilnadu)

DHAN Foundation's working area in Kanchi region doesn't record any corona positive cases among its members so far. Yet some families are home quarantined as they have recently returned from other countries. In Kanchi region, most of the families associated with DHAN Foundation are working as vendors, house maids, construction workers, contractual labors, petty shops, small business etc. Their livelihood got affected due to lockdown.

FEDERATION INITIATIVES

Distributed 500 masks and hand sanitizers to the general public with the support of our tailoring unit.

Distributed 100 masks to panchayat offices and hospital through one of the Kalanjams having tailoring unit.

Distributed food for 50 beggars and uncared persons at Walajabad block. Appealed municipal officials to look after these uncared persons and beggars.

Clear instructions have been issued to all our working families to follow the lockdown strictly without any fail.

EFFORTS

Kanchi region is having one tailoring unit and two community learning centres. These units/centres are planning to create masks and manufacture soaps, hand sanitizers and phenyl. Livelihood opportunities for our members as well as meeting the demand for safety masks and soaps and phenyls. With the support of KTL/Local FPO, Kanchi region is planning to develop loan products for grocery and rice bags which will benefit nearly 5000 families.

Livelihood Assessment and Loss of Income (projected for 21 days' lockdown)	
<u>VENDORS</u>	
Livelihood Loss	700 members
Loss of income	64 lakhs
<u>HOUSE KEEPING</u>	
Livelihood Loss	400 members
Loss of income	32 lakhs
<u>CONSTRUCTION WORKERS</u>	
Livelihood Loss	800 members
Loss of income	40 lakhs
<u>CONTRACTUAL LABORS</u>	
Livelihood Loss	800 members
Loss of income	48 lakhs
<u>TAILORING/PETTY SHOPS</u>	
Livelihood Loss	600 members
Loss of income	42 lakhs
<u>AGRI & DAIRY ACTIVITIES</u>	
Livelihood Loss	250 members
Loss of income	11 lakhs
<u>SMALL BUSINESS</u>	
Livelihood Loss	500 members
Loss of income	32 lakhs
<u>SELF-EMPLOYMENT</u>	
Livelihood Loss	600 members
Loss of income	60 lakhs
<u>ASHTI</u>	
Livelihood Loss	1428 members
Loss of income	61.29 lakhs
<u>TOTAL</u>	
Livelihood Loss	12406 members
Loss of income	455.93 lakhs

Glimpse of the status of Kanchi region

Sl.No.	District Name	Corona Positive Cases		Deaths		Quarantined Families	
		General Public	Our Members	General Public	Our Members	General Public	Our Members
1.	Chennai (Peri urban)	22	0	0	0	4523	18
2.	Kanchipuram	1	0	0	0	306	11
3.	Chengalpattu	2	0	0	0	434	13
TOTAL		25	0	0	0	5263	42

Leads for Action: During Relief phase

Considering the present situation and trend of COVID pandemic, there is high possibility for extension of national lock-down till this month end. If it happens, then we may need to face another disaster in-terms of economic distress across the nation. We urge the government to take enough remedial measures to safe-guard the lives of poor and vulnerable if the lock-down gets extended. For this district level collaboration of government officials with local civil societies, media and other stakeholders have to be created. A steering committee at district and state level with all stakeholders will help support to mainstream the relief activities.

Local Government institutions:

Role of local government institutions in present situation is most valuable. Fund support to Village Panchayats to take-up preventive measures, early warning system and providing food, shelter to poorest of the poor are much needed interventions. The local government can involve in disinfecting the common area, preparing village level isolation centres, awareness building among community and early diagnosis of doubtful persons and referring them to hospitals for further screening.

Self – Help Groups:

The role of Self-Help Groups and its federations also becoming more promising. As we are observing in many places, the SHG members are involving in production of reusable masks, other medical aids and sanitary products. That has to be scaled up and the SHGs federation can take-up great role in community ownership and community led relief measures during this critical period.

Farmer Producer Organizations:

The Farmer Producer Organizations are another arm which has niche in procurement and supply of agriculture commodities to the market. It can very well serve as a bridge to both farmers and the consumers. Two days back, Tamilnadu government announced that every FPO, which involves in vegetable and groceries supply can get Rs.10 lakhs loan support to manage their cash-flow. Such initiatives need additional incentives and access of food and essential commodities need to be further liberalized so that FPOs can perform its functions.

Community Call-Centres (C3) as an intervention strategy:

Mobile Phones helped very much during the COVID 19 and the following locked down. Almost the usage of mobile phones doubles in usage and people feels mobile phones as an effective mean for communication and awareness creation. The mobile phone voice SMS spread by the Government in Hindi and following in the regional languages has reached almost every citizen in INDIA and created awareness about COVID 19.

The practice change is observed by the way of awareness created through mobile phone voice SMS before each call. Moreover, almost all citizen above 18 years is having a smartphone either for Internet usage or simply using for communication. The Development theory also says that Start from the thing, what people know, Hence, it is proposed to establish a Call Centre at each block/Mandal level and enable the poor and vulnerable to get access with the call centre and get counselling through the mobile communication. The proposed call centre will disseminate information/ one-way communication and also facilitate video conference / two-way communication between poor and experts.

Besides, with the counselling by the experts/ resources, DHAN would like to utilize the community resources for counselling. There is a huge number of community resources available within the community and they are the first-hand source of information for poor & vulnerable. DHAN would like to bridge such Community Resources as counselling resources to share their positive experience and how do they adopt the situation. The Call centre will connect the resources and community resources with the affected community through tele/video conference for counselling on Health/ Livelihood and Finance.

Way forward...

As a whole, we are now entering in to very important phase of COVID spread. The coming one week will give us an idea how the COVID is responding in our Indian sub-continent. Let's hope with our joint efforts and collective spirit we will successfully tackle the outbreak and raise again with positivity.