



DON BOSCO

ANBU ILLAM

C H E N N A I

NEWSLETTER

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MARCH - APRIL 2020

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Dear Friends,

Two men looked out from prison bars.

One saw mud. One saw stars. Our lives, especially during this lockdown is very much dependent on this frame of reference.

“WHAT WE SEE IS WHAT WE GET”

If you see the world as crippled, then that's how we would live our lives.

On the contrary, if you see this lockdown time as a glorious opportunity of life, to reach out to the world, then that's how you would live your life.

Whatever happens, be it SARS, Ebola, Spanish flu, Corona or floods, cyclones, earthquakes or outbreaks, let nothing blur the vision to be fully human.

COVID-19 has affected the whole world in all its aspects of life and specifically it has affected the world of children very much. In India, many children and pregnant women are also getting affected due to lack of immunity. It has affected their four essential rights of survival, protection, development and participation.

Many of the children are stressed about the lockdown situations and are unable to come out and play, learn and enjoy their normal life. They experience a new world order all together in their life.

Lockdown 4.0 has made many migrants and their families to move from one state to another state on foot or by bi-cycle or any other means. With these current situations DBAI has done its part to reach out to the most needy and vulnerable children, women, youth and migrants with the relief materials. Alone, we can do so little; together we can do so much. And so, DBAI has joined hands with the Greater Chennai Corporation in reaching out to the relief camps, shelter for homeless and other migrant camps in providing food and essential sanitary materials.

We have carried out our rescue and rehabilitation work with the help of CHILDLINE India Foundation even during this lockdown period.

DBAI has joined hands with HCL Foundation in helping the vulnerable children's families through police department and also distributed PPE kit to the Medical professionals. We have also reached out to our own shelter home children's families by distributing grocery kit to them.

We also joined hands with local donors, associations and networks to help the frontline warriors with nutritional support and sanitary kits. We shall continue to extend our help and support to the least and the lost in the society.

I must acknowledge and appreciate the Government departments, donor agencies, sponsors, committed staff and volunteers who were readily available to extend their support and assistance to combat this novel COVID-19 in all possible ways. May God Bless them and protect them. Let us all march ahead courageously in this combat.

Yours,

Fr. Joseph Leo SDB

ACTIVITIES FOR THE MONTH OF MARCH BEFORE THE OUTBREAK OF THE PANDEMIC COVID 19

SKILL TRAINING PROGRAM

DBAI HCLF children's club organized skill training program at Chemmanchery police boys & girls club on 06th March 2020 between 6.30 pm – 8.00 pm. Bro. Kevin, Childline Volunteer was the resource person for the program. The participants were given training on building core skills like reading, writing, speaking and listening. The mode of communication for training was video presentation and power point presentation. The session also included the motivational talk of facing the upcoming exam without fear. Activities were also conducted and the participants' who gave excellent answers were given prizes.



INTER SCHOOL COMPETITION

DBAI HCLF children's club organized Inter school competition at Govt. Girls. Hr. Sec. School, Avadi. In the competition, eight schools from different districts participated. On 14th March, football competition was inaugurated by Mr. Prijo – Manager south Head & Mr. Bopana – Sport consultant. And on the next day i.e 15th March, other matches like Football, volleyball & kabaddi were started. At the end of the match mementos were given for those who won the match.



TRAINING ON HANDLOOMS

One day workshop on handloom making was organized at Dumilkuppam on 15th March 2020 in which two of newly formed women self help group members took part and got benefitted. Mrs. Jansi a resident of Pallavan Nagar and long time volunteer of ICSC project was the resource person for the training. Women actively took part in this training and learnt to make door mats, pillow covers, bags out of waste cloths.



AWARENESS ON COVID-19

In the awake of COVID -19, DBAI-HCLF Children's Club created awareness among the children on the last week of the march 2020, about the precautions that have to be taken in order to prevent from getting affected by Corona. The children were taught about the pandemic and how they have to face it without fear and panic. They were also given instructions on proper hand wash, Hygiene, and personal cleanliness along with social distancing. Children were taught about the protocol in case of being affected by the pandemic, where they have to check the symptoms and to call the toll free number and to cooperate with the doctors and the government. Our volunteers distributed sanitizer and soaps to the children.



MEDICAL CAMP

On 13th March 2020, ICSC organized a general medical camp in support of KVT Multi Speciality Hospital at Indra Nagar which was attended by 180 local residences. Since the environment was filled with fear of Corona viruse we took special initiative of distributing soap and face masks along with regular medicine. The medical team also organized a awareness talk on prevention and precaution measure during virus outbreaks.



OUTBREAK OF THE PANDEMIC COVID 19

Coronavirus disease 2019 a global pandemic, has been occurring over a wide geographic area and affecting an exceptionally high proportion of the population. The Virus got its name from the way they look under a microscope, the corona means “Crown” in latin.

Since the inception of this year 2020, there has been the talk all over the globe of how the pandemic Covid 19 has been taking over from China to Other countries, whereas the China had a whirlwind of it from December 2019. In the end of February 2020, it has been affecting western countries and has started to spread around other continents. By the second week of March 2020, we have been warned of the rampant and most of the organizations, firms or corporation has been instructed to work from home.

That was the time where the schools have asked to close down from March 16th 2020. We had to send our children who are being institutionalized in Don Bosco Anbu Illam for the protection from the pandemic. The children's parents visited the organization and went through the process of sending home temporarily. The other children who are homeless and orphans are staying in our shelter homes.

On the 24th of March 2020, the government of India announced a nationwide lockdown for 21 days, limiting the movement of the 1.3 billion population, to prevent the outbreak. The main objective of the Lockdown is to contain the spread of the Pandemic COVID 19 in India. The lockdown was carried out by methods such as

- 1) Ban on people from stepping out of their homes
- 2) Shutdown of all services and shops except pharmacies, hospitals and banks
- 3) Closure of commercial, private establishments and all place of worship
- 4) Suspension of all educational and research institutions, all public and private transport

The advantage of the Lockdown was to control the community spread but the disadvantage of the lockdown resulted in financial crisis. The initiative of the lockdown by the government was to prevent the spread but at the other side, the country's financial state has been at stake when the lockdown kept extending.

The non-profit organizations stepped in to help the needy ones during the lockdown period. DBAI stepped in to extend the helping hands to the homeless, migrant workers and to the disadvantaged category.



OUR IMMEDIATE RESPONSE

Don Bosco Anbu Illam in its little way is supporting the health department of Greater Chennai Corporation and has united their efforts to aid the homeless people who have been neglected during the quarantine period. Because of the lockdown, normal people too who have been stranded because of the shutdown of all the transport facilities their lives became shipwreck. These people almost 2000 of them have been reached out with the help of Greater Chennai corporation were given a shelter in the limit of Chennai Corporation. These homeless and migrant people were given arrangements of temporary Shelter at marriage halls and corporation community halls. These people were also being entertained to fight the Social isolation by projecting movies, conducting social games and especially Crisis counseling for them.

We also run Childline which is a National Emergency help line for children who are in distress under the ministry of women and child development. We have rescued children who are homeless and abandoned on the street and help them with the help of CWC and place them in Children's homes.

OUR ACTIVITIES

With the help of HCL Foundation, Don Bosco Mondo, Greater Chennai Corporation and other local donors DBAI has reached 6000 families during the Covid 19 Lockdown. We are also working in 35 intervention areas, and intervened by establishing Relief Camp, provision of Grocery Kit, Hygiene Kit, Nutrition Kit, Creating awareness through art, reaching out to our caring community group, support to the families of our institutionalized children, tele counseling and help desk



Interventions

DBAI & GREATER CHENNAI CORPORATION

Greater Chennai Corporation joined hands with DB Anbu Illam in reaching out to the homeless and migrant workers during Covid19 Lockdown and extended a helping hand at this moment of crisis. We established relief camps at the Chennai Central Railway Station. We rescued the families that were deprived of basic amenities due to lockdown and with the help of GCC we provided food, dry rations, nutrition, toiletries, hygiene kit and clothes to people especially the slum dwellers and also to the other night shelters run under the NULM project by GCC.



DBAI HCL FOUNDATION

COVID-19 lockdown greatly affected the daily routine of people. People suffered a lot because they were not able to earn their daily food. There was also need for Personal Protective Equipment Kit (PPE). So, all these people in need were provided with their basic necessities. The following essentials were distributed to the people and Standard Operating Procedure was followed in all the distribution of relief materials.

- **Provision of Personal Protective Equipment Kit (PPE)**

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is very important to provide safety for the health professionals. And so, on 6th of April 2020, 100 PPE Kits were provided to the staff at Government Stanley Hospital. And on 15th of April, 60 Kits were provided to Sri Satya Sai Medical College and Research Institute for Government Stanley Hospital.

On 11th of April, 2020, DBAI staff and the community volunteers who were involved in the reach out were provided with the protection Kit. Around 100 members benefitted through this venture.

- **Provision of Day meals**

The nationwide lockdown caused many problems to people such as demand for food, provisions, etc. So, day-meals were provided to Greater Chennai Corporation, Choolaimedu slum and Kodambakkam slum on the following days: 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th and 13th of April, 2020. On each day more than 500 people were fed.



Interventions

- **Distribution of groceries**

Due to the lockdown people had no work to do. There was no income and many people literally were struggling to get the basic groceries to run their family. So groceries were distributed to Gurukul children's family by which 1300 members were benefitted. On 10th of April, groceries were distributed to people in Kannagi Nagar and Thuraipakkam. On 11th of April, groceries were distributed to people at Perumbakkam.

- **Donation of Necessary Materials**

Necessary materials like Sarees and sanitizers were donated to Bro Siga Old Age Home, at Broadway on 14th of April, 2020.

Our main target during this reach-out were Children. In order to keep them busy and engaged online activities were started. Regular follow-up and monitoring were also done online. The following were the activities conducted for the children.

- **Online Classes**

To impart the children with useful knowledge, a WhatsApp group was created with the community children according to their communities and classes and Thirukkural was posted in children's group on a daily basis. The students would learn the Thirukkural and send videos in which they would be reciting the same.

- **Sports**

The sports students were encouraged to do daily workouts and follow up was done regularly through a Zoom Call meeting by the respective coaches.

Awareness Programs

- **Online Awareness**

To maintain social distancing and also to make our children aware of certain topics like COVID-19 safety measures, identification of COVID-19, nutritional supplements etc, awareness was created through online instructions.



Interventions

DBAI CHILDLINE

Childline 1098 is a 24/7 service for the children in distress. Even though the entire nation was under a complete lockdown, our services through Childline were still on. The rescue of children, monitoring of the children on the streets were done throughout and placing the rescued children in the child care institutions with the help of child welfare committee were regularly carried out. The DBAI Childline team rescued a girl child who was stranded during the crisis and placed the child at the Child care institution with the support from CWC.



DBAI INTERVENTION AT COASTAL SLUM COMMUNITIES

We distributed grocery kit to 350 families from the coastal slums. The families were deprived of the basic amenities. We stitched 1000 cloth masks with the help of our vocational training women and Self-Help Group women and distributed to the communities, volunteers and to other frontline workers. We also distributed nutritional snacks to the children from our tuition centres.



Interventions

DBAI HELP DESK AT CHENNAI COLLECTORATE OFFICE

Mr. Ashok, the scouts & guides coordinator of DBAI volunteered at Collector office to provide help desk for the staff members and visitors at Collectorate building for Covid19. They provided sanitizers and other hygiene materials which were prepared by the team for the visitors.



TNP ART CONTEST

In order to engage children during lockdown we encouraged them to participate in the art contest conducted by Tamil Nadu Police Department. Children from DB - ICSC project took active participation in the online art contest. The contest was arranged in two categories. Topic for group A is My family during Corona in which children from 4 to 10 age group took part and children from 11 to 16 age group took part in group B for which the topic is Our everyday Heroes.



Interventions

HYGIENE KIT

DBAI has provided Hygiene kit to People staying at Chennai Middle school, Annai Pillai Street, Wall Tax Road Chennai.



PPE KIT

We have distributed 100 PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) kit to the medical professionals at Stanley hospital, so that they can ensure safety for themselves to combat the virus.



CONTRIBUTION

We have contributed in distributing 250 Food packets and handed over to the Thasildar at Zone 5 Relief Camp.



Interventions

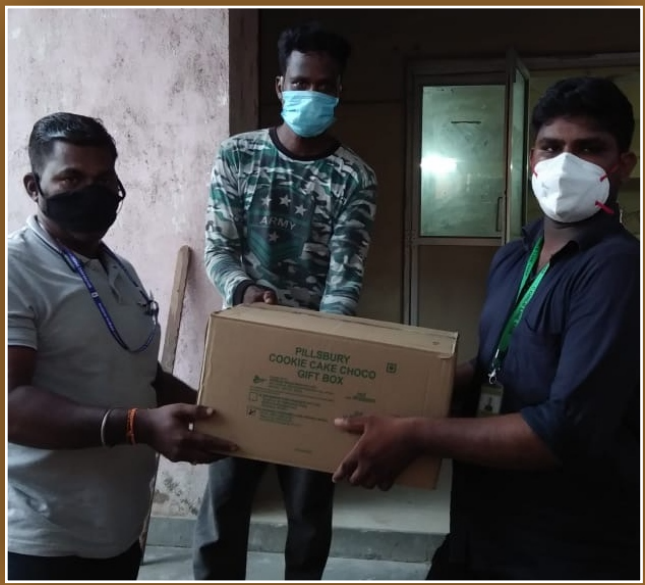
DISTRIBUTION

We distributed Food, Nutrition and Clothes for 41 people staying at Relief Camp at Annai Pillai Street, Wall Tax road, Chennai.



RELIEF CAMP

Provision of Nutritional snacks to the people at Relief camp at SM Nagar



Interventions

CORONA SPECIAL RESCUE TEAM



Distribution of Sarees and anitizers at SIGA Shelter for Homeless Women



Distribution of Groceries and Children activity kit to Jeevjothi Shelter for Homeless Boys



Distribution of Sanitizers to 4M trust shelter for Homeless Men.



Distribution of Groceries and Clothes to RVK Shelter for Homeless Women



Distribution of New Sarees to Little hearts Shelter for Homeless



Distribution of Groceries and Clothes to IWDI Shelter for Homeless Women

Interventions

OUR AID TO THE INTERVENTION AREAS

We are working in 33 intervention areas in and around Chennai, where we are reaching out to children who are drop outs and also fall into the category of low economic group.

DBAI along with the help of the outreach workers, tuition teachers and volunteers have supported the families who are deprived of the basic essential services by providing grocery kit of dry rations. We reached around 430 families from our intervention areas.



CREATING AWARENESS THROUGH ART

Don Bosco Scout troop conducted awareness campaign on precautions for Covid19 at Vysarpadi Junction by creating graffiti on the road. This has created awareness for the people who are violating the lockdown rules. Police personnel have also appreciated the scout team for this initiative.



Interventions

OUR AID TO CARING COMMUNITY GROUP

DBAI has a formation of caring community group of auto drivers, who had been supported and guided by us. The COVID 19 lockdown has caused the extreme stress on the lower income groups and daily wage workers. DBAI has supported the community group of auto drivers and their families by providing them with the essential amenities.



OUR SUPPORT TO CHILDREN'S FAMILIES OF CCI

DBAI has children's home separately for boys and girls and caters to 120 children. Most of them are single-parent children, with a very low income to the family and orphan children. Since the covid19 has affected the entire nation, Govt released orders to send Children home as a temporary custody to those who have parents or guardians. Our care givers follow up the children twice in a week and enquire their health status, daily need and psychological status. We have provided grocery kit, hygiene kit and nutritional things to the families of these children. Currently we have 13 children at our CCI who are being provided with regular medical checkups, counselling during quarantine, creative learning, training in drawing, Yoga and various other useful activities. Children are also given awareness on the spread of the Covid19 through video presentation.



THANK YOU

We express our sincere thanks to all who supported for us during this Pandemic.



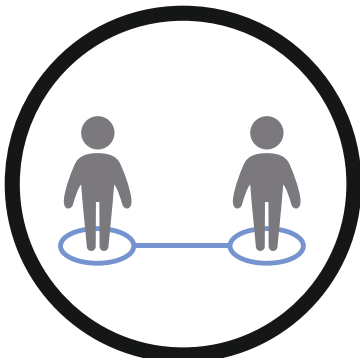
COVID-19 PREVENTION



WASH YOUR HANDS OFTEN



SANITIZE CONSTANTLY



AVOID CLOSE CONTACT



WEAR A FACE MASK



STAY AT HOME



AVOID CROWDED PLACES



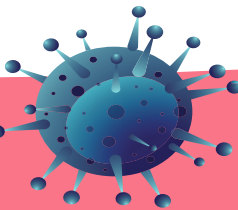
COVER COUGHS AND SNEEZES

Together, we can beat #COVID19

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