

## CONCEPT NOTE



Ashraya Initiative  
for Children

# MITIGATION RESPONSE FOR COVID-19

ASHRAYA INITIATIVE FOR CHILDREN

## Introduction

The Covid-19 (Coronavirus) outbreak has impacted some more than others. With the global pandemic hitting India, our community people have been affected in more than innumerable ways. The government has advised the people to observe social distancing which means most of the crowded areas like markets and other business areas have had to shut operations. Since most of the Waghri and Sikhligars community livelihoods depend on selling clothes and selling utensils or vegetables within these markets, their financial status has taken a severe decline. Schools of children have shut down indefinitely to avoid the spread of infection among the children. As this measure has been implemented just before the exam term of the year, this has put a sudden halt to the children's education. To follow safety measures, Ashraya has also temporarily suspended classes at the education center. The health center however, remains open to tackle any suspected cases and distributing medicines. Subsequently, this had put the teachers in a dilemma as to how to make sure there is no gap in learning outcomes till this situation passes. Hence, Ashraya decided that the teachers will come up with a plan to ensure that the children do not get a lag from their studies.

## Education

To effectively tackle this the teachers have made English and Math worksheets or downloaded online resources and distributed them to their class children. Additionally, they gave them daily targets and instructions on how to work on those sheets. Teach a Class, a non-profit organization, who is partnering with Ashraya, has also provided online learning tools and a platform where all the teachers have uploaded resources to share them with the others and avoid repetition of work. To follow up with this, the teachers called all the parents and asked them to ensure that the children are studying every day. Amazingly the parents have also been sharing updates regarding the children along with photos of them attempting the worksheets. The older student interns in the community have volunteered to coach the children who are staying near their homes and also check up on them time to time. In some cases the children themselves are sending verbal updates with the teachers every day on their academic progress. Needless to say the teachers and the community are both working hard to uphold the children's education in a seamless process. Some of the parents are trying their best to engage the children in extra curriculums like cooking and art.

## Health and Nutrition

Ashraya has been taking care of the communities health and nutrition needs to the best of its capabilities. Ashraya's nutrition program aims towards providing 3 healthy meals to children every day to substitute their nutrition needs. Since the conception of the program we have aimed to raise the BMI and hemoglobin levels of children most of them who are malnourished. At the outbreak of the pandemic, breakfast and lunch was being delivered to the in-need houses whose livelihoods have been adversely affected due to social distancing. We were trying to monitor the health situation by the community to its best effect. As of two days ago we decided to provide access to nutrition and health services more intensively, given the escalation of the situation. Since the families in the community are unable to sustain their livelihoods at this moment we have procured and distributed ration to all our families of intervention in the community. The ration consists of rice, wheat, sugar, oil and tea. These basic rations are for a month and we are currently trying to raise sponsorship for all these families. Apart from this we also are supplying medicines and assisting the community with medical consultations to take all possible precautions during this sensitive time. The cost of nutritional and medical sponsorship for a family is **Rs 4900 a month**. We have a total of **109** families for which the entire cost of sponsorship is **Rs 534000**.

**Food Ration(Rice + Wheat + Pulses + Oil + Sugar + Tea) - Rs 3000/family**

**Medicines(Cough, Cold, Fever) + Medical Consultation - Rs 1900/family**

**Total Sponsorship Amount\*109 Families = Rs 534000**

## Conclusion

In the near future we are attempting to do teacher trainings virtually and make video lessons to engage the children. We are trying to engage volunteers who can work from home for this reason by the coming week. Ashraya is also attempting to raise funds for the community needs during this time as we are currently in the first phase of sponsorship for food and medicines. We need as much as aid we can garner to help our communities through this crisis and welcome supporting hands. In these trying times Ashraya focusses on reaching out to the most vulnerable amongst us and providing them with the best resources available, to ensure normalcy.