

COVID-19 WEEKLY REPORT

WEEK 1

IMPACT NUMBERS

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Content	Impact Numbers
Total Calls	542
Total Messages	31871
Total Dry Food kits distributed	400
SHG Support Families (Covid19 awareness)	150
Total mask production	50000
Employment through IVillage	300
Quarantine @PPES Quarantine centre	228

TOTAL TO DATE	
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Our COVID relief work spans across 120 villages and a population of 1,50,000, with a dry ration kit distribution to 4500 people and over 20000 Kgs of food distributed till date.

Learning the ropes



Founded in the year 2000, Pardada Pardadi Educational Society (PPES) has been working for holistic rural development through social and economic empowerment of women and girls in Western Uttar Pradesh. PPES provides free education, job opportunities, healthcare, and livelihood enhancement for girls and women from the marginalized sections of society and enables them to break out of the cycle of poverty.

The outbreak of the Coronavirus epidemic has affected the entire world. The consequential lockdown has led to the closing down of all the educational institutes with India being no exception. The situation has required that schools and universities have had to adapt their practices and utilise modern technology to deliver education in the best possible way. They are maximising the potential of E-learning however this cannot replace the quality that face to face classroom teaching provides. This has had a massively disruptive impact on the student's ability to learn, to study and take exams and progress in their education. This pandemic all though not selective has a greater impact on the rural schools than it does on their counterparts in the urban cities.

Despite all the efforts, access to IT hardware and establishing connectivity remains the largest hurdle to negotiate in trying to deliver E-learning to the rural school children This is due to the dearth of telecommunication infrastructure in rural villages. The girls staying in these areas already have to grapple with many patriarchal stereotypes even when there is no COVID-19 and the struggle for them to be allowed to go to school is real. They face such obstacles as menstruation taboos, freedom of movement, sexual violence, early marriage, and serious health risks. It seems that lack of access to basic technology is adding insult to their injuries.

From an organizational point of view, the challenge remains gargantuan. Even after the lockdown gets lifted and life can resume as normal, the process of rehabilitating students back into the formal education system will itself present a difficult predicament. There is a real risk that some of our students will drop out due to the peer pressure from within their villages or that it seems hopeless and that they won't be able to achieve due to the break enforced upon them

However, looking straight into the eye of adversity the entire team of PPES has sprung into action to cumulatively tackle the adverse situation that has arrived because of the pandemic. Anjali a teacher and an alumna of PPES said: *“I love to teach online, although I am facing a lot of problems while teaching online, because the children do not have their phones and do not even have enough data packs, but I keep on switching to different platforms (WhatsApp to zoom to call) to help my girls”*.

Apart from constantly evolving and developing new innovative strategies to ensure the continuity of our students' education and improving connectivity, the organization is also actively engaging with community endeavours. One of the major steps undertaken in this direction during this lockdown has been the conversion of the school into a quarantine centre for 150 patients by working with the health services of the UP Government.

A hotline and an SMS service has also been started by PPES to disseminate pertinent information and to provide free consultation to the rural population on issues arising due to the lockdown. Issues include food requirements, medical attention, domestic violence, income-generating opportunities, and relief assistance. We reached out to our graduates and asked for their support, to give their time and we had a massive response and now we have 10 PPES graduates manning these services.

This is further supplemented by the distribution of dry rations to the most affected families in the community. One of the most significant undertakings of the organization has been the production of face masks. iVillage, the economic empowerment wing of PPES has come up with an innovative strategy of getting these masks made by self-help group women.

The organization is committed to face and overcome these adverse times with a combination of innovation, empathy, and effective execution. The ethos of the organization was articulated by Mrs Renuka, the CEO of PPES, as *“Let us be very sensitive to the needs of the most vulnerable so that they are not left out, we should ensure that with compassion, love, care, and sensitivity, we can rebuild, restart and strengthen society”*

She is the foundation on which the organisation is built upon and she continues to provide inspiration, motivation and direction to the whole team.

She epitomises the values of the organisation and through her leadership we know that the efforts and undertakings of the organisation will see us through this pandemic. With the hope that we emerge from this situation as a stronger team and a better society than we were before we went in.