

Spirits to Fly

Youth initiative during covid



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RESPONSE TO COVID -19

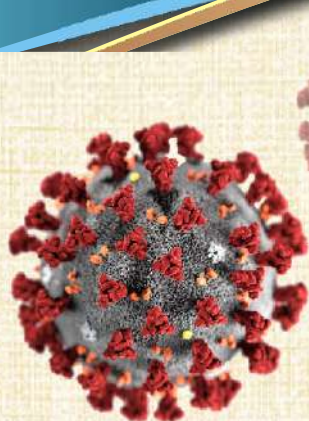
Covid -19 has lead the world to a standstill and adversely effected lives and livelihoods across the country. The Pandemic is a global disaster and have made mankind a puppet in the hands of the nature. The Pandemic has impacted the rural population in two ways i.e. loss of job and influx of migrants from metros. Covid has crashed the whole economy which adversely impacted the countrymen in many ways. This situation has forced every human being to come forward and extend support to humanity.

During this unprecedented moment PACE joined hands with its Partners and reached to the community who were in distress and facing lots of challenges. PACE developed a strategy to support the most vulnerable and deprived section involving the Village Headman and other eminent personals. PACE has association with the community for a longer period and presence of Youth Groups and Volunteers in the operational area supported in smooth execution of the charity work.

PACE along with its Partners i.e. **Purvanchal Gramin Sewa Sansthan (PGSS) in Gorakhpur and Human Welfare Association (HWA) in Varanasi** endeavored tirelessly to support the community. They worked very closely with the Government officials and villagers and facilitated distribution of dry ration, supplementary nutrition and other essentials. PACE and its Partners also worked on awareness generation among the community on Covid19. PACE worked relentlessly and organized virtual training for the field staff and the functionaries for a better impact of their efforts in the field. The Team also encouraged its staff to counsel the villagers especially who have lost their jobs and passing through mental distress which resulted in domestic violence against the women and children. Migrant workers were also passing through mental distress as they were staying in the isolation centers and totally dependent on charity and government support and had no means of livelihood. PACE was able to sustain the most vulnerable and underprivileged section in the village who were the worst hit by the pandemic. This noble act of PACE and its partners has touched the hearts of the villagers as well as migrant workers who were benefitted with the timely support of PACE.

PACE would like to extend its gratitude to the Youths, Pradhan and other influential persons of the village, without whose support, all these would not have been possible. PACE also would like to thank the Government officials, who extended their full support to the team in accessing every possible Govt. schemes to the villagers. PACE is also very thankful to **TDH, Delhi and DACHSER, Germany** for their timely support and guidance, without these supports, it would not have been possible to show better impact of their efforts in the field.

Rajvinder Kaur,
Secretary, PACE



Interventions during COVID-19

A Brief:

On March- 24th, country wide lockdown was imposed. Consequently all economic activities came to standstill and adversely affected entire population, especially the unorganized sector. Due to lockdown millions of countrymen confined themselves in their homes. Many people lost their livelihood and faced starvation, Educational institutions closed down, paralyzing education system. Due to this large number of people were suffering from anxiety and depression, which resulted in increase in case of domestic violence against women and children.

At this crucial juncture PACE and its Partners called for a collective action for those who are in need and pain. As expected “Youth Groups” came into action to deal with the pandemic and protect the villagers. In the process they faced many challenges as no one in the Youth Group was aware about the guidelines and protocols of the Covid-19. PACE organized virtual training on Covid-19 to orient them about the ways and means of protection from the pandemic as well as counseling skills to pacify the villagers. They were demonstrated the correct ways of use of Mask, steps of hand washing, and symptom of Corona etc. so that they can create awareness and disseminate correct information to the villagers. Although, the young volunteers were enthusiastic, but at the same time they were afraid of being infected by corona.

Despite of all challengers, Youth members came forward as a responsible member of the society during this crisis, united themselves and demonstrated solidarity to combat with this menace. They realized that as a young member of the society, they can contribute a lot by assisting the elderly members of the community, counter rumor and fake news by disseminating correct information, coordinating with the Government officials and awareness generation among the villagers.

Youth members and SHG members helped migrant families in quarantine centers in different ways. They ensured availability of food, safe drinking water and medicines for the

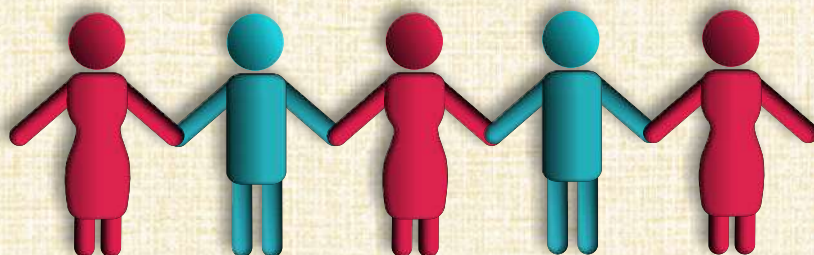
migrants. They also monitored the sanitation facilities for them as well as cleanliness of the isolation center. Youth Group facilitated issuance of Ration cards and dry ration to the needy families. Also they have facilitated the migrant workers in getting job under MNREGA. Migrants were also provided and stitched mask, sanitizer and soap etc. in the project area i.e. 40 villages of four districts Sitapur, Mirzapur, Varanasi and Gorakhpur.

With the support of TDH-Delhi and Dachser- Germany, PACE along with its partners (Purvanchal Gramin Sewa Sansthan, (PGSS)- Gorakhpur and Human Welfare Association (HWA)Varanasi conducted a survey in 4 districts- Sitapur, Mirzapur, Gorakhpur and Varanasi, where youth volunteers were engaged in collection of information to develop plan for carrying out relief work for the villagers severely affected by COVID-19.

After collection of information, the youth members identified the adversely effected and the need most families requiring immediate support. Youth members coordinated with the government officials and facilitated supply of dry ration and food to the effected families and ensured distribution of relief packages.

So far, PACE along with its partners has reached out to more than 2500 most effected personals in their intervention area. They have also identified 500 small children's, who comes under category of MAM/SAM and distributed Nutritional Kits i.e. "Suposhan Kits" to the children for three months to 5 years with active involvement of Anganwadi workers. The Youth Groups along with AWW and ANM followed up with the mothers of these children and counseled them to take proper care of their babies. They also keep a track of the babies on regular basis to monitor the improvement in their growth with active involvement of ASHA and Anganwadi workers.

During Covid-19, PACE's major focus was on awareness generation among the community regarding Covid-19 and protecting the families from starvation by providing nutritious food and healthy food. In these villages SHG members and Youths have developed Kitchen gardens under a different project. They have developed more than 500 kitchen gardens in which they grow leafy vegetables, spinach, cabbage, cauliflower, lady finger, tomato, potato, etc. which fulfill the nutrient needs of the family. During lock down migrant workers were





ADDRESS DIFFERENT SOCIAL ISSUES

Engaged youths to identify & address gender based violence & promote using help lines.

Nutritional Kits for Children

Nutritional Kit to ensure their good health during and post lock down.



LEARNING PLATFORM- FOR YOUTH & ADOLESCENT

Virtual Trainings & online sessions with youth groups on COVID-19, its symptoms, precautions, over co-creating a safe space and generating hopes by reestablishing support.

Counselling with Youth Groups by helping them cope up with family constraints & continuing studies with PACE.



FOOD SECURITY IMMEDIATE RELIEF KITS

Relief kits:

Dry Ration kits, Vegetables And Sanitation kits.

Essential kits for migrants:

Dry snacks, water, fruits & other supplements to ensure their good health amid travel.

provided food but green vegetables was absent in this, only dry ration was distributed. These vegetable gardens proved very important as it fulfilled the nutritive needs of the migrant labours, pregnant and lactating mothers, women and children as they get only dry ration kits from panchayats and other agencies.

PACE oriented the field staff and instructed them to adhere to the protocols and guidelines issued by the Government to protect from the infection. The Guideline and protocols were also disseminated among the villagers and were suggested to adhere the guidelines for protection from COVID.

Throughout this pandemic, youths have sometimes been accused of spreading the virus and lacking respect for quarantine and sanitation procedures. However, this initiative has shined a light on the fact that youths are among those who are most active in responding to the pandemic and helping their communities remain safe and develop coping strategies. Young people, such as Shubham, Fatima, Komal, Akansha, Sneha, Pawan from Sitapur, Amit, Babli, Omika, Prabhat, Nita from Varanasi and Aiysha, Safia, Goldy and Ankit from Gorakhpur demonstrated the power of youth engagement in unprecedented times of unexpected crisis through the development of major initiatives.

COORDINATION WITH DIFFERENT STAKEHOLDERS:

Support to Government efforts:

During the lockdown many migrants were facing problems as they were not aware about the benefits of various Government schemes. In this crisis Youth members came forward and coordinated with the Government officials and supported in getting the benefits e.g. enrollment of families for rations, shelter and food in quarantine centers, job cards for job under MNREGA etc.

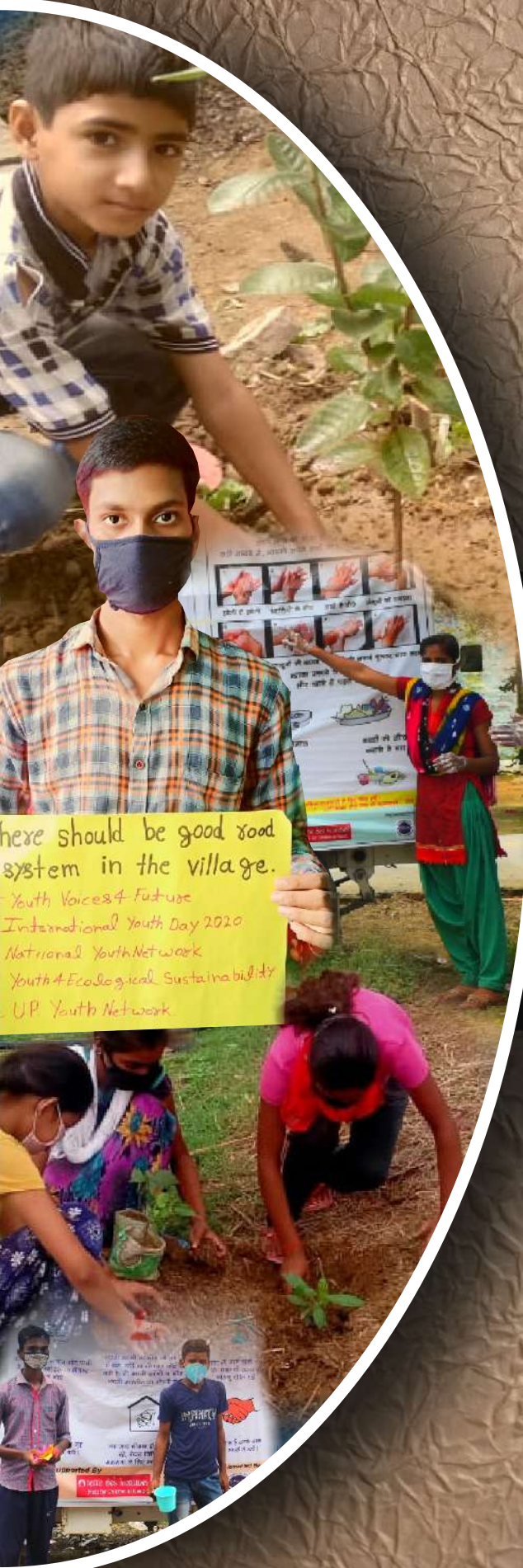
They are **interacting with decision makers**, providing credible information and evidence-backed thought leadership, advice, and developing standard guidelines on gender dimensions of pandemic preparedness, response, and recovery. They highlight how girls and women are being effected by COVID-19 and what measures are needed to address in the short term and long term implications on girls and women.

Stakeholder Engagement:

Youth Groups met with the ASHA, ANM, Aganwadis, GramPradhan, BDO,DPO, People's representatives and Help line no's like child line 1098 and 181, to also bring their focus on Migrant labours, Domestic violenceand ensuring women and child safety.

Community led social initiatives:

Community led social initiatives started by our Youth Members to empower the poor and marginal community.



**OUR
CORONA WARRIORS:
INITIATIVES OF YOUTHS**
Case Studies-Mirzapur

**Partner Organisation
Participatory Action For
Community Empowerment
(PACE)**

Case Study--01

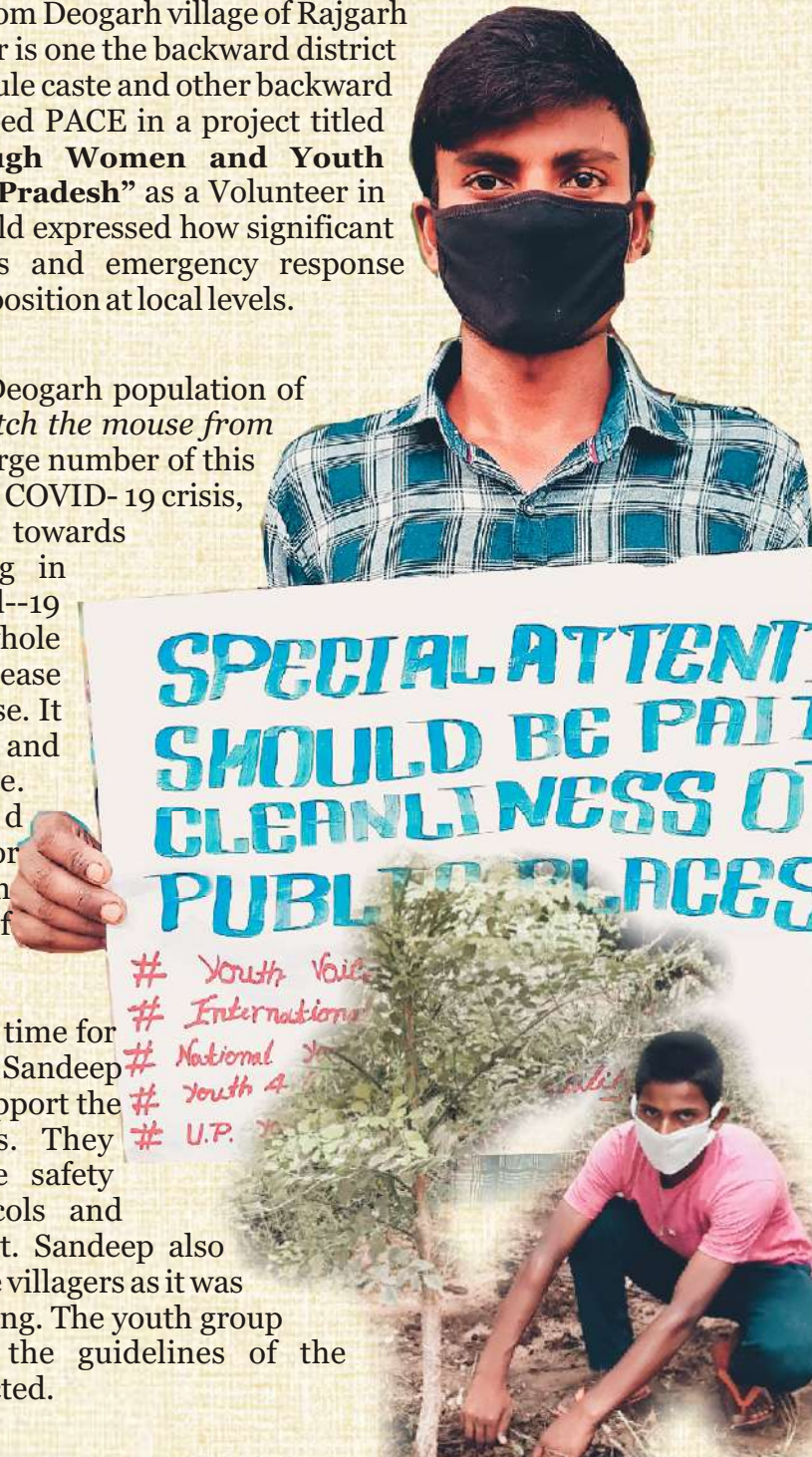
Corona Warrior:

Sandeep Kumar is a Corona Warrior from Deogarh village of Rajgarh block from Mirzapur district. Mirzapur is one the backward district of UP and is mostly inhabited by Schedule caste and other backward class. Sandeep is a graduate who joined PACE in a project titled “Sustainable Development through Women and Youth Organisations in the State of Uttar Pradesh” as a Volunteer in Mirzapur District. Sandeep 23 years old expressed how significant youth participation in preparedness and emergency response actions in leveraging youth status and position at local levels.

Interventions under Covid19:

Sandeep narrates that in his village Deogarh population of Mushar caste (*people of this caste catch the mouse from the field and eat*) is very high and a large number of this community lives in this village. During COVID- 19 crisis, Sandeep showed great commitment towards serving community by participating in many voluntary actions. When Covid--19 started spreading in our village whole community was scared of this fatal disease as people had no idea about the disease. It scared the people and very soon myths and rumors spread among the village. Sandeep says: “I organized entertainment and play activities for children, help them to break boredom and mitigate psychological stress of home routine”.

This was very critical and challenging time for all villagers but at this crucial juncture Sandeep led the youth group and decided to support the community by creating awareness. They oriented the community about the safety measures and disseminated protocols and guidelines issued by the Government. Sandeep also organized individual meetings with the villagers as it was unsafe to organize a community meeting. The youth group suggested the villagers to follow the guidelines of the Government to keep themselves protected.



In our village, population of Mushar community is comparatively high as compared to others and are the most vulnerable as they mostly depend upon mouse found in the field for food. During lockdown they were facing starvation as they were unable to come out of their houses. Sandeep and other Youth facilitated identification of people belonging to this community and were given preference in getting the benefits of schemes of the Government. In the process, 17 families of these communities were identified who had no ration card. Sandeep and his group members coordinated with the Nodal officer and facilitated issuance of ration card for these 17 families and now all are getting food from the Government. During distribution of ration, Sandeep again took charge of the situation and advised people to follow the protocol and guidelines while collecting food grains from the ration shop. Youth Group instructed villagers to put on mask and follow social distance and wash their hands with soap for minimum 20 seconds. Sandeep said that, “I reached our people who are in quarantine. I raise awareness of my community by leading awareness campaigns and distributing leaflets about preventive measures to contain the spread of virus through social media. I also share correct and up-to-date information on how people can combat the virus”. Offering youth space to act during crisis times aims to enhance their leadership and personal skills. Sandeep feels this change saying: “I am now more courageous to express my opinion and have the capacity to discuss and practice pressure building on decision makers to give youth more space in response actions during emergencies. Youth needs to be engaged in orienting people who need help as well as the most suitable mechanisms for interventions. This crisis has strengthened my capacity and connected me with community organizations to mobilize support for my community”.



Corona Warrior:

Savitri Kumari is a Corona Warrior from Tenduakala village of Rajgarh block of Mirzapur district. She is a graduate. She belongs to Lohar (Blacksmith) community who joined PACE in a project titled “**Sustainable Development through Women and Youth Organisations in the State of Uttar Pradesh**” as a youth volunteer. Savitri played a very important role while her village, like others, faced the wrath of Covid-19 and there was threat of spreading of pandemic in her village.

Interventions under Covid--19:

At this crucial juncture Savitri organized the villagers and decided to protect everyone from this hazardous disease. Savitri narrates that, realizing the seriousness of the disease we decided to protect the villagers from this pandemic and formed a team under the guidance of the Pradhan. Savitri along with her Youth Group developed a plan to aware the people regarding protocols and guidelines to be followed to remain protected from infection. ***Savitri continued: “Reached our people who are in quarantine, we organized awareness campaigns and distributing leaflets about preventive measures to my community to contain the spread of virus through social media. I also share correct and up-to-date information on how people can combat the virus”.***

Savitri along with other youths contacted people and informed them about the correct way of hand washing i.e. wash hands with soap for at least 20 seconds and maintain social distance. People were also



advised to avoid hand shake and not to touch their face often as well as cover their face while stepping out of their home. Youth Group initiated a campaign and made people aware on Covid-19 through miking. Youth Group also facilitated quarantine of migrant workers in the isolation centers to keep them safe. Savitri also mobilized the villagers and started a “Grain Bank” to support the most vulnerable people during the lockdown period by which 7 most vulnerable families were provided food during the lockdown.

Distribution of Suposhan Kit:

Since Aganwadi Centers was closed during lockdown and supplementary nutrition was not being distributed. As a result, condition of the malnourished children deteriorated. In these circumstances Savitri and other Youth Group members coordinated with the District Program Officer and facilitated distribution of supplementary food. Youth Group also coordinated with AWW and ASHA and obtained the list of malnourished children and provided “Suposhan Kit” to keep the children healthy. These “Suposhan Kit” was supplied for three months after which Youth Group also done follow up with the parents of the children and counseled them to feed the baby properly to save them from malnutrition.

The whole village appreciated the support of Savitri and youth group at this crucial juncture and one of the members of the most vulnerable family expressed their gratitude in *the following words* “**Your humanitarian act is praiseworthy at this crucial time of pandemic.**” *We express our sincere thanks to the TDH Delhi and DACHSER, Germany. The food packets provided to the malnourished children and labours is of great help and will help in keeping their health sound and boost up their immunity.*”



Corona Warrior:

Sonali Singh is a Corona Warrior from Bargawan village of Rajgarh block from Mirzapur district. She is a graduate and belongs to Patel community. Sonali, who is only 18 years, is an active Youth Group Member.

Activities under Covid19:

Sonali says that her village Bargawan is a small village and is not different from other villages of the district which are mainly dependent on agriculture. During this pandemic our village fell under the clutches of the pandemic. Sonali led the youth group of the village and all villagers decided to protect the community from this lethal disease by following the protocols and guideline of covid-19 and keep themselves protected.

Support to Migrants:

Sonali and her Youth Group supported the community as the village was flooded with the migrants. It became priority of the Youth Group to protect them from infection as well as keep the migrants safe. First of all, they were not allowed to enter in the village and were quarantined in the isolation centers.

Sonali played a very important role in awareness generation among the community regarding the safety measures of Covid-19 e.g. maintain social distance and wearing mask when they go outside the house and in the crowd. They were also suggested to wash their hands with soap at regular interval to keep the infection away. Sonali and Youth members coordinated with the Health department and also facilitated rapid test of Covid patients.

Sonali, from raising the issue of crisis on menstrual hygiene products to bringing light and counselling with pregnant women, she has been active throughout. She distributed cotton masks in her community to ensure their safety. Currently, she is running a drive for education for girls amid lockdown.



Corona Warrior:

Vivek Kumar is one of our Corona Warrior from Bargawan village of Rajgarh block from Mirzapur district belongs to Potter community. Vivek is only 18 years and is perusing Intermediate. He became a volunteer of Youth Group being facilitated by PACE in a project titled “Sustainable Development through Women and Youth Organisations in the State of Uttar Pradesh”.

Interventions under Covid19:

Vivek says that in our village Corona approached in mid-April when migrants started flooding. Due to corona villagers who were working in metros returned to their native village owing to loss of job and livelihood. At this crucial juncture Vivek formed a group of youngsters under the guidance of the Pradhan and other eminent persons. The group members decided to protect the villagers by stopping the spread of virus by prohibiting its entry. First of all, they put barricade at the entry of the village and suggested all immigrants to isolation in the quarantine center. At the same time, it was also decided to make aware the villagers from this pandemic by adhering to the protocols and guidelines of the Government. Youth Group sensitized the villagers regarding the protocols issued by the Government regarding covid-19. They were instructed to follow the social distance, hand washing and put on mask while stepping out of home.

Support to Migrants:

Vivek also supported the 17 migrant families by facilitating issuance of ration card for them. He along with other group members coordinated with the Nodal officer along with all relevant documents, mandatory for issuance of ration cards. Through the advocacy and coordination of Vivek and other youths, ration cards were issued to 38 migrant families and were provided food and dry ration by the Government.

Activities under MNREGA:

After the lockdown period, Vivek and his youth group requested the village president- Pradhan to enroll the migrants in MNREGA and involve them in construction of drainage, digging of pond, road construction, etc. to earn money. Under



MNREGA 105 migrant workers got job. During the job youths also supervised the work and advised people to adhere to the norms of social distancing and maintain minimum distance to prohibit spread of the virus among the workers.

Access to education

Other initiatives focused more on the theme of education. As Rohit (19 years) explains, *“Educational disruption has effected learners. So I taught students and our youth group members on Whats App through voice recordings and sharing notes as text messages. This made it cheaper to access information as access to strong internet speed is expensive.”* Komal (18) and Anup (18) similarly provided free lessons to primary and secondary students in her driveway.

They have developed more than 5 Kitchen gardens under a different project in which they grew green vegetables, spinach, cabbage, cauliflower, lady finger, tomato, potato, etc. which fulfilled the nutrient needs of the family as during lockdown only dry ration was provided to migrant workers and in absence of green vegetables, having more nutrition value, they were not getting proper nutrition, especially pregnant and lactating mothers, women & children. The dry ration kits were provided by Panchayats and other agencies/ NGO's.



Corona Warrior:

Amit Kumar (21) is a Corona Warrior from Tenduakala village of Rajgarh block from Mirzapur district belongs to Cobbler (Chamar- SC) community. He joined PACE in a project titled “Development of Women and Youth program” as a youth volunteer.

Activities under Covid--19:

Amit narrates the story of Covid-19 and says when fright of Covid-19 started spreading in our village we were very afraid as nobody had idea about the treatment of this deadly disease. Although, till May no cases were reported from our village but the risk increased with the arrival of migrant workers and by the end of April migrant workers started returning to the village due to loss of jobs and lack of livelihood.

During this challenging time Amit took charge and decided to protect the villagers and formed a team of Youths to execute its plan. First of all, he created awareness among their peers on how to protect themselves and their families during the pandemic and what actions can be taken to contain the spread of the disease by adopting good infection prevention and control practices. He asked the Youth members to make home visit and aware the villagers about the protocols and guidelines issued by the Government with regard to Covid-19. The youth team demonstrated the villager's steps of hand washing and advised them to wash hands and not to touch the face and nose. They were also asked to put on mask and maintain social distance whenever they step outside their home.

Support to Migrants:

This was one of the biggest threats as migrants were coming from the metros and chance of infection was very high. Under these circumstances Youth Group decided to stop entry of the migrants in the village and closed all entries of the village by putting barricade. When the migrants reached village they were suggested to take shelter in the isolation centers. The Youth Group also coordinated with the Nodal officers and ensured supply of food for migrant families.

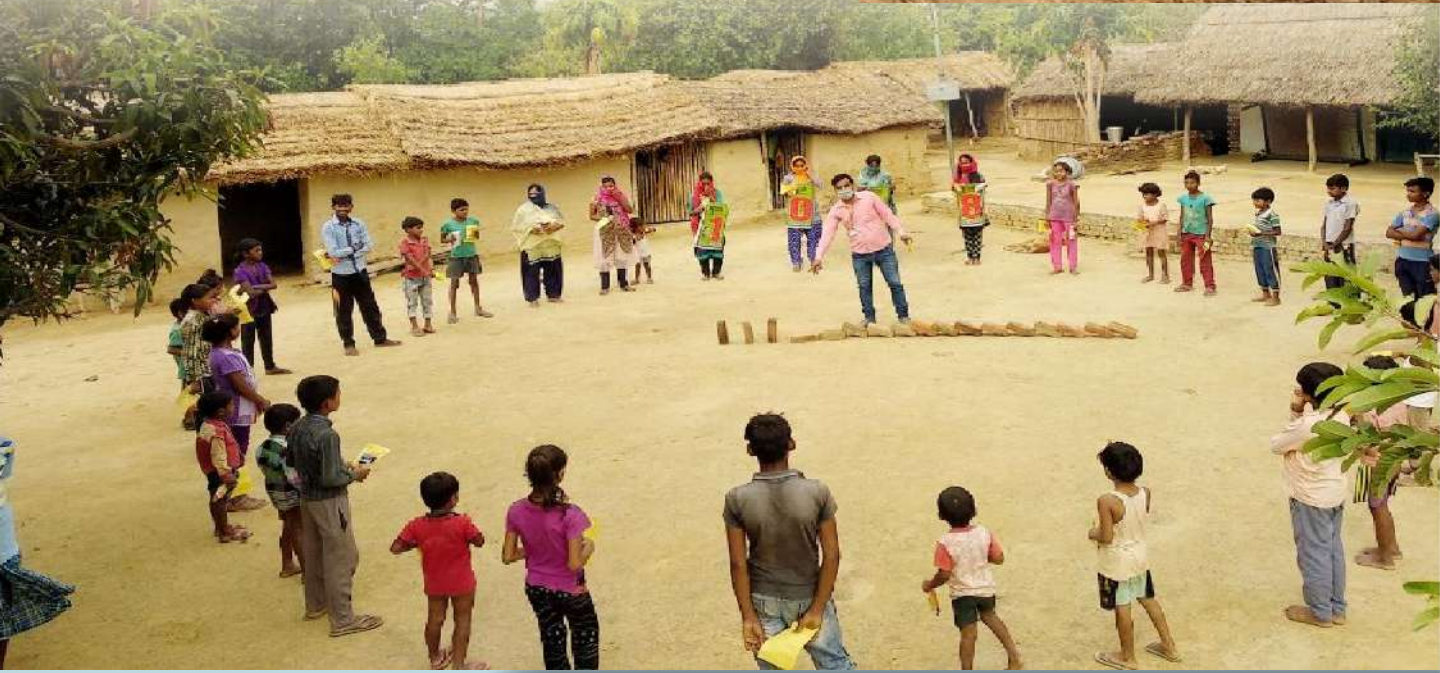
Distribution of “Suposhan Kit”:

The most effected group from this lockdown was the pregnant women and malnourished children as AWC were closed and food was not being distributed. Realizing this condition Amit and his youth team coordinated with the AWW and



ASHA and informed that “Suposhan Kit” would be distributed to the SAM / MAM children to increase their immunity. The Team obtained list of SAM children and visited their home and provided “Suposhan Kit” for the baby for three months. They also counseled mothers of the baby to take care of their children and feed properly. AWW along with the Youth Group followed up all the children to monitor their health and growth.

Parents were delighted with the support and care provided by the Youth Group to the children during this pandemic and Kamla Devi, mother of a SAM children expressed her feelings in following words ***“We would have never been able to keep proper care of our malnourished child during this pandemic, but the Suposhan Kits distributed by the Youth Group and PACE sanstha, helped us a lot in maintaining their health. I would always be indebted to their charity.”***





**OUR
CORONA WARRIORS:
INITIATIVES OF YOUTHS**
Case Studies- Gorakhpur

**Partner Organisation -
Poorvanchal Gramin
Social Service
PGSS**

Corona Warrior:

Shiv shankar Yadav is a Corona Warrior from Dhusia village of Chargawan block of Gorakhpur district belongs to Yadav community. Presently, he is perusing BPD course from Gorakhpur. Shivshankar became a member of Purvanchal Gramin Sewa Sansthan (PGSS) a partner of PACE in a project titled **“Sustainable Development through Women and Youth Organisations in the State of Uttar Pradesh**

Activities under Covid19:

Shiv shankar narrates that Gorakhpur is one of the most backward districts of the state. Agriculture is the main occupation and generally people work in their own field as well as in others field as agricultural labor. People from this district have also migrated to big cities as well as neighboring country i.e. Nepal, in the search of livelihood.

When Covid-19 started spreading across the country, Gorakhpur also fell under the clutches of this deadly disease. Villagers of Dhusia decided to protect its inhabitants by prohibiting spread of infection among the villagers. In this situation Shivshankar a Youth leader formed a youth team under the guidance of Mrs. Indulata Devi, village President to protect the villagers from the pandemic. They decided to create awareness among them and initiated an awareness campaign to educate all inhabitants about the protocols and safety measures about Covid-19. Members of the team visited each household and explained about the ways of protection e.g. hand wash with soap, avoid touching nose and mouth, use of mask and maintain social distance.

He said, "Mrs. Indulata Devi, Pradhan, supported us and provided soap for 156 families and also distributed mask to 204 needy persons. She also engaged the women and girls in stitching of



mask to generate some money and support their families during this hour of need."

Support to migrants:

During lockdown period many migrant workers returned to their native village when Shivshankar and the team supported them. They facilitated shelter for the migrant families and suggested to take shelter at isolation center. They also facilitated food and dry ration as well as other benefits to the migrant families from the Government. Shiv shankar also coordinated with the Health Dept and facilitated corona test by the Health department.

After Lock down raising awareness among their peers on how to protect themselves and their families during the pandemic and what actions they can take to contain the spread of the disease, by adopting good infection prevention and control practices. After that they created awareness on Covid -19 through Rath Yatra and distributed pamphlets and sanitation kits to the villagers.

Distribution of Suposhan Kit:

Lockdown adversely effected the children and pregnant women as AWC were closed and children and Pregnant Women could not get supplementary nutrition. In these circumstances the team obtained list of malnourished children from AWW and PGSS distributed "Suposhan Kit" to the malnourished children for three months. They not only provided "Suposhan Kit" but also counsel their mother and advised to take care of the sick children. The team also followed up and monitored their health.

One of the member of the villager was so impressed with their support that he expressed his feelings in the following words ***"We are grateful to the Youth Group and PGSS who supported the needy villagers at this critical juncture. We were unaware about the Government processes and would have neverbeen able to get food and shelter from the Government. But owing to the efforts of Youth Group we are protected and safe today.***



Corona Warrior:

Aditya Yadav (21) is a Corona Warrior from Gazwa village of Chargawan block of Gorakhpur district who belongs to Yadav community and is currently studying in Intermediate.

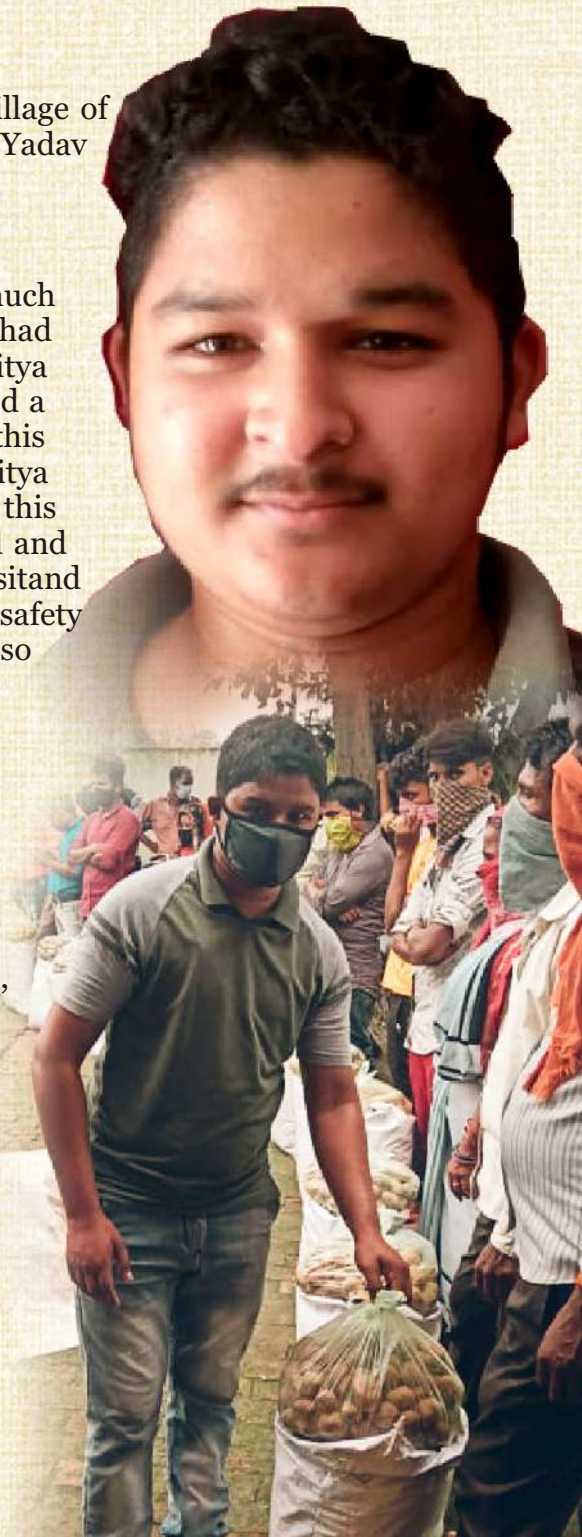
Activities under Covid19:

Aditya speaks that initially all villagers were very much scared with the news of Covid-19 as none of the villagers had heard about the disease. At this crucial period Aditya mobilized all members of the “Youth Club” and formed a Task Force to support villagers to stay protected from this fatal disease. The team under the leadership of Aditya worked round the clock to fight with the pandemic. In this noble work Ms. Nirmala Devi Pradhan also supported and guided them. The youth group made household visit and educated the family members about the protocols and safety measures with regard to Covid-19. Team members also explained about the expected behavior to protect from infection e.g. washing hands from soap and avoid touching nose and mouth. Villagers were also explained to put on mask and maintain required social distance in the crowd. The team also distributed soap to 46 families and hand stitched mask to 86 families.

Support to migrants:

During Corona period 26 migrant families from Delhi, Mumbai and Kerala returned their native place due to loss of job and keep themselves safe from infection. The team contacted these migrant families and advised them to quarantine in the isolation centers to stay protected from the pandemic. The team also coordinated with the district administration and facilitated distribution of food and dry ration for the migrant families. Aditya feels this change saying: “I am now more courageous to express my opinion and have the capacity to discuss and build pressure on decision makers to give youth more space in response actions during emergencies.”

With the dedicated and noble work of Aditya and other youth group members, villagers were very much



moved and appreciated the support of PGSS at this critical time.

“The team is really praiseworthy for the noble act of youth members at this critical time of pandemic. We express our sincere thanks to the authorities and field functionaries of the organization. Their involvement with migrant workers and coordination with the district administration and facilitated for distribution of food, ration cards and link them with other Govt Programmes and schemes.”-Mrs. Nirmala Devi, Gram Pradhan, Gazwa. Gorakhpur



Corona Warrior:

Reetu Yadav, (20) is a Corona Warrior from Hata Tola village of Chargawan block of Gorakhpur district, belongs to Yadav community and is currently studying in Intermediate.

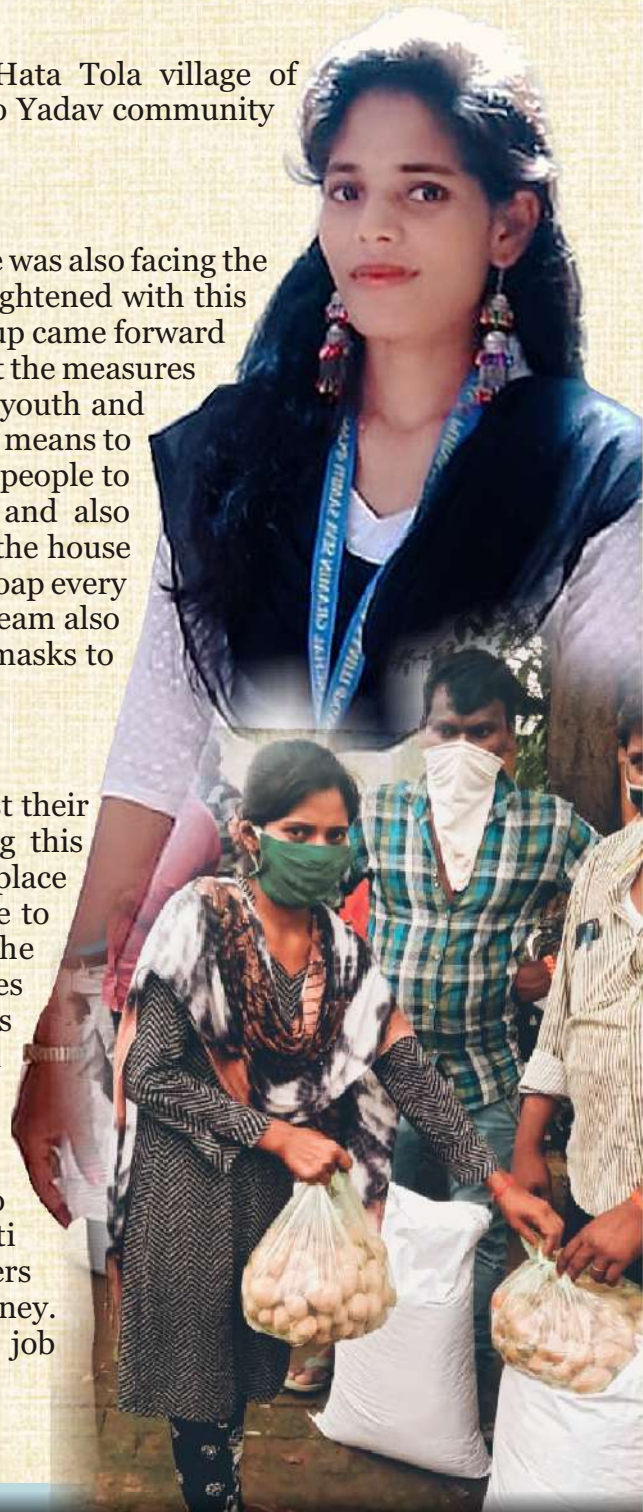
Activities under Covid19:

Reetu narrates that unlike other villages, our village was also facing the menace of Covid-19 and we all were very much frightened with this fatal disease. During this crucial period Youth Group came forward to support the villagers and make them aware about the measures of protection from the disease. They involved the youth and decided to make home visit to explain the ways and means to protect them from the disease. They explained the people to use mask whenever they go out of their home and also maintain social distance in crowded place. Inside the house also they were suggested to wash their hands with soap every hour as well as avoid touch of nose and eyes. The team also distributed soap to 65 families and hand stitched masks to 47 families for protection.

Support to migrants:

She said that, "Because of Corona many people lost their job and were facing livelihood challenges, during this period 39 migrant families returned to their native place from big cities like Delhi, Mumbai and Kerala due to loss of job and protect themselves from the pandemic." Youth Group contacted these families and suggested to quarantine in the isolation centers of the village. To support these families Youth Group facilitated distribution of ration to the migrant families through the Nodal officer and saved them from starvation.

Ritu Yadav who was leading the Youth Group also coordinated with Mr. Bhagwan Das Prajapati Pradhan and requested to enroll migrant workers under MNREGA and provide job to earn some money. The Pradhan engaged them in road construction job and thus earned Rs. 202/ daily as wages.



Distribution of Suposhan Kit:

Youth Group also supported the malnourished children as they were facing challenge of getting supplementary nutrition from AWC as all centers were closed down due to the lockdown. They distributed *Suposhan Kit* to all malnourished children for three months. After the distribution they also counseled the mothers of the children to feed them properly and take proper care of their children. Thus the children received food and they were saved from the menace of malnutrition.

One of the community member expressed her feelings on the following words: *We have no words to thank the Youth Group who provided us the Suposhan- Kit for the malnourished children, It helped us in proper feeding of our child. We have been able to improve the health of our kids. We will always be grateful to Youth Group.*



Corona Warrior:

Kumari Sandhya (22), is a Corona Warrior from HataTola village of Chargawan block of Gorakhpur district, belongs to Nishad community and is currently perusing her graduation.

Activities under Covid19:

Sandhya told that our village also faced the menace of Covid-19 and the villagers were very much afraid with this fatal disease. At this crucial juncture Youth Group decided to support the villagers and orient them about the preventive measures to be taken for protection from the disease. The youths decided to make home visit to orient the community about COVID -19 and its preventive measures to be taken. They insisted people to use mask whenever they go out of their home and also maintain social distance in crowded place. Inside the house also they were suggested to wash their hands with soap every hour as well as avoid touch of nose and eyes. The team also distributed soap and hand stitched masks to 69 families and hand stitched masks to 55 families for protection.

Support to migrants:

She said that, many people lost their job during this pandemic and were facing financial crisis. During this period the migrant families returned to their native place from metros and other cities to protect themselves from the pandemic."Youth Group met these families and suggested to quarantine themselves in the isolation centers of the village. To support these families Youth Group facilitated distribution of ration to the migrant families through the Nodal officer and saved them from starvation.

Sandhya also coordinated with Gram Pradhan in order to get migrant workers enrolled under MNREGA for generating some income. The Pradhan engaged them in road construction, land leveling etc. which fetched them the income of Rs. 202/- per day as daily wages.

Distribution of Suposhan Kit:

Youth Group also supported the malnourished children as they were facing challenge of getting supplementary nutrition from AWC as all centers were closed down due to the lockdown. They distributed *Suposhan Kit* to all malnourished children for three months. After the distribution they also counseled the mothers of the children to feed them properly and take proper care of their children. Thus the children received food and they were saved from the menace of malnutrition.

The community members thanked PGSS, TDH and Dachser for their valued support at this period of crisis.





**OUR
CORONA WARRIORS:
INITIATIVES OF YOUTHS**
Case Studies- Varanasi
Partner Organisation-
**Human Welfare
Association
HWA**

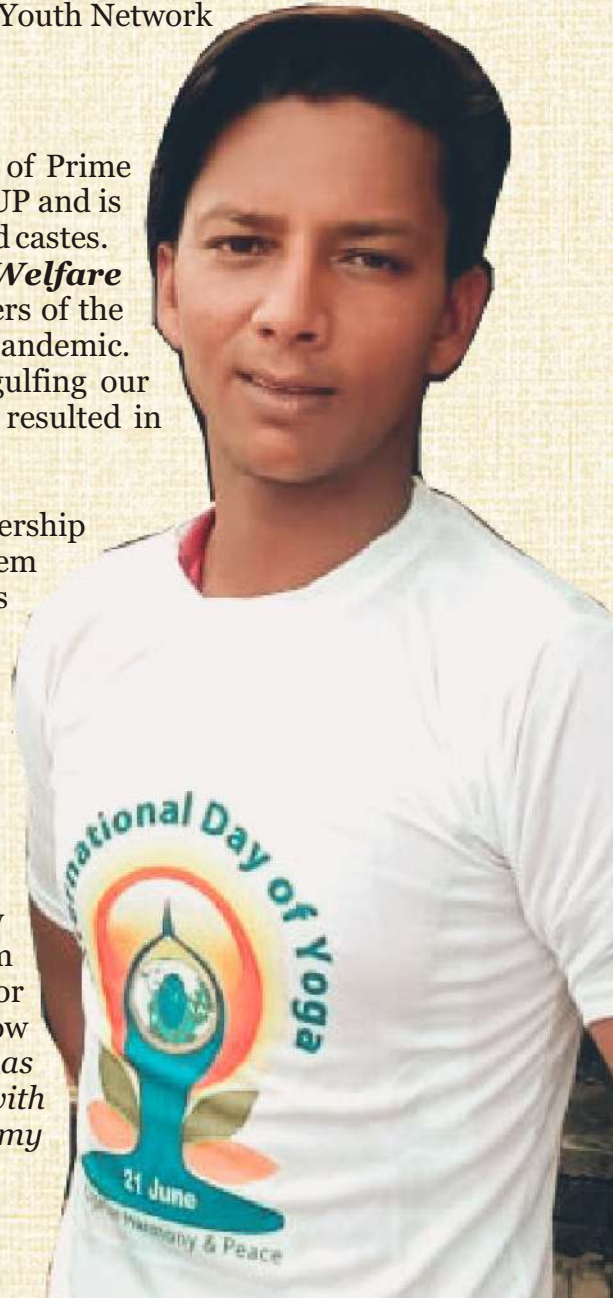
Corona Warrior:

Amit Pal is a Corona Warrior from Ukthi village of Chiraygaon block of Varanasi district. He joined **Human Welfare Association (HWA)** after completion of his Intermediate from Varanasi. Initially, he joined in a project aimed at “**Sustainable Development through Women and Youth Organisations in the State of Uttar Pradesh**” in capacity of a volunteer and today is a member of the Youth Network Program.

Activities under Covid19:

Varanasi is always in the news due to constituency of Prime Minister. Varanasi is one of the backward district of UP and is mostly inhabited by Schedule caste and other backward castes. Amit is very young and dynamic member of **Human Welfare Association**, a local NGO he mobilized the members of the “Youth Club” and supported his villagers during the pandemic. In the month of April fear of Covid-19 started engulfing our village. The villagers were scared of the disease. It resulted in spreading rumors and myths among the community.

During this turmoil a team was formed under the leadership of Amit to support the community and prevent them from the infection. One of the most challenging tasks during this crucial time was to prohibit spread of infection among the villagers. In this difficult time the villagers demonstrated solidarity with each other and vowed to support. At this crucial juncture, the team came forward and generated awareness in the community regarding the protocols and guidelines issued by the Government. In the process Youth Group conducted home visits and aware them about the symptoms of Covid-19 and advised them to follow the guidelines and protect from the disease. The team suggested the villagers to hand wash with soap for minimum 20 seconds and put on mask and follow social distance. He said that, “ *This crisis has strengthened my character and connected me with community organizations to mobilize support for my community*”.



Support to migrants:

Managing the risk of migrants was another major challenge during the pandemic. Owing to lockdown migrants from metros and bigger cities returned to their native village. The team coordinated with the nodal officer and facilitated food and shelter to the migrant families. They were suggested to take shelter at quarantine center and spread of infection was minimized. HWA provided 2400 food packets to the villagers of Shivdashon, Dhobhin and Bhagtuwon during the lockdown period. In Ukuthi and Bhidwan villages 73 families were provided ration out of which 28 widows, 10 physically challenged and 35 vulnerable families were benefitted. When the ration was handed over to these families they were very grateful and elated as it saved them from starvation.



Distribution of Suposhan Kit:

During Covid-19, many families suffered from scarcity of food but the worst effected were pregnant women and children. During lockdown AWC were closed and children and PW were not getting ration. Realizing the sensitivity, the team members obtained list of malnourished children from AWW and distributed “Suposhan Kit” to the identified malnourished children for three months. The team not only provided “Suposhan Kit” but also counseled their mothers and suggested to take care of the sick children. The team also followed up with the children and monitored their health.

One of the women of the migrant family who was benefitted from the campaign of PACE, expressed her feelings in the following words ***“We are speechless with the kind of humanity and support the youth group has extended to us. We all are very much thankful to them for their support during the pandemic. We were in trouble but just because of the Youth Group we get food and shelter.”***



Corona Warrior:

Jitendra Kumar a Corona Warrior from Jalhupur village of Chiraygaon block of Varanasi district. Jitendra joined **Human Welfare Association (HWA)** after completion of his post-graduation from Varanasi.

Activities under Covid--19:

Jitendra says that, " in the mid-April Covid started knocking doors of our village and all residents were scared with this deadly disease." During this challenging time Jitendra organized the members of the Youth Club and formed a team to help the villagers. Jitendra and team started pondering to find out ways to stay protected from Covid-19. In the process they decided to make the community aware about this disease and safety measures to be taken. The team suggested the villagers to drink Kadha to boost their immunity and also put mask in case they step out of their home. During the lockdown many families were facing problem of lack of food and ration. To support these vulnerable families, the team identified 46 families in which 9 families were from Dharkar community, 3 Mushahar and 14 widow led families. These families were left with no food and were on the verge of starvation, the team approached them and provided rice, wheat, lentils, oils etc. This support by Human Welfare Association proved a boon for them and these families were protected from starvation.

Domestic violence and Child protection:

Covid-19 accompanies many challenges e.g. unemployment, financial scarcity, loosing of livelihood, loneliness, separation from families etc. Many people lost their job which resulted in financial crisis leading to starvation. These issues aggravated resulting in conflict in the family which adversely effected the women and children. Realizing this issue, the team conducted virtual training for the functionaries of HWA on counseling techniques and build their capacity on dealing with this complicated issue. These issues effected the families especially women and children who suffered from this challenge. In this hour of need Jitendra and





team came forward and counseled the effected families.

Support to migrants:

One of the major challenges during this pandemic was to protect the villagers from infection due to influx of migrants who had returned from metros to their native village. Villagers were suspicious about the migrant workers as it was perceived that migrant workers may carry infection. In these circumstances the team came forward and requested the migrant families to stay in the isolation centers. The team also coordinated with the Nodal officers and provided food and ration to these families. The team also facilitated issuance of ration card to 82 families so that they are entitled to get ration under the PDS scheme of the Government.

Support in MNREGA:

The team coordinated with the Pradhan and requested him to enroll these migrant workers so that they may get work and support their families. With the prompt action of the Pradhan many migrant persons were provided job card and were provided job as well.

To express her gratitude to the members of the HWA one of the lady of migrant families commented: *“Members of HWA came to us as an angel by whose efforts all our problems disappeared. We would not be able to return to their unconditional support. We all are safe now and availing the benefits of Government schemes.”*



Corona Warrior:

Sudhir a Corona Warrior from Amouli village of Chiraygaon block of Varanasi district who joined **Human Welfare Association (HWA)** after completing his Intermediate from Varanasi. He started his career in the capacity of a volunteer and today is a member of the Youth Network Program. Sudhir is very active member and always ready to support the villagers in all kinds of problems under the banner of HWA.

Activities under Covid19:

Sudhir is an active youth who is always ready to support the villagers. During challenging time of Covid-19 Sudhir formed a team comprising of members of the Youth Club to tackle this menace. But members of the team were not capacitated on the symptoms of Covid-19 Sensing it PACE conducted a virtual training for the team members to build their understanding on Novel Covid-19. Afterwards the team members made home visits and sensitized villagers on the protocol and guideline issued by the govt. with regard to Covid-19. Members advised the villagers to adhere to the protocols and maintain social, distance and put on mask whenever they go out. They were also asked to use Kadha to improve their immunity.

The team provided dry ration to the most needy and vulnerable families in this hour of need. In the process 96 needy families were identified by the team out of which 10 physically challenged, 16 widow led family and 70 were the poorest families.

Support to migrants:

Many migrants returned to their native village owing to loss of job and livelihood during lockdown. One of the major challenges during the pandemic was to protect the villagers from the infection due to heavy inflow of migrants. Villagers were suspicious about the migrant workers as it was perceived that migrant families may





carry infection and spread it. In these circumstances the team came forward and suggested them to stay in the quarantine centers. The team supported the migrants and provided

shelter and at the same time coordinated with the Nodal officers and provisioned for their food and dry ration. The team also facilitated in issuance of ration card to 82 families so that they may be entitled to get ration.

Support in MNREGA:

Sudhir and his team also supported the migrant families by providing job under MNREGA. They requested the Pradhan to provide job to the effected families. Pradhan supported and issued job card to 25 families and allotted them job. It helped them to earn money and support their families.

Domestic violence and Child protection:

During Covid-19 various people experienced difficult time as were locked down inside their home for a long period which effected their mental condition. Many people lost their job and facing financial crunch in this condition conflict and tension occurred in the family which adversely effected women and children. Due to domestic violence against women and children functionaries of HWA faced new challenge as they were not capacitated to tackle these kind of issue. To build capacity of the field staff of Human Welfare Association, PACE conducted a virtual training on counseling and communication techniques as well to tackle this complicated problem.

Distribution of Suposhan Kit:

In our village many children and pregnant women were facing challenge of shortage of food as AWCs were closed. Sudhir collected list of malnourished children from AWW and provided *Suposhan Kit* for next three months. They not only provided *Suposhan Kit* but also counsel their mother to take care of their malnourished babies. Team also followed up with the mothers of these children and monitored their growth.

Villagers were very much impressed with the noble work of HWA and appreciated their support at this crucial juncture. One of the members of the villager was so impressed with their support that he expressed his feelings in the following words ***“We are thankful to the HWA team who supported the needy villagers at this critical juncture. We were unaware about the Government processes and would have never been able to get food and shelter from the Government. It is only because of this team we are protected and safe today.*”**

Corona Warrior:

Nandlal, a Corona Warrior from Dhobahi village of Chiraygaon block of Varanasi district, joined **Human Welfare Association (HWA)** after completing his Intermediate from Varanasi. He started his career in a project titled “*Sustainable development of Women and Youth in UP.*” in the capacity of a volunteer and today is a member of the Youth Network Program. Nandlal is associated with HWA for last 15 years and has been a part of different projects under the banner of HWA.

Domestic violence and Child protection:

Nandlal was a person who organized the villagers and sensitized them on Covid--19 and endeavored to protect its villagers from the evil of Covid-19. The disease effected people not only physically but mentally also as many people suffered from mental health issues as well. Number of people lost their job which resulted in financial crunch leading to disagreement and conflict among the family members. Women and children were the worst effected and they suffered from domestic violence which posed a new challenge to the field staff of HWA. It was essential to tackle this problem henceforth PACE conducted virtual training for the field staff of HWA on counseling techniques as well as ways and means to tackle this complicated issue.

Activities under Covid19:

Absence of correct knowledge about novel Covid-19 was a major challenge hence PACE conducted a virtual training for the field staff on the protocols and guidelines of Covid-19. The field staff made people aware and advised to maintain social distance and put on mask in case they visit outside. Villagers also suggested drinking kadha to improve their immunity and protect from infection. HWA distributed 400 food packets to the needy and hungry villagers and also provided mask to the MNREGA workers to save them from infection. Under “*KisanSamman Yojna*” ten families of the village received dry ration to feed their family.

Distribution of Suposhan Kit:

Nandlal lead the distribution of “*Suposhan Kits*” to the malnourished kids. Covid-19 impacted pregnant





women and children and were the worst sufferer during the lockdown period as they were deprived of nutritional food owing to closure of AWC. Sensing this problem HWA team decided to support the children. He obtained the list of malnourished children and provided them *Suposhan Kit* for three months. The team also made home visits along with AWW and counseled mothers to take care of their kids and feed properly. AWW and members of the team not only counseled the mothers but also followed up with them and kept an eye on the growth of the children.

HWA and PACE worked selflessly to support the villagers who were moved with the dedication and commitment of the team. The villagers appreciated their valued support and one of the mothers of the benefitted family expressed her feelings in following words ***“WE are really moved with the work of the team and their selfless and dedicated support which is praiseworthy. We express our sincere thanks to the field functionaries of the HWA organization. The Suposhan- Kit provided to “the malnourished children is a great boon for the children which would help in keeping their health sound and boost up immunity.”***



Corona Warrior:

Sangeeta Kumari, a Corona Warrior from Kukughan village of Chiraygaon block of Varanasi district became a member of **Human Welfare Association (HWA)** when she was perusing her Intermediate. She was engaged in a project titled “*Youth Network Program*” in the capacity of a volunteer. Sangeeta was a drop out from the school due to financial crisis but when she joined HWA her colleagues motivated her to rejoin. Sangeeta is an active member of HWA and has been associated with many activities of the organization.

Activities under Covid--19:

Sangeeta is a brave youth who supported her villagers and protected them from this pandemic. By the end of April, with the flow of migrants, threat of spreading of infection was very high. Realizing this issue and scale of the problem Sangeeta formed a team of youths under the leadership of Pradhan. The team decided to protect the villagers by banning the entry of migrants and hence put barricade at the entrance of the village and instructed all migrants to take shelter in the quarantine center. The team also aware people about the protocols and guideline issued by the Government and suggested them to adhere to it. Villagers were suggested to follow the social distance and correct method of hand washing, villagers were asked to wash hands for at least for 20 seconds and to put on mask incase of stepping out. During this period the team identified most vulnerable and needy families who were on the verge of starvation. Sangeeta and team identified 34 families for support and provided food and dry ration by the organization. Apart from this 150 persons were also provided masks and sanitizer to protect them from Covid-19.

Domestic violence and Child protection:

Covid-19 adversely effected the mind and body and many people suffered from mental issues during this lockdown period. Many people lost their job which resulted in financial scarcity leading to conflict and fight between husband and wife. It adversely effected the women and children in the family. They suffered from domestic violence which caused adverse condition in





the society. It was essential to tackle this problem. Hence PACE conducted virtual training for the field staff of HWA on counseling techniques as well as means to deal with the effected people and tackle this complicated problem.

Distribution of “Suposhan Kit”:

To maintain sound health and immunity of the pregnant workers and children HWA decided to support them with nutritious food. They collected list of malnourished children through AWW and they were provided “Suposhan Kit”. AWW also counseled the parents to take care of their kids and feed them properly. This “Suposhan Kit” was provided continuously for three months and AWW along with the team followed up with the children regularly and their growth was also monitored.

Impressed with the dedication and commitment of the team one of the female member of the vulnerable family expressed her feelings and gratitude in following words

“I am really impressed with the commitment and dedication of this team who have done commendable job by standing with us during this difficult time and extending all kinds of support to us. They provided us food and ration and protected us from dying of starvation.”





**OUR
CORONA WARRIORS:
INITIATIVES OF YOUTHS**
Case Studies- Sitapur

Partner Organisation
**Participatory Action For
Community Empowerment
(PACE)**

Corona Warrior:

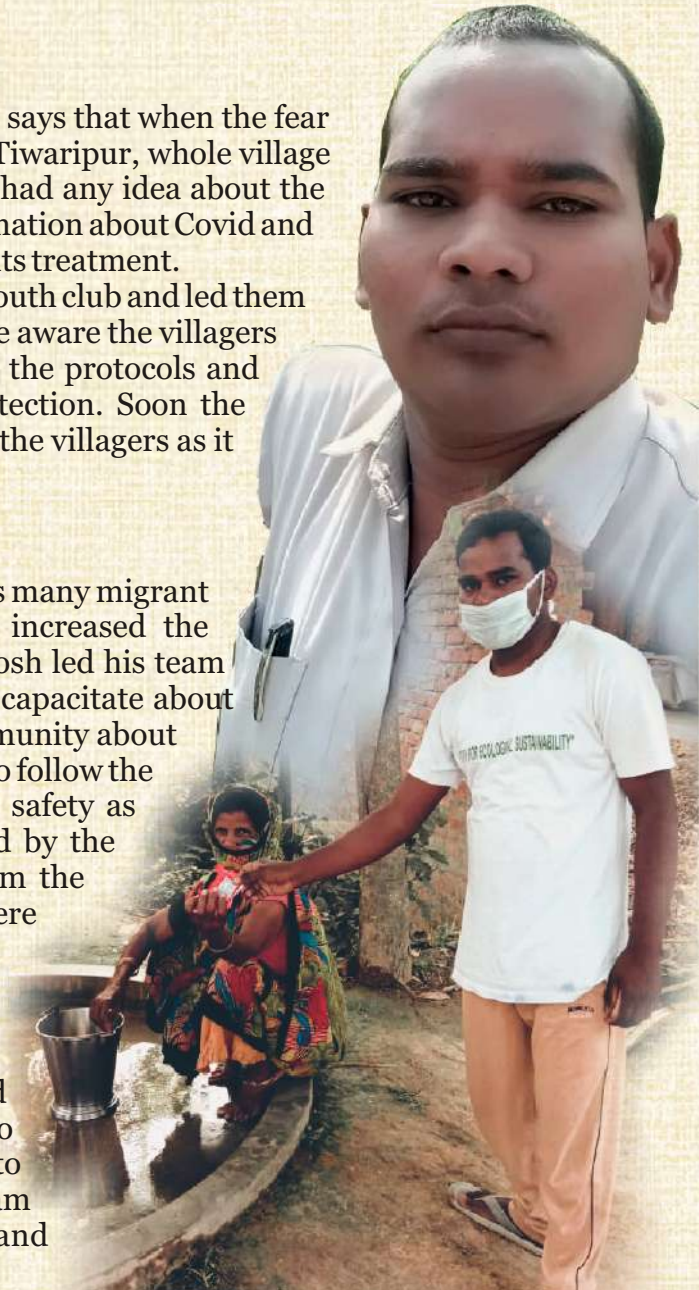
Santosh, a Corona Warrior from Dariyapur village of Sitapur district became a member of **PACE** in August 2018 after completing his graduation. He started his career in a project titled “**Sustainable Development through Women and Youth Organisations in the State of Uttar Pradesh**” in the capacity of a volunteer and currently is a member of the Youth Network Program.

Activities under Covid19:

Santosh narrates the incidence of Covid-19. He says that when the fear of the disease started spreading in our Village Tiwaripur, whole village was very afraid and confused as none of them had any idea about the deadly disease. Villagers had very limited information about Covid and hence were unaware about the precautions and its treatment. In this crucial moment Santosh organized the Youth club and led them to fight with this menace. They planned to make aware the villagers about Covid -19 and mobilized them to follow the protocols and guidelines issued by the Government for protection. Soon the Youth Group initiated individual meeting with the villagers as it was unsafe to organize a community meetings.

Support to Migrant labors:

Meanwhile, due to lockdown and loosing of jobs many migrant families returned their native village which increased the chances of infection among the villagers. Santosh led his team and developed a plan to visit every house and capacitate about this fatal disease. The team explained the community about the symptoms of the disease and advised them to follow the guidelines of the Government to ensure their safety as well as for others. The migrants were advised by the team to quarantine themselves to protect from the infection. With support of ASHA all migrants were quarantined in the quarantine center. The team put barricade at the entrance of the village and ensured that no outsider should enter. They also conducted a campaign and distributed soap and masks to the villagers and also sanitized whole village. Migrants were also provided ration and work under MNREGA to earn some money. Few members of the team demonstrated process of hand washing and



instructed them to follow the social distance at public places e.g. at ration shop and work sites of MNREGA. Youth Group identified 15 migrants and prepared a list which they handed over to the concerned authorities and facilitated distribution of ration to the effected families. They also supported in issuing the ration- card to 7 migrants who had no ration card and ensure supply of ration from PDS. Now all the migrant workers are obtaining their food from the Government and are expressing their wishes to the Youth Group members.



Distribution of Suposhan Kits:

One of the challenges of this deadly disease was to ensure proper food to the women and children to boost up their immunity. Under these circumstances Youth Group coordinated with ICDS functionaries and facilitated distribution of food to the women, children and adolescent girls. The malnourished children identified by the AWW were provided “Suposhan Kit” by Youth Group. This support by Youth Group elated their parents and they expressed their good wishes and gratitude to the team.

One of the migrant worker commented ***“We had never expected this kind of support in the village as we are returning here after a long spell and are not aware about the processes but we are very grateful to Youth Group who supported us in getting ration card and work under MNREGA. We will always be very grateful to the Youth Group”***.



Corona Warrior:

Atul Kumar, a Corona Warrior from Hariharpur village of Sitapur district became a member of **PACE** in August 2018 after completing his graduation. Atul has a long association with PACE since his childhood.

Activities under Covid-19

Atul share the situation during Corona time in his village as initially people were unaware about the intensity of Covid-19 and had no clue about the treatment and remedies from this pandemic. Initially when the pandemic broke-out in the district Youth Group planned to make people aware about the disease and the protocols to keep them protected from this disease.

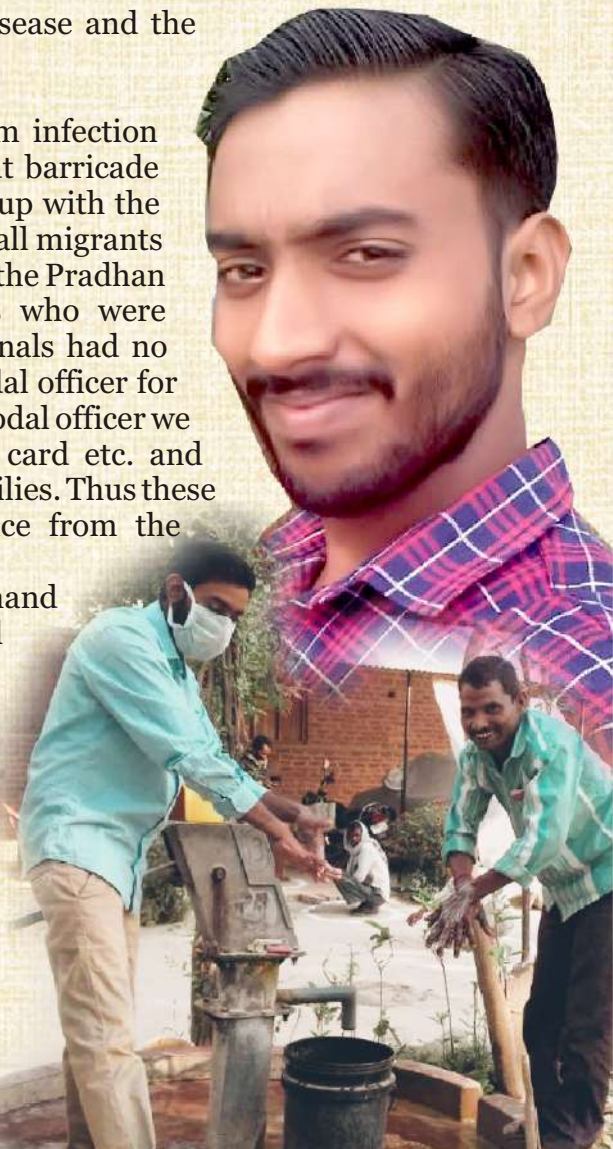
First of all, we decided to protect the villagers from infection through entry of migrants hence they decided to put barricade and closed all the entrance of the village. Youth Group with the support of the Pradhan decided to provide shelter to all migrants in the quarantine center. Later on with the support of the Pradhan ensured food and shelter to 42 migrant families who were quarantined. Among the migrant workers 70 personals had no ration card, Atul and team coordinated with the Nodal officer for issuance of ration card. As per the suggestion of the Nodal officer we collected required documents e.g. photos, Aadhar card etc. and succeeded in obtaining ration card for 40 migrant families. Thus these families were entitled to get 2 KG wheat and rice from the Government.

Few members of the team demonstrated process of hand washing and instructed them to follow the social distance at public places e.g. at ration shop and work sites of MNREGA.

Distribution of Dry Ration Kits and MNREGA:

Pawan, 18 years old an active Youth Group member from village Hariharpur Jamrakha of Sitapur dist, distributed 50 dry ration kits to 50 families and helped in the enrollment process of 7 labors that are now availing benefits of govt. programs.

During the lockdown period, he also supported the



migrants in getting enrolled under MNREGA to get job. Pawan along with Atul and other youth members facilitated migrant workers in getting job under MNREGA in digging of pond and leveling of upper land at Hariharpur village. Approximately 150 laborers got job and were paid remuneration as per Government rate. It was a timely support by Atul and his team. Now all the migrant workers are obtaining their food from the Government and are expressing their good wishes to the Youth Group.



Distribution of Suposhan Kits:

During the Covid-19 lockdown, children and women were worst effected as they were not getting supplementary nutrition from AWC due to the closure. Under these circumstances Youth Group led by **Asha Devi**, coordinated with ICDS functionaries and facilitated distribution of food to the women, children and adolescent girls.

On the other hand, Asha distributed “*Suposhan Kits*” to the 27 malnourished children identified by the youths and Aganwadi Workers. This support by PACE elated their parents and expressed their good wishes and gratitude to the Youth Group. Atul Said that, “**As Part of Youth Group, I feel Proud as we stood by the people when no one cared for them during Covid- 19 Lockdown. We all have a sense of humanity within us, but we as PACE team expressed it at the most important times, we stood by them during difficult times.**”



Corona Warrior:

Harish Raj, a Corona Warrior from Hasnapur village of Sitapur district, after completion of graduation he joined **PACE**. Harish has a long association with PACE as he joined the organization in 2016 as a volunteer and since then serving PACE under different capacities.

Activities under Covid-19:

Harish is an active member of the Youth Group who stood with the villagers during Corona period and supported in fight against the pandemic. When the pandemic broke out in our district all villagers were very much afraid as it was a new disease and no treatment was known. But gradually we got motivated and decided to face the situation. We made a team of youth and capacitated them on the protocols issued by the Government in the wake of Covid. PACE organized virtual training for the field functionaries and build their capacity on Covid-19.

Support to Migrant labors:

Harish and team managed the problem of migrants smoothly when migrants arrived in his village. As a first step we suggested them to quarantine themselves so that they may keep themselves safe as well as do not infect others. Youth Group coordinated with the Nodal officer to get ration for the migrant families. The village Pradhan provided soap for hand washing and mask to keep protected from infection.

After few days he again coordinated with the village Pradhan and briefed him regarding the condition of themigrant families and requested to enroll them under scheme of MNREGA. He assured to extend all possible support and guided us to prepare the list of all families and take their consent to work under MNREGA. Later on the Pradhan coordinated with the block officials and tabled proposal for work under MNREGA, Soon the proposal was accepted and all migrant families were





engaged in MNREGA and got job under the scheme.

In all these activities Youth Group actively participated and coordinated with the concerned authorities to support the effected families.

Distribution of Suposhan Kits:

Youth Group also coordinated with the AWW and ASHA and enquired about the malnourished children. AWW had already identified the malnourished children who were provided 20 packets of “Suposhan Kit” to feed the bay for three months and protected them from malnutrition.

This assistance from PACE was well appreciated by the families and are congratulating the Youth Group for their support during this crisis. The Village Pradhan also appreciated the efforts of Youth Group and commented “Villagers *will always be grateful to the Youth Group who provided all support during this hour of crisis in supported the migrant families in getting food and shelter for them.*”



Corona Warrior:

Tanuja Raj, is associated with PACE since 2015 when Pradhan introduced her with the functionaries of the organization during college days and motivated to contribute for the well being of the society and serve community and society at large. She joined the organization with the capacity of a youth volunteer. Tanuja Raj is educated up to B. Education.

Activities under Covid-19:

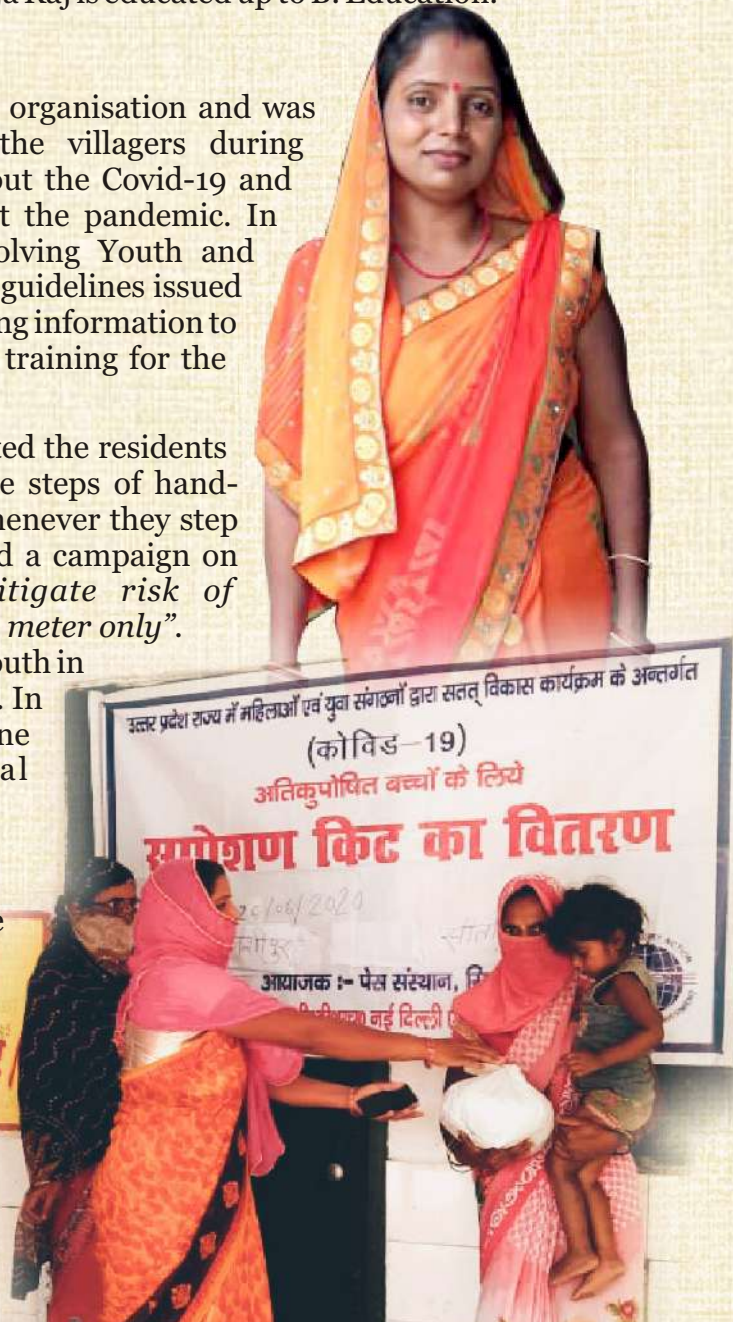
Tanuja is a very dedicated member of the organisation and was instrumental in providing support to the villagers during pandemic. Initially no one was aware about the Covid-19 and there was apprehension and myths about the pandemic. In these circumstances we made team involving Youth and gathered all relevant information from the guidelines issued by the Government and started disseminating information to the villagers. PACE also organized virtual training for the Youth members to guide them properly.

Youth Group made home visits and educated the residents about the protocols and demonstrated the steps of hand-washing, correct method of using mask whenever they step outside their home. The Team also started a campaign on Social distance and gave slogan “Mitigate risk of transmission by maintaining distance of 1 meter only”.

Villagers were also advised to cover their mouth in case of sneezing and not to touch their face. In case of cough, fever or pain in the throat one should contact the health personal immediately.

Support to Migrant laborers:

The Youth Group also coordinated with the Nodal officer and facilitated preparation of Ration card for the 11 migrant workers who had returned their home during the lockdown period. Youth Group collected all required documents from them and completed the process to get the ration card issued for these migrant workers.





Distribution of Suposhan Kits:

In the meantime we also coordinated with the AWW and obtained the list of SAM children and provided the food packet from PACER to 20 families to improve the health condition of the malnourished children. This support was well appreciated by the families.

Pradhan and all villagers appreciated the support of Youth Group in this hour of crisis and expressed their gratitude in these words ***“You have proved an angel of God in this crucial time of humanity.” We express our sincere thanks to the authorities of the organization”. The food packet provided to the malnourished children “is of great help and will help in keeping their health sound and boost up their immunity.***



Mitigating Violence against women and children during lock down of Covid -19.

COVID 19 has forced most of us to be confined inside our homes. Human history will record this period as a time of unparalleled separation and crisis but also of great courage, learning and collaboration. During the lock down period and restriction of movements, children have constrained access to socialization, play, and even physical contact stands critical for their psychosocial wellbeing and development. School closures are preventing children from access to learning and limiting their interactions with peers.

Children may feel confused and at loss with the current situation, leading to frustration and anxiety, which will only increase with the overexposure to mass and social media, especially among adolescents. To fight Covid19, the state is under lockdown to contain the spread of the pandemic. However, Youth Group's message to every child in distress or concerned adult has been from day 1 that "We are not locked down!' we are there for you."

Youth Group members Akansha, Ruchi and Pawan from Sitapur have received many phone calls related to domestic violence, shelter, medical support and child abuse. Due to the restricted mobility, during the lockdown, they couldn't meet or support the children and women who contacted them for help regarding any sort of violence, abuse or illness. So they forwarded all the calls to the helpline numbers - child line 1098 and 181, with the help of child line 1098, they have been reaching out and physically intervening for nutrition, shelter and medical assistance, and also to prevent or protect any individual from abuse, violence and exploitation such as abandonment, physical abuse, child labour, child marriage and so on. Despite the constraints and challenges encountered during this course, Akansha, Ruchi and Pawan along with other youths have reached out to the children, made them comfortable and provided immediate help and



support. They introduced those women and children who were in need of a strong support, protection to the concerned authorities for long term assistance.

Ruchi and Youth members coordinated with the Health department and also facilitated rapid test of Covid patients. The youth Group has taken the initiative to safeguard their community by pooling in money and stitching facemask for the community. 10 members stitched 1000 masks that have been distributed to the community to protect themselves from contagion.

The Youth Members even created a Whatsapp group on social media, through which they have created awareness about Covid 19, enable them to understand what is COVID-19 and how it can be prevented. This also helped them to manage related stress, fear and anxiety, and recognize the increased risk of violence, which can help to them to stay safe. They are counselling children and youths and have been supporting them psychologically as well.



Grain Banks: Ensuring food Security of Rural Poor and marginal families.

As citizen of the world's largest democracy, we have the right to life. The right to exist is closely tied to food security and according to United Nations Committee on world Food Security, Food Security is the condition in which all people at all times, have physical, social and economic access to sufficient safe and nutritious food that meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life. Deep in the rural heartlands of Uttar Pradesh, the communities are bringing about these measures of food security by mobilizing themselves.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, migrant labours have faced multiple hardships. With factories and workplaces shut down due to the lockdown imposed in the country, millions of migrant workers had to deal with the loss of income, food shortages and uncertainty about their future. People of these five districts (Sitapur, Mirzapur, Varanasi, Kushinagar and Gorakhpur), face lots of problems during lock down in Covid-19 Pandemic. Additionally, they felt that going back to their hometowns, they could return to farming and take up small jobs under the MGNREGA. The pandemic of Covid 19, stopped the physical infrastructures like houses, schools, etc. as well as productive agriculture land, and livestock. Community faced difficulty in mobility, increased risk for living at houses, trends of fear and trauma, and erosion of social assets such as neighbourhood, brotherhood and strong bondage of kinship. Likewise, lack of stored grain and spread of water borne diseases are other distresses.

Established Grain Bank the Youth group members with an objective to provide immediate relief during crisis and provide loans in the form of grains to needy poor and marginalised families, particularly during the agricultural lean season or natural disaster like Covid-19 or flood. These loans are to be returned with interest, also in the form of grains, during the following harvest season. By extending consumption credit, grain banks provide households with the opportunity to smooth food consumption over the agricultural cycle. In particular, for people, located in isolated areas, grain banks can act as the first line of defence against food-security shocks, and respond more rapidly than other relief work and govt program like PDS. The Grain Bank is fully managed by a group of 20 youth members from village;





each youth member has contributed 2 kg. grains and PACE has provided technical support, guidance, and by providing a tank with the capacity of 5 quintals for each grain bank as one time start up support.

Kalawati w/o Suresh Kumar, aged 43, a resident of Sahjanpur village of Sitapur district of Uttar Pradesh had no option but to work as daily wage labour. She faced scarcity of food grains very often to feed her family. After lock down, she had to borrow grains from rich farmers and money lenders and in return she had to work as labour in big farmer's farms and return grain one and half times more than she had borrowed. The creased face of Kalawati describes the story of her hardship. "How the lock down had effected the work of her husband, now her husband worked as a labour in the hope of getting grains during crop season to protect her family from starvation", recalls Kalawati.

Chinta Devi, a mother of 4 Children, residing in Nanauti village of Mirzapur Dist. shared the similar plight. Chinta and her husband Ramashrey, worked as agriculture and construction labour for survival. Her children could not continue their education due to lock down, poverty and sometimes they sleep without food. Today, Reshma, saraswati, Saroj, Sabri and women like them in village Khaaribhar and Basgaon of Kushinagar District and Vishwanath, Devilal, Ramlakshan of Dodhara village of Gorakhpur, no longer bear the pain of letting their children sleep without food. They don't have to beg for food. They cannot get exploited, financially and physically as labour. And this all is happening just because of a small community effort i.e. Community Grain Bank that holds the key of food security for such poor and marginalized families in the crisis period.

"We borrow grain from our grain bank in times of need and we will return it after adding 25% to it during harvesting season. Borrowing grain from grain bank makes us feel like we are

taking out grain from our own storage. There is no threat of getting ashamed, being scolded and abused as we used to experience earlier while borrowing grains from our well-off neighbours and money lenders" shared Anita from Jhalupur village (Varanasi) with gleaming eyes.

Now these grain banks are multiplying with their own resources. The additional grain received at the time of return is being utilized for setting up new grain banks in the neighbourhood.

Geeta Devi, 31, from Varanasi, shared her experience and commented, "we have established grain bank with the support of youth group and collected 10 quintals of grains. This helped us a lot to cope up with the crisis situation of Covid 19 pandemic. Next year we will set up another grain bank of rice along with wheat as it will diversify our food baskets. We all are very much thankful to the youth group and TDH-New Delhi and DACHSER Germany for taking care of us in the time of hardships."



Eyes on the Future

The fact that youths are considered to be change members and will shape for the future. Numerous responses, including expansive remarks by Sandhya (22), demonstrate how youth are observing the positive impact of this crisis on the planet and on climate change. Amit Pal from Varanasi, an active youth volunteer describes how it has served as a type of *“rebalancing of the earth after years of high levels of pollution, where the environment suffered from human selfishness and its struggle to drain the wealth of this land.”*

Still, despite this resilience, it is important to note that youths are worried about the future, especially with the general difficulty by adapting *“to a changing reality,”* as Atul Kumar from Sitapur explains briefly. This is particularly hard for vulnerable and marginalized groups, as explained by many youths who noted the lack of infrastructure and government involvement in helping these groups. Anup from Mirzapur was particularly concerned about this, as it is leading to increased risk of infection with the virus, but also poorer mental health in vulnerable populations.

Overall, the insightful knowledge about how COVID-19 effects different people differently shows that youths are thinking beyond the direct impacts of COVID-19. Throughout the efforts of youths of all 4 districts, which we bring to a close today, the deepened solidarity and empathy expressed throughout these responses speaks to the influence that young people the world's future leaders.



Quantitative Data Collection for COVID-19 relief activities by tdh Germany supported partners

| District | Sitapur | | | | | Mirzapur | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|---|--|---|--|---|
| | PACE/SKVS 2015-20 | | | | | PACE/SKVS 2015-20 | | | | |
| Project Code | Apr-20 | May-20 | Jun-20 | Jul-20 | Aug-20 | Apr-20 | May-20 | Jun-20 | Jul-20 | Aug-20 |
| Week/ Month | | | | | | | | | | |
| No. of Masks | 350 by youth & 750 Panchayat | 240 by youth & 1270 Panchayat | 140 by youth & 650 Panchayat | 100 by youth & 620 Panchayat | 450 by youth & 460 Panchayat | 45 by youth & 90 Panchayat | 20 by youth & 760 Panchayat | 40 by youth & 210 Panchayat | 10 by youth & 200 Panchayat | 45 by youth & 350 Panchayat |
| No. of food packets | 178 Packets from Gram Panchayat & 1234 Families by PDS | 322 Packets from Gram Panchayat & 1549 Families by PDS | 210 Packets from Gram Panchayat & 1855 Families by PDS | 150 Packets from Gram Panchayat & 1950 Families by PDS | 190 Packets from Gram Panchayat & 2015 Families by PDS | 80 Packets from Gram Panchayat & 1575 Families by PDS | 120 Packets from Gram Panchayat & 1375 Families by PDS | 70 Packets from Gram Panchayat & 1544 Families by PDS | 100 Packets from Gram Panchayat & 1345 Families by PDS | 60 Packets from Gram Panchayat & 1475 Families by PDS |
| No. of play materials | NO | NO | NO | NO | NO | NO | NO | NO | NO | NO |
| No of families reached | 528 Direct & 1752 Indirect | 879 Direct & 2262 Indirect | 350 Direct & 2505 Indirect | 250 Direct & 2570 Indirect | 340 Direct & 2475 Indirect | 125 Direct & 1700 Indirect | 210 Direct & 1870 Indirect | 110 Direct & 1744 Indirect | 110 Direct & 1545 Indirect | 105 Direct & 1835 Indirect |
| No of children given support through info on prevention of abuse | 157 | 178 | 90 | 107 | 124 | 125 | 143 | 90 | 85 | 90 |
| No of youth who participated in corona related relief | 327 | 354 | 342 | 310 | 305 | 270 | 289 | 240 | 304 | 280 |

Quantitative Data Collection for COVID-19 relief activities by tdh Germany supported partners

| District | Gorakhpur | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|--|---|--|---|--|--|--|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Varanasi | | | | | | PACE/SKVS 2015-20 | | | | | |
| | Project Code | Apr-20 | May-20 | Jun-20 | Jul-20 | Aug-20 | Apr-20 | May-20 | Jun-20 | Jul-20 | Aug-20 | Aug-20 |
| Week/ Month | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| No. of Masks | 562 By Youth & 340 Panchayat | 192 By Youth & 400 Panchayat | 100 By Youth & 150 Panchayat | 15 By Youth & 200 Panchayat | 10 By Youth & 150 Panchayat | 10 By Youth & 150 Panchayat | 10 by youth & 200 Panchayat | 205 By Youth & 335 by Gram panchayat | 176 By Youth & 711 by Gram panchayat | 286 By Youth & 1050 by Gram panchayat | 286 By Youth & 1050 by Gram panchayat | 316 By Youth & 483 by Gram panchayat |
| No. of food packets | 562 Packets from Gram Panchayat & 1325 Families by PDS | 90 Packets from Gram Panchayat & 1642 Families by PDS | 140 Packets from Gram Panchayat & 1562 Families by PDS | 96 Packets from Gram Panchayat & 1424 Families by PDS | 150 Packets from Gram Panchayat & 1752 Families by PDS | 150 Packets from Gram Panchayat & 1752 Families by PDS | 100 Packets from Gram Panchayat & 1345 Families by PDS | 315 Packet from Gram Panchayat 1363 Families by PDS | 405 Packet from Gram Panchayat 1685 Families by PDS | 435 Packet from Gram Panchayat 1693 Families by PDS | 435 Packet from Gram Panchayat 1693 Families by PDS | 453 Packet from Gram Panchayat 1793 Families by PDS |
| No. of play materials | NO | 60 | NO | NO | NO | NO | NO | NO | NO | NO | NO | NO |
| No of families reached | 1124 Direct & 1665 Indirect | 282 Direct & 2042 Indirect | 240 Direct & 1712 Indirect | 111 Direct & 1624 Indirect | 160 Direct & 1902 Indirect | 160 Direct & 1902 Indirect | 110 Direct & 1744 Indirect | 520 Direct & 1699 Indirect | 581 Direct & 2395 Indirect | 721 Direct & 2743 Indirect | 721 Direct & 2743 Indirect | 769 Direct & 2276 Indirect |
| No of children given support through info on prevention of abuse | 135 | 142 | 162 | 153 | 146 | 146 | 114 | 105 | 96 | 86 | 86 | 91 |
| No of youth who participated in corona related relief | 312 | 295 | 286 | 314 | 325 | 325 | 214 | 286 | 257 | 304 | 304 | 255 |



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