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# ANNUAL REPORT (2020-2021) GRAM JAGAT

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[gramjagatindia@gmail.com](mailto:gramjagatindia@gmail.com)



## 1. The Context

The sudden outbreak of COVID-19 and announcement of lockdown has created lots of uncertainty, chaos and threat to lives and livelihoods. While the spread of the disease itself is a major health and social issue, many additional issues are stark. Some of the issues at various levels could be discussed as:

**National level:** India began to take serious note of COVID 19 in the middle of March, with the Prime Minister asking the country for a one-day lockdown on 22<sup>nd</sup> March and later a national lockdown from 24<sup>th</sup> March 2020. With just four-hour notice, the whole country came to a stand-still. Schools closed, business closed, production closed, transport closed, essential services were kept open for designated hours. It seemed as if the government expected the lockdown to be implicitly obeyed, that all people had the ways and means to obey the call and all people will stay in-doors and maintain physical<sup>1</sup> distance.

**Migrant labour:** It was a rude shock to see millions of migrant labour on the roads ready to leave the cities and walk all the way to their homes even in far-away places. Even as the country recognised that 93 per cent of the 400 million<sup>2</sup> workers were in the informal and unorganised sector, the question of migration had remained within academic and activist circles. The government did not have reliable data on migrants – who were they and what their identity was; did not track the conditions in which they migrated, worked, or sustained. There was no strategy to address the conditions which made them leave their hometowns or promoting safe and protected migration. Even when the migrants were out on the roads, saying they want to reach their hometowns, the state did not take it seriously or consider the need for ensuring they reach their hometowns maintaining the COVID safety norms – no transport, no facilities on the way. Rather, they were harassed, police not only beat them up, but humiliated them.

**Reverse Migration and Intra-State migration:** Many migrant workers have managed or waiting to return back to their villages/home town and probably they are not going to return back to cities for almost a year due to fear and lack of regular work/employment for them. It is also reported that there are many families, mainly Dalit, Adivasi, Muslim and other marginalised communities, who were engaged in brick kilns, construction projects etc within the state, have returned back to their villages which will probably create another level of social problems and stress on economic/livelihood opportunities.

**Urban poor:** Urban realities further played out in the next few days. In addition to the migrant labour and daily wage workers, other layers of workers began to emerge vulnerable requiring food and other support. These are families who worked in small enterprises, sales, local markets not on daily wages, but more monthly incomes, even small. With economic lockdown and employers who did not wish to support workers, they emerged as another vulnerable section. They had come to the urban areas for better income, aspirations for better opportunities for their children and a more secure comfortable life. They were emerging as a layer in need of immediate support.

**Daily Wage Earners and Rural Poor:** Rural areas also went into economic shock. The landless agricultural labour, the casual daily wage worker who did not have much to fall back upon. They were on the verge of hunger in a few days after the lockdown. The social system did not provide the necessary solidarity for sustaining them. Rural families that depended on the remittances from their urban relatives were bereft of that support. Families who returned from urban areas could not immediately join their families. They were asked to quarantine in the panchayat – again without

### **Focus**

With an objective that “No One is Left Behind” – Gram Jagat -NYEF undertook all measures to mobilise and connect with “habitation level youth volunteers and CLOs to join hands and support the neediest families and provide awareness and other-ground support for them to sustain themselves with food and further take efforts to get government reliefs also.

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<sup>1</sup> Social distance relates very much to the caste system and untouchability – while what is expected is physical distance

<sup>2</sup> Census 2001 and includes 39.1% of the total population of the country

adequate arrangements, no testing organised. Other vulnerable groups such as children, single women, pregnant and lactating mothers, elderly and disabled population has furthered been pushed to margins.

**Public Distribution System:** The PDS has been a fairly extensive system, with a network that can provide rations across the corners of the country. It took a while for the government to announce additional rations. However, this is yet to reach the community in most places, almost a month after the lockdown. Further, considerable number of vulnerable families do not have the necessary documents to access PDS; even when accessed, it did not meet the requirements of the family, did not include nutrition requirements like pulses, oil or others.

**Health care system:** was totally without the necessary infrastructure, did not have the personnel and did have the attitude to reach out to the marginalised. The health care workers did not have the necessary PPE to protect themselves and were stretched beyond their capabilities. In addition to doctors and nurses, other health care personnel like the sanitary workers, other health care workers in the system at the community level were not at the same level. The care for diseases other than corona has been hit without medicines in the market and hospitals unable to take the load. Further, the personification of the Muslim community as propagating the disease has led to marginalisation and exclusion of the community from necessary health care and discrimination.

**State support:** The union government announced on a relief package of 1.79 lakh crores; about 1% of the GDP on 25<sup>th</sup> March. Included additional rations, minimal cash benefits, support to further vulnerable sections, and strengthening the health care system (extra rations @5 kgs/person/month immediately, Rs.500/month for women with bank accounts, subsidy for gas cylinder etc). However, the analysis of the budget shows many of them to be existing or already planned development support than new fiscal support to meet the immediate needs of the poor and vulnerable. These will take time to reach people and many will not be able to access it due to lack of documents. Unfortunately, the error of exclusion will be huge and coupled with delay, the already vulnerable population groups are facing hunger and starvation in many places.

**Civil society support:** Civil society organisations as usual were the first to respond to the situation – set up kitchens and provided cooked food to migrants and daily wage labour, provided some relief to members on their long journey to their states, cash benefits to daily wage workers and migrant labour, improving health infrastructure, support to medical personnel and others. They were the first to be on ground zero. All social organisations – religious institutions, mission hospitals and various institutions came forward to support.

## 2. Gram Jagat - NYEF: On-ground Support

Taking the account of above situations, Centre for Social Equity and Inclusion (CSEI) and the National Youth Equity Forum (NYEF)<sup>1</sup> began the efforts on 25<sup>th</sup> March, a day after the lockdown. The purpose was to reach out the most marginalised communities through our youth volunteers and Community Led Organisations (CLOs) and understand the ground situation and design a quick relief work to be provided on urgent basis. The ground situations gave us an initial insight that:

- People have lost their employment and income sources.
- Migrant labour is trapped in cities without work and income
- Millions of migrant labour had started walked hundreds of kilometres back to their villages
- The testing facilities are not there in villages and the returnees are being kept in camps out for fear of infection.

### **Habitations based youth volunteers as leaders & core support”**

To establish the last mile connectivity and also to keep the norms of “physical distancing” and other guidelines, Gram Jagat - NYEF reached out to its state youth forums and CLOs to identify young people who could reach out to their own habitations and keep track of vulnerable families in their neighbourhoods only. No young people ever travelled beyond their habitations during

- Women, children, elderly, people with disabilities are further on the margins.
- The government has come up with some meagre relief measures, in many places these will take time to start.
- Many don't have the documents to access the relief and the migrant returnees have little ways of accessing any of these relief.
- Daily wages workers have lost their livelihoods and soon may fall into hunger
- Pregnant and lactating mothers along their children are lacking basic food and nutrition

#### As of 5<sup>th</sup> May

- **144 youth volunteers and 17 Community Led Organisations (CLOs) in Delhi, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar have been actively working on ground to provide relief support to migrant and vulnerable families.**
- **Apart from direct on ground relief work, around 40 CLOs with 137 volunteers across 9 states joined the NYEF Help Desk operated through what's app and social media.**

As CSEI works directly among socially excluded communities in Bihar, Delhi and Uttar Pradesh, the relief work was directly undertaken through the coordination committee formed at national level. Apart from this, we also reached out to CLOs in other states who were engaged in relief work and collaborative efforts were undertaken.

Our efforts include:

- *Providing dry rations to daily wage workers and other vulnerable households.*
- *Linking migrant labour trapped in other states to CSOs and state resources*
- *Linking households to supports from individual donors*
- *Facilitating communities access government responses*
- *Promoting basic health and medical awareness on Covid 19*
- *Empowering young people to support their communities*

### 2.1 Door-to-door delivery of dry rations:

Even as all the households in the habitation are affected, the youth took to identifying the most vulnerable households for emergency support. These include migrants who have returned to the habitation, daily wage labour, households with the elderly, women headed households, households with small children and any household with persons with disability. These households have greater challenges in ensuring basic food and resources. Some of these households do not have the necessary documents to access the state resources. We mobilised initial round of dry rations for the households in Bihar, UP and Delhi where our youth volunteers were ready to directly reach out to households. Detail list of volunteers and their contact details are attached as an annexure:

Items	Quantity
Wheat Flour	5Kg
Rice	5Kg
Pulses	2Kg
Soybeans	2Kg
Edible Oil	1Litre
Onion	2Kg
Spices	1 Packet
Soaps	2 Pcs

So far, we have been able to directly reach out to:

Sr No	State	No of Youth Volunteers	No of Villages/Slums	No of Families	No of Family Member
1.	Bihar	67	73	819	3378
2.	Uttar Pradesh	38	17	209	968
3.	Delhi	39	39	534	2459
<b>Total</b>		<b>144</b>	<b>129</b>	<b>1562</b>	<b>6805</b>



## 2.2 Dry ration distribution through CLOs

Along with outreach through state youth forums and volunteers, we had identified many CLOs where shortage of food and need was getting reported through our help desks. As known, each CLO works with specific vulnerable communities and they mapped following communities who were in need of some support:

- *Nomadic Tribes and De-Notified Tribes*
- *Children and Pregnant/Lactating Women*
- *Disabled children*
- *Homeless and Street Children*
- *Daily wage workers and most marginalised among Dalit, Adivasi and Muslims*

These CLOs were given support to provide dry ration for 1 month to each family, as prescribed in the list above.

Sr No	State	Name of CLO	Districts	Focus Community	No of Families
1	Bihar	GGMVM	Patna	Dalit Girls	20
2	Bihar	Majdoor Kisan Vikas Sansthan	Nalanda	Musahar Dalit Wage workers	20
3	Bihar	EVA Foundation	Patna	Urban Muslims	13
4	Delhi	Viklang Ekta Munch	Govindpuri	Disabled	15
5	Delhi	NT/DNT	Near India gate	Nomadic Tribes and De-Notified Tribes	23
6	Delhi	ISU (Rajdhani Kamgaar Manch )	East delhi, Neharu Camp	Children and Women	69
7	Maharashtra	Samarthya Kalyankari Sanstha	Ratnagiri	Nomadic Tribes	15
8	Madhya Pradesh	Daksh Umbrosh Empowerment Society	Bhopal Urban/Rural	Urban Slum Dwellers	20
9	Odisha	New Hope Foundation	Bargarh Odisha	Dalit youth	15
10	Uttar Pradesh	Shiksha Sansthan Gramin Vikash Samiti	Jamuniya , Lalitpur	Dalit women	35
11	Uttar Pradesh	Azad Seva Ashram	Mannipurva slum, Kanpur Urban	Urban Poor	10
12	Uttar Pradesh	Nav Bhartiya Nari Vikash Samiti	Baliya UP	Urban Muslims	42
<b>Total: 12 CLOs in 12 Districts and 12 Focus communities 297 families (1188 members approx.)</b>					<b>297</b>

### 2.3 Promoting social enterprise: mask-making units by Dalit and marginalised women

Usages of masks, keeping hygienic practices and maintaining “physical distances” are considered to be the only way to avoid COVID 19 spread, and the states in India have made these things mandatory for all citizens. All the states have made compulsory to use mask in public places through penal action against not using it. It was reported through volunteers and CLOs on ground that selling of masks are being also visible in all kinds of shops on selling of masks are becoming quite open on “self-willed prices”. Taking this situation into considerations, CSEI-NYEF decided two-fold strategies to address this challenge:

- *Provide masks to poor and vulnerable communities free of cost for those who can't afford it*
- *Set up social enterprises led by Dalit/marginalised women, who are already into stitching work, to produce masks on regular basis which could be sold in open markets on a reasonable price. This will provide livelihood as well as opportunity for women to help poor and vulnerable families with necessary masks.*

#### i) **Gaurav Gramin Mahila Vikas Manch (GGMVM), Patna**

The current aim of the unit is to produce 200 masks per day which could be sold at Rs.20/- per masks in open market. A network list of medical shops, local ration shops along with a kiosk at each government PDS shops is under planning.

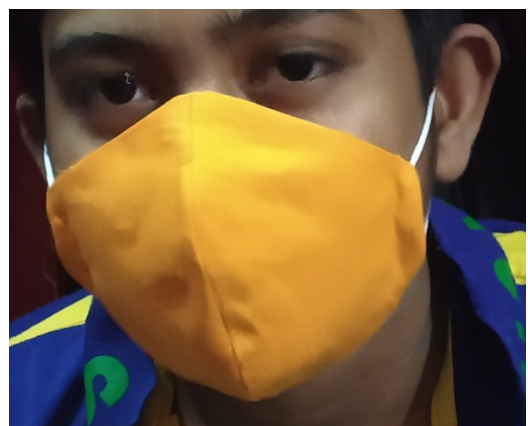


## ii) Samridhi SHG: Face cover making unit in Delhi

A group of 20 women have become members of the 'Samridhi SHG'. The women in the group with skills in stitching are making fabric 'face covers', with reusable, and washable features which attract our customers with definite benefits. These face covers are a compulsory hygienic mandate for every person moving out of their homes. The women were distributed the cloth who have produced overall 4000 face covers from these 3250 are of acceptable quality considering the initial exercise. Part of the COVID relief is set aside for both the mask-making units which provide both employment opportunities to women and also a market potential. It is hoped that more such units can be initiated and supported.



Already these fabrics face covers are acquiring the status of a fashion accessory requiring thematic designing and people are looking for different designs with attractive touch and feel.



It is with the same objective that this group is moving forward with production of 2 designs of face covers. People also ask if these have been sanitized or not which requires additional effort but we are able to involve more persons with local skills and share the fruits with other community members. This further helps in achieving the social economy objectives.





## 2.4 Support to migrant labour trapped in other states

As mentioned, an online CSEI-NYEF Help Desk was set up on 25<sup>th</sup> March onwards with 40 CLOs and 137 member volunteers across 9 states, which helped all of us to reach out to stranded migrant workers and families who were stuck due to lock down, lost livelihoods due to closing down of informal sectors.

We mapped and collected all the state-run help line numbers, community kitchens across 9 states, dry ration and meals being provided by various CSOs, individuals and networks who were a long associate of CSEI engaged in relief work. This entire exercise provided confidence and required resource support to receive online help calls and immediately linked the person with necessary supports. On an average, around 100-150 calls for supports were received by help desk on daily basis. Following tables provide a detail of support being provided till 5<sup>th</sup> May 2020.



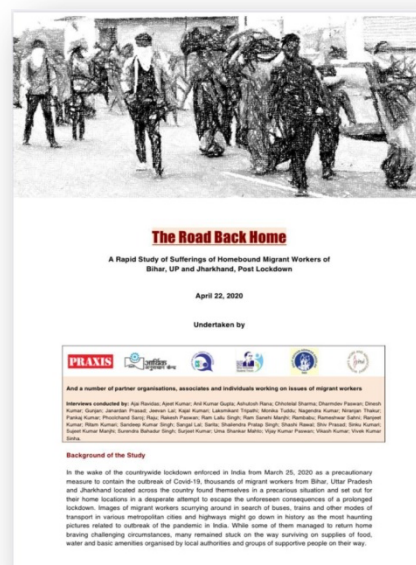
Sr. No	State	No of Families	Contact (Sample Contact Number for Verification)
1	Delhi	383	9999196693
2	Gujarat	153	9558371696
3	Haryana	173	9725669478
4	Maharashtra	76	8987107760
5	Chhattisgarh	33	6261322104
6	Tamil Nadu	28	7339256819
7	Kolkata	24	9674846462
8	Uttar Pradesh	171	9315499428
9	Madhya Pradesh	26	9546184391
10	Punjab	18	9814255593
11	Rajasthan	9	8225085437, 8103692432
12	Bihar	61	8750295726, 7838168123
13	Himachal Pradesh	4	8219684127
14	Karnataka	17	8824645195
15	Jharkhand	6	6239614140, 7070478524
16	Utrakhand	9	7982097643
17	Meghalaya	15	8447405133
	<b>17 States</b>	<b>1203 families</b>	

### 3. Rapid study of sufferings of home-bound migrant workers in UP, Bihar and Jharkhand under lockdown

CSEI-NYEF collaborated with PRAXIS and other like-minded organisations to undertake rapid study of 238 migrants in association. The study attempted to reach out to migrant workers observing the requirement of physical distancing and the interviews were mostly conducted either telephonically or using remote instruments such as Google Forms.

The analysis and synthesis indicated that migrating for livelihood appears to be an unavoidable compulsion of millions of workers in states with low per capita income such as Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Jharkhand. Migrant workers face a number of challenges in eking a livelihood for survival, including low payments, inadequate savings, lack of job security and deprivation from basic amenities. Persistent agrarian crisis and stagnation of rural economy leave no alternative for them other than returning to worksites located outside their home state every year despite the odds faced by them, evident in the aspiration of as many as 81% of interviewees who are keen to return to their places of work at the earliest possibility.

A comprehensive policy needs to be formulated to address the specific challenges faced by migrant labourers. Such a policy could provide for universalisation of entitlements over food subsidies, portability of entitlements across the country, extension of social security benefits for migrant workers, regulation of contractors and



middlemen, measures for holding employers accountable for welfare of migrant workers, regulation of work conditions and arrangements for improving accessibility of shelter spaces and basic amenities, among others.

#### 4. Future Plan and Way Forward

While consolidating all the learning and experiences so far, we have also understood that the situation has changed and may not return back to the normal for a fairly long time.

- Crops have been destroyed or not harvested on time, causing anxiety on the livelihoods of the farmers, rural community, and landless agricultural labour.
- Rural economy – not only has rural economy come to standstill – they have also lost other sources of income by remittances from urban areas.
- The migrants have been treated badly and are looking forward to going back to their homes. They may not be available when the lockdown is lifted to work in the production and service units. Hence how these units will function waits to be seen.
- The lockdown has also affected the production units and production processes. The informal economy units do not have the necessary infrastructure or the support mechanism and many of them may not be able to revive. This was seen during the de-monetisation when many units could not revive themselves. The owners and the workers lost out.
- Educational institutions have been shut down – local schools closed. While private schools and parents are able to follow up their children’s education in the home, the non-literate parents – children in govt schools – has become dropouts again. Difficult to think how they will get back to the system – who will encourage, motivate, support – or will the economic challenges push them out of the system altogether. They would have already lost out much in the lockdown.
- Hunger and starvation already evident and families trying to cope up
- Violence increasing – domestic violence reported higher, increased abuse of children
- Caste and communal riots emerging, discrimination and social boycott, communal slurs on religious minorities, racial slurs on the North East communities.

With this enormous set of issues waiting for all the state and CSOs to face in coming days, CSEI-NYEF has also plan to move ahead in training and capacitating youth volunteers and CLOs in to following possible directions:

1. **To understand and learn** about all the government relief being put in place and the kinds of advocacy required to support the migrant and vulnerable families, especially socially excluded population. It is important to equip and enable the communities towards accessing these schemes without any discrimination and hassles. We are exploring ways to use technology to train our volunteers and also evolve some tracking mechanism around this.
2. **Vulnerability Mapping** and Village/Ward level Micro Planning: As all youth volunteers are active on ground, we are planning to facilitate each of them to learn the skills of vulnerability mapping and develop a village/ward level micro plans in consultation with PRIs and related government stakeholders for a long term strategy and tracking of these vulnerable families and create necessary support system for them.
3. **Continuing Education and Tracking Children and Youth in Education System:** Socially Excluded youth and children would be most affected as they might drop out soon due to requirement of “labour work” from them to support their families who has lost livelihoods. It is important to put education and their continuation of schooling/college on priority and some mechanisms to be created. There will be need to also evolve technological and other interventions to support their learning in coming days.

4. **Social Equity Audits of government relief measures:** While government has announced several measures to support the vulnerable families, we have seen that how Dalit, Adivasi, Muslims and other marginalised communities are always excluded or last to reach. In this context, youth volunteers and CLOs will have to constantly audit those schemes and create equity measures which will feed into policy making and further schemes for an effective implementation of these schemes.
5. **Continue with Special Support:** We have mapped some families such as poor Muslims, homebound migrant workers, children, pregnant/lactating women, adolescents' girls in need of special support and we are already into reaching out to them with dry ration, milk, some nutritious dry foods, sanitary pads and safety kits which will help them to sustain during lockdown.



**SINHA GHOSH & CO.**  
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

5B PATLIPUTRA COLONY  
PATNA - 800013  
PHONE : 0612-2263402(O)  
: 9939948802(M)

**GRAM JAGAT**  
**MAIN ROAD, WARSALIGANJ**  
**BALANCE SHEET AS ON 31ST MARCH, 2021 (CONSOLIDATED)**

FUNDS & LIABILITIES	CURRENT YEAR AMOUNT (RS.)	PROPERTIES & ASSETS	CURRENT YEAR AMOUNT (RS.)
<b>GENERAL FUND</b>		<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>	
As per last A/c	22,336.00	Assets as per Schedule "A"	22,336.00
Add: Excess of Expenditure over Income	(5,017.30)	Less: Depreciation for the year	2,922.00
			19,414.00
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>	
Liabilities for Expenses		Cash	58.00
		Savings Account with Gramin bank	2,208.00
			2,266.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>21,680.00</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>21,680.00</b>

Place : Patna  
Date : 17.12.2021

*Ashok Kumar*

(Ashok Kumar)  
Secretary, Gram Jagat

**Secretary**  
**Gram Jagat**

FOR SINHA GHOSH & CO. (FRN 010549C)  
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS



*Subhash Chandra Ghosh*

Subhash Chandra Ghosh  
Partner (M. No. 079039)





SINHA GHOSH & CO.  
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

5B PATLIPUTRA COLONY  
PATNA - 800013  
PHONE : 0612-2263402(O)  
: 9939948802(M)

GRAM JAGAT  
MAIN ROAD, WARSALIGANJ

**INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH, 2021 (CONSOLIDATED)**

EXPENDITURE	CURRENT YEAR AMOUNT (RS.)	INCOME	CURRENT YEAR AMOUNT (RS.)
<b>Programme Expenses:</b>			
Food Distribution During Lockdown	17,943.00	Donation and Subscription	50,600.00
Relief To Poor And Needy People	28,118.00	Bank interest	67.00
Clay Learning Centre Meeting	2,902.00	Excess of Expenditure over Income	5,017.30
Field Level Travel	1,301.00	transferred to Balance Sheet	
<b>Administrative Expenses:</b>			
Stationary & Postage Expenses	1,272.00		
Repair and Maintenance	759.00		
Bank Charges	467.30		
Depreciation	2,922.00		
<b>Total</b>	<b>55,684.30</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>55,684.30</b>

In terms of our separate report of even date.

Place : Patna  
Date : 17/12/2021

*Ashok Kumar*

(Ashok Kumar)  
Secretary, Gram Jagat

**Secretary  
Gram Jagat**

FOR SINHA GHOSH & CO. (FRN 010549C)  
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS



*Subhash Chandra Ghosh*  
Partner (M. No. 079039)