

### **Grameena Mahila Okkuta – Kolar District**

The deadly Corona virus has almost brought the entire globe to a halt from the last seven months. It has caused immense difficulties to many households in several villages in Mulabagal Taluk, Kolar district where GMO works. Which are dependent on daily wages and labour for their livelihood. The staff held a discussion with the board members of GMO in this regard, where it was decided to write request letters to those who like to give donations. Accordingly, we wrote to WE Trust and the other donor.

One of donor expressed their inability to extend support for COVID-19, relief work. But WE Trust immediately responded positively and approved the funds to use some of the programme funds which is already with GMO.

Even the staff members of GMO gave their contributions.

Efforts were made to identify beneficiaries in the villages where GMO is already functioning. The beneficiaries included single women, physically challenged, senior citizens and those who do not have ration cards, especially people belonging to SC/ST, as recommended by the community and local panchayat members.

After that a list of essential commodities and food items was prepared and phone calls were made to local provision stores to collect information of the available stock.

Accordingly, the staff and committee members of GMO went to Mulabagal to bring ration, vegetables, rice, etc., and then packed it.

We invited women to office from their villages, with hiring transport, and we distributed all the dry ration kits (This includes essential items like Rice, Dal, sugar, salt, grains, cooking oil, spice powders, jaggery, Biscuits and Vegetables for 15 days), for a family of 5 members and sanitary kit includes Soaps, sanitizer and Masks.

GMO explored the local women to stitch masks, and we paid them the stitching charges. During this difficult for women this is a way of livelihood support.

GMO purchased vegetables from local farmers where farmers are struggling to find their market during Lockdown period, one way it has been support to farmers.

So far we supported 170 families till today, out of 200 families.

The team gmo discussed with the communities during the visit and informed the men and women that those who are interested to work under MGNREGA through Panchayaths can do so, but they should maintain social distancing, they should use masks and hygiene part.













Those who are interested to work under MGNREGA were asked to call and the PDO of panchayath also has been informed to respond to the calls immediately.

Till 2 days ago no rains in this part, and people said for MGNREGA soils or too hard to work in summer. We got rain yesterday and now , we can speed up the process of applications in panchayaths.

### **Opinion from people**

- The community people expressed their views that the decision taken by the Okkuta at this hour of crisis is very useful and helpful. They said that you are doing a very good work at this time.

- Many beneficiaries expressed their view that the efforts of the Okkuta in distributing essential commodities and ration packets at this hour of crisis, that too with the support of PDO and Anganwadi activists is laudable and a good decision. They thanked the Okkuta for its efforts.
- Many of them expressed their views that they would like to help in making Xerox copies of the handbills printed to create awareness among the people about Corona Virus.
- The PDO expressed their view to the women and Okkuta that they were ready to extend any other help that the people require.
- The former GP members also expressed their view that the Okkuta had identified the right beneficiaries to extend necessary help.
- The women expressed their happiness
- The elders of the village also expressed their gratitude towards Okkuta for being doing such good work and thanked us
- The youth of the village also expressed their view that it was a very good decision
- The women shared their views that this help should be made available to all.
- Many of the beneficiaries expressed their view that there are other people in the village who are poorer than them and requested us to help them also.
- Expressed their happiness

### **House hold Survey**

On the other hand, Grameena Mahila Okkuta also did survey of 661 families of collecting information on what is delivered by the government through its schemes for relief, and how much people got it, comparing with media reports and government claims and with ground reports.

To help those most affected by the lockdown, the Central and State Governments have taken measures to ensure supply of food grains and give cash support to identified people. A number of orders have been passed by the governments in this regard. Those already obtaining benefits under various schemes are also left at a lurch as the service delivery outlets have been shut down and are rendered inaccessible. To address this, the state government has issued directions to home deliver the dry rations to the beneficiaries. But how well has that been implemented? Is that ensuring the right to food and nutrition security of the beneficiaries or is it insufficient? To understand the issues at the ground with regard to food and nutrition security, a need was felt to conduct a rapid assessment in 3 Taluks in Kolar District in the state of Karnataka.

### **Objectives**

Objectives of the study

- To understand the immediate impact of COVID-19 lockdown on food and nutrition security of the marginalised and poor rural population in 5 districts of Karnataka.
- To understand the effectiveness of specific measures announced by the Central and Karnataka State government in terms of providing rations, food, healthcare for children and women through Anganawadis, schools and public distribution system under ICDS, MDMS and PDS schemes..
- To provide recommendations to the local, State and Central Governments to ensure food and nutrition security

Limitations:

It does not cover all the issues faced by the marginalised population but it gives a general picture of the situation faced by the marginalised communities in the District. Considering the urgency of the situation, the entire study was completed within a short period of 5 days. This includes conceptualisation of the survey, preparation of the data collection tools, data collection, processing, analysis and documentation. Most of the interviews were conducted over phone and not in person.

The survey reveals that many of the families are not availed more than 2 supports. The ground realities are far from what we actually read in media and as well as Government records.

On the basis of the assessment of the current situation following recommendations are being made for immediate action.

We are prepared a consolidated report and submitted to District Commissioner, Deputy Director Women and child department and to draw their attention towards better implementation from various departments.

The details furnished below for your information.

## **COVID 19 – Benefits from Government availed by Families in GMO working villages**

### **Survey Details –April 2020**

#### **1. Total No. of Villages covered :**

- Mulbagal : 30
- KGF : 01
- Kolar :02

**Total Villages : 33**

## 2. Total no. of Grama Panchayaths

- Mulbagal : 13
- KGF : 01
- Kolar : 01

**Total 15 Grama Panchayaths : 33**

## 3. Total no. of Families : 661

## 4. Caste wise Details

- SC : 472
- ST : 48
- OBC : 129
- Minority : 12

## 5. Families received benefits through various Government Schemes ( Jandhan Scheme, Ujwala Scheme, PM Kisan Sanman yojana , Midday Meal Ration for children, Anganawadi Ration for below 5 years (Child Care Centre) Public Distribution System, Pension scheme )

- 7 Govt. Schemes received by Number of Families : 0
- 6 Govt. Schemes received by Number of Families : 0
- 5 Govt. Schemes received by Number of Families : 55
- 4 Govt. Schemes received by Number of Families : 65
- 3 Govt. Schemes received by Number of Families : 138
- 2 Govt. Schemes received by Number of Families : 227
- 1 Govt. Schemes received by Number of Families : 168
- 0 Govt. Schemes received by Number of Families : 08