

A PROPOSAL FOR THE SUPPORT FOR THE HELPLESS COVID  
AFFECTED PEOPLE

# 'KORUNADHARA'

Period of Proposal

**June - July - August, 2021**

Area of Implementation

**Twenty Villages of South 24 Parganas District,  
West Bengal, India**

Proposed By

**NISHTHA**

Subuddhipur, De Para, Baruipur, Kolkata 700144

Supported By

**ASHA FOR EDUCATION**

## BACKGROUND:

### ABOUT NISHTHA

Nishtha is a grass root level women's organisation working unabated to uphold the dignity and rights of women and ensure equal opportunities for them. The organisation was established in 1974 with the sole aim of women empowerment. Starting with small steps, Nishtha at present runs projects in 300 villages covering a network of one and a half lakh population. Currently Nishtha boasts of a minimum of 30,000 members which in itself is an achievement. There are various groups comprising of girls, women, youth and farmers like Balika Bahini (age- 8-11 years), Kishori Bahini (11-18 years), Mahila Mandal (Above 18 years age) and Barista Mahila Dal (above 55 years). These groups are the main strength of Nishtha, the rock solid pillars where leadership is built for supporting the grave causes or concerns of women. Women empowerment which is the basic concern of this organisation would have never been achieved without education—when Nishtha realised this hardcore truth then it started working towards the same goal. Youth and girl children were retained in schools, dropouts were checked and child marriages were resisted. Now this phenomenon did not happen overnight and the organisation had to brave the howling winds and rough weathers before success could be achieved.

Nishtha firmly believes that if the voices of women and their opinions are not heard then development of the society would never take place. Therefore this women's organisation worked towards building leadership qualities of the women and girls by forming various aforementioned groups, conducting incessant training programmes so that they could raise their voices and be heard in the community paving a smooth way for their income generation. Along with such rigorous activities, stakeholders and families were also sensitized to create a proactive and friendly environment for the women. This kind of congenial environment aided the girl children to pursue their education unhindered. Such congeniality led to a less gender biased discriminative society and helped the women to raise their voice of protest against any kind of violence, child marriage and trafficking. They came forward to negotiate with the block and GP administration about their distress. Now this entire process of forming the groups, building leadership and supporting women empowerment is in itself a wondrous achievement and the magnificent result of working unflinching for years together with a strong determination.

Nishtha is standing beside these poor women who are daily wage earners but have not lost hope in the law of the land. Besides all these marvellous achievements, Nishtha has successfully reduced trafficking, child marriage and child labourers in these parts. Nishtha has also been successful to retain the students to formal education.

## JUSTIFICATION OF THE PROJECT:

This was probably the year of destruction which has taken the whole world by surprise; moreover for us it has brought too many unpredictable circumstances and brought every individual to an impasse; however despite so many adversities we have come across new strength and possibilities. Especially in the District where Nishtha works it was appalled by the dual devastations of (Lockdown due to Covid 19 and Super Cyclone, Amphan) and desperately sought the platform with urgency. At one side lockdown had taken people's jobs, on the other side Amphan had even taken roof from their head. They had no money, no food, nothing. The most sufferers to this problem were the destitute old grannies and the single mothers.

Post Amphan the situation turned out to be more dreadful. The saline water from the seas entered the nearby villages and made the agricultural soil barren. The orchards were destroyed, the houses were shattered; the damage it has cost may take almost 5 to 6 years from now to revive. People right now are living an insecure life; hence they have given all hopes to survive. The situation turned out to be out of control when violence against the girls and women, trafficking, child marriage, etc. surged up drastically. This was the time when all the schools too were closed; though the students get the online classes by their teachers but this too is very problematic for them to sit for such classes as they have no smart phones.

It was the time when ASHA for Education and other friends of Nishtha stood beside them by providing them with dry foods, beddings, kitchen utensils, clothing, toiletries, etc. Beside this the Girls' from Jagaran also came up as a fleet of dedicated brave warriors at such difficult times. These girls were fearless and were ready to sacrifice themselves to save mankind.. Nishtha was bewildered at the initial stage but the leaders of the children and the youth groups performed miracles. They took a cycle each and darted into every nook and corner for aiding the distressed, mainly the girls and women. They worked unflagging to help the vulnerable souls from dying. They fed the starving people, resisted illegal trafficking by creating innovative protection circles and stood against domestic violence. These young frontline brave hearts campaigned against the local administration for equal distribution of ration amongst all. These young leaders took up the extreme challenge to bring back the migrant laborers safely from different states with the help of the authorities. They generated awareness about the health protocol along with standing dead against ostracizing the whole community that dealt with the Covid patients and were not even allowed to take the drinking water from the tap or ponds. The girl leaders worked unabated to protect the villagers in every facet of life. They collected grains from the well to do families of their village and distributed it among the most vulnerable souls of the village. What these little girls did was extremely praise worthy.

The violence which had surged drastically against the women and girls were handled by them with extremely innovative ideas with the help of the local administration and police. The Amphan devastated houses of 13 grannies were repaired by these little angels with the flown away objects during the cyclone which was collected by them in the material bank formed by them; beside these, they also had urged the Panchayat to help these grannies by giving 10000 rupees for the skilled laborers for the reconstruction of their destroyed houses. Agreeing their proposal the Panchayat credited the same amount to the saving accounts of those grannies. This money was then withdrawn and put into a common account which had the signing authority of a few village heads; whenever this money was required the heads were requested to withdraw it. Whatever these little girls did were done in the presence of the entire village, so that there remains no doubt whatsoever in the mind of any individual. Everything they did was absolutely transparent.

They worked hard to arrange a token for those families who did not have ration cards; these little leaders with the help of the Panchayat had arranged these Tokens for the 21 such families and also ensured that they get the equal amount of ration stuff. To make people aware these little girls gave up a campaign by preparing flex and installed it at every nook and corners of the village. Within 15 days, they ensured equal ration distribution in the villages.

The innovative protection circle also took innovative measures to control violence. They raised their voices at its peak whenever there was any unnatural situation. The best thing that was seen is that these little girls also get enormous amounts of support from the local stakeholders. Their suggestion also gets equal importance. This was the first time that they have broken all the old stereotypes that the local administration only pays heed to what its voters or adult members of the community; but for the first time these tiny tots were given equal importance and were supported the most.

They have prepared a list of various tasks that can be done under MGNREGA. This includes building dilapidated toilets of poor people, construction of ponds, canal irrigation, etc. These lists have been submitted to the local 'Pradhan' and sensitized them to involve those job card holders who are jobless and provide them an alternate way of livelihood. Our Group leaders have also requested the 'Pradhan' to try to provide Job Cards to some of the Migrant labourers and poor people. The entire community of 250 villages stood witness to their unflinching dedication, determination and discipline.

This was indeed an outstanding achievement; rather it can also be considered as a silent revolution and this is the project which has brought in this magnificent revolution.

We had seen enormous difficulties but the way these little angels worked; showed us a ray of hope. We now are blessed with an enormous strength of such dedicated warriors without

whom it would have never been easy for us to work in such a vast area. These girls have shown their worth and for this we are extremely grateful to ASHA for Education as they have been standing still beside us and these little girls since long years to ensure their education and well being.

The ongoing Covid Pandemic has not only aroused fear of its havoc among the people but also affected badly in their earnings; but thankfully the unlock period has begun. The transport system has started now and people are now moving out of their houses and have once again set out their foot to the cities in search of jobs. Again all have become busy reviving their crops and orchards but alas! The situation is not that favorable and it cannot turn back to normal before 5 to 6 years from now.

People started their struggle in order to bounce back again but finding it difficult they have become extremely depressed. Out of frustration the male members have started consuming liquor, selling the grains they get from the ration shops and other sources. To release their frustration, they even physically torture their wives and daughters. The situation was already adverse but unlocking had given relief to some extent but the second wave of Covid-19 or SarsCov-2 has once again brought the same situation back. The way this wave is infecting people can be understood when we come to know that everyday 4 to 5 people are dying from the place where we work. Every day we are losing our near and dear ones. The entire health sector has collapsed and its situation cannot be expressed in words. There are no Vaccines, Oxygen cylinders, life saving drugs, Ambulances, Beds in the General-ICUs and Ventilators wards. The doctors too are unavailable; they have closed their chambers once again. People are not able to move out of their houses, many train services have been called off; however the trains that are available too are overcrowded.

People presently are living in extreme fear. The destroyed condition of the people could be seen in every mainstream and social site. Wherever eyes could see and ears could hear, there are only cries and dead bodies. Who could have predicted such days would once again come in our lives and that too with more aggression. But we cannot leave our children and members of our women group alone at this time of distress. They all are fearless and don't fear death at all. The only cry that can be heard from them is, "We shall die but before that we shall save four lives."

This phase is tougher than what we had seen last year in March, 2020. The situation right now is unpredictable. The cries now are fiercer than before and its pain is unbearable. But Nishtha considers it to be extremely lucky to have its beloved friends and brothers like you like our saviors. After the detailed and prolonged discussions with ASHA for Education, they have shown the willingness to stay besides us so that these little leaders and women leaders of our group can approach those ill-fated with whatever they have in their hands.

## DETAILS OF THE PROJECT

After discussion with the Kishori Bahini and Mahila Mandal, Nishtha has come to the conclusion that it will help almost 4000 people living in 20 villages. This time they shall not only be helped with dry foods like last time, but this time they shall also have medical kits, which will contain Oxy meter, Infrared thermometer or thermal gun, Masks, 5 Layered Masks, Hand Gloves, Inhalers, Sanitizers and Disinfectants, Face Shields, Plastic Apron, Head Cap, Oxygen Cans, etc. Apart from this it will also contain some first aid medicines like; Tb. Ivermectin 12mg, Tb. Azithromycin 500mg, Tb. Doxycycline 100mg, Paracetamol 650mg, Tb. Zincovit 50mg and Betadine Germicide Gargle 2%. Additional Paracetamols will be distributed for controlling the fevers.

**Since the situation is extremely dreadful and there is an extreme crisis of Oxygen everywhere; thousands of people are dying without it every day. Hence, we wish to buy two units of Oxygen Concentrators. This will surely come like a boon to the 300 villages where we work in. Once we get this, we shall be able to help enormous people with oxygen, free of cost. \* Considering the needs, 90% concentration 10 Liter per minute model costs are considered. The cost per such unit varies between 1 Lakh to 1.4 Lakh (without GST). Including GST, a cost per unit of 1,30,000 is considered in the budget.**

Leaders will visit every nook and corner of the villages patrolling over their cycles and help those people with the required things. They will look if someone has fever, respiratory disorder, in such condition, they will take them to hospitals. They will also check their oxygen level with the help of the Oxy meters. In short they will ensure the preliminary health checkups. Through this they can at least save those lives; that were till now dying without any preliminary treatments. Beside all this they will also create health awareness by distributing leaflets, miking, etc. We have already provided them with two training sessions on various yoga-asanas or exercises that can increase oxygen level in the body; apart from these they were also provided all sorts of training that is required to maintain health guidelines. Every leader will get the Plastic apron, head caps, masks, face shields and sanitizers for their personal safety.

## GOAL

To ensure immediate preliminary health measurements to 4000 Covid affected people belonging to 20 villages of South 24 Parganas.

### Objective:

1. Providing intermediate medicines and oxy meters and checking if the person has any Covid symptoms so that those patients may understand its emergency immediately.
2. Generating awareness so that people understand Covid related issues and how it can affect one; moreover they can immediately take the help of Nishtha Volunteers, Panchayat or Police whenever there's any urgency.

3. Abide every health protocol without ostracizing any Covid affected person of the community; whereas they shall also stay beside the Covid affected person by helping him to get the best treatment; without getting in any physical contact.

#### **PROJECT AREA:**

20 Villages under South 24 Parganas District in West Bengal.

- Direct beneficiaries (4000 people)
- Indirect beneficiaries (35000 of the total population, who shall get the benefit through our various awareness programs)

#### **PROJECT PERIOD:**

3 Months – June, July and August, 2021

#### **IMPACT OF THE PROJECT:**

The biggest impact of the project is;

- People are living in absolutely adverse conditions, there's no one to stay beside them; because of which everybody feels to be left alone. Therefore it is extremely important to bring them out of such loneliness. They must help each other abiding with every health protocol
- The entire area has no preliminary measurements to detect the deadly disease. None of the organization has even thought in this regard; if Nishtha does it with the support of ASHA for education, it shall be the first ever initiative which will help the people to get the preliminary support for survival
- This is the time when there's a big scarcity of food; moreover the pandemic has brought in havoc in their minds, this probably has made them almost mad. In such a situation if these people get such a group besides them who will help them to get the preliminary support, they shall get some encouragement morally. This group will help them to get themselves hospitalized but before that they shall be helped with first aid treatment.
- If we succeed in our plan, all the girls and women leaders who will be taking over this task will get the appreciation from the entire group of community people. This will build in a relationship of trust and next time onwards they shall get the priority and privilege from the community. This will also build in a good relationship between the police and the other stakeholders which will increase with time. Moreover, it will also reduce the surging violence against the girls and women to a great extent as these leaders can get information besides providing

preliminary health support in these villages. Thus quick actions can be taken and police and local administration can also be involved immediately.

### Budget Details

**Name of Organization: NISHTHA**  
Health Response to Combat Covid-19

SL.No		Particulars	Qty	rate	Amount
<b>A</b>		<b>Health Response/Medical kits</b>			
1		Mask 05 Layers	500	7	3,500.00
2		Hand Gloves ( Plastic )	500	20	10,000.00
3		Apron ( Plastic )	20	100	2,000.00
4		Puls Oxymeter	10	2,500	25,000.00
5		Infrared Thermal gun	10	2,000	20,000.00
6		Head Cap	500	2	1,000.00
7		B.P Instrument	10	1,500	15,000.00
8		Stethoscope	5	800	4,000.00
9		Sanitizer - 5 litre	10	240	2,400.00
10		Face shield	30	80	2,400.00
11		Oxygen Concentrators (incl. GST 18 %)*	2	130,000	260,000.00
		<b>Sub total</b>			<b>345,300.00</b>
<b>B</b>		<b>Medicines</b>			
a		Azithromycin 500 mg - 40 strips	40	120	4,800.00
b		Doxycycline 100 mg - 40 strips	40	90	3,600.00
c		Paracetamol 650 mg -250 strips	250	20	5,000.00
d		Invermectine 12 mg - 3 pcs	40	90	3,600.00
e		Zincovit 50 mg - 40 strips	40	105	4,200.00
f		Betadin Gargle - 40 bottle	40	200	8,000.00
h		Misc. Exp,s			5,000.00
		<b>Sub total</b>			<b>34,200.00</b>
		<b>GRAND TOTAL ( A + B )</b>			<b>379,500.00</b>

\* Considering the needs, 90% concentration 10 Liter per minute model costs are considered

The cost per such unit varies between 1 Lakh to 1.4 Lakh (without GST)