

"Nutrition for Fight to against COVID 19"

Supported by : Asha for Education

The COVID-19 pandemic was first confirmed in the Indian state of West Bengal on 17 March 2020 in Kolkata. (*India Times*. 18 March 2020.) The world, including India and more particularly West Bengal had its first brush with the lockdown around that time. While the imposition of the lockdown was a necessary step towards flattening the curve of the much dreaded disease, it brought with it (*especially for countless daily wage earners, migrants and many such bread winners from the unorganised sector*) despair in the form of joblessness, fast depleting savings and consequently uncertainty in general.

A year later, in 2021, while West Bengal has been grappling under the twin damages of the 1st wave and the super cyclone Amphan, the 2nd wave has struck with greater momentum. It has been merciless and ravaged lives, livelihoods as well as destroyed and torn apart families – sparing no one.

Under such circumstances, **Hijli INSPIRATION** has focussed on distributing nutrition rich food baskets for children and families of their '**Bridging the Divide**' Programme run in collaboration with **Asha for Education** in the Kamarhati and Panihati area. These children come from families who live in deplorable conditions and struggle for two square meals a day. Taking into consideration that malnourished children have been adversely affected by the 2nd wave – **Hijli INSPIRATION** has taken efforts to ensure that the '**Bridging the Divide**' students (under 18 yrs) have some support to facilitate immunity building and thereby offer protection against falling prey to the fearful Covid 19.

Each student has been supported with a Nutrition Food Basket comprising

- Horlicks (500 gm.)
- Sattu (500 gm.)
- Glucon – D (500 gm.)

In keeping with the Covid protocol measures, a couple of soap cakes and 30 pieces of surgical masks have been included in the basket. One pack of seven Sanitary Napkins to all adolescent girls for maintaining hygiene and adopting proper WASH practices have also been distributed.

All of these items will be provided to students next two months as per their requirement.

The distribution took place on the 25th of May 2021 for around 70 children. Not just mere support, **Hijli INSPIRATION** looks at this an activity that was carried out with a sense of solidarity. It has been more than eleven years that we have been operating from Kamarhati and Panihati and in collaboration with **Asha for Education**. Everyday interaction and creating our own space with the help of community support has been an enriching learning. The nutrition basket was an extension of the daily nutrition supplements, which is expected to provide the required nutrients to the entire family.

Guardian and Student Feedback:

The table below captures the reactions and sentiments of students and their families after distribution:

NAME OF STUDENTS	CLASS	RECEIVED BY	CENTRENAME	FEEDBACK	
				GUARDIAN	STUDENT
MdTabrej Ali Ansari	X	Mother	Millat-E-Islamia (Ahmad Nadeem Ansari)	* Thanks to all for being so helpful * I appreciate everything you have given to us.	* I am very happy to get food today. * Thanks to all the office members and Teachers.
Sahil Ali	IX	Mother	Millat-E-Islamia (Aasia Khatoon)	* I am forever grateful for your help. * Keep up the good work.	* I want to thank you all for the help you have given us today. * Feeling amazed after getting food.
Phool Das	IX	Mother	Israel Colony (Tamali Das)	* I want to immensely thank you for the wonderful initiative. * Your help is greatly appreciated.	* Thank you very much for the help you provided us today. * This gesture is sincerely appreciated.
Shehnaaz Parveen	VIII	Mother	Millat-E-Islamia (Samma Parveen)	* Thanks for helping me get the food material I needed for my children in this crucial time. * Your support means a lot to me.	* You have been most helpful. *Thank you for everything you do.
Khushi Khatoon	VIII	Mother	Israel Colony (Rita Hari)	* Thank you all for your efforts and such a great job you have taken for the children. * I really appreciate you taking the time to help us.	* I have very much appreciate your support during this challenging time. * It means more than I can say.

Snapshots of the Distribution Programme on 25th May 2021

