

# Parivaar Education Society



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West Bengal, India**

**Proposal to Asha for Education  
(For COVID-19 Relief Efforts in MP)**

## About Parivaar

Parivaar ( [www.parivaar.org](http://www.parivaar.org) )is a humanitarian organization inspired by the spiritual and humanistic ideals of Sri Ramakrishna and Swami Vivekananda, with its chief institutions based in West Bengal, and a recent second branch in Madhya Pradesh. For the last 17 years, Parivaar has worked towards the total care and overall development of children who are highly vulnerable to exploitation, victimization and trafficking, including orphans, street children, abandoned children, and extremely impoverished children from tribal areas. It also conducts many more humanitarian activities for the destitute and uncared, including elderly and shelterless.

**In Bengal Parivaar has two residential educational institutions – Parivaar Vivekananda Sevashrama for Boys and Parivaar Sarada Teertha for girls. With over 2200 resident children, these are West Bengal’s largest free residential institutions for children from deprived and destitute backgrounds** We provide residential living, education, and overall child development through sports, cultural and recreational activities etc in a loving and caring atmosphere for boys and girls from early age of 5 till their higher education (university level graduation or employability programs).

Parivaar’s Residential Institutions are seen as a model institution in the field of caretaking and overall development of vulnerable children. We have been the recipient of the 2011 National Award for Child Welfare from the President of India, the highest recognition by the Government of India.

In the year 2016 Parivaar began to expand to a new geography of Madhya Pradesh purchasing 17 acres of land at village Sandalpur in District Dewas along with a plot of land on banks of Narmada at village Navada. **From 2017 onwards it has started 157 Day Boarding (Meal cum Education centres) for children in selected impoverished tribal and rural pockets called ‘Sri Ramakrishna Vivekananda Seva Kutir’ in Dewas, Sehore, Mandla, Sheopur and Chhindwara districts. At these Kutirs more than 15,000 children are getting nutritious meals (breakfast and dinner) along with strong Supplementary education and Life-Skills over morning and evening shifts.** We are endeavouring to set up 200 such Kutirs in MP by March 2021. Also, a residential educational institution, modeled on lines of our Bengal institutions, is right now under construction at Sandalpur village in Dewas district which will house 500 resident children initially, and will be gradually scaled up to a capacity of more than 2000 resident children. Eventually one residential educational institution in each of the districts of MP where Seva Kutirs are under operation, will be set up. In the interim Parivaar has also started 2 hostels on

rental premises in Mandla for 92 children, and one hostel in Sehore district in village Diwadiya for 20 girls.

### **COVID-19 & Relief Measures - Project Rationale**

Due to COVID-19 and the subsequent lockdown measures announced by the Government, we had to suspend the functioning of the Seva Kutirs. However, our team is present in the remote tribal villages and we are trying our best to help the people who are in severe distress. The 157 villages in 5 districts of MP, where Parivaar operates its Seva Kutirs, are one of the most backward, remote and poor areas in the entire country. The mostly tribal population in these areas lives hand to mouth existence, and generally there are no savings to fall back to in case their economic activities stop, which is what has happened now. Further, in many families, there are only elderly people with young adults stuck in other districts and states, and it is very difficult for them to sustain themselves during this period without any external support. To address this, Parivaar has, from the starting of the lockdown on 25<sup>th</sup> March 2020, started coordinating with the local government authorities in ensuring timely delivery of the necessary materials and services. With the help of our team of teachers, cooks and Cluster coordinators, who live in the villages and nearby areas, we identified the most vulnerable people and started providing them support.

### **Project Objectives**

The key objectives of the relief efforts are:

- (i) To identify the vulnerable families in our Seva Kutir villages and the nearby villages who need support (whether in kind or cash), and then provide them the required support.
- (ii) To inform the Sarpanch, Panchayat officials, block level government officers, health officers, about the families who are in need of support or who are, for various reasons, not getting the benefit of government relief measures.
- (iii) To spread awareness about health and safety measures among villagers to prevent any outbreak of COVID-19 cases in these villages
- (iv) To help the migrant labourers stuck in these villages or nearby areas by providing them food stock and other necessary items.

### **Project Location**

The relief efforts are being undertaken in 5 districts of Madhya Pradesh : Dewas, Sheopur, Mandla, Chhindwara and Sehore. These are being undertaken in 157 villages of these districts where our Seva Kutirs are, and around 50 other nearby villages as well. Some relief efforts are also being undertaken in Bhopal city.

## Project Activities

We have employed a diverse set of measures to address the various problems faced by the rural tribal community. These are mentioned below:

### 1. Keeping Track of Implementation of Government Schemes

Our team is actively coordinating with the government officials and the villagers and making sure that all the help (in cash and in kind) as decided by the Central & State Governments reaches the villagers. Some of these schemes being implemented in these villages are :

- Monetary support of Rs 2000 installment (Out of Rs 6000 annual amount) to farmers under the PM-Kisan scheme.
- Distribution of Mid-Day Meal food stock to the children.
- Monetary support of Rs 500 to women into Jan Dhan account for COVID-19 relief.
- Widow and elderly pension scheme.
- Rural wage employment allowance under the MGNREGA scheme

### 2. Monetary Relief to Targeted Families

The poor tribal families do not have savings to sustain themselves and mere basic food stock distribution (rice, wheat, pulses and salt) does not fulfil all their needs. Even if they are somehow able to feed themselves, **they need money to buy other essentials such as medicines, milk for babies, sanitary items etc.** Government has distributed certain sums under **Jan Dhan scheme, Widow Pension scheme,** and other such schemes but this amount is in many cases meagre and there are significant numbers of people who, for a variety of reasons, **fall through the cracks and do not get the money.** In such circumstances, and as per the intensive field visits and surveys by our team, we found it necessary to give monetary assistance, depending upon our capacity, to at least the neediest people in the Seva Kutir villages and nearby villages who have almost no cash left with them. **A significant portion of them are elderly people, who in many cases do not have any young adult family members to take care of them.** We have adopted two modes of giving monetary relief : (i) transferring money to their bank accounts & (ii) giving them cash. The latter is necessary as it is impossible for many people, especially the elderly ones who do not have young adults in their families, or people whose houses are far from market places where banks are, to access the bank and withdraw the

money. Our team identified them, and handed over the cash to them. We are giving Rs 1000 to each family in most of the cases, while in some cases, depending on need, we are giving Rs 500.

Further, **for migrant people who are on the move and going to their homes, cash is needed for survival on the road, as they cannot carry food stock with them on an already long and difficult journey.** Our team found out that some such migrant people had stopped at one place, unable to move further because of lack of any cash. When we handed over the cash to them, they said that they could now think of moving towards their homes. They said that at some places, they got free food but at many others, they had to buy the ration from shops and cook their meals, for which they needed cash.

In addition to the 5 districts where our Seva Kutirs are, we have also given monetary help to extremely poor and needy families in Bhopal city. Though we do not have any team or Centres in Bhopal, we still through our Volunteers identified and distributed cash to the needy people.

As of 30<sup>th</sup> April 2020, we have provided monetary relief to 1942 families.

### **3. Food Stock Distribution**

Under the PDS (Public Distribution System), Government is distributing food stock (wheat, rice, sugar, salt) for 3 months period to families. These are supplied at subsidized rates. However, in many villages, there are a few families which get left out because they do not have the Ration Cards even though they are poor and needy. Our team surveys and finds these cases, **inform the Panchayat and ensure that they get the rations.**

**As of 30<sup>th</sup> April 2020, 599 such families have been identified and they got rations from their respective village Panchayat.**

Apart from this, there are some families which either do not get the rations or get it in small quantity, so we have given them **sufficient ration for 15 days (flour, rice, pulses and salt) from our Seva Kutir stock. As of 30<sup>th</sup> April, 2020, there are 224 such families.**

We are keeping track of the ground situation across all our 157 Seva Kutir villages, and also other villages in the same area, so that if there is any family that needs rations, we inform and coordinate with the Panchayat and other government officials.

### **4. Coordinating Health Checkups by the Government Officials**

Our team is coordinating with the government officials and health officers, and informs them about any cases which require medical attention. This includes also cases of migrant laboureres who are returning to their villages. Information about all such

persons are given to the health officials and they do a routine checkup. **If any person shows symptoms of fever, cold etc then he/she is quarantined.**  
**As of 30<sup>th</sup> April 2020, there are a total of 601 such health checkups which have been coordinated by our team.**

**5. Distribution of Protective Equipments to prevent Infections & Other Safety Measures**

Government has instructed the Panchayat to distribute masks and sanitizers to villagers. This work has started in some of the villages, and our Village level team volunteers with the Panchayat and other government servants in distribution of these materials, cleaning activities in the villages, spraying of disinfectant in the villages etc. Our team also meets the villagers and spreads awareness about the various measures and steps that need to be taken to maintain cleanliness and social distancing.

**Project Budget**

The detailed budget break up district-wise, is provided in the excel sheet. Here, we are providing main lines of expenditure and the total amount. This is exclusive of our team's efforts in coordinating better delivery of materials and services by the government.

SL	Area of Expenditure	Families served	Amount
1	Direct Bank Transfer	1085	10,85,000
2	Cash Handouts	857	7,45,000
3	Food stock distribution	224	1,70,000
		<b>2166</b>	<b>20,00,000</b>

We request Asha for Education to provide us with support in the above activities.