

Concept Note:
Providing Food Assistance: COVID 19 Response: Slums of Trilokpuri, Delhi

The Objective:

The announcement of the 21 days of lockdown across the country has brought all our lives to a grinding halt. The situation is particularly grave for the most marginalised, who have been left to fend for themselves. At Trilokpuri, a resettlement colony and slum, located in East of Delhi, we are grappling on how to deal with this crisis. Most people here are daily wage laborers, small factory workers, rickshaw pullers, domestic helps and others. The lockdown has resulted in loss of work and making them vulnerable to starvation.

Trilokpuri is a resettlement colony and slum area developed during 1975-76. People living in slum areas in different parts of Delhi were cleared out and resettled in Trilokpuri and houses people from different regions and religions. Apart from being one of the oldest resettlements areas, Trilokpuri also has a violent history. This was the area that was worst hit during the 1984 Sikh riots that shook the country post the assassination of the Prime Minister, Indira Gandhi. Even after that this area, which has over 16 lakhs voters, records one of the highest crime rates in Delhi. In addition to this, presence of poverty and poor living condition further makes the population vulnerable to several social injustice and discrimination. Majority of the people living in this area are daily wage laborers, vegetable and fruit vendors or are employed in small private work in and around the area. Women work as domestic help, while many are housewives.

The present lockdown of 21 days by the Indian government in response to the world-wide pandemic of COVID 19 for the last one week has completely pushed the most marginalized further into abject poverty. They have lost their work and are left with no money to buy food and provisions from the open market or other PDS outlets. Most of the people living in these slums have no documents, as they travel from other states to work in Delhi and live here in rented *jhuggis*. Lack of money and lockdown has left them in situation where they are unable to leave for their villages, while on the same time not be able to afford paying rent and feed their families.

About JOSH:

JOSH was formed as part of the right to information movement to work by engaging youth and the larger community on issues of governance, especially on education and citizenship. JOSH works through field interventions in the slums and resettlement colony of Trilokpuri and Kalyanpuri in East Delhi, where it engages with marginalized urban poor youth and community members to work towards improving delivery of quality education and youth development. JOSH also undertakes policy interventions that are informed by its field experience.

JOSH has the following programmatic focuses:

- Skill building and job assistance to urban poor youth
- Developing employability skills of poor and minority girls
- Government schools and their parents on improving school education
- Providing redressal to victims of gender- based violence and discrimination through collaboration with Delhi Women Commission (DCW) under Mahila

Panchayat program

The programmatic focus across these interventions is to work with the most marginalized to build the capacity to access rights and entitlements. In the past years **JOSH** has gained immense knowledge and relevant experience in highlighting social causes and has undertaken interventions for the empowerment of the vulnerable, marginalized section of the society namely women and youth.

Intervention and Response Plan:

In light of the fast developing emergency circumstance, we have identified **85 families**, who need help in terms of food to survive, as they have no means to support themselves and their dependent families, including young girls and children. We are trying to locate others who are in need.

We are reaching out to Asha for Education to help us raise **2,50,000 INR** to provide dry ration to them for a month, as we foresee this situation to last longer than the present announcement of 21 days of lockdown. The average cost of each family (average size 4 people) is coming to around INR 3,000/. We will take full responsibility of acquiring and distribution of the food items to these families. The items includes:

1. Rice
2. Atta
3. Dal (lentils)
4. Salt
5. Sugar
6. Basic masala
7. Cooking Oil

Looking forward to your support in sustaining these families.