Relief work by Thulir towards COVID-19

In May 2021, when the second wave of COVID-19 was causing havoc in most parts of India, the village of Sittilingi, where Thulir is located, was also affected. Thulir was actively involved in various activities in association with Tribal Health Initiative (THI) - [http://www.tribalhealth.org/](http://www.tribalhealth.org/). Asha for Education provided a one-time funding of Rs. 378,000. Since, the budget was prepared in very little time amidst the crisis, it was difficult to forecast the nature of expenditure that would need to be incurred to mitigate the crisis. Deviations from the original budget was duly reported and approvals were sought.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expenditure Head</th>
<th>Budget</th>
<th>Actual (₹)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Amount per person (₹)</td>
<td>Total (₹)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lab tests (1000 x 2)</td>
<td>2,000</td>
<td>1,08,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medicines</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>54,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oxygen (300/day x 5 days)</td>
<td>1,500</td>
<td>81,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other expenses - Food, nursing charges, PPE Kits, hygiene kits, Doctor visits, (Rs. 500/day x 5 days)</td>
<td>2,500</td>
<td>1,35,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transport assistance to patients</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food for migrant labourers</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transport assistance to parents to bring children to school</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assistance to students to pay college fees</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>7,000</strong></td>
<td><strong>3,78,000</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The following report is prepared with inputs from project partner.

Tribal Health Initiative prepared a 15 bed exclusive COVID ward, as well as protective gear, oxygen, testing, medicines etc. The patients were categorised into three levels, based on the severity of the infection and the risk factors of Individuals. Level 1 for mild symptoms, level 2 for moderate symptoms which require admission in THI, and level 3 for those in very high risk category who needs to be shifted to the bigger hospitals.
Thulir contributed in supporting the medical expenses of some of the patients, especially, when they have to be treated outside THI.

The details of the patients treated are as follows:

Patients addressed - 468

Support for Migrant workers

A group of nomadic workers (about 45 of them) were stranded in the valley after being driven out of different towns. Hailing from Andhra Pradesh, they have been travelling around selling woven baskets and other small items on pavements and bus stands in different cities. The imposition of lockdown in May 2021 left them with no source of income and with no place to stay.

They were looking for an open place where they could pitch their tents and stay till the end of lockdown. There were reluctance among many in the valley about letting them stay close to the village due to various reasons including spread of COVID. There was no support coming from the Government officials either.

Some of the teachers from Thulir spoke on behalf of them and convinced others to let them stay on compassionate grounds. They promised support for them from Thulir and would not trouble others in the village. Thulir supported them with groceries, vegetables and some livelihood opportunities.

Hospital helplines

Phone helplines were set up for patients to access help and guidance. Anu volunteered full time providing psychological support to patients in home quarantine and following up on those who were discharged but had to be still monitored. The huge fear of being stigmatised by the village, when one was tested positive, had to be assuaged. There were people with symptoms but not
diagnosed, required advice and would call at all times of the day. The older patients, above 50, would brush aside all prevention norms and need for self isolation by saying “Only city folks will get COVID. We work in the sun all day and will not get sick”! They had to be persuaded to self isolate. And still, most of them would want someone to listen to their ailments and complaints! Listening to them patiently helped on most times. Men, especially in the age group 25-45 were mostly very anxious and afraid, because of misinformation from various sources. They needed someone to clarify doubts and provide reassurance.

**Database administration**

Siddharth, Ram and Archana helped develop and maintain a data base of patients all over the valley. This helped doctors, nurses, the field health staff and volunteers and hospital helpline volunteers co-ordinate and follow up on patients in home quarantine, and those discharged from the hospital.

**Other expenses**

1. **Transport assistance**: The Pandemic and the unseasonal rains has resulted in huge economic hardship here. During other normal years the Thulir parents have always taken responsibility for the transport of children to school. This year they were unable to during November, December and early February. We didn't have to support them in March and April.

2. Many parents struggled to pay college fees for children. We tried to support part fees of a few deserving students. Thulir supported the fees for Poornima, ex-student from Sittilingi, who is doing her second year BSC-nursing.

**Other Resources:**

