

A brief Report on Corona Relief Undertaken by Nayantara Memorial Charitable Trust

“Look upon every man, woman, and everyone as God. You cannot help anyone; you can only serve; serve the children of the Lord, serve the Lord Himself; if you have the privilege. If the Lord grants that you can help anyone of His children, blessed you are; do not think too much of yourselves. Blessed you are that that privilege was given to you when others had it not. Do it only as a worship. The poor and the miserable are for our salvation, so that we may serve that Lord coming in the shape of the diseased, coming in the shape of the lunatic, the leper and the sinner.” – Swami Vivekanada

The world today is facing a never seen before crisis as it reels under the impact of Covid-19 virus which has taken the proportions of global pandemic. It has been over 6 months now that the human race round the globe is finding itself under unprecedented lockdown in order to stay safe and see another day. Not everyone is a salaried person or a businessman and hence fortunate enough to sit at home and feed his/her family days after days and months after months. In a country like India where the larger majority of people fall under the unorganized sector and a sizeable population are **daily wage earners**, lockdown means no work and hence no pay. The question one faces is whether to save ‘life’ or ‘livelihood’.

Nayantara Memorial Charitable Trust has been working in and around Choupahari jungle of **Illamabazar** block of Birbhum district in the state of West Bengal in India. This rural area has a considerable number of **tribal populace**, majority of who are marginal farmers or landless laborers. While the farmers having their own agricultural land or working as bargadars manage to stock their required food grains and other farm products, the landless laborers are daily wage earners and have no such reserves in hand. This section of the society is one of the worst hit in this time of crisis. The Trust has tried to stand by these **poorest of the poor** who were deprived of help from any other source – government or non government.

The target area where the Trust works has over 2000 families but the Trust with its limited resources has been able to reach out to around **1000 families** with its free ration distribution initiative. Over the past month and a half the Trust has distributed **family relief kits** comprising of **Rice, Pulses, Cooking Oil, Salt, Soyabean, Chattu, Spices, Biscuits, Muri (puffed rice), soap and detergent powder**. Total expenditure incurred so far is around **5 Lakh** with an average family kit cost of **Rs.525/- per kit**. We intend to carry on the relief as long required.

We are thankful to all donors and well wishers of the Trust who have come forward with helping hand. Without their support it would have been impossible to undertake this service to mankind. I would also like to thank all the volunteers of the Trust who have braved these odd times to undertake this work. My prayers for the safety and well being of one and all.



