

THE JOURNEY UNHEARD

Updates from ASHRAY- South Vihar Welfare Society for Tribal



Overview

Impacted and Uplifted the lives of 21675 people of indigenous community through provision of Shelter, food, ration and Awareness

The Indegenous Community

Plight during Covid

The COVID-19 has affected the lives of the indigenous community immensely. During this term of social, economic, and cultural recession, traditional knowledge and tribal identity activities have been suddenly stopped.

As someone from outside the community, we are aware of the indigenous community's economic struggles, but we fail to realise that there are innumerable cultural and social hurdles and impediments that existed during that phase. Due to loss of livelihood, there was an abrupt reduction of capital flows in the poor indigenous farming community that kept them starving and depressed during the lockdown period. The families of Migrant worker's suffered the most as they were being treated as outcasts. On a social front, the villagers were not allowing entry to any person coming from outside. Migrant workers who returned to their village during lockdown were also not provided any shelter.

While doing more profound research, our team came across various incidents that focused on the life and struggles faced by the women and children of these indigenous communities. We realised that the plight of women in households was the worst. It was observed that consumption of Hadia by the male member had increased manifolds during the lockdown, which incidentally increased the instances of domestic violence. Because of their husbands' intoxication, the women had to manage the entire household, starting from arranging food to managing their children. The villages also lacked resources for online education.

A conversation with Manish Marandi (12 years) of Seraikela District informed us that they miss going to school and dislike their family situation. The fact that job loss has outraged their father and has resulted in domestic violence distresses the house's children. All this and more made it evident that the villagers required an urgent intervention and support from our end.



"Message from the founder"

Our Initiatives

Our team found 4 critical issues: Lack of Shelter, food, low level of awareness regarding hygiene for covid and general hygiene and Problems revolving around food sovereignty. Thus, our initiatives for the indigenous community was in 4 folds. Shelter, Awareness, Food and Distribution. 10 of our shelter homes were fully functioning throughout the covid and gave refuge to more than 10,000 people across Jharkhand. Healthcare and food along with Covid specific precautions were taken at all times.

We undertook distribution of Dry ration and WASH kits to more than 900 families. The ration could suffice for approximately 45-50 days for each family, bringing about a radical change in their nutrients requirements. Freshly prepared food was served at our shelter homes to not only the habitants, but also to the community and their family members. It filled the gap of mid-day meal for the children.

Lastly, our team undertook a very rigorous awareness drive. The drive focused on educating and uplifting the women of the indigenous community. We imparted education related to the rich indigenous herbs, its usage and growth techniques. Promotions of domestic herbs and vegetables was done for food sovereignty. Working on Atmanirbhar Bharat, technical knowledge on Indigenous skills was imparted so that the community has an alternative source of income even during the Pandemic. We promoted utilisation of Jan, Jungle, Jameen and Jann. While acquainting the community regarding Covid hygiene guidelines, we even focused on educating the women about menstrual health and usage of sanitary napkins

Results & Impact

Self sufficiency was our main goal through the project. The plight of indigenous community is not always visible to the common masses, but through our initiatives, we have successfully been able to uplift the community from this social and economic recession.

Women and Children were provided with relief from food scarcity. Our awareness drive brought about a much needed change in the attitudes of the community. They started moving towards growing and consuming their own food grains and made them less reliant to the outer world and Pandemic.

Thus, we were able to impact directly and indirectly the lives of approximately 21675 people of indigenous community.