IMPACT OF COVID -19 on PREM DAN MUMBAI

As of now in Mumbai city and suburban areas there are 249,111 reported cases of COVID-19 and 9,970 deaths. Life has changed drastically for people especially in the slums because many people have lost their jobs. . Schools came to a sudden halt on March 15th with no exams and a closure of all activities. From then on it has been most difficult for the poor people huddled together in one small room. While some IT and office people could work from home this was not possible for domestic workers and daily wage labourers who were not allowed to go to work for fear that they may be carriers. With the lockdowns the whole family had to remain at home even if they were huddled in one room, because of which domestic violence increased in the home and children were restless and irritable as they had no space to play or do anything.

At the **Garden school in Colaba**, food and other items were distributed to some of the families of the sponsored children and also to the teachers who would be affected by the lockdown restrictions.





In **Reay Road slum**, people were not allowed to go out except to use the public toilets. The houses of the people are in bad condition with no one allowed to do



repair work. There was strong police security and if people

ventured out of their houses they were badly beaten.

If people fall sick it is very difficult as the hospitals are full of all kinds of patients and they do not cater to the poor. Prem Dan as well as some other NGO's distributed rations and cooked food to the people in the Reay road slums.



In the **Geeta Nagar slum** the situation is almost the same. People are unable to manage because they have lost their jobs. They do not have money to buy the essential things. They have to borrow money to pay their bills and fees. Their houses are in a bad condition and when it rains water comes into the houses. During the high tide sea water enters the houses. They are taking precautions and washing their hands but they are unable to buy sanitizers and other things. Premdan distributed food items and cooked meals to the families.



Garden school has not yet opened but the Premdan children who are in different schools have to attend the online teaching program. For our children in the slums it is very difficult as some families can have only one smart phone and 3 or 4 children have to use it for their classes. Since most of the parents in the slums are uneducated they are unable to help their children. Sometimes they have to manage everything in one room – cooking, cutting vegetables, studying and so on.

Some of the children had gone back to their villages so they have to try to follow the studies from there online. The teachers are taking care of things for their families.

In the Boarding at Kharghar the children had to be sent home because of social distancing norms and so they too are struggling in their homes. We hope and pray that things will get better and our children can come back to the boarding and attend school physically. Some of them have expressed their difficulties in their letters.

Kello Aurty, I'm good hope you are also keeping well, in this pandamic of covid-19, as we all know that we are all in homes and missing our school's a lot. Dean. but as our educational department said we are I hope you and your family are in pink of your health I am very glad to write this letter to you I am writting you this letter to tell you about how I am managing my studies during this pandemic situation attending online classes are even sometime my class is been missed because as I'm learning new things about the mobile technology 50 sometime I think how easy it was coronavirus. I have been passed and promoted to school and study. I and my family are praying of som sta 9th to sta 10th but, due to this current from sta am to station but, due to this don't for the state online everyday so that the vaccine may come up The online classes are been started from 16th June 2020. I am managing my 10th studies well. The postions of syllabus are been reduced due to lockdown. This is the with successfull result, you and your family are always in my prayers. Take care and oppurturity to study well. Nobody knows opputanty to study well. Nobody knows till when this situation will camp on but the been aways praying for thethings to get sort out. Due to lockelown I didn't go to the boarding as well but the sisters incharge these are contacting me and encour-aging me to do well in my studies. Thankyou for all your love and support towards me that I have received. Once again thankyou and he safe. Your Loving Rosemary valmiki and be safe. From your loving child, Priya - Medekar VOUAY Hello Aunty , I am good with god grace. I keeping well. In this pandamic of covid-19 starte here from 6° March 2020. due to this we were Lots of problem for food etc. All the shops are all spoter and Aunty gave us Rice, Sugar etc. dum this Lockdown. And were strickly told to sit Then the education house not to come out of house. Then the ed department told to attain the online classes. nework issues are their. We are praying in the house day and night for all the families and hear ones. Nou and your family are always their in my prayer I would like to end by shying stay at nome and Your Loving child. be safe Rani Padachi

We know that you too are struggling in some way at this time of the pandemic and we send you and your families our wishes and prayers.

Sr. Helen Dias