

President's Message

Dear friends,

Greetings from PREM !

We are coming to you after a long interval. The whole world is in a panic due to COVID 19 including our country India. This may be the first kind of disaster the whole world is affected. Our Central Govt. and State Govt. are working very hard to control this pandemic. It is a responsibility of every citizen to follow the guidelines to control this pandemic. All over India many Non Government Organisation and individual donors are engaged in relief and rehabilitation activities. One of the most important areas was to support the migrant labourers coming back to their home states and also get support from the Govt. as their right as well as relief and rehabilitation measures from different agencies.

This E-news brings information regarding our regular projects and also involvement in relief and rehabilitation activities for migrant families and other needy people. One thing I like to express that NGOs are not getting the support to highlight their works where as the Govt. and Corporate sectors are getting the recognition. In our case some District administration like Ganjam is working very closely with NGO sector and we are able to tackle the relief and rehabilitation more meaningfully.

This time also we have to specially remember and pray for the people who died during this pandemic, especially the Govt. staff, social workers and others well wishers. We also take this opportunity to request all of us to follow the guidelines of World Health Organisation (WHO) using mask always, maintain the distance while meeting other people, special care should be given to children and senior citizens in our country. We also wish you all a Happy Dussehra which may bring joy and fraternity and justice to everyone who is in difficulties.

Thanking you all
With best regards

Dr. Jacob Thundyil,
President, PREM.

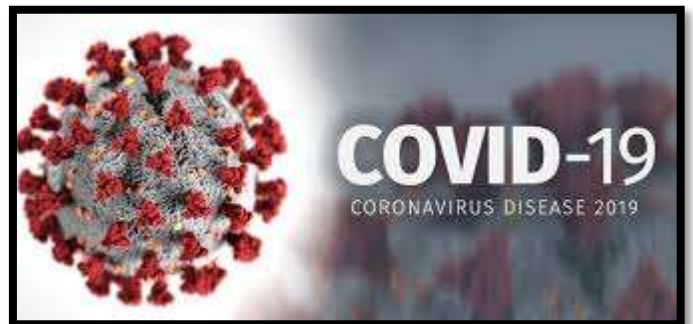
COVID relief measures

On 11 March 2020, the Cabinet Secretary of India, Rajiv Gauba, announced that all states and UTs should invoke provisions of Section 2 of the Epidemic Diseases Act, 1897. On 14 March, the union



government declared the pandemic as a "notified disaster" under the Disaster Management Act, 2005, enabling states to spend a larger part of funds from the State Disaster Response Fund to fight the virus. Now it's a hard time for the world which is in the clutches of CORONA, the Covid-19 virus. This pandemic took lakhs of lives and crores of people are still struggling.. Keeping in view of such a pandemic situation Govt. of India

declared lockdown of the country where all the industries, shops, malls, restaurants are closed down. It became a serious threat to the people who were earning their livelihood by working in such farms. They became jobless and obviously their lives were in danger without food, shelter and other basic needs. These people were forced to return back to their native places but due to lockdown situation there was no means of transportation, availability of food and shelter in the way. Daily some lakhs of people were passing through Ganjam district of Odisha without food, water and shelter. Even the small children, pregnant women and children bearing mothers were the worst suffers during this situation. The people who are in their villages are also suffering from unemployment and hunger.



In this situation PREM in association with Azim Premji Philanthropic Initiative (APPI), Realiance Foundation, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and Govt. of odisha has under taken following activities to save the lives of migrant people and their livelihood during COVID-19 pandemic lock down.

Convergence with District administration to establishing COVID hospital

The District administration, Gajapati has established a **COVID hospital** in PREM's existing training and resource centre at R. Sitapur at Parlakhemundi, Gajapati district which is having an accommodation for 400 people is known as "Bharatmata Training and Resource Centre". In the month of April 2020 the district administration requested PREM to use the building as COVID hospital for Gajapati district and PREM has given the building for establishing the hospital. At present it can accommodate 200 patients with all facilities.



COVID hospital established at "Bharatmata Training and Resource Centre" of PREM at R. Sitapur, Parlakhemundi of Gajapati district

Supply of Ration Kits

PREM, in collaboration with Ajzim Premji Foundation, has come forward for the **relief for migrant labourers and families** coming under BPL from Goudagotha Panchayat and Asurbandha Panchayats of Surada block of Ganjam District. 1465 households from Goudagotha and Asurbandha panchayats have provided with a ration kit—Atta 5 kg Dal 2kg, flattened rice 1 kg, soyabin (meal maker) ½ kg, sugar 1 kg, edible oil 1 litre, spice powder 1 pkt, 2 masks and one Dettol soap. The distribution has been accomplished in the presence and support of local MLA, Suroda, Vice Chairman of Suroda Block and Dr. Jacob Thundyil, President, PREM.



Distribution of dry food packets to the migrants under SUGAM program

PREM along with other NGO networks of Ganjam district extended its **collaboration with the SUGAM program**—An initiative taken up by DRDA, Ganjam District—to ensure no migrant worker to walk in Odisha. In this initiative it started a mission of distributing the dry food and water bottles to 3000 migrant people who were returning back to their native places but due to lockdown situation there was no means of transportation and availability of food. Similarly district administration arranged transportation facilities for them to cross the district from 19th May 2020 at Mandiapalli Junction, NH 16. PREM also mobilized some charitable institutions to support in this mission and some of such institution came forward to support cooked food, dry food, water, masks, towels, caps etc.



Distribution of dry food packets to the migrants under SUGAM program

Relief Distribution

PREM in collaboration with Reliance Foundation, Mission Anna Seva, Mumbai worked persistently in response to COVID-19 pandemic to be at the service to the people has been **distributed dry ration kits** to 1500 vulnerable and needy beneficiaries in 4 blocks—Dharakote, Chikiti, Patrapur, Kukudakhandi and Hinjili Block—of Ganjam District in the month of August 2020. The District Administration has been proposed the identified target groups for distribution of the kits in Ganjam District. The distribution were done through a convenient mobile based App called Jotform which help in data collection and reporting on a real time basis. The District administration, Ganjam appreciated the work of PREM and Reliance Foundation and felicitated with certificates for supporting the vulnerable families during COVID 19 pandemic.



Certificates of appreciation from district administration for supporting the marginalised families during COVID 19



Beneficiaries received ration kits at 4 block of Ganjam District

Distribution of Hygiene kits



Distribution of hygiene kits to 9532 households of 21 panchayats of Gajapati and Rayagada districts

Gajapati and Rayagada Districts of Odisha. Simultaneously creating awareness on using mask, regular hand washing practice, personal hygiene and maintaining of social distancing. The awareness on the above topics was very informative for the villagers and they expressed their gratefulness to PREM for providing the hygiene kits which will be very useful for them.



Distribution of clothes and Seeds



distributed clothes which includes (1 Saree, 1 Towel, 1 Lungi & 1 Dhoti) and Seed packets at Dantaling village of Asurbandh Gram Panchayat of Sorada of Ganjam District

PREM has distributed **clothes which includes (1 Saree, 1 Towel, 1 Lungi & 1 Dhoti) and Seed packets** to the 386 migrant and vulnerable families of Dantaling village of Asurbandh Gram Panchayat of Sorada of Ganjam District, Odisha. There were 44 widows and 12 widowers in these 386 families. We have separate cloth packets for these vulnerable families. The whole community was so happy after receiving clothes and seed packets from PREM during COVID-19 Pandemic lock down. Indeed it was a great support for the vulnerable families during this COVID-19 Pandemic Lock down.

In all these programs the volunteers of PREM provided utmost service to thousands of people.

.As government brought some changes to unlock the situation, some state buses and vehicles were allowed to pass through Odisha, hence this minimized the transited migrants and made mission of PREM successful. The district administration and funding agencies appreciated the work of PREM for its selfless service for the

transited migrants and vulnerable beneficiaries. After receiving the seed packets now the

beneficiaries have developed kitchen gardens in their respective backyards. As a result the families are getting nutritious food with greens vegetables from the kitchen gardens and after consuming they are also selling the vegetables in their local market and getting a small amount of income in the pandemic situation. This initiative generated interest among the villagers for who are motivated to initiate kitchen garden backyard cultivation in their homes.



Kitchen garden developed by the beneficiaries in their respective backyards

Awareness meeting on Covid-19

Awareness on COVID 19 and its preventive practices was raised by PREM among 25000 people

(5000 families) in its operational area— Ganjam, Gajapati, Kandhamal, Rayagada, Puri during this pandemic period. The field staff of PREM and volunteers organized these meeting at different villages of the



Awareness meeting on Covid-19 in operational areas of PREM

above said districts. The main components of the meetings were personal health and hygiene practices, hand washing, social distancing and regular use of mask, do's and don'ts practices during home quarantine, staying positive etc.



Convergence with district administration:

To address different COVID 19 issues, PREM is having regular communication and interactions with the Govt. officials at different level. The field staff, CBOs, PRI representatives are regularly communicating through WhatsApp and telephone to PREM and as well as to the Govt. offices. Through the regular communication we could know about the ground realities and updated information which is helping us to share the detailed information and status about the migrants with the block and district administration. In this pandemic the district administration, Gajapati has established a tele-counseling center at Parlakhemundi, to reach the people who returned to their respective villages after recovering from COVID 19 and the people who relieved from the TMCs after 14 days quarantine. The District Consultant, PREM-UNFPA along with District administration, Gajapati involved in this process and interacted over telephone to know their status, oriented to follow COVID guideline and gave moral support to stay positive and optimistic in this pandemic. It was a good initiative in which PREM got an opportunity to contribute for the vulnerable people.

PREM Program Activities

Bridge IT program – Odisha Modules, Phase 5a Project

The menace of COVID-19 continues. The people did have to abide by the norms of lockdown laid down by the government of Odisha till the end of the month although it was not as rigid as at the initial stage. The situation being a bit relaxed, the project went ahead implementing some activities keeping intact the precautions of lockdown. If the field staffs were somewhat restrained from implementing any normal project activity during the first fortnight, yet they did try to do some in the second fortnight.

Under the Bridge IT program of PREM, the Odisha Module continued their basic **Computer training** in both Rayagada and Gajapati districts. Due to Lockdown the training programs were conducted regularly virtually via Zoom App. Also through online session regular classes continued from morning



Basic Computer training provided under Bridge IT program

7:00 am to 12:00 noon and the participants learnt virtually. During the online classes the slow



learners focused more on their learning. If the situation resumes normal then many of the entrepreneurs will start doing small business very soon.



In the month of August 2020, Mr. Joseph Gomango, an entrepreneur working with Roinet Xpress as state Coordinator, was invited to share his experience with the Mohana entrepreneurs. The meeting was conducted by maintaining social distancing and wearing masks. In the meeting Mr. Gomango shared his experiences on entrepreneurship, how to provide online services, important revenue generating streams and how to grow their business. He interacted well with the entrepreneurs and after listening to his testimony the entrepreneurs were

encouraged and excited to start their business. He was keen to work with the entrepreneurs and has offered to provide training on a range of online services.

Orientation meeting to the migrant labourers

In the month of August, PREM organized **Gram Panchayat wise meetings of the migrant labourers** who had returned home from different cities of India. Not only the migrants of the program communities were primarily the participants of the meetings but also other family members and other community members also participated in the meetings. The main themes of discussion were the government provisions for the migrant labourers and advocacy to realize the same. The meetings thrashed the issues, the provisions and the format of application. The migrants along with the community members submitted memorandums to the respective Panchayat presidents(Sarapanches) and to the Block development Officer (BDO) for getting some work opportunities in their respective localities. There is hope that the migrant laboureres will avail themselves of the provisions made for them by the government of India and the State Government.



Orientation meeting to the migrant labourers at Daringbadi block

Gender training

A three days **Gender training** for both male and female representatives was organized at Sangudumma village of Daringbadi block with the module field tested and developed by Ms. Maria, a Spanish consultant for KNH, Germany. Initially the module was used for only the women's Self Help groups. There being demand from SHGs for sensitization of men too during the last Fiscal year, national Office, Self Help Approach (SHA) instructed gender training for people of either sex using the module along with some tools learnt from other gender specialists to be used. It was pretty rewarding as the participants expressed to have realized the mistakes they had committed in pursuance of the conventional norms. The participants beamed with pleasure of learning something of human concern.

Identification of Vulnerable communities through baseline survey

PREM in collaboration with Give India Foundation (GIF) has initiated a women empowerment program in 50 tribal communities of 15 nos of Gram Panchayats of Mohana Block, Gajapati District.



Baseline survey at Mohana block of Gajapati district

The project intends to cover 1082 nos of individual SHG members within the project period. To identify the vulnerable communities the project conducted a **baseline survey** in the 50 identified villages of Mohana Block, Gajapati District. The intensive survey captured the socio-economic condition of the households after the COVID-19 Pandemic which will be digitized and shared with the donor and the respective communities very soon. The collected information is based on existing livelihood related

activities of the families, household annual income, individual information of beneficiaries, information regarding SHGs and livestock and agriculture information. At the same time the collected information helped the project to plan for next livelihood and IGP interventions to be implemented for the SHG members.

Strengthening the existing Self Help Groups

Soon after the **baseline survey** the project team of PREM visited 50 nos of selected tribal communities and interacted with the SHG groups to access the present situation after



COVID-19 Pandemic, followed by the COVID guidelines. The project team collected the information regarding leveraging of Govt. funds, present status of the SHGs and organic agriculture practices during interaction with the SHG members.

While interacting with 129 numbers of SHGs from 50 tribal communities the project team reviewed the SHG records. It was found that, some of the Groups are doing IGP activities like fish cultivation, Goat rearing, poultry, contracting and vegetable cultivation while all the members in the groups are doing vegetable cultivation and seasonal business on their own to enhance their annual family income. Though regular SHG meetings could not happen due to COVID-19 Pandemic, the field level staff played a vital role to lison with the Government line departments to tap the resources.

Notes from field

Model compost making

In two model villages—Gudanggorjang and Dimbiripankal—of Gajapati district **NADEP system of composting** is introduced by PREM. Gudanggorjang has filled one of the compost pits with compostable dry and green leaves, fertile soil mixed with fresh cow dung slurry.



NADEP model compost tank at Dimbiripankal model village respective backyards

Dimbiripankal has constructed two overhead NADEP(Narayan Deotao Pandharipande) model compost tanks with cement bricks. Through this method the compostable wastes from the village and its surroundings will be gathered and transformed into organic compost within 90 days. This compost will be used to enrich the soil for making kitchen garden and for improving horticulture.

Convergence with Govt. departments for livelihood opportunities

PREM is having **convergence with the District Horticulture department** of Gajapati district for creating livelihood opportunities for the SHGs of its operational areas. Simultaneously the SHG

members are strengthened and oriented regularly by the project team to explore more livelihood opportunities and to leverage the Govt. schemes and provisions. After liasioning and converging with



Lemon grass plantation in Mohana block of Gajapati district in the respective lands of the beneficiaries

horticulture officials now different horticultural activities are going on very nicely in different villages. such as plantation of cashew, mango, drum stick and papaya and the group members are getting a regular income out of it. Some of the farmers also received the lemon grass seedlings from horticulture department. The lemon grass has been planted in 150 acres of land in Gubriguda village, Kerakhala village, Kristopur village of Mohana block of Gajapati district. Similarly SRI cultivation has been done in 1500 acres of land was done in Mohana block.



*SRI cultivation Mohana block of Gajapati district
1500 acres of land was done in Mohana block.*

Similarly the farmers of the operational villages received vegetable seeds and organic fertilizer with the support of **OPELIP (Odisha Primitive Empowerment Livelihood Improvement Project)**. Besides they also received ragi seeds, ground nut seeds and ginger sucker from OTELPL plus program. The farmers also received financial support through MGNREGA to grow the fruit bearing plants in their orchards. Some the SHGs also benefited through OLM by receiving vegetable seeds for MO UPAKARI BAGICHA (Kitchen garden) while other SHGs have been applied for it and will be receiving soon.

Visiting to Temporary Medical Centres(TMC)

During COVID 19 lockdown period PREM-UNFPA District Consultant along with officials from District administration, Gajapati district **visited different Temporary Medical Centers(TMC)** of Gumma and Nuagada blocks of Gajapati district and they met with the people who were staying for 14 days as quarantine at the centres after returning from the other states. As it was quite natural that the returnees were going through emotional and mental strain. The team visited regularly to the centres to meet these people, to give them moral support and also to address their issues. This initiative gave life



Visit to Temporary Medical Centres of Gajapati district and interaction with the returnees by following the key COVID appropriate behaviours.

saving inputs to the people where the team interacted and counseled them and discussed their issues by following all safety precautions and followed the key COVID appropriate behaviours.

Enhancing livelihood status through FADP and OTELP Plus program

In respect to enhance the livelihood status of the tribal people of Rayagada and Koraput districts, PREM along with ITDA Gunupur and Koraput has committed to implement **FADP program and OTELP Plus program**. These programs are supporting the ST families with viable alternative livelihoods, identification of livelihood opportunities based on the farming and non farming options suitable to local conditions, available resources and capacities of the tribal communities. It also aims at developing and implementing a replicable model that ensures household food security, improves livelihood opportunities and overall quality of life of the tribal population based on the sustainable and equitable use of natural resources.

Following are the key activities conducted in this period:



Hybrid and scented paddy(Ankur) cultivation under FADP project Gunupur

Mother chicks units established in four SHGs in three VDCs of Nandapur blocks





14 Dug wells (17 ft x 40 ft) were dug at 10 VDCs of Nandapur block for agriculture purpose.

Support for establishing a Grocery shop to a physically challenged person of Nageswarnala VDC Of Nandapur block



19 hectares of field bonding covered under MGNREGA program



Visit of line department officials to the Wadi plantation area under MGNREGA program of ITDA, Gunupur





Weed cleaning from the roots of sweet corn plants for applying organic fertilizer.

Case study/ Success story

A small support can change the Adolescent's life

I am very fortunate that I have been rescued from getting married in my teen age and now I am realizing my mistake and happy that there is a bright future ahead in my life. I am very grateful to PREM-UNFPA for showing me the right path and giving me positive energy. I heartily express my gratitude to PREM" says Chumangini Rauta in thrilling tone.

Chumangini comes from a very poor scheduled caste family of Dhepasahi village of Chandragiri gram panchayat of Mohana block of Gajapati district. She is the second child in her family among her 3 siblings. Her father Chitra Rauta is a daily wage earner and mother a house wife. It is very hard for Chitra to maintain his family with a single income.



(Before)

(Present)

Chumangini Sabar



Cluster Coordinator, PREM-UNFPA visiting Chumangini's family for counselling

Chumangini was a student of class 8th in the year 2018, but unfortunately due to some incident she dropped out from her school and eloped with a boy from neighbour village in June 2018. After this mishap in June 2018 their parents rescued them and planned to marry them formally as soon as possible. On the same day of marriage fortunately PREM representatives along with child line officials, Anganwadi worker and other village leaders reached the spot and made both the parents of bride and groom more about the effect and



consequences of child marriage and different laws on child marriage, child right and child protection. Finally With their intervention the marriage was not solemnized.

Chumangini said, “me and my family members were in stress during those difficult times but due to regular visits of Chinmayee Didi—Cluster Coordinator, PREM-UNFPA—and Anganwadi Didi to my home and their counseling gave me strength and positive energy. My family members allowed me to go out and continue my further study instead of getting me married soon.

Again she resumed her study and this year—2020—she successfully completed her 10th board examination with good percentage. Simultaneously she is supporting her younger brother and sister in their studies. Now her dream is to complete her graduation and pursue a good job before getting married.

This is a great success for Chumangini and now she is motivating and encouraging other adolescent girls of her village not to get married before 18 years. Her parents are also very happy for their daughter and now she has been a bright example for her community and her success is a case study for their community.



Chumangini with her family members

NRTC Highlights

Appreciation of Visitors during their visit to NRTC of PREM for MTMLE

PREM has established a **National Resource and Training Center(NRTC)** at Mandiapalli, head office since 2015. The main motto of establishing the **National Resource and Training Center (NRTC)** was to bring more understanding among the different stakeholders on MT ML ECE and to enhance the skill and knowledge of existing ICDS workers in tribal areas of Odisha and India on the transaction of MT ML ECE. The



*National Resource and Training Center (NRTC)
of PREM at Mandiapalli*

Resource centre is a Learning centre as well as an information hub where different stake holders of the state

as well as other parts of India get the opportunity to understand Mother Tongue Based Multi Lingual Early Childhood Education, get idea on different teaching and learning materials for transaction of the mother tongue based



multilingual early childhood education in the existing ICDS centres of tribal areas and to receive quality training on MTMLECE, receive residential training in resource centre, to enhance the MT ML ECE transaction skills of different stakeholders like ICDS workers, preschool teachers, ECE supervisors. Whatever the learning the trainees are acquiring in the in-house training are executing at field practically. In these few years many individuals, Govt. officials, civil society members, political leaders, different target groups from different sectors from India and abroad visited the resource centre and appreciated this initiative of PREM. In this volume we are presenting the list of visitors who visited the NRTC and admired the initiative of PREM.



Photo Gallery



Vegetable cultivation by SHG members by adopting new techniques to protect seedlings from birds and animals.



Supply of food items by the AWW during COVID 19 lockdown period to the villagers of Gudandgorjan model village.



Migrants going by bi-cycles in the highway to their native states



Ration kit distribution at Gopalpur Sasana GP of Sorada block of Ganjam District



Oath taking by the villagers to end child marriage in their area



vegetable seeds distribution to the beneficiaries by OPELIP (Odisha Primitive Empowerment Livelihood Improvement Project), at Mohana block, Gajapati district



Lemon grass plantation at Mohana block of Gajapati district



Distribution of tent house materials to the SHGs under OTELP Plus program at Nandapur block, Koraput



Application of bio fertilizer to the plants under the wadi plantation program



Hygiene kitchen at model village of PREM



Sanitary kits supplied to the 9532 households of 231 PVTG villages of 21 Gram Panchayats of Gajapati and Rayagada Districts of Odisha



Wild plant saplings received from the Forest department of Mohana block of Gajapati district

Quote of the Month

“Ultimately, the greatest lesson that COVID-19 can teach humanity is that we are all in this together”

--Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw (born on 23 March 1953)

PREM E-NEWS

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