



Dear Friends,

We are in midst of a calamity of immense scale which has affected all sections of our Society. We at Aatapi sincerely appreciate the tireless efforts of frontline workers and the passionate response of the civil society. This issue is hence dedicated to positive stories from COVID pandemic.

Apart from COVID stories, we also have #MentorSpeak, wherein we are inviting our mentors to contribute to our learning.

Hoping for great resilience and Praying for Health for All!!

Aatapi Team

#AatapiRespondsToCOVID 19

The COVID-19 pandemic has brought fore an unprecedented humanitarian crisis throughout the world. The medical emergency is slowly but surely translating itself into a social and economic one. The continuous lockdown periods have led to emergence of several risks, with migrant labourers, daily wagers and the socially vulnerable suffering the most. At the same time, there has been an unprecedented response from the Govt. and civil society to ensure no one is left behind hungry and uncared.

AatapiSeva Foundation, came forward to lend support in this time of fear, anxiety and despair. Before the lockdown was announced, our teams and local leaders developed material to spread awareness amongst the communities regarding prevention, management, social distancing, and access to rights and entitlements

We could do this through help our donors - Jan Vikas, Transpek Industries, PI Industries and private donations through our Directors - and are immensely grateful for their unflinching support. We look forward to more partners and donors to come forward and support us in supporting the communities not just for the period of immediate relief, but a long-term rehabilitation in view of impending economic and social milieu.

#AatapiRespondsToCOVID19

During the lockdown period, when many from the team were home bound, we identified and garnered support from like-minded agencies to provide food and hygiene kits to more than 2000 marginalized and vulnerable households with Persons with Disability, Pregnant Women, Single Women, families with no ration cards/documentation, migrant labourers, daily wagers - to tide through the lockdown period and support the PDS distribution announced by the Govt. The need identification and distribution were undertaken in close coordination with the CBOs - Ujaas Mandali, Vivekanand Khedut Mandali and the Viklang Parivartan Sangathan, who continue to be our pillars of strength. In addition, we also joined hands with other organizations to provide emergency relief in to locations outside of Jambusar and pool efforts to ensure development work doesn't suffer in this time of need. We are in close contact with local Govt. authorities to support their efforts.



#MaskReponse

Using face masks/covers has been touted as one of the three most important behaviors, apart from hand washing/sanitizing and social distancing, with a high utility in reducing the spread of COVID-19 infection. During the relief work, we found most families in villages unaware of the importance and/or unable to procure face coverings due to lockdown. Similarly, some families also didn't have access to soap. To circumvent the issue, Aatapi decided to add face masks and soaps in the relief kits. However, availability and quality of face masks was an issue, with large numbers being diverted to cities.

Having trained a number of local SHG women and persons with disability in Tailoring, Aatapi decided to turn this adversity into an income generating opportunity for local providers. The masks are now being made by >30 SHG members and persons with disability.

With mask making, at least some money comes in the house

As Jiviben, a specially abled local entrepreneur, the first to respond to the crisis says "with the lockdown, the income of family has stopped. With mask making, at least some money comes in the house".

#CommunityRespondsToCOVID-19 : Local Health Volunteers (Aarogya Sathis) turn saviour during Lockdown

#AatapiSpeak

Both these stories, and many such of valour and concern, clearly demonstrate the need and impact of generating community based and community owned processes for care of the most marginalised and vulnerable. While the ASHA and to some extent ANMs also belong to similar geographies and community, community watch over their weakest and vulnerable during such emergencies is definitely the way out to address our high levels of Maternal and Infant Mortality indicators. With impending long-term vulnerability to COVID-19, self-sustained community action is the need of the hour and more resources need to be diverted to ensure the same.



Shahina, an Aarogya Sathi with Aatapi, fearlessly came forward to help the needy pregnant women and malnourished children amidst the Lockdown



Dharamishthaben, a self-help group Leader continued to look after the pregnant women of the remote farm and village & saved life of 7 month pregnant women

SHRI. TUSHAR DAYAL, FOUNDER, AATAPISEVA FOUNDATION

Constant engagement with members of the “Samuday” has been Aatapi’s hallmark over the years. Networking teams extending to newer trajectories, on the basis of increasing role of CSR collaborations characterised Aatapi.

The onset of Covid-19 has meant a paradigm shift in the manner in which Aatapi and the Stakeholders will foresee its engagement during rest of the period, while Covid-19 would be yet active and in times ahead.

It seems, rules of the game, including manner in which the oldest economic activity of agriculture has been perceived, as a means of sustenance and as a business, and the manner in which health, sanitation and hygiene have been regarded undergo shifts.

Inclusion and recognition of present Migrant families within the ambit of wider collectivity of Stakeholders, with appropriate socio-economic engagement will be an order of the day, within a legal framework.

The envisaged reforms, on the basis of which laws pertaining to land, labour and employment have been undergoing changes, will all have a lasting impact on Aatapi’s forays into the future.

Collective learnings, for instance, of social distancing, wearing of masks and sanitation would have to be institutionalized just as, e-communications, e-learning and methods of e-businesses will have to be captured.

Collaborating in enterprises, with a shared vision, in a mentoring role, will mean increased efforts to capture nuances of enhanced capacity building.



#theNewNormal





We conducted our first Board Meeting of the year on May 9, 2020 through a Video Conference. We were encouraged by full attendance of our Board of Directors in the meeting, who were full of suggestions and guidance to Aatapi to plan for the future, keeping the social and economic fallouts of the COVID pandemic. Im-mense respect and Gratitude to all the Mentors and Guides

#SupportUs

We look forward to your support to sustain these initiatives that not only meet the immediate need of preventing the spread of COVID-19 and meet immediate food and hygiene needs, but also help to reboot the economic activities of the most vulnerable.

#FightingOurFears

We took responsibility we were able to convince others to join us and take up this task.....we also learnt a lot. At the same time, we also see a lot of work for future for re-thinking our approach and programs in this new environment. One thing that emerges is that village leadership needs to learn disaster management – create an army to take action in any emergency.

“When I was going to field....i used to be scared everyday..family used to ask where all did u go...what is surety that u r not infected....used to get scared....what will happen to my family if that happens....was constantly in fear....but continued working...am proud now...have learnt a lot. I can do myself many things....

“My team has also grown and grown strong...had fear...overcame that to play the role...we are happy...” Chandrika Makwana, Director Projects, AatapiSeva Foundation

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