

Now-a-day people of our slum watch television news to know about the Covid situation. We know that the situation and it is challenging. I am hopeful that people will get back the good days and will be back in normal life. In our Mother School we listened a story from our teacher about 'life is not a bed of roses,' we are now realizing that with our own life experiences improving in most countries except USA, India and Brazil. Health Organization are suspecting there could be another wave during winter. People of our country are also worried as the winter is knocking at the door. It is also a shocking news that no school, college, university is opened in our country. Children are losing learning opportunity. Although some institutions are conducting 'online lessons' but the poor children like us cannot access smart phones or afford to buy Internet data. To recover the situation our Mother School has opened, and mothers have started to teach in their mini-school for the little children. I am teaching my daughter at home regularly and she has no problem. Such way 125 children of our slum are back to education by 25 mothers of our school but I am thinking about the other millions of children of our country.

After a few months we are back to our Mother School and attending in lessons from the first week of August 2020. Before closing the school, we did lots of awareness works in our slum. Now we have developed a habitual practice to maintain health rule for our personal and community protection. All mothers are now regularly teaching to neighbour children and sharing with community people to wash hands with liquid soap, maintain social distancing, wearing face mask to be safe from the virus. However, there are some people in the slums around probably know and understand but do not follow the health rules and sometimes go out without a reason. We tell people going out for livelihood reason wearing mask is not a problem but they should still avoid informal friendly gathering, visit relatives or invite them in. Number of deaths by Covid-19 has reduced even critical illness rate is low in number but the infection rate is still significant. We discuss the issue in our Mother School and select mother/s targeting the desperate persons individually. Because of our awareness work and other initiatives nobody so far has died in our community because of Corona Virus infection. Although in last 6 months some people became sick with symptoms, 15 of them went to hospital for testing but only 2 persons identified positive.



They have recovered and do not want to share with you about our initiative of “food bank” during the extreme food crisis of lockdown. Suchitra one of our friends came us with the idea, we liked that and later on some other women joined with us. We started to develop the ‘food bank’ contributing by ourselves, later on visited the community in groups to the nearby rich houses for collecting food if they wished to. Everybody agreed to select Suchitra’s house (room) as the first place to set the pot for food bank which was rotated by 2 weeks in others houses. Teacher *Rahima Khanum* guided us to run the initiative developing the selection criteria, distribution and maintaining their food stock. Momotaz and Bulbuli played an active role in implementation. Such ways next 8 weeks until the



work situation was improved the food bank run through and total 35 very poorest and vulnerable families received food from the food-bank. Mothers collected 162 KGs rice, 9.5 KGs pulses and many vegetables for their food bank and distributed. Until the food support from Amarak came to our community the food-bank was the biggest support that at least the poorest could had a meal in a day during the deep crisis. The needs were many, more help could have been better but whatever the jobless families received was a great help. Thank you for your support that makes me confident for a better future.

My love and respect to you,

Regards,

Sathie