



SOS Children's Villages of India, a home to nearly 7,000 children, young adults and more than 440 "mothers", residing in our facilities spread across 21 states & union territories, so far, have successfully kept themselves protected from the onslaught of the virus.

The sense of responsibility which was exemplified by our children & youngsters in maintaining cleanliness, personal hygiene and social distancing, both inside their "family home" as well as in their village campus and adherence to the advisories from their SOS mother & co-workers have helped a lot in keeping the virus out of the four boundaries of our campuses. While the coronavirus pandemic has pushed us into maintaining social distancing we have challenged ourselves to remain connected through the Internet and isolate Covid-19 instead.

**Challenging the darkness of COVID-19 by lighting candles**



On 5th April, millions of Indians across the country switched off the lights at their homes and lit candles, diyas or turned on their mobile phone torches, in response to the PM's appeal to show the nation's "collective resolve and solidarity" in its fight against coronavirus with this symbolic gesture. Our children and youth across all Children's Villages participated too, they lit candles to "challenge the darkness" of Covid-19 and prayed for the lives lost, safety for those who are fighting this battle and for general health and well-being of all.

### Jammu Self Help Group members link with Laxmi Welfare Society for making masks

Amidst these difficult times, members from our Family Strengthening Programme communities are coming forward and depicting situational leadership. Through dedicated efforts made by Mr. Jagir Das, Village Director (SOS Children's Village Jammu), families apart of our Self Help Group in Jammu, have been linked with Laxmi Welfare Society (associated with Women Cooperative of Jammu) for making face masks.



These SHG members have successfully completed an order of 4000 mask, earning INR 8/per mask. While making the face masks, they followed social distancing and other guidelines for their safety. Through this activity, these women have not only earned money during these tough times, but also a sense of purpose and a feeling of having contributed meaningfully.

### Children and youth engaging in online classes



Children across all Children's Villages and Family Strengthening Programme locations are happy, engaged and positive. They are engrossed in their online classes, personalized coaching, teaching learning materials on the web links, worksheets sent through WhatsApp, and English coaching.

**This fight against coronavirus has made our SOS Mothers, elder girls and boys wear many hats**



When the news of COVID-19 reached the Children's Villages, everyone came together as a courageous team and figured out ways to protect our children and everyone living inside the village premises. Following the laws of the government, outsiders were banned. This led to the realization that everyone who came to the village played such an important role in keeping the Children's Village neat and clean. But upholding social values, it was decided to make use of the existing resources i.e. the human resources – our SOS Mothers and children.

The pillars of SOS India and the flowers that bloom under our care enthusiastically came forward to take the responsibility of keeping the village beautiful. They are making sure that the office and pathways are always clean while the plants and trees are watered timely. Boys from the youth house are also keeping the premises of the youth home and its surroundings neat and clean.

**FSP Bhubaneswar, Kujimahal community became a Good Samaritan for Dalua community**



Two neighbouring Family Strengthening Programme communities in Bhubaneswar have shown a great example of resource sharing, during this crisis situation. The two communities, i.e. Kujimahahal and Dalua are 3.5 KM away from each other and the inhabitants of both the communities have a very good relationship. Last week, PDS supported these communities with 15kg rice and wheat for each family. And they all needed some dry vegetables desperately.

The Kujimahahal community was extended a supporting hand to all the 155 families in Dalua community, with the provision of potatoes and onions. The quantity of potato and onion for each families was 2kg and 500gm respectively. A goods carrier loaded with the items in 155 packets were sent to the village, with special permission from local police and rightly maintaining lockdown protocol, distribution of these materials was done.

### Vocational Training boy, Amit initiates to protect his village people

Amit Adhikrao Patil is one of the students of Fire Engineering and Safety Management who is learning Vocational Training course under HSBC project. In this stressful situation of Covid-19, Amit stepped forward to do social work for people in his village. He gathered 40 friends from his 10th (batch 2015-16) pass out, who are living in Khed Gaon.



All these batch mates contributed INR 100 to 125 each and collected a total amount of INR 5,000. They then used this money to buy masks for people's safety. The surprising part was that these masks were made by his 40 batch mates itself. These boys, collected the money, brought home-made masks and distributed them among the poor and needy people in old and new Khed Gaon on 27th April, 2020.

Mukesh, our Balpanchayat leader was aware of the critical nature of COVID through newspaper as well as other media channels. When he saw the community children loitering around and playing outdoors, he decided to step up and spread awareness. He taught them how this spreads, how it impacts, and how the virus can be fought by washing hands and social distancing.

To ensure the children are following all this, he regularly keeps in touch with them through phone, and has even engaged a few enthusiastic children with him in awareness generation.

**Conclusion:** Every action matters and we at SOS will continue to rise to the challenge.

**A little can change a lot. Do your part to help them out during these trying times.**

**DONATE NOW**

