



NAVSARJAN

Xavier's Cell for Human Development



Response to Covid-19 Pandemic

Second wave



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THE GUJARAT PROVINCE OF THE SOCIETY OF JESUS

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02 July 2021

To,
Fr. Rajeev Chakranarayan SJ
The Director,
Navsarjan,
Surat.

Dear Fr. Rajeev,


I am pleased to know that Navsarjan, Xavier Centre for Human Development, Surat is bringing out a digital/print Publication (booklet) of the various innovative ways in which the centre has been responding to the Covid-19 challenges faced especially by the poor and marginalised slum dwellers of Surat.

The pandemic Covid-19 has shaken the whole world and shattered the life of people irrespective of caste, class, creed, and code. The impact is so devastating that we are still unsure of what the future is holding for us. In this disturbing hopeless situation, Navsarjan has reached out to the slum dwellers of Surat with hope and courage risking their own life and addressing various issues connected with health, nutrition, livelihood and Education.

Let me take this opportunity to appreciate the Director and the staff not only for the commendable service rendered with so much of networking and collaboration with likeminded groups at the time of life and death, also for sharing the information with others through this document. This document which gives the report of the interventions made by a Jesuit centre, responding to the challenges of the Pandemic Covid-19, can become a source of inspiration and guidelines for those who care for human life.

As we are in the process of learning to live with the post Covid effects, let us continue our search for the true meaning of human life. May we be awakened by the lessons of Covid-19.




Fr. Durai Fernand SJ
Provincial Superior



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:: Certificate ::

The second wave of the Covid-19 pandemic has also caused millions of children to lose their parents, and parents to lose their children, along with many businesses and jobs that were lost. Navsarjan - Xavier's Cell for Human Development, Surat in the slums of Surat city, create awareness about masks, Covid-19 signs & symptoms, prevention measures, and vaccination details through banners.

Navsarjan distributes masks and nutrition kits to slum children, and provide support to families impacted by COVID-19 through ration kits. In addition to your many good contributions to society as an NGO, I appreciate the benefits to society as a whole from your efforts.

I congratulate Navsarjan and the team for their noble work and service to mankind.

neel
Child Marriage Prevention
Officer Cum District Social
Defence Officer, Surat

EDITORIAL



The world has been swept by the coronavirus. Everywhere it is making havoc. According to various reports, the pandemic surge has entered into the second wave.

As in the first wave, thousands of people had died across the world. In the second wave, the death toll has increased all over the world and in India once again.

In India due to the lack of hospital facilities & oxygen facilities, more deaths have been registered. In order to prevent the surge of the coronavirus, various types of vaccines are already on the market. The people are taking vaccines to look forward to a new life. However, WHO and Health departments of all the countries practically have unable to give guaranty of life after vaccination.

In India, fear against vaccination has swept the rural and urban people. The health workers/ social workers are finding it difficult to convince people to utter a word about the vaccination process. Especially among the marginalized communities in the urban slums authenticity and viability of the vaccination drive have been questioned due to a few death in their areas.

However, gradually people are going through the vaccination. In the local government health units, vaccination is free of charge while the same vaccines cost a lot in private hospitals. This disparity has also raised a question.

In the second wave, various families in the marginalized areas have been affected. Many of them have lost lives, employment; children have not been able to attend the school for several months where online facilities are the big problem due to lack of computer/smartphone facilities.

Fear psychosis is looming over the area. The marginalized communities have been further pushed into hunger, unemployment and lack of income. The various schemes of the government such as an old-age pension, widow's pension, relief to pregnant women & PDS system have been shut & compromised due to various lockdowns during the pandemic.

NXCHD has realized that the heavy setback during the pandemic has been to the old & sick; orphan children; single-parent children; widows/widowers, battered women/men and LGBT community members.

Thus, the citizen living below the poverty line have been neglected systematically. As per the capacity of the NXCHD, it has been able to reach out to marginalized communities during these critical times giving them some relief. NXCHD have been able to restore their human dignity.

Let us come together to restore the human dignity of the poor & build everyone as a citizen of Bharat/ India.

- Fr. Rajeev Chakaranarayan s.j.
Director

Message from PM.....



COVID-19 has caused a serious impact on almost every society of the earth. Due to the problems caused by this particular health crisis all over the world, the World Health Organisation (WHO) has declared it as a global pandemic. Lockdown has been recognised as the only method to control the spread of the pandemic and almost every country has adopted this method.

Amidst the lockdown in Indian society, multiple issues related to social, educational, economical, political, agricultural, psychological levels and many more have been noticed which has created the devastating impact on the lives of the people. If we analyse the act of “social-distancing” sociologically, isn’t it a new form of untouchability? Of course, in the Indian society after the Vedic period, people of the upper caste used to maintain social-distancing with untouchables so that they don’t impure the people of upper caste. On the same pattern, in the contemporary society due to Covid-19 all the constitutional norms eliminating untouchability and promoting integration seems to be failed as people are asked to maintain social- distancing.

Impact of Covid-19 has been multiple and not only limited to society at large. From the perspective of the economy both rural and urban have been impacted adversely. Everyone has seen the issues being faced by migrant workers, will they be the same when Covid-19 ends? Of course not. The migrant workers depend on daily earnings, they barely have savings which they could spend during any emergency.

Even as several migrant workers have left Gujarat’s Surat city due to the Covid-19 surge and anticipation of a lockdown, people associated with the diamond and textile have moved in large number to their natives. People living in slums are in worse condition. No food, No income and no security. Although the government has provided free ration to many of them however only food is not the necessity of human being.

Navsarjan Xavier’s Cell for human Development has manage to mobilize some resources and try to help people of Surat, especially the slum dwellers. The team of Navsarjan has not taken a single break during the first and second Lockdown. They are continuously working for the people and with people. I appreciate all the staff of Navsarjan for their commitment and willingness to work for the poorest of poor.

- Samir Macwan
Program Manager

A RESPONSE TO COVID-19 PANDEMIC BY NAVSARJAN, SURAT

COVID-19 Pandemic has affected and grasped our planet. India is a major victim of the Corona Virus. In March and April-2021 Gujarat had experienced the so-called second wave of Corona virus. These three months have been terrifying and fatal to the whole of Gujarat state. According to the different media reports. Many people have lost their lives and many of them have tested positive in Covid tests.

Surat is one of the major cities of Gujarat that has had a large impact on the virus. **NAVSARJAN- Xavier's Cell for human Development, Surat**, works with the urban poor of the city. The slums dwellers were badly affected, especially the daily wage earners. They have lost their ways of earning and sustenance and left with almost nothing at hand.

NXCHD has taken several initiatives to fight against COVID.19 pandemic such as creating awareness and prevention methods, medical relief kits and ration relief kits. NXCHD has also created numbers of volunteers who are helping the people in need.

The details of activities carried out by NXCHD are explained below:

1. Zoom meeting with community leaders :

NXCHD had taken initiative to create awareness about Covid-19. Pandemic. It organized a zoom meeting of all the leaders and women's associations of 35 slums. In the meeting, the signs, symptoms, and prevention measures of the COVID.19 pandemic were explained. Later on, the leaders and the members of the women's associations provided awareness material about covid 19. These leaders went around in the slums and explained the same information to the people of the slums. Since there are too many cases of fever and cough in the slums, the demand came from the leaders to provide them basic medicine. After due consultation with doctors, some medicines for fever and cough were given to leaders to distribute to the needy.



2. Awareness Banners in the slums area :

To create awareness among the slum dwellers 114 a big size (5ft x 5ft) banners were printed and put up in the 35 slums. Ninety-four (94) Local Leaders helped NXCHD to put up the banners at the different locations where they were visible to all. These banners have information about: a) importance of mask, b) Covid-19 signs & symptoms, c) preventive measures & d) some information about vaccination.

The banners were seen by approximately 50 to 70 thousand people. People expressed that the banners are informative with basic simple language. They do have pictorial convey the awareness easily. People of slums have appreciated the initiative. The members of women association were motivated.



3. Masks for Children:

Most of the slums dwellers are migrated. They belong to poor class. Mask is not their priority. Among the slums dwellers children are the most vulnerable folk. They are non-attended. It is the one of the priorities of NXCHD to work toward for the holistic development of the children.

NXCHD along with the local community leaders have distributed some 5000 plus masks and educated them about the importance of wearing mask to protect from covid 19. NXCHD has also provided nutritious snacks to children of slums.



4. Awareness about Vaccination:

The government's health department has started a vaccination program. However, this program has some lapses like no sufficient stock of free vaccine. At present, those who can afford to buy vaccines can get easily in private hospitals. NXCHD with another organization, **Navchetna Trust** has submitted a memorandum to the authorities for a free and compulsory vaccine for all.

Process of vaccination:

- To have the vaccine one has to register either through a mobile application or from the website.

- From a mobile number, one can register only four names.
- Suppose a family has more than four members and one mobile or Some families don't have mobiles, are neglected out rightly by the government.
- The government has deprived these families of their right to have the vaccine.



NXCHD has raised this issue with the Local Municipal Administration and submitted a memorandum to have a fair and simple process for the vaccination for all. NXCHD is going to take this issue with MLAs and MPs.

In 35 slums NXCHD has created awareness about vaccination through posters. The women associations have taken number of meetings in their respective slums. The leaders of the community together with NXCHD staff helped numbers of people to get registered for vaccination.

NXCHD has networked with Ahmedabad based Civil Society Organization called Sath. This network has appointed two staff specially to create awareness about vaccination, provide support and guidance to slums dwellers.

5. A survey to know the number of deaths occurred in last year due to covid 19, Provide support to families to avail the government schemes:

The second wave of covid 19 was very crucial, numbers of people died during this period. The print and electronic media flashing news that there were no beds in hospitals, high shortage of medicines and oxygen supply. It also showed great numbers of people were dying.

This made NXCHD to think to have some short of information about the death occurred during this period. It was decided that NXCHD should get at least its working area details about deaths due to covid 19. A questioner was formulated and survey was conducted.



The main aim of the survey was:

1. To know how many people have died in the last year due to covid 19.
2. Those who have died, whether they had an account in the bank.
3. Whether they were covered under Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY) or not.

PMJJBY scheme has insurance of rs.200000/- in the event of the death of the insured person. NXCHD has collected data of 183 deaths from 35 slums. NXCHD has helped, those families to get their entitlement, whose members were covered under the scheme.

out of 183 only 58 persons have their bank account and other details. NXCHD staff has visited personally each family and tracked them with the help of bank passbook, out of 58 persons only few were enrolled in PMJJBY. In some of the cases the passbooks were not updated. They were advised to get it updated.

So far out of 183, 2 people had get money but it is not under PMJJBY Scheme.

For detailed report Kindly Refer Annexure—1 A survey report on death occur during Covid-19 period

6. Ration relief kit support to families who were affected by Covid-19 :

With the series of meetings with community leaders with their consensus NXCHD has decided to provide Ration support to Covid effected needy families. The community leaders had taken responsibility of identifying covid affected families and making list of theirs. The leaders issued a token to each family. NXCHD has distributed ration relief kit to all such families. The responsibility of information about distribution (place and time) was taken by the community leaders and they also extended their help in distribution.

The families have already spent good amount of money as medical expenses. In some of the cases they have borrowed at higher interest from money lenders. In the given circumstances some of the families were finding difficult it to manage the house expense. The ration kit was a great relief for affected families.



7. Covid 19 & vaccination awareness through posters:

Covid 19 & vaccination was totally unknown arena for whole world. Very little information was available about it. People on slums area were totally ignorant and confused about it. It was the need of the hour that a proper scientific information about covid 19 and vaccination should be provided to the slums dwellers.

NXCHD has taken this challenge as a mission and decided to create series of posters/banners/leaflets/placards and social media messages to create awareness about covid -19 and vaccination. NXCHD has formed a team and assigned responsibility to create banners and posters. The team has created more than 15 posters/banners. These banners and posters were posted on various social media platforms.

The posters and banners were made in local languages. This message is clearly conveyed through the pictures. These posters and banners were highly appreciated by Community Based Organizations, Civil Society Organizations and Government departments. NXCHD has helped numbers of Civil Society Organizations to redesign according to their local needs and print these banners and posters all over Gujarat, so that movement of creating awareness about covid-19 is taken forward to entire Gujarat.





There were two waves of Covid 19 in India. Still, it assumes that the third wave of Covid 19 will impact children more. IN this pandemic of Covid 19, it is very important to understand how Covid 19 spread, symptoms, and pre-vaccination in steps. For general awareness, we created four posters that cover all the topics above. One-one set had been given to stick on 15 classes and 5 supervisors were given one set to aware general people. About 50 to 70 thousand people saw the banners. People commented that the banners are informative with simple language.

8. Survey of Malnourishment:

A survey was conducted of malnourished children in the working areas of NXCHD. The purpose of the survey was to know where malnourishment among the slum children has increased due to lockdown. The indicators decided were, age, weight, and height to measure the malnutrition factor.

For detailed report Kindly Refer Annexure—2 A Survey to Find out the status of malnutrition among the children of slums in Surat

9. A Special Nutritional kit for Children:

As we go into our working area, we found that children are malnourished. Several children were found underweight. The survey revealed that Lockdown had affected the family income and as a result, children had no nutritional/ healthy food. With the help of the experts, NXCHD has tried to put some nutritional items into the kit.

Seven hundred (700) plus children were given these kits. The children/parents, area leaders were very happy.

Some of the parents said that we were not able to provide such nutritious snacks to their children, but Navsarjan has done a commendable job for them. They were thankful to the NXCHD.

A kit for Children					
SI	Items	Unit	SI	Items	Unit
1	Peanuts	200 gm	9	Good Day	1 pic
2	Chikki	2 pic	10	Orange	1 pic
3	Cashews	50 gm	11	Chocolate	1 pic
4	Almonds	50 gm	12	Dettol soap	1 pic
5	Chana	200gm	13	Glucon C	115 gm
6	Toast	1 pack	14	Amul Milk	1 bottle
7	Amulya Powder	2 pack	15	Chokos	2 pic
8	Bonavita	1 pack	16	ORS Electra	4 pic



10. Survey of orphans and differently able children:

As the organization operating daily in various slums for the number of works and surveys, it was a good opportunity to find out about the number of orphan and single parents' children in the areas. The findings of the survey in 30 slum areas were that 343 children were belonging to the above categories. Forty-one (41) children out of 343 total were orphans while 201 children have only mother & 70 children have only father. At the same time, other finding indicated 14 children were mentally challenged while seven (7) children were physically differently abled & 7 children were blind.



For detailed report Kindly Refer Annexure—3 Orphan Children and single family children survey Report June-2021

11. A safety/ hygiene kit to Leaders of the area:

NXCHD has created 28 *Mahila Mandal* (Women's Association) in the slums area where it is operational. The leaders of the *Mahila Mandal* are working hard to help the slum people in this existing crisis. While working for the poor and unhygienic areas the leaders need to take proper safety measurement against the contagion of the virus or even spread of the corona virus. NXCHD has provided all the leaders a hygiene kit that included a bottle of sanitizer, a pair of hand gloves & an N95 Mask. Along with this kit, the area leaders were enthusiastic and fearless to reach out to the needy.

Sr No.	Things	Total Units
1	N95 Mask	250
2	Sanitizer	220
3	Hand Gloves	120

12. Thermal gun and Oximeter for educational classes to monitor the health of the children:

NXCHD runs educational classes in the slums areas. In these classes are attend by 500 and more children. At present, due to covid-19, we do not run classes as a normal class. Children come to class and homework is given to them. With the present situation, it is important to monitor the health of these children. A thermal gun and an oximeter have been given to class teachers. The teachers are instructed to monitor the body temperature and the oxygen level of each child daily. These records are helping the organization to look into the early stages of child care.



Sr no.	Things	Total Units
1.	Oximeter	20
2.	Thermal Gun	20
3.	Thermometer	5

13. Survey of destitute families.

Due to various lockdowns number of families/people have a bad impact on their earning/ income. The condition of elderly people is worse at present. They are alone and have nothing to sustain themselves. NXCHD has surveyed such needy families and people. There are

283 families, 30 slums include widows, single aging males, old couples. NXCHD has helped them with the ration relief kit. Ration Relief kit includes:

Ration Kit for Families				
Item	Unit		Item	Unit
Rice	10 kg		Salt	1 kg
Dal	1 kg		Flour	5 kg
oil	1 kg		Soap	2 pics
Sugar	3 kg		Chana	1kg
Tea	250 gm			



To find what could be done towards the welfare of the slum communities, NXCHD is working till today and would keep up the efforts.

For detailed report Kindly Refer Annexure—4 A Report on Destitute Families of Urban Slums of Surat

14. General Checkup Camp for Children:

It is difficult for all people and especially for children in covid 19 pandemic situation to keep healthy. In slums areas, it appears most of the diseases such as fevers, colds, coughs, diarrhea are prevalent. For the children of the 23 slums area, Navsarjan-Xavier's Cell for Human Development organized a General Health Checkup on dated 26th July to 30th July 2021. NXCHD conducted a survey about children living in slums. Our NXCHD teams find doctors for the health checkup and mobilize them for the health checkup of children. Doctor also helps to find another doctor for the health checkup. Doctors were touched by heart. In the situation of COVID-19 people have no money and many people have lost their jobs, so the health checkup camps for children were appreciated. Majority of the parents in the slums showed interest in the health checkup of their children, and helped in the medical checkup.



Beneficiary of the general medical checkup

Sr No.	Slums name	Children		Sr No.	Slums name	Children
1	Sangamtekari	18		13	Swami Viveka	41
2	Anand Nagar	27		14	Prem Nagar	46
3	Milan Nagar	54		15	Dargah	50
4	Agashinagar	40		16	Siddharth Nagar	50
5	Udhana-7	18		17	Althan	30
6	Udhana-9	22		18	Panchsil	36
7	Gautam Nagar	30		19	Indira Nagar	24
8	Bhatena	109		20	Sanjay Nagar	42
9	Kamrunagar	68		21	Patichawl	26
10	Magdumnagar	66		22	Shiv shakti	42
11	Rashulabad	121		23	Tadkeshver	36
12	Nagsen Nagar	54				
	Total	627			Total	423
Overall 1050 Children						

15. Nutrition Kit For Children, Committee members & Staff

A survey was conducted to determine the number of malnourished children in Surat City's nine slums. NXCHD will use the survey results to plan a systematic approach to intervene and assist children in growing up healthy. The Covid-19 situation has played a major role in the underdevelopment of these children. After a Medical check up and survey we found many malnourished children in slums. First, we planned to provide Nutrition kits to the children in our classes. NXCHD distributed 400 nutrition kits to children in slums.

The committee members were the key people in the area. Since the lockdown announcement, they have been working continuously to improve the lives of people. They were part of various surveys, monitoring of classes, solving the problem of people as well as areas etc. 290 committee members were given Nutrition kit.

Employees are very useful to organizations, and maintaining their health is very important. Nutrition kits were given to 42 people.

We had a kit with these items:

Kit for Children: Glucon C - 1, ORS - 6, Amulya - 2, Chocos - 2.

Kit for committee members: Glucon C – 1, ORS - 4

The Staff Kit contains: Glucon C – 1, ORS – 4

Nutrition kit for children

Sr no.	Area	Total Numbers of Children
1	Sangamtekri	18
2	Milannagar	63
3	Agasinagar	49
4	Bhathena	110
5	Udhana 7	26
6	Udhana 9	31
7	Gutamnagar	19
8	Ananadnagar	27
9	Rasulabad	111
Total	9 Area	454



16. Ration kit for Kidney/TB/Cancer Patients:

The local leaders asked for support for those who had severe diseases after a meeting with the staff. NXCHD conducted a survey to identify people with severe diseases in slum areas. 164 people were found to be suffering from serious illnesses like TB and cancer. NXCHD field staff provided dates, timing, and coupons to 164 ill people in slums. The NXCHD distributes 164 ration kits to seriously ill people.



Ration Kit for Patient				
Item	Unit		Item	Unit
Rice	10 kg		Salt	1 kg
Dal	1 kg		Flour	5 kg
oil	1 kg		Soap	2 pics
Sugar	3 kg		Chana	1kg
Tea	250 gm			



17. Distribution of Sanitary Pad to Teenager girls

In Covid-19, the second wave of the pandemic created a tough situation for people living in slums, as many had lost their jobs. How people can think about their girls hygiene, that's why NXCHD conducted a survey of Teenage girls in slums. A total of 885 teens were collected from 35 slums and given two packets of sanitary pads each. NXCHD field staff distributed 1800 sanitary pads door to door to teenage girls in slums areas.



18. Shiro for Pregnant women in slums

It is very important to eat Nutration food during the pregnancy period. Keep in mind the health of pregnant woman. Mahila Madals women thought that we will prepare Shiro and serve to them. Idea was creative and liked by all members of Mahila Madals. They have done survey of pregnant woman from the slums area. In 35 areas total 294 pregnant women were found. In all are according to comfort, dates and times were



selected and on that day members of Mahila Mandal prepared Shiro for pregnant woman. pregnant women liked it very much and **Mahila Mandal wished them for good health in the future.**

19. Kit for students of tailoring:

NXCHD runs Tailoring classes in various slums. These classes included more than 120 students. We distributed 120 tailoring kits (mejar tep, needles, polyester threads, bobbin case, pearl head pin, etc.) as support in Covid 19 Pandemic to students who attended our Tailoring class in order to motivate them to learn tailoring.



The NXCHD is doing everything possible towards the welfare of the slum communities and will continue to do so.

Conclusion:

Surat has large number of migrants. They come in search of jobs to Surat and settle down in the city. Lockdown has affected these migrant workers very badly. So many have lost their jobs and many have cut in their pay. NXCHD is working for the poorest of the poor. There old, differently able people, peoples with chronicle disease are in pathetic condition. By providing necessary things NXCHD want to provide them a dignified life.

Photo Gallery



