

PRAVARA MEDICAL TRUST
PRAVARA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES - DEEMED TO BE UNIVERSITY, LONI
CENTRE FOR SOCIAL MEDICINE



Distribution of Food Kit to Migrant Tribal Families: April 2020



The COVID-19 pandemic has challenged lives of many people in India and around the world. The National **“Lockdown”** to control the disease has put a great deal of trouble on the poor and marginal workers, contractual labour, women and children. The worst affected are the poor tribal, who lost their temporary jobs in cities and towns and returned to their native villages on foot, as there were no public transport facilities.

Bhandardhara area in Akole Block of Ahmednagar district, Maharashtra is covered by dense forest with remotely located villages on the Western Ghats, at the foot of the Kalsubai peak in Sahyadri mountain range on the border of three districts of Ahmednagar, Thane and Nashik. The tribal communities - *Mahadev Koli, and Thakar* inhabited in this area migrate for six months a year for employment mainly in the agricultural fields of Junnar, Narayangaon, Alephata and Pune (Rural) district. The Centre for Social Medicine of PIMS-DU of Pravara Medical Trust, Loni has adopted 100 remotest tribal villages in this area since 2006 for providing quality medical, primary health care, preventive healthcare at their doorsteps through innovative means – Tribal Health Centres, Mobile Clinics, Motorbike Ambulance-Health Clinics, Gram Arogya Banks, Arogya Mitras and other livelihood & skill development activities engaging local gram panchyats and CBOs.

As **Dr. Rajendra Vikhe Patil**, President, PMT & Pro-chancellor, PIMS-DU couldn't be a silent spectator to the tragedy embarked on these poor tribal families due to COVID 19 NATIONAL LOCKDOWN, took the lead with an initial donation of Rs. 5 lakhs. He instructed the Centre for Social Medicine to design a supplementary food kit program for at least 2000 tribal families. Accordingly, CSM initiated distribution of **“Food Kit”** -10 Kgs Rice, 2 Kgs of Dal (1 Kg Moong Dal, 1 Kg Tur Dal), 1 Kg each of Sugar, Wheat, Salt, Spices and 1 Liter of Cooking Oil, in the operational area of 100 villages to meet 15 days of their food requirement in the first week of April, under the guidance of **Dr. Y.M. Jayaraj**, Vice Chancellor, of PIMS-DU. Accordingly, the CSM team engaged in the tribal area has identified the most vulnerable families, so that we could reach them with Food Kit.

By the end of April, as many 530 families (3200 tribal people) living in 22 remotest villages - Ghatghar (22), Mutkhel (27), Samrad (19), Koltembhe (97), Bhandkolwadi (05), Idewadi (11), Tekadwadi (23), Kolhatwadi (19), Ratanwadi (17), Ambewangan (17), Titavi (37), Panjare (36), Lavalwadi (15), Shendi (13), Bhandardara (17); Manikozhar (17), Savarkhute (43), Wanjulshet (67), Terungan (04), Malegaon (02), Kohandi (01); Sawargaontal (20) were delivered with “Foot - Kits” at their door steps. The distribution program will continue in May & June 2020.

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