



NEWSLETTER- AUGUST 2021

VIDYA DHAM SAMITI



ABOUT THE ORGANISATION

Vidya Dham Samiti is a social services organisation working since 2001 in some of the most underdeveloped areas of the Bundelkhand region of Uttar Pradesh. The organisation focuses on empowering the socially and economically marginalised communities through skill development, the development of leadership of the rural youth, and making people aware of their rights. The organisation works on the basic premise that the people, especially the marginalised must fearlessly demand their rights and entitlements. We believe that citizens who are aware and with an empowered mindset can bring a much-needed change in society.

Over the years Vidya Dham Samiti has established a community group that has more than 5000 members from across 70 villages of Bundelkhand. The name of this group is Chingaari Sanghathan, literally translated as 'Spark'. The name sketches the image of men and women who are fearless and unapologetic torchbearers of social justice.





INTRODUCTION

Vidya Dham Samiti started an effort to aid the families who lost their loved ones and source of livelihood. As a part of this project, the organization is distributing Monthly Grocery kits to needy families, providing support to build Kitchen Gardens to improve the nutritious needs of low-income families, and encouraging Self-Employment efforts through Tailoring and setting up small shops. We are hopeful that these efforts will go a long way to uplift the socio-economic status of the concerned families and establish livelihood opportunities in the village. On the whole, this program aims to cater to more than 100 families. The organization aims to engage with beneficiaries regularly to provide hand-holding support and motivation.



CREATING AVENUES FOR SELF EMPLOYMENT

Banda district is marked by extreme industrial and economic backwardness. There is no large-scale industrial unit in the entire district and the economy is based mainly on agriculture. Because the crop productivity is abysmally low, the population dependent on agriculture is also compelled to augment its income through wage employment and a large number of people are compelled to migrate. The situation has become worse due to successive lockdowns. In the present condition, the organisation is working to support the poor and women-led households to become self-sufficient. The organization is training its beneficiaries so that they can start small businesses. Women are being supported to start businesses such as tailoring, small shops, home-tuitions etc. If these efforts become successful it will go a long way to ensure a secured livelihood.



MAKING AND PROMOTING KITCHEN GARDEN FOR SELF-SUSTANANCE

The organisation has identified families to support kitchen gardens to ensure their permanent food security. Kitchen gardens are being prepared in an area of 20X25 ft, in which different types of vegetables are being planted like tomato, brinjal, chilli, pumpkin etc. All these families who are growing vegetables will be able to consume as per their need and the excess vegetables can be sold in the market. In this way, the families will be able to avoid chemical infested vegetables and save themselves from malnutrition.



GROCERY DISTRIBUTION

Many families could not get ration during the Lockdown because they did not have ration cards. Some of these families also lost their source of employment, and there was no other basis for livelihood. A condition of starvation had arisen in these families. Such families were identified and given ration for one month. In each of these kits, there was 15 kg of flour, 10 kg of rice, 5 kg of pulses, 1 litre of oil, and spices.

Activity Detail: Ongoing (August)

S.N	Name of Activity	Date	Number of Beneficiary
1	Ration Distribution	15 August	40
2	Kitchen Garden	8th August	70
3	Self Employment	30th August	10

Activity Details: Planned (September)

S.N	Name of Activity	Date	Number of Beneficiary
1	Ration Distribution	5th September	40
2	Kitchen Garden	1th to 30 (Continuous)	30

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संस्था की भूमिका खान, मीठा, लालच, सुरेश माहदवाल, सहीत अन्य सदस्य अधिष्ठाता में लगे हैं। इसके अलावा 20 वॉलंटियर भी संस्था में

अभाव में पति को मीठ ले जाने के अलावा लॉकडाउन में मजदूरी का हक छिन जाने के बाद परिवार में टंटे पड़े चूले में राजा भैया ने सहयोग सहित राशन किट लेकर पीड़ित परिवार को मदद की।

कोरोना की कोटरी में बंद नरती बर्लीक की कटीला पुया की निगामी गरीब 65 वर्षीय राजा ने जानकारी देते हुए बताया गरीब बेसारी से प्रभावित पति को इलाज के अभाव में कुछ महीने पहले मौत हो गई थी। 3 बच्चा जमीन कड़ी वर्षों से सुखीयों के पास गिरी खड़ी हुई है, ऊपर से इलाज के निराशा निराशा है।

परिवार में बेटा सीरिष भोजन मजदूरी करके पूरे परिवार का धरणा बेचना करता है, लेकिन कोरोना के चलते लॉकडाउन में मजदूरी का हक भी छिन

गया। घर में राशन कार्ड के नाम चढ़े होने के बावजूद कोटेदार मात्र 2 व्यक्ति को बिल देता है। जिससे राशन में पूरे परिवार के जवाबदायगी नहीं चल।

बताया पहले तो ग्राम के छोटे से रीजिजन कोरेना में कोई घर मदद करने ना आये तक कोई प्रशासन की नहीं मिली है।

घर में पिछले 2 दिन जलने या दयनीय स्थिति निराशा धाम समिति के 8 को मिलने के बाद उन्होंने के साथ गांव पहुंचकर न मिलकर एक महीने की के साथ दवाइयों उपालन हो संकट को घड़ी में स का दिलसा दिया है।

विद्याधाम समाज आर श्रीमक भारत न 50 पाठशाला का बादा राशन किट

फिर से जल उठे कुचबांधिया पुरवा में गरीबों के चूले

जन धरमोस संवत्सरा

बादा। गरीबी और भूख से वेकल कुचबांधिया पुरवा में लकड़बन्ध 50 गरीब परिवारों के चूले हुए चूले ईंधन को फिर से जल उठा। कोरोना काल के लॉकडाउन में परिवारों के मुखियों को जल वहां कोई काम नहीं मिला तो वह किसी तरह मजदूरी का काम शुरू करने निकल गए। इसके बावजूद वह परदेता से भी अपने परिवार को मदद नहीं कर पाए। ऐसे वक्त पर नीनी और अतरं केन में काम कर रही विद्याधाम समिति के लोगों ने गरीबों का दर्द समझा और ईंधन को गरीबों को घड़ियों में पहुंचाने प्रयत्न: उच्चमंडल परिवार को 25 किलो अटा, पाकल और दाल, हल आदि की बरतन किट देकर उन्हें ठेकी सुईयां कराई।



गुड़िया आदि ने बताया कि हमारे पास मुसल बरतन भी नहीं मिल पा रहा है। चूले गए हैं। हमारे पास केजी-पैटी का चूले नहीं हैं।

विद्याधाम समिति के वरिष्ठ अधिकारी श्रीमक भारती के कक्षा पाठशाला, नीला सचान आदि ने हमें सहारा देकर हमारे मंडले राशनपत्रा ने बताया कि कुचबांधिया पुरवा में गरीबों के हाल देखकर उन्होंने सबसे कमजोर वक्के के 50 परिवारों को विहित किट और प्रति परिवार 15 किलो अटा, 5 किलो चकवल, 4 किलो चने, 1 किलो राक, 1 लीटर तेल, सस्की मसाला, मसक आदि का वितरण करवाया। उनका कहना है कि सरकार ने भले ही सभी गरीब परिवारों को मुसल बरतन वितरण का ऐलान किया है परन्तु चूले से चलाना पड़े है उनके कार्ड जमान कार्ड नहीं है और पूरे नगर से मजदूरी पर अधिन है। विद्याधाम समिति के कार्यकर्ता मीठा राजा, अर्चना, मुनीन, सुरेश, माहादवाल, शिवकृष्ण आदि ने गरीबों को घर-घर जाकर राशन किट वितरण की और

CASE STORIES





A MIGRANT LABOURER WAS SUPPORTED WITH GROCERIES AND KITCHEN GARDEN

Koda is a resident of Nibi village. A few years ago he migrated to Ahmedabad to work in a company. The work was going smoothly and he was paid well until lockdown hit in March 2020. Initially, Koda decided to come back to his village during the lockdown only temporarily. He kept waiting for the company to re-open after the lockdown but soon he learned that the company could not sustain the financial burden of the lockdown and had to shut. This came as a major blow to Koda who had kept waiting to rejoin his job. He failed to get any job in Banda, soon the family's situation got worse. He tried to find work as a daily wage labourer which was also extremely uncertain. There were days when the family had to cut down on their meals. Rajesh Kumar who is also a resident of the village brought Koda to Vidya Dham Samiti's office. His situation was narrated to Samiti's staff. He got a month's ration from the organisation and a kitchen garden was prepared at his home. This gave him a lot of courage and a sense of support.



AN EFFORT TO GROW VEGETABLES FOR SELF-SUSTENANCE INSPIRES OTHERS

Fareeda a 36-year-old woman resides near Atarra Grameen village of Banda District along with her husband and children who are young. Fareeda's husband has been ill since last year. He has TB, and lung infection and was being treated in Banda earlier but during the lockdown, the treatment stopped. Fareeda was in an extremely poor condition when the lockdown was imposed. She wasn't able to earn her living, the family was surviving on the groceries availed from the PDS scheme. However, Fareeda was determined to improve her condition so that her children could eat good food. In July 2020 Fareeda was supported with seeds to Grow Vegetables in a small plot near her house that was left barren for many years. She started growing vegetables such as pumpkin, bottle gourd, Bitter Gourd, ladyfinger on the land. The production of her garden was so good that not only did her family eat but she also managed to distribute the vegetables to her neighbours. Looking at Fareeda's dedication, the organisation decided to support Fareeda again. In August 2021 Fareeda was again supported with seeds for the new season and this time she was also given technical support to construct a kitchen garden in a bigger area so that she can also earn from what she produces. She has been working hard to ensure that her garden is well taken care of. Her efforts have inspired others in the region to start self-sustainable farming and gardening.



MOVING TOWARDS SELF EMPLOYMENT

Shia W/O Shivsharan Verma is 40 years old and lives in Punahur village of Bisanda in Banda District of Uttar Pradesh. She has had two sons and a daughter, the family is landless and relies on the wages earned by working in Brick Kiln. The money earned does not suffice the requirements of the entire family. Shia's husband often fell sick due to the dust and harsh work condition. Due to the lockdown, it became even more difficult for the Shia to run the house.

She is an active member of the Chingari (A women's group formed by VDS to empower women). Since childhood, Shia had learned the skill of sewing clothes, but she did not have money to buy a sewing machine. When Shia's condition came across the team of Vidya Dham it was decided that she should be given a sewing machine. Along with this Shia will be given the training to start a sewing centre at her home.



TAILORING BECOMES A MEANS FOR SELF EMPLOYMENT

Bela lives with her husband Vijay Kumar and four children in a small village. Bela's family is dependent on labour and migration due to landlessness. For the last two years, her husband could not get any work. Seldom he would get daily wage work and on most days he was forced to return home without any money. Financial uncertainty has been looming around the family making it difficult to survive.

Vidya Dham Samiti has been engaging with such migrant labourers for the last two years to improve their livelihood conditions. The family was initially supported with ration. Bela was also given handicraft's training under a program run by the government of Uttar Pradesh. Bela took part in this training which equipped her with technical skills in tailoring. Now she has been given a sewing machine to start a small business to support the financial needs of the family. Bela is hopeful and is looking forward to starting her Sewing center.



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