Empathy & Relief Activities during COVID-19 Pandemic

MAY 2020
Women’s Indian Association (WIA) have always looked beyond women welfare and focused on overall empowerment of the society. The current COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent lockdowns, across the country, has left several communities and individuals suffering from lack of essential resources such as food, sanitation, clothing etc. Such circumstances not only increase their vulnerability to COVID-19 but also other physical and mental illnesses. In light of this situation, WIA along with its various chapters spread across the city, joined hands to render proactive, timely and well-organised charitable services to vulnerable populations in an inclusive manner.

The quick action and implementation of our members and chapters, in these challenging times, ensured that we could reach diverse sections of our society. Inclusiveness has been at the core of all our initiatives thus far and we have strived to cater to all affected communities such as Leprosy colonies, migrant workers, Narikuravas, folk artists, people living in kuppams, self-employed individuals, gypsy communities, students, visually challenged people, hearing impaired people, special children, disabled men, women and children, cancer afflicted patients, police personals, doctors, conservancy workers, corporation employees, platform dwellers and their children, public, animals, securities, underprivileged people, auto drivers, elderly population living in old age homes and Shraddha Brahmin families.

We have also taken measures to reach other states of India as and when possible by liaising with other organisations.

While we had to overcome several obstacles to collect, accumulate, and distribute aids amidst the lockdown, the acknowledgement and gratitude displayed by all beneficiaries have only motivated us to do more in the coming days. Such efforts and wide reach of our initiatives would not have been possible without the physical, mental and financial support of our members, chapters and our sister concerns. We would like to thus, take this opportunity to thank each and every one of them for taking the time and effort to help people and communities which is the need of the hour.
OUR COVID-19 RELIEF ACTIVITIES

PM COVID-19 Relief Fund:
- Following the lockdown announcement, as an immediate measure, Ms. Bargavi Devendra, Hon. Secretary of WIA, and her sister Ms. Thoyajakshi Devendra donated one lakh each towards CM and PM’s COVID-19 relief fund.
- Mrs. Rani Danraj, President of Indira Nagar Women’s Association conferred a cheque for Rs. 1,00,000 towards CM relief Fund.
- Ms. Bargavi Devendra also donated a sum of Rs. 1,00,000 to Women's Indian Association towards COVID-19 relief work.

Adyar Cancer Institute (WIA):
- Mrs. Sarala Krishnan, Chairman of WIA, bestowed a cheque of Rs. 200,000 to WIA to be given to Adyar Cancer Institute.
- Srinivasa Gandhi Nilayam donated Rs.10,000 to WIA to be given to Adyar Cancer Institute.
- Smt. Veena Kohli, Former President of AIWC has sent her contribution of Rs. 15000 to WIA to be given to Cancer Institute.
- Smt. Premalatha Gupta, Faridabad Branch AIWC, has sent her contribution of Rs. 15000 to WIA to be given to Cancer Institute.
- Dr. Muthulakshmi Reddy Women’s Association has donated Rs. 14000 to WIA to be given to Cancer Institute.
- The essential groceries worth 625 kgs of rice, 80 kgs of toor dal, 15 ltrs of oil and 1550 face masks were donated by Mrs. Padma Venkataraman, Mrs. Srikanta Jhaver, Mrs. Sitamittal, Ms. M. Bargavi Devendra and Ms. M. Thoyajakshi Devendra to WIA to be given to Cancer Institute.
Mrs. Padma Venkatraman  
President, Women’s Indian Association:

- In collaboration with Rising Star Outreach, India (RSO), Mrs. Padma Venkatraman, President of WIA, provided essential provisions to 25,000 leprosy affected families in Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Maharashtra and Odisha.
- Procured vegetables in large scale to the value of Rs. 3,00,000 from farmers of adjoining villages and distributed to the same to leprosy colonies in Chennai, Thiruvallur, Kancheepuram and Chengelpet districts.
- This above service was also extended to 30 employees of Chennai Corporation, 30 families in local slum areas, stranded migrants, self-employed individuals, Narikuravas in three districts, 132 folk artists and gypsy communities.
- Collaborating with RV foundation donated PPEs (Personal Protection Equipment) worth Rs.50,000 to the front line doctors and other healthcare professionals through Dr. Sathya Jaganathan.
- Facilitated online medical consultations services to the needy and supplied ulcer care kits and 2000 masks to the victims of leprosy.
- Facilitated online coaching classes for students, to ensure continuity of learning, for students in residential schools located in Uthiramerur, Venkatapuram of Tamil Nadu as well a school in the state of Bihar.
- On the occasion of May day, food packets, groceries and other essential commodities worth Rs. 34,000 were distributed.
- A sum of Rs. 50,000 was spent to supply food and water bottles for the migrant workers on their way back to home town.
Women's Indian Association:
Mrs. Padma Venkatraman, President

- WIA also supplied 500 sanitizers worth Rs. 25000 to Greater Chennai Corporation
- Food packets were offered, through Balasevikas, to individuals who are visually challenged, hearing impaired and/or aged people who are residing in the vicinity of Balasevikas.
- Donated provisions such as rice, dal and oil amounting to Rs.7670 to 20 women senior citizens residing at AIWC Daycare Centre for Women Senior Citizens in Mylapore.
- To cater to the needs of stranded migrants, members of WIA distributed 500 biscuit packets and 295 sanitary pads worth Rs.6180 to the migrant workers boarding trains at the Chennai Central railway station.
- WIA distributed sanitary pads for the migrant women workers who boarded Sharmik Special train at Egmore Railway Station.
Dr. Muthulakshmi Reddy Women’s Association (MRWA),
Dr. Booma Srinivasan, President

- Dr Booma Srinivasan, President of MRWA and treasurer of WIA, cooked and delivered food packets and nutritional porridge to platform dwellers, their children and conservancy workers for a period of one month.
- 100 face masks were also donated to people in the area. Kabasura Kudineer (a herbal immune booster) was also donated to the public.
- Total spend for food, snacks, tea, and masks: Rs.7500, Rs.1300 and Rs.1000 respectively.
- Several members of MRWA also provided food to private, and residential security personnel, family members of patients in government hospitals and healthcare staff. Total spend: Rs. 8000

[Images of Dr. Booma Srinivasan delivering food and masks]
Jothi Madhar Sangam  
Mrs. Lakshmi Raghukumar, President

- 100 food packets, per day, for 20 days amounted to Rs 1,20,000 were distributed.
- Groceries to 60 families comprising of differently abled families (10), underprivileged families (10), Shraddha Bhramin families (40) spending Rs.1200 each family totaling to Rs.72,000 were donated.
- Groceries worth Rs.2000 per head were also donated to 5 auto and share auto drivers.
- Home-made masks were also prepared spending Rs.1000 for resources and engaging five women workers.
- Total spend: Rs 2,03,000 was spent for the aforementioned relief activities.
Sanju Women’s Welfare Association:
Mrs. Shanthi Socrates, President

- Mrs. Shanthi Socrates and other members donated provisions and groceries.
- 300kgs of rice, provisions worth Rs.10,000 cash amount of Rs.15,000, 100litres of butter milk, 500 packets of food, 200 face masks and Kabasura Kudineer have been donated to the public.
- Total spend: Rs.75000
Srinivasa Gandhi Nilayam
Mrs. Padma Venkatraman, President

- Distributed 15 food packets over a period of fortnight alongside 10kgs of rice to 180 families and 5kg rice bags to 20 families.
- Individual members, as per their capacity, have distributed food packets for conservancy workers in their areas.
- Contributed Rs. 50,000 towards Kannaginagar relief activities.
Mrs Preetha Raj led the initiative of distributed items such as rice, toor dal, oil, salt, tamarind, sugar, tea, hand sanitizers and masks to corporation sanitary workers.

Executive member, Ms. Praba Sathyanarana distributed rice bags to the nearby inhabitants.

One hundred pairs of cloth gloves were distributed to police personnel in the area.

One hundred food packets were also distributed, every day for three days, worth Rs.15,000.

Total spend: Rs.13,100.

Other initiatives:

RPMWWA members were encouraged to make cotton masks at home, instead of buying commercial masks which has plastic contents in it, thereby supporting the Government of India’s Atmanirbhar self-reliant scheme. Those who know sewing, made cotton masks using left over cloth pieces. Those who did not know sewing were encouraged to make masks without involving stitching.
Donated grocery provisions and masks to the tune of Rs.1700 (per head) to 535 physically challenged individuals which totals to Rs. 9,09,500.

Dry rations for 150 women and children with disabilities at a cost of Rs.2500 (amounting to Rs 3,75,000) and another portion of dry rations for 500 special children and disabilities worth Rs.500 per kit, to the tune of Rs.2,50,000, was provided.

Overall spend: Rs.15,34,500

Society for Rights of All Women with Disability (SFRAWD):
Mrs. M. Lalithambigai, President

- Donated grocery provisions and masks to the tune of Rs.1700 (per head) to 535 physically challenged individuals which totals to Rs. 9,09,500.
- Dry rations for 150 women and children with disabilities at a cost of Rs.2500 (amounting to Rs 3,75,000) and another portion of dry rations for 500 special children and disabilities worth Rs.500 per kit, to the tune of Rs.2,50,000, was provided.
- Overall spend: Rs.15,34,500

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Bharathi Magalir Narpani Mandram:
Mrs. Suseela Gopalakrishnan, President

- Distributed 250 kits worth Rs.350, consisting of rice and provisions, to residents of Choolapallam slum and MGR Nagar.
- Distributed 50 kits worth Rs. 750, consisting of rice and provisions, to conservancy workers in Saligramam area. Total spend: 37,500
Mangaiyarkarasi Magalir Mandram:
- Mrs Zaheera Mohideen, President
- Food materials, worth Rs.10,000 was distributed.
- Rs.20,000 cash was donated to WIA.
- Rs.5000 was donated to All Children Home in Vyasarpadi, and Kevin Welfare Society in Chennai.
Mrs. Vanaja Krishnamurthy, Joint Secretary of WIA:

- Collected provisions to the value of Rs. 60,000 from the neighbourhood for distribution.
- Collected 5000 face masks (worth Rs. 60,000) and hand gloves, to the tune of Rs. 3000, were donated. The gloves were exclusively given to police personnel and distributed to over hundred families in need.
Janani Krishnamurthy, Animal Activist, Kodaikanal
Protection Care for Animals:
Food and medical assistance to 50 stray dogs for over 2 months
Total spend: Rs. 1,68,000