

COMBAT COVID-19 REPORT



Sangini Gender Resource Centre
A-4 Jai Bhawani Phase-2 Rohit Nagar,
Bhopal (M.P.)

2020-21



INTRODUCTION

Relief and Recovery Program During the Covid-19 Pandemic

The novel Coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic has emerged as one of the most challenging humanitarian crises of the world; It has brought about a drastic shift in the Indian economy. The effects of the economic crisis have been disproportionate with the marginalized and underprivileged communities facing the brunt of it. Many people, specifically women who worked as daily wage labourers and migrant labourers, especially those who belong to scheduled castes and other minority communities lost their jobs ever since the lockdown was first imposed on 24 March 2020 and many others received only partial payment. Domestic workers have been facing financial, physical, and psychological challenges due to the aftermath of a crumbling economy and the loss of jobs. Sangini's Combat Covid-19 Relief and Recovery Program worked on providing aid to such distressed workers and avoid further crises such as hunger and malnutrition.



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FOOD DISTRIBUTION

One of the main concerns due to the pandemic has been the widespread hunger because of loss of income. Sangini has been working on combating this problem by distributing food and rations. The organisation has so far distributed dry ration to pregnant women, elderly women of age 60 and above, and daily wage workers such as sweepers, masseurs, housekeepers, domestic workers. The demographic also included divorced or separated women, widowed women, unmarried women, women with disabilities, and unemployed individuals. Many of them are dependent on others for their livelihoods and do not fall under the beneficiaries of any government schemes.



Sangini has established community kitchens at the Sangini office, Piplani, Annanagar, Bagmugaliya, and Akhbarpur. The kitchen is run by domestic workers from respective communities identified by the organisation. Furthermore, the community kitchen provides free tiffin services for women.



SUPPORT PROVIDED BY SANGINI

Apart from the food distribution drives, Sangini provides a variety of support to the community in order to create an enriched and better society.

SANITARY NAPKINS

Sangini has been providing sanitary napkins to women in order to raise awareness about using sanitary napkins and the importance of good menstrual hygiene. **2756** sanitary napkins have been distributed among women in the community.



MASKS

Sangini's team took initiative to make handmade masks and has distributed a total of **3354** of these handmade masks in this pandemic in order to create awareness about health and safety in the pandemic.

MOTIVATION FOR VACCINATION

After the announcement of vaccinations for people of age 18 and above, Sangini helped motivate people to get vaccinated. Many people were scared because of the rumours spread about the vaccines, Sangini helped generate awareness regarding the importance of getting vaccinated and motivated **5222** people to do so.





SANITIZERS

Apart from the distribution of the handmade masks, Sangini also aided in raising awareness regarding precautions against the Covid-19 by distributing sanitizers and soaps. In 2021, about **200** sanitizers were distributed along with **2527** soaps in the community.

MEDICINES



Along with spreading awareness about preventive practices, Sangini distributed medicines in various communities. Sangini has distributed about **631** medicines in collaboration with Government Homeopathic College and Hospitals. Multivitamins and thermometers were distributed along with regular blood pressure and oxymeter checks.



DIGITAL SUPPORT

Sangini offered digital support to women and conducted workshops on using digital devices given the circumstances where everything went online due to the pandemic. Sangini offered digital device and support to **70** women.



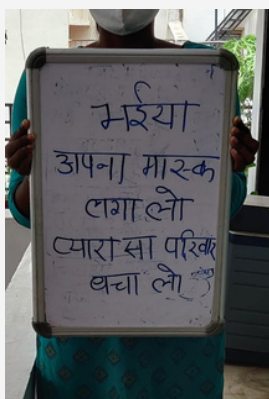
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ROKO-TOKO ABHIYAN

Sangini, in collaboration with District Administration, participated in 'Roko-Toko Abhiyan', an awareness program created to fight against the Coronavirus pandemic and break the chain of Covid-19. The program was created with the motive to generate awareness regarding protective measures against Coronavirus like wearing masks properly when in public places. Under this program, Sangini has been distributing masks and collecting a fine of Rs. 11 in case someone is found in public places without a mask. Awareness regarding the symptoms such as fever, difficulty in breathing, and cough was also generated along with tips to drink lukewarm water and kadha regularly. Initially, the awareness program reached **5000** people while in 2021 the outreach increased to a total of **7500** people.

#CoronaFreeMyHomeMyBhopal

Under the #CoronaFreeMyHomeMyBhopal campaign organized by Nagar Nigam Bhopal, women from the community came forward and pledged to reduce the spread of Coronavirus by keeping their homes clean and maintaining basic hygiene. In collaboration with this campaign, Sangini organized multiple programs to raise awareness on how to keep houses clean and maintain basic hygiene. The team also contributed to keeping the community by conducting cleanliness drives and cleaning communities, potable water sources, and spreading awareness on the practice of social distancing and educating on mask adoption. The awareness programs have been regularly conducted by Sangini ever since March 2020. As mentioned, Sangini distributed about **200** sanitizers, **800** soaps as well as masks under this campaign.



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INTERVENTION ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

The lockdown due to COVID-19 resulted in an increase in cases of domestic violence where women were beaten, taunted, verbally abused, forced sex, threatened with death, emotionally abused, economically abused, and driven out of their houses, among other things. Furthermore, they were not able to go to the police stations and other authorities to report it to them due to the restrictions. Due to the strong presence Sangini has in the community, many of these women approached Sangini with their problems. In response the organization started the following services:

- **24/7 Helpline Number** - Sangini began a 24/7 Helpline service to attend to the calls of the victims and trained the team on how to respond to victims during the crisis. These numbers were distributed through pamphlets and social media.
- **Legal Support** - Sangini formed a team of lawyers who offer support in the form of Tele counseling, legal aid, police help, a one-stop crisis center, women helplines, and communication with employers/families.
- Sangini assisted women to file complaints and follow up with police regarding registered complaints.
- Sangini also has community volunteers and paralegal workers who act as a link between victims and the organization.

Sangini has helped resolve **45 cases** of domestic violence since 2020.



OTHER SUPPORT INITIATIVES BY SANGINI



ACADEMIC SUPPORT

There are many young, adolescent girls who are completely dependent on others, some of them do not have parents to support them; they are either living alone or with relatives. Sangini has been providing support to 30 such young girls in various communities by providing them with dry rations, books, undergarments, and other necessities and sponsoring their educational fees.

START-UP SUPPORT



As the demand for jobs has been emerging rapidly, domestic workers have been contacting Sangini in order to support their livelihoods. In order to assist such individuals, Sangini has been working to provide them job opportunities by connecting them with employers and other institutions in order to help them start small businesses like selling food, clothes, dry snacks, vegetables, and fruits. Sangini has so far, in 2021, engaged **23** women in this venture.

In 2020, on the occasion of Diwali, these women got an opportunity to establish their own identity and earn independently, they set up stalls under an initiative organized by Bhopal Municipal corporation for women known as “PURPLE POWER”. It was a three days fair in which women set up a stall for Diwali snacks, decorative diyas and other material required in Diwali, Rangoli, artificial as well as Jewellery and makeup products.





MOBILITY THROUGH BICYCLE

Due to lack of facilities, women face problems in travelling to their workplace and they approached Sangini with their concerns. They also expressed interest in learning how to drive two-wheeler vehicles but then faced issues regarding the price of scooters as well as fuel expenses. In order to assist them, Sangini motivated them to use bicycles to travel and also helped them learn how to ride one by initially providing them with 3 bicycles which they used to both learn as well as travel to their workplace. The success of this idea led to **32** more bicycles being made available.



ASSISTING WITH JAN-DHAN ACCOUNT AND RATION CARD



Sangini's team helped 15 people whose Jan Dhan accounts were closed. The team assisted them with the documentation work and the process required for the renewal of their Jan Dhan account as they were unable to obtain the relief amount given by the government of India. They also identified individuals who did not have a ration card and assisted them in obtaining one.



OTHER AFFILIATIONS



FOOD RELIEF

Sangini distributed cooked food and dry ration in 30 slum areas of Bhopal with the help of Bhopal Municipal Corporation under the Deendayal Rasoi Yojana scheme by the Indian government with assistance from government helpline numbers 181 and 104. Other stakeholders and civil society groups also engaged in the distribution work. A total of 2648 people and families received food supplies under this initiative.



COMMUNITY SUPPORT

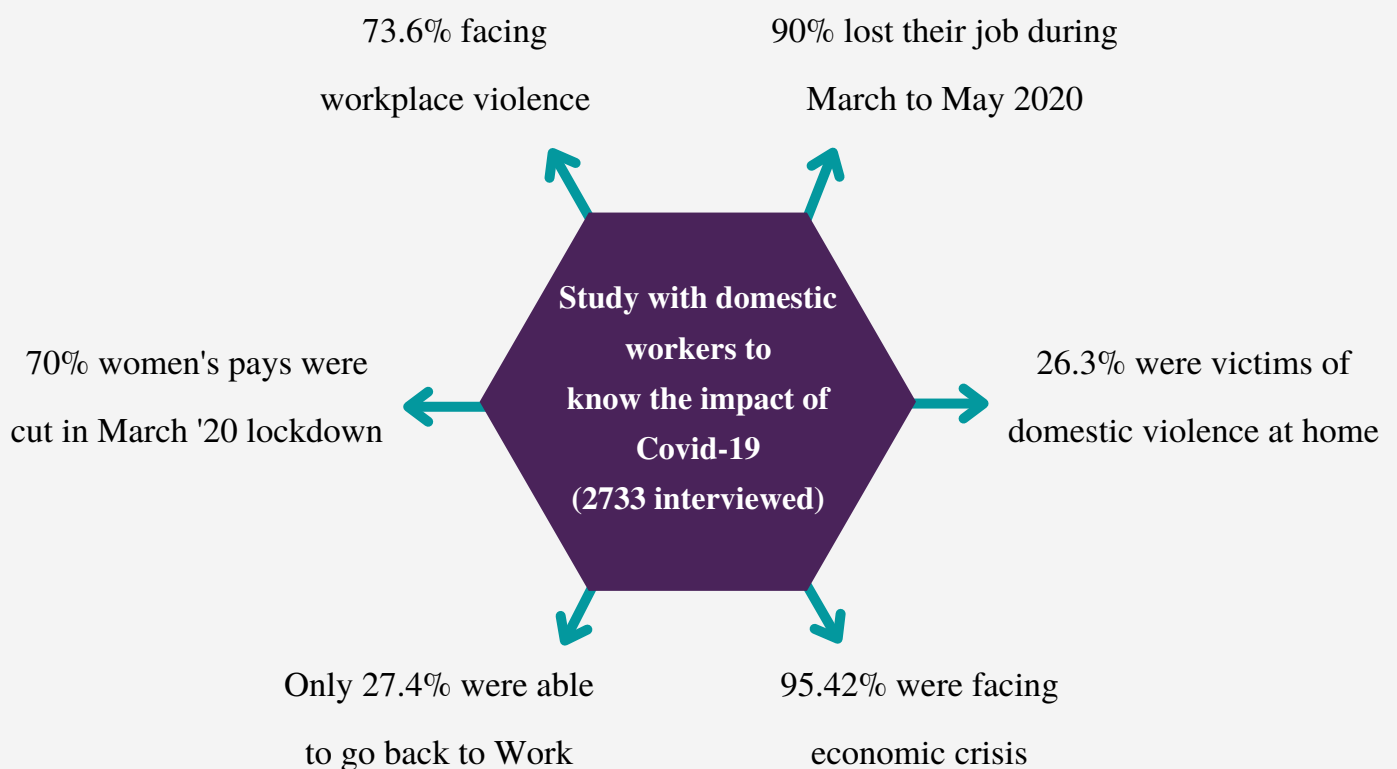


Sangini collected first aid material, empty bottles, 135 pairs of footwear, umbrellas, clean clothes, dried fruits, packed food, dry snacks, water bottles, dry ration, biscuits, and other essentials from the residents of Krishna homes, Somya Homes Kolar, Jai Bhawani phase-2 society, Viceroy park society, opal avenue, opal residency, Akriti eco-city for the migrant laborers who were traveling from other states to their native places. The team members distributed dry snacks, biscuits, footwear, water bottles, etc. to 200 migrant labors who were returning to their hometowns from Habibganj Railway Station at Bhopal.



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STUDY ON THE IMPACT OF COVID IN THE LIFE OF DOMESTIC WORKERS AND OTHER WORKERS IN PRIVATE SECTOR



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PRIVATE SECTOR EMPLOYEE AND SELF- EMPLOYED

