



FAsCE India

Fransalian Agency for Social Care and Education

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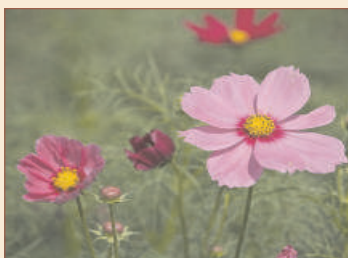
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From the Director's Desk

The second wave of the Corona virus seems to be slowing down, but the scar of the wave will continue to remain for a very long time as an unhealed wound. The havoc created on humanity and the various man-made systems, particularly the health care, making hospitals and oxygen units run short, will be remembered for a long time. The eight states of Northeast India, which effectively managed the first wave of the current pandemic was struggling to contain the virus leaving many casualties.



The pandemic continues to cause social, economic, and political fallout. Vulnerable and disadvantaged groups will be impacted more severely and therefore require particular attention in the policy responses. It has left both human lives and financial securities uncertain. People are slowly realizing that this pandemic is going to stay for longer than expected and are slowly coming to terms with this crisis and starting to live with it while taking preventive measures.

Now is the time for global solidarity and support, especially with the most vulnerable in our societies. Only together we can overcome the intertwined health and social and economic impacts of the pandemic and prevent its escalation into a protracted humanitarian and food security catastrophe, with the potential loss of already achieved development gains.

Fransalian Agency for Social Care and Education (FAsCE India) along with MSFS Guwahati Province made an earnest and sincere effort to express solidarity with the affected people by reaching out to them at various levels: distribution of cooked food, immunity booster kit, dry rations, medicines for COVID patients, preventive medicines for vulnerable people etc. Besides, helpline desks were set up at various villages with the motto "get vaccinated" and initiated an awareness campaign and sanitization drive. Thus, the second quarter of the year was focused on COVID Relief service, reaching out to thousands of people.

I place before you this issue of the FAsCE India Newsletter, with the humble request to pray and support our continuing efforts to reach out to the affected people in this time of the pandemic. When love, compassion, and a focus on the inherent dignity and worth of all people become the driving force of small actions, those actions become great. God Bless You!

Fr (Dr) Saji George Puthiyakulangara MSFS
Executive Director, FAsCE India

COVID CARE 2021

FAsCE Help Desk

Fear, distrust, and resistance are common reactions during the pandemic. Trusted, true and credible information sources are critical for the people to prevent them from getting into a panic. To provide the people with accurate information FAsCE India has set up a help desk in its head office at Narengi and the nearby villages, Amsing Jorabat, Geeta Mandir, Bonda, Bongaon, Hatigaon, Ekrahari and in Gobardan Village in Chandrapur. The help desk has the role to address the misinformation, fear and stigma surrounding COVID 19 by providing timely, accurate information about COVID 19 transmission, precautions that people can take to protect themselves and their families. The help desk conducts awareness on the COVID vaccine campaign and facilitates telephonic registration and advocates vaccination and registers appointments for vaccination.



Daily Meal Delivery

With the surge in COVID -19 cases during the second wave of the coronavirus pandemic, FAsCE India has launched the COVID Care 2021 programme to assist those who have been impacted by the pandemic especially the low-income groups, homeless and COVID affected families. On May 22, 2021, a daily meal delivery was launched in partnership with Mr Tultul Kachari. We reached out to 5927 persons in need by the end of June, including the homeless, differently-abled, people living in the marginalized situation, children in the various localities of Guwahati and attendants of COVID patients at hospitals were the beneficiaries.



Do not lose courage in considering your own imperfections.

Saint Francis de Sales



Distribution of Immunity Booster Kit

Boosting our immune system and appropriate hygiene practices like keeping our hands clean and sanitized, wearing a mask has become crucial key measures that individuals can take to fight against this pandemic. FAsCE India has reached out to more than 500 most needy and poor families so far with immunity booster kits that have health drinks, vitamin c tablets, N 97 masks, sanitiser, menthol for hot steam inhalation and soaps for hygiene.



Survival Kit with Dry Ration

Curfew and closure of workplaces, institutions and restricted working of business establishments as part of the COVID protocol laid down by the state government to curb the infection surge has once again hit the economically challenged people, especially the daily wagers, street vendors, petty businesses and people living in poor conditions. Survival kits containing essential food items, like, rice, dal, oil, potato, onion, salt, soya beans were distributed to needy families in suburban interior villages, slums and tea garden areas.



Distribution of Mask

Face masks were distributed to FAsCE India Supplementary Education Centre at Ekkrabari as part of its awareness campaign against the novel corona virus. Masks are a key measure to suppress transmission and save lives.



Distribution of Medicines

The impact of the second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic has been severe in Assam, more so in the Kamrup Metro district with a higher caseload. As a new venture, FAsCE India in collaboration with the Regional Research Institute of Homoeopathy, Guwahati undertook the distribution of AYUSH 64 medicines in asymptomatic and mild to moderate Covid-19 patients in home isolation and Arsenic Album 30 for mass prophylaxis as per the Standard Operating Procedure given by the Ministry of AYUSH. We have reached out to more than 170 COVID 19 patients in home isolation with Ayush 64 and 100 families living in poor socio-economic conditions in remote communities with Arsenic Album 30 as a preventive measure. The effort was highly appreciated by the beneficiaries.



Facilities for Frontline Health Workers

As part of the COVID Care 2021, programme FAsCE India distributed oximeters, masks, sanitisers and gloves to police personnel and health care centres. It was a goodwill gesture to frontline workers racing against time to help people who are either infected with the virus or are adversely affected due to the crisis brought on by the second wave of COVID-19. FAsCE India sincerely appreciated the frontline health workers and acknowledged their service in public sector.



Oxygen Concentrators

One of the ways to fight against the COVID 19-second wave was to equip the health centres and other houses with sufficient oxygen supply, as dropping oxygen levels is one of the consequences of COVID 19. FAsCE India made an earnest effort to make available oxygen concentrators in different centres to strengthen the health system. An oxygen concentrator was made available in its headquarters to meet the emergency need. Representing FAsCE India, Fr Mathew Muriyankariyil and Fr Clean Areng handed over the oxygen concentrators to the sisters at St. Joseph's Health Centre, Manikbond. The concentrator has done enormous help and has saved patients with low oxygen count.



Sanitization Drive

Partnering with the local bodies Nabajyoti Club and Nagrik Committee FAsCE India launched 'Sanitization Drive' on June 17, 2021, in Satgaon area. The sanitization drive is with the purpose to disinfect the public spaces including streets, neighbourhood spaces in residential areas.



Study Facility: Mobile Communication and Interaction

The existing pandemic has led to the massive closure of face-to-face activities of educational institutions to prevent the spread of the virus and mitigate its impact. Many underprivileged children do not have the access to devices to keep on learning during the pandemic, especially when school classes are held online. To address this issue FAsCE India launched mini-study centres following the COVID protocol for the children who do not have access to online communication. Needy Children were provided with gadgets to pursue their studies and timely assistance were given for their class lessons.



COVID Relief for Differently Abled at Somonpara

The impact on economy due to COVID-19 has forced millions out of informal work and food security. The situation in India is grim as the country faces a deadly second wave of Covid-19. The pandemic is severely affecting the lives in rural and tribal areas of Meghalaya especially Garo Hills where medical facilities are either not available or dysfunctional. The wave affected is differently-abled. In response to this, under the leadership of Fr John Kelamkuzhakal the FAsCE India at Somonpara provided immunity boosters and essential food items to 100 differently-abled people in rural areas. These people are poor and differently-abled are facing a lot of difficulties with food insecurity and have little access to Covid related treatment and care. This campaign helped and provided basic nutrition, minerals and vitamins tablets along with immunity booster products like protein. FAsCE India also provided Grocery packets like sugar, tea powder, dal, peas, soybean and hand washing soaps. The staff of FAsCE India has been working on the ground to reach the most vulnerable people and families in rural villages during this challenging time of the pandemic Covid-19.



Relief Service at Nongalbibra

FAsCE India team under the guidance of Fr Abraham Puthanpurackal reached out to 100 deserving families of very poor, sick, old and differently-abled persons at Nongalbibra, West Garo Hills with an immunity booster kit and essential food items. The kit included Vitamin Tablets, Protein powder, ORS and food items like soya bean, dal, pea sugar, tea powder and hygiene items like soaps.



COVID Response at Manikbond, Karimganj

FAsCE India in collaboration with MSFS Manikbond Community in Karimganj district has reached out to 218 needy families in 5 villages with essential food items. The people of this area too was badly affected by the lockdown and COVID 19 protocol. The timely intervention of FAsCE India, through the distribution of dry rations, has mitigated their suffering. The beneficiaries were very grateful for the help they received in time of need.





Life Story: Livelihood Support

The second wave of the pandemic has adversely affected the normal life of the people and their livelihood. It had an undue effect on small scale business people and contractors, because of which they were even forced to take up some other field of entrepreneurship to sustain their life and support their families.

Mr Ramprakash Das who was a small scale contractor, could get any contract work and he was finding it very hard to sustain himself and his family, due to the lockdown imposed in the state. He saw his future as very bleak. Although he had been knocking on many doors, no one offered him substantial help. Finally, he approached MSFS and with financial assistance from FAsCE India, he began selling vegetables and snacks to sustain himself and his family. He says that although it was a great challenge for him to shift his profession, it was necessary to sustain his life and family.



MOTHER'S MEAL

The Mother's Meal Project, which was started on August 15, 2010, continues its journey of reaching out to the neediest people in the interior villages of Mizoram and Tripura. It is a hunger-relief movement started by Bangalore-based Project Vision. This project has identified 25 deserving families each in Sateek, Mizoram, and Sindhukpathar, Tripura, and provides a Survival Food Kit with essential items worth 500 each month.





WORK EXPERIENCE IN FASCE INDIA DURING LOCKDOWN

Ms Adrija Seth, a student of MSW (Public Health) 4th Semester from TATA Institute of Social Sciences, Guwahati, was placed at FAsCE India for the field as part of the social work curriculum from May 15 to June 5, 2021. The purpose of the fieldwork is to facilitate the development of a professional social worker who can enter the practice arena in any setting and be able to apply the professional knowledge base, perform direct social work practice skills and act according to social work ethics and values. Owing to the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic, the fieldwork requirements were met online. Ms Adrija Seth shares her experience:

"The fear of an obscure future as our daily lives turn upside down is a moment of realization of the self. The realization of what makes me a true me, myself."



Ms Adrija Seth.

The Pandemic has given a peek into life and experience when everything normal comes to a standstill. As a student in the development sector has a similar experience was not only scary but enough to trigger anxiety at every phase. The ability to adapt is what makes us humans, in a short time life restarted with new norms, the existing mechanisms to survive in unprecedented times.

My fieldwork allotment in FAsCE India was for 25 days on an online platform. It was challenging yet a new experience. The uncertain way of going forward was a constant worry, but I am glad to express that my experience has been quite different and pleasant as the work done was new, challenging and motivated me to think out of the box. The tasks assigned were designed and required the ability to think within a restricted space of mind and opportunities yet come up with creative ways of engagement using the online mode of communication and utilizing the extent of the digital space for different age groups. Overall within the limited time, the restricted digital workspace the experience of working with FAsCE India under the supervision of Miss Chaya Kalita was wonderful who was not only a guide but also understood the situation we all were in and was empathetic at the same time.

It would be a dream come true for me to be able to work with the organization again once the situation to work on the field is restored. I would like to express my gratitude to the organization for giving me this opportunity to work and learn through this fieldwork.



We ourselves feel that what we are doing is just a drop in the ocean. But the ocean would be less because of that missing drop. (Mother Teresa)

WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY

This year the World Environment Day was observed under the theme "Ecosystem Restoration" in a low key manner due to the pandemic. At the community level the members of various self-help groups, community leaders and children in Narengi, Chandrapur, Ekkrabari, Bongaon and Amsing Jorabat marked the day by planting a sapling as a symbolic gesture and it was facilitated by FAsCE India.

Ekkrabari: The staff and children of the FAsCE Supplementary Education centre and the leaders of Ekkrabari Village gathered together to celebrate World Environment Day. The team carried out a clean drive and planted saplings in the village premises.



Bongaon: The children of the Supplementary Education Centre and community members at Bongaon village came together to observe the day under the leadership of Miss Chameli Marak. On the occasion, the children were concertized on the importance of the protection of the environment and keeping the surroundings green by planting trees. Saplings were planted in the village vicinity to mark the day.

Amsing Jorabat: The members of the FAsCE Self Help Groups observed the day in the community. To mark the occasion the leaders of the SHGs in a symbolic gesture planted saplings and then it was followed by the distribution of plant saplings to all the participants of the programme.



Narengi: Following the COVID protocol the children of the Supplementary Education Centre in the Patharquarry area came together to celebrate World Environment Day. Children planted saplings to mark the occasion.



Geetamandir: The main idea of the Geetamandir SHGs behind the observance was to promote environmental conservation. It deals with all the constituents of the environment, that is, forests, marine life, air quality, soil pollution, etc. Members planted young saplings in their neighborhood, cleaned the garbage from roads, vacant plots, etc. Saplings were also distributed.



NEW SUPPLEMENTARY EDUCATION CENTRES

During the pandemic to facilitate the study of the children in interior villages FASCE India opened two more supplementary education centres in Sualiluka and Sampath. These centres aim at facilitating the education of children and motivating them towards achieving their goal for a better life. The children registered to the centres are in the age group of 5 to 14 years, mainly comprising of school-going, few out-of-school and some dropouts. Free tuition classes and co-curricular activities are organized from Monday to Saturday.





PHOTO GALLERY



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