

2 'Janta Dokan' at Jangal Mahal:

We are 95's Kid, we don't have experiences neither had heard of such kind of pandemic situations. But this **pandemic of COVID-19**, showed its dreadful appearance around the world. This corona virus made most of the terrible impact on poor community in terms of losing jobs, starvation, no work so on.

And the other hand, **Jangal Mahal is the region of most interior backward area of Bankura, Purulia and Paschim Midnapur district** under West Bengal, which consists a branch of Adhibasi villages like Sutan, Khatam, Gualmandi, Bunisol so on. The most vulnerable indigenous people are lives there. The area surrounded by hills and deep forest, from where accessibility of Government facilities has quite difficult.



Meanwhile, those areas have been badly affected due to the sudden lockdown throughout the country. As because the primary livelihood source of those communities is daily wage labour and agriculture. An article showed that, **"In India, there is more danger of starvation rather than corona for vulnerable community."** In this situation, we had planned to engaged in relief work for those affected people.

One day we got a call in our official number and seeking for our support to the Jangal Mahal areas. Our internal calling allowed us to extend support to them. In regard, we conduct a survey in those areas to understand the context, real condition etc. Frankly, we just heard about the name of Jangal Mahal, but we don't have any idea about the context of those area. Therefore, we had **collaborated with PRADAN** (A renowned organization, working on those areas since 2013) and developed a plan of action.

From the survey analysis report it was found that, indeed to support those community in two ways. One hand, the community will have to help by **providing food and supplies for immediate relief**, which shall be done by Mallabhum Prayas and the other hand, to **sustain their lives need to be revived their existing livelihood like Agriculture, livestock**, PRADAN have been engaged on that.



On **26th April 2020**, we jumped in to the action as per plan. We had developed two different relief kit, first one was for Children and Pregnant women which consist of Sagu, Suji, Soyabin Chunks, Biscuit, Jaggery, much more and the other one was to support families consist of pulses, mustered oil, turmeric, salt, Soyabin chunks, etc. With the help of Panchayati Raj members as well as PRADAN, we had developed a list of poorest to poor people and **distributed around 175 kits for families and around 75 kits for children.**

BDO, Ranibandh also appreciated our work and sought more support in rest of areas. Word of Mouth from BDO- *"I heard about you from PRADAN, you people are doing great Job"*

This was one of the successful events for us, which was helped us to developed more professional engagement towards development work. However, this short-term support does not transform their live or living standard, but bring a temporary relief. On the other aspect, this story influenced to millions of reader reader to help people in this critical situation.

And thus, gradually it has **transformed our incompetence into the hands of expertise.**

-Subhasish, Member of Mallabhum Prayas