

As you know from our SJDT side we have initiated communication with our beneficiary children (orphanage and village) and their families. In addition we also from our micro finance side also initiated the same communication with women group members. The purpose of our communication is twofold.

i) To enquire about their life and their livelihood in this hard time and as well now they are coping with the lockdown.

ii) To advise them on different safety measures they have to take in the event of this covid-19 as well as to provide information and awareness on the different welfare measures that are being announced by the various departments of the government.

Ofcourse all our beneficiary population come under the India's seventy percent non-formal and rural sector. Most of them depend on agriculture and allied activities and micro rural business. Now all this activities have come to a grinding halt. No movement of goods and lack of employees, many of the agricultural products are getting rotten.

On the other side the farmers lose their total annual income and agriculture which is the backbone of our rural economy is in total disarray. Due to this agriculture lockdown the many agriculture coolies and petty rural businesses which depend on this is also collapsing. This chain of collapsing lead to lack of availability of food items and the prices are sky rocketing. This lack of financial activities leads to many consequences on the lives, livelihood and health of the poor. Poor nutrition leading to malnourishment leading to susceptible to disease, leading health hazard and in this situation lack of money for treatment will definitely cost many more lives. I don't see any day soon for us to completely get rid of corona virus and it is going to be with us for a very long time. To tackle this problem our of our box strategy is needed

As I am writing this mail our Prime Minister is announcing the continuation of lockdown for fifteen more days. Life is going to be more and more burdensome for all especially for the poor.

In the meanwhile I thank you for all that you are doing in this given situation. Above all I wish and pray that you and your dear ones and our beloved sponsors keep safe.

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Executive Director

St. Joseph's Development Trust