

PCTC response to Covid 19 Pandemic.

The Covid 19 Pandemic has been a surprise to the whole world in 2020 and its impact all over the world. Though the first case was reported in Kerala in the end of January 2020, soon it has spread to all the states through the people who have travelled and came to India. So far we had 4 lockdowns from the 22nd March till the end of May 2020. The uncertainty prevails. The mode of infection, the disaster it has created on the lives of people, the struggle of the marginalized and vulnerable to face this pandemic and manage their livelihood is a big challenge. The lockdowns has created a kind of panic for the people about their future.

As on date Tamilnadu has more than 14000 infections.

As on date Tiruvannamalai has 171 infections, it is on the increase day by day. This infection came only during the fourth lockdown period. We need to wait and watch the development. Even if they lift the lockdown we will freeze our intense community interventions till the End of August for the time being.



We had a meeting with the community leaders and our staff on 22.5.2020 to strategize our further course of action. It was very visible that the impact of Covid 19 will last long in the community and people need to take on this in a positive way and take needed precautions. The community leaders have suggested that they wanted to initiate some economic activity

through self-help groups. It has been proposed that they form a Joint liability groups (JLG) in the block and create a capital by contributing Rs: 1000 as their share capital. PCTC will match this amount and promote agro based activities. In the next 6 months we will concentrate in this activity and provide needed training.

Some case studies of people who have been supported:

Santhosh is a young chap with cerebral palsy. He learnt tailoring through the vocational training program in PCTC and got a job in a garment factory. Santhosh used to earn Rs.3000 per month before the nationwide lockdown shut down all the garment factories. Having lost his father to Tuberculosis, his mother Deivanai, had to work as a daily wage labourer to earn a living for her 3 kids. The past two months have been difficult for both of them as they have lost their jobs and the source of income. With 3 kids to feed, any help from us to stock their kitchen is a big relief for Santhosh and his family.



Harish is a student of our DCC, who is diagnosed with mental retardation. He lives with his parents and his brother in a rented house. His father Murugan is a cook in the local restaurant, earning Rs.250/day. His mother Jayanti works in a garment factory. Due to the lockdown, both of them are unable to work and earn a living. Harish is currently the only member in the family of 4 who receives an allowance from the government for Rs.1500, which is just enough to pay for the house rent. Harish's family depend on the government ration and PCTC's grocery kit to get them through the lockdown period.



Vandhana is a 12 year old autistic child. She lives with her parents and younger sister in a small rented house. Vandhana's father is an extreme alcoholic, leaving her mother to be the sole breadwinner of the family. Having completed high school, she works as a daily wage labourer for the government. The family manages a living with Rs.3000 per month. Even through these difficult times, Vandhana's government allowance of Rs 1000 is being saved for her future each month.



Gopika is a 17 year old mentally challenged girl. Her father Sethu is an alcoholic who abandoned his family 7 years ago. She also has a younger sibling who is disabled. With no house or land of their own, Gopika's mother, Siva Gangai works as a daily wage laborer in construction sites. Under the current nationwide lockdown, she is unable to find any work to earn her living.



Vinoth is a 33 year old lorry driver. Two years ago, he was diagnosed with peripheral artery disease which led him to amputate one of his legs. Since then, Vinoth has been confined to his wheelchair, unable to work. He is happily married with two children. Sudha, his wife was been provided with a free tailoring machine so she earn a living out of it to support her family. This lockdown has made it difficult for her to earn enough to even pay their house rent.



Jeyakumar aged 40 years married and having two children in their teens is polio affected person. He is a tailor. He was working in a garment factory which was closed due to lockdown. Not getting much support from the wife to increase the family income.

He was born with three other siblings, among them two are disabled. It was a big struggle for him to meet the ends. He was doing some stitching work at home with which he was able to earn around 2000 rupees.

S.No.	Source of support	Amount
1	Hulpfonds, Netherlands	147,010.00
2	Demains, France	197,755.00
3	Family and Friends	73,000.00
	Total amount	417,765.00

S.No.	People who received support	No. Of families
1	People with disabilities	280
2	Destitute	7
3	HIV affected Person	1
4	Widows	8
5	Tribes	6
6	Ceylon refugees	7
	Total no of families so far	309

S.No.	Expenses	Amount
1	Groceries	302,000.00
2	Sanitizers and masks	24,849.00
3	Transportation costs	14,000.00
	Total expenses	340,849.00
	Balance available	76,916.00

Conclusion:

Thanks to all the generous people who have given this timely assistance, which has helped us to lend a hand to the needy people, which is a great opportunity to understand the reality and behave like a responsible citizen. With the left over money, whenever there is a call from the community, we assess the situation and proceed to support. Yes it was heart touching experience with lots of pains.