



## Rising Together Against COVID-19

In these times of crises, Pardada Pardadi Educational Society (PPES) is working tirelessly on the ground with rural communities to release the burden they face due to loss of income and livelihoods as a result of the necessary lockdown. Therefore, giving hope to the most vulnerable and neglected communities.



Dear Friend,  
Greetings from the Pardada Pardadi Educational Society.

We hope that this finds you safe and well in this extraordinary global situation.

In these trying times, we would like to thank all of you who stand with us in our mission of empowering rural women and children. Over the last 20 years PPES has crushed centuries-old stereotypes and helped people live a life of dignity. And we continue to do so even now in this uncertain and unprecedented time.

All this was made possible by the generous support by many individuals, institutional and corporate donors. We are grateful for the faith shown in us and in our vision and work that we are doing. A lot has been done, but much more is needed to be done currently, and in times to come.

Also, we are happy to share that PPES girls made us proud once again with 100% result in class 10th and 12th board exams.

This letter intends to convey to you the heartfelt thanks from our students, self-help group members and all other beneficiaries.

COVID-19 has been declared as a pandemic by the World Health Organisation (WHO), which has transformed into one of the biggest crises in our lifetimes. The outbreak has created a global health crisis that has had a deep impact on the way we perceive our world and our everyday lives.

Apart from rising casualties and the growing health crises, the infection has also exposed the challenges of food availability, job, and income security. Everyone is affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, but the impact has been felt more deeply by some than others. Especially in countries where 70% of the population living in rural areas lack basic healthcare. A major portion of the population that we support is still below the poverty line, thus most vulnerable communities face 'a crisis within a crisis. The rural communities of India have been greatly affected, none more so than those of Uttar Pradesh of which Anupshahr is one, where PPES has been working relentlessly for the last 20 years.

One of the major challenges faced by our community during this Pandemic is the loss of livelihoods leading to hunger and distress. PPES is reaching out to more than 1,50,000 people in 120 villages of the rural community of Anupshahr and around. They are primarily dependent on subsistence farming and many of them are daily wage labourers, migrant labourers, people with special abilities, elderly and single women. They are part of India which is, unfortunately, fighting hunger and deprivation along with COVID-19.

One of the hardest hit socio-economic demographics is that of the rural working women. While the coronavirus infection spares no one, its impact exposes the long-standing discrimination that women and girls face at home and within the economy. We are responding strongly to help those who presently can't support themselves. Our aim has been to reach out to the aged, children, disabled and single women who live amongst the vulnerable communities and marginalized groups as they are especially at risk these extra-ordinary times.

This quarterly newsletter is the compilation of PPES interventions with rural communities to Sustain Hope During COVID-19. It is the story of us in unprecedented times.

We are always thankful to you for your support.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Renuka", is centered on the page.

Renuka.

## Dignity Not Charity- The Way Forward

Providing the income-generation opportunity during lockdown to over 100 rural girls/women, including women working with the production centre and self-help group members. IVillage, the economic empowerment wing of PPES masked over 1,00,000 citizens within the 4 weeks of lockdown period, which includes corporates, individuals and government authorities. These women need more help now as they have become the sole breadwinner of their families, given that the men who worked daily jobs are confined to homes due to COVID-19 lockdown.

IVillage production centre started to make masks for our girls when the news and awareness about COVID-19 came and surgical masks were not available locally. We paused our ongoing production and hand stitch our masks for our protection. Then it expanded to their families and people in the region. Our fabric masks are convenient, breathable, and safe as they can be washed time and again, getting softer and more comfortable with every wash.





## Ration & Hygiene kits- Supporting the most vulnerable

The COVID-19 pandemic lockdown has left many in our communities; especially a lot of migrant workers, daily-wage workers, jobless. Also, it has become far more difficult for already poverty-stricken families to feed themselves. With a complete lockdown, the informal sector workers who belong too socially and economically marginalised communities will have to go without wages, pushing them further into poverty. In order to meet the immediate nutritional needs, PPES has distributed over 850 ration & hygiene kits till now

## Setting up PPES school building as quarantine centre

On April 8TH 2020 the U.P. government requested the help of PPES to set up a quarantine centre to house 250 individuals. In response, we opened up our campus to house them. The local police, administration, and government medical team were on site.

The building will be fully cleaned and disinfected after all occupants left.



## Toll- free information service

- PPES has provided consultation to over 400 community members till now on issues like food requirements, medical attention, domestic violence, income-generating opportunities, and relief assistance. We have ten college graduates of PPES managing this hotline service.
- *SMS service for mass awareness- PPES has set up a bulk SMS messaging service in order to provide COVID-19 related updates and information. We are providing regular SMS service, disseminating up-to-date and relevant information. This has become a very important tool for awareness of COVID- 19.*
- *Telemedical consultations- Provided medical consultation to over hundreds of community members through the 'Prana Health Clinic'.*

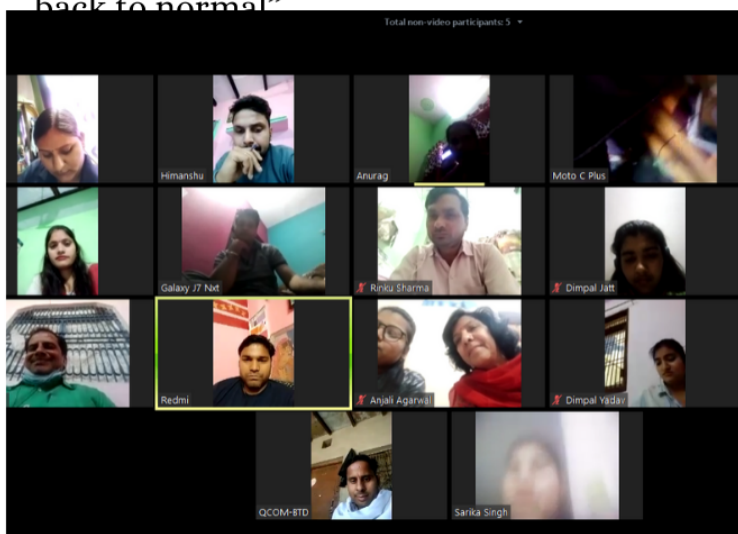


## Online classes for rural girls and teachers

With the Lockdown still in force, PPES is adapting, and up-skilling its teachers with online training sessions with the focus on the English language, and IT competencies. Also, providing online classes to its students 6-days a week.

Discussing online classes, one of PPES graduate, Anu said, “Though I am attending online classes; I am worried about my career. I wanted to study engineering in Banasthali Vidya Peeth, but I couldn’t fill the form yet.

My parents are stuck in the city due to the lockdown; we are worried about them. We don’t have enough food, as my parents spent all their money on my nephew’s treatment. PPES is helping me with food and all the necessities. I wish life could go back to normal”



## Missing School: Webinar with Praxisindia

There have been rapid changes happening since the government announced a lockdown across the country to combat the COVID-19 pandemic. The Central and the State Governments have been making attempts at mitigating the existing scenario where several schemes are being provided to communities in order to lessen the impact on their livelihood. However, there is one section of the population - adolescent girls - who have been facing a humongous impact.

The lockdown has created a deepening chasm in the education of adolescent girls and has disrupted their daily lives in many ways, affecting their health and wellbeing.

In order to explore the impact in a deeper way, and to ensure that the voices of adolescent girls do not get lost in the lockdown din, Praxis, along with Pardada Pardadi Educational Society and two more organizations conducted a rapid assessment via telephone with 290 adolescent girls to understand their plight.

The study focused on two aspects, first, to understand the status of receipt under Public Distribution System and the central government-sponsored welfare schemes and the challenges faced while accessing relief and entitlements. Second, it focused on the impact on their education.

## PPES girls scored 100% Result in Board Exams



Our girls of class 10th (78) and class 12th (33) performed remarkably well in their UP Boards exam. They have achieved a 100% pass result. While all the 78 girls who appeared for class 10th scored first division, with the highest score achieving 87%. Subsequently, out of 33 girls, who took 12th class exam, 27 scored first division and the highest score being 80%.

What a remarkable accomplishment considering the external factors, please join us in celebrating their achievements.



## A story of hope & selfless service- PPES Warriors

*During the coronavirus crises, governments, healthcare professionals, experts in different fields and several organisations are giving their best to fight the adverse impacts of this virus and its impact on our lives. However, there are some warriors who are going above and beyond and doing everything feasible to help those who can't help themselves. We would like to highlight incredible work of some of these heroes.*



WARRIOR OF PPES: Mr Shajan Jose

Mr. Jose is one of them, who has been an integral part of this organisation from almost the start. He is the one who is leading the charge against coronavirus in Anupshahar. He has been managing the school campus at Anupshahar which has been turned into quarantine zone with about 250 patients there already.

Mr. Jose ensures that all proper protocols of safety and hygiene get followed apart from arranging all the required facilities. He has been in the forefront for the distribution of ration kits as food shortages have become rampant in the area and its surrounding communities with a threat of famine and malnutrition looming over.

Speaking about the challenges, he says, "Handling crowd having more of women and children is a tough job as sometimes the ration gets exhausted and they refuse to go back.

Mrs. Arya is the leading light of IVillage (an Economic Unit of PPES). She has been an inspiration and guiding figure for her league as well as others. It's a story of the various challenges encountered by her during the lockdown, but she stocked to her goal.

One of her major battle was to protect the livelihood for all the members working in the production center during the lockdown. Therefore, to ensure that she started the face mask production from the members home instead of the production center, which was turned into the quarantine center.

Subsequently, the workstation was eventually shifted to a small village temple. "We were worried about how the production will be done, but somehow we managed to overcome this challenge too" explained Mrs. Arya.



Mrs Arya- The Backbone of the Economic Empowerment Wing of PPES

## PPES Virtual Worldwide Gathering

For the first time, PPES organised a worldwide virtual gathering to share with our friends, family and donors the realities of COVID-19 ground zero in Anupshahar and what PPES is doing to support those most in need within our local communities. It was a resounding success and something that we plan to do again in the future. We had over 100 participants throughout the event and were joined by supporters from India, Japan, USA, Australia, UK, and Colombia.

### Media Coverage

#### Coverage of PPES intervention during COVID-19 pandemic

Helpline, masks, ration kits from Pardada Pardadi The Civil Society Magazine.

[Click here](#), to read the article.

Covid-19 Challenge- Pardada Pardadi Educational Society Education World.

[Click here](#), to read.



*"The Covid-19 pandemic has posed disproportionate challenges for the country's rural populace. Amid these testing times, the PPES management and staff are leaving no stone*

Covid-19 Challenge- Pardada Pardadi Educational Society Education World.

[Click here](#), to read.

NGOs Provide Healing A Touch In COVID-19 Afflicted India

Spark.Live.

[Click here](#), to read

Communities produces thousands of Masks

The Times of India.

[Click here](#), to read more.



**TOGETHER  
WE  
CAN**

Opportunities have been created particularly for women – as, crisis, women are especially vulnerable. A village in Anupshahr produce face masks by employing 200 women. Within this s they have produced 1.7 lakh



THE TIMES OF INDIA  
HOME  
STAY HOME • PROTECT THE NHS • SAVE LIVES  
NHS

Community produces thousands of masks

Days before the lockdown, Uttar Pradesh's Anupshahr seemed blissfully unaware of the pandemic and had not even heard of masks or social distancing. In fact medical stores did not have any masks in stock either. However, in less than a week a community effort has ensured that the small town, 150 kms from Delhi is protecting itself during the Covid pandemic.

Pardada-Pardadi Education Society CEO Renuka Gupta whose team is helping train

“ I think about the blessings I have such as good health, good food, family and friends. ”

COVID-19 Cases  
INDIA 49,301 1,894

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For the extensive media coverage on PPES work, please click on the below link to know more.

<https://education4change.org/pressReleases/index>

## Cost of education of a girl in one year

This year we are focusing on meeting all compliance and further enhancing the quality of education for the girls. We are increasing the number of buses for girls to travel to school and hiring specialist resource persons. Factoring in inflation and little increase in above-mentioned costs, per girl per year cost towards education, is revised to INR 35,500/-

(USD 480, CAD 625, GBP 370) (from 1st

April 2020- March 2021)

## THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT

We welcome you to visit us, volunteer for our cause and make donations to educate and empower these rural girls and women and help them in achieving their dreams.

**DO VISIT OUR SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS FOR REGULAR UPDATES!!**



**Click on our Logo to Donate.**



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