

SECOND WAVE

COVID RESPONSE

REPORT



कोरोना जागरूकता अभियान
कोरोना वायरस के संक्रमण
हाथ धोने की सही विधि

हाथों को गीला करें

साबुन लगाएं

हाथों के पिछले हिस्से को रगड़ें

अपनी उंगलियों के बीच रगड़ें

दोनों

हाथों को पानी से धोएं

जिंदगी बचाने की जंग में हम सब संग में

संस्थान
विभाग के बगल में
कार्यालय- नए

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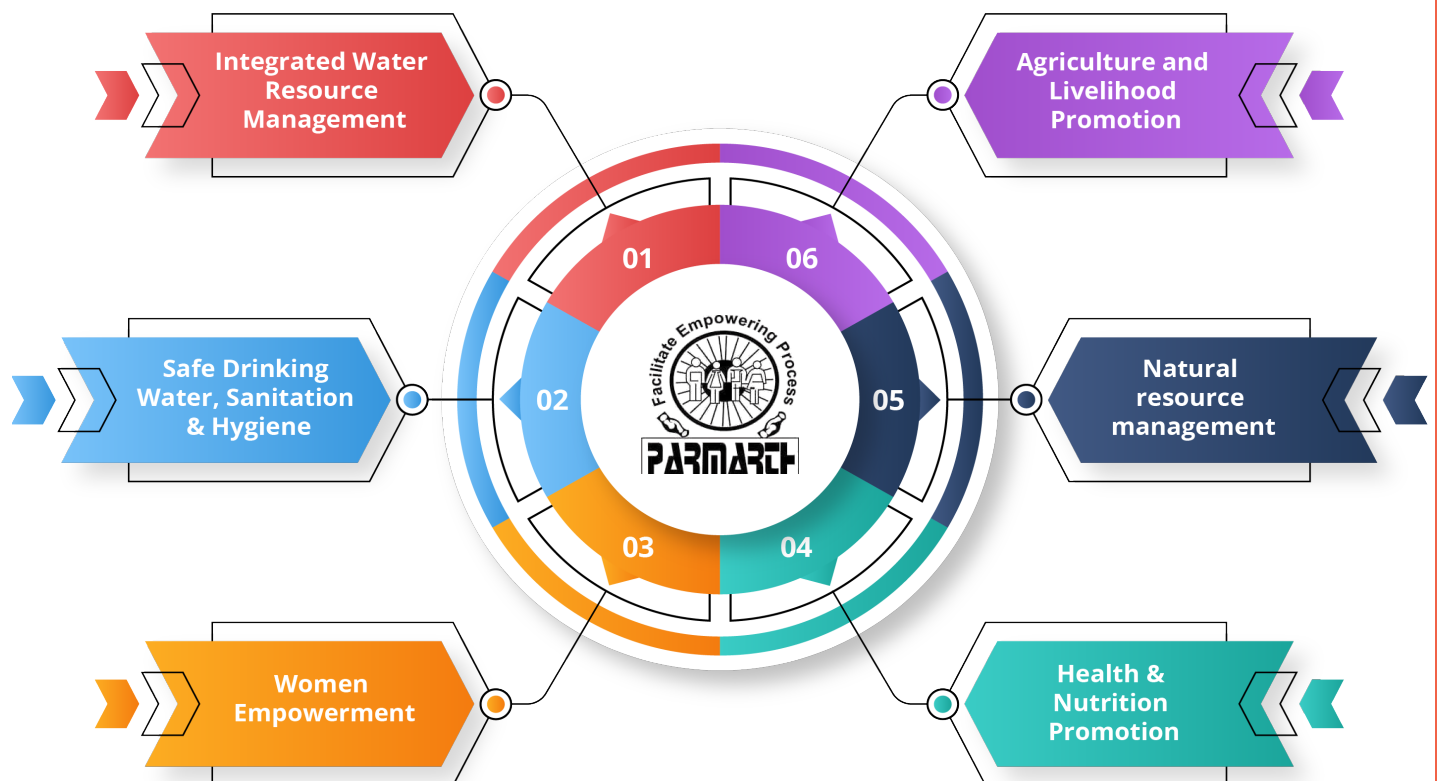
About

Parmarth Samaj Sevi Sansthan:

Parmarth Samaj Sevi Sansthan is non-governmental and non-profit organization, working for the weaker and deprived sections of the society. The organization has been working to bring qualitative improvement & changes in the lives of the vulnerable & deprived sections of the society. Over the years of inception, the organization has reached out among 327 villages of 15 blocks of 8 districts in Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh & Rajasthan and its interventions have reached to approx 5,00,000 population.

Parmarth draws inspiration from its vision, mission and values in achieving its organization goals & objectives. As core principles, the organization has been facilitating the community process towards making community-based platform to lead their lives independently with dignity. The organization has been strengthening community leadership and empowering them to take decisions that affect their lives.

THE MAJOR INTERVENTION AREAS OF PARMARTH ARE:



COVID

Impact on Bundelkhand

The second wave of Covid-19 has devastated the whole country and the rural areas are the worst affected. This wave of the pandemic and the lockdown imposed by the government have once again affected the livelihood of the poor people. This time the pandemic has hit the daily wage workers even harder as they were totally dependent on urban centers for their livelihood.

In the rural areas, there is an atmosphere of fear and people are scared of testing and getting vaccinated. People generally are afraid of getting tested in case they turn out to be Covid-19 positive and have to deal with the burden of quarantine and incur loss of income.

Various kinds of myths and rumors are prevalent in the rural society resulting in opposition to testing and vaccination. Rumors of people getting infected or dying after taking vaccination have further fueled the fears of the people and have antagonized most people against the vaccine.

Even though several deaths were reported in the villages post panchayat elections in Uttar Pradesh people are not coming forward for testing. People still by and large are not wearing masks, not following proper hand wash procedures and/or maintaining social distancing in the villages.



PARMARTH'S RESPONSE TO THE PANDEMIC

Coordination with District and health authorities

In the urban areas the pandemic created havoc and caused a collapse of the health infrastructure due to the large number of infected patients and non-availability of medicines and oxygen. It was a miserable and helpless situation and people were running from pillar to post to save the lives of their near and dear ones.

Parmarth team continuously liaised and coordinated with government officials, health departments, medical colleges etc. to provide the required medicines and other essentials to the patients and their family members. Jhansi district was one of the worst affected districts having a CFR (case fatality rate) of 1.6 against the national CFR of 1.3. Parmarth tirelessly worked to provide the much-needed relief to the patients to save lives.

Donation of oxygen concentrators

Medical oxygen in India has been in severe shortage as the country grappled with a deadly second wave of the pandemic. The exponential surge in India's coronavirus infections during the second wave of the pandemic had swamped the health care system, seen patients dying in ambulances and parking lots outside hospitals and overwhelmed crematoriums.

It has also drained supplies of medical oxygen, which is vital for those who have been infected. The dire shortage has turned out to be a major challenge faced by hospitals in many states across the country. The level 2 hospitals in the semi-urban areas are not equipped with Oxygen concentrators.

Parmarth reached out to several donors and organized fund-raising efforts for oxygen concentrators. We are happy to share that 30 oxygen concentrators were donated to government hospitals, district administration and health departments in Ja-laun, Talbehat, Jhansi, Tikamgarh and Khajuraho thanks to our generous donors. These oxygen concentrators are being used at community health centers and primary health centers.



Establishment of first oxygen bank in Bundelkhand

10th June'21 was a memorable day for the people of Jhansi as Bundelkhand's first oxygen bank was inaugurated for community service.

During the second wave of the pandemic, the kind of outcry for oxygen witnessed by the whole country made us realize the importance of nature and oxygen. The exponential surge in covid cases during the second wave of the pandemic swamped the health care system and a large percentage of casualties were due to lack of availability of oxygen. Entire families were infected at the same time and many children were orphaned during this crisis.

Civil societies and government both played an active role to provide relief to the distressed people. It was observed that people were facing many post covid complications and they still needed oxygen to stabilize their condition. A number of recovered patients reached out to Parmarth Samaj Sevi Sansthan and Skilled India Society for oxygen support.

In order to address the need for oxygen concentrators for post covid patients and patients in recovery an oxygen bank was established at Jhansi. It is a free service and can be availed by the needy after providing a permission letter from the ward member of his/her locality. The trained and competent staff of Skilled India Society will provide oxygen concentrators at home upon request.

This bank has been initially established with 5 oxygen concentrators of 10-liter capacity each. The number of oxygen concentrators will be increased depending on the need and requirement. A toll-free helpline number was also launched to run the oxygen bank.



Distribution of ration kits and food packets

Jhansi is an important junction that connects the whole country to the Bundelkhand region. Hence a large population of homeless people come to the city and remain dependent on alms and charities at railway station, bus stand and religious places.

There are many poor people who have to work and earn daily for their livelihood. With the lockdown they are neither getting any work nor do they have any savings left to survive during this difficult time.

The second wave of the pandemic hit the daily wage workers really hard as they were completely dependent on urban centers to earn their livelihood. With the city and markets being closed the daily wagers are not getting any work and the beggars are not getting any alms. There are a sizeable number of laborers and beggars in the city of Jhansi, who are now dependent completely on charity from others since the start of the lockdown. For many of them survival is difficult as they have been without work and hence food for many days. There is no construction work due to lockdown. People are confined to their homes and there is no one to sympathize with and give money or food to the beggars.

Parmarth worked with its partners to raise funds to distribute food packets from 8th May'21 onwards. A total of 2198 food packets were distributed by 5th June'21. Nearly 100 food packets were provided daily to the poor and homeless people. A number of migrant workers were also given food. Parmarth distributed food packets to the family members of the Covid patients admitted in the Medical college and hospitals also.

Ration kits were distributed to people living in slums and poor villagers. A total of 500 ration kits were distributed to the distressed people with support from donors. The ration kits included wheat flour, oil, pulses, rice, soap, spices, salt, sugar etc.



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Support to migrant workers through Shramdaan Shivirs (Donation of Labor)

After lockdown a large-scale migration of the laborers took place again this year with people returning from cities to their native villages. For these migrants, finding employment was of utmost priority. Having returned to the villages after facing a lot of problems, they did not want to return to cities. They were in search of employment within the villages, thus making agriculture as a potential for providing employment options.

Availability of water is very important for agriculture, especially for irrigation. The migrant workers have done exemplary work by contributing in shramdaan shivirs for water conservation initiatives. These workers are now constructing and repairing the boundaries of the village ponds and also are cleaning and clearing the pond sites.

In Bundelkhand there has been a tradition of food for work. Leveraging this principle several water structures, ponds were constructed by the Bundela kings. Shramdaan shivirs were conducted by Parmarth to revive water bodies and to provide wages or ration kits to the workers serving a dual purpose.

Parmarth Samaj Sevi Sansthan organized 135 such shramdaan shivirs that provided relief to more than 6397 families and addressed employment and livelihood challenges faced by the most vulnerable sections.



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Awareness Campaigns

Parmarth conducted two corona awareness campaigns on precautions for the pandemic in the Bundelkhand region that had witnessed a steep rise in corona cases. Parmarth rose to the occasion and started corona awareness campaign in all intervening districts. IEC materials for the campaign were prepared. A vehicle was hired and decorated as awarenessrath (chariot) and the district fellows along with volunteers visited the intervention villages and made people aware of Covid-19 symptoms and precautions like wearing masks, maintaining social distancing, regular hand wash, use of sanitizers, avoiding going to public places etc.

The objective of this campaign was to remove the stigma and misinformation that surrounded covid-19 in rural places and to make people aware of the severity of the impact of the disease and its long-term effects.

They were educated on how to avoid infection, symptoms of coronavirus and how to prevent spreading corona infection. 1500 hygiene kit that consisting of soap, mask, sanitizer and sanitary napkins were distributed to Jal Saheli, Aanganwadi etc.

The second corona awareness campaign was initiated in 154 villages of six districts – Hamirpur, Jalaun, Jhansi, Lalitpur in UP, Tikamgarh and Chhatarpur in MP.

The main objectives of this campaign were 1) to encourage the community to maintain social distancing, wear mask and wash hands, 2) create awareness about corona testing and vaccination and 3) to assess the effects of the corona epidemic by setting up an information system committee

This campaign was conducted in 154 villages and it impacted 62,332 households and covered a population of approx. 300,000. However, covid testing was very low in the villages as only 18,445 people were tested as per the reports due to lack of testing kits. The vaccination is even lower and only 8905 had vaccinated themselves at the time of this report creation due to lack of vaccines.

The villages were ignored for a long time as the health system catered to the needs of urban areas. The villages were left on their own to fend on their own.



OUTCOME OF THE CAMPAIGN

01

INCREASED AWARENESS IN 154 VILLAGES REGARDING THE PANDEMIC AND THE VIRUS

02

REDUCED THE FEAR TO SOME EXTENT AMONG THE PEOPLE.

03

MONITORING COMMITTEES, WHICH INCLUDED GRASS ROOT LEADERS LIKE JAL SAHELI AND PANI PANCHAYAT MEMBERS WERE FORMED IN THE VILLAGES

04

ADVOCACY EFFORTS WITH HEALTH DEPARTMENT AT STATE LEVEL HAVE LED TO UP GOVERNMENT'S INITIATIVE OF DOOR TO DOOR TESTING IN THE VILLAGES.

05

DISTRICT OFFICIALS HAVE APPRECIATED PARMARTH'S CAMPAIGN AND HAVE ASKED TO PROVIDE SUPPORT IN DOOR TO DOOR TESTING AND VACCINATION IN TIKAMGARH AND TALBEHAT.

Distribution of hygiene kits and masks

During this campaign Parmarth distributed masks and hygiene kits so that people start wearing masks and follow covid appropriate behavior. More than 10,000 masks were distributed in the intervention villages. Besides 1000 hygiene kits having mask, sanitizers and soaps were distributed to Jal Sahelis, ASHA and Anganwadi Workers.

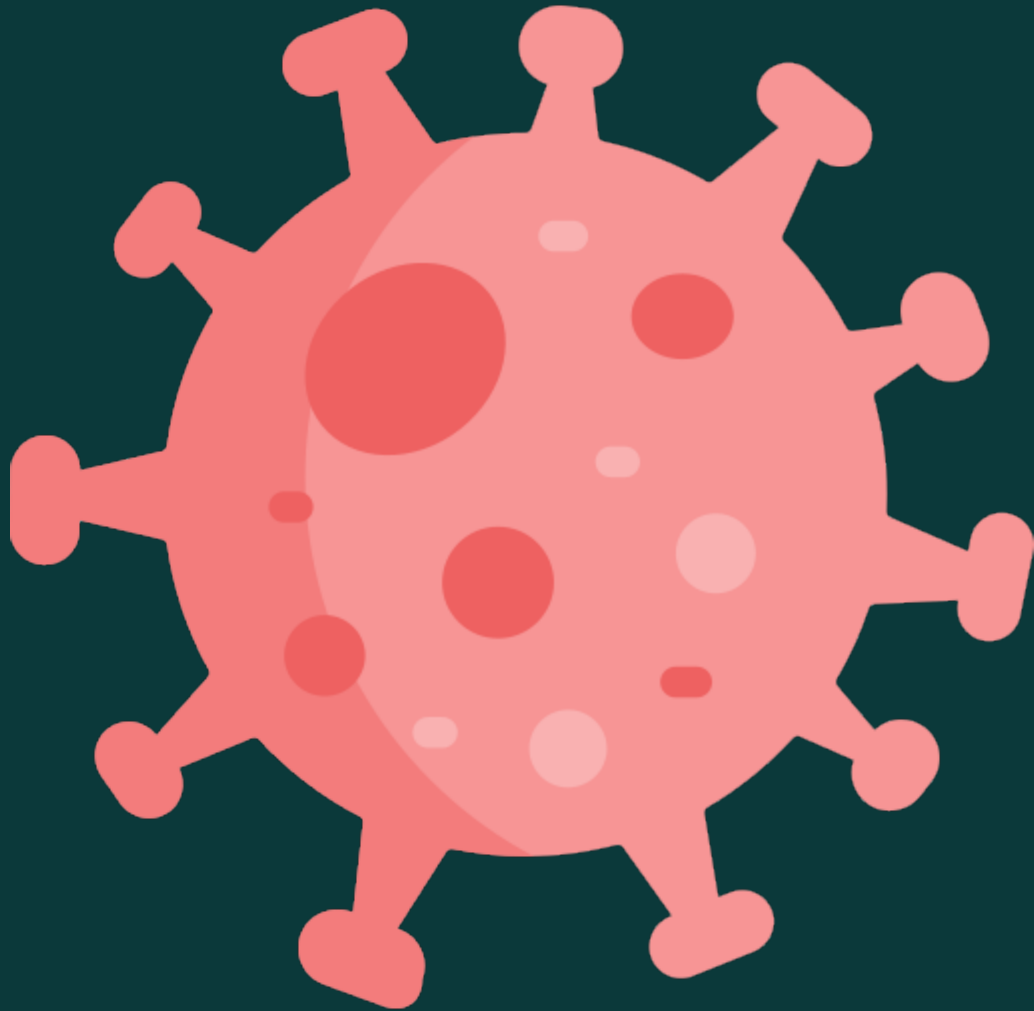


Children Helpline

Many children were orphaned and lost both or one parent during this second surge of the pandemic. Parmarth team prepared the list of such children and submitted to district office so that they can be linked with Government's social security scheme for Covid affected orphaned children.

Due to lockdown, children remained confined to their homes for a long-time causing depression, anxiety and various behavioral issues. Parmarth started helpline for online counseling of children in coordination with Jhansi Childline 1098. Through this helpline the counselors provided online counseling to the people facing depression and also helped them to clear doubts and rumors regarding the pandemic.







SUPPORTED BY



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