

NEWSLETTER

July 2020

NEWS of SOCHARA - HCL FOUNDATION WASH PROJECT



SOCHARA - HCL Foundation partnership for WASH project commenced in 2019. The project location is Bangalore and Chennai. In Bangalore it supports approximately 6000 students from 24 government schools and a population of 8000 from 2 urban slums. In Chennai the project covers 19 Police boys and girls clubs. Here is a brief update of the activities conducted under this project in the month of July 2020.



Mask: A Necessity & An Opportunity

COVID-19 pandemic, along with making various changes has elevated the importance of hygiene. Wearing a mask when we step out of our homes has now become a necessity. We at SOCHARA have been reinforcing this in the communities we work in. Along with spreading awareness regarding the precautions one needs to take to control the spread of this infection we are supporting the communities in all possible ways. One such activity planned by SOCHARA team is mask making by community members. Along with emphasizing the importance of use of masks we intend to provide a livelihood opportunity to our community members in this unprecedented situation.

With this aim we organized a mask making workshop for the community members in which they learned to make masks as per government guidelines from an external resource person..

All participants were women with prior experience of tailoring and who owned sewing machines. They participated enthusiastically in the workshop. Out of the 10 participants 5 made a total of 2600 masks for which they were given a remuneration of Rs 20 per mask. .

We distributed these masks in PHC, police station BBMP ward offices in and around Mayabazar and Anandpuram localities in Bangalore.



Women Community Members made 2600 MASKS @ 20 Rs / PIECE

Through this activity this group of women tailors have earned a total amount of Rs 52,000.



Covid-19 Awareness Program

The team of SOCHARA- HCL-F project conducted several Covid-19 related awareness programs for the Mayabazar community members and sanitation workers.

In these sessions the team informed the participants about Covid-19 infection, how it spreads, what are its signs and symptoms, what are the precautions one needs to take to protect one self from getting the infection. In the talk the team stressed upon the importance of using mask in public places, frequent hand washing and social distancing.

The talk was well received by the participants. Many expressed the feeling of fear and anxiety about the disease. The team tried to relieve their fear by explaining to them the importance of following the above-mentioned precautionary measures to protect themselves and their family members from this infection.

The team ensured that during these sessions social distancing is maintained and only a small group of participants were allowed to attend at a time. Hence the team had to conduct multiple such sessions. Masks were distributed to the participants and were encouraged to use sanitizer kept at the venue to reinforce the message given during the session.

Liquid soap making workshop

SOCHARA conducted a liquid soap making workshop for the Mayabazar community members and the sanitation workers. Liquid soap is now essential with frequent hand washing being very crucial in keeping away COVID-19 infection. And the good news is it can be easily made at home with minimum ingredients.

Jyothi, Prema and Rajani, our field coordinators conducted this workshop. The total cost of this homemade liquid soap is not more than Rs. 25 to Rs. 30 per litre. More than 20 women in the community and almost 10 sanitation workers prepared liquid soap at home and motivated many others to follow suit.

The workshop has made them self-sufficient and instilled in them the importance of use of soap in maintaining hand hygiene.



Distribution of Masks, Soaps, Sanitizers, Thermometers etc.

In response to Covid-19 SOCHARA team supported by HCL Foundation distributed masks, sanitizers, contact less thermometers, soaps and bleaching powder in police station, schools BBMP ward office and Primary Health Center in Mayabazar wards 114 and 115 of Bangalore.

The other area covered was Anandpuram ward 139 and Chamarajpet police station, PHC and BBMP ward offices.

The team received a good response from each group and they were happy to receive these items.

The team covered 2 Police station, 2 Primary health care centres, 2 Schools, and 3 BBMP ward offices in Mayabazar and Anandpuram. In total 600 masks, 600 soap bars, 501 sanitizers, 33 contact less thermometers and 600 kgs of bleaching powder were distributed.

Developing IVR system for spreading awareness

Unprecedented times call for innovative ideas! We at SOCHARA are adapting to the existing Covid-19 paradigm and are formulating new ways in which we can reach the communities we work with.

We are currently working on creating audio modules on various topics like WASH, Nutrition Substance Abuse etc. We plan to deliver these awareness modules through IVR technology. This will be a part of the school health programs that SOCHARA conducts in government schools in and around Bangalore.

The idea is to keep the student population engaged as the schools will remain closed for sometime now.

These modules will be available in 3 languages, Kannada, Tamil and English. We at SOCHARA are very excited to work on this project and will keep you posted. Watch this space!!