

## ACTIVITY REPORT : 2020-2021

The Plan of Debora Foundation India (DFI) to expand its work in 2020 by opening three or four more 'Educational Activity Centres' in the new villages in Doddaballpur to cover more school-going children from 140 to about 300 had not materialized. All the program activities – Educational Activity (Centres) for school-going children, Vocational Training Course (Tailoring) for adolescent girls and various activities like short-term leadership/personality development courses for children and youths in Doddaballpur villages (Bangalore District, Karnataka) came to stand still. The sudden and unexpected spread of Coronavirus (COVID-19) in India in the early part of 2020 adversely impacted people's lives, especially marginalized communities. It was more so in the case of their children. The Government of India had declared a country-wide total lockdown on March 24th, which lasted for about eleven weeks and from that time onwards, schools are shut. The immediate impact of the lockdown was the complete disruption of economic activities in the country. Hundreds and thousands of workers lost their jobs. The migrant workers had returned to their far-off villages, mostly on foot. They feared that starvation might kill them if they continue to live in the cities more than the coronavirus. In the rural areas, agricultural labourers, daily wage earners and off-farm workers were out of work.

When a disaster strikes, the most affected ones are always children and women. Children's health, well-being and education were severely affected. Parents with no income and no means for livelihood could not feed their children with sufficient food. Children from vulnerable communities living in tiny houses (huts) under unsafe conditions could not isolate or distance themselves or comply with necessary hygienic measures to avoid the spread of the virus. A pandemic of this kind has the potential to intensify the risks to vulnerable children and adversely impact their lives forever. Therefore, the primary focus of the Debora Foundation was to protect them from immediate and long-term harm.



## Debora Foundation's response to the COVID-19 pandemic:

Families in the villages of Doddaballpur with poor socio-economic backgrounds have been facing hunger and health issues after the lockdown. They urgently needed food and essential hygiene-related items such as disinfectants, liquid sanitizers, and masks to prevent themselves from facing hunger and contracting the virus. Therefore, in response to this crisis, the Debora Foundation India had stepped in to provide relief materials to the affected families, especially the children. The immediate step was to focus on:

- Distribution of grocery bags to the deserving families in Doddaballpur, including those - whose children are under the support of the Debora Foundation.
- Provision of hygiene support such as disinfectant, soap, mask etc.
- Creating awareness to prevent the spread of the virus in the communities.

The Debora Foundation had opened four Educational Activity Centres in 2019 for the school-going children in the four villages around Doddaballpur. Since the quality of education offered in the schools has been lacking, children in these centres are given extra coaching in their academic subjects, particularly in Maths, Science and English taught by experienced Teachers. Apart from attending tuition classes at the centres, they get additional nutritional support, essential educational materials like school bags, school uniforms, etc. The opportunities to articulate, play with their peer groups and participate in extracurricular activities to develop their confidence and personality. Therefore, after school hours, they have been coming to these centres, staying there a couple of hours to get these benefits and return to their homes. Apart from taking part in these daily routine activities, they have also been given the opportunities to participate in special leadership camps, cultural shows and Excursions. Due to lockdown and the continued closure of schools, they have been deprived of all these privileges. As and when the government permits the reopening of schools in Karnataka, the Educational Activity Centres will re-start.



  
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In response to the plight of the families in Doddaballpur, the Debora Foundation had initiated the first relief measure in May 2020. Grocery bags were distributed to families. Each grocery bag had contained Rice (5kg), Wheat (atta) 1kg, Lentil (yellow Dall) 1 kg, cooking oil, 1 kg, soaps etc. In all the villages children came with their parents to collect the bags. The norms of social distancing, hand washing, face masks and hand gloves were strictly followed. The school teachers, staff and other village elders, who were also present, expressed their joy at this sort of relief measure extended for the first time in their villages to the families facing hunger to cook food and feed themselves and their children. All those who received the food provisions were so happy and expressed their gratitude to Debora Foundation India.

With the continuation of pandemic the parents plight remained grave as they were not getting regular income, the relief work of distributing dry ration bags had to be continued almost every or alternative month depending upon their requirements. School-going children were gifted with Schoolbags to keep their books at home safe.

Sl.	Month/Year	Number of Families	Grocery and other items Distributed	Doddaballpur Villages
1	May 2020	144	Rice: 5kg, Wheat (atta): 1kg, Lentil (yellow Dall): 1 kg, cooking oil: 1 kg, soaps, Hand sanitizer for children.	Rajagatta, Aluru, Bannimangala, Obedhanahalli , Thirumagondanahalli, Muddinayakanappaly
2	June 2020	142		
3	August 2020	151		
5	November 2020	270		
5	February 2021	200		
6	March 2021	150		
				Total: 1057 bags
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*Shambhujee*  
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The Founder-Chairman of Gemeinnutzige Stiftung, a charitable Foundation in Germany, being the main donor of DFI, had expressed his wish to extend relief support to other marginalized families who are struggling to survive in Bangalore in addition to the families in Doddaballpur. The Rittal India Ltd, Doddaballpur, had donated a good amount as a part of its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) to promote children's education in the Doddaballpur area. A part of the donation was used for providing relief work with their consent.

## Relief measures extended to other vulnerable groups in Bangalore.

In certain parts of Bangalore, quarry workers, road laying workers, scavengers, construction workers, domestic servants, widows, aged and handicapped people, who were already living in hand to mouth existence, have been suffering without livelihoods. With no income coming in, they were scrounging to feed themselves and their children. The Debora Foundation felt the urgent need to provide grocery bags to these vulnerable groups apart from the families and children in Doddaballpur.

Sr. No.	Month/Year	Beneficiaries: Covid-19 affected vulnerable communities in Bangalore.	Number of Families	Number of Grocery Bags
1	May 2020	HIV-affected children.	10	10
2	June 2020	HIV-affected children / Quarry workers.	12 / 48	12 / 48
4	Aug. 2020	HIV-affected / Bihar Migrant workers	12 / 29	12 / 29
6	Aug. 2020	Orphans- Faith Home	30	30
7	Sept. 2020	Bihar Migrant workers/ Labourers-unemployed / HIV affected	34 / 33 / 13	34 / 33 / 13
10	Nov. 2020	Construction workers, Bangalore	30	30

Debora Foundation India took all the required precautionary and preventive measures to safeguard the Volunteers and part-time Teachers/Project workers, such as providing them with Masks to wear during the distribution time, and hand sanitizers were made available at all the places of distribution.

*Shamshad Hussain*

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A joint Relief work - with International Justice Mission (IJM).



It was indeed a great deal of experience to jointly extend the relief support with the Internationally well-known organization - International Justice Mission (IJM) located at Bangalore. IJM came forward to distribute Grocery bags to the families in Doddaballpur and the vulnerable communities in Bangalore as well. IJM had offered its support twice in September and December with the dry ration kits.

GROCERY KITS DISTRIBUTED BY IJM THROUGH DFI.

Sl.No.	Villages in Doddaballpur and Places in Bangalore	September / December 2020
		No, of Kits / Families
1	Bannimangala	41 / 49
2	Aluru	48 / 71
3	Obedhahalli	61 / 88
4	Rajaghatta	60 / 70
5	Muddanayakanahalli	50 / 51
6	Marenahalli, Bangalore	53 / 10

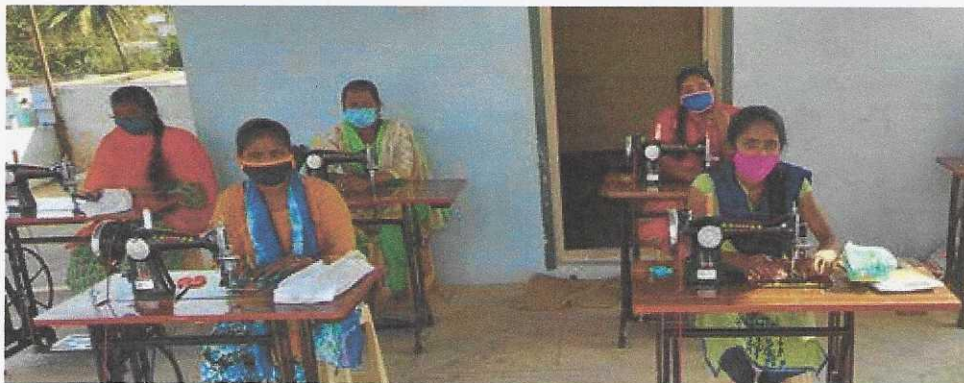
Sl.No.	Villages in Doddaballpur and Places in Bangalore	September / December 2020
7	Doddagubbi, Bangalore	22 / 00
8	Heggadhihalli	81 / 93
9	Dasagondanahalli	31 / 00
10	Melkote	00 / 10
	Total	447 / 442
	<b>Total</b>	<b>889</b>

*Shweta Rajan*  
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## Training for Adolescent Girls with Sewing Machines.

Debora Foundation also provides 'Skill Development Training' for the deprived adolescent girls to create sustainable livelihoods and build up their confidence. It improves their inter-entrepreneurship and employment skills and empowers them to make decisions about themselves and make them self-reliant. Presently 30 adolescent girls are undergoing three months tailoring course. Already 60 girls were trained in the past and were given new machines to each one of them. They are earning some income at home. When the girls complete the three-month course, each of them is gifted with a new Tailoring Machine.



At its nascent stage, Debora Foundation India could achieve this much within the last two years of its existence as a Trust. It is all because of God's blessings upon this organization and His Love, Mercy and Compassion towards the most marginalized communities for whom the Foundation is committed to. The trustees of this Foundation wish to express our gratitude to Mr. and Mrs. Loh and to Rittal India Ltd, for their CSR funding. One of the primary objectives of the Trust is to establish a good School for the underprivileged children, which is yet to be realized. Good progress could have been made by now in this respect if the pandemic had not broken out. We are indeed grateful to all the part-time teachers and the staff working for children in the villages and very particularly to the volunteers who distributed Groceries packets to the families during unprecedented times.

  
Thomas Rajkumar  
Managing Trustee

  
MANAGING TRUSTEE  
DEBORA FOUNDATION INDIA

Place : Bangalore  
Date : May 2021

