



BPHE Society's
CSRD-Institute of Social Work and Research,
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IQAC

Extension Projects, 2020-21

1) SAFE project (students' action for family enrichment):

The entire academic year, 2020-21 is known as the COVID year. All the academic programmes were affected by the pandemic. In March 2020, the national level lockdown was implemented across the country and all the regular teaching at the Institute were shifted to online mode. Students learnt from home. Their field work activities were also monitored and supervised through online platforms. In order to impart the necessary field work skills to the students through online mode, a common field based project by name 'SAFE' (students' action for family enrichment) was designed by the Institute in which the students could participate by undertaking various interventions addressing the challenges of the pandemic in their own respective villages following COVID norms of travel restrictions imposed by the government. Field based activities were conducted in 92 villages and towns spread across 5 states of the country. This project was a response based on their research conducted in the same locality. The project activities were planned in response to their research findings. All the four field work blocks of the academic year, 2020-21 were dedicated to SAFE project.

SAFE project (students' action for family enrichment) for the field work of the students were undertaken during the semester one in March, 2021, during the semester two in September – October, 2021, during the semester three in November – December 2020 and during the semester four in June – July 2021. Altogether, 4 months (120 days) field-based activities were undertaken under SAFE project by 219 students (104 MSW first year students and 115 MSW second year students). Under the SAFE projects several community-based activities were planned and implemented by the students under the supervision of 8 faculty members of the Institute. Under the SAFE project, students provided direct support and community based services in collaboration with Govt/NGO/PRI institutions in their respective villages; arranged awareness and training programmes for the promotion of COVID appropriate behaviour (use of face mask, maintaining physical distancing, hand wash, avoiding unnecessary travelling and overcrowding anywhere; conducted vaccination drive and awareness programmes for COVID prevention; facilitated treatment and referral of COVID patients to appropriate hospitals; arranged relief

(provisions and job) for the vulnerable sections of the society; addressed human rights issues and discriminations, provided counselling support through D-Stress help line; formed support groups for COVID affected individuals and families. Ms. Pooja Kandare, the student social worker, undertook the work of distribution of mask, tea and fruits to migrants those who were walking to their native places in Junnar, Pune.

Students under the SAFE project worked in collaboration with another COVID response setup of the Institute, D-Stress Helpline, a state level counselling helpline, 8448440773 started in May 2020 to provide online counselling to the people who are in distress due to COVID19 pandemic and extended lockdown. Students under the SAFE project got associated with yet another COVID-19 response activity of the Institute, the Relief Camp during Lockdown. Students under the SAFE project actively participated in various activities of the relief camps, run by the Institute.

The students could complete the field work assignments during the pandemic in a meaningful manner, useful for the village communities where they lived. The rehabilitation works of the students were much appreciated by the village communities and the civil authorities. The students learnt the skills of need based interventions during pandemic, like COVID-19. They also improved their counselling and guidance skills.

2) National Level Study on Social Impacts of the Covid-19 Pandemic:

As part of extension activity, a national level study was undertaken by the student social workers concerning different aspects of the social impacts of the COVID 19 pandemic with the intention of enhancing to the knowledge and skill base of the social workers. It was during the faculty meeting on 4th July 2020, the national level research was formulated. On 7th July 2020, orientation was given to the students regarding the common research programme.

The students were given research assignments, such as, analysis of COVID-19 situation, demographic, social, economic, cultural, religious and political situation of the village. On 17th July 2020, the interview, the main tool for the research was finalised and on the following day, training was given to the students on pre-testing and data collection. This study was planned to improve the competencies of the social workers to play constructive role in the social transformation and to help the social workers to explore into the new roles of the social workers in the pandemic situation. Data collection was completed during July to September 2020.

Special orientation on qualitative part of the study was given to the students and the faculty members on 4th September 2020 and case studies were incorporated in the study. The Institute completed the research project in October 2021. The study identified the socio-economic impact of Covid-19 on individuals and families in India. Global Social Development Innovations (GSDI) USA at the School of Social Work, University of North Carolina, USA supported CSRD in the analysis of data.

3) Shelter Home for Urban Homeless:

CSRD in collaboration with Ahmednagar Municipal Corporation, under National Urban Livelihood Mission, has been running a shelter project for the urban homeless since February 2018. The shelter home is developed with all the necessary facilities like food, separate beds, light, fan, toilet and bathrooms. CCTV is installed in the premises to provide security to them. The Shelter Home has been shifted to new building constructed by the Ahmednagar Municipal Corporation at Katwan Khandoba near Railway station and Sanjay Nagar area. Ahmednagar Municipal Corporation is providing operations and maintenance cost along with honorarium of the staff. The total annual budget sanctioned is Rs. 14,20,000/-. The grant is released as per the expenditure incurred for the given period.

The activities carried out in Shelter Home are homeless persons' survey through night walk & outreach work; new homeless persons identified and admitted into the shelter home; special activities for homeless people (stress relief, yoga, cultural events, special programmes); enrolling suitable persons to skill development programmes like electrician course, building maintenance, plumbing, paper bag making, phenyl making; health check-up camps; COVID-19 vaccination; family rehabilitation of 25 beneficiaries; support for livelihood to 46 beneficiaries; admission in other Institutions/ NGOs; worked on preparation of government documents / identity card of 15 beneficiaries; helped in getting treatment of 119 homeless persons in hospital and counselling sessions for the homeless persons.

4) Financial Assistance Scheme for Educational Enhancement and Development of SC/ST students:

The Institute continued to implement financial assistance scheme supported by Rashtriya Chemical Fertilizer Ltd. Mumbai for Educational Enhancement and Development of SC/ST students under the CSR project. This year the programme has been implemented in Osmanabad district of Maharashtra. Total 100 students are beneficiaries receiving financial assistance of Rs.10000/- each in an academic year.

5) Community Based Monitoring and Planning (CBMP):

CSRD-ISWR is working as a block level organisation for the NHM supported programmes viz Community Based Monitoring and Planning. Currently the project is implemented in 29 villages under the 3 PHC namely Jeur, Walki and Deogaon of Nagar block. Activities conducted under CBMP are PHC Level & Block Level Jansanvad, health Awareness programme, data collection on health facilities on village level, COVID-19 awareness programme and formation of Block Level Committee for Assessment of Health Facilities

6) D-Stress Helpline:

The Institute started a state level counselling helpline called D-Stress Helpline in May 2020 with the helpline number 8448440773 to provide online counselling to the people who are in distress due to COVID19 pandemic and extended lockdown.

Experienced and qualified psychological counsellors have been engaged as resource persons to provide online counselling. Till the end of June 2020 about 150 counselling sessions were conducted online through this helpline. Headquartered in CSRD ISWR Ahmednagar, the helpline has extension points at TISS Tuljapur, MSS Nagpur and CSIBER Kohlapur to provide online counselling services. Currently, the situation of Covid-19 has disrupted normal life. Economic stress, distance caused by social distance, anxiety due to constantly changing events, insecurity, etc. are affecting one's mental health. With the active participation of Counsellors and trained social workers to provide social and psychological support in this situation the Institute in association with National Association of Professional Social Workers (NAPSWI) has started this helpline service.

Free counselling is being provided for the needy through this helpline and all the information of the caller is kept confidential. The helpline is open from 9:00 am to 6:00 pm. Services provided through the helpline are online telephonic guidance and counselling support to individuals to deal with their anxiety, stress or despair needs to be attended and provided with emotional support; information, education, awareness and correct information about Covid-19 and related psycho-social issues; referrals and support for medical and health needs to affected people, who are finding it difficult, managing the medical expenses for treatment of their existing and emerging illness; and support for basic living needs. D-Stress helpline is offering support to the poor and needy families with required groceries and other basic food items.

7) Relief Camp during Lockdown:

The Institute is provided services to run the Shelter Homes for the migrant labours who got struck up in Ahmednagar city due to Covid-19 Pandemic. The Institute has become the only authorised agency to run the shelter home in the city. The Institute had 5 centres to look after the migrants during lockdown. They are CSRD ISWR (the nodal centre and main drop in point), Sanjay Nagar Shelter Home, BGVK shelter home (Kedgaon), Anandsadan CSRD Men's hostel and St. Xavier School at Tarakpur. There were altogether 1232 migrants sheltered at four different locations.

All the provisions including clothing, medicine and logistics were provided by the Institute. There were pregnant women, children and the elderly among the migrants. Apart from meeting their basic needs, they are provided with individual counselling, regular medical check-up, group work, education for the children, recreational activities (screening movies) and daily news reading services. Skill mapping has been done with the intention of placing these migrants in productive occupations after the lockout. Special guidance sessions have been arranged in all the centres with the help of experts.

168 migrant labourers were provided livelihood opportunities in 03 MIDC (Supa, Ranjangaon and Ahmednagar MIDC). Around 382 migrant labourers were helped to return their homes as per Govt. guidelines. They were repatriated to their native

places in Bihar, UP, MP and Orissa. In November 2020 there were 62 destitute men and women under the care of the Institute rehabilitated at Shelter home Sanjaynagar.

8) Distribution of Ration Kits to Commercial Sex Workers:

The Institute with support from Justice Mission India distributed 100 ration kits to commercial sex workers in red-light areas of Ahmednagar and Shevgaon city.

9) Livelihood programme for Tribal People:

The Institute with support from Trident Express Mumbai provided livelihood support in form of providing Goats to 12 families of Tribal community in Ahmednagar district.

10) Covid-19 Safety Equipment to Police Department:

The Institute with support from Justice Mission India provided Covid-19 safety equipment (Sanitizer, Mask, Face Shield, Manual, and Sanitizer Dispenser) to 05 Police Stations of Ahmednagar City

11) Intervention for rehabilitation of Tribal Bonded Labour Family:

The Institute along with International Justice Mission (IJM) rescued a tribal family from Talegaon Village, Parner Block of Ahmednagar, who were kept as bonded labours. The Institute arranged monetary support from donors of IJM and helped the family in land development by providing drinking water arrangements, such as, digging Borewell, construction of water tank and provision of pipeline.

12) COVID Awareness Program:

During III semester field work in November – December 2020, Mr Rahul Bhalerao, student social worker visited Anganwadis in Adul village, Aurangabad. He discussed with Anganwadi sevikas about the Pandemic and the necessary precautions to be undertaken. He informed them about physical distancing, sanitizer, washing of hands and use of mask. He also visited approximately 200 households and created awareness about corona symptoms and self-isolation or home quarantine. Ms Simla Gaikwad hold community meetings in small groups and guided villagers and children about physical distancing, washing of hands and use of sanitizer. She screened a short video in village made by MSW students about social distancing. Similarly, 115 students conducted COVID awareness campaigns in about 95 villages and cities across the country.

13) Mask and food items distribution:

In November – December, 2020, Ms. Pooja Kandare, the student social worker, undertook the work of distribution of mask, tea and fruits to migrants those who were walking to their native places in Junnar, Pune. While distribution she told them the importance of physical distancing and use of mask.

14) Career guidance for class 10th students:

In November – December, 2020, at Belad village Malakapur, Mr Prashant Bawaskar organised career guidance lecture for 10th passed students. He guided them about different disciplines where they can join for higher studies, importance of education and selection of proper faculty as per their own interest. He suggested them to prepare themselves as to sustain in the competitive world. He also talked to the parents of the students on telephone about career opportunities. 22 students participated in the lecture. He published an article “Pudhe Kay”.

15) Rakshabandhan:

Mr Avinash Shelar along with village youths organised a special program on account of Rakshabandhan on 3 August 2020. 50 saplings were distributed to girls and women in Punvar village, Karmala. In order to maintain environment balance and acknowledge the brother and sister relationship, this unique program was organised by MSW student. 60 girls, women and youths participated in the program.

16) Observation of Shahu Maharaj Jayanti (Social Justice Day) on 26th June 2021:

Resource person was Mr C V Nandedkar (Retd Deputy Commissioner – Social Welfare, Govt of Maharashtra). The programme was held online where over 115 students attended the session.