

*Director speaks*



During Covid-19 lockdown, I become sick with cold, throat pain and high fever for three days. I was isolated at home, only my wife and mother would come to give food and medicine. The great fear came to my family, thinking that I got Covid-19 and would die soon. Even I lost hope because of constant fever. I could not cough loudly; if cough comes I would hold thick cloth over my mouth and cough. Because, I live in rented home; if the house owner comes to know that I am sick they either chase us out of their home or completely isolate our family members. On third day, secretly I went hospital for a treatment without letting my house owner know. At the hospital the security did not allow me in, saying the hospital is closed for all other treatment than Covid-19. I had no other choice than to say I got Corona virus, than the watchmen stepped back and let me in. I was standing on the queue, before me was an HIV women who hand fever and wanted to collect her ARD medicine. I felt so bad for that women for she was asked go this hospital and that hospital but the truth is all the hospital is closed. A question came to my mind, Is only Corona virus kills? What about the heart patients or the cancer patients? I felt the government system failed and left many more patient die in an unnoticed

manner. Long-time back in India, Mahatma Gandhi fought for untouchability among high cast people and low caste people. But this Corona virus brought it back in a miserable way.

Covid-19 showed the real condition of our country India to the world. Even though India is the 5th largest economy in the world, yet very huge number of people struggle even for one single meal a day. These 70 days, the marginalized people were tossed back and forth, hardly any help reached from the Government. Hunger is the cry of migrant and homeless poor people around India. I saw one heart touching video clip, a girl is crying and saying, my mother collects rotten vegetables from waste bin to cook meal for us, oh what a life.

A 15 year old migrant worker girl cycles 1200 km with her injured father, what a courageous? And group of migrant worker walking back home on railway track, they had been walking all night; they were exhausted and fell asleep on the tracks, what happened? 16 people were shattered and killed by goods train. What a pathetic condition is for the poor people. This is the history, can't be forgotten easily.



### *Homeless man drank the spilled milk on road along with street dogs*

I read a newspaper article today, which brings the truth of the lockdown effect in India especially in the marginalized community.



As the milk streamed down the lane, a desperately hungry homeless man tries to scoop up as much milk as he can on that road and what adds to the misery is that he's sharing the milk with a group of stray dogs. This incident took place not inside the village faraway of any state but in the capital city just 6 km away from the Taj Mahal in New Delhi.

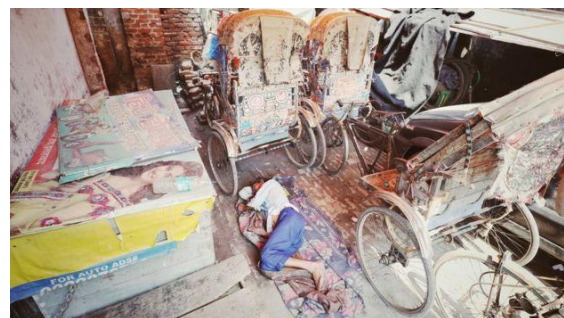
Whole India is a lockdown in fear of saving their life, but still many homeless individuals are ignored on streets as if they are less important. Our nation was so particular to protect the country and its people, which can be appreciated but at the same time, I do have questions about the survival of old and sick homeless people and physically handicapped people who are rejected by their own family. How can they be valued in society and how their lives can be lifted to a better standard?

For a man to lick the spilled milk on the street along with the dogs is not a simple act of survival or just a photograph but the country's negligence towards the marginalized people. Hope after the lockdown, things would change for better.

### *Attitude of sharing saved many lives from starvation and death in India*

In India millions of poor people suffer financial crises because of the Covid-19 lockdown, this phenomenon left more than 85% of the Indian population to suffer hunger, poverty, and the absence of timely medical treatment for pre-existing illnesses. For example, a daily wage labourer from Kumbakonam district in Tamil Nadu, peddled the cycle with his cancer patient wife for 130 km to treat her at JIMPER hospital in Pondicherry. Like this family, many suffer in Pondicherry as well as in India.

In Pondicherry alone, hundreds of thousands of daily wage laborers lack provisions for their families and thousands of homeless people's meals. For the government of Pondicherry to provide all of their needs would be hard but I really want to appreciate the good-hearted individual, NGO's and donors who stretched their helping hands in providing rations, groceries, food packs and financial help to the neediest ones around. This attitude of sharing saved many lives from starvation and death. This shows the spirit of humanity and the character of God.



### *Goodwill Mission Covid-19 Relief Activities*

The world has drastically changed within only a few months. We, as individuals and as a nation, are fighting against Covid-19. We are devising strategies to bring an end to the spread and threat of this virus. People are

coping with depression, anxiety, financial crisis, hunger, domestic violence and so on. We go to bed not knowing what tomorrow holds. We are looking for answers to our questions and to untangle our minds to make sense. Peace is nowhere to be found.



But let us focus on what CAN BE DONE... we can become the channels of peace givers for the most affected ones such are homeless people, beggars, migrant workers, daily wagers and marginalized families.

Snehan is focusing its support to the neglected disabled old and sick homeless people by providing food packs, Tomato Rice, Lemon Rice and Sambhar Rice. Our team very much appreciates your support.

### *Support to north Indian families*

During the Covid-19 pandemic the migrant workers were the second most affected people around us. These vulnerable people travelled thousands of kilometres only to find labour job her in Pondicherry.



This lockdown gave them bitter experience, no work, no provision at home, no food for their little children, no money to pay home rent, no help from the government because

no family card of Pondicherry. During these condition Snehan, spotted out family's which are most needed of our support, to such we helped them provisions, and amount to buy milk for their baby's. Thirty families benefitted with our support. This was possible by generous humble supporters of Snehan and Mr. Karthik, the director of Sristi Foundation.



Dear Friends,

The Snehan activities would not be possible without your help and contribution. Therefore, on behalf of all our beneficiaries and board members, we say thank you very much for your support. Do share our quarterly newsletter with your friends...

We are looking for committed and likeminded volunteers to support us in Snehan activities, interested candidates can apply through Snehan website.

<http://snehan.org/volunteer/>

With warmest regards,

The Snehan team and Anumuthu.

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If you wish to support the Snehan activities,

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