



Novi Survat Charitable Organisation

(New Beginnings – for the destitute of Goa)

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Newsletter 071 June 2021.

Whilst the Covid 19 pandemic has not been eliminated here in the U.K we are fortunately being allowed out of the ‘lockdown’ which for many has been their life for most of the past 12 months. If we are all careful, we should see a return to normal life in the near future whereas in India the situation is extremely grave. It is believed that the infection rate (401,000) and death toll reported to be 4525 per day (on 18th May) can be tripled making India the worst affected country. Goa entered a lockdown in early May which has been extended until 31st May.

Covid 19 Food Distribution.

The situation in India is changing rapidly and the plight of the poor becoming very desperate. We are continuing to supply families with basic rations but in April this was not possible as the staff at the wholesalers all became infected with the virus. This meant that Jane has been forced to buy goods from local shops, unfortunately at higher prices. The number of families we are helping has risen from 50+ to 80+. It is very harrowing for Jane who is constantly having families pleading with her to feed their starving children. Jane recently wrote to me saying “So many people contact me on the phone crying for help. I feel bad to see their condition. My heart just cries. I just can't sit at home and eat my food comfortably when other children are starving and parents crying to feed their children” Although I would like to be in Goa helping Jane, I do not think I could bear to witness the agony of these people and not be in a position to help them all.

Coupled with the starvation is the problem of those that do contract Covid 19. The hospitals are full and oxygen and medicines are at times non-existent causing loss of life. With a population of 1.35 billion people, it will take a long time to vaccinate them all so the problem is not going to go away for a long time.

As if the Covid pandemic was not enough on the weekend of 15th & 16th May, Goa was hit by a cyclone. As well as killing a few people it cut the power and water supplies to most of North Goa for three days. In addition, over 500 trees came down, one of which crashed on to the roof of the Day Care Centre causing damage to the tiles and interior.

Educational Sponsorship Scheme.

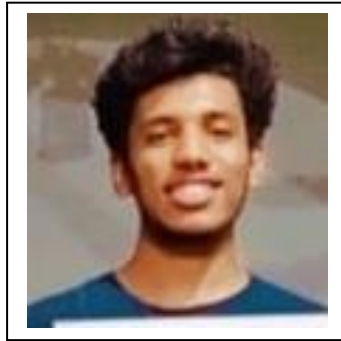
It had been hoped that the schools and colleges would be allowed to reopen in early June but they are once again closed due to the seriousness of the pandemic and the students are again having to receive tuition via the internet with the problems that this in turn causes.

Here are some examples of the achievements by our graduates so far:

- Biyama one of the senior girls is studying for her B.Ed. and B.A at the same time.
- Altaf is in his first year of a Bachelor of Commerce Degree.
- Rubina is at university in the fourth year of her Bachelor of Commerce Degree.
- Sana is in the third year of her Bachelor of Arts degree.
- Karishma is at university studying English and Hindi whilst her brother Asif is studying Hotel Management.
- Pralhad is studying at the Hilton, Saligao as an intern.
- Sunita is studying Home Science at Goa College. She is in her last year and hopes to become a fashion designer.

Registered Charity Number: 1100768 (U.K.)

None of these successes would have been possible without the financial help from their sponsors and our other supporters to who we are eternally grateful.



Above: Biyama, Altaf, Rubina, Sana

Left: Karishma & Asif.

Due to the pandemic the Centre is closed and the staff are having to visit and monitor their patients at home. Thankfully our staff have received their vaccinations which hopefully will afford them some protection from catching the virus or being seriously ill.

Following the cyclone mentioned earlier Dr Mina and the staff had to clean and clear up the mess and damage done by the falling tree.

They also distributed food supplies to a number of the centres 'clients' who have no money to purchase basic foods.

Starting Point School.

The school is still closed in accordance with government orders so the children continue to go and collect home work each Monday. This will help keep them in touch with the school and maintain an interest in learning. The school staff are all helping marking and setting each week's worksheets and keeping the school spic and span for when the children are allowed back. Unfortunately, the school also sustained some damage in the cyclone.

Financial.

Maintaining the distribution of basic supplies to so many families is becoming very costly but we have been very fortunate that so many of you have made donations specifically for this purpose. Many of you are registered for Gift Aid and this month we have received from H M Revenue & Customs £5597.75 representing the past years Gift Aid refund on all eligible donations.

Sponsors & supporters.

I am very sorry to report that we have lost four long term educational sponsors due to them losing their jobs following the devastating effect the Covid 9 has had on many people's businesses. This means that we have some of the senior students who are attending college or university who need sponsors. If you know of anyone who would like to become a sponsor, please let me know – the cost remains the same £20 per month for sole sponsorship or £11 for dual sponsorship.

We are very grateful to you all for your invaluable donations, especially at this trying time.

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