



Situation, Response and Impact on Tribal Communities in COVID-19



Combatting the immediate and longer-term
impact on tribal lives due to Pandemic

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FOREWORD

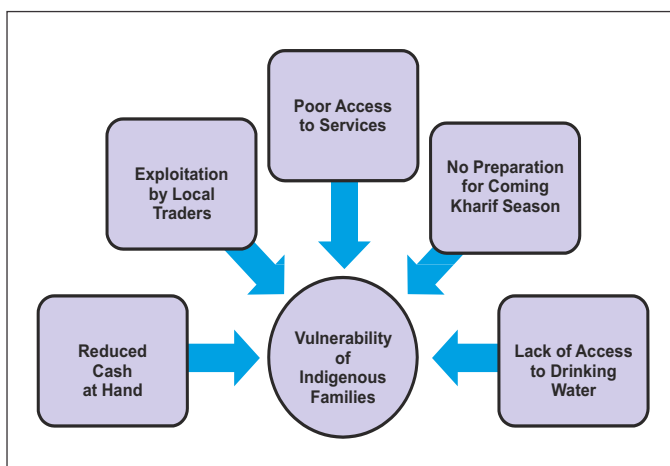
COVID-19, a "once-in-a-century pandemic", has thrown into stark relief the intersectional invisible sections of Indian society. Despite the best efforts by the government, given the present uncertain circumstances, it is inevitable that in a diverse country like India, social vulnerabilities and inequalities are bound to erupt alongside the pandemic.

Those mostly affected by this virus are underprivileged families, especially those who depend on their daily wages to provide for themselves and their families. According to the United Nations, indigenous peoples experience high levels of maternal and infant mortality, malnutrition, cardiovascular diseases and other infectious diseases such as malaria and tuberculosis. And therefore, they are the most vulnerable group for pandemics. As thousands of tribal migrant workers have lost their livelihood due to the nationwide lockdown and are on their way to their villages, reverse migration could destroy indigenous communities in tribal hinterlands. When it comes to the migrant workers, the difficulties due to the lockdown have begun to intersect with their existing vulnerabilities. They were ill prepared to stay back or get back to their homes. However, many of them have preferred to go back. With public transport stopped, many have walked mind-boggling distances and the rest remain on the way. The unprecedented control measures to prevent its spread (closure of schools, nutrition centre, midday meal etc) have disrupted nearly every aspect of children's lives—their health, development, learning, behaviour and their families' economic security, including protection from violence and abuse.

This pandemic is an existential threat to humanity, the virus sees no religion, race, gender, class, caste or age; it affects all of us. We must therefore work in solidarity to combat this virus while being guided by the virtues of, kindness, compassion, love and most importantly hope. We must also use this opportunity to reflect on how our world can be rebuilt in the aftermath of the pandemic while realizing the damage we have caused to fellow humans, animals, and the environment. We need to contemplate more on creating a sustainable world as we prioritize human life and planet earth.

A. Rapid Assessment

25 March 2020, the Central Government announced a complete lockdown of the country to control the spread of the Novel Corona Virus or COVID-19. This has meant shutdown of all economic activity and transport for the lockdown period. For a country like India, where 94% of the workforce is engaged in the informal economy, with a significant percentage engaged in interstate migrant labour, the lockdown has put millions at risk. Thousands of migrant labourers are currently stranded across the country and Tribal Tri-junction is place where 70% of the community are migrants. A large part of this population comes from villages through internal migration. The long lockdown has vanished all the work opportunities for them and such marginalized community is helpless and constrained to return to their villages back due to "NO WORK-NO WAGES-NO FOOD" condition in the cities.



The exodus of daily wagers has been grim as most of them walked to their villages, barefoot with children due to unavailability of transport vehicles amid lockdown. On the other, farmers face a stalemate as they are unable to work on their land, earn remunerative prices and gain access to markets. We tried to understand the

impact of COVID- 19 and lockdown period with some questions.

The questions have been asked through telephonic conversation with some of the community members.

Key Findings of Immediate Assessment

- 61% of farmers stated that the main problem caused by the lockdown is in the form of an inability to sell their products and items collected from the market
- 68% of farmers indicated the need for mobile supply essential items every week so that they can both buy and sell their products.
- 65% of farmers meant that they are not able to store the items to sell in larger quantity. Moreover, cash is required to purchase necessities during the lockdown. Some of them also expressed their stress due to selling their produce at lower prices.
- 15% families have indicated that this year they had planned for taking benefit of the traditional culture of "Notra" to either pay-back their loans, marriage of their children, and other urgent works. Summer months used to be the time when community settle all such aspects. But due to lockdown this annual cultural social-banking mechanism got cancelled. They are not sure when they will be able to organize it and even being able to hold and generate sufficient cash to meet their requirements.
- Lockdown resulted in the closure of the traditional market system 'haat' of this junction area which provides the business opportunities to the indigenous families of the Bhil community. Eight percent of the

respondents revealed that usually every month, they sell four-five chickens and one-two goats, but as haat are closed, and may remain closed for long, which may collapse their socio-economic system. An estimation of average wage and number of days of work lost depicts an estimated loss of income between Rs 10000-20000 per labourer.

- Survey also indicates that 70% of farmers and returned migrants did not have proper information about emergency welfare measures provided by the government, and 50% of them did not know how to access the existing schemes. A large number of farmers are living more or less in the status of fear and confusion.
- Till, 31st May, 2020 only 14.4% families in the State and 13.75% families in Banswara have been offered employment against total registered job cards. Thus, labourers may not

be able to gain benefits from this since the worksites will not be functional due to the lockdown.

- 94% of samples have shown receipt of financial support under various social security schemes like widow pension, old-age pension, disability pension, Palanhar, Kisan Samman Nidhi, and relief under Jan Dhan Yojana, but most of the families have indicated that this amount will not last long. A critical support they need is beyond this money and that is input for coming kharif season and support for the time before kharif crop matures.
- 62% of families mentioned that though they had received food grains (wheat and rice) through PDS, and food packets, etc but mere five items do not make the food basket; there are other items too they need.

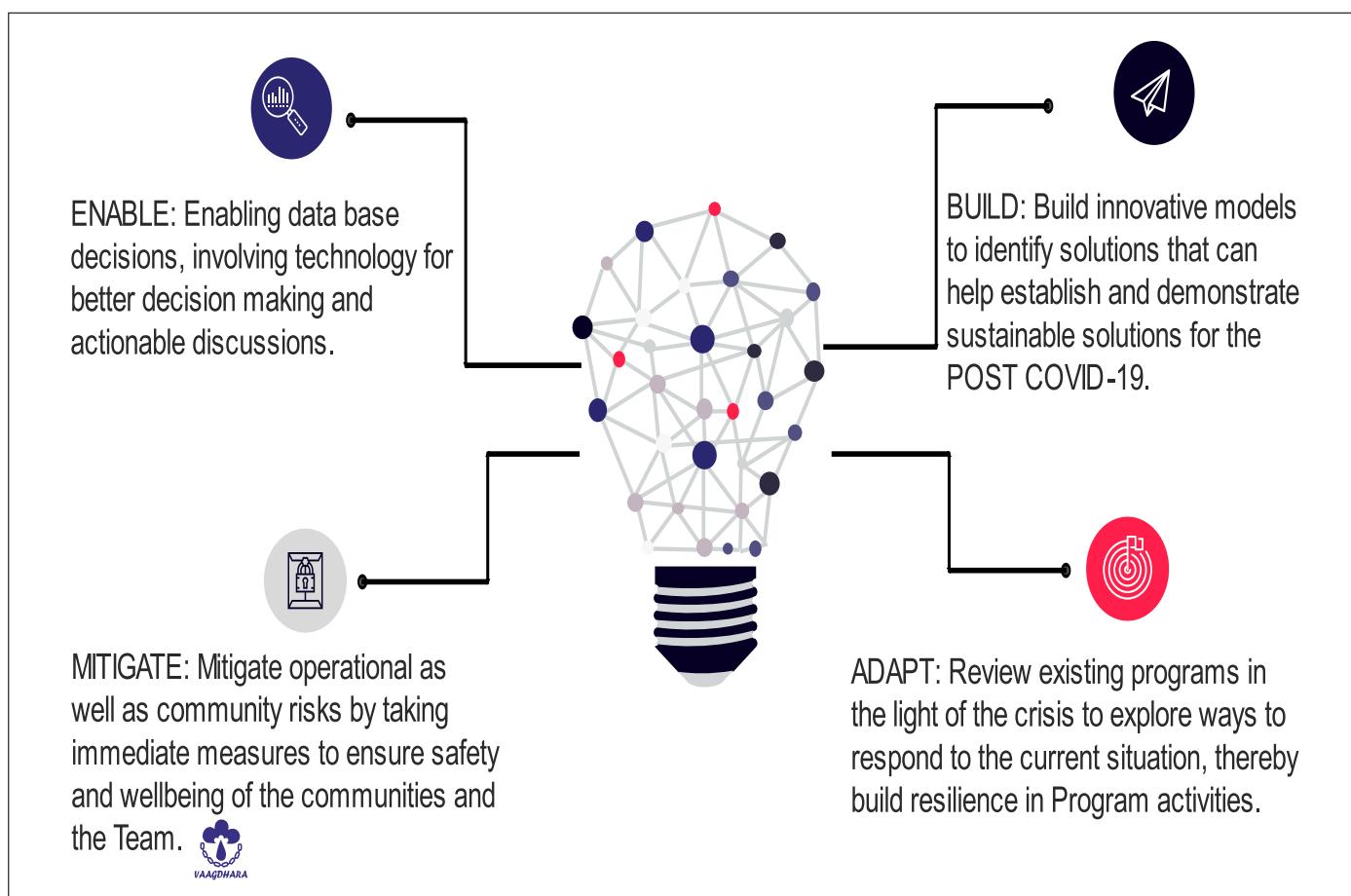
B. Response

The ongoing nationwide lockdown due to Covid 19 has affected the lives and livelihoods of rural people. A collaborated effort is needed now and, in the months, ahead to fight COVID-19 pandemic. After the rapid assessment, Vaagdhara with presence in 1000 villages across 03 states viz., Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat and outreach of 100,000+ families have been created a covid response framework and also complimenting Government's effort in making rural communities self-sufficient and live with dignity, at this hour of crisis. Vaagdhara is working

in close coordination with local administration, PRIs and community-based organization to help tribal community prepare for, respond to and recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, focusing particularly on the most vulnerable group.

Our comprehensive response to the pandemic has an immediate and short-to-mid-term time- frame, in each of which we are responding to varied dimensions of the crisis -securing Livelihoods, saving childhood, providing food and nutrition secure months to the families.

COVID-19 RESPNSE FRAMEWORK



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dimensions of the crisis -securing Livelihoods, saving childhood, providing food and nutrition secure months to the families.

DIMENSIONS	VAAGDHARA'S RESPONE
Self - Governance	<p>2000+Community based institutions supported us to develop data base mechanism to identify migrant families, vulnerable families, families who require immediate support, taking care of quarantine process and reached around 1 lac families.</p> <p>1029 Volunteers supported to supply immediate support related to food packets, ration kits , medicines and other immediate arrangements for the community.</p> <p>Building knowledge and capability in the short-term to specific efforts around COVID-19 at field level interventions.</p> <p>Building Focus areas with community engagement on addressing COVID-19 through key activities.</p>
Linkages with Administration	<p>At least 26650 community members linked with MNREGA-scheme and 15689 get linked with different government entitlements which includes 1978 children.</p> <p>Database have been shared to administration of 42250 families who are migrants and in need of immediate support.</p> <p>we have extended support to provide N-95 masks, hygiene kits in 121 Community health centres, working with the public health system.</p>
Basic Amenities	<p>Food, dry rations and personal hygiene items to 65792 people; and this support 16448 families covering their 2 times meal.</p>
Communications	<p>Additionally, supporting efforts such as psycho-social tele-counselling, crowdsourcing real time information to make data- driven decisions. Reach to 42250 families.</p> <p>Vaagdhara shaped a diversified dissemination strategy in English, Hindi and regional languages that spans audio, video, text messages, infographics, wall paintings, pamphlets and Information, Education and Communication (IEC) on the importance of measuring the guidelines of COVID-19.</p> <p>257+ community radio programs with Doctors, CMHO for spreading the awareness and information regarding COVID-19 covering the rural community. Also creating programs</p>

DIMENSIONS	VAAGDHARA'S RESPONE
	<p>and messages in local languages to prepared alertness among the community.</p> <p>Awareness Campaigns comprises augmenting the capacity to tackle the pandemic through measures such as generating awareness, protection for frontline workers, enhanced testing capacities, and improved isolation as well as treatment of people with COVID-19</p> <p>Vaatein- Community news paper distributed among 50,000 families every month o keep updated about the government entitlements, covid 19 measures and guidelines to the community and keep updated on our focus areas.</p>
Livelihoods And Krishi Bachao Campaign	<p>"Krishi Bachao Campaign" have been organized to 28000 Tribal families to rejuvenate their agriculture practices and save livelihoods through agriculture.</p> <p>Seeing the viability of "Agriculture and its Produce" for strengthening small and marginal agriculture families.</p> <p>Unlocking "New Livelihood Possibilities" for migrant and laborer families.</p>
Isolation Centers	<p>Quarantine facilities for migrant families -with the support of 1029 volunteers' infrastructure for centres training, protocols and procedures.</p> <p>database sharing to administration upon the isolation centres</p>

C.Community based Surveillance Mechanism

Vaagdhara always believe on community-based methods which are going to be sustainable and, in this pandemic, also, Vaagdhara adopted the strong community presence in form of 26 Jan Jatiya swaraj Sangathan and provided basic information about the spread of the disease and how to prevent them, simple and effective measures to detect outbreaks, communication mechanism through volunteers, community based live radio programmes that ensures timely information sharing and community engagement.

As we do believe that community are the first one to observe the health-related changes has occurred in their community – therefore so enabling, empowering and equipping community members to recognize and respond to public health concerns during this pandemic. Vaagdhara is uniquely placed in strengthening Community preparedness and resilience to respond to

potential outbreaks by conducting early detections/actions, identifying community who are vulnerable and also monitoring the critical inputs been provided to save their agriculture and support livelihoods during tough times. It provided support to the following measures:

1. Community trust, greater buy in and ownership of Jan Jatiya Swaraj Sangathan surveillance methods.
2. Improved community engagement in disease prevention and earlier actions taken to control the breakouts.
3. Community evaluating methods of material support which have been provided to the farmer families.

D.Assessment on Vaagdhara Response to the Communities

Our comprehensive support is to contain the immediate as well as long- term human implications of the sudden economic, social and behavioural changes due to COVID-19. Till date, we have been able to extend immediate support to 45650 families directly covering three states viz. Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat and Rajasthan.

Our more response is in areas where we have strong field presence through our 26 Jan Jatiya Swaraj Sangh Tanas and approx. 2000+community-based institutions. VAAGDHARA has responded to the COVID- 19 impact through immediate humanitarian aid and mobilization of resources through various stakeholders and also drawn its coping plan involving multi stakeholders to attend long term remedial actions.

The methodology is based on the primary data collection through properly designed survey format. Individual beneficiary survey has been conducted covering 4300 individuals representing nearly 15.35 % of population. Survey conducted covers both qualitative and quantitative information based on stratified random sampling.

To understand ongoing efforts of organization at large the post lock down impact assessment has been conducted which shows following key findings:

1. 80 % of the respondent have received humanitarian support from Vaagdhara in the form of food packets, dry ration kits and hygienic kits. The dry ration kits supported them for 45 days in initial phase when the situation was not in favour during the lockdown period.
2. With the involvement of volunteers from Vaagdhara, (76%) say that they have been accommodated in MNEREGA 8 % people say that they have been benefited by various pension schemes. Whereas 9 % found getting livelihoods from other sources.
3. Food stocks were available in about 46 percent of the households. Of these, only half said that the stocks will last more than a month. Therefore, Getting Ration kits from Vaagdhara during this time was very helpful to access food at least for 2 times.
4. 93% respondents have faced difficulty regards to seeds access and availability. However, other good side of survey finding reflects that around 89% of the farmers are conserving seeds from earlier season though may not be in sufficient quantity but certainly minimized the extent of adverse effect. This shows that providing seeds during correct timings supports the farmers to save their kharif crops and initiate their agricultural activities.

Rating	Quality of Seeds From Market	Quality of Seeds From Government	Quality of Seeds From Vaagdhara
Excellent	1940 (45.1%)	2424 (56.3%)	3534 (82%)
Good	1450 (33%)	1402 (32.6%)	512 (12%)
Can't Say	910 (21%)	376 (8.7%)	244(5.6%)
Not Good	0	98	1
TotalNo.of Respondent	4300	4300	4300
Note: RespondentsareVeryHappyWithQualityofSeedsThey GotFromVaagdharaComparedTo Govt.andMarket			

5. 24 % of the respondents have done cultivation on 50-80% of the land, and 44% of the respondents are taking mix cropping on nearly 50% of their land. 12 % of the farmer also stated that they generally take mix crop on most of the land on more than 80 %. In kharif season where Vaagdhara made available seeds. This shows the sense of nutrition security and food diversity among the households.
6. VAAGDHARA took an Initiative for providing training on Veterinary health and management. 67% of the people confirmed about attending any training/meeting conducted by VAAGDHARA. Free veterinary health camps were also organized in various villages and around half (46%) of the respondents agreed that the camps were organized in their villages. 54% of the respondents took their livestock in these camps as well.
7. Borrowing money or selling assets for food is common practice in the areas and among migrant households. 765 of respondents shows that it is very difficult in terms of cash money where they borrowing money from informal sources local money lenders. Borrowing from informal sources indicates lack of sufficient incomes, poor access to banking system and high dependency on informaleconomy.
8. More than 80 percent households reported being affected by COVID -19 and happy to receive critical inputs from VAAGDHARA as it will help them to boost their agriculture practices and to supplement household income.
9. 69% shared that Males were particularly affected by loss of livelihoods, while women who generally were involved in unpaid work, were also forced to look for wage labour. But as Vaagdhara provide immediate support to the families which helps them in terms of coping their agricultural practices.
10. Vaagdhara has initiated a flagship program of establishing kitchen garden in the backyard of each household in the tribal region of tri-junction with the specific objectives of addressing the nutritional security among the tribal communities. The data indicates that 97.8% farmer are cultivating multiple varieties including short and long duration vegetable having more than 5 types of vegetable crops in their Kitchen Garden . About 40 % of the farmer said that they raise more than 8 varieties whereas about 33 % respondents grow more than 10 varieties.
11. Another angle of analysis indicates that though there is Kitchen Garden among most of the families but productive period of it varies to significant extent. Analysis focused on the perception that having a KG does really support uninterrupted availability of nutritional source and impact lives of respondents. 73.9% of respondents said that they received produce up to minimum 100 days from their gardens. Nearly 23% respondent told to get produce up to 150 days in a year. Although still, 98.9% respondents agreed that having a kitchen garden reduced their nutritional insecurity and dependency on markets.
12. Childline, 1098 is an essential child protection service mechanism and support system for children who are in vulnerable state. Childline team and community leaders are focusing on the children in need and taking the priority of providing inventory and basic amenities to those vulnerable children in the areas. The findings indicate that more than three fourth

of the respondents (78%) shared that they are aware about 1098 services and team Vaagdhara helped them to provide awareness on Childline 1098 number. Till then Childline registered 34% cases of malnourishment, 18% cases of stress among children, 11% child migration, 5% from sexual abuse.

13. 96.7% of Respondents have been linked with Vaagdhara through different communication channels which includes, Vaatein community newspaper, community radio Programmes, Posters.

14. COVID awareness campaign name Covid Jagrukta Rath Yatra was organized by Vaagdhara organization to sensitize the community about protective and preventive measures as well as schemes of the administration to handle odd time. Situational review of the abhiyan (campaign) reveals the fact that 94% respondents got to know about Corona Jagrukta rath abhiyan from where they receive much information on different focus issues of MNREGA, COVID-19 guidelines.

15. 34% of Migrant Families are linked with "New livelihood Opportunities" with Vaagdhara and supported the agriculture practices in their farms only to improve their livelihood status in their villages only.

16. Participation of Saksham samooch members was very high and almost 92% of respondents shared that one of the community-based institution members visited them once for immediate support.

17. The other Initiatives that have found to be effective in addressing the situation are; Community Radio Station FM 90.8 MHz, being run by the Vaagdhara community centre and Child help line-1098 managed by Vaagdhara and Vaatein a monthly newspaper published by Vaagdhara. These facilities have been proactive in addressing the day today issue of awareness and mass communication and long-term development

Covid-19 Situation in Tribal Tri-Junction of States of Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat during 2nd wave

The second wave of novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) has badly struck the communities of the tribal tri-junction of Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat. Migrant labourers, farmers, artisans and daily wage earners are among the worst affected. When everything seemed to have come to an end and everyone expecting life to come to normal by March, the virus struck again. The soaring number of cases, fatalities and restriction in movement has intersected with their pre-existing disadvantages, bringing to the fore income insecurity, inequalities, discrimination, anxieties and misinformation.

The public infrastructure of the region is very limited and mostly defunct. Appropriate medical facilities are only available at the block level, while specialised diagnostic facilities only at the district headquarter level. Despite implementation of multiple government schemes, the system continues to lack in its reach and capacity. In our

1000 working villages it has been found that post 20th March there has been a huge surge in active number of Covid cases. The disease had penetrated the hamlets of the villages and every third person was found to have symptoms of fever, cough and body ache. The mortality has also increased and 1100 deaths due to Covid were recorded in the working area. Till 15th of May we noticed an uptrend of graph of illness in the community and the main reason for this uptrend was the shock of second wave which took the community by surprise and they were afraid to go out of their houses and visit health centers. Most of them relied on home remedies only which led to spread of the illness to other family members as well. Also, the PHC and local medical facilities were unavailable which favoured for increase in number. Post 15th May, a gradual decline in the confirmed cases was noticed as well as the health of the people were improving.

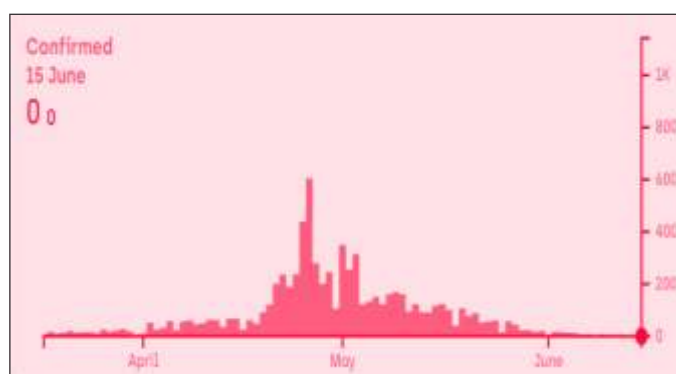


Fig1.1: Status of Covid cases Banswara, Rajasthan

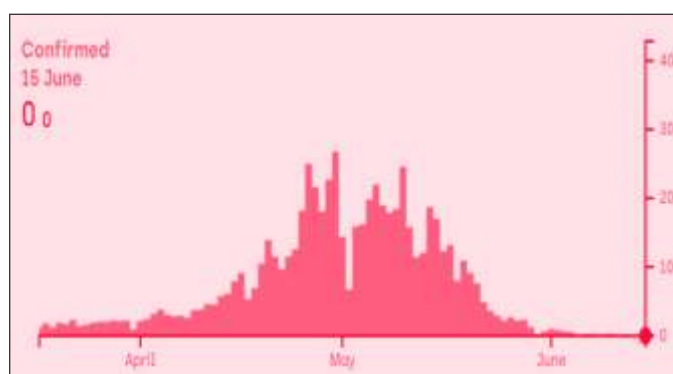


Fig1.2: Status of Covid Cases Dahod, Gujarat



Fig1.3: Status of Covid cases Dungarpur, Rajasthan

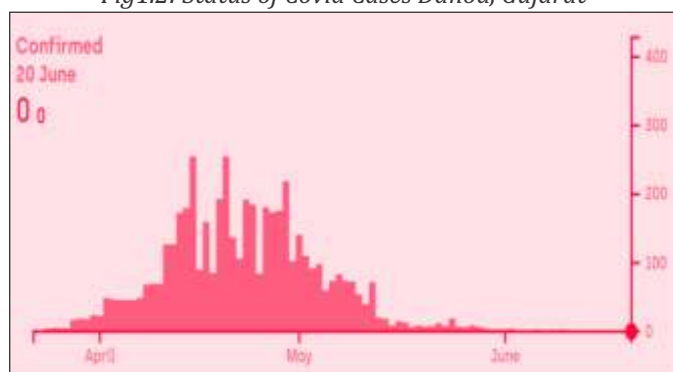


Fig1.4: Status of Covid Cases Jhabua, Gujarat

A survey was conducted by VAAGDHARA in May 2021 which was recorded on weekly basis. While analysing the survey data it was found that till 15th of May 11 out of 3 persons were suffering from illness and majorly the elderly population was more affected, the children during this period were not found much vulnerable. The death ratio of men to women in terms of COVID was approximately 65:35 and merely 35-38 % of the population of age above 45 years were found to have vaccinated due to shortage of vaccine as each panchayat was allotted only 150 doses in one lot and for the next lot the panchayat has to wait for 6-8 days and sometimes even more. The vaccination coverage was also less as people were earlier afraid to get vaccinated but after regular sensitization activities by the government and VAAGDHARA, the number increased and the shortage of vaccine was felt consequently.

The MGNREGA work was carried out till 10th of May and almost 70% of the job card holder who worked during this time have received their payments but only 50% of the job card holders got the opportunity to work. The PHCs as well as the anganwadi centers were closed most of the time and they didn't receive any supply during the entire lockdown period.

These were some of the ground realities which were covered through the survey and dialogue with the community and accordingly we tried to find measures to respond to these problems within our capabilities. A great support was received by the district authorities, our partner organizations and our 'Swaraj Mitra' - village volunteers who were in constant touch with us and facilitating the community. The following observations marked the conditions of the tribal communities we work with:

- Fear and anxiety regarding COVID-19 which led to social isolation and stigma among the community.
- Lack of testing facilities and delay in reports, resulting in the possibility of further infections.
- Lack of essential medicines at the block level.
- Vaccine hesitancy and inadequate vaccination infrastructure as people have to wait for more than 6-8 days.
- Lack of facilities at PHCs, CHCs, and other private hospitals.
- Reverse migration with limited monitoring and testing systems in place, unlike last year.
- Fear of lockdown and losing livelihood sources.

VAAGDHARA's Response Towards Second Wave of COVID-19

Seeing the situation of surge in the number of Covid cases during the second wave of pandemic, VAAGDHARA responded the crisis in many ways by supporting the community on the frontline and help defending the rights of people at grass root levels. Continuing its efforts from last year, VAAGDHARA has also changed its approach based on the current need of the community. Being a

nodal agency for Covid response, it becomes its duty to plan and strategize the measures which could support administration in fighting back the critical situation. Based on its current capabilities it has extended support to district administrations and the tribal community. Below mentioned are some of the response areas where VAAGDHARA has played a noticeable role:

1. Response Towards Healthcare

Establishment of Oxygen Plants	During this second wave, a severe deficit of oxygen supply was observed in the hospitals. The district administration was struggling with the requirement of oxygen in sufficient quantity. It was suggested by VAAGDHARA in planning meeting with district administration to set-up oxygen plants in decentralized manner at CHC levels, as it will certainly help in reducing the oxygen supply load of the district hospital. Our Janjatiya Swaraj Sangathans also demanded the need of oxygen plants in the health centers so that oxygen is available in sufficient quantities. So, for the betterment of this situation VAAGDHARA through govt. liaising and MPLAD funds is supporting district administration by establishing 5 oxygen plants at 5 CHCs of which 1 is already established and others are in process.
Oxygen Concentrators	Experiencing the urgency for oxygen supply, and the demands from various health centers for the need of oxygen concentrators, VAAGDHARA extended its support to district authorities and facilitated in arranging 41 oxygen concentrators for the health centers in the tribal areas of Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh.
Health Measuring Kit	The Janjatiya Swaraj Sangathans and Swaraj Mitra of VAAGDHARA supported the frontline health workers of 1000 villages in the tribal trijunction area with health kits which included Infrared Thermometers and Pulse Oximeters, using which they were able to measure the basis symptoms of COVID-19 infection in the community.
Masks	Facilitated the community members with 7000 N-95 masks.
Ambulance Service	In order to support the tribal community with emergency medical services, a multi-specialty ambulance service has been operationalized in June 2021. A toll-free number has also been generated for it which is being disseminated to the community by our 'Swaraj Mitra'.

2. Response towards Food and Nutrition

Dry Ration Packets	With a view to ensure food and nutrition security of tribal families who were going through the tough times in this pandemic, they were supported with 4500 dry ration packets. These ration kits secured at least 15 days of their two times meals of a family of 4 members. This is going to support 120 times meals per family.
Establishing nutri- gardens to improve nutrition security.	VAAGDHARA extended its immediate support to 4500 families by assisting them in establishing nutrition garden to supplement their food basket. This nutrition garden helps them to have vegetables at least 4-5 months.

3. Response towards Livelihood of Tribal Community

Critical Inputs for supporting their agriculture	The reverse migration occurred due to lockdown caused a huge loss of livelihood to the tribal community. Besides, MGNREGA work was also discontinued which also increased the challenges for their subsistence. As the Kharif season has almost arrived and farmers are out of cash in this situation, farming which is one of the most crucial livelihood and economic activity of the tribal community has a question mark on it. About 10,000 such vulnerable families were supported with the seeds of Maize, Kaang, Til, Arhar, Vegetable seeds kit, Turmeric, Ginger in order to safeguard their livelihood opportunity from agriculture.
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4. Response Towards Awareness

Awareness Drive through Campaign	Continuing the efforts of sensitizing the people, awareness drive on COVID-19 was organized through the joint partnership of district administration and VAAGDHARA. The awareness drive through Van campaign sensitized the community of all 1000 villages using various IEC materials The van campaign ran from 10 th May till 20 th June till and successfully sensitized 28847 community members.
Radio Programs	Through our Vagad Radio 90.8 FM we developed and broadcast various programmes related to COVID-19 and were able to reach 21435 number of people and sensitize them on various aspects of COVID.
Webinars	Several webinars, having renowned guest speakers, were organized on preventive measures of Covid-19. The community and team members actively participated in these webinars and gained significant information about COVID 19.
Telephonic Conversations	VAAGDHARA team comprising above 300 members are in consistent dialogue with the community people and each day our team reach to 10-15 community people through telephonic calls and sensitize them on measures related to Covid. They also record the ground realities and problems faced by the community during this entire pandemic lockdown.

IEC Preparation	Apart from the regular COVID IEC materials which we were disseminating through our mobile van campaign, a booklet titled 'Guidelines for Community Based Covid Management' was developed and made to public access by the District Collector and Superintendent of Police Banswara in an event at VAAGDHARA. This booklet was made available in all 1000 working villages.
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Reach of VAAGDHARA through its Responses

The viability and success of any response can be effectively measured in terms of its reach. If the intervention reaches the maximum number of targeted audience than it can be assumed that our intervention towards the response had been effective. Our responses can be measured in terms of direct and indirect reach.

Direct Reach

- 4500 families through immediate dry ration food relief.
- 4500 families to supplement their nutrition basket through supply of daily green and fresh vegetables for at least 4 -5months.
- 1000 ASHAs reached through extending health kit support and to fix weaknesses in rural health system which is unable to cope with the pandemic.
- Direct reach to 20800 people through telephonic conversation

Indirect Reach

- Around 88,679 families gained information on RTPCR testing, vaccination and COVID guidelines through awareness drive.
- Through various radio programmes, we able to reach number of people to create awareness on vaccination and other covid precaution measures,
- Supporting frontline health workers through Health Kits will reach 20,000 number of community members.
- Oxygen Concentrators in different districts of Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat will be useful to treat many patients requiring critical support in time.
- 5 Oxygen Plants will be helpful in supporting around 1-2 lakh of people.

Way Forward

VAAGDHARA would have to act regularly and significantly faster in collaboration with the people's organization (Janjatiya Swaraj Sangathan-JSS), Tribal Development Forum, and district administration in relief operations and awareness drives in the villages. Though COVID major task force is showing reliable data to expect third wave of the virus and preparation to tackle third wave which will be way more inevitable as according to ground sources.

Immediate steps need to acquire for reducing the morbidity and mortality among tribal communities. A community led plan could help the tribal communities get to combat the challenge of third wave. It is time for us to look back, learn from experiences and scale up what has worked. One of such experiences is how collective community conscience transcended into affirmative action.

1. Role of Janjatiya Swaraj Sangathan

Decentralizing people-centric actions through community support, therefore, could be a way to tackle the pandemic in the future. Therefore, collective responsibility and actions through the district administration and Janjatiya Swaraj Sangathan will be likely to help communities in fighting the pandemic in the long run. Therefore, we need to strengthen them to identify needs and tackle different stakeholders.

2. Strengthening of Primary Health Centers

The Primary Health centers should be well equipped which would help limit the virus spread and in turn, reduce the burden on the healthcare system for a long-term impact. Community will also be able to reach the centers on time and get appropriate treatment.

3. Setting up Community COVID care centers

It could be more effective to establish small versions of centers, which could be managed by the communities. This will definitely

support the hesitancy towards care among the community and also support their mental health.

4. Allied activities to support their Farming and Livelihood Activities

At family and village level it is critical to plan for livelihood sustainability and engage whole family including youth to come out with innovative local level work opportunities and support their agriculture in long run. VAAGDHARA with Agriculture department and stakeholders continuing with the seed promotion and conservation programme through local farmers and facilitating in establishing the local seed banks at community level to have easy and affordable access by the farmers.

5. Advocacy with the government on different schemes for improving their livelihood opportunities.

There is an immediate need to advocate with the government for improving the schemes in terms of sustainable livelihoods of tribal families and migrant families, defending their rights to live with dignity. Helping to increase the days of employment to access government support for developing their livelihood resources under MGNREGA works.

6. Children Care through Village development Child Rights Committee

We are in process of capacity building of the members of our Village Development & Child Rights Committees (VDCRC) to observe the symptoms of COVID-19 and, ensuring their nutrition for fighting with the virus. Team is also advocating with the Department of Women and Child Development to extend the Anganwadi services door to door for checkup and nutrition services to pregnant women, children and lactating mothers. Other nutrition supplementation schemes should be regularized to meet out the nutrition deficit.

Photo Gallery



Handing over the Oxygen Concentrators to District Collector, Banswara



Flagging off the Ambulance Service



Releasing the booklet on Covid-19



IEC material disseminated to community through Van campaign

E. Media Clippings



Head Office:

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Ph: 9414082643 | Email: vaagdhara@gmail.com | Web: www.vaagdhara.org

State Coordination Office:

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