



RAYS OF HOPE



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KIRAN Society is deeply grateful for all the help and assistance received from all the donors and supporters. During this time of great uncertainty, KIRAN society has been comforted, encouraged, and humbled by the outpouring of generosity and support from all the donors and supporters. Through their kind support, KIRAN was able to reach out to the neediest communities so that they can survive and manage through these challenging times. To us, YOU are heroes and KIRAN Thank You for helping us meet the challenges of this moment, so KIRAN can continue to provide the highest order of care with inclusion, integrity, compassion, accountability, respect, and excellence.

KIRAN Family wishes everyone to be safe and stay healthy!

A BIG thank you!



COVID-19 Relief Initiatives



The worldwide sudden outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic situation brought adverse effects on day-to-day human life. Out of infected people, many lost their lives. However, the pan-India lockdown and further restrictions have a crippling effect on underprivileged and marginalized sections of the communities. These families are struggling to meet their daily survival needs such as nutritious food, proper healthcare, and hygiene-related necessity. The central and state governments along with civil society organizations are working hard to ensure that people have food, but the efforts are not adequate.

Realizing the loss of work and wages, and the impact of the COVID-19 outbreak on the livelihood of families who have children/persons with disabilities or belongs to the marginalized community KIRAN provided humanitarian assistance to some of these affected families by distributing the essential nutritional and hygienic supplies in four districts of Uttar Pradesh, which will keep these families safe, which is most important attention need to pay during this life-threatening pandemic COVID-19 situation.



COVID-19: Supporting the needy ones!

KIRAN has been continuing his effort to support the poor families of remote areas across Uttar Pradesh. In the month of December 2020, a total of 2000 families from four districts have been reached out for nutritional and hygienic material support. This effort was made in Varanasi, Chandauli, Sonbhadra, and Chitrakoot districts in collaboration with 10 grassroots organizations.

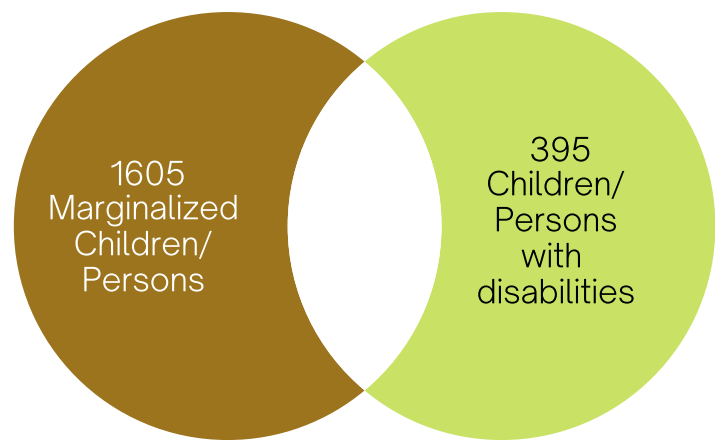
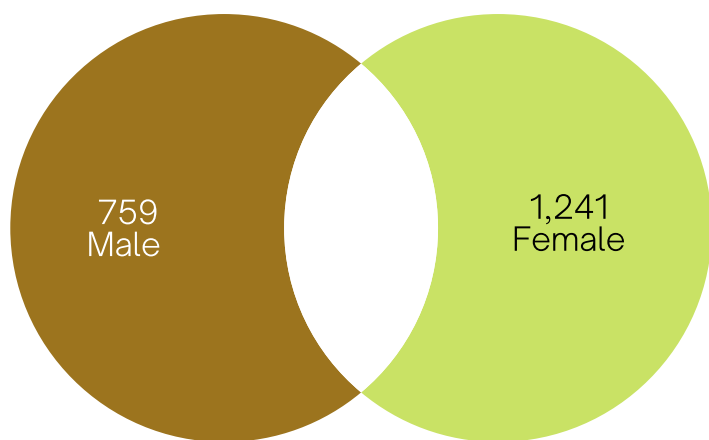
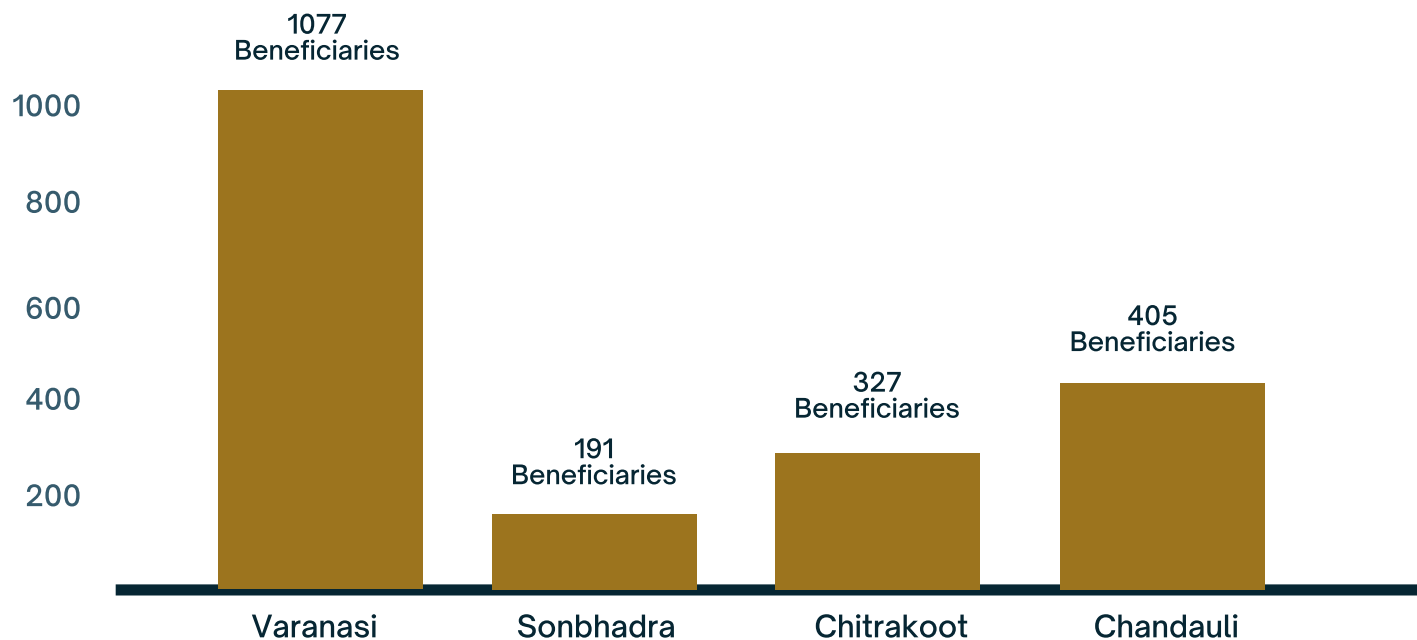
Due to the COVID-19 pandemic fear and long lockdown situation, still informal sector workers/people are struggling to earn essential commodities as they have limited opportunity to work. So the situation is not just making them lose their regular income but also this way, the responsibility of feeding the family and bearing other responsibilities is becoming distressing. KIRAN tried to reach out to the neediest communities so that they can survive and manage through these challenging times.



KIRAN has reached out to its network of community workers and collaborators to understand where the need is most critical. After that, this community workers team compiled a list of the communities, locations, number of people affected. Then a consolidated sex-disaggregated list of beneficiaries was prepared. After listing out beneficiaries KIRAN's team completed the procure of necessary nutritional and hygienic material and then the packaging process of supply kits. And finally, with all the preparations KIRAN team successfully conducted the distribution to the identified communities. From wearing masks and gloves to following all the norms of social distancing and lockdown cautions, it was ensured that distributors and beneficiaries stayed safe throughout the distribution process.

Under this humanitarian assistance programme KIRAN team reached out to 1077 vulnerable families of more than 10 different areas in Varanasi district, 191 families in Sonbhadra district, 327 families in Chitrakoot district, 405 families of Naugarh and Chandauli districts

COVID-19: Category-wise details



In the month of December 2020, a total number of 2000 families from the marginalized communities were reached out for support in four districts (Varanasi, Sonbhadra, Chitrakoot and Chandauli) of Uttar Pradesh. Since April 2020, in the initial phase of this COVID-19 pandemic, KIRAN has been providing humanitarian assistance to needy families with its limited resources. . In spite of all hurdles, the KIRAN team is grateful to be in a situation that allows them to continue serving their community during this crisis. This initiative was very impactful in serving the vulnerable at a time when they needed it most.



In Action: Varanasi district



In Action: Sonbhadra district



In Action: Chitrakoot district



In Action: Chandauli district





Celebration of International Day of Persons with Disabilities



KIRAN has observed a week-long celebration from 1st Dec to 9th December 2020 for persons with disabilities on the theme of “*Building Back Better: toward a disability-inclusive, accessible and sustainable post COVID-19 World*”. During this week various sensitization events have been organized on disability-related issues at 19 places in Mirzapur and Varanasi districts.



Workshop on Gender sensitization, analysis and mainstreaming: A workshop was organized in KIRAN on 8th and 9th Dec 2020, in which 30 staff have participated. This initiative was aiming to widen the concept of gender mainstreaming among the project staff. This capacity-building workshop will help staff to deal more effectively in marginalized communities to promote gender equality. KIRAN is thankful to the collaborating partner SOIR-IM. This workshop was facilitated by Mr. Amit Kumar Khamari, from ‘Ask Training & Learning Private Limited.’



Apart from all these programmes a one-day medical camp has been also organized for the children with and without disabilities, facilitated by Dr. Moreno and Dr. Christa. The medical team gave necessary medical advice to all the children and their parents. 21 children with their parents participated in this medical camp and benefited from this programme.

More than 800 community people including children/persons with disabilities, government teachers, officers and members of other civil societies have taken part in these variety of events. In some of these events 200 poor children/persons with disabilities were provided blanket and special education materials.

Renovated premises of Special Education

Every Year, December 3 is observed as an International Day of Persons with Disabilities. The day aims to promote an understanding of disability issues and mobilize support for the dignity, rights, and well-being of persons with disabilities. It also seeks to increase awareness of gains to be derived from the integration of persons with disabilities in every aspect of life.

So this year KIRAN tries to fill a new colour in the education department by renovating its building of Special Education. The new building was inaugurated in the presence of invited guests and the KIRAN team. Now the unit has self spoken wall-painting based on core activities. All classes have new teaching-learning materials for teaching the children. The washrooms are new and more specious with modified ramps. On the occasion of this special day, all the students with disabilities from KIRAN were offered a set of school uniforms as a gift. The renovation of buildings and gifts was supported by Christian Solidarity International (CSI), Luxembourg.

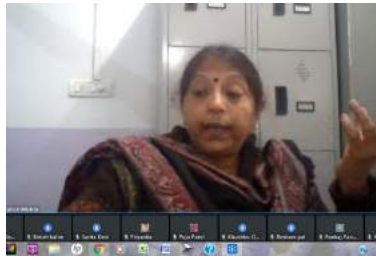


Premises before renovation



Premises after renovation

This year, although the education got affected and disturbed due to COVID-19, in spite of all this the teaching staff tried their best to continue the education process of all the courses. All the teaching staff took the help of digital media to run classes and conduct exams. So the teaching faculty were engaged to manage online classes of diploma and school students both. It took some more time than expected to equip the new batch for technical use during the online classes but now students are becoming tech-friendly and teachers are already well equipped to transact online classes.



Internet A ray to connect



After successfully completing the half-yearly exam, the school unit has successfully completed the second unit test of all the students. It was conducted from 21st to 30th December. Most of the students took the online exam. Some students, who did not have the facility of smartphones, were made to appear in the examination by other means. During this examination process, the entire rules of COVID-19 were followed by the teachers.



The final year diploma students had appeared for their practical examination on the 17th of December 2020. The external examiner was appointed from the National Institute of Empowering Persons with Multiple Disabilities. Diploma students had the opportunity to display “Teaching Learning Materials”, they had prepared during their course. The annual theory examination of final-year diploma students was conducted from 7th to 12th December 2020. Altogether 24 students took part in it. The admission for the new batch of diploma courses has also started.

Apart from all these academic programmes the technical library (HRTC) has been upgraded with a modern classification system and facilities. The records and system are managed professionally with the help of trained and qualified staff. So now there is a library with more than 1200 books, magazines, journals, booklets & annual reports.

Library Upgradation



A parent-teacher meeting by the school unit was held after the half yearly exam to discuss the student's progress and to share their marks. The teachers shared their feedback to parents and also received their suggestions. Some students who needed more attention were called along with the students. Along with this parents-teacher meeting the guardians have been given some stationery items and school dress also. The idea behind all this is to make an effort to motivate the students and continue the studies of the students which was hampered due to COVID-19.

Parent-Teacher Meeting



Supporting the capacity building programme

As part of expanding assistance to the affiliate capacity-building organization, the KIRAN Society continues to support them through a number of means. In December, one of our member organizations "Jan Vikas Samiti," Varanasi arranged an "Accessible Environment" workshop at the Bachpan Day Care Center in Khushipur on 31 December. Two of KIRAN's staff members joined the workshop and one of KIRAN's Physio Occupational Unit Experts facilitated the workshop.



A total of 16 rehabilitation practitioners from various Varanasi organizations participated in the case, which was also attended by the District Disability Welfare Officer. The aim of the workshop was to educate delegates about the need for an accessible environment, the contradictions between the Medical and Biopsychosocial Model of Disability, the basic principle of Uniform Design and the need of Indian anthropometric data room for wheelchair users, and the presentation to the various Governments of India, guidelines, and requirements for an accessible environment.

Skill up-gradation of professionals

KIRAN continues to promote the upgrading of the skills and skill-building of staff on a daily basis. Two of the staff, one physiotherapist and one Special Instructor, will be eligible for the 6-month certificate course on Early Intervention in the month of June 2020. They were able to finish the course successfully in the month of December. As part of the training curriculum, the teacher organizes the 5 Day Communication Class using a virtual forum and successfully completes the qualification test.



Helping hands

Due to COVID-19, the KIRAN Society has been closed from mid-March 2020 onwards, but some children and their families were able to visit for their routine medical and psychological assistance.

The team concentrated on maintaining hygiene in KIRAN Society through the supporting staff. The greatest asset during this challenging time was these supporting hands. While due to the COVID-19 some of the routine services were disrupted, still some of our workers were doing planting, gardening, and cleaning.



A message from an ex-student of KIRAN

Hello friends, I am Sonu Gupta. As a child, I was brought by my parents to the KIRAN Society, because I was paralyzed due to Polio and needed physical rehabilitation. Therefore, I studied right from Kindergarten onwards in the inclusive school of KIRAN. At present, I am studying MFA (Master in Fine Arts) in painting from Banaras Hindu University. I have completed a Bachelor of Fine Arts in painting from the Institute of Fine Arts, Varanasi. For the last four years, my major learning specific subject was painting. I have been working hard especially in creative painting. This came from my inner soul so as to make some different paintings which attract the people. All the credit goes to my teachers who encouraged me to be creative because whatever the paintings I had made since my childhood, there was always some meaning behind the picture.



Now I am a final year student of Masters in Fine Arts from Banaras Hindu University. Due to my disability, I had to face lots of difficulties in society. So I decided that the theme of my paintings should become like a biography of myself. My paintings reflect the challenges I faced and how I overcame them. Since then I got a motivation that I will always face the obstacles myself and that I will overcome them. I use canvas, acrylic colour, and watercolor. I work on mixed media. But I would love to also use oil paints for my work. I wish to carry on with my paintings with different themes in the future.



It is my dream to be an exemplary person in the field of arts and to become a source of inspiration and motivation for all those who are suffering from disability and who take it as a hindrance and a curse on their way to success.

Painting during COVID-19 lockdown: There is no doubt that every country is facing economic and social problems in their sphere of life because of this COVID-19. Although we know that vaccination has been started. But my idea for writing about this coronavirus is only to share about the help which has been given me by the KIRAN Society in the form of wall-painting.



In this way, I can make the front wall of the KIRAN Village beautiful, and at the same time, I have a job that I greatly like. When I reflect on the situation of many people in this COVID-19 period I remember those who have found themselves jobless, and the many who have died and many even committed suicide due to COVID-19.

It can't be denied that whatever people do might be their own responsibility. But I realize how lucky I am by getting a job from the KIRAN Society and that it does not only help me, but I also have got a good opportunity to give my best in wall paintings. In the future, whatever will my theme (disability), it will be shown in my paintings; and I believe that I will not be unworthy of my education, the one I got and which is continuing. Yes, I have decided to give my level best in the field of painting!



-By Sonu Gupta

Sincere gratitude to supporters

We are thankful for all the donors and supporters who have supported the KIRAN Society throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. In continuation, a water cooler was provided for our outreach hostel from Ms. Sonali of Varanasi. This will facilitate safe and cool water for the parents and the beneficiaries to approach the organization from far away and reside in this hostel for a month.



Received a water cooler for outreach hostel

With this Ms. Mohini from Varanasi had supported 33 blankets and clothes for the hostel youngsters. Along with this support, they spent time with hostel students to celebrate the birthdays of their family members. Apart from this Christmas day gave us a chance to spread joy & happiness among our hostel students. Mr. Asthana from BOBA Industries, Azamgarh came to the KIRAN Society to celebrate Christmas day. He gifted woolen t-shirts and cakes to all the hostel students and spent time with the KIRAN family. In this order, almost 10 families came to KIRAN Society to celebrate the birthdays of their family members with KIRAN students and hostellers.



Clothes, blankets & food items for hostel students



Visitors in KIRAN Society



Visitor families celebrating birthdays

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*The greatest good
is what we do for one another.*

-Mother Teresa