

You cannot always control what goes on outside. But you can control what goes on inside – Wayne Dyer

Stay safe and well and thank you for your support xx

WIN provides food to penniless labour workers



Nagpur is a burgeoning city with a large migrant population living in settlements on the peripheries of the city. Most of the migrants' hail from the neighbouring state of Madhya Pradesh and came to Nagpur to earn a meagre income in the construction industry.

With the Indian government giving just 4 hours' notice prior to the firmly implemented lock down, these migrant communities are now suffering from a shortage of food.

The Indian government recently announced extra rations of wheat and rice under the Coronavirus relief package, however only those with a BOCW (Building & Other Construction Workers card qualify for these rations. Over 90% of those we interviewed do not have a BOCW card and therefore cannot get rations.

WIN has provided health care to women and children in these migrant communities. Now the charity is providing emergency food to ease the growing misery experienced by some of India's poorest.





Does the Indian Government really know how many people are dying from COVID 19?

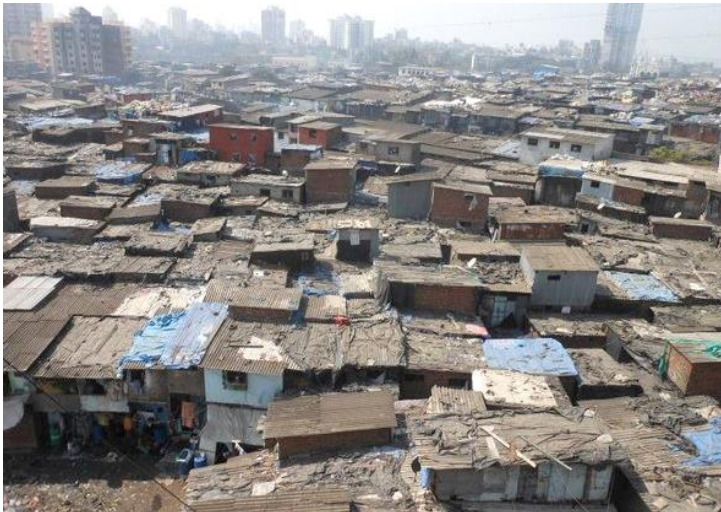
Densely populated with over 1.3 billion people, the number of cases of COVID 19 in India is still relatively low compared with Europe and the US. This is believed to be linked to both low levels of testing and poor access to an already overstretched healthcare system with people not reporting their symptoms.

The government's claim that the disease is not spreading, even within impoverished communities, and that most of the country's cases are linked to those who travelled abroad are being challenged by doctors working on the front line. One doctor

working in a hospital in Kolkata where COVID 19 cases are treated said:

"Everyday thousands of people gather here, seeking treatment for many infectious diseases. Last week, I noticed, hundreds of people, with many coughing, having fever and breathing problems stood in a queue waiting for their turn to be examined by us,"

"They stood in the queue for hours and many of them were coughing and sneezing. I have every reason to believe many were carriers of Covid-19 who spread the infection to people in that same line, who in turn are now spreading it in the community ... hundred or thousand times more people should be tested for the infection. Otherwise, the coronavirus situation will turn unmanageable."



There is no room for social distancing in India

Examining the housing infrastructure in India reveals that almost a third of the rural population and half of the urban population in India live in houses where the per capita space available is less than a single room, which effectively means that isolating a person with the risk of infection is extremely difficult. This implies that home quarantine/self-isolation measures would be difficult to implement among 60% of the population in the event of spread of infection



Scarcity of running water - As India approaches peak summer temperatures the availability of drinking water (let alone running water for washing hands), is becoming scarce. Data reveals that 40% of urban households and 75% of rural households in India do not have access to tap water in the house or within their residential premises. Unless supervised, the use of communal hand pumps will alone contribute significantly to the rapid spread of COVID 19

COVID 19 predicted mortality - A recent report, jointly published by three American universities and the Delhi School of Economics, claimed that India could have as many as 1.3 million coronavirus infections by mid-May.

Looking ahead – WIN’s immediate priority is to protect and support as many vulnerable women as possible during this pandemic. We’re helping some through the crisis by keeping them positive and focused on the future. Through the charity’s COVID 19 WhatsApp chat group (featured in our March issue) we’re in contact with HIV+ young women, many of whom wish to continue their further education.



A decent education in India can be costly. Those unable to afford private education rely on extra tuition to supplement their chances of getting a university place. WIN provides private tuition for a select few candidates. This year we have chosen Sanskruti and her HIV+ sister Ekta.

Sanskruti and Ekta lost their mother a year ago to AIDS. She was their sole provider, their emotional strength and their world, which was turned upside down by her sudden death.

With no time to grieve Ekta and Sanskruti urgently needed to find the means of paying for rent, food and tuition fees. Both girls dreamed of becoming chartered accountants, but following their mother’s death feared it wouldn’t be possible.

Sanskruti managed to get a job in a clothing shop and began working long hours to cover their costs. She even managed to save enough to pay for tuition fees.

In the evenings after work Sanskruti would study. Ekta on the other hand would attend college thorough the day and maintain the home which is a small rented room.

WIN met the girls through the charity’s monthly support group meetings for HIV+ women. Their strength and determination in overcoming grief and pursuing their dreams, is impressive. We are thrilled to be able to help them work towards a better, more secure future.

Less than half of India’s children between the age 6 and 14 go to school. A little over one-third of all children who enrol in grade one reach grade eight. At least 35 million children aged 6-14 years do not attend school. 53% of girls in the age group of 5 to 9 years are illiterate

Why not sponsor a girl’s A level tuition fees at £550 for the entire year?

Despite India's rigid lock down, WIN continues limited activities

Activities such as group meetings and cancer screening have stopped, but the charity still helps women access food, medicines and transport for those requiring hospital treatment, such as cancer patients.



A big thank you to WIN's staff for their enthusiasm to support those in need during this crisis