

# SNEHA

## COVID - 19 NEWSLETTER



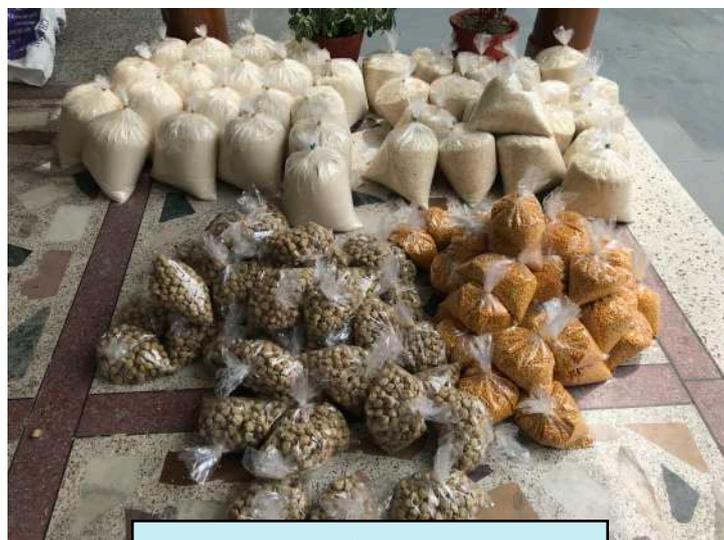
### Each one, Reach one

As we mentioned in our previous newsletter, this global epidemic can be seen as unprecedented and challenging or can be seen as an opportunity to ideate, create, innovate & reach out to people and communities that are surviving on just “HOPE”. SNEHA has chosen the latter approach and the Lord has guided us and protected us in every step in our endeavours of reaching out to a highly affected marginalised community in Dehradun city.

Over the last few weeks, SNEHA has actively involved in distributing basic food necessities (Rice, Lentils, Flour, Cooking Oil, Salt, Potatoes, Soya), to more than 550 adults & children through our personal contribution as a family. Many of these families are of students who are currently studying at SNEHA while others are just one of many such families in the marginalised community which has grown to over 30,000 people, who are now surviving on one meal a day and in some cases one meal in 2-3 days.



Food distribution in the school premises to parents of students studying at SNEHA



Packaged food ready to transported to individuals and families in the community



Local Political Leaders reached out to SNEHA for help towards people in other areas of the city

## Beyond the Call of Duty

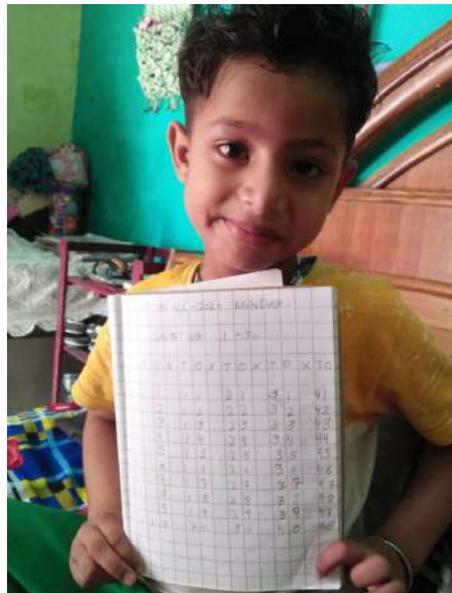
After witnessing the work that SNEHA was doing in the immediate slum community, many local leaders and prominent politicians reached out to SNEHA asking us to provide help in other parts of the city. Several staff came forward to contribute from their meagre salaries to render help towards other needy communities. We were able to help 55 more families of upto 4 - 6 members from another slum community in Dehradun. In addition to this, our community and health workers have been constantly reiterating the importance of hygiene, face masks and social distancing.



Master Trainer (Girls Champion Program) - (Kamlesh Rawat), Sewing Instructor - (Anita Sethi) and Vice Principal - (Rachel Singh) preparing packets to be distributed to 55 families from another slum community in Dehradun.

## Education & Technology

It's no secret that School/University education globally has been impacted immensely, and trying to educate students who have limited access to technology has been a Herculean task but nothing is impossible at SNEHA and the staff and management devised an effective and somewhat efficient teaching methodology for students amidst the lockdown. Basic App based phones have been more of a necessity rather than a luxury in recent years and through WhatsApp we created different groups (based on student classes), assigned times/periods through the day in which students can be online. The staff are also present online during the given times and teach by uploading videos, audio files and worksheets for the students. Simultaneously the students can ask questions by typing it in the group or through audio files which is addressed immediately by the teacher. We were unsure of how this would pan out for the staff and students but to our pleasant surprise this has been immensely effective and technology is being used very effectively by our staff, who themselves have had no training whatsoever in online teaching. We are looking at this being big opportunity for students to make the most of technology based learning which is not an option during a normal school routine due to restrictive resources.



Students submit their homework/classwork by clicking a picture of it and sending it to their teacher; Which is then digitally corrected and sent back to the student.

## Sewing Team in Action



As you would have noticed in the pictures, a majority of people with whom we are interacting, do not have masks. There are a few valid/interesting reasons for this. 1) They still do not understand the importance of wearing masks and they feel it's more of inconvenience than a precaution. 2) They do not have access to buying masks and some of the masks available at chemist stores are being sold at exorbitant prices. 3) They do not know how to make home made masks. 4) Maintaining mask hygiene in the community is very difficult.

Our Sewing Instructor, Mrs Anita Sethi along with two senior Staff members, Kamlesh Rawat and Vinita Birla have swung into action and are currently sewing masks using unused cotton cloth from erstwhile sewing classes. Given that the usage of masks could be a long term requirement, once SNEHA reopens, with added reinforcements we would like to make as many masks as possible for distribution within the community.

## Challenges Faced & Help Needed

The road ahead seems long but we must all continue to walk in faith because the Lord has already made a way for each one of us. SNEHA continues to survey the needs of the daily wage earners who have lost jobs and really poor and

needy families who are not getting help from the Govt. While we have been able to contribute and help a number of families and individuals over past few weeks, there are some challenges that we continue to face and will be facing in the months to come.

1. Food distributed will last the family 7-10 days. Many do not know how they will get food again once the current provided stock is finished.
2. No financial resources at SNEHA to help provide food and basic necessities to extremely poor families in the community.
3. High Demand and requirement of masks in the slum community but lack of man power and resources will only enable us to reach out to a minimal group of people.
4. Families with 5-6 children using one phone to get their daily download of work from their teachers.
5. Some families have a basic smart phone but do not have adequate funds to add data for download/access to whatsapp.
6. Many students do not have notebooks for writing down the work assigned. And though some stationary stores are open, these families have to choose between saving up money to buy food or buy notebooks for children.
7. Students have been unable to pay even the highly subsidised fees during school closure. This will burden them in the long run as dues will pile up over the months.
8. Staff Retention: Due to no steady inflow of financial assistance, it is getting increasingly difficult for SNEHA to maintain staff salaries. We foresee this definitely having an impact on staff retention in the long run.

# Pictures from April



Food being weighed and distributed evenly as per size of family.

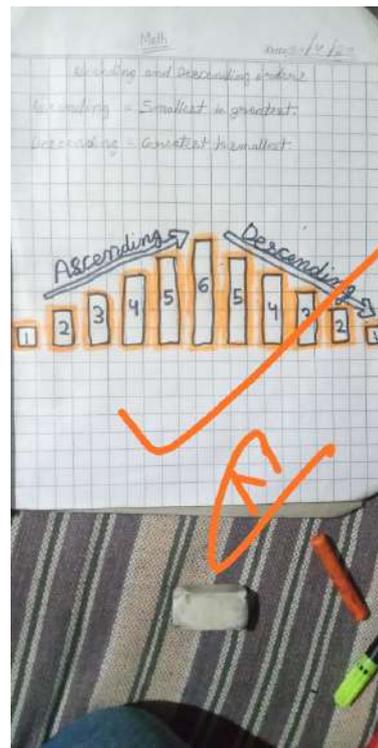
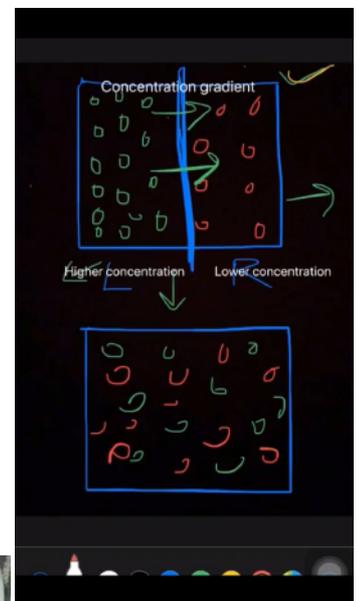


Our students have found innovative and efficient ways of staying connected with each other. They continue to encourage one another and reach out to us if they know of someone who needs help.



Food being packaged and kept ready for

Teachers continue to innovate in their teaching techniques. This is an example of a teacher using graphical representation through a video to teach the students.



Digitally corrected homework which was submitted by a student through a picture.



Packaged food being given to extremely poor families.