

**AN ANALYSIS OF THE SOCIO AND ECONOMIC STATUS OF THE  
MUSAHAR COMMUNITY IN THE DEVELOPMENT BLOCK OF  
CHAKIA, CHANDAULI DURING LOCKDOWN**

**-A BRIEF REPORT-**



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## **AN ANALYSIS OF THE SOCIO AND ECONOMIC STATUS OF THE MUSAHAR COMMUNITY IN THE DEVELOPMENT BLOCK OF CHAKIA OF DISTRICT CHANDAULI DURING LOCKDOWN**

**-A BRIEF REPORT-**

**LOCKDOWN FROM 22<sup>nd</sup> MARCH TO 31<sup>st</sup> MAY, 2020**

ROSA Sansthan is a registered social organization currently working for the social upliftment of underprivileged or deprived communities in 124 villages of district Azamgarh, Chandauli and Maharajganj in Uttar Pradesh.

ROSA Sansthan is working on the issue of child rights under the guidance of Child Right and You (CRY), New Delhi, in 16 villages of Chakia Block of District Chandauli. The organization focuses on the issue of better health and nutrition care to adolescent girls, pregnant women, lactating mother and children of under 5 years. Special efforts are made for social upliftment along with health and nutrition, especially in the Musahar society of villages.

We found that during the lockdown due to the impact of Covid – 19 that the people of Musahar society had a profound impact especially on the challenges faced by the Musahar society to maintain the health and nutrition of children. Before he lockdown, the people of Musahar society used to get their livelihood in following ways –

1. At the local level, they used to earn the livelihood for their family by selling dry wood from the surrounding forests and selling in the local markets which remained completely closed during the lockdown.
2. At the local level, they used to make a living by plucking green leaves from the surrounding forests, making plates, etc out of them and selling it locally to the culinary shop and others, which remained completely closed during lockdown.
3. Locally, labors worked in stone quarries on the mountains to earn a living, which also remained completely closed during the lockdown.

4. Some families of the society worked as **pathera** on brick kiln to earn income for the family which remained completely closed during the lockdown.
5. Some families of the society used to work as daily wage labors for the livelihood of the family which remained completely closed during the lockdown.

### **SOME LIVELIHOOD OPPORTUNITIES DURING LOCK DOWN**

The following situation came out of interaction with 25 Musahar families by the organization –

- 1) At the local level, harvesting of standing crop of wheat and its harvesting was an opportunity for the work of labor, it was also only for 10 to 15 days.
- 2) Locally, some brick kilns gave pathera work.
- 3) Local village head gave support for 2 to 3 days by distributing food packets.
- 4) Distribution of wheat, rice and gram from ration shops as per ration card.
- 5) Some families ran their own system during lockdown by taking loans from micro finance units. Along with this, the exemption was allowed to deposit the earlier money during lockdown.
- 6) Some of the families, who had deposited/saved the money for the marriage of the girl, are using that money to run their house.
- 7) Government support provided to the family under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana.
- 8) Some families continued to run the family business by selling Tendu leaves secretly through brokers.
- 9) Along with the elders, their children were also engaged in the work of Tendu leaves and while doing this work, they used to get the fixed price if the leaves daily.
- 10) In the forest area, the work of digging the pit for planting trees continued, in which Labors got wages.
- 11) At the local level, the labors get work due to which some household expenses are going on.
- 12) Families also told that they got work in MNREGA and the wages stated is Rs. 202.
- 13) Pension also benefited them as it provided support to the family.
- 14) Social organizations distributed cooked food and dry ration in some villages under relief.

- 15) Some families get cooked food from tehsil level.
- 16) With the upcoming Panchayat elections close, he was active on the prospective candidate and provided assistance to the needy.

**DIFFICULTIES IN ACCESSING BENEFITS OF PRADHAN MANTRI GAREEB  
KALYAN YOJANA IN MUSAHAR SOCIETY**

- Due to Jan Dhan account of most of the families, the payment was not received on time due to which the Jan Dhan account of some families was not opened due to which they did not get the benefit of it. Messages were not received due to the closure of mobile numbers registered in many Jan Dhan accounts.
- Many families did not get the gas cylinder supplied under the Ujjwala scheme and the mobile number that was registered was closed due to which they face difficulty in obtaining the gas.
- Many families are not registered with the scheme of Labor Department due to which they did not get the benefit of the scheme of Labor Department.
- In the last days, families worked in NREGA but due to non-payment on time, they faced difficulty during lockdown.
- The families also informed that the food provided as relief was very low. There was no benefit from that.
- The children of Musahar society could not stay away from home, they used to go to the surrounding area due to which there was an atmosphere of fear in the society.
- During the lockdown, there was difficulty in withdrawing money from the bank as the beneficiaries could not reach the bank due to road block.
- Repeatedly had to visit the ration shops to know when ration will be distributed, etc.

**HEALTH AND NUTRITIONAL CONDITIONS DURING LOCKDOWN**

- Immunization camp remained closed during lockdown due to which vaccination of children and maternal immunization services remained closed.
- Pre-natal check-up and post-natal check-up services were completely closed.

- Growth monitoring of children aged 0 to 5 years was completely closed and NRC services were also closed.
- During the lockdown, the supplementary nutrition got pregnant, foster mother, etc. but could not be found on regular basis.
- TT services were provided at the Primary Health Center and services of high risk pregnant were available.
- Delivery service was available at Primary Health Center.
- Nutritional supplement was available to the children.
- Janani Suraksha Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana application, etc. remained closed.
- Only delivery service was available at the sub-center.

### **ANALYSIS REPORT**

On the basis of Uttar Pradesh, according to the census 2011, the population of Musahar community in the state was 257135, which would have been around 300000 by now. Maintain such a large population and the development of children has been a challenging time. Different districts had different effects. The people of the Musahar community living in urban areas have more access than the villages, but the security in the villages and the relationship with the villages is stronger which is useful in the circumstances.

On the basis of the above, we find that the lockdown has been a serious challenge for the poor Musahar society, where he faced challenges for the upkeep of the family. Handling children amidst fear and livelihood of Covid – 19 was even more challenging. But due to the geographical conditions of Chakia, he also got work, due to which he did not face hunger.

The children of Musahar society enjoyed sports in their surroundings but due to the long period of lockdown their health and education development was affected. Careless towards education and regular health care was affected which severely affected the severely malnourished children.

### **LETTER OF DEMAND**

Based on the above, the following demands for the all-round development of the children of Musahar community in public interest are as follows –

- This is to provide special services to malnourished children by monitoring the growth of 0 to 5 years old children.
- Educational activities should be promoted among the children of Musahar society during the education holiday and educate the children by creating physical distance.
- Information and awareness work should be done through Asha, ANM and Anganwadi to prevent coronavirus among the Musahar community.
- The working class of Musahar society should be linked with 100% employment in NREGA and information should be provided.
- The families of the Musahar community should be surveyed for the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana and ensure the participation of children in the use of the facility.
- The eligible beneficiary of Musahar society should be campaigned and vaccinated.
- The settlements of the Musahar community should be disinfected and information should be provided to the community.
- Every family of Musahar community should be motivated to open a savings account and they should be motivated to save every month.
- Skill development training should be imparted to the youth of the Musahar community and be linked to employment prospects.
- Every laborer of Musahar community should be registered in labor development schemes.
- Girls of Musahar community should be made aware of health and hygiene and they should be made a permanent system of sanitary pads, etc.

Yours' Faithfully,

Mustaque Ahmad

Chief Functionary.

ROSA Sansthan, Varanasi

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