

# **Madras School of Social Work**

## **MSW (AIDED)**

**1<sup>st</sup> August 2020**

### **Corona Community cum media intervention Programme**

The Chetpet slums in Chennai, about 75% of households have 26–50 square feet per person. Because of this congestion, slum dwellers cannot maintain physical distancing properly. Home quarantine for those who may have been exposed to corona virus is crucial to prevent community transmission.

The developed (having concrete structures) and undeveloped slums continue to throw up COVID-19 cases. These slum areas were focussed containment plan which addresses limited access to water and poor sanitation. The slum dwellers were trying their level best to maintain social distance while waiting to fetch water from tanker Lorries irrespective of containment zones. When the water lorry is not coming frequently, no one was bothered about social distancing. Added to that there was no social support for the families to thrive upon during corona crisis.

Having considered, the Department of Social work MSW (Aided) and Uravugal Trust jointly organised the following programme. The Programme as Follows:

- Rally
- Street theatre
- Karakattam
- Media coverage

The Rally consists of MSW students, volunteers from Uravugal Trust, community youth etc. The social distancing was followed by community member's. The Rally went through the Managalapuram containment area to create awareness on Corona Virus. Here the students have distributed the corporation Mask to be worn by the people. when we connect one street to another, we were raising slogans in sensitizing them like, Be alone, Not to touch the corona affected persons, gargling their mouth, using of hot water, frequent hand wash with soap or sanitizer etc. Wherever we go to the area there was a high response to the programme and they were also joining with awareness campaign.

Then we went to Jaganathapuram area and created the awareness. In this area, very few people were affected by corona. This area was seems to be little literate area where the community people were following the distance keeping discipline and other precautionary measures. Since there was a movement from one street to the next street there was a community spread of corona. The role play was done and other slogans were raised in order to teach them safe life during corona pandemic.

The methodology adopted was, as soon as we entered the new street, we have played Street theatre with karakattam and disseminated the corona related information's to the community people. The people were listened to us and responded positively. During the course of time the team can notice the declining of Corona in that chetpet areas.

Conclusion;

MSW students were trying to do their best in tackling the situation by extending counselling services, relief to families in the form of dry groceries, health camps and volunteering for the work of Govt and NGOs. Our students also have been very active in volunteering for the affected community and taking concerted action to alleviate the sufferings of elderly, women, differently abled, children and the homeless people in and around Chetpet area.

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