

**Madras School of Social Work**  
**MSW (AIDED)**  
**3rd July 2020**  
**CORONA-Health camp with Chennai Corporation.**

**INTRODUCTION**

Preventing the spread of this pandemic is unfeasible in slums in Chennai because of some major challenges such as congestion, inadequate water supply, poor sanitation facilities, poverty and lack of awareness. Physical distancing, keeping at least 3 feet away from the nearest person while coughing, sneezing and even speaking, is an important measure to prevent the spread of the pandemic. In the slums in Chennai. About 37% 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.

Indra Awas Yojana, 60 per cent of residents were found to be staying in houses smaller than 215 square feet, making social distancing a challenge in itself. There is a lack of political will to move towards equity. People residing in slums constitute about 30 per cent of the city's population. But, they live in 2-3 per cent space in the city,

Having considered the above situation in slum areas, the Chennai Corporation initiated the Health camp and diagnosed for corona virus symptoms on 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2020 in and around chetpet area. Students The Greater Chennai Corporation (GCC) has been distributing masks, sanitizers, and created awareness during corona pandemic.

The health camp has been conducted to the residents in and around Chetpet Slum. Namely the residents of Mangalapuram, Brindhavan, M.S Nagar and Jaganathapuram. The population

gathered was approximately from 5kms in and around the Guild of Service Study Centre, Chetpet. The camp has been assisted by P. G Department of Social Work (aided) students.

### **Work-done:**

To organize medical camp the coordinator contacted corporation authorities to organise health camp on 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2020. The students have helped in arranging the doctors from their contacts. Accordingly, main focused areas of the medical camp were fixed on 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2020 and identified some positive cases of corona virus. The volunteers prepared prescription books and tokens for the organization of the program. The vitamin c' tablets, kabasura water, mask and their temperature has been checked by the corporation team. The corporation medical team was conducted their checkups for about 3 hours. Almost four to five streets were enrolled and given their address while they undergo the medical checkups

### **MSW STUDENTS ROLE**

The students went house by house and mobilised and organised for the health team. Each and every member of the family start from child and elderly persons were gone for the medical checkups. They were also given note book to identify the affected cases in the area and to direct them for hospitalization. The students were also raising slogans related to corona prevention and other precautionary mechanisms. They also assisted in lining up members to avoid the crowd.

### **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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