



**NLUO CPAJ  
E-NEWSLETTER**

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**ÆQUITAS**

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**VOLUME 1**

May 2020



## PREFACE

The erudite and hon'ble judge of Supreme Court of India, Justice Deepak Gupta lamented in his farewell speech that the Indian Judicial System is tilted towards the rich and is weighed against the poor. He quoted "judiciary should be humane and should stand by poor".

When the pandemic hit the world, like every other nation, India too was severally affected. The economy crashed down and many other repercussions were not only faced by an individual but also faced by the nation at large. Probably, it was the life of the poor that spiraled down as much as the economy as a direct effect of the pandemic. The number of cases is increasing with each passing day.

The fact remains that for an underprivileged including poor, the conventional mode of justice of approaching the judiciary is not easily accessible, be it because of lack of knowledge, lack of sufficient funds, the pressure and fear of the privileged of the society or any other reason. For an underprivileged, taking the first steps on its path of seeking justice for any wrongdoing done to him/her is cumbersome in itself. But the problem is not solved by taking the first few initial steps, the poor is bound to face many more injustice on its path of seeking justice in the current system that is after assuming that the person was able to make the initial step.

A large sect of India's population lives below poverty line. Expecting that sect to have any savings to fulfill the basic necessities of life for not a week or two but for months is just impractical. There exist chances of poor with no saving of entering into the vicious debt cycle as they might not have the resources to avail the basic necessities. While the nation and the media was soaring with the plight of the underprivileged in these trying times, the government took the steps for providing some relief to them. While announcing measures, it is also the duty to ensure that the implementation of those measures is carried out in a judicial manner to the underprivileged.

While temporary shelter homes were provided to the poor and the migrant workers, the ground reality inside those shelter homes remained abysmal. Moreover, it was made mandatory to download Aarogya Setu Application on all smart phones, but it must not be overlooked that a poor may have to face many limitations.

It is imperative to understand that the need of the nation today is a robust mechanism to track the disadvantaged individuals and families and then provide the basic necessities on a regular basis. A nationwide online database of the migrant workers around the whole nation to ensure that at the very least they can get proper health care, food and water wherever the individual may be in the nation. Surely, there exists infrastructural and legal limitations but not such that cannot be solved. It is the duty of the nation to provide access to basic necessities to ensure healthy survival of the underprivileged in the times such as current pandemic.

# NEWS REPORT: GOVERNMENT MEASURES FOR POOR AMID COVID19



The COVID-19 pandemic has taken a toll on the entire world, with lakhs of people being infected worldwide. In order to control the spread of the pandemic, the Government of India announced a nation-wide lockdown on 24th March, which has been extended thrice ever since, with some relaxations each time. However, the lockdown hasn't been just to all and has led to a lot of struggles for the poor community, including the homeless people, farmers, daily wage migrant workers, etc.

After the lockdown, the first relief from the government came when on 26th March, the central government announced a relief package of 1.7 trillion rupees to provide free food and cash transfers to the poor and vulnerable population, and health insurance for healthcare workers, among other things. The government has been taking similar steps since. The government said it will release 12 million MT of food grain during the April-June quarter under Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Ann Yojana for poor people suffering amid the Covid-19 crisis. In the beginning of May, close to 20 crore female account holders Jan Dhan got Rs 500 each in their account, while cumulative disbursement under the head has been 9,930 crores, according to finance ministry. The government has also disbursed Rs 18,253 crore under the PM-KISAN, under which each farmer receives up to Rs 6,000 per year as minimum income support.

The migrant workers who had been rendered jobless and homeless in lieu of the lockdown, were forced to walk hundreds of kilometres to their hometown, without food and shelter. Though some states asked the local authorities to arrange transportation for them and provide them with food and shelter, concrete steps regarding the issue were only taken very late, when the government finally arranged transportation for them in mid May. The railway geared up to run 300 trains Shramik Special trains a day to ferry stranded migrant labourers to their hometowns.

Recently, while addressing the nation to inform about lockdown 4.0, the Prime Minister announced a 20 lakh crore package for labourers, farmers, honest taxpayers, MSMEs and cottage industry. The economic package which is 10% of India's GDP aims to make India self reliant based on the five pillars - economy, infrastructure, technology-driven system, vibrant demography and demand. While before the outbreak, not a single PPE or N95 mask was made in India, we are making around 2 lakhs of each daily now, said the PM in his speech. The PM also urged the people to become vocal about local products and said that the era of self reliance will be our new pledge and new festival.

Though steps have been taken by the government, how far it has helped the poor is questionable. The United Nations has estimates around 2 billion people in risk of abject poverty and has said that around 8% of the world will likely be pushed into destitution, mainly due to the pandemic. In a situation like this, utmost measures needs to be taken to ensure that the brunt of the pandemic does not fall on the shoulders of the poor, and the authorities do everything possible to help them survive this crisis.

# AEQUITAS

## E-NEWSLETTER VOLUME-1

### In this issue

Many healthcare professionals have access to Personal Protective Equipments and yet they are contracting infections but sadly these sanitation workers who are at the frontlines of the global crisis caused by COVID-19 are still fighting the battle against this deadly virus unarmed. These five million public health and safety workers who continue to work through the COVID-19 pandemic are still unprotected, stigmatized, unappreciated, and seen as people to be shunned.

The legality of lockdown is still questionable, although people have been confronted with the choice between social distancing or denying people their livelihood.



### **THE CORONA OUTBREAK: MASSES AFFECTED AND EFFECTED MASSES**

*Aishwarya Shrivastava*

The term 'Lockdown' that is being used to curtail the fundamental rights, is surprisingly not defined anywhere under any Indian Statute. Yet, it cannot be held unconstitutional as it will fall in the ambit of reasonable restrictions. Moreover, right to life is the most sacrosanct right amongst all. The apex court in the case of *State of Punjab v. M.S. Chawla* held that "Right to health is an integral part of life. Covid-19 was characterised as a 'Pandemic' outbreak by WHO on 11th March, 2020. And to curb it, the Ministry of Home affairs issued an official notification invoking Section 6(2)(i) of the DMA which mandates the national authority to make a national plan without any prejudice. The Central government has earmarked an economic relief package worth Rs 1.7 lakh crore for the

Overtly, where it helped to curb the outraging epidemic, it also led the population to be very susceptible to panic. Families ran out of money, food items and essentials soon after the lockdown was announced. The relief sought by the PM Relief Fund was a blessing in disguise, but the program dealt with issues on mere superficial level. Food shall be distributed but people are still skeptical about the quality. Many people have their ration cards addressed to their native places and now admits the lockdown, they cannot even avail the benefit. Governments in many states undoubtedly provided for the shelter of such people but failed miserably to maintain a decent humanitarian standard of living. Many people decided to walk through the distances towards their respective homes which were hundreds and thousands of km away.

Though the legality of the lockdown is not questioned, yet we are confronted with the choice between social distancing or denying people their livelihood. The lockdown, assuring the 'social-distancing' helped to arrest the rate and reach of the infection but has also increased the vulnerability to other distresses.

While the state is busy endeavouring the epidemic outbreak, the question of sustainability and feasibility of such modal is necessary. Advocates for the poor say that while they support the lockdown to save lives, the way it has been rolled out with apparently little guidance for the poorest of India's poor may mean the lockdown itself endangers more lives than the coronavirus. A well planned, partial lockdown must be called in for better management of the catastrophe on both the classes, i.e. the corona infected and the corona affected.

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# **UNARMED BATTLE OF UNMASKED WARRIORS: PLIGHT OF SANITATION WORKERS AMIDST COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

*Monika Saxena and Anant Pratap Singh Rathore*

## *In this issue*

Talking about the Epidemic Disease Act 1897, the law imposes a penalty of up to 1000 rupees and up to six months of imprisonment, but this is negligible and fails to act as a deterrent.

From its likely origin in Wuhan, China, the novel COVID-19 has indelibly latched on to our collective psyche with resulting mass hysteria. Indian Government has imposed a nationwide lockdown allowing only supply for essential services and products to be carried out. India is home to almost 5 million sanitation workers who are at the frontlines of the global crisis caused by COVID-19. Many healthcare professionals have access to Personal Protective Equipments and yet they are contracting infections but sadly these warriors are still fighting the battle against this deadly virus unarmed. They walk into the sewers or septic tanks and face death almost every day. According to report of National Commission of SafaiKaramchari, a total of 814 sanitation workers have lost their lives in course of their work from 1993 to 2019, where a report by SafaiKaramchariAndolan has recorded a mark of almost 2000 deaths so far. Despite all the alarms the government has failed to analyse the gravity and is loath to take the issue into consideration.

A combined reading of section 2(1) (d), 7 and 9 of The Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013, makes it amply clear that cleaning of sewers or septic tanks without protective gears amount to hazardous cleaning and any agency or authority who has employed any person for such hazardous cleaning is liable to be punished with imprisonment for a term which may extend to two years and fine which may extend to two lakh rupees or with both.

Regardless of all the advices, guidelines, and orders by the WHO and the Indian ministries, the concerned authorities failed to make a note of the magnitude of the situation, and take appropriate steps, this can be attributed to their financial capacity or lack of required sources.

Workers roaming around the cities, sanitizing it without proper safeguards for them, shows that even a calamity does not disturb the equilibrium of class hierarchy, those at the bottom still suffer, now more than before. It is nothing but irony that if they work they die of infection and if not they die of starvation.

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**The need of the hour demands an efficient surveillance system, epidemiologists who can provide technical inputs and strong public health cadres to manage and control the disease outbreak**

## **FIGHTING PANDEMIC THROUGH INDIA'S LEGAL FRAMEWORK: EVALUATING THE EPIDEMIC DISEASES ACT**

*Shipra Sahu & Astha Rao*



### *In this issue*

The term 'Lockdown' that is being used to curtail the fundamental rights, though not defined anywhere cannot be called unconstitutional as it will fall in the ambit of reasonable restrictions. Moreover, the apex court in the case of State of Punjab v. M.S. Chawla held that "Right to health is an integral part of life".

Thus, the state has a positive obligation under Art. 21 of the Constitution to swing into action for public health emergency such as the present pandemic to protect lives of the people.

The Indian government brought Epidemic Disease Act, 1897 to the rescue which authorizes the government to take and implement various measures to contain the epidemic and prevent further spread of the same. Under this Act, the Government can access appropriate funds so that they can counter and provide instant relief to victims. As India is a federal nation, health care is controlled by individual states, with little power with the central government. But during the time of disaster or war, the central government attains the power to issue orders and directions.

The UN Human rights committee both has statements regarding freedom of movement and other fundamental rights that authorizes the governments to tackle the situation by restricting certain human rights in times of an emergency, The International Covenant on civil & political rights (ICCPR), specifies that the restriction on human rights enforced during national & global emergencies and for the reasons of public health should be made lawful, necessary and proportionate.

Talking about the Act, although the Act empowers the Government, the provisions to enable them to set up management systems essential for a coordinated response immediately are absent. Furthermore, the law imposes a penalty of up to 1000 rupees and up to six months of imprisonment, which is negligible and fails to act as a deterrent.

The need of the hour demands an efficient surveillance system, Epidemiologists who can provide technical inputs and strong public health cadres to manage and control the disease outbreak. Government needs to review the present disaster management laws in order to combat any future health crisis effectively and enact a modern public health law accordingly.

The National disaster management authority has been working in this regard and has even been working for any possible biological disaster in the future and drafted the National disaster management plan, 2019 which was made keeping this aspect into mind. Apart from this the guidelines on biological disaster released in 2008 can be a great relief at present and can act as a rescue for the epidemic disease act.

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## **COVID - 19: HOW TO MITIGATE THE LOCKDOWN IMPACT ON THE ACCESSIBILITY OF ESSENTIALS TO THE POOR**

*Aparna Padmakavi. R, & Gokul Abimanyu. O.R.*

From its likely origin in Wuhan, China, the novel COVID-19 has indelibly latched on to our collective psyche with resulting mass hysteria. Indian Government has imposed a nationwide lockdown allowing only supply for essential services and products to be carried out. India is home to almost 5 million sanitation workers who are at the frontlines of the global crisis caused by COVID-19. Many healthcare professionals have access to Personal Protective Equipments and yet they are contracting infections but sadly these warriors are still fighting the battle against this deadly virus unarmed. They walk into the sewers or septic tanks and face death almost every day. According to report of National Commission of SafaiKaramchari, a total of 814 sanitation workers have lost their lives in course of their work from 1993 to 2019, where a report by SafaiKaramchariAndolan has recorded a mark of almost 2000 deaths so far. Despite all the alarms the government has failed to analyse the gravity and is loath to take the issue into consideration.

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Workers roaming around the cities, sanitizing it without proper safeguards for them, shows that even a calamity does not disturb the equilibrium of class hierarchy, those at the bottom still suffer, now more than before. It is nothing but irony that if they work they die of infection and if not they die of starvation.

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### *In this issues*

**In this pandemic situation, the Union and the States must function together to put the vulnerable masses in the most comfortable place to tackle this pandemic.**

It is only through coordination of the Union and the states, the poor can be given the availability and accessibility to the essential commodities.

## **ACCESSIBILITY OF ESSENTIALS TO THE POOR** **DURING THE LOCKDOWN**

*Letishiya Chaturvedi  
And Devyani Singh*



***“My message to political parties: do not politicize this virus. If you care for your people, work across party lines and ideologies.”- Dr. Tedros***

On 31st of December, 2019, a tremendous number of pneumonia cases were reported in Wuhan, China and on 9th January, 2020, China’s Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) broke the news of the cause of infection. WHO announced for the new virus to be coronavirus Disease (COVID-19).

The second most populous country in the world, India went on a lockdown on 25th March, 2020 after an appeal of the same by its Prime Minister. The nation had by then reported 519 coronavirus cases and 9 deaths. After the declaration of the lockdown, the Ministry of Home Affairs of the country released a list of all those services which would run despite the restriction. It was announced that essential items would still be made available so that the main goal of the lockdown, to keep the citizens safe and healthy doesn’t turn into a detention or torment for them, is achieved.

The government realized the fact that a country which has about 8.8% of its 1.3 billion population is below the poverty line and with 450 million people who are daily wage workers, it was not feasible for all citizens to have the same amount of essentials made accessible to them. Thus, the Finance Ministry announced a 1.7 lakh crore Covid-19 mitigation economic relief. Those who live on wages per week are finding it extremely difficult to make a living. They face deprivation of basic commodities due to lack of savings and liquid assets for survival.

The government is only providing for grains and dal; rates for eggs, meat, vegetables, oil and spices should be subsidized. The state of action taken against the migrant workers were devastating. Instead, a well-organized Centre could have coordinated with the State and controlled the situation. Today, our country needs to act upon cooperative federalism to provide for these people.

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# **COVID-19 AND THE ROHINGYA MUSLIMS: A CALL FOR AN INCLUSIONARY GOVERNMENT ACTION**

*Muskan Wadhwa and Neeti Nihal*

COVID-19 outbreak, which has been characterized as a pandemic, has affected all segments of the population, yet its impact has been disproportionate. In a global environment where States are scrambling to ensure access to healthcare and sanitation for their citizens, the refugees and asylum seekers remain the world's most vulnerable. A recent report published by Refugees International, a non-profit organization, elucidates the factors which make the refugees particularly at risk of the contagion. Most of these refugees live in a population-dense environment increasing the risk of transmission of the disease.

A similar situation exists for the numerous Rohingya refugees in India. Some reports indicate that there are about 40,000 Rohingyas in India, camped in overcrowded ghettos in the States of Delhi, Jammu, Haryana and Rajasthan. While the Indian Government has announced a 1.7 trillion-Rupee relief package to mitigate the suffering of the migrant workers and poor during the pandemic, it is unclear and unlikely that it extends to non-citizens such as the Rohingyas. While the petition challenging their deportation and non-citizens' access to Constitutional rights is pending before the Supreme Court, we in this Article argue, that the Rohingyas indeed have protections under the Constitutional jurisprudence and India's human rights obligations.

The rights relevant to non-citizens and this topic of discussion are enshrined in the Constitution under Article 14 and Article 21. In the case of *Khudiram Chakma v. Union Territory of Arunachal Pradesh* the Court observed that the protection guaranteed under Article 21 was not just restricted to the citizens but also extended to non-citizens

Violation of the abovementioned rights entitles the refugees to approach the higher courts under Article 32 and 226 of the Constitution.

At the global level, UNHCR and the WHO have come in solidarity with the refugees, immigrants and stateless people. Humankind is facing one of the biggest humanitarian crises of our generation. What the Governments do now will define our future and shape the world we live in. It, therefore, becomes imperative for the world, and for the Government of India, to adopt an inclusionary approach towards these immigrants, to not only to curb the spread of COVID-19 but also to develop a more hospitable and humanitarian world to live in. [Read More...](#)



# **RIGHTS OF THE DISABLED PEOPLE: JUSTICE SYSTEM**

*Praduta Singh*



## **In this issue**

The UN estimates that there are 650 million people with disabilities, constituting approximately 10 percent of the global population. It is important for the way in which administration of justice is processed be effectively in reach for every class, sect and section of the society without any sort of preferentialism or discrimination.

Although the meaning of the term “Justice” varies across borders and cultures, the crux of it is based on the ideas of fairness, accountability and equity of outcome. It is important for the way in which administration of justice is processed be effectively in reach for every class, sect and section of the society without any sort of preferentialism or discrimination. The world is pretty well moving towards a reform movement to ensure rights to the disabled people. Indian courts have passed judgements which have done much for the cause of basic rights to justice for the disabled class. The supreme court held that blind candidate be given the opportunity to become administrative officers by giving the required exams. Further in Government of NCT of Delhi v. Bharath Lalmeena and Jared Abiding v. Union of India the supreme court forwarded the helm of rights for the disabled people. Bringing out such a policy was considered a way forward and the policy was looked up for its provisions which were supposed to ease the disabled peoples lives to quite an extent.

On a global perspective, even a single nation is yet to fully integrate the disabled people into their justice systems. The UN estimates that there are 650 million people with disabilities, constituting approximately 10 percent of the global population. Any right which a person with disability has been denied, can only be enforced if the right to access justice is made stronger. The justice system needs to accommodate their physical, communication, and other disability-related needs in order to ensure a system which can be entrusted with the protection of rights of physically less forward people. People of “unsound mind” are not given full legal capacity as an adult. They are excluded form rights like marriage, employment etc. It is not advocated that they be given full rights, rather there should be reforms to help the unsound individual live a life of dignity.

The United Nations instituted the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in 2006, it mentions how life under guardianship is tantamount to civil death and a person should have to right to manage his own affairs. The CRPD provides for people with disabilities to live their life on an equal footing with the rest of the world. It also states an obligation of the state to provide assistance to help disabled people exercise their legal rights. The justice system as well as the administrative needs reforms in order to have an all-encompassing stage where even the disabled don't feel handicapped. The situations faced by the disabled people where they face humiliation needs to be tackled and they have to be incorporated in the justice system



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# **THE CONUNDRUM OF PAYMENT OF WAGES TO WORKERS DURING LOCKDOWN**

*Prajwal Suman & Ishita Vats*

The COVID-19 pandemic doesn't have a cure yet; however, the only way to prevent infection is social distancing. From local shops to big firms, everything is shut and silent. The corporate sector may have resumed their business with the 'work from home concept', but the daily wage labour class doesn't seem to meet their ends.

To cope with the same, the Labour Ministry issued certain advisories pointing employers' associations not to terminate jobs of especially precarious workers even before the lockdown started, on March 20, 2020. Later on March 29th, the Government of India invoked Section. 10(2)(I) of the National Disaster Management Act, 2005 and issued an order to direct the State Governments and UTs to issue orders for effective implementation of the lockdown and payment of wages to the workers by the employers without any deduction in wages.

However, Bureaucrat Harsh Mander and Anjali Bhardwaj, an RTI activist moved the Court citing orders passed by the Ministry of Home Affairs as not adequate to cope with the plight of such large scale of workers during this pandemic. Nagreeka Exports Ltd. filed a writ petition in the apex court pleading against the Central and Maharashtra Government order for paying full salary to employees even when the factories are non-operational during the lockdown. The firm argued that it has suffered a loss of Rs. 1.50 crores till date and payment of wages to all workers would cost him even more.

Section 25C and 25M of the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 deals with the payment of wages to workers during a lay-off which only provides for 50% of wages by the employers. Thus, the petitions pointed out that the 'Order' violates the above provisions and requested the Apex Court to put aside the orders given by the central government.

The cry for relief gets louder as the lockdown continues. In order to avoid loss of jobs on such a large scale, the Government should offer low-interest loans to the companies directly in order to make sure that the payment of wages is duly done to the workers. Although RBI had decreased repo rate and reverse repo rate by a huge margin, low-interest loans should be offered by banks. The 'Food for Work' Programme would fit in the present times as it would directly benefit those workers who are not a part of industries and rather self-employed with their daily means of livelihood or auto-chains owned by small businessmen. For one of the hardest times of survival in the 21st Century, what India seeks is the best of the best steps in order to maintain the social balance, while not denying basic amenities and rights of the people. The proper use of funds is the golden key here.

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## ***In this issue***

Section 25C and 25M of the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 deals with the payment of wages to workers during a lay-off which only provides for 50% of wages by the employers. Rather than over-burdening these firms with the full payment of wages without any economic activity, the onus lies on the government to take such a route which prevents shutdown of firms on one hand and preserve the rights of individual workers on the other hand.

# **NEED FOR REVISITING THE ECONOMIC RELIEF POLICY: COVID-19 LOCKDOWN**

*Amrita Basumatary & Pulak Symon*

It is true that extraordinary times call for extraordinary measures. As more than 80% of India's workforce are engaged in the informal sector, it is incumbent on the state to make sure that the nutritional needs of these sections of the society are met. On 26th March the finance Minister Nirmala Sitaraman announced Rs 1.70 lakh crore relief package under "Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana" to help the poor fight the battle against the novel Corona Virus.



An insurance cover of Rs 50 lakh has been provided to health workers fighting the battle against Covid 19. Approximately 22 lakh health workers would be covered under this scheme. In addition to the 5kg of subsidised food grains provided under the National Food Security Act further 5 kg of free food grains will be provided through Public Distribution System to the poor for the next 3 months. When it comes to cash transfer an amount of Rs 500 per month shall be provided to 20 crore women who hold Jan Dhan account. Lastly, in order to benefit the construction workers the central government has asked the state governments to use the Building and Construction Workers Welfare Fund.

The noteworthy aspect of the package is not the amount but the innovative ways in how the government has covered various sections of the vulnerable group ranging from women Jan Dhan account holders and farmers to organised sector workers and the most important of all is the healthcare workers who are now covered under an insurance scheme of Rs 50 lakh. However, providing of free food grains through Public Distribution System might exclude the migrant workers who are left stranded across the country as these people might not have the necessary documents and proof of address. With regard to the cash transfers the economist and social scientists felt that it may be too little and might fail to include some of the vulnerable groups in the safety net. As this package seems to be available only to those who are connected to formal payment system and bank accounts. This may lead to exclusion of certain groups of informal worker and daily wagers.

The government should not hesitate to bridge its fiscal deficit target at this time of crisis. Chief Economist Madan Sabnavis of CARE Ratings has noted that globally many countries have announced relief package involving 10-12% fiscal expansion. In comparison to that the relief package of India is only about 0.75% of India's GDP.

In order to fight the pandemic effectively India has to battle it from both healthcare and economic front. Community kitchens should be established in order to provide food to the targeted groups like children, pregnant women and lactating mothers. India has made a good start with rolling out Rs 1.7 lakh crore economic relief package which is sufficient as of now. Therefore, it is hoped that the government will come out with second phase of such economic stimulus.

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## **ACCESSIBILITY OF ESSENTIALS TO THE POOR** **DURING THIS LOCKDOWN**

*Satyam Mishra & Udit Mishra*

The words-‘poverty’ and ‘hunger’ have become almost synonymous in our day to day lives. Most of us think that what the poor needs most is food & if the poor have or we are able to provide them ample amount of foodstuff that will be sufficient for his/her sustenance and existence. But the question that arises is: Whether is it all that the poor needs? There are plethora of other goods and services that the poor need in their day to day lives like sanitary materials as soaps & sanitizers, healthcare products like medicines, face masks and gloves (especially for sanitary workers, people working in construction activities, food delivery persons, doctors, policemen etc.) but the plight is that we needed an epidemic to realize that these things could also be termed as essentials otherwise we were in ‘Jaisechalahaiwaisechalne do’ mode

In India, the constitutional principles of welfare state and socialist democracy imposes a duty on the State to make sure that equal facilities, opportunities, goods and services are provided to and distributed amongst everyone in just, fair and reasonable manner and proportion, amongst similarly situated notwithstanding their caste, creed, sex, place of birth and economic conditions.

The Parliament of India and State Legislatures have passed several laws so that equitable distribution and seamless supply of certain essential commodities could be maintained

and their buying and selling prices could be capped and also the people connected with providing certain notified services could be abstained from refusing to render their services especially during the time when such services are needed the most. Some of these Acts and orders are:-The Essential Commodities Act, 1955, Prevention of Black Marketing & Maintenance of Supplies of Essential Commodities Act, 1980, Essential Services Maintenance Act, 1968.

Some instances have also come in public domain where people were caught hoarding and black-marketing essential goods especially the food items and also making and selling goods like spurious hand sanitizers, used and discarded masks and gloves, but the law enforcement authorities have acted on them with a heavy blow and all necessary sanctions are imposed on them. After seeing these instances we must take a pause and re-think that the epidemic like COVID-19, call for unprecedented measures like a nationwide lockdown and in such situations we all should keep our prejudice, personal grudges & believes aside and fight with such situation with complete solidarity, unity and a feeling of brotherhood because at last it is our common will and efforts that will prove to be a death knell for this epidemic.

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### **In this issue**

Nature produces enough for our wants from day to day, and if only everybody took enough for himself and nothing more, there would be no pauperism in this world, there would be no more dying of starvation in this world. But so long as we have got this inequality, so long we are thieving. ~ M. K Gandhi

## Appreciation Post: Legal Aid Society, NLUO

The Legal Aid Society, NLUO along with some enthusiastic students of the college took an initiative to extend our gratitude to 55 house-keeping staff, 45 guards, 32 gardeners, and 36 mess committee workers that are struggling to survive this lockdown and it is for these 168 individuals that the campaign to help the helping hands has been initiated. The campaign aims to raise INR 5,00,000 which will help them to combat lockdown to some extent. The collection of monetary donation is irrespective of their salary which they have already received from the university since the beneficiaries belong to the rural and unprivileged sector. Within three days, the campaign: help the helping hands, with the joint efforts of Staff, Alumni and Students, had successfully raised INR 1,24,000+ and after 15 days the total amount successfully raised up to INR 2, 35,000+. The fund that is raised at the end of the campaign will be equally distributed to the bank accounts of the 168 beneficiaries. Volunteers are collecting the bank account details of the concerned people with the help of some students of IDIA in tandem with the coordinators/contractors of the respective employees.

Campaigners hope that this initiative may attain the goal for which it formed its genesis and could inspire people to help each other in the time of this grave crisis.



### **Faculty Advisors**

Ms. Kuntirani Padhan  
Ms. Nanditta Batra

### **Student Convenor**

Hitarth Sharma

### **Student Co-convenor**

Suman Soren  
Preesita Saloni

***Centre for Poverty and Access to justice wishes Legal Aid Society, NLUO and all student volunteers the very best with their inspiring efforts.***

## NLUO Alumna's Message

*"It is immensely heartening to see NLUO establish the Centre of Poverty and Access to Justice. We live in times of great wealth inequality and the consequences of this for poor, marginalized people who come in conflict with the law are profound. It is imperative that Universities step up in their roles and first provide solid, credible research to identify relevant issues and then come up with practical solutions and policy recommendations to tackle them. I sincerely hope that the work of the Centre goes a long way in both these aspects."*

*-Ms. Preeti Pratishruti Dash  
Works at Project 39A,  
National Law University Delhi*



## About Centre for Poverty and Access to Justice



सत्ये स्थितो धर्मः



Centre for Poverty &  
Access to Justice

*The Centre for Poverty and Access to Justice was established in the year 2020 with the aim of minimising and mitigating the obstacles faced by the socially and economically disadvantaged people in accessing justice. The objective of the Centre is to promote community and traditional justice systems that are relatively easily accessible to vulnerable groups, and to make them more compliant with Human Rights. The Centre aims at studying the barriers to access to justice with emphasis on the groups disadvantaged due to inequality in their economic status, discrimination and lack of legal awareness; and overcoming the barriers through State, Civil Society and policy Intervention*

### Our Team

#### Faculty Advisors

Ms. Rishika Khare  
Ms. Kuntirani Padhan  
Mr. Kanishka

#### Student Members

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