



COMMUNITY STORIES OF IMPACT

Theme: Right to Food & Nutrition etc.

Year: 2020 | **Location:** Basapura village, Watagal Grampanchayat
Maski Taluka

[Sl.No. 1] Public Distribution System [PDS] Shop unlocked during COVID-19 lockdown in Basapura village

JMS intervention convinces successfully the very reluctant PDS shop owner to open his shop and distribute food grains to people. 500 households in Basapura village got relief during the lock down



JMS Introduction:

Jagrutha Mahila Sanghatan (JMS) is a Dalit Women's Collective that is owned and managed by Dalit women from 20 years in the district of Raichur and reaches out to 3000 households in four Talukas (Manvi, Sindhanur, Maski, Sirwar). JMS works with Dalit households, agricultural labourers and those who belongs to economically and socially backward community. JMS works to defend and protect the Human Rights of Dalit community in general with a special focus on Dalit women, who by and large are daily wage labourers. JMS intervenes in facilitating the rights and entitlements of the rural working class communities focusing on the right to food & nutrition, right to work, right to education, rights and dignity of Dalit women, right to health, civil rights of Dalit communities, and citizen rights in general. These interventions are done through various campaigns. During the period of lock down JMS karyakartha (leaders) reached the community through various possible ways using technology (Phone call, what's app voice messages etc.) as the transportation was completely shut in the state. The JMS leaders responded to the community needs during the lock down and the continuing pandemic .

CONTEXT:

When COVID -19 lockdown was imposed throughout the county in India, those who depend on daily wage labour in village suffered lot, with non -availability of food grains or daily wage incomes. PDS or fair-price shop is the key source of food grains for households from disadvantaged communities and those who depend on daily wage labour.

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JAGRUTHA MAHILA SANGATANE

ISSUE:

Basapura village comes under watagal grampanchayat which is located about 30 kms from the Maski taluka and Basapura is a very interior village without any regular public transport. place the fair price shop. One of the JMS member in the village called the JMS karyakartha and explained the situation of denied access to food supply from fair price shop distributor for two months (April and May, 2020) when there was lockdown in the country.



JMS INTERVENTION:

Immediately JMS karyakartha intervened and called the respective Food Officer and demanded for immediate open of the fair price shop, however the process wasn't smooth and faced threats, the fair price distributor is a relative of the local MLA (Member of the Legislative Assembly) and argued that he won't open the shop. JMS Karyakartha Narsamma spoke to him politely and said this food distribution comes from the government and people have full rights to access it. After regular follow up with food authorities they opened the shop after a week.

IMPACT:

Due to the timely intervention of JMS the food grains was made access to the community, for more than 500 families benefitted from it. the community accessed the food grains of two months. Villagers opined that now they getting food grains correctly every month after this intervention of JMS.

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