As the lockdown due to the pandemic COVID-19 affected the people, especially the marginalized communities, daily wagers, informal and migrant workers, they needed to be provided with immediate support for sustenance. It is therefore that JVS, with like-minded social and educational institutions in Varanasi, started relief work campaign for them by providing cooked food as well as dry ration kits, including rice, wheat flour, cooking oil, pulse, salt, potato, onion, biscuits, soap and face mask, costing Rs.600 per kit on March 25, 2020. Until 03 June 2020 we reached out to 14853 families, including returnee migrants in Varanasi and Jaunpur districts of Uttar Pradesh. The campaign was financially supported by hundreds of individuals and organizations from within the country as well as institutional donors abroad like, Missio München, Germany, Liliane Foundation, the Netherlands, Manos Unidas, Spain, Friends and well-wishers from Belfast, N. Ireland, etc. A special word of appreciation to all the volunteers who worked hard packaging and distributing the relief materials to the needy, uncaring about the risk involved.

Liliane Foundation, the Netherlands, extended a special support to families of persons with disabilities affected by COVID-19. Through this support JVS in partnership with 57 partner organizations in 13 states of North and North East India reached out to 5478 families of children and youngsters with disabilities. The kit included rice, wheat flour, potato, onion, pulse, cooking oil, salt, soap, biscuits and mask, costing Rs. 600 per kit.
SURVEY ON MIGRANT YOUTH
The migrant workers suffered the worst during the lockdown due to COVID-19. During the second and third phases of the relief work we came across scores of migrant workers who shared their experience of travelling back home and their anxiety about the future uncertainties. JVS in collaboration with Vishwa Jyoti Gurukual, Christnagar, Varanasi decided to undertake a survey to understand the employment & livelihood related skills the migrant youth have as well as new skills they wish to learn so as to help them find local livelihood. A total of 4021 migrant youth in Harhua, Pindra and Baragaon blocks of Varanasi, U.P and Durgawati block in Kaimur, Bihar were surveyed.

COVID - 19 AWARENESS CAMPAIGN
As the number of COVID-19 positive cases was increasing day by day, JVS launched an awareness campaign on COVID-19 on June 8, 2020. The JVS field staff along with students of Vishwa Jyoti Gurukual, Christnagar, Varanasi carried out a 3-week-long campaign to make people aware of the virus and the ways and means to protect oneself against the virus. During this campaign the people were also sensitized about the need to wear cloth masks already distributed by JVS. A total of 50097 individuals in Varanasi, Jaunpur and Mirzapur districts in U.P and Kaimur district in Bihar were covered under this campaign.
To make available a large quantity of washable cloth masks for distribution among the villagers during this Corona pandemic, JVS facilitated the production of the same by employing a group of 15 women members of the Self-Help Groups in the month of June. So far over 10000 masks have been prepared and distributed.

JVS organized three Webinars on (1) “Educational Challenges and Remedies of Children and Youngsters with Disabilities during the Pandemic COVID-19”, (2) “Role of Rehab Professionals in Planning Home Based Care and Support for Children with Disabilities during COVID-19” and (3) “Effective Ways of Handling Children with Disabilities by Parents during COVID-19” on July 19, 23 and 24, respectively. The objective of the webinars was to identify the challenges and measures to address the needs of children and youngsters with disabilities, their parents and caretakers during the lockdown due to the pandemic, COVID-19. The speakers were Dr. Akhilesh Kumar, Asst. Professor, Vardhaman Mahaveer Open University, Kota, Rajasthan; Ms. Aloka Guha, Ex-Chairperson, National Trust; Ms. Angelique, Advisor-Rehabilitation, Liliane Foundation, the Netherlands; Dr. Himanshu Das, Director of NIEPVD, Dehradun; Mr. Goutam Chaudhary, from SANCHAR, Kolkata; Mrs. Iona Kundu, MENTAID; Mr. Supriyo Kumar from Kolkata and Ms. Bertha Deker, Bethany Society, Meghalaya. In all the three webinars there were 100 participants each, including Directors of Partner Organizations, Rehab professionals and parents.
ONLINE TALENT SHOW COMPETITION ON COVID-19
In the wake of COVID-19 pandemic outbreak, when schools and all related activities shutdown, JVS engaged with the members of Children's Parliament by organizing a couple of online talent shows. The main aim of the online talent shows was to spread awareness among the children and the community about the pandemic, fostering a sensitized and educated community that takes all preventive measures to combat this disease. A total of 43 children participated in the online poster and essay competition on COVID-19, of which four outstanding performers were awarded with a cash prize each.

1. Tany Tiwari (Li’l Camps Finalist) Join Hands with Jan Vikas Samiti - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=izxYWRtihFo
2. Open Doors to Youngsters with Disabilities - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3oAJAgQSGwFk
3. Online Poster Presentation on COVID - 19 - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HfEOksYrMIJ1
4. Demand for Disability Cell in Political Parties - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4yMVg9pAzb8
5. A Campaign for Formation of Disability Cell in Political Parties - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CqWhSTND2us

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Your contribution will help us continue in our mission to create a more equitable, just and sustainable society for the marginalized sections of the society, especially women, children and youngsters with disabilities.