OLD AGE PENSION AT DOOR STEP: A BIG SUPPORT DURING COVID-19 CRISIS

In the wake of COVID 19, Sarpanch Ajay Kumar Saini, Village Chounta, block Nurpurbedi, district Ropar has taken great initiative to ensure the delivery of old age pension at door step to the beneficiary in his village.

Sarpanch Ajay Kumar Saini has shared that the amount of old age pension Rs.750/- per month is a big support for a poor person specially in this crisis situation, when there are no earnings for the family. He is taking this task on priority and himself distributing the amount directly to the beneficiary.

Further, he has ensured that no one in the village slept without food, for this, a community kitchen has been setup to prepare & distribute free food to the poor and daily wagers. He added that, the whole village has been sanitized by spraying the disinfectant with support of youth of the village. Gram Panchayat is following all the instructions of Government and taking all precautions proactively to combat against COVID-19. The people are also supporting the Gram Panchayat and he is fully confident that together they will definitely win this war against COVID-19.
WATER SUPPLY AND SANITATION DEPARTMENT

SARPA NCH GETS VILLAGE SANITIZED NEARLY 20 TIMES

Believing in the adage, “Tough times never last but tough people do,” Smt. Harbhajan Kaur, Sarpanch of Nangal Salempur village in Jalandhar is doing every bit to protect her village from the dreadful COVID 19 pandemic. Over the last few weeks, she got her entire village sanitized about twenty times.

Additionally, all waterworks, ponds and drains of the village were cleaned and the latter sprayed with disinfectant, given that COVID-19 makes hygiene promotion more critical than ever.

Soon after news of the outbreak reached them, the Sarpanch and panchayat members maintained their calm and chalked out a strategy to deal with the situation.

A team comprising of DWSS officials, ANM worker, Panchayat Secretary, ASHA worker and Sarpanch was formed to build awareness among the community about preventive measures that can be taken to curb the spread of COVID 19.

Leading from the front, the Sarpanch and her team also went door to door informing people about safety precautions to follow, such as staying indoors, wearing masks to go outside, washing hands with soap and water frequently, using sanitizer, covering mouth and nose while coughing or sneezing and follow government’s directives on COVID 19.

The Sarpanch also appealed to everyone to refrain from believing rumours and to keep calm while adhering to safety protocols to keep safe throughout the lockdown period and thereafter. Insisting on that no one should leave their homes unless emergency, the GP had closed all roads that were linked to their village.

Further, the Sarpanch raised Rs. 26,650 from the community and used the same to provide dry rations to 119 needy families. Four volunteers were selected from the village to provide food and medicines to the villagers. Wheat
received from the government was equally distributed to the household by two individuals assigned to the task.

A 150-participant WhatsApp group was formed to deal with emergencies that might arise.

WOMEN GUARDS ARE DETERMINED TO KEEP CORONAVIRUS AT BAY

Sarpanch Gurpreet Kaur believes it is her foremost duty and responsibility to protect her village community from the COVID-19 pandemic. In support of the Chief Minister declaring a curfew/lock down, the energetic Sarpanch from Cholang village in Jalandhar district of Punjab has taken many steps to protect the health of the people.

To begin with, she and her Panchayat members spread awareness about the deadly corona virus infection, motivating people to adhere to the instructions issued by the district administration. Even as they provided information about washing hands frequently, using masks and social distancing, they appealed to people to stay at home.

The Gram Panchayat decided that women will keep guard at the village entrance and take care of security checks from 8 AM to 8 PM. They were to check people coming in or going out of the village. Though some people
opposed the idea of women performing that particular duty, the enthusiasm and willingness of the women overcame any hesitation.

The duty of the women guards is to check visitors and ensure they have curfew passes issued by the district administration. Further, all of them should be sanitized before entering the village.

Another noteworthy initiative is the appointment of five volunteers whose duty is to supply essential items – food, medicines, etc to people at their doorsteps. For this, a WhatsApp number was announced at the village Gurudwara that people made a note of, to order their supplies. On the other hand, free rations are supplied to the marginalized and needy people. While the entire village has been sanitized with disinfectant spray, the Sarpanch has also prepared and distributed IEC material on ways to prevent corona virus.
YOUNG SARPANCH OF CHHINA VILLAGE EMERGED AS FLAG BEARER IN COMBATING CORONAVIRUS THREAT

Even as war like efforts have been mounted across the country to combat the corona virus threat, the young Sarpanch of Chhina village in Dhariwal block of Gurdaspur district in Punjab has done his bit to protect his village community and ensure that correct hygiene standards are met.

Owing to the shortage of face masks in the market, Sarpanch Mr. Panthdeep Singh bought face masks from Saflata Self Help Group (SHG) at Rs. 10 per mask and has distributed them to all people in his award-winning village, free of cost.

He has also put up notices in prominent places to dissuade visitors to the village and encourage social distancing. “Attention Please! Outsiders are not allowed into our village. Kindly support the Government initiative to combat the threat of Novel Corona Virus Disease (Covid 19),” the notices read.

The dynamic Sarpanch has also made every effort to sanitize the village environment. Not only are dustbins at every location, but also all pathways have been cleared of debris, and looking spick and span.

Earlier, the award winning Sarpanch, equipped with a masters in business economics from Guru Nanak Dev University, rejected a job in a multinational company, and preferred to help change lives in his village that is home to about 1800 individuals. He was instrumental in connecting each house of the village with a sewer system that too at a low cost. When every
contractor was quoting Rs 35 to 40 lakh for the work, he along with other youths of the village got it done in Rs 8.5 lakh, reports said. To promote hygiene and sanitation, the Sarpanch had organised several awareness camps. Given that many people were illiterate, the Panchayat officials went door to door to explain the importance of sanitation. He is credited for making his village ODF and putting in place solid and liquid waste management systems. He has hired unemployed women to clean the streets to ensure that the village is always tidy.

A walk through Chhina and you will notice that more than 1000 saplings have been planted, making the public spaces green and clean. Two rainwater harvesting plants are running on trial basis. Burning of agricultural stubble is strictly not permitted. Owing to his efforts, his village is considered a model village.