

Greetings from Sunil's Social Services Home (SSSH)—India,

No matter where you are in the world, there is no denying that the COVID-19 pandemic has created an unparalleled situation in our modern history. The reach of this pandemic is truly global. The impacts are catastrophic. And the time to act is now.

SSSH has been working on behalf of the vulnerable populations of Andhra Pradesh's Samisragudem community since 2005. During the last 15 years, we have come to know and love the members of our community—many of whom are daily wage laborers, suffering from illiteracy and living well below the national poverty line—quite well. (You can learn more about our organization and our work here: <http://sunilshome.in/>.)

As the founder of SSSH, I, Sunil Kumar Gutam, am reaching out to you, in order to garner additional support for the emergency relief efforts we are currently facilitating for the people of Samisragudem.

Sadly, as we begin to better understand this novel coronavirus, we are unmistakably witnessing it wreak havoc on the world's most vulnerable and marginalized communities. Already grappling with poor infrastructure, a lack of sanitation, overcrowding, and a deficit in education, the millions of people living in India's rural areas, like Samisragudem, now comprise some of the highest-risk populations for contracting COVID-19.

What's more, the Indian government's national lockdown order has prohibited the daily wage laborers who inhabit these rural areas—some of the country's lowest income citizens—from carrying out the activities needed to provide food and shelter for themselves and their families. In the wake of this pandemic, these vulnerable populations are set to face increased poverty and malnutrition.

Nearly 80 percent of Samisragudem's workforce is classified as "unorganized." Adding insult to injury, this means that although our country is experiencing a post-liberalization economic boom, the workers in Samisragudem are not covered by any social security schemes and are not receiving any assistance from the Indian government during these challenging times.

We are now receiving an immense amount of requests from our community members, on a daily basis, to simply help them feed their families. Unfortunately, we can no longer keep up with these requests, and the harrowing situation here in Samisragudem is breaking our hearts.

In order to combat these unfortunate circumstances, our organization has launched an emergency relief project—the SSSH CORONA RELIEF FUND 2020—with the following aims:

- To deliver daily meals and essential living supplies directly to Samisragudem's impoverished families and homeless, elderly, disabled, and sick populations
- To provide basic hygienic supplies, including hand sanitizer and soap, for our community members
- To supply general medicine, as well as emergency medical services

- To provide personal protective equipment (PPE) in the form of masks and gloves for healthcare workers, first responders, sanitation workers, and community members
- To implement community-wide education programs, which will highlight the seriousness of the virus and teach critical preventative measures

On behalf of Samisragudem's most vulnerable residents, we humbly request your support for the SSSH CORONA RELIEF FUND 2020, so that we can bring necessary and immediate aid to our community.

Please know that even small acts, such as making a one-time monetary donation or sharing our project within your own personal and professional networks, can have a huge impact in supporting our community.

Thank you very much for your consideration and care. Please don't hesitate to contact us if there is any additional information we can provide you with at this time.

May you remain safe and well.

Respectfully,

Sunil Kumar Gutam, Founder  
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[www.sunilshome.in/](http://www.sunilshome.in/)

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