Helping the Differently Abled During COVID-19

The COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted normal life at a scale we have not witnessed in the recent past. It has affected millions across the globe. As the virus continued to spread rapidly, CHILDLINE Bijnor, Uttar Pradesh, took note of the situation and assessed its likely impact.

Their top priority was to ensure the safety of the 200 differently abled children and their 15 caregivers. They were short of human resources as the support staff and the teachers were asked to stay at home due to social distancing and other precautionary measures being put in place. As the result, the task was huge and it required coordinated efforts from everybody to address this crisis and keep the children safe.

CHILDLINE Bijnor team worked towards educating volunteers and the caregivers about the virus, how it spreads and what can be done to prevent it. They were sensitized on the basis of the directives and advisories given by the Government of India and the CHILDLINE India Foundation.

At an organizational level, CHILDLINE Bijnor made masks for the residents and ensured timely and nutritious meals for the differently abled children. They distributed play materials for indoor games to both, the children at the campus and differently abled children across the neighboring villages. To adhere to social distancing on campus, the children were divided into small groups, each with a caregiver and differently allocated spaces within the premises for recreational activities, food, learning, yoga and prayers.

Besides, they spread awareness about COVID-19 among children through videos, cartoons, songs and short films. All these activities keep the children engaged throughout the day. Ever since the lockdown was announced, CHILDLINE Bijnor completely stopped the entry of outside visitors. These proactive measures coupled with government directives have helped prevent the spread of the virus on the campus.

Moreover, CHILDLINE Bijnor is reaching out to the differently abled children in the nearby areas. Ten families with differently abled children were oriented about the importance of social distancing and washing hands properly and regularly.

Kullu CHILDLINE, Himachal Pradesh, provided Braille books to visually impaired children to help them continue with their classes since schools were closed.

Resources and information on Covid-19
https://www.childlineindia.org/a/covid19

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https://www.childlineindia.org/a/fundraiser_campaign/168477