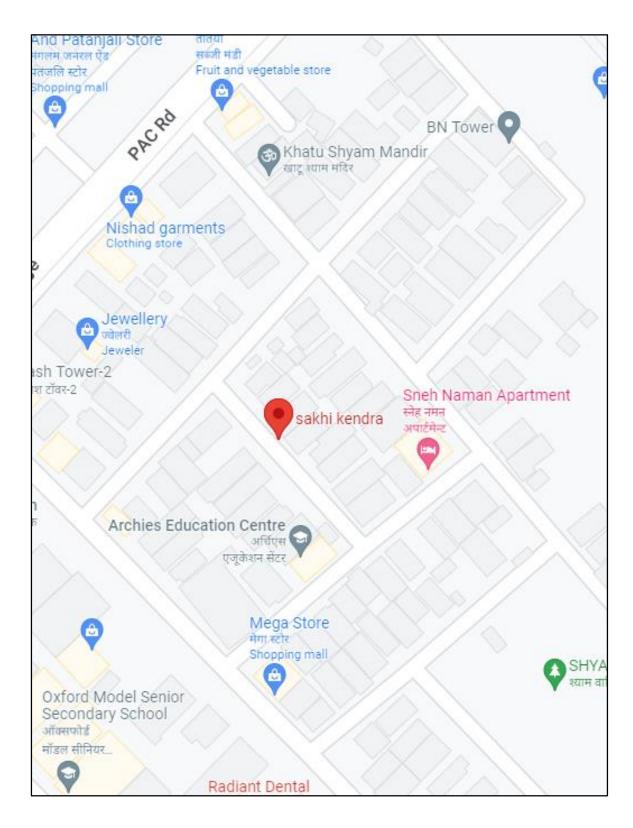


WAY TO SAKHI KENDRA





"SAKHI KENDRA" SUPPORTING PEOPLE DURING THE PANDEMIC

In the year 2020, COVID-19 swept over the entire world as the biggest pandemic of the century. COVID-19 characterised by its rapid transmission and potential to infect others. Countries around the world imposed unprecedented restrictions to isolate its population in their homes and from others through "quarantine" and "social distancing" and implemented social isolation upending countless people's lives. The fact that COVID -19 became a global and unpredictable phenomenon, increased feelings of uncertainty among people around the world making the outbreak more stressful.

The economic and social disruption caused by pandemic is devastating. Many people were and continue to be at risk of falling into extreme poverty and loss of livelihoods. Informal economy workers are particularly vulnerable because majority lack social protection and access to quality health care and have lost access to assets. Without the means to an income during earn lockdowns, many were unable to feed themselves and families. The poor suffered inexplicable financial, physical and mental loss.

Numerous organizations and donors supported those who were in need generously. Sakhi Kendra put together an effective team which extended help to people who were living in the

villages, especially migrant labourers who had fled the cities as COVID-19 restrictions were imposed. Food, medicine, milk for children, sanitary napkins for



women and girls, soap, oil etc. were provided to the families. The leaders and women's rights advocates of Sakhi Kendra conscientiously and diligently helped many people during these tough times.

It was hard for Sakhi Kendra to leave un-noticed many local leaders in the villages and settlements who were themselves in the verge of running out of essential supplies.

Their families did not have access to food, milk, oil, sanitary napkins etc. The organization and its centres with the support of Christian Aid (UK) provided two months ration of rice, oil, sugar, soap, sanitary napkins etc. Around 250 families of women leaders benefited from this support.

Statistics show that during the lockdown there was an increase in violence; sexual, physical and mental perpetuated on women and girls by their own male family members. The police were unable to take prompt action on such instances or listen to the pleas of women and children who experienced violence during this period, as they were engaged in law-and-order situations in the country due to the pandemic. Sahki

Kendra took upon themselves to help survivors of violence through their emergency helpline services and counsellors of Sakhi Kendra provided the much-needed support and attention to the survivors of violence. The centre also succeeded bringing on board many psychologists who provided online counselling sessions to those who needed it.

What Sakhi Kendra saw during COVID-19 was the increase in cases of violence against women. Previously the



organization would handle 100 to 150 cases of violence every month. During the pandemic it increased to 300 to 350 complaints per month. The team of Sakhi Kendra handled these cases with effectively and provided all assistance and emotional support to the survivors.

The second wave of COVID-19 was particularly devastating. Many frontline workers and volunteers were getting infected themselves. Many people were hoarding medicines and oxygen cylinders as hospital refused to take in patients as there are no beds were available.

As funds began to dry up, Sakhi Kendra used its contingency fund and was extended financial assistance help by friends and

generous donors like Miss Anupama who donated ₹50,000 and are you from Lucknow who wanted to remain anonymous donated ₹30,000. These funds were used to create an online network in Kanpur district. Many organizations individual volunteers became involved in running the online network effectively. Christian Aid (UK) extended the muchneeded support to the people by providing oximeters, machines, and PPE kits which were absolute necessities during the second wave.

Sakhi Kendra extended financial support to the disadvantaged people by transferring ₹2000, 5000, 10,000, and 15,000 into the bank accounts of 542 people. Providing financial support was not very easy as many who were

in need of help did not have bank accounts or their accounts were suspended as they were not in operation for a long time. Many were unable to access their accounts as the banks had merged and the bank officials did not resolve or attend to their queries. Even the centre experienced obstacles in opening bank accounts as people needed to submit the KYC details which was a necessity.

Sakhi Kendra worked relentlessly within aim to bring about positive change in society. It worked hard to bring in an online app called "Sakhi Kendra support network". Two leaders of the centre collected and collated data and verified it thus prioritizing the absolute necessities that people needed most like food, medicine oxygen

cylinders, counselling, access to doctors, government offices etc. The idea behind creating such an app and platform was to engage with people and be able to provide assistance and help in one space. Users had to upload their requirements and the app would be able to assist the user in availing the specific requirement. The app connected the person who sought help, the person who provided the help and the volunteers.

"Sakhi Kendra support network app" was launched in July 2021 and by March 2022 in a short span of 8 months more than 45,000 people not only downloaded the app but also used the platform to access help by posting their problems and sharing the report of the work accomplished.

Sakhi Kendra lost its accomplished leader and Executive Board Member, renowned psychologist Dr. Saroj Rathore ji to the second wave. The organizations loss has motivated the team to move ahead with dedication and determination towards extending all possible help and assistance to those who need it at difficult times and situations.



DIDI - A Documentary Based on the Women who live for others

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L vkElpiKTeA&t=3s



Didi, is a documentary dedicated to the team of sakhi kendra and their work during the past 40 years. This films throws a light on the challenges and achievements during the work and journey of the women activists.

Quiet Pandemonium

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a pfGK1MvrzY



Quiet Pandemonium is the first part of a documentary series called 'The Analysis', the series of these short documentaries explore the conditions of marginalized women in India during and post Covid 19.

Sakhi Kendra's Work During COVID

19 Pendamic The Guardian

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6 T0_gwDFCM8



Sakhi Kendra's Work During COVID

19 Pandemic Covered by The British

Podcast

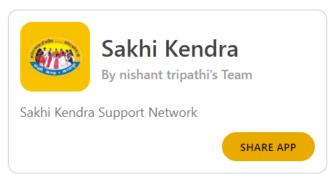
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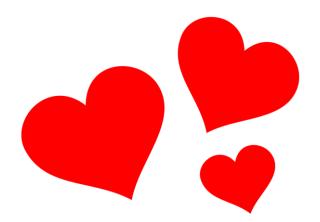


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-Account Name-Sakhi Kendra

-Account Number-17450100004701

-IFSC Code-UCBA0001745

