**Food distribution at the time of COVID 19 pandemic –**

Covid 19 pandemic has caused havoc in the entire world and India is no exception to it. India being a developing country had peculiar problems. People who live just on the poverty line and below poverty line are the ones worst hit in the country. Their lives and livelihood got devastated due to this pandemic. The plight of stranded migrant workers was very miserable. There were many poor who were starving on the road side. Dhanishta has then taken up the activity of distribution of food (Morning idlis and lunch packets) to poor on the roadside on a daily basis along with providing one bottle of fresh drinking mineral water.

As the days progressed, the Government has opened temporary COVID shelters for the homeless poor. The authorities have directed Dhanishta not to distribute on the roadside as it was becoming difficult to organise the poor and observe social distancing and have advised to serve the poor in the shelters.

Dhanishta then with the cooperation of food supplier Touch Stone Foundation, an unit of Hare Krishna Movement, started providing lunch and dinner to the stranded migrants and homeless poor at the Government shelters from 15th April 2020.

Appreciating the food that was being served, Government which initially assigned 4 shelters, has slowly increased the shelters upto 13. Dhanishta has served free food i.e. lunch and dinner for a period of 51 days covering the entire period of lockdown and few weeks post lockdown. In the entire Covid lockdown and post lockdown period, Dhanishta Foundation has served more than 30,000 meals.

List of shelters where food was served to the poor are as under:

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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Shelter Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Swami vikananda</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>Arilova</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>pydhitalli</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>MaharaniPET</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Red cross</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>youth training</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Madava swami Kalyana mandapam</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>Maridimamba</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Buchirajupalem</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>Bc welfare</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Bupeshnagar</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>Tribal welfare</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>vemana mandir</td>
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</table>
Dhanishta Foundation has served lunch and dinner at this centre from 15th April to 10th June.

During the Lock down and post lock down period shelter has accommodated upto 140 people.

Total number of meals served at this shelter is 7430.

Food served at every shelter has been prepared in very hygienic conditions, with Robos, without human intervention.

Total amount spent for food distribution at this shelter is Rs. 351,067
Dhanishta Foundation has served lunch and dinner at this centre from 15th April to 21st May.

During the Lock down and post lock down period shelter has accommodated upto 60 people per day.

Total number of meals served at this shelter is 3750.

Every shelter was well manned and guarded by AP Police. They have not only guarded the premises but all also served the people with love and care.

Total amount spent for food distribution at this shelter is Rs. 177,187
SYNALA PYDITALLI KALYANA MANDAPAM—SHELTER

- Dhanishta Foudation has served lunch and dinner at this centre from 15th April to 21st May.
- During the Lock down and post lock down period shelter has accommodated upto 60 persons per day.
- Total number of meals served at this shelter is 3620.
- Total amount spent for food distribution at this shelter is Rs. 171,045.

BHUPESHNAGAR—SHELTER

- Dhanishta Foudation has served lunch and dinner at this centre from 15th April to 21st May.
- During the Lock down and post lock down period shelter has accommodated upto 36 persons per day.
- Total number of meals served at this shelter is 2646.
- Total amount spent for food distribution at this shelter is Rs. 125023/-
Dhanishta Foudation has served lunch and dinner at this centre from 15th April to 10th June.

During the Lock down and post lock down period shelter has accommodated upto 60 persons per day.

Total number of meals served at this shelter is 2600.

In all shelters without exception social distancing was followed.

Total amount spent for food distribution at this shelter is Rs. 122,850
Dhanishta Foundation has served lunch and dinner at this centre from 15th April to 10th June.

During the Lock down and post lock down period shelter has accommodated upto 35 persons per day.

Total number of meals served at this shelter is 2370.

Every shelter was had good water and washroom facilities.

Total amount spent for food distribution at this shelter is Rs. 111,982/-
Dhanishta Foundation has served lunch and dinner at this centre from 15th April to 10th June.

During the Lock down and post lock down period shelter has accommodated up to 26 persons per day.

Total number of meals served at this shelter is.

Every shelter was had good water and washroom facilities.

Total amount spent for food distribution at this shelter is Rs. 109,147/-
Dhanishta Foudation has served lunch and dinner at this centre from 15th April to 10th June.

During the Lock down and post lock down period shelter has accommodated upto 55 persons per day.

Total number of meals served at this shelter is 2370.

Every shelter was had good water and washroom facilities.

Total amount spent for food distribution at this shelter is Rs. 140,332/-. 
Dhanishta Foundation has served lunch and dinner at this centre from 15th April to 10th June.

During the Lock down and post lock down period shelter has accommodated upto 26 persons per day.

Total number of meals served at this shelter is 1924.

Every shelter was had good water and washroom facilities.

Total amount spent for food distribution at this shelter is Rs. 90,909/
OTHER 4 SHELTERS

- Dhanishta Foudation has served lunch and dinner at this centre from 18th May to 21st May.
- During the Lock down and post lock down period shelter has accommodated upto 30-40 persons per day.
- Total number of meals served at this shelter is 910.

Total amount spent for food distribution at this shelter is Rs. 42,997/-
OTHER ACTIVITIES

- During the early periods of Lockdown, Dhanishta Foundation has served breakfast, lunch and fresh drinking water to the poor and needy on the roadside.
- During the period of Lock Down and post lock down Dhanishta has offered its support to a School that’s run on charitable basis for mentally challenged children. The support was offered by way of payment of salaries and honorariums to its teachers.
- COVID-19 pandemic has posted many challenges to a developing country like India. Though the medical facilities are very advanced in India, but such facilities are limited. To organise and setup Quarantine centres, COVID care centres and COVID Hospitals, was an herculean task. That apart, all the medical staff, police and cleaning workers were to be provided with necessary safety kits on a daily basis to keep themselves healthy while working for the safety and well being of public at large. There are very many Government run institutions which remained closed during the lockdown period but their monetary commitments were to be honoured.
- To meet this challenge and Government needed huge funds and therefore Honourable Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Singh Modi has given a call to the Nation, to contribute to a fund specially setup for this purpose, called, PM Cares Fund. He appealed to the large hearted people to contribute to the said fund so that the country could effectively resist the blow of the pandemic.
- The fund will be used for combating, and containment and relief efforts against the coronavirus outbreak and similar pandemic like situations in the future.
- PM Cares Fund is Prime Ministers Citizens Assistance and Relief in Emergency Situation Fund
- Dhanishta Foundation has thought fit to contribute to the fund: PM Cares Fund a sum of Rs. 5,50,000/-.
- PM Care Fund would be mainly used for purchase of medical equipment such as ventilators, to support migrant workers and to support development of COVID 19 Vaccine.
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- Dhanishta Foundation has served lunch and dinner at 13 Centres during the period of lock down and post lockdown.
- Dhanishta has served 30530 meals to the poor, needy and stranded migrant workers.
- Dhanishta has spent an amount of Rs. 14,42,543 toward the food distribution activity.
- Without the cooperation of Persons who have offered to be part of this activity without whom this noble work could not be executed are Sri P Sandeep, Sri D Bharath & Sri C M Ravi Prasad.
- Dhanishta Foundation expresses its gratitude to all those kind hearts that generously donated to the cause.
- Dhanishta Foundation pays its respects and salutations to Master K Parvathi Kumar and Mother Krishna Kumar and submits the service to thy lotus feet.

In service we rejoice