

# Winning the COVID-19 battle in the Rural India

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(Director - GeBBS Foundation)



Covid-19 instances are decreasing across India, but not as quickly in rural India as in urban India. A study stated that there are 52% covid deaths and 53% of new cases that have been reported in May 2021. It also says that the rural districts require 76% more doctors and 35% more lab technologies. It is important for us to pitch in along with the government bodies & extend as much help as possible.

I know that the basic health services in rural India are a worrying disruption. And now with the spread of COVID-19, the situation has become worse. So, along with the vaccination drives and RTCP testing, it is also important to share the best practices on COVID-19. Keeping this in mind, our volunteers continuously share the best practices such as:

- ◆ **Wear a mask both in indoor public places and outdoor places.**
- ◆ **Stay 6 feet away from others.**
- ◆ **Avoid crowds and poorly ventilated places.**
- ◆ **Wash your hands often with soap at least for 20 seconds.**
- ◆ **Clean high-touch surfaces daily and disinfect them.**
- ◆ **Monitor your health daily. Watch out for COVID-19 symptoms and visit your healthcare centers.**

Our GeBBS Foundation volunteers are continuously serving people in the rural areas of Aurangabad and Jalna. I thank all of them and the doctors and nurses who are helping people to fight this virus. Our mobile van with our doctors, nurses, and volunteers visit different villages and conduct vaccination drives and RTCP tests for all people in the rural areas of Aurangabad and Jalna. Together they understand the needs and problems and help people cope with situations related to the COVID-19 crisis.

In this way our volunteers and partners are working tirelessly to help tackle the pandemic and support the

most vulnerable communities. We are committed to continuing our fight against COVID-19, by continuing with our programmes running through various camps.

We will be dealing with the ripple effects of Covid-19 for years to come. But I believe as an individual together we need to not only safeguard the quality of life and wellbeing of ourselves, our loved ones but also the people in rural India. So, I urge you all to volunteer and help people in these difficult times. End of the day all we can do is help each other stay positive.



## Importance and benefits of COVID-19 vaccination

The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted almost every corner of life, causing global economies to stall, changing the way we work and interact with our loved ones, and stretching healthcare systems to the limit. Governments around the world have been forced to implement harsh restrictions on human activity to curb the spread of the virus.

Wearing masks and social distancing help reduce exposure to the virus or spreading it to others, but these measures are not enough. Vaccines will work with your immune system so it will be ready to fight the virus if you are exposed. Hence it is crucial for every citizen to take part in the vaccination drive organized by their local government bodies and other bodies offering the vaccine officially. COVID-19 vaccines are effective in reducing the probability of contracting COVID-19. There are various benefits of COVID-19 vaccination.



Vaccination provides some protection against the risks of being infected



Full vaccination gives back the cherished freedom of stepping outside, but obviously with mask and maintaining social distancing



Vaccination is a long-term health protection



Vaccination protects from severe illness

After a year of uncertainty, the vaccine has arrived, and it has clear benefits that should make everyone strongly considered getting the shot. By choosing to be vaccinated, you can protect not only yourself and your family but your community as well. But always remember that vaccines do not decrease the need for safety measures to help beat the COVID-19 pandemic. Even after inoculation, you should:



Practice good personal hygiene, including frequent handwashing



Wear a face mask in public



Practice social distancing



Avoid prolonged contact with crowds, indoors or out

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## Sanjivani Vaccination Mission

Vaccines offer the best exit strategy from the pandemic. Despite the availability of the COVID-19 vaccines, people in rural areas are unable to avail them. One because they lack the knowledge about the importance of the vaccine and secondly due to the lack of vaccinations available in the rural areas. The access to vaccination centers significantly gets disrupted in the weaker section who are digitally illiterate, have less or no access to technology, or lack smartphones and due to the local health care centers being located miles away. Free vaccination is the need for the hour.

Keeping all these above situations in mind, our GeBBS volunteers have taken up the initiative to provide healthcare support through the vaccination and RTCPR testing drives. These drives are organized in different villages of both Aurangabad and Jalna. Our mobile van 'Clinic on Wheels' visits different villages to conduct vaccinations and RTCPR tests. Our recent drive took place in villages like Golatgaon, Ladsawngi, and Warud Kazi.

In this way, our GeBBS volunteers along with the doctors from the Hedgewar hospital are playing a vital role to cover the poor people and get them vaccinated. Access to vaccination is a priority, hence volunteers of GeBBS Foundation will continue to deliver vaccines to remote areas and ensure that people in Aurangabad and Jalna are safe and vaccinated.



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## Together as One



~ **Dr. Jyotsana Namdeo Gawai**  
Community Health Officer

“ Currently corona is spreading like a wildfire both in the rural and the urban areas. However urban areas can take protection, but rural areas need special attention. So, to help the people in the rural areas it is important to give vaccines to the rural people.

Currently, there are a lot of community clinics around different villages, and we use our local health departments to get people vaccinated. Men and women above the age of 18 get free vaccines in these clinics. I and my team actively participate in different covid vaccination camps. We have not only vaccinated people but also spread awareness about the coronavirus. I am grateful to GeBBS Foundation for helping me and my team to reach out to more people in their mobile van. The volunteers at GeBBS Foundation are always active and ready to extend their helping hand to the people in the rural areas to fight this fatal disease.

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~ **Dr. Dipali K Kale**  
Community Health Officer

“ Report states that the maximum number of corona cases are there in the rural areas. COVID-19 is moving efficiently in rural areas. The virus penetrates rural areas because of the weak healthcare system. Due to lesser or no access to diagnostic facilities and poor healthcare infrastructure the people in the rural areas are unable to fight the disease.

Hence to help people, me and my team visit different villages of Aurangabad and Jalna and participate in vaccination drives. I am grateful to GeBBS Foundation for organizing COVID-19 camps for people in rural areas. Now with the help of the GeBBS Foundation team, we visit different villages and conduct vaccination drives and do RTPCR testing for villagers. I feel great to see that GeBBS Foundation is taking such a great initiative.

Thank you, GeBBS Foundation, for always being in the forefront of battling against COVID-19.”

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## Fact Sheet



**14**

COVID-19 check-up camps were organized in Aurangabad district.



**2110**

Villagers attended the covid check-up camps.



**614**

Villagers did their RTPCR test done.



**98**

Doctors, nurses and volunteers participated in the covid camps



**14**

Villages were covered.

The above activities are ongoing projects through which our volunteers and partners are continuously helping people in the rural areas, fight the COVID-19 crisis.

A special thanks to our partners - Mahatma Gandhi Mission (MGM) Hospital, Hedgewar Hospital and communities, Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University, Aurangabad.