

Dear friends,

Very delighted to meet you through this message! Since our November 2020 update, much water has flowed under the bridge, with regard to the Covid-19 spread in India. You might have read and heard that after having battled rather successfully in containing the virus spread during the first phase, the country is now struggling to cope up with the second phase of the spread.

During the first phase of the spread in our State of Tamil Nadu, the daily number of infections raised to a figure of 7000 a day in October 2020 started to come down gradually and reached a level of 500 infections a day in December 2020 with the number of deaths coming down from around 100 to single digits, much to the delight of everyone. It was expected that things would improve further and life would be normal again. But this joy did not last long! After a lull of nearly two months, from March 2021 onwards the number of daily cases started to go upwards again.

As of today, 25th April 2021, Tamil Nadu has got more than 15000 new daily infections with 100 people having died just today. In the whole country nearly 0.35 million new cases have been reported today with the number of deaths touching 2600. The State of Maharastra remains as the worst-affected followed by Delhi, Chattisgarh, Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka and Gujarat. In many States, the hospitals are overflowing and the patients could not be accommodated. The new dimension to the Covid struggle is the shortage of oxygen supply prevailing in many States, chiefly in Maharastra and Delhi, with sizeable number of deaths having been reported for want of oxygen supply. With the priority being to save the lives of people, the vaccination drive has been hindered with only 10% of the population having been vaccinated till date.

Due to the unprecedented spread, many States have announced Lock down though with some basic relaxations. From today our State too has announced a full lock down, which is likely to cause hardship to people.

Naturally, owing to these unexpected developments the education of children has taken a backseat as the Schools which were slowly opening have been asked to close again. With one full year already affected, except for those who can handle online classes, the upcoming academic year does not seem to start with much assurance, especially for the Primary School students.

Coming to our School and Ashram community no one has been directly infected so far but in the surroundings the prevalence of the virus has been reported. The Home Classes handled by the Tim School teachers have been temporarily suspended, adhering to the Pandemic control norms of the Government. However, the non-teaching Staff continue their services at the School.

Thanks to the grant received from BGCT, U.K. and donations received from the German family, all the teachers and other staff are being paid their monthly salaries regularly. You might know that for many of the families this salary is the major income, out of which they could lead a decent life. They join with me in sending their love, prayers, gratitude and best wishes to each and every one of you! Thank you, loved ones!

Inungur,
25.04.2021.

A.SENTHILKUMAR.