



## Arthanomics 2020's Collaboration with Indus Action



### Summary:

From the 24th of April, 2020, to the 31st of May, 2020, **over the course of five weeks**, a total of **44 volunteers** from the team of Arthanomics collaborated with **Indus Action**, a policy implementation organization, to assist them in their **COVID-19 Rapid Relief Programme** during the lockdown. A volunteer based project, the Rapid Relief Programme aimed at bridging the information gap between the welfare schemes announced by the Government in the wake of the virus outbreak, and the underprivileged families across India who are to benefit from them. Essentially serving as **the missing link between law and action**, Indus Action made it their mission to contact disadvantaged families and try to ensure their well being in this unforeseen and indefinite lockdown, in terms of their **health, food needs and social security situation**. Our volunteers reached out to inform households of the existing initiatives and schemes, and ensured that they receive aid and benefits, thus providing **end-to-end service to these vulnerable communities**.

### The Arthanomics Vision:

As a fest organised and executed by the **Economics Department of Jai Hind College**, the team of Arthanomics felt strongly about the severe and devastating impact of the coronavirus pandemic and the ensuing lockdown on the socioeconomic security of so many Indians. The theme for Arthanomics 2020 is **“Creation in Chaos”**, which we interpret as - the human instinct to survive and our ability to innovate is what keeps us going in the face of complete chaos, anarchy, and destruction. As the growing intensity of the global health crisis and its impact on basics like food security and economic stability had left us feeling helpless, we decided that **as a youth-driven organisation, we should be at the forefront of immediate action**. Our organising committee quickly came forward upon hearing Indus Action's inspiring cause, and we adopted their mission to secure policy effectiveness as our own agenda for this lockdown.



## **Programme Details:**

**Process:** The COVID-19 Rapid Relief Programme required volunteers to make calls to vulnerable families from a national database of contact details. Each volunteer was assigned a certain number of calls everyday (by our Points of Contact), and using an online portal, volunteers had to record the responses of each family that they had contacted. Upon getting in touch with a particular household, volunteers then asked a few questions to ascertain if they needed assistance along **three fundamental parameters - food, health, and public utilities**. If the household stated that they did require relief, supplies, aid, or even just assistance in reaching out to the appropriate authorities, the volunteers would then provide adequate information and contact details to them, and then schedule follow-up calls to **ensure that the necessary aid actually reached the beneficiaries**.

**Research Team:** From our side, a few volunteers also decided to extend additional help in the form of **conducting research on the most severely affected hotspots**, so that effective policy decisions may be taken. From identifying individuals, state bodies, and NGOs who could provide immediate assistance to the families and areas who were in dire need, to even submitting **policy proposals to the state government of Madhya Pradesh** - our research team went above and beyond to help those in need, and gave a substantial purpose to our cause.

**Successes:** Seeing the pitiful conditions that plagued so many of our fellow Indians, our volunteers were moved to the extent of wanting to go the extra mile for every family that they contacted. From major breakthroughs like the team **securing 650 kgs of ration supplies for an NGO located in a hotspot**, to the small acts of kindness like an individual volunteer using Swiggy to supply the day's rations to a family in dire need, to even daily attempts from each and every volunteer to try to make every call count - our team embraced this opportunity and responsibility with great diligence, and did their absolute best to make sure that the **contribution of Jai Hind college students was noticed and appreciated** by all the stakeholders.



## Outcome and Experience:

Over the course of our collaboration with Indus Action, the Arthanomics volunteers **reached out to over 3400 families**, and provided **rapid assistance to 1632 households**. The information, insights, and data that we collected through our interaction with different families and through independent research, helped Indus Action refine its process, and brought it one step closer to achieving its mission, which is broad-based policy change and action. With every call, we were able to make the policy machinery of India just a little bit more effective.

Through this entire process, our volunteers acquired the **invaluable skills of empathy, responsibility, and unconditional hard work**. By dealing with the disappointment and helplessness of seeing how devastating the conditions of some households were, each volunteer learnt how to channel their frustration into something positive. Seeing strangers appreciate your help and support, and being at the receiving end of that kind of gratitude, was an eye-opening and enriching experience for each and every one of us. The biggest take away of all was perhaps the realisation that **no good deed and small act of social service is too small**, as each one of them has a far-reaching impact.

This experience made us realise what the "Zen Factor" actually is. It's the smallest achievements which bring happiness to someone's life and we could understand this not only because people were receiving help, but also because our volunteers felt a sense of satisfaction and contentment.

The entire Arthanomics team has been so proactive and empathetic in understanding the problems of other people, and trying their very best to provide them with their basic and dire necessities. We're so proud of all the efforts put in, and of the fact that Arthanomics has been able to make its own contribution to the world in these uncertain and difficult times.

- Anushka Vora and Samridhi Kumar  
*(Points of contact for all Arthanomics  
volunteers working with Indus Action)*



## List of Volunteers

Mohit Dewan (*Chairperson, Arthanomics*)  
Riddhi Samarth (*Chairperson, Arthanomics*)  
Swasti Bharill (*Head, Admin & Outreach*)  
Poorva Badaya (*Head, Admin & Outreach*)  
Lavisha Dasani (*Head, Collaborations & Tech*)  
Srushti Malde (*Head, Collaborations & Tech*)  
Deepika Talwar (*Head, Events*)  
Himani Bakhda (*Head, Events*)  
Anushka Vora (*Head, Marketing Content & Aesthetics*)  
Samridhi Kumar (*Head, Marketing Content & Aesthetics*)  
Yashvi Jain (*Head, Sponsorship & Finance*)  
Namasvi Parikh (*Head, Sponsorship & Finance*)  
Simran Sangal (*Deputy Head*)  
Prajakta Patankar (*Deputy Head*)  
Hriday Mehta (*Deputy Head*)  
Yash Mamtani (*Deputy Head*)  
Surabhi Arora (*Deputy Head*)  
Sanchia Mehra (*Deputy Head*)  
Nandini Gupta (*Deputy Head*)  
Maanavi Sehgal (*Deputy Head*)  
Sameer Verma (*Deputy Head*)  
Vishesh Wadhwa

Sanika Mehta  
Aryan Sanghvi  
Ishaan Santwani  
Mahika Panchmatia  
Ishita Rastogi  
Pankuri Agrawal  
Drishti Amarnani  
Zahraa Sawliwala  
Vaishnavi Nayagam  
Yukta Sajani  
Khushboo Mehta  
Priyanshi Pawar  
Shambhavi Sawant  
Mayank Karamchandani  
Yashvee Sancheti  
Muskaan Bhatia  
Mannat Cheema  
Jyotsna Datta  
Maheema Acchpilia  
Priti Patil  
Vidhi Vyas  
Aneeza Mistry