



DON BOSCO SCHOOL SOCIETY

Sector 42 A, Plot No. 8, Nerul, Navi Mumbai - 400 706

Tel. No. 27712031

COVID -19 - DON BOSCO NERUL REACHING OUT

UPDATE: 20th May 2020

A team from 'Doctors without Borders', The President of the SVP of the Archdiocese, a coordinating professor of TISS who have been networking with several organisations on relief work and Malsons' trust accompanied Don Bosco Nerul team to the "field" to assess the situation and chalk out a further plan of action together, to assist the home bound migrants that were leaving on foot or on trucks around the Kalamboli - Panvel highway and on the road to Kalyan bypass.



There were the usual 'agents - touts' moving on two wheeler bikes soliciting helpless home bound migrants waiting for transport to take them to their home state. It is a pity to see the poor migrants being fleeced of Rs.4,000/- and more, with a promise to reach them to their home villages.

Our chats with many of the drivers these past days, revealed that most of the trucks do not have cross border permits and so drop them off half way. These 'cheated' migrants often walk all the way across states and all the way to their villages.

We asked one truck driver taking 47 home bound migrants, who had worked on a metro project in Kharghar where he was taking them, he said, "*Allahabad*", we asked the leader and other members of the group of 47 where in Allahabad they were going?, "*No, we are going to West Bengal*" we called the two together and asked them to sort it out.....Just to say, most of the poor migrants, have to face a whole lot of hardships on their journey home. The heat, the anxiety of waiting for hours, walking to the pickup points for hours or days, the touts extorting maybe all their money for the transport, villages on the journey closing their taps of water for fear of the virus, even less food, being dropped at the border to carry on a long walk home in the heat...

It is an unprecedented situation of suffering and hardships. One feels helpless and challenged on the extent of advantage some touts can take of these helpless migrants.

Don Bosco Nerul has been daily going to the hot spots, junction points and highways, assisting them with a nutritious food packet and water for the journey. Having a little chat, asking them to pray for us and our donors and blessing them for their onward journey...!

Thank you for your continued Prayers and Support!

Stay safe, stay Blessed!



Rev. Dr. Barnabe Dsouza, sdb
(For Don Bosco Nerul Management)

