



## 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: 16<sup>th</sup> May 2020

We went from Nasik Road to Thane-Belapur Road, Vashi Toll Junction to Panvel. The movement of people leaving for their home states is unimaginable. Most of you would be seeing images on television or on your Whats App videos. We have been experiencing these scenes first hand on these routes that take those walking, traveling by trucks breaking journey till the points the trucks take them to; then walk up till they find another private transport either from Navi Mumbai to Kalyan bypass or Nasik Road, Thane or Ghodbunder road. Their route according to the many truck drivers we spoke to, is from Nashik-Dhule-Jalgaon-Bhusawal-Itarsi to the Maharashtra - Madhya Pradesh. border and then take their deviations to Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand further North or eastwards on to Orissa, West Bengal,.... there seems to be "agents" moving on two wheelers soliciting walking groups of these home bound migrants to come to trucks they have 'arranged", charging them exorbitant amounts depending on the distance to be covered to the main junctions, to the border or their home state.



A 'normal size' truck taking upto 50 persons huddled up, or a 'long open truck' has 70-80 persons. Conditions are tough, they may get water and food at cities and towns on their route, but most villages' enroute have cut off water supply to their common taps or closed the village barring their entry for fear these maybe carrying the virus. With very little food and water available the home bound journey in cramped conditions, the challenges and suffering they are facing is unimaginable. While the "Shramik Special" trains and the State transport buses may have eased the gigantic crowds, as well as the movement of large numbers this past period of the lockdown has dropped the crowds a notch from "gigantic to huge" It is simply the size of the problem that makes it difficult to have just one solution,....Everyone possible to help need to do their bit.

Don Bosco Nerul has been going every evening while distributing a nutrition pack of food for the journey also having a chat with these walking along the highways or waiting at junctions to strike a deal with a truck driver or agent to take them home...!

Please do continue to Pray for these unfortunate Home bound travellers!

Thank You for your Support!

Stay safe, stay Blessed!



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



 **Safe Journey Home**