

The Dispatch



COVID-19 represents an extraordinary time for all of humanity. At the time of writing, it has affected over 3 million people across the world; India has over 31,000 cases.

The simultaneous challenges to our health system and our ability to provide relief services to a population affected by the lockdown have pushed us to the limit.

On the 25th of March, the Azim Premji Foundation and Wipro jointly commenced an effort to support the civil society response and help the health system in responding to the pandemic.

We are four weeks in – our field teams, a country-wide network of partners and university alumni have helped us reach relief to a large part of the country. This has been driven by our deep presence on the ground across 190 districts including 1600 team members, 5,000 govt. school teachers associated with us and thousands of employees of partners.

The challenge has only begun and will play out over the coming months.

The information contained here has been put together over two weeks. Contained in this issue, are names of our partners, an illustrated and inspiring story of Dr. Johnny in Bissamcattack, our foot print across the country and two partner profiles- Jan Sahas in Dewas, MP and Hasiru Dala in Bangalore.

It is equal parts information, reality, stories and anecdotes. It is the story of us in an unprecedented time.

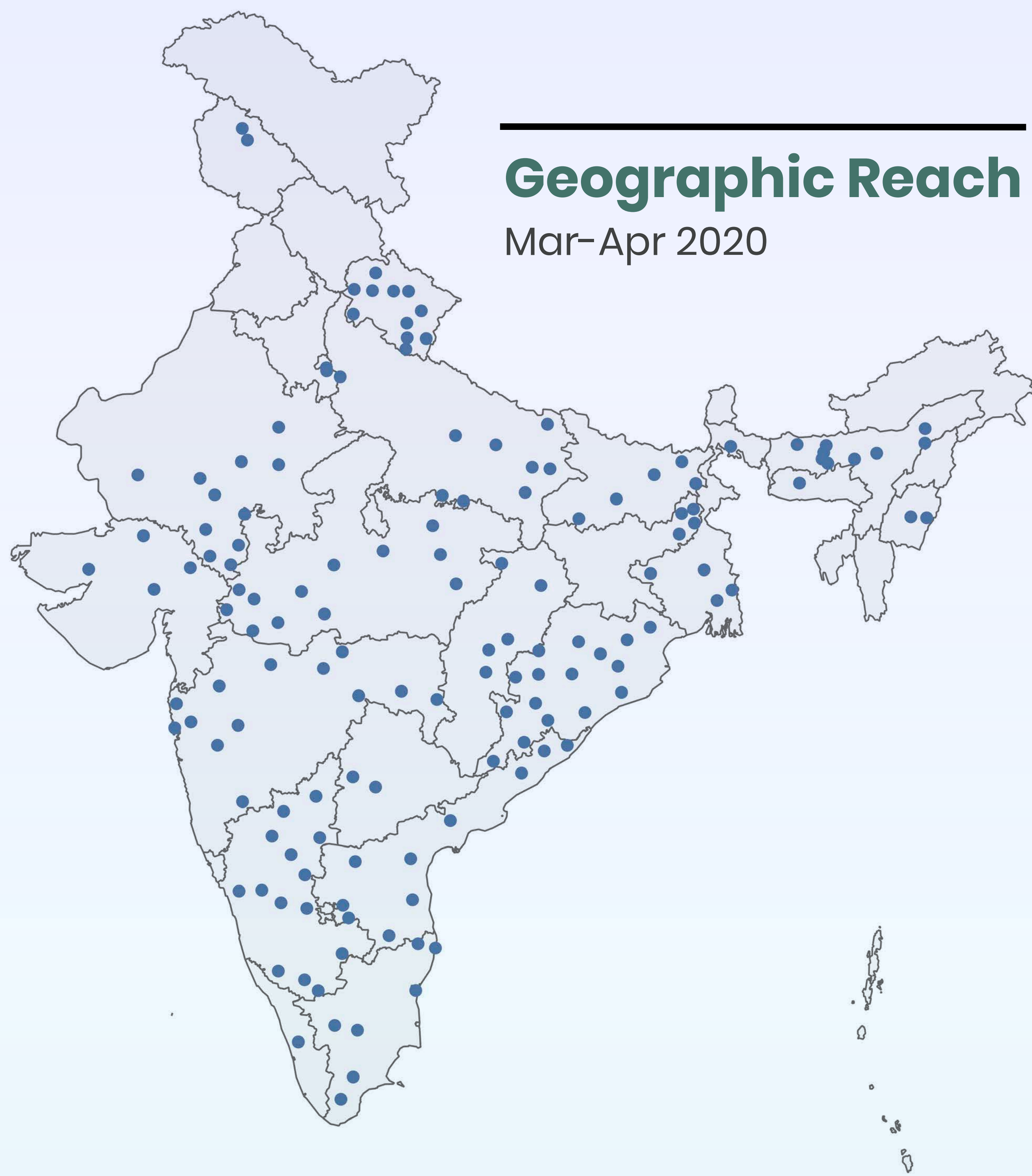
Chronicle what happened in 2020, this is The Dispatch.

3.1 m People directly reached with humanitarian aid
22 States and UTs **300+** Partners
190+ Districts

Cover Image: "Exodus" - recognises the millions of our suffering brethren and pays homage to everyone at the frontlines of this battle.

Geographic Reach

Mar-Apr 2020



Sampark Samaj Sevi Sanstha • Samridhadi Trust • Sanchal Foundation • Sanchaya Nele • Sangama • Sashakt Foundation • Sense International India • Sesta • SETU Abhiyan • Sevabharti • Sevamandir • Shakti Foundation • Shakti Shalini • Shiksha Sandhan • Shradha Rehabilitation Foundation • Shrishti • Simple Education Foundation • Sir Syed Trust • SNEHA • Sochra • Society for Advancement in Tribes, Health, Education and Environment • Society for Informal Education and Development Studies • Society for Promotion of Area Resource Centres • Society for RURAL and Urban Joint Activities • Society for Women's Action and Training Initiative • Society for Women's Awareness and Rural Development • Solidarity Foundation • Soppecom • South India AIDS Action Program • Sparsha Trust • Savitribai Phule Mahila Katma Samaj Mandal • SRD • Sruti • St Xavier's Human Development Research Centre • Sustainable Environment and Ecological Development Society • Swabhimaan • SWACH and KKP Waste Collectors' Collective • Swami Vivekananda Youth Movement • Swasthya Swaraj • Synergy Sansthan • Tagore Society for RURAL Development • Thamate • The ANT • The Association of People with Disability • The Banyan • The Evangelical Fellowship of India • The Foundation for Education and Development • Tiljala Society for Human and Educational Development • Towards Future • Transform Rural India Foundation • Ummeed • Urmi Foundation • Uttan • Vaagdhara • Vanangana • Vanavil • Varadishnu • Varhad • Vasantham • Vidya Mythri • Vidya Sagar • Vigyan Foundation • Vikas Sahyog Kendra • Village Renewal Organisation • Visakha Jilla Nava Nirmana Samithi • Vision India Foundation • Voice of Sarjapur • Voluntary Medicare Society • Vrutti • Watershed Support Services and Activities Network • West Bengal Voluntary Health Association • Yeh Ek Soch • Youngistaan • Youth Council Development Alternatives • Youth for Social Development • Youth for Unity and Voluntary Action • Yugantar • YUVA Urban Initiatives for Mumbai Mobile Crèches • Yuva Vikas

PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

Jan Sahas

Jan Sahas has put all their energies in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic. They are working with migrants and other vulnerable communities in Madhya Pradesh, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Maharashtra. Their forms of support include a free helpline where stranded migrants can reach out for help, distributing ration kits, food packets and ensuring access to entitlements.

Official reports state that about 144 migrants have died while walking back to their villages after the lockdown was announced. Jan Sahas recently spoke to about 3200 migrants over phone. The report based on these conversations titled "Voices of Invisible Citizens" states that 42% of these people did not have rations for the next day, 90% of them did not have a "building or construction work" card and 15% of them did not have a ration card.

A 28-member team takes calls on the helpline number 24x7. They speak to migrants who are worried that they will never see their families again. Many worry that instead of the virus, the hunger will kill them first. They request Paytm / cash transfer / mobile recharge for buying food and reaching out to their families. The operators who take these calls talk to nearby shopkeepers and transfer money directly to their accounts. The number of people calling the helpline with mental health issues has seen a recent spurt.

Till date Jan Sahas has reached 20000 people with ration/food packets. They have spoken to 20000 people through their helpline. They have made cash transfers and mobile recharges to more than 3000 people. They have also managed to collect bank account details of 9000 migrants. Ashif Shaikh, the founder of Jan Sahas, is clear that this strategy will continue for two more months. Post that Jan Sahas will focus on strengthening the govt efforts Ashif feels that it will take more than 2 years for these people to recover from the emotional and economic toll of the lockdown. There are people who called the helpline and said they have no other option but to commit suicide.

A few of them have not been answering their phones after that.



PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

Hasiru Dala

Hasiru Dala was one of the first organisations to act on the day that the lockdown was announced. They started with distributing ration kits that would last families of waste pickers for 15 days. "Credible intelligence from the ground helped us a lot. We knew the community- which families have lactating mothers, who had children, who needed medicines, families who would be hit the hardest", says Nalini, the chief functionary of Hasiru Dala.

They set up a relief operation at St Joseph's college helped by Pricol logistics. They were able to send out 2500 packets of dry ration every day. "We decided to procure from the Agricultural Produce Market Committee for two reasons- better prices and being supportive of local farmers". This is what they did for 21 days- procured, packed and distributed relief.

"Since we were able to make this model work for our community of waste pickers, we were approached by the citizens group in Bangalore and they asked us to lead the combined efforts of several NGOs/forums/individuals in the city."

In 21 days, Hasiru Dala distributed ration kits to 22,000 families. They have spearheaded relief work in the city and have decided to work with the government for strengthening the delivery of essential services to the vulnerable.

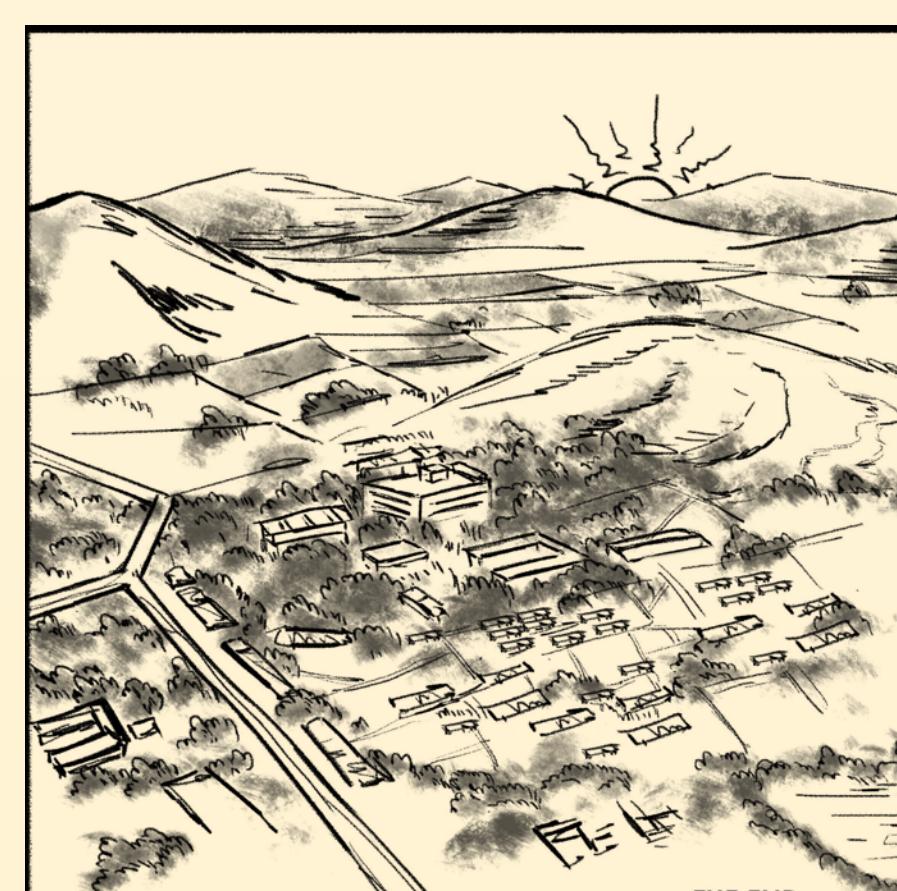
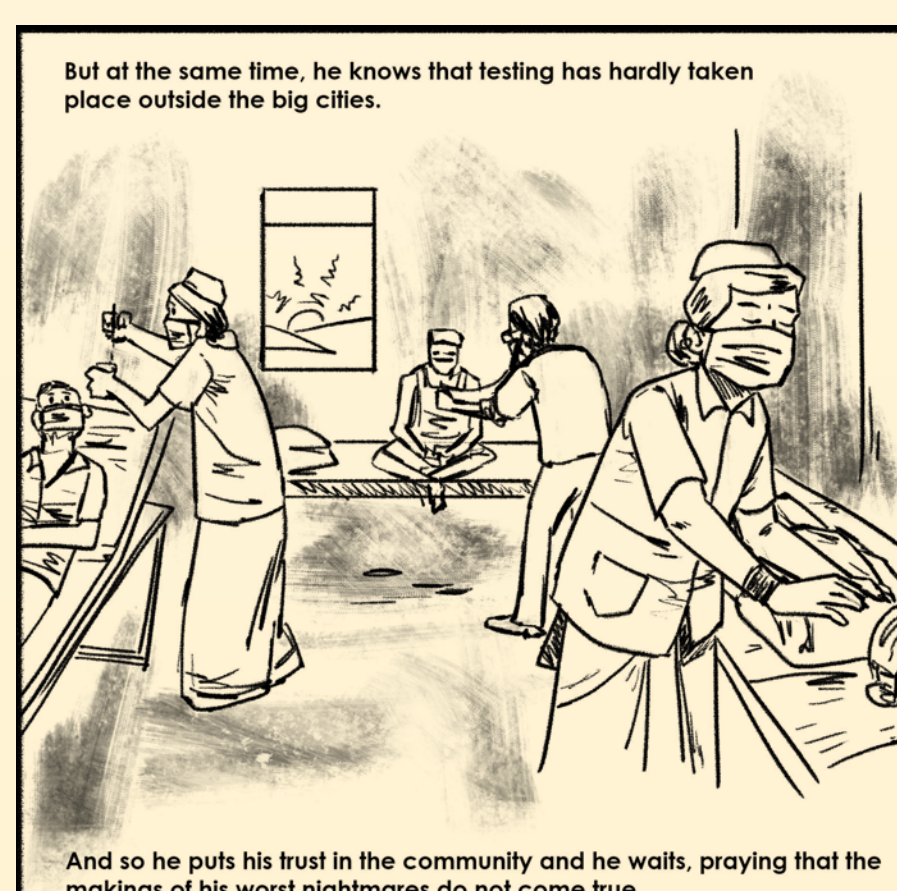
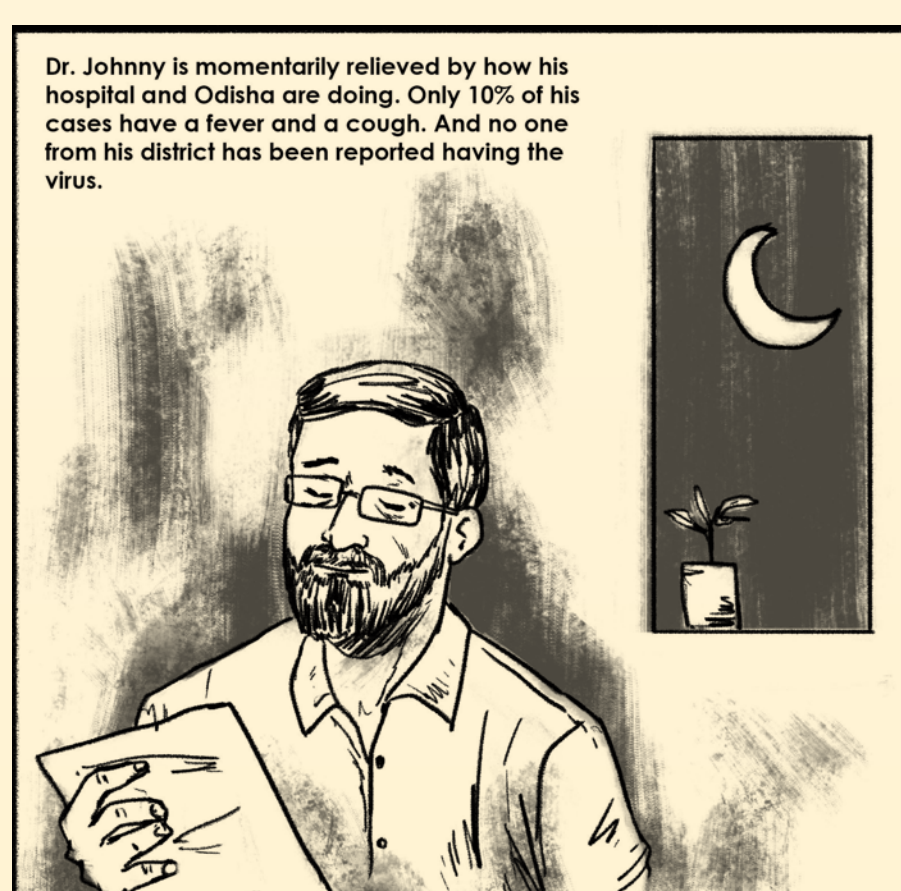
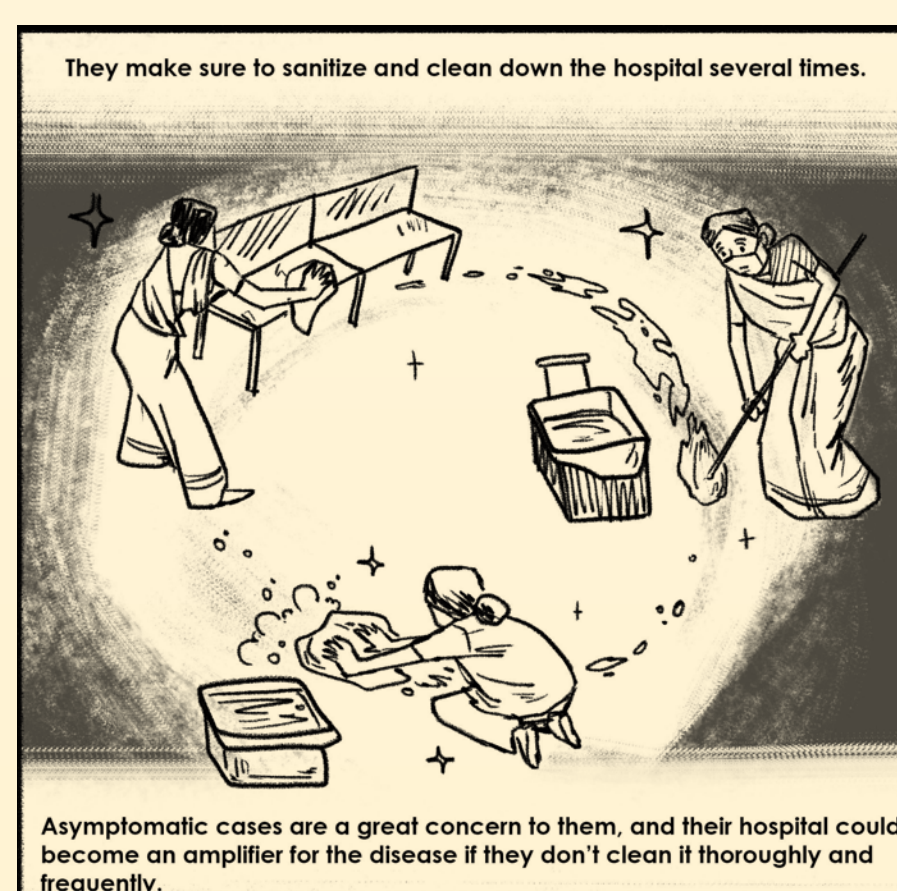
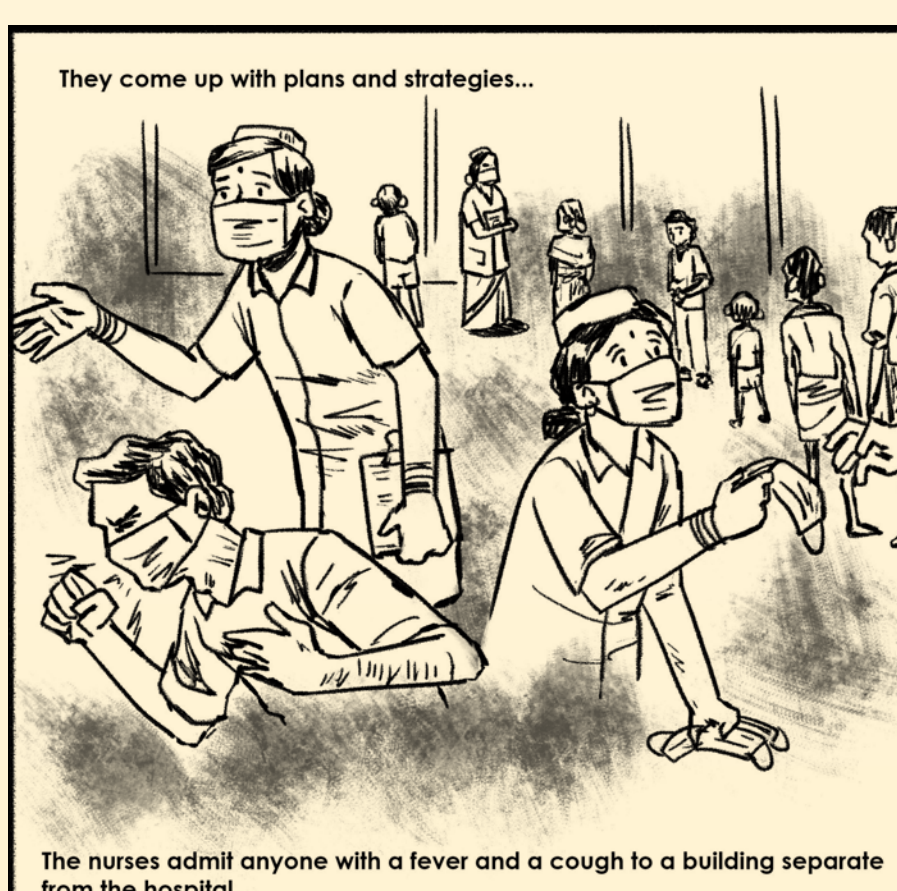
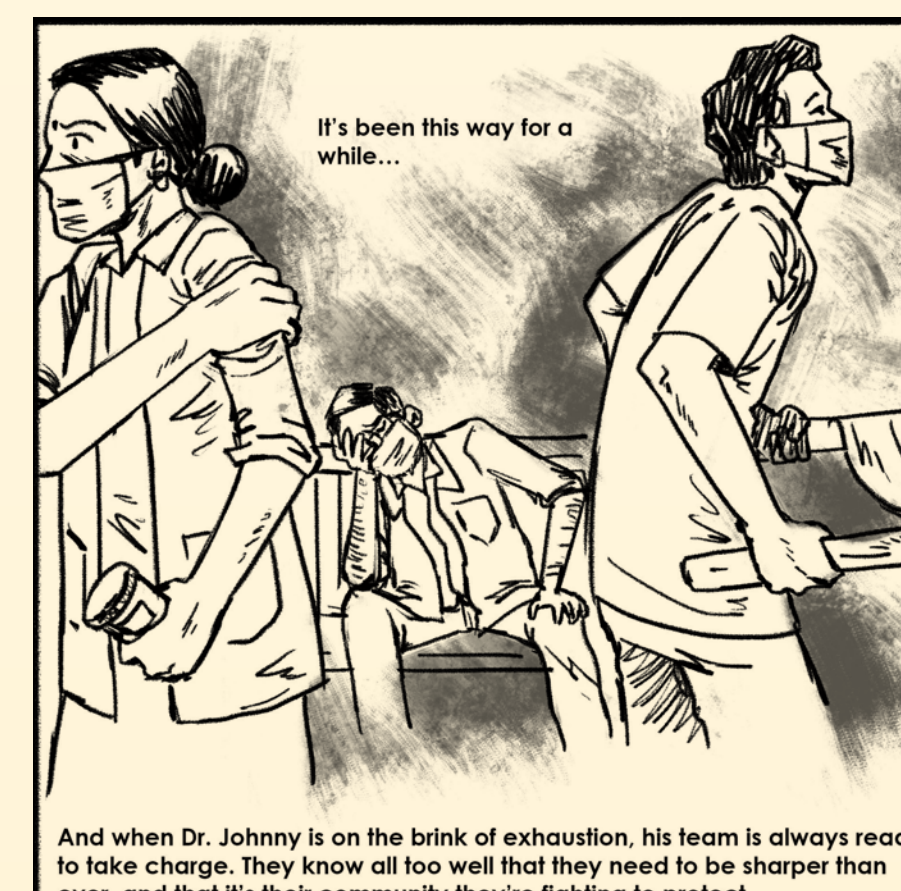
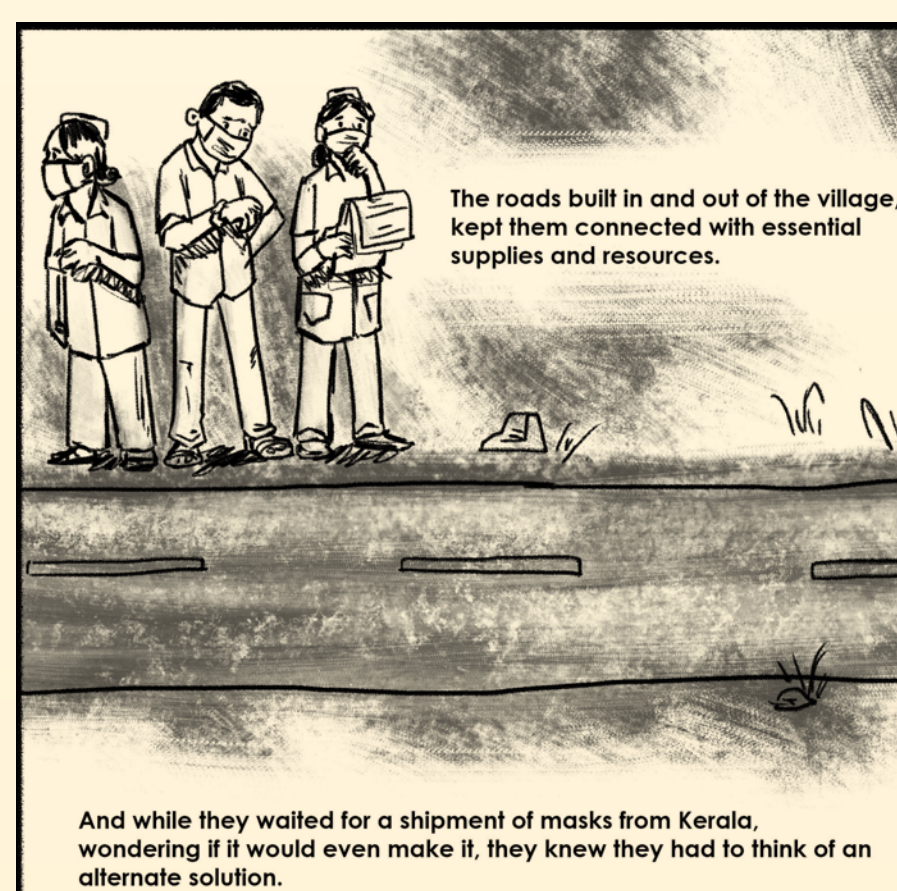
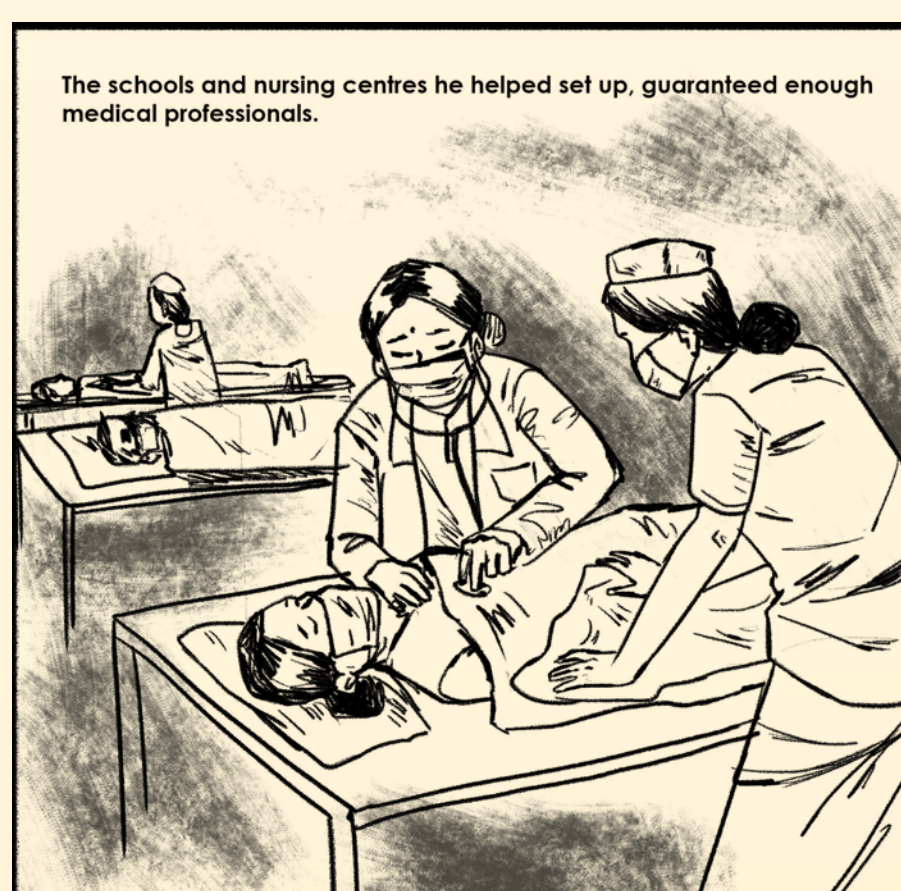
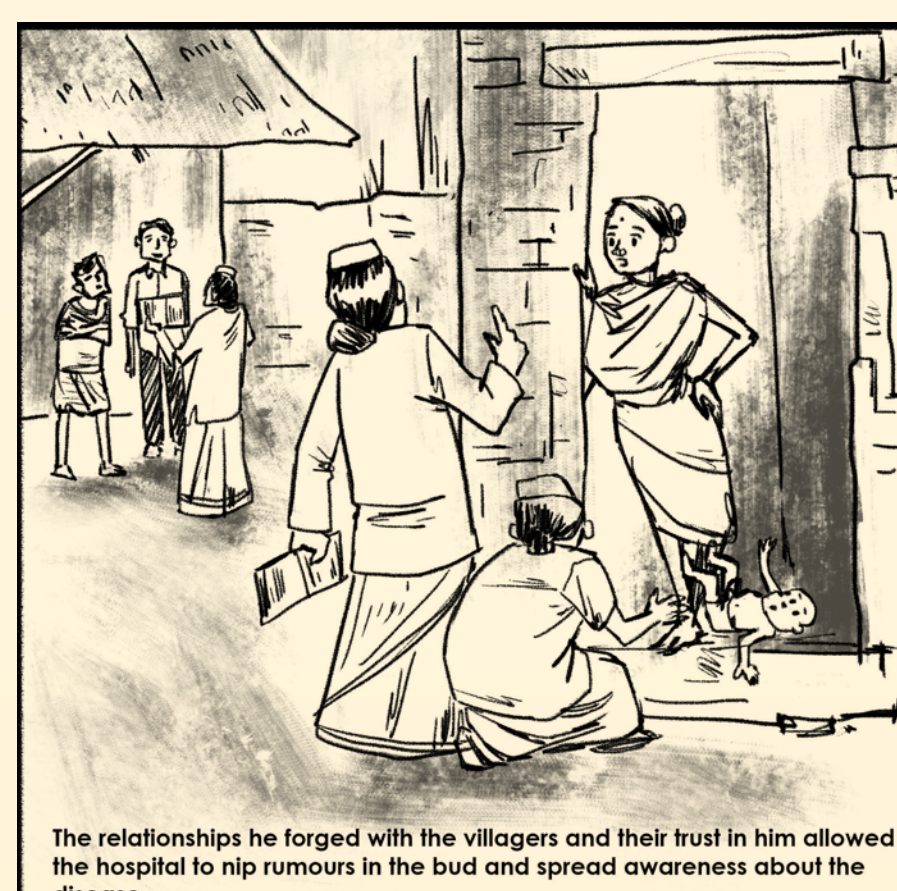
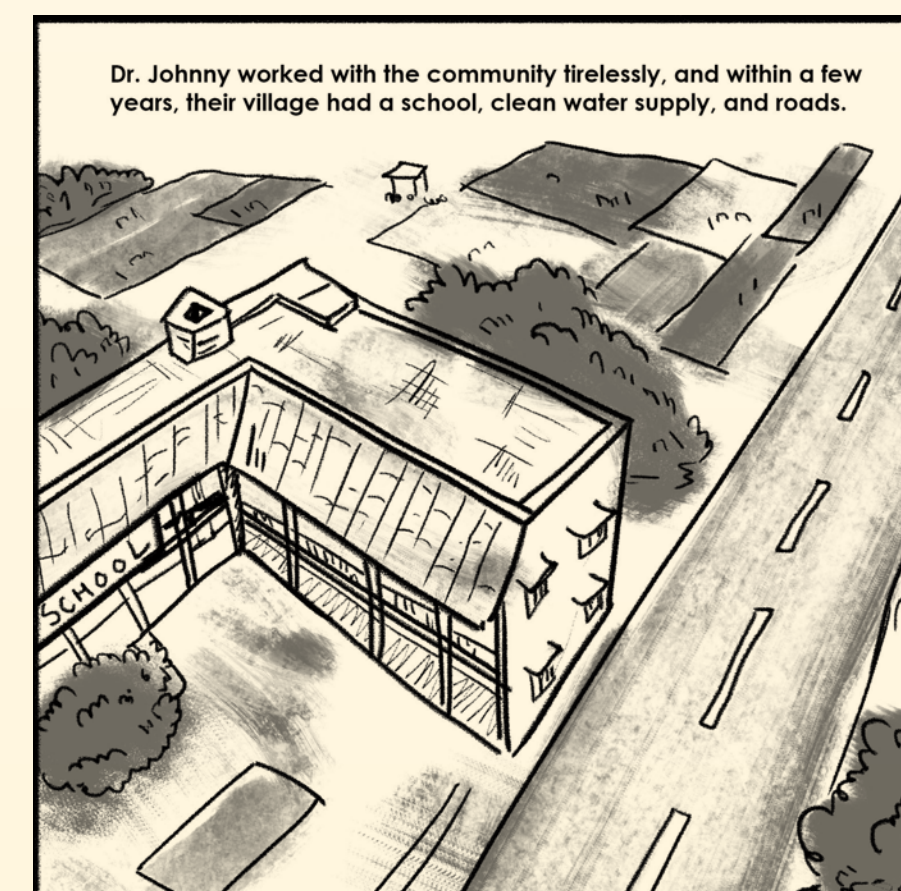
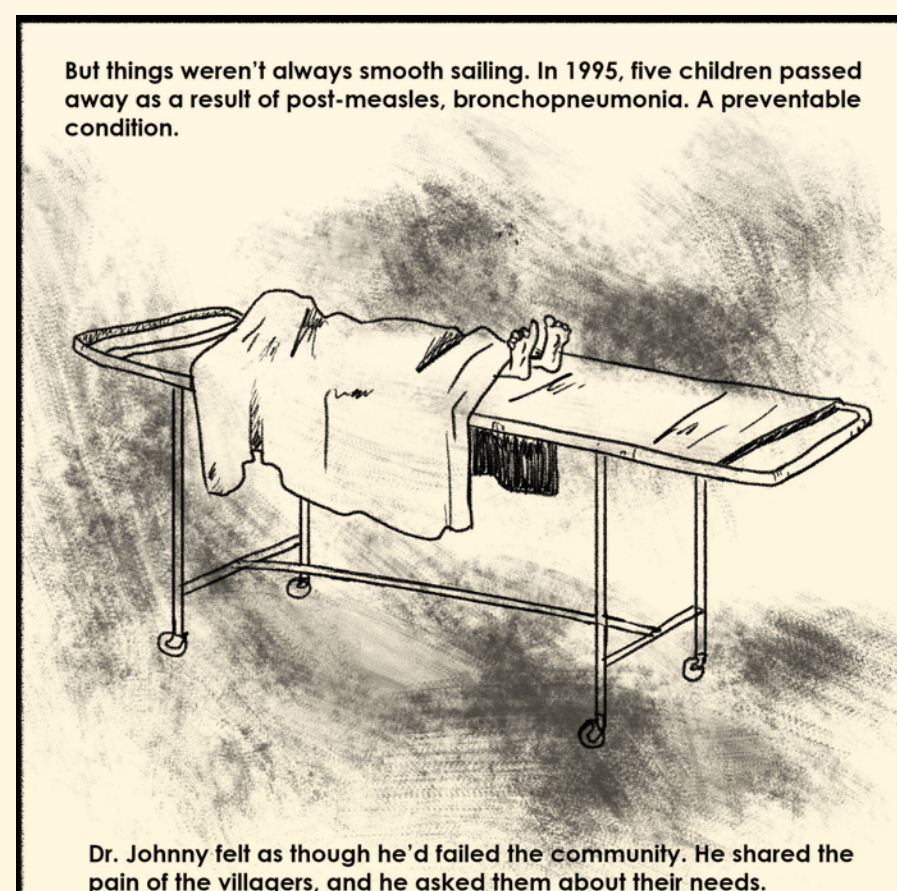
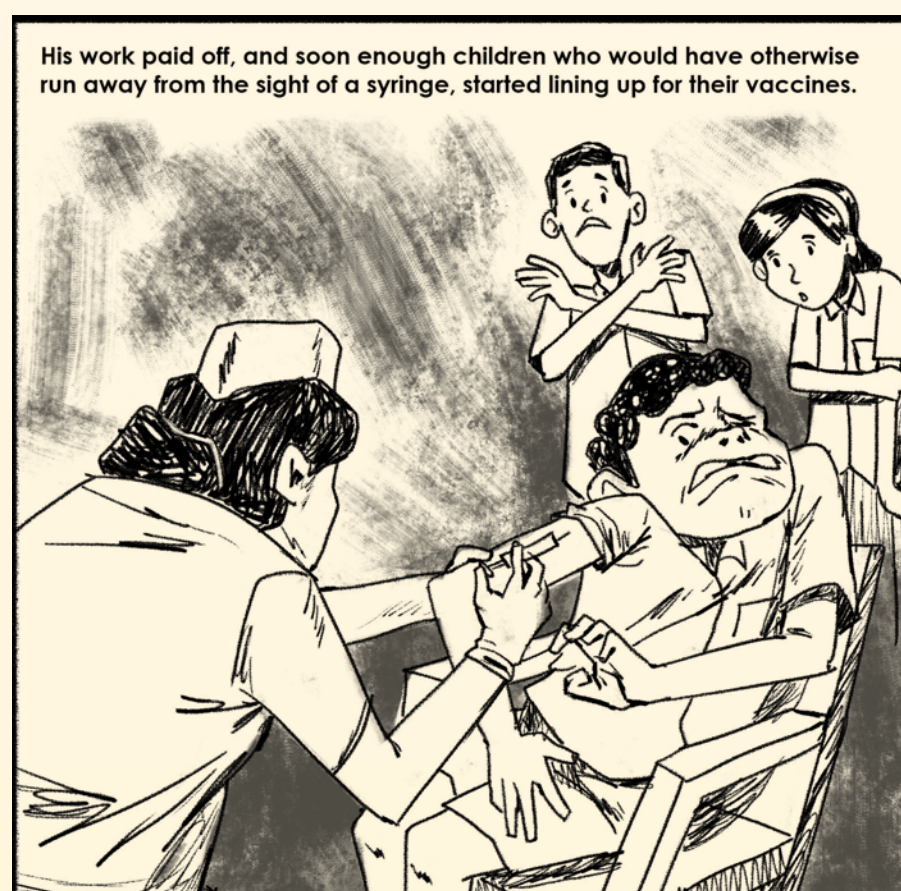
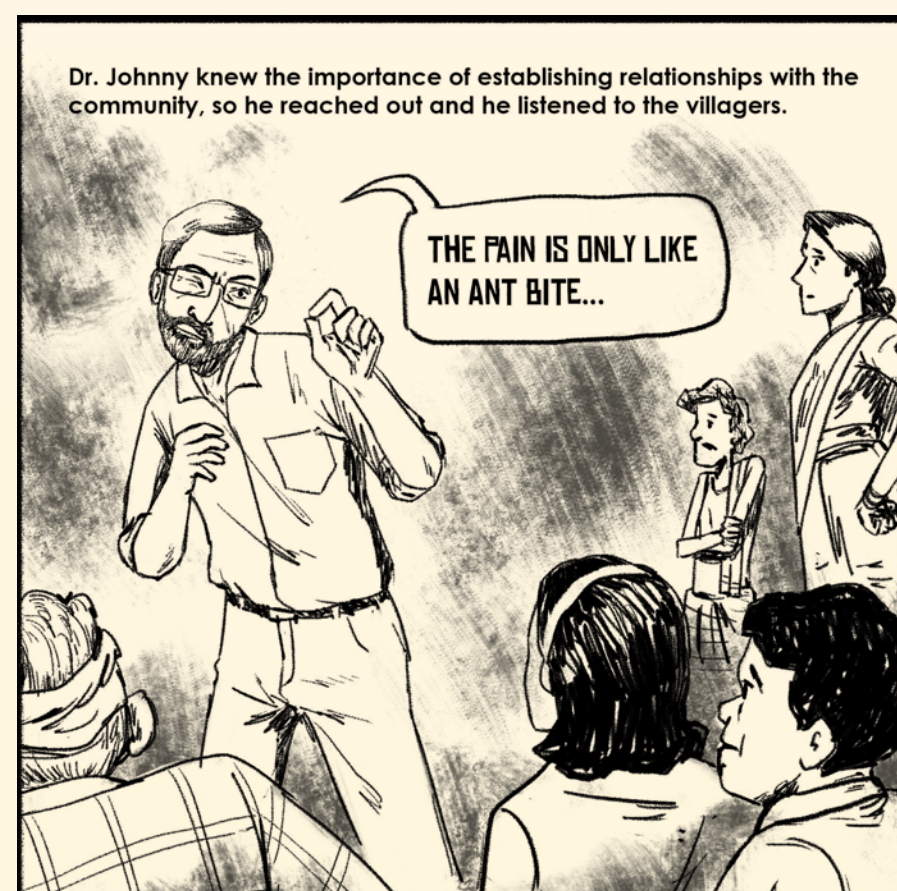
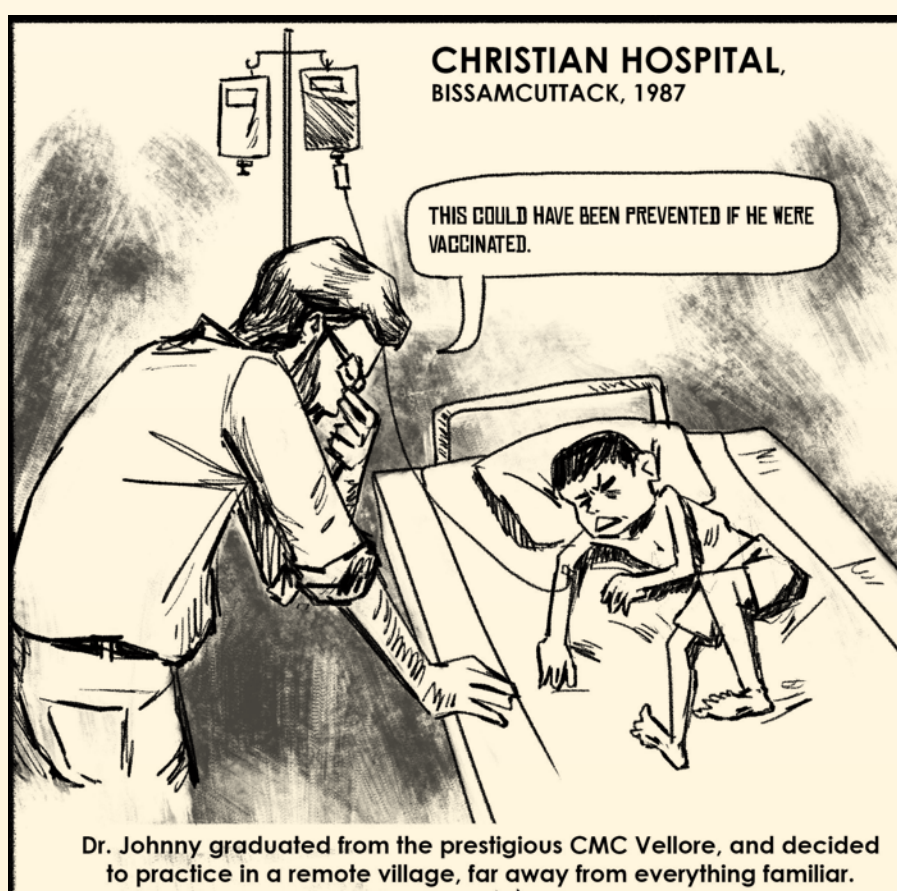
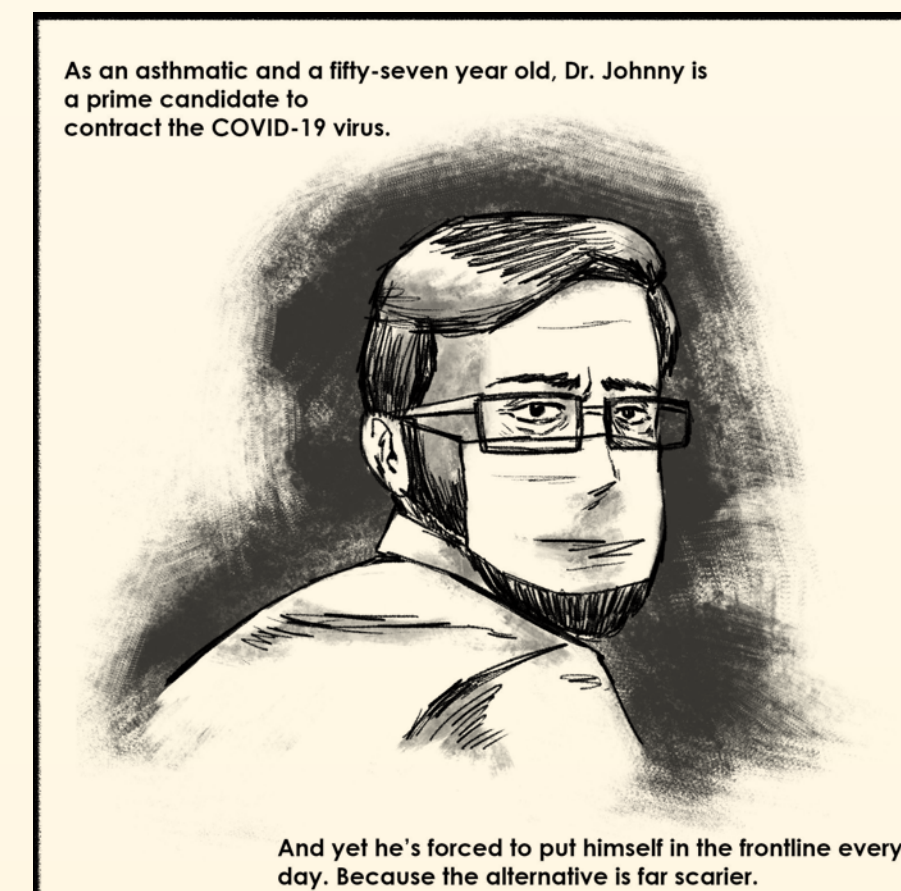
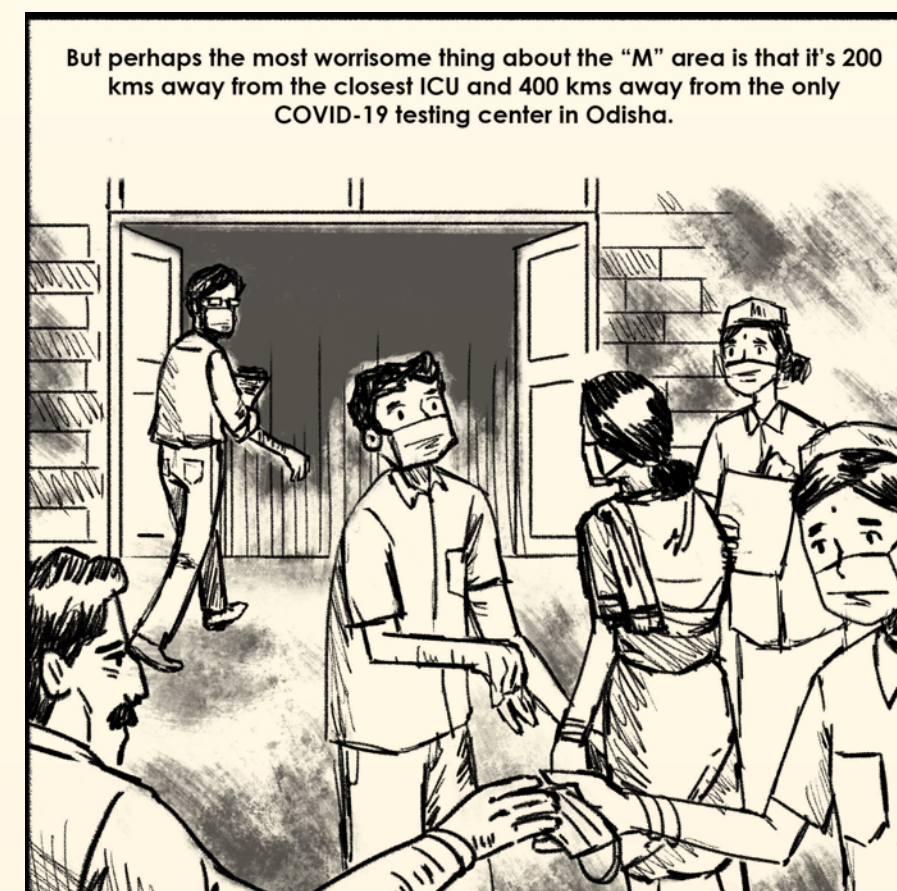
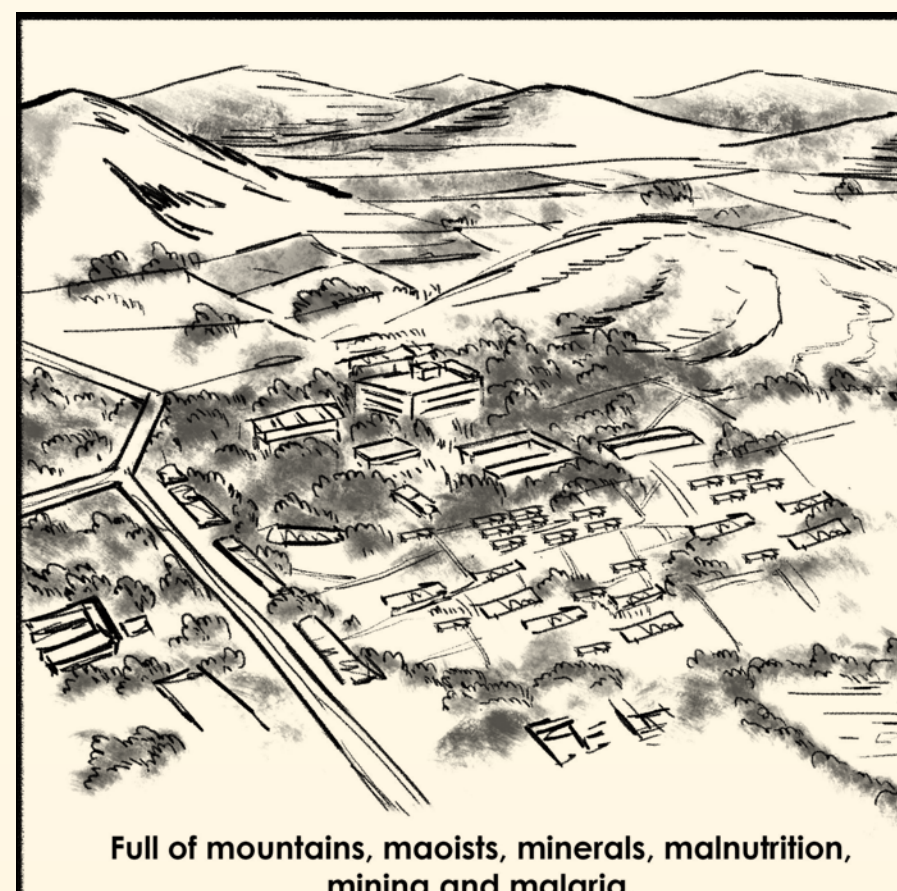
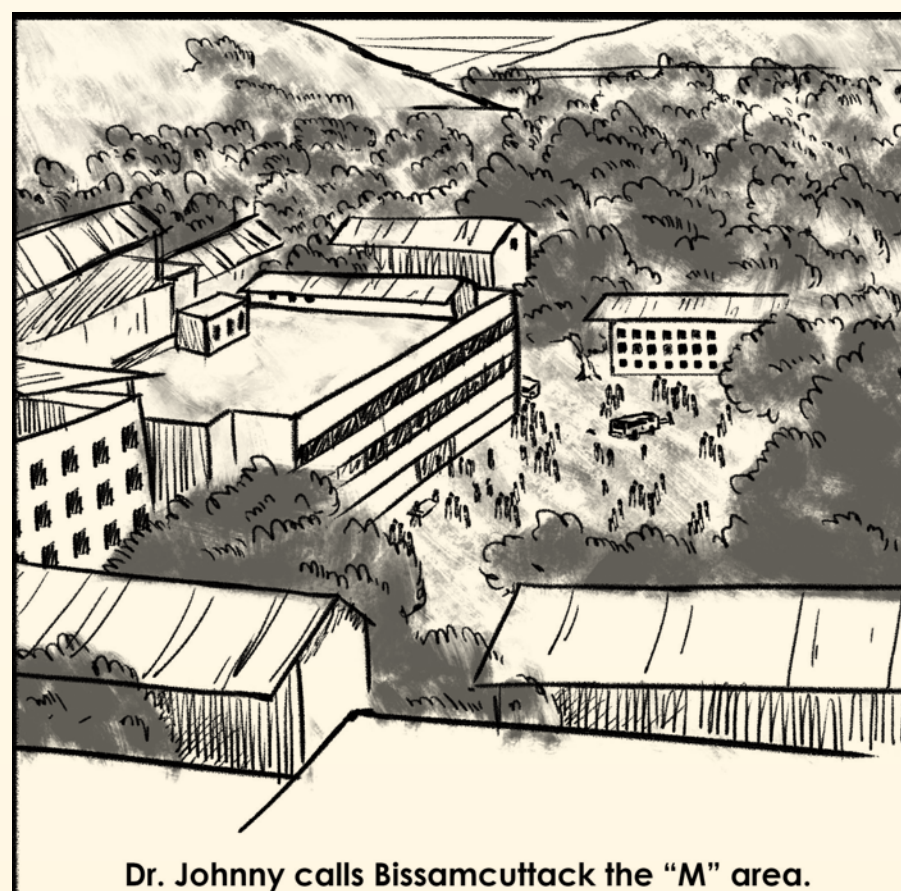
They have been trying to maintain the practice of segregation of waste and raising funds for paying daily wages to waste pickers. "We toiled for 10 years to bring in solid waste management in Bangalore. We cannot let the virus stop that now". They are working relentlessly to revive the recycling industry and the solid waste management services with different stakeholders.

She signs off saying "We have to open the Nayandahalli market with its 500 shops (the centre of all recycling efforts in Bangalore), catering to 6000 waste pickers."



THE WAIT

Featuring Dr. Johnny



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