

Orientation of Swachhagrahis on COVID-19 appropriate behaviour



With a view to orienting Swachhagrahis and frontline workers on COVID appropriate behaviour, its containment, and management, the Panchayati Raj Department (PRD) of Uttar Pradesh in collaboration with UNICEF organised a unique intervention, training as many as 15,406 individuals.

The online orientation held from 18 May 2021 to 4 June 2021 was indeed timely, given that Swachhagrahis and other frontline workers are the on-ground Corona warriors who have a key role to play in managing the pandemic, beginning from house-to-house surveillance to the cremation protocols.

The objective of the orientation was to equip and empower the Swachhagrahis and other front-line workers with correct knowledge for containment and management of COVID-19 in rural areas as well as the safety measures/protocols to be followed by them while working as Corona Warriors in their respective villages.

Participants: The participants included Swachhagrahis, ASHA, ANM, AWW, Lekhpal, Rojgar Sevak, Gram Pradhan, Nigrani Samiti members, schoolteachers, and the district SBM(G) team. The ten orientation sessions in the form of a webinar covered all 18 divisions of the state: 1000 from Devipatan, 1390-Gorakhpur, 500-Varanasi, 1258-Faizabad; 1637-Bareilly; 1292-Basti and Chitrakoot; 949-Kanpur and Jhansi; 2404-Aligarh and Prayagraj; 2769-Agra, Lucknow, Meerut and Mirzapur and 2207-Amzamgarh, Moradabad and Saharanpur.

Resource persons: The orientations were chaired by Nodal Officer PRD-UP and respective Divisional Deputy Directors (PRD) and facilitated by UNICEF (WASH, Health and C4D) and PRD team.

Topics covered:

- COVID-19 disease and its symptoms in accordance with second wave
- COVID -19 – testing, isolation, and treatment
- COVID nutrition
- Black fungus
- Vaccination and its registration details (video for registration on COWIN was also circulated through WhatsApp)
- COVID-19 appropriate behaviors
- Management of COVID-19 waste
- COVID-19 care center at village level
- Role of Swachhagrahis/ASHA/ANM at the villages
- Protocols for cremation of dead body of COVID-19 patient
- Question and Answer session

COVID-19 IEC package comprising videos, audios, poster, pamphlets, and flyers developed by UNICEF and the state were also shared with the participants.

Reactions from UP officials:

“It is a unique initiative owing to which such a large team of Swachhagrahis will work on field at village level to curb the spread of COVID-19,” **Mission Director SBM(G) UP.**

“The knowledge imparted to Swachhagrahis through these orientations will be a great aid in managing/containing COVID-19 in rural areas. Thanks to UNICEF for supporting this,” **Nodal Officer PRD-UP.**

*Read entire report: <https://sujal-swachhsangraha.gov.in/node/4256>

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