

**EXTEND HELP TO THE FLOOD VICTIMS
OF MANDAR (LOHNDIGUDA)
JAGDALPUR.**

AN INITIATIVE



Organized by

School of Studies in Social Work

Shaheed Mahendra Karma Vishwavidyalaya, Bastar

Jagdalpur, Chhattisgarh

Social Work Students of SMKV Bastar Provide Relief to Flood-Affected 80 Families in Mandar.

▪ *Background of the Flood*

On **26–27 August 2025**, torrential rains in Bastar district caused the **Mandir Nala** in Lohandiguda block to overflow, triggering devastating floods. The disaster severely affected the **Mandar village panchayat**, where floodwaters swept through homes and fields, leaving destruction in their wake. Local estimates confirmed that **20 houses were completely washed away**, while around **40 more houses suffered severe damage**, rendering families homeless and dependent on external support.



For the agrarian and wage-dependent families of Mandar, this disaster not only destroyed shelter but also wiped out standing crops, stored food grains, and livestock. The loss was both material and emotional, creating a humanitarian crisis that required immediate attention.

▪ *University's Response*

Understanding the urgency, the **Department of Social Work, Shaheed Mahendra Karma University, Jagdalpur**, stepped forward to organize a **relief campaign**. The initiative was carried out under the **leadership of Dr. Tulika Sharma, Head of the Department**, and with the guidance of **Dr. Anushka Atram and Dr. Digeshwar Sahu, Assistant Professors**.



The department, known for its community engagement and social responsibility, mobilized its students and extended networks to respond to the crisis swiftly.

▪ *Participation of Students and Alumni*

A dedicated team of **around 40 students from MSW I Semester and MSW III Semester** formed the backbone of this campaign. They actively participated in all stages — from needs assessment and relief material preparation to distribution and community interaction.

Significantly, **Mr. Nikhil Dewangan, an alumnus of the Department of Social Work**, also joined and supported the campaign. His participation not only added strength to the relief drive but also symbolized the deep-rooted commitment of the department's alumni to continue serving society even after completing their academic journey. His involvement was appreciated by students and faculty alike, as it highlighted the strong **bond between alumni and the department** and set an example of lifelong social responsibility.



▪ *Relief Materials Distributed*

The relief campaign reached **about 80 flood-affected families**, providing them with essential goods for survival. The items distributed included:

- 35 quintals of rice
- 15 kilograms of pulses
- 40 kilograms of brinjal
- 35 kilograms of tomatoes
- 20 kilograms of okra
- 20 kilograms of bottle gourd
- 100 liters of edible oil
- 100 packets of spices and salt
- Biscuits, bread, and other dry food items
- Bathing and washing soaps



The inclusion of food grains, vegetables, oil, and hygiene materials reflected careful planning to meet both nutritional and sanitary needs during the post-disaster phase.

▪ *Community Response*

The relief campaign was met with heartfelt gratitude from the villagers. Many expressed that while they had lost everything, the timely help from the university gave them hope and comfort. Elders particularly praised the energy and compassion of the **young MSW students** and appreciated the presence of faculty and alumni, which made the relief drive even more impactful.



Women and children shared that receiving food, soap, and essentials restored a sense of security after days of uncertainty. The initiative was seen not just as the distribution of goods but as an expression of solidarity and humanity.

▪ *Educational and Social Significance*

The initiative carried a dual impact:

1. **For the Community** – It provided immediate survival support and restored dignity during a time of crisis.

2. **For Students** – It served as experiential learning, enabling MSW I and III Semester students to apply classroom knowledge in real-world situations of community crisis.



The participation of **alumnus Mr. Nikhil Dewangan** added another layer of significance, showing how alumni can remain actively connected and contribute meaningfully to social causes. It created a sense of continuity, where past, present, and future students collectively work for society's betterment.

▪ *Conclusion*

The relief campaign organized by the Department of Social Work, Shaheed Mahendra Karma University, in Mandar village was a remarkable example of **community service, student engagement, and alumni support**. At a time when **20 houses were destroyed and 40 severely damaged**, the combined efforts of **faculty, around 40 MSW students, and alumnus Mr. Nikhil Dewangan** brought hope and tangible support to nearly 80 flood-affected families.

This initiative reaffirmed the department's mission of nurturing not only skilled professionals but also socially responsible citizens. It also highlighted that the bond between the university and society extends far beyond academics — it is about standing together in times of need, guided by empathy, unity, and compassion.

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