A saviour in Covid times: FreeFoodCentres~ in Telangana~'s Nizamabad~ that have fed over 7 lakh people in three years

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Hyderabad

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The initiative was started by KKavitha~, the first woman parliamentarian of Telangana~ and ex-Nizamabad~ MP. with the aim to provide hygienic and healthy food to students, patients and their attendants at government hospitals in Nizamabad~, Armoor and Bodhan.

The initiative started with Nizamabad~ Government Hospital and Nizamabad~ Library, both of which, at an average, feed morethan750~ people a day.

The first centre was launched on November82017~, at Nizamabad~ GGH. A free food centre at the BodhanGovernmentHospital~ was later launched on April262018~, while one at ArmoorGovernmentHospital~ was launched on July52018~. The second centre in Nizamabad~ was launched at the CityLibrary~ on July152018~

TheFreeMeal~" initiative will enter its fourth year on Sunday.

"The inspiration behind this campaign was to attend to the problems faced by patients and the attendants at hospitals to provide hygienic, healthy and free meals to patients and their attendants. This was effective especially for those patients who could not afford to spend hundreds a day over food along with other medical expenses," Kavitha~ said.

The centres are now feeding 1500~ people daily and have been a blessing for many during the Covid-19-introduced lockdown.

"The lockdown that nobody anticipated left everybody in shock. The burn was felt by each one of us but it was the poor people and daily wage workers who felt it the most. It was in this time that Free Meal Centres went ahead and started serving at migrant centres, reached out to migrants who walked back home along with the routine functions of the centres,‘’ Kavitha~ said.

During the mass migrant migration, the centres have served over 2500~ food packets a day to those walking to their hometowns.