

INTERVIEW TRANSCRIPTS

Dr. Anees Ansari IAS (Retd.)

Language: English

Transcribed Using Otter.ai

Adnan 0:00

Yes. To start with,

Adnan 0:06

like, if we see like, we never expected that we will go into such a bad situation make any sort of pandemic will come, and it will disrupt everything that's happening. Yeah. Yeah. However, problems, especially for the lower strata, like, as I read in several media reports, is, is a lot more than us, especially the migrant laborers. So what exactly are the problems that they're facing?

Anees 0:38

In India, we have around

Anees 0:44

about

Unknown Speaker 0:47

45 crores of laborers and workers working throughout the country, mostly in an organized sector. unorganized sector. You defined as the one which is not listed either under the fact is that it's not implied then 10% something like about 7% of the total manufacturing in India is composed of organized sector. And remaining 90% is composed of unorganized sector, which means handicrafts, agriculture based industries, mill Canada weaving So, these are the traditional sector for the country, this unorganized sector engages about five couriers plus workers, ask them about four couriers Plus, they are migrant laborers, which means that they have migrated from one

district to another district from one state to another state on one estate on unrest Ask them of the migrant laborers about 10 lakhs are from a dish and 10 lakhs from Bihar. This 20 lakh migrant laborers they are mostly concentrated in equal major in National Capital Region area surrounding Delhi gamma and Noida, data Noida and at Maharashtra, Bombay and suburbs doing daegil town, these are the areas the crisis which has emerged out of certain lockdown is that most of them they have lost their jobs because the industries and service sector also they have closed down so they don't have the money to pay for their food, money to stay because they don't have the money to pay the rent. So they want to get back and there is a cycle You can affect her also Allah as mooning when we are stranded, we would like immediately to rescue our families. So they also have that kind of psychological wish that they want to go back to their family, which is very natural and human. The trouble with the policy of the Government of India and a few state governments has been like behind that they thought that if we do not shut down the movement of all the people, including migrant labor, then they crona will be spread, which is a reality, if people are allowed to move around freely, I'm sure that I would have a split my exposure, so it was a wise decision to log down, but it should have been tampered with the practical emergency that these fellows they're one of the poorest sections of the society and they don't have anything to fall back in either the money not the house. is not the emotional support of the family. I had been advocating that these fellows like 10 lakhs migrant laborers from an icy region and modest, I can next probably be harvested, they should have been brought back in a very organized manner, which is very which was very easy. It's not difficult railways, they could have pressed especial trains only meant for migrant labor, they could have controlled the seating arrangements, giving a space of one meter radius to all the migrant laborers while they are entering the train. They could have been kept in a quarantine for some time isolation for some time, so that they don't in fact, if there are any symptoms of disease then they can be separated from the those who are traveling

Anees 4:57

and when they reach their decisions then again, they could have kept in isolation, right? These are the safety major with Indian Government and the state government should have taken and

even now, it's not really that they should start moving these migrant laborers to their to the safety of their hometowns. Fortunately, although I have been consistently pleading with the state lawmaker to up with the chief security with a chief security form, with the DGP, that please advise the chief minister, that shutting them out is not a solution. So today, I have read that the Chief Business Officer up had decided to bring the people belonging to the migrant laborers from yupi. Bihar has yet to take a decision nitesh ammaji has been having this view that implied number of migrant laborers which is about at least 10 lakhs, they are brought back to behind then they might become an agent of a spread of disease, which I do not deny altogether, but if the precautions are taken, then it is possible and there are precedent Indian at the very initial stage, they brought back the students, doctors and others were there in China, in Iran and a few other countries. And very recently they brought back the students who went for coaching at Kota, Rajasthan. So it's not something which is unprecedented for certain sections of citizenship. Indian government and state governments, they have really used the facility of bringing them back. I as I played, the state governments all over the country, they should adopt this attitude towards the migrant laborers also, if they fail to do that, my fear is my apprehension is that these fellows they can get berserk. They can create a severe mayhem It has happened in so many countries and India also in Noida large number of workers gather together when the first phase of lockdown was lifted and it back to this hometown, then the canvas, initially unprotected as part

Anees 7:20

which is a

Unknown Speaker 7:23

foreigner. But I think that even our it's not readily if it's not done then these fellows, many of them they will die because of hunger. A few of them may commit suicide, and many of them can join together to create records to eight, nine or the situation. Brazil, Venezuela, inland, all of them they face this kind of issue. Even in America, several state governments are demanding lifting up off the top down in the states like United States like Nevada and so I think that Government of India and UPA government they should revert revisit their policy. I'm happy that

the state government has announced Chief Minister has announced in up there they're going to have a gradient shifting of those migrant laborers to up there is a welcome move.

Adnan 8:16

Okay. So, yeah, are there any dynamics of caste or religion in the problem of migrant laborers or or every migrant laborers?

Anees 8:26

I do not think so, I do not think sure there is an element of caste, because most of the migrant laborers, they come from the lower income community and in India are our kind of society which is structured on hierarchy, because of money body system, so only the lower caste people like she will, she will tribes, lower caste of Muslims, women, they are the ones who form the bulk of the laborers, including migrant laborers. Government of India and the state government I don't think they have really gone by fast what they have done is that they thought that adding such a huge number of workers might be difficult it might spread. But there is a contradiction in their attitude, although the number was less, but they still they brought back the students Amit on students from Japan. Students from Kota, of course, all of them and especially buses, run by Gujarat government to bring their D TAs to please to be trapped in luxury versus all kinds of things have been done for people who have vices, these are worthless people. And that is contributed by the lower caste status. If they're belonging to half caste segments, higher income people, possibly governments would have listened to them more easily.

Adnan 9:56

The very well put point so other than Thank you. Yeah. So, other than that, if we see that you have actually given a lot of good points. So, if like, if it talks about Islam of if you talk about Islamophobia within India, why is it so that it is being reflected a lot in COVID-19 like there have been many, many fake news

Anees 10:19

regarding Muslims at this time,

Anees 10:21

it is part it is part of a larger design since 1925, nastiest terms ever sang, and this is totally they are called as Sangh parivar. They have had they have been working to convert India into a Hindu estate, from Indian estate settler state to a sectarian or theocratic state like Pakistan

Anees 10:56

like Nepal was

Anees 10:59

so, they want to have some kind of a Hindu estate and they have been working fight very hard, despite bad design, they their mentor, their ideologue, he wrote in bunch of thought and we in our nation would define as guru Alka who is called as Guru Ji. He said that in Indian estate or in Hindu estate, communists and minorities, they will be treated as second class citizens. Now that they would claim any civil rights, not they will be given, it is already part of their book, everybody can check up with that book with these two books. So they're very clear in their objective that they want to have a theocratic estate, which will be an upper caste Hindu estate because in a Hindu estate as there Going to follow not the Constitution, but the municipality. So there is there. So, all the OBC is surely past women of all the community, they will have second or third level of existence in their kind of estate. So, whenever they find an opportunity to denigrate Muslims or Christians, they will do it they have been doing there hundreds of examples. Corona is a disease is a pandemic, it has not recognized any religion does not recognize any a social status, as is witnessed in the USA largest number of deaths have occurred in USA, followed by Europe. So, all of them they are very rich people. They are not Muslims, most of them, but still they have been afflicted. So korona is neutral to religion and all kinds of politics that any political party can play. But irises parivar, Sangh parivar. As is their design, they leave two chances to convert any situation in to a Hindu Muslim issue. I'm still surprised that not many people have talked about Pakistan because if you brought Muslims as an agent of corona,

then Pakistan cannot remain behind. Sooner or later Pakistan also would become part of the discourse. Only yesterday I saw in a very reputed newspaper called innocent times and the editorial saying that Pakistan is reported to be sending the infiltrators affected by korona to effect. Now, this can be very scary, if a person is affected or afflicted by korona is not capable of really injuring because he himself will be worried about his own life. By the time he reaches India, in a cleanser side manner, he may not survive. So this kinds of theories, they will multiply after some time, Pakistan will pick up Pakistan will pick up Indian Muslims. That is a very natural and expected response from Sangh parivar. In India, unfortunately, who are their managers, they have mishandled their situate their their event, they have obtained the permission of the Government of India along with for holding the annual function in the middle of March, I think 13 to 15 of not all of them go into the cave with a valid visa.

Anees 14:40

All their activities reported by themselves to the nearest police station, so they were not doing anything illegal. But once they got to know that Corona have a strap and the alien station had advised isolation. So while they cancel their program immediately But they could not really send the delegates out of daily. What really happened according their budget is that when they reported the matter to the nearest police station in the Zambian area, that these are fellows who have got a standard. There are some out of India and in different states, and they needed to be Sinbad and they pointed out the name of the driver, their phone number, the record number, and they said we have the RNN Do we have the largest Please allow them to go because they were shut down they could not have gone without permission, police department Absolutely.

Government of India, which operates in Delhi, they failed either deliberately or like any other lazy department, they did not respond when they should have really allowed them to move out with with with precaution for Karuna. I suppose that if Delhi police failed management of sobriety Jamaat also said if I was there would have rented in some kind of college premises, the school premises will last a failure and place this person with a spacing and the precaution if you are seeing the rabbinate area is very crowded highly crowded area in nominal time and having about 2000 persons together in such a crowded loop it was suicidal, which should have been

averted by the by Milena, Chad Condrey and his team. But this incident which is I think a failure of the understanding by the manager after the event. This had been blown out of proportion 15 lakh persons have visited India since middle of January to mid last March within two months 15 lakh and everybody knows that the Corona has been introduced in India, by the tourists, people who came either Donald Trump or any other person who visited India within that period, they are the ones who carried the thing. Nobody has raised this issue except me and perhaps a few other person that all this 15 lakh persons should be verified, found out and they should be kept at least in isolation if they have any symptoms. As coroner, nobody talks about 15 lakh is a very large number. They have a spread out throughout the country, and nobody knows how many of them are infected, infected, how many of them have really afflicted others. Similarly, they have been religious processions of Hindu community, traditional procession around temple.

Anees 17:50

Thousands of persons participated, nobody talks about that.

Anees 17:54

And there's been a very famous case of when Prominent lady singer Kanika Kapoor from Lucknow who knowingly she knew that she was afflicted and still, she held parties very, very prominent VIPs participated, including the former Chief Ministers of media be cerca de la de Raji from Rajasthan. All these fellows they thought they had to be quarantine, I think is just because of the mind body spirit, the manual the design of the Sangh parivar that they aim and they try to keep all the allegations on working community conceding the lack of management by the WP Jamaat you cannot blame the entire Muslim community as Karina infection you cannot do that because why Ahmad is highly about 5% of Muslim community and most of Indian women. They don't like web demos. I also don't agree with their style of working because they keep emphasizing and otherworldliness, they're not bothered. They take the doctors and engineers to 40 days chilla and the person progresses you have this is that Islam Islam does not believe in leaving the word Islam says that this world is an examination center for each individual, you have to conduct yourself, Well you have to do good deeds, so that you are

divided in this world. And here after taking the Muslims out of the mainstream of job that is not Islamic. This may This is an individual choice, I did not criticize that. But I think whatever the shortcomings of why Mark maybe they are not responsible. They cannot be made responsible as a spokesperson of the Muslim community.

Unknown Speaker 19:53

So actually, I have heard that you are also working with an organization. You're one of the founders of an organization incite

Unknown Speaker 20:02

Islamophobia. So, can you read is about is an organization there is an organization is a group of prominent citizens formed in daily. This group is composed of about 250 prominent citizens, many of them had been ministers. They are bureaucrats, technocrats, journalist, women entrepreneurs women journalists, it's a very good combination very good combination, the object of this organization is twofold. One is that the degree to image farming of Muslim should be dealt with head on. We have found that even people who do not mean any harm to Muslims because of lack of experience and understanding when they engage in discussion at the electronic media networks are groups, they really go to extremes. And they project as the Muslim community on the whole is a backward looking community and irrational community and emotional community This is not true. Most of the Muslims, they are actually poor, they are less educated in our Hindu counterpart and they need hand holding, they need education, they need opportunities to develop themselves, they need opportunities to get job, these are their problems which are common to large number of Hindu and other communities also. So we want that a nicknaming it target Muslims as negative person, we need to change that. That is one object. And secondly, that government of India and the state governments, they create budgets for Muslim senator section every year Although amount is not very big, but even that amount is not utilized fully, because there is a lack of on the British side, Muslim poor do not know about when they seem they don't they do not know how to apply, they did not know how to interact with the officer. So this organization has this big agenda that will carry the information to the potential

beneficiary will get their application file before the appropriate officer, talk to the officer and work like an interface between the government agency and the beneficial is a good effort. I hope that it is sustained. So, it is called in here Muslim for peace and progress. Okay, idea came from Dr. Andrea fan, who is from Wikipedia, but he settled in daily. He's been doing lots of use useful work in agriculture sector. So he's the one who's behind it, but you

Unknown Speaker 23:07

T chief Election Commissioner

Unknown Speaker 23:14

I'm sorry to interrupt in between

Unknown Speaker 23:18

otherwise I lost your voice Can you repeat like the last 15 seconds

Unknown Speaker 23:25

what what is the last and the last and last sentence you told your last you? Yes. Let me say that this group has two objects. Yes, Indian Muslims are Indian Muslim for progress and reforms. Can you hear me? Yes I can I can. Okay, so this body is known as Indian muslims for progress and reforms. And it's got several priority. One is about policies. See when it is steering committee manage a media committee defense. I think some women substation also would be created very soon. And have also proposed that the basic problem of Indian Muslim in the last 70 years has been lack of political power. So they should have a group which comes out with the idea.

Unknown Speaker 24:20

Can you hear me? Actually, I don't know I lost my internet connection in between I guess. Yeah, now I can. There's something wrong okay.

Unknown Speaker 24:34

So your daily struggles this

Unknown Speaker 24:37

Yeah, can you

Unknown Speaker 24:41

Yeah.

Unknown Speaker 24:42

I cannot hear you right now.

Unknown Speaker 24:45

Yeah, okay.

Unknown Speaker 24:48

Let me know the point where I left it. I was saying that. I have suggested that a Groupon. political involvement of Muslim culture should also be set up as part of this Inbar

Unknown Speaker 25:03

is it recorded day? Yes till then yes from there, yes about after, after the political group.

Unknown Speaker 25:19

Hello, yeah after the article you check up. So, it will be difficult to make any major headway in educational and economic fields also, because education and economic they are governed by the political system. Dr. Baker has said that political power is the master key for progress of mobilize communities. I agree with him. Nobody can disagree with that experience and that wisdom to all the commentary like in my own lifetime, we have seen shadow cast Cyril types and OBC is coming up, both at education at economic because they chose to struggle for

political power and they got it to political empowerment of obcs and Dallas, and Muslims, and that has been in bringing these two communities up. But Muslims have bypassed Muslim leaders not really concentrated on improv involving politically there. They have been religious holidays. Most of the time they've been talking about religion and culture, religion and culture in the past time with the welfare people who have been come up depressed it were a social gathering, but religion and culture they are not a staple diet for the poor people. About 70% of Muslims end up and 85% Muslims all over the country. They belong to members of OBC they are Asana Muslim and they are day to day struggle for instance is more important than whether or not Barbary mass should be built up and where it should be built up whether or not the law should be done in three times in one setting or separate data they will bother the upper caste elite well said Muslim these are not issues which are going to be very serious issue.

Unknown Speaker 27:34

Actually, I miss you.

Unknown Speaker 27:35

Yeah, I missed you after that. That point that the triple is fine last point that you if I miss you After graduation, Which one? The elitist idea of Indian Muslim

Unknown Speaker 27:48

religion and culture. Okay, let me repeat. Let me repeat in all the communities in country in those Muslims, six the upper class Past wealth well provided educated sections, they focus more on the issues concerned with religion and culture. They might, but the majority of the population of among all the communities they are in less educated, they have less income, they are less protected for them surviving and getting food to eat, getting their children admitted to Buddha School, these are the real issues, the issues are

Unknown Speaker 28:36

important to them. Then the small issue like typical

Unknown Speaker 28:41

personal law, these are the issues for the upper caste, higher income, more educated Muslims and Hindus. My take is that Muslim leadership needs to address this issue of political empowerment. First Mata Muslims and we In these are the majority of Indian Muslim population, and they are totally deprived of any political power, any education word, the name, any income word, the name, especially in case a female. So these are the areas which need to be addressed. And I hope that this group does really address these issues. Okay.

Unknown Speaker 29:23

Yeah. So we're like, what is the reason that at the time of a pandemic, immediately this group have emerged? Or, or am I mistaken? Like, when was this group emerged? When did the group emerge either at this thing,

Unknown Speaker 29:36

it happened very recently. And it happened, actually, Dr. Andrea Han, and I had been thinking of setting up a small group like this for several years, at least for one year, where we thought that will become like an intermediary and interface between beneficially Muslims and a government agency. But this idea of improving the image of the community was forced upon us by the circumstances in which were brought up by brought in by the pandemic, like

Unknown Speaker 30:17

you see in Marotta bar at

Unknown Speaker 30:23

a medical personnel and police personnel went to pick up a person for isolation while his neighbor had died young person had died a day before. So these fellows, they said that we would like to be retain at home, and we'll isolate ourselves subject to all the precaution. And they said that the conditions in the isolation work are not good at that police personnel they intervene. And

they started picking them up for isolation but forcefully that resulted into a clash and people started throwing stones and all that No kind of violence is justifiable. Violence should be a no no in a democracy, they did it wrong, but picking up such a small issue which has been.

Unknown Speaker 31:18

So, the Indian media, the body media is called pro Ahmadi RSS reader they started painting the reprisal and the Muslims as a whole that the Muslims are not cooperating with preventing the pandemic, they are the carrier. All these things happen. So then we feel it has an urgent need that we need to intervene and help the community obtain his real value. Most teams are not bad people. Most of them are very sensible. Most of them are very responsible people but the source the RSS disputation to create a negative image of the Muslim so that they can garner vote from the communities from their own community. So this, these two objects have been mined together and we are working on that. So in a way,

Unknown Speaker 32:16

in a way propaganda during Islamophobic propaganda during the time of pandemic was one of the reasons that was the idea if I'm not wrong, it did. A did a did. Although this problem has persisted for a long time.

Unknown Speaker 32:33

This problem of giving a negative image to Muslims is not a new problem. It has persisted for long in so many areas, you can see that but this has become more widespread because lots of funds are available to BJP analysis. They have had a very strong team of IT personnel all the time, they are putting fake news In fact,

Unknown Speaker 33:07

in 2018, to his SCADA that you in order to achieve the object, even fake information can be fed and it should be fed. That is something which is very surprising, but it has happened. So Muslims have faced this kind of problem, we need to take up, take it up, and we will succeed inshallah,

because the advantage of social media versus a two way traffic, it's available to all the people, if somebody places something wrong, we can say that this is wrong, and there's nobody to check you. Nobody can exclude you that then advantage of social media also, and even in mainstream media. If we go with fat, I'm sure they will listen to us.

Unknown Speaker 33:50

Okay, yeah, thank you. Yeah, it was an amazing conversation. Thanks a lot for giving your precious time for it.

Unknown Speaker 33:58

Thank you very much. I think

Unknown Speaker 34:01

Yeah, I got more points than I actually expected that I will get out of the interview. So, the

Unknown Speaker 34:07

the the best, the best takeaway, the best takeaway from my point is that you start advocating that the Muslim overseas Hindu abysses, Muslim, Dallas, Hindu, Dallas and women of all the communities, they should get together to obtain their objective of equal treatment under the Constitution, they are discriminated, they are discriminated by government, they are distributed by society, if you can propagate this idea if you can become a missionary for this idea, that those who are neglected and magnifies, they need to be empowered, then I'll be very happy that we talk together. Yeah, inshallah. inshallah. Thank you. Thank you. Allah bless with us.

Transcribed by <https://otter.ai>

Mushekar Ansari (21st April, 2020) [Name Changed]

Medium: Zoomcall

Occupation: Entrepreneur

Organization: Necessario Innovation

Language: Hindi

Transcribed in: English

Q. Where are you originally from?

Rajkot

Q. Since the Corona crisis was unexpected, How is your family doing when you are in Ahmedabad right now?

They left to lucknow. Move to lucknow. So no one is at home.

Q. Any specific reason that you didn't go to your house and stayed back at Ahmedabad?

I have freedom at campus. The IIT campus is big. We can roam around. In Rajkot, houses are small and we are not even allowed to come out on the streets. On campus there is a basketball ground, football ground, mess is there. Offices are there. We are getting food on time. 24 hours canteen is there. options for chai. Every facility is there like a fridge, ovens. All facilities are there. We can work here 24 hours. As a start up, I am taking advantage of IIT .It has its own advantages. We can't go outside campus. No one can come inside campus. But we thode inside campus can live easily. That is a good thing.

Q. Your colleagues focussing on start up.. anybody else living in hostel

Yes. 2 startups that live on campus.

Q. Where are they from

One is silki Agarwal from indore and amit from Mathura

Q your family in lucknow, any reason they decide to go to lucknow

Papa job finished in bsnl. lucknow is native. Lockdown ..it's better to live in lucknow.

Our family is at 2 3 places. I was in Ahmedabad.. sister in lucknow.. bro and his wife lucknow... mom dada in Rajkot. So they thought to move there so all can live together in lockdown. They will be worried at diff places. So live together.

Q. at iit, food arrangement?

As a startup founder, I am given all facilities. Some employees told to live outside. They know they can't close up so allow them to live. Other don't allow. But Gandhinagar allow. they support

Q. problems your start up facing.

Revenue stream 0. The final product was launched in January. We started taking orders from many events, all that stopped. But we cannot stop development work. So expenses are there. Paying to interns. Office rents. But no output is there. After covid 19 it will be difficult for us whether the product will work or not. People are scared. Not gathering at one place. So it seems difficult to survive.

Q. How do you spend your day inside IIT campus?

Officially its shut down. For students everything is closed. We sit unofficially. They know we cant stop work. We work in office. Office start at around 11 a.m. Some interns work from home. Some are at campus they work from here.

Q. Due to lockdown any personal problem faced apart from your start up?

Interns cant come from outside to inside. Goods cant be delivered. I ordered something from US. Including tax, custom everything it cost rs 22000 which cant be delivered. Work has been stopped because we are not able to get delivery. One of my acquaintances is differently abled. His wheelchair got punctured. Then we repaired it. So many essential things are unavailable.

Q. Interns who went , why they go? Were they paid or unpaid

We didn't have to pay the interns. We provided a platform for learning. Which usually they don't get at their stage. They usually belonged to some average college. They don't get opportunities. Some interns from mechanical. They don't have any work because of unavailability of things so they took leave. Software developers are still working.

Q. Interns working virtually?

Yes. Many around 4 to 5. Working for software development. When the lockdown started people were not working. But when the lockdown extended, the scenario was reversed. Many big companies have closed so students are not getting opportunities. In Ahmedabad 100 companies are not hiring interns because they are closed. So students are looking for opportunities for some productive work. They are ready to work for free.

Q. Employee demographics

Majority Ahmedabad, Gandhinagar some Mumbai, Chennai 2 maharashtra overall Gujrat
Maharashtra Chennai

Q. Interns in your office are iit students?

Right now 1 from Maharashtra iit student. Rest work from home

Q. Interns background

Majority from mechanical, chemical electrical but they are doing work of computer science.
Doing programming. Some are from computer science.

Q after lockdown, back to normal

Yes. It will go back to normal. Many epidemics have come . people died. But it will become normal. Yes effect will be there for 2 3 years bcoz economy is slow

Q.at iit other staff how are they managing

Cleaning staff, food staff

IIT took care that no one comes from outside. If they come, they check their routine. Those on campus are provided all facilities to live on campus. Majority staff living on campus.

Some labourers stuck here from up bihar. They are taken care of properly. Food medicines` shelter everything is given. director is taking care

Khalid (23rd April, 2020)

Medium: Phonecall

Occupation: Social Activist

Language: Hindi

Transcribed in: English

Adnan : How do you think people are coping with this current coronavirus situation?

Khalid: People don't have anything to do. They are just staying at home. This is making us frustrated as we aren't fulfilling our desires. The frustration is coming out in the form of family disputes . There has been a sharp rise of about 40% in incidents close under the category of domestic violence. People are mentally upset. This is how it's developing, we are not in position to support anyone or get some support

Adnan: You have worked with marginalized communities, also worked with Muslim communities especially financially/educationally marginalized Muslim community. So what is your view on the effect of the Covid-19 situation on this section of society?

Khalid: The daily wage class, who's dinner depends upon what he earned till afternoon. They don't have any savings, let alone a future plan. and now, they don't have any means to earn even for a short future, among those who employed as manufacturer labor, haven't got their paycheck for last month, and those who got daily have now lost that, This just means, the whole labor class is empty handed now and the condition prevails.

Adnan: So, u know anyone among your friends or acquaintance or may be anyone working towards solving the mentioned issue.

Khalid: A number of social organizations are working in the field of distribution of food to these people. Govt is also working with cooperators of ward for distribution of food. Although the cooperators are sometimes biased in distribution and the ration goes to their vote bank. There are allegations in support of the previous sentence. Further, the supply of govt nearly equates to 25%-30% of actual required.

Adnan: Can you elaborate the 'community distribution' in detail.

Khalid: It's vote bank politics. Those who vote for us, we will help them.

Adnan: Oh, These events happened? Happened in Lucknow also?

Khalid: Yes

Adnan: So is the govt policy not adequate? People aren't getting the ration, they require?

Khalid: yes, at max only 30% of total required is being supplied by the govt. And the 30% that is being distributed has implementation flaws. And adding one more point, The govt distributed 15 kg of rice in some places using their PDS system, and in some cases to those also, who don't have ration cards.

Adnan: , So rice only, no other thing, flour or something.

Khalid: Only 15 kg rice to labor class.

Adnan: During the past few years, there has been an increase in negative narrative towards fake news and Islamophobia. What, according to you, is the primary reason for bringing these kinds of narratives in the pandemic situation also.

Khalid: Islamophobia is here for quite some time. It's not just related to the corona pandemic. There was a law coming to maintain citizenship register, and citizen amendment bill, a lot of protest going against it, but media was only portraying it as it only muslim who are against this, Other are not concerned about it. It has become habit of media to see everything from hindu-muslim angle. They were searching for the same in this situation and found Nizamuddin markaz. The lockdown was announced on 22 march, and on 23 march, the tablighi jamaat notified the authorities and asked for bus pass so that these people may go to their respective homes. But the authorities didn't consider their application. After a week, the police raided the place. From that day onwards, a story has been created and continually being discussed on a daily basis by the media. Each day, the number of corona victims associated with tablighi jamaat in any way, comes separately. The PM clearly mentions that, virus doesn't see caste, religion status, or anything. It can happen to anyone, Still news like, no. of tablighis is keep coming. This is completely non-understandable. Second point is about foreigners in Markaz, some of them have been jailed also. However, between 12 january and 15 march, more than 15 lakhs passengers arrived in india. However, the number of foreigners at markaz was only 960. Just see the comparison, and only 6 from China, rest from other countries. There is no comparable ratio. Further, the figure of chinese in tablighi jamaat is known to everyone, on the other hand, no knowledge about people coming from china in rest 15 lacks arrivers in India.

Adnan: U also have a history with tablighi jamaat. So what do you think about the ideology, if they ignored corona, didn't follow social distancing, Is it true or just rumors?

Khalid: Absolute rumors, Nothing happens like that. The number of people at Markaz at the time of lockdown was the same as any other time. Around 1500-2000 people from all over the places reach there, teams are made and then sent across. It's a regular process.

Adnan: Do you have any idea about problems being faced by tablighi jamaat people, post controversy.

Khalid: Don't know personally, but the media created a narrative only, other activities were also going on, parliament runs till 25 march, Tablighi jamaat issue was upto 16 march. MP govt formed on 23 March, Aren't there big events? Further on 19 April, there was a 'satsang' in a maharashtra village and 1300 person gathered there, they were in lockdown state there n were sent to home using buses, People from other states also were sent home , without any media hassle, In first week of April, 2 buses were stopped at india gate, were full of foreigners, an only the driver and guide were indian, when police were asked about the permission, the official denied of having any kind of conformation regarding this, media was told that, the permission was obtained from external affairs ministry, and media person should go to higher authorities to check permission, All these stories are making problem for muslim, as they somehow gets targeted, the media keeps on creating emotional stories, debates on hindu-muslim issue, There must be some preventive measure from the govt towards this issue, and PTI should also do something,

Adnan: It came to my notice that, lockdown and sealing of shops (hotspot) is more in muslim dominated areas, is it just a co incident, vote politics, or a jamaat issue?

Khalid: I am saying the same, lots of events are goin throughout the country,a politician son's got married in this time, but media only do selective reporting only, If a muslim dominated area is made a hotspot, it is highlited much more than rest of areas, so general perception becomes, only muslim populated ares are having corona,

Adnan: Is there a hindu-Muslim angle in migarated labors also?

Khalid: Media tried to do so, as we saw in bandra case in mumbai, but all those were fake news, after that, some "Mr Updadhya" said that, they got information from railways that trains will run, but media tried to hide this story, Maharashtra govt took serious action, and the reporters are accused of spreading false information, The govt can make check and balance on media, Another case of arnab goswami come up, when he said, his car was attacked at night, and the video he

posted was shot in morning, but still, no action on him, These media person, which are creating confusion and divide among people, must be kept in check by govt.

Ahmad (Name Changed)

Q What was the event?

In nizamuddin, jamaats from different countries come. People from various states are responsible for them. They look after cooking food, booking tickets. All sorts of people are there.. cook, plumber, translator. They are responsible to manage the jamaats from foreign countries.

In the basement.. food is cooked. First floor has, masjid. In masjid, people are given religious teachings.

2nd floor.. madarsa is there. People receive religious teachings. Some ulema are also there. So that they are sent with every jamaat.

3rd floor people from different states of India come . every 3 days.

The program was going on

Lockdown happened

Before that, around 8000 people were there.

Many people had already returned.

So at the time of lockdown, only 2000 were found.

Its embassy works to see how many foreigners have come. Their passports are submitted at markaz. After staying for 3-4 days at Markaz, Jamaats go to diff places.

Q. Many people are stuck here because of lockdown. How were they treated?

We are not in contact with many people. They are stuck. Some have started coming . Some are quarantined in buildings. When they will come, we will know what happened to them. In

Bhopal, the government took all jamaats under its custody. They were kept at 3 different places: tajul masajid, ishtamagah, haj house

Govt people were responsible for them. They are not provided with quality food. In Bhopal, Markaz took responsibility for their food. In that period, some people died naturally. Some people were tested positive for covid 19, some were tested negative.

When jamaat started going, permission was granted to cross the border, some jamaats didn't have money. One bus was sent to tamil nadu. It cost 80,000. Money was arranged for them through chanda.

In Delhi, those who are quarantined, we don't know anything about them. No contact from them. Their phones are off. In Bhopal people had phones. But those in Delhi, their phones have been taken away.

Q. In Bhopal what other problems people faced except food and money?

No. Administration cooperated. On Social media, things were not right sometimes. Otherwise all cooperated. Practically, no misbehavior.

It was tried that those who have completed 14 days of quarantine, they should be let go. But the police didn't let them go. On 2 jamaats FIR was lodged. 3 dhara 188, 269, 270, 146. Problem is these jamaats (Africa, tanzania) can't go back home unless FIR matter is solved. One jamaat on rajasthan border.. FIR lodged. FIR lodged on UP jamaat. Panel of lawyers has been made. They are looking into matter.

We felt that things that were shared on social media, govt was not that much strict. We used to follow every law. But some problems happened because of disease. Only problem with foreign jamaat is their visas are denied. Can't go back. They have to stay till matter is solved.

In UP there were more problems. Price was announced to give information about jamaati. Media spread lies too much. So much that people with beards are not allowed to go anywhere, enter any village colony. People are informing police about them. At some places people beat them. It is spread that jamaatis are spreading disease. Muslim employees not called to office.

People are afraid of muslims. People not buying vegetables from muslims. One employee with a beard was sanitizing the area. People refused it. In one village, people with beards went to distribute food. People informed the police. One husband and wife were going to their home.

They were caught by villagers on the way. They were attacked.

Discrimination on the basis of name.. not called on jobs.