

# Building Resilience: Geeta's Story



Geeta and her family's narrative is a testimony to the support the Jesuit Collective's initiative has been able to provide during the COVID-19 pandemic. The 35-year-old Geeta lives with her husband and four children in a temporary shanty under the Samaypur Badli Metro Station in Delhi after heavy rains destroyed their slum. Originally hailing from Gorakhpur in Uttar Pradesh, Geeta's family migrated to Delhi nearly 20 years back in the hope of a better life. They were forced to take a reality check when the enticing city life failed to make space for their dreams. Both Geeta and her husband did odd jobs in the city, struggling to make ends meet. Since having food on the plate was the foremost challenge, education of her children was never a priority.

Till last year, Geeta and her husband earned money by selling flowers at various points in the city. The lockdown during COVID-19 pandemic wrecked even this humble source of income, leaving them high and dry. Even though the city gradually opened up, work has been extremely slow and unsteady for them. Toiling from morning till evening, the family has been only able to generate about Rs. 300/- per day. Added to this is the lack of a permanent roof on their heads. Improper sanitation and resultant health challenges also add to their woes. With no relief in sight and at the brink of giving up, Geeta and her family found support in their trying times when they were one of the families provided dry ration kits by the Jesuit Collective. The family was able to sustain themselves well for about 20 days and was extremely thankful for the help extended to them. Although life still continues to be challenging, Geeta was able to generate hope and the courage to face her circumstances again.