MAIN's Intervention: Compassion in Crisis - A Tale of Support and Solidarity

Background

On October 14, 2023, a journey meant to reunite a family with their hopes and dreams turned into a heart-wrenching tragedy. Susana Kujur, her husband Lawrence Toppo, and a young boy named Ashiyan boarded on a train journey from Thambaram to Jharkhand. Little did they know that this journey would take an unexpected and devastating turn. This report records the events that unfolded during this fateful journey, highlighting the remarkable support and compassion shown by MAIN Hub CITRA NGO and Don Bosco institutions, along with other key individuals and organizations.

The Journey Began

Susana Kujur, Lawrence Toppo, and young Ashiyan set out on a journey on October 14, 2023, with hopes of reaching their destination in Jharkhand. Their anticipation was filled with excitement for a new chapter in their lives. As the train journey progressed and they crossed the city of Vijayawada, tragedy struck. Lawrence Toppo fell seriously ill, and despite desperate efforts, he succumbed to his illness. The sudden loss of Lawrence Toppo left Susana Kujur in an unimaginably helpless position, stranded at Samarlakota railway station in the middle of the night, her husband's lifeless body by her side.



A Timely Call for Help

On October 15, 2023, CITRA staff member Rajani received a call from Fr. Maria Louis, who had received information from Fr. Suresh Kindo, the Parish Priest of Mahuvadanar parish. Fr. Maria Louis conveyed the heartbreaking news of Lawrence Toppo's passing and Susana's dire situation. Rajani immediately recognized the urgency of the situation and promptly informed CITRA's Director, Fr. Yesurathnam, and Fr. Vijay.

Mobilizing Support

In this hour of crisis, CITRA swiftly reached out to Don Bosco institutions, known for their commitment to humanitarian causes. The baton of assistance was handed over to Fr. Bosco, Fr. Anil, and their dedicated team, including Jagadish and Bhadyatha. This marked the beginning of a heartwarming partnership to provide crucial support to the grieving family.

A Network of Compassion and the Challenges in the Midst of Grief

Roshini, from the Jharkhand migration desk, also joined the efforts by reaching out to Rajani, further emphasizing the need for immediate assistance for Susana. Rajani and Jagadish, working tirelessly, attempted to contact the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) in the hope of arranging for the transportation of Lawrence Toppo's body to the mortuary. Sadly, their efforts were met with a bureaucratic hurdle as they were informed that the Railway Police should handle the formalities. However, there was no response from the Railway Police, leaving Susana in a distressing situation.



Desperate Circumstances and The Collective Effort

Susana Kujur found herself in a desperate and dire situation. Stranded at a railway station with no money, she faced the daunting task of navigating the complex process of handling her husband's remains. Her vulnerability was deeply concerning, and immediate action was imperative. In response to the urgency of the situation, Rajani and Jagadish engaged in negotiations with various parties to arrange for the transportation of Lawrence Toppo's body back to his hometown, where he could receive a dignified farewell. Unfortunately, due to the passage of time and the harsh weather conditions, including the scorching heat, Lawrence Toppo's body began to decompose. This added another layer of urgency to the situation.

Helping Hands

Faced with these challenges, Susana Kujur made an emotional decision. She expressed her willingness to have her husband's burial take place in Samarlakota, understanding the practical limitations of transporting the body over a long distance. Jagadish, the determined negotiator, successfully reached an agreement with the local NGO Bhadyatha. Bhadyatha generously stepped forward to make all the necessary arrangements for the burial, exemplifying the power of community and compassion.

The Final Farewell and the Network of Support

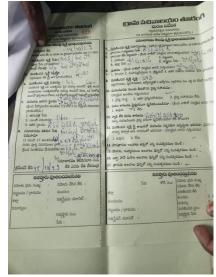
The funeral took place locally in Samarlakota, bringing closure to a tragic chapter. It was a solemn event that served as a reminder of the resilience and unity of humanity, even in the face of adversity. The funeral expenses amounted to Rs. 28,000, a significant sum for Susana Kujur, who was already burdened by her husband's untimely demise. In the spirit of solidarity and compassion, Don Bosco's Para contributed Rs. 5,000 towards the funeral expenses, easing the financial burden on Susana. Additionally, Susana's employer extended a helping hand by donating Rs. 4,500 to cover her journey expenses during this trying period.



Continued Support

Throughout this challenging journey, CITRA NGO remained steadfast in its commitment to assist Susana Kujur and her family. Fr. Sebastian ISI from





Ranchi and Fr. Martin also played a crucial role in following up on the case, providing additional support and assistance.

Conclusion

The tragic journey of Susana Kujur and Lawrence Toppo serves as a poignant reminder of the fragility of life and the importance of compassion and community. In their darkest hour, Susana found support from CITRA NGO, Don Bosco institutions, local NGOs, and numerous individuals who extended their hands in aid and empathy. This incident is a testament to the power of collective effort and unwavering humanity in the face of adversity. It is a story of hope, resilience, and the unbreakable bonds of solidarity.