

# SMILE REPORT

Relief & Rehabilitation Work

Gurugram



SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER

# 2025



## INCIDENT OVERVIEW

Life for many has been a constant fear of uncertainty and suspension with decade-long roots in the city crumbled by **labels of “illegal immigrants.”** Their identity has often been questioned, sometimes erasing their tranquility completely, other times leaving a vestige of it. The story of the Bengali Muslim families in Gurugram is an epitome of such uncertainty, creating pandemonium in their serenity.

These families have made India their home for years, sometimes decades. They hold Aadhar cards, PAN cards, voter IDs, and even passports. On paper, they are citizens. In reality, they are treated like strangers, often like criminals.

In July 2025, a police verification drive was launched to target alleged undocumented immigrants in Gurugram, which resulted in the departure of hundreds of Bengali-speaking migrant families and triggered a political controversy, including opposition leaders slamming the Haryana government for communal bias.

**The drive reportedly led to 300-400 families vacating their shanties due to fears of detention and harassment.** Many Bengali Muslims said that they are being labeled as **“Bangladeshi infiltrators”** or **“Rohingyas”** despite possessing valid Indian identity documents, such as voter IDs and Aadhaar cards.

Reports suggest that people were detained from their workplaces or rented accommodations by plainclothes personnel. In some cases, the makeshift homes of migrant workers in areas such as Sector-39 were bulldozed.

Congress MLA Aftab Ahmed, a senior Meo community leader, alleged that **the drive 'unfairly singled out Muslim residents' and was 'damaging Gurugram's secular fabric and tarnishing its global image.**

Joining the row, Arvind Saini, media in-charge of BJP Haryana, said, **"No illegal immigrant will be allowed to stay in Haryana.** The verification drive is being conducted strictly within the legal framework to ensure the safety and security of all citizens."

**"The Congress is raising baseless concerns because their traditional vote bank is being affected. This is not about religion or language—it's about national interest and lawful residency,"** TMC MP Samirul Islam said, backing West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee



**"No illegal immigrant will be allowed to stay in Haryana. The verification drive is being conducted strictly within the legal framework to ensure the safety and security of all citizens,"** Arvind Saini, media in-charge of BJP Haryana, said.

Amidst political outrage and national debates about the move, the lives of these families oscillated between survival and daily atrocities. The apprehension of what will happen next claimed their nights. Children who could not decipher the move remained listless. The placidness of the entire community was shattered, leaving them to withstand the agony.



# INTERVENTION BY MILES2SMILE

When the Miles2Smile team visited the camp where **more than thirty such families live**, they found not just homes built of bamboo and tarpaulin, but lives scarred by constant displacement. Families spoke of being forced to move from one settlement to another, sometimes in the middle of the night, carrying whatever little they could. The camp was filled with stories of men, fathers, sons, brothers detained without cause. As per these households, the arrests are not just moments of fear, but ruptures that tear through their financial and emotional security.

Most of these men work as daily wage laborers. They rise before dawn to earn just enough to feed their children, yet their absence, even for a few days, pushes the entire family into crisis. The women left behind carry a double burden managing the home while worrying if their loved ones will return. Children, too young to understand the complexities of citizenship, grow up with the quiet knowledge that their fathers may not always come back at the end of the day.

Another hardship that unfolded at the camp, the absence of electricity. Bills had mounted, unpaid because survival had to come first food before light, medicine before comfort. When the Miles2Smile team walked through the lanes of the settlement, they noticed homes dark even in the afternoon, fans hanging motionless in the heat. Families explained how, without electricity, evenings turned into stretches of helplessness. Mothers cooked by candlelight, children struggled to study, and the community felt the isolation that comes with literal darkness.



The Miles2Smile team decided to act. With the help of our donors, we were able to:

## Clear the Outstanding Electricity Bill

Miles2Smile to clear the pending electricity dues for the families living in the camp. The unpaid bills had accumulated over months, as households were forced to prioritise food, rent, and medical expenses over utilities. With lights back on, families could cook safely, children could study after sunset, and the fear of living in perpetual darkness was lifted.



## Provide Ration

Miles2Smile distributed essential ration kits to families in the camp who had been pushed into food shortage following repeated detentions and loss of daily wages. With primary earners missing or unable to work due to fear of harassment, many households had been surviving on irregular meals. The ration kits ensured immediate access to food items, reducing hunger and offering families the stability of knowing that their next meal was secured.

## Provide Relief

The support eased immediate pressures on households already stretched to their limits. By clearing electricity arrears and providing essential food supplies, families were able to redirect resources towards other needs. As bulbs flickered to life and fans began to spin again, the settlement exhaled a sigh of relief.



# Gurugram Relief Work 2025

**24**

 *Smile Hours*

**96**

 *Miles Covered*

**150**

 *Smiles Restored*



## About the organization

The Miles2Smile Foundation, established almost six years ago, is committed to making a meaningful difference in marginalized communities across India. From responding to the crisis during the pandemic to its continuous work in education and advocacy, the foundation remains devoted to fostering a more inclusive and equitable society. The Foundation works for the survivors of mob lynching, communal violence, targeted demolition, and other hate crimes. For creating livelihood, for rebuilding houses, for supporting children in education, the Foundation walks miles to ease the lives of the survivors.



 [www.miles2smile.org](http://www.miles2smile.org)

 011 7106 9987

 +91 8448817331

 [contact@miles2smile.org](mailto:contact@miles2smile.org)

 B-99/A, Third Floor, Behind Zayed College for Girls,  
Thokar No-7, Shaheen Bagh, New Delhi, 110025

(Click to Donate ↘)

[Donate](#)