COVID 19 Activities

IMA Cochin played an inevitable role in the COVID management of the Ernakulam District by initiating the first COVID Tele Medicine Unit at IMA House, Kaloor on 15th March 2020. As this deadly virus originated in Wuhan, China and hit Italy badly in Italy, our members and panel of doctors were expecting the entry of COVID19 in our region too. From the first case of COVID 19 in Kerala we have associated with the District Administration, DMO and DPM in setting up the COVID control room and COVID management team. As social distancing was the only way to escape from this deadly virus, we supported the Lockdown declared by the central government and made arrangements to provide proper clinical support for the home quarantine COVID suspects over phone and video calling. IMA Cochin coordinated and monitored the activities of COVID control room until the third wave of the pandemic and we received financial support from BPCL Kochi Refinery worth INR 25 Lakhs. With the support from BPCL Kochi Refinery we covered the cost of food, accommodation and salary of the control room staffs. Our major activities of COVID 19 during the pandemic period in association with various CSR were;

3.1 Supply of Personal Protective Equipment
3.2 Strengthening Peripheral Units/Treatment Facilities
3.3 District COVID Control Room

3.3.1 TeleMedicine Unit : Around 46 doctors worked along with 53 moderators in the TeleMedicine Unit of the COVID Control Room and gave tele consultation to 3,22,809 patients. The activities of the telemedicine unit were regular followup of home quarantine patients and arrange hospital consultations to the sick patients. For effective case management and patient record, we have developed a software in association with team coronasafe. This was a model for all other districts and the state itself. As the cases increased at large, we started peripheral units and then we played as the central control room.

3.3.2 Team Breaking The Bad News : After a person being tested positive,the first call was made from team Breaking the Bad News. A team of 34 staffs were assigned for this job. Database of covid infected persons was collected from covid testing centers and the team contacted the infected for the purpose of informing the patient that he/she is positive, giving them mental support,collecting their health status,their current location, ensuring that they are isolated from their relatives and family,giving them contact details of Telemedicine,in case the patient requires medical assistance.Based on the details collected , list of covid affected was filtered based on their locality and was send to local self governing authorities .This made the government more easier to identify covid infected peoples under their area and to make necessary arrangements.

3.3.3 COVID Data Team: As we created a software for the patient management, our data team staffs were assigned to check all the data entered by

the peripheral units and COVID treating hospitals/settings is correct and clear. The team assisted to sort the doubts of the peripheral units regarding software and data entry.

3.3.4   COVID Surveillance Team : The system was formed for collecting the details of vehicles and the people who are entering from other districts/states to the Ernakulam District. Our control room staffs collected all the details of goods vehicles along with the details of the driver and cleaners and reported to the concerned health inspectors. This system helped the COVID management team to control the spread of this deadly virus to the community.

3.3.5   Ambalamugal Govt. COVID Hospital (AGCH): AGCH was one of the innovative ideas of the district and later that came as a model for the country itself. During the second wave of the pandemic we associated with the district administration, DMO and DPM in constructing a temporary hospital to treat COVID C category patients at Ambalamugal at BPCL's premises. With the great support of BPCL we constructed a 1500 bedded hospital with an oxygen facility and started its functioning on 17th May 2021. AGCH had a total manpower of 178 staffs and treated 1078 patients during a period of 4 months. This initiative was really helpful not only for the Ernakulam district but also for the nearby districts such as Idukki, Kottayam, Alappuzha and Thrissur.

3.3.6 Oxygen War Room : As the COVID cases increased uncontrollably, our district also faced oxygen scarcity during the third wave of the pandemic. Because Ernakulam District is the central portion of the state having many hospitals, oxygen management of the district was a herculean task. To tackle the issue we assisted in the formation of the District Oxygen War Room and managed the activities of the war room. Developed a software and dashboard to identify the oxygen usage of the hospitals and treatment facilities. This helped us to manage the oxygen demands from the hospitals both inside and outside of the district. Under the guidance of IMA Cochin, our war room staffs regularly contact the oxygen suppliers and hospitals to ensure uninterrupted supply of medical grade oxygen.

3.3.7 Migrant's Control Room : During the initial phase of COVID 19 pandemic IMA Cochin joined hands with District Administration and NHM Ernakulam for the welfare of the guest workers of the district. We arranged food and basic needs for the guest workers in their houses and also arranged health check ups during the lockdown declared by the state government. A team from IMA Cochin verified the guest workers who were returned to their native place during the lockdown period and made arrangements for their safe journey with sufficient precautions.

3.**3.8 Community Pharmacy :** We arranged medicines to the poor patients and the COVID patients who were under home isolation worth INR 10 lakhs and distributed through the volunteers and RRT of local bodies.

3.4 Post COVID Medical Camp: This was exclusively for the survivors of COVID 19 patients in

association with General Hospital Ernakulam. By this project we focused on the after effects of Novel CoronaVirus and it was really helpful for the patients and their family also.