



MAKESHIFT HOSPITAL DURING COVID-19: ADVANTAGES AND CHALLENGES

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ABSTRACT

Covid 19 pandemic has affected the entire healthcare system and led bare its fragility. To solve the crisis of rising bed demand, isolation facility for patients affected with covid and need for manpower working at highest risk has led to the need to setup makeshift hospitals of different capacities and in different settings. We share the advantages and challenges faced during the crisis after working in a 200 bedded covid makeshift facility in Himachal Pradesh.

KEYWORDS : COVID-19, Makeshift, Hospital

INTRODUCTION

Covid - 19 pandemic has led to a dramatic loss of human life worldwide and presents an unprecedented challenge to the public health, food system and healthcare system. WHO declared Covid-19 pandemic on 11th march 2020. The economic and social disruption caused by pandemic is devastating.

In the COVID -19 crises, in particular health worker's safety and health was at highest peak. Adherence to workplace safety and health practices along with easy access to decent working environment was a challenge¹. More challenging was to solve the crisis of rising bed demand; isolation facility for patients affected with covid and need for increased manpower, working at highest risk have led to the need to setup makeshift hospitals of different capacities and in different settings². To solve the crisis Makeshift Hospitals of different capacities ranging from 50-500 beds and in different settings such as urban, rural, hilly and coastal areas were started and proved to be very beneficial for the society. We after working as medical officer specialist in Anaesthesia and critical care in 200 bedded makeshift facility share the advantages and challenges faced during the crisis.

ADVANTAGES

- It provides a separate space for patients and can be setup in any building used for purposes such as satsang bhawans, government halls, training centres, gymkhana and hostels.
- Makeshift hospital separates covid areas with non covid areas so that hospitals can function its own OPD and IPD services.
- Prevention of cross contamination.
- Regular staff on deputation or outsource services can be arranged for covid dedicated facility and covid oriented training can be provided to the concerned healthcare workers.
- Dedicated laboratory, mobile X-Ray units, and ambulanced dedicated to covid patients can be made available at the facility to provide easy and faster transport to the patients.
- Bed capacity can be managed according to the inflow and outflow of patients more rapidly as makeshift hospitals work on pre fabricated structures.

CHALLENGES

- The guidelines laid by the Indian society of critical care medicine for the setting up of an ICU and many such guidelines laid down by various societies could not be followed.
- Equipment glitches could not be solved at the earliest due to lockdown measures followed by the government and shortage of support staff.

- Catering service hired was outsourced and had limited experience in hospital diets.
- The disinfection and disposal of biomedical waste also proved to be a challenge, with extra caution needed to be exercised.
- The greatest challenge faced in functionalizing was Shortage of well trained manpower at makeshift hospital.

CONCLUSION

Covid cases are in decline now and we have started looking forward to bright future ahead. There are many merits of makeshift hospital in managing covid, but starting a new facility with limited resources is never easy. We have tried to discuss some of the advantages and challenges faced during working in makeshift hospital.

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