



MAKESHIFT HOSPITAL DURING COVID-19 NEED OF THE HOUR

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ABSTRACT As declared by WHO COVID-19 is a pandemic. Till date more than 34 million people are infected and more than 4.5 lakh died in India only. Such types of viral pandemics place us at a sustained demand of healthcare infrastructure for providing better health services to patients. Such demands lead to the development of situation where we need to be innovative and ready to work in limited resources setting for long duty hours. The purpose of makeshift COVID hospitals is to solve the severe shortage of hospital beds in India and providing good health care services to patients.

KEYWORDS : COVID-19, MAKESHIFT HOSPITAL, PANDEMIC

INTRODUCTION :

WHO declared COVID-19 a pandemic on 11th March, 2020. COVID-19 spreads in more than 185 countries in the world and has emerged as a one of the biggest pandemic in history. This virus exposed and exploited every single weakness in healthcare systems around the world. Due to large number of cases healthcare resources are overburdened and there is need of healthcare infrastructure acutely. Due to limited number of available beds in hospital patients stay at home for isolation and do not get timely medical care, leading to spread of the illness among family members. To solve this crisis situation makeshift hospitals of different capacities started. Make shift hospitals can dramatically expand the admission capacities of the whole country, reduce the burdens/patient loads of hospitals, manage COVID-19 patients centrally, eliminate virus transmission routes, and protect susceptible populations from COVID-19.¹

sure that each patient can receive proper treatment. These makeshift hospitals provided the backbone for COVID management and reducing the burden in other hospitals and is a revolutionary step.

REFERENCES

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Merits Of Makeshift Hospitals:

1. Separate building of makeshift hospital is the biggest benefit of it, as it provides separate entry and exit for covid patients, reduces cross infection along with greater reduction in patients load in normal hospitals.
2. Training of staff done by online modes, various apex institutes come with COVID management guidelines.
3. Dedicated teams of doctors, nursing staff, supporting staff and non healthcare helpers assigned to each makeshift facility for smooth functioning.
4. Anaesthesia specialists posted wherever available, for oxygen therapy, ventilatory support and for supervision of oxygen plants, which is the core of managing COVID patients.
5. Medical gas pipelines along with oxygen manifold is provided in makeshift hospitals, for smooth functioning of facilities
6. Various laboratories of nearby hospitals are dedicated to COVID patients in makeshift facilities.
7. Radiologist are also being deployed in makeshift facilities along with provision of portable USG machines, special time slots are assigned for CT scan and X-ray of covid patients, in nearby hospitals to prevent cross infection and smooth functioning.
8. Dedicated ambulances are deployed for shifting and referring covid patients, with fully functional oxygen supply.
9. Makeshift facilities have normal beds with oxygen ports along with ICU beds and ventilators. In addition to this AC is also there, for smooth functioning of ventilators and patients comfort.
10. Each bed is accompanied with exhaust fan, to reduce the viral load and preventing cross infection.
11. Makeshift hospitals are cheaper and quicker to build and operate in comparison to normal hospitals.

COVID cases are in its decline now and we started looking forward to bright future ahead. There are many merits of makeshift hospitals in managing covid, but starting a new facility with limited resources and man power is never easy and had many hurdles. The health care services and systems in India are still developing and have challenges of workforce shortages, absenteeism, poor infrastructure and quality of care.² In addition, ensuring adequate personal protective equipment and other medical logistics was difficult because of the stupendous need across the country. Overcoming these hurdles is critical to make