

Chapter – 3

MEDICAL AND RURAL HEALTH SERVICES

3.1. Introduction:

3.1.1. The Director of Medical and Rural Health Services is in-charge of planning and execution of all programmes of Medical and Rural Health Services Department in Tamil Nadu. He is responsible for rendering the Medical care services, through the grid of 26 District Headquarters Hospitals, 155 Taluk Hospitals, 80 Non-Taluk Hospitals, 11 Dispensaries, 11 Mobile Medical Units, 7 Women and Children Hospitals, 2 TB Hospitals/Sanatorium, 2 TB Clinics and 7 Leprosy Hospitals / Centres. He also implements various Acts like Human Organ Transplantation Act and Pre-conception and Pre-natal Diagnostic Techniques (Prohibition of Sex Selection) Act, 1994 and Accreditation of Private Hospitals, District Mental Health Programme etc.

3.1.2. The State has been divided into 30 Revenue Districts for the implementation of the medical care services. The Joint Directors of Medical and Rural Health Services and Family Welfare are the overall controlling officers of all the Medical Institutions for the implementation of medical care services including family welfare. They are the supervising authority for all health programmes. The Deputy Directors of Medical Services (Thoracic Medicine) in every District look after the TB Control Programme. Specialists in the rank of Civil Surgeons are also provided in the District Headquarters Hospitals. The Deputy Director of Medical Services (Leprosy) in every District looks after the Leprosy Eradication Programme. The Leprosy Programme has been integrated with the Department of Public Health and Preventive Medicine in order to involve Leprosy Field Staff in Public Health work and the Health Inspectors in Leprosy work.

3.1.3. Improvements to District, Taluk, Non-Taluk Hospitals and Dispensaries constitute an important development of plan of activities in the shape of expanded medical facilities, specialized services such as Medicine, Surgery, Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Ophthalmology, ENT, Venereology, Orthopaedic Surgery, Anaesthesiology, Child Health, Dental, Psychiatric Clinics, Ambulance Services, Pathological Laboratory Services, Leprosy, TB, Diabetic clinics, Cardiology, Nephrology and most of other improvements. Accident and Emergency Service to meet the accident hazards is being implemented in a phased manner. The Maternity and Child Health and Family Welfare activities are undertaken effectively through non-teaching medical institutions under family welfare post partum programme.

3.1.4. This Department is also coordinating the other departments' programmes, such as Control of Blindness, Medical Facilities under Hill Area Development programme and Adi-Dravidar and Tribal Welfare Schemes etc.

3.2. Appointment of Staff Nurse:

The Government have accorded permission for the creation of 100 Mobile Medical Units in all the Health Unit Districts under National Rural Health Mission by allotting one Staff Nurse to each 100 Mobile Medical Unit. Further, the Government have accorded permission to recruit 660 Staff Nurses on Contract Basis to improve 24 hours Round the clock Maternal and Child Health Care activities under State Rural Health Mission by allotting three staff nurses to each of the 220 Primary Health Centres. 200 staff nurses were appointed to the 32 CEmONC hospitals. During the year 2007-08, 1400 Staff Nurses were appointed on contract basis in the various schemes.

3.3. Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (Prohibition of Sex Selection) Act 1994:

To curtail the highly adverse sex ratio and to prevent female foeticide, the Pre-conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (Prohibition of Sex Selection) Act-1994 is being

implemented effectively in this State. State level, District level and sub District level advisory committees have been formed. 3502 Scan centres have so far been registered under the Act and constant vigil is being maintained to prevent detection of sex. So far, 72 cases for violation of the Act have been identified and cases have been filed against these Scan Centres. Judgement has been delivered in 53 cases and 19 cases are under trial.

3.4. District Mental Health Programme:

3.4.1. Treating the mentally ill is important in our society. For the purpose of treating this kind of people living in villages, pilot programme called District Mental Health Programme is implemented in Thiruchirappalli, Ramanthapuram, Madurai, Theni, Kanniyakumari, Erode, Dharmapuri and Nagapattinam Districts. The main aim of this scheme is to identify the mentally ill people and to render proper treatment for the mental illness.

3.4.2. Under this programme, Mobile Mental Health Team is formed. Psychiatrist and certain non-medical workers will go to the different places in the districts, identify the patients and give them appropriate treatment. Depending upon the severity of mental illness, they are referred to Headquarters hospitals for intensive treatment. Under this programme, doctors, nurses and certain para medical workers are trained in mental health care delivery.

3.4.3. Awareness on mental illness and remedies available under this programme is being disseminated among the public through various IEC activities. Under this programme, 10 bedded Psychiatric ward is created in Madurai, Ramanathapuram, Theni, Kanniyakumari, Erode, Dharmapuri and Nagapattinam Headquarters Hospitals.

3.4.4. The Scheme is now extended to 8 more districts in Tamil Nadu namely Kancheepuram , Thiruvallur, Cuddalore, Chennai, Virudhunagar , Thiruvarur, Perambalur and Namakkal.

3.4.5. The Director of Medical and Rural Health Services is the Controlling and Monitoring Authority and the Director, Institute of Mental Health and Deans of Medical Colleges of the programme districts are looking after the programme. The programme is well implemented in the above districts.

3.5. TB Control Programme:

3.5.1. Every year about 18 lakh persons develop TB in India. In our State, every year about 1.4 lakh persons develop Tuberculosis, among whom 48000 have TB Bacilli in their sputum. There are 8 TB Hospitals in Tamil Nadu – 2 under the control of the Directorate of Medical and Rural Health Services, 4 under the control of Directorate of Medical Education and 2 Private. There are 3091 beds in the State exclusively for in-patient treatment of acutely ill-patients. All the other patients are under DOTS treatment in the nearest health facility of the patient. A State Level Officer in the rank of Additional Director of Medical and Rural Health Services is acting as State Tuberculosis Officer to coordinate and supervise the Revised National TB Control Programme. At the District level, the Deputy Director of Medical Services is the Manager of the Programme. The Government of India with the World Bank Assistance is providing 100% expenditure for drugs and establishment cost of all District TB Control Societies headed by the District Collectors. The State Government meets the entire expenditure on running all the District TB Centres and Government TB Hospitals.

3.5.2. The Revised National TB Control Programme (RNTCP) is implemented in all the Districts through 142 TB Units (one for every 5 lakh population), 782 Microscopic Centres (one for every one lakh population) and about 11,000 DOT Centres. The RNTCP Programme also has a good partnership with Non-Governmental Organisations, Private Hospitals and Private Doctors, Railways, Port Trust and Military Hospitals. The Programme has examined 4 lakh persons and diagnosed about 64,051 TB patients during the year 2007-08. Of them 24,923 persons are new

sputum positive patients and 83% of the patients have been cured in 2007-2008. Our State has achieved all the parameters and targets fixed by the Government of India.

3.5.3. Achievements under the RNTCP Programme:

*(upto 31.12.2007)

Year	Chest Symptomatics for whom sputum examination was done			New Sputum Positive TB Patients diagnosed			Cure rate w.r.t. new sputum positive TB patients diagnosed	
	Target	Achievement	Percentage	Target	Achievement	Percentage	Target	Achievement
2000-01	308880	384506	124%	30890	24533	79%	85%	37%
2001-02	310550	380747	123%	31055	23589	76%	85%	81%
2002-03	310550	376037	121%	31055	24346	78%	85%	84%
2003-04	310550	596367	192%	31055	36104	116%	85%	88%
2004-05	486024	632533	130%	48602	39562	81%	85%	89%
2005-06	486024	650123	134%	48602	36066	74%	85%	86%
2006-07	489457	603073	123%	48946	32991	67%	85%	82%
2007-08*	489457	404064	83%	48946	24923	51%	85%	83%

3.6. Tamil Nadu State Illness Assistance Society:

The Government of Tamil Nadu have constituted the Tamil Nadu State Illness Assistance Society with a Revolving Fund of Rs.15.00 crores as an initial corpus fund. The funding pattern will be in the ratio of 2:1 between State Government and Government of India. The affairs of the Tamil Nadu State Illness Assistance Society is administered by the Executive Committee under the Chairmanship of the Secretary to Government, Health and Family Welfare Department. The Director of Medical and Rural Health Services acts as the Member Secretary. The Society provides financial assistance to the poor patients below poverty line for undergoing life saving surgical treatment in specified categories like, Open Heart Surgery, Kidney Transplantation, Skull opening, Hip replacement, Spinal cord surgeries etc., in accredited private Hospitals through the District collectors as was done under Chief Minister's Public Relief Fund Scheme. In order to facilitate heart surgery for children from poor families requiring it without any delay, the Young Children Heart Surgery Scheme is being implemented by this Government in partnership with private hospitals. Under this scheme, the Government provides grants-in-aid upto Rs.70,000 to

private hospitals. So far, 17 reputed hospitals have been selected and 200 children have been provided assistance for heart surgery.

3.7. Implementation of Human Organ Transplantation Act 1994:

The transplantations are being done only in the approved hospitals in Tamil Nadu. The Hospitals which are applying for registration under the Human Organ Transplantation Act, 1994 have to be inspected by a team of specialists from the nearest Government Medical College. The team will inspect the hospitals and furnish the inspection report. The Director of Medical and Rural Health Services who is the State Appropriate Authority for issuing the approval for Organ Transplantation issue Registration Certificate based on the inspection report to the Hospitals. The Tamil Nadu Government have constituted three Authorization Committees region-wise at Chennai, Madurai and Coimbatore for scrutiny of each and every non- relative case for approval of renal transplantation. Accordingly, the Registered Hospitals, region-wise will submit their application for renal transplantation to the respective Authorization Committee. The donors and the recipients have to appear before the Committee. Each and every case of non-relative is verified and approved by the Committees for carrying out the transplantations. In Tamil Nadu, 54 hospitals are registered for carrying out Renal Transplantation.

3.8. Strengthening of Comprehensive Emergency Obstetric and New born care Centres (CEmONC):

To reduce the Maternal and Infant Mortality and Morbidity, 83 Government Hospitals have been identified to give Emergency, Obstetric and New Born Care round the clock. Obstetric Casualty, New Born Casualty, Blood Bank Services, Operation Theatre Services and Ambulance Services are provided in these centres. The centres are selected among 162 First Referral Units, 83 centres based on the performance and in such a way to avoid delay (for the mother) of not more than one hour or 40 kilometers of travel for the Mother to reach the Emergency Obstetric Care Centre.

3.9. Upgradation and Strengthening of Accident and Emergency Facilities:

The Tamil Nadu Government have decided to establish Accident and Emergency facilities to accident victims of every 50 kms. distance in the National Highways of Tamil Nadu. Till date, the Government of India have sanctioned Rs.14.48 crores for upgradation and strengthening of Accident and Emergency facilities to 10 Government Hospitals which are situated in the National Highways. The details of Government of India's Fund for the upgradation and strengthening of Accident and Emergency Facilities are as follows:

Sl.No.	Name of the Hospital and District	Amount (Rs. in crores)
1	Govt. Headquarters Hospital, Perambalur.	1.05
2	Govt. Headquarters Hospital, Villupuram.	1.43
3	Govt. Hospital, Omalur, Salem District.	1.50
4	Govt. Headquarters Hospital, Padmanabhapuram, Kanniyakumari District.	1.50
5	Govt. Headquarters Hospital, Namakkal.	1.50
6	Govt. Headquarters Hospital, Walajah, Vellore District.	1.50
7	Govt. Headquarters Hospital, Thenkasi, Thirunelveli District.	1.50
8	Govt. Headquarters Hospital, Cuddalore.	1.50
9	Govt. Hospital, Melur, Madurai District.	1.50
10	Govt. Hospital, Tambaram, Kancheepuram District.	1.50
Total		14.48

Accident and Trauma care centres will be established in the District Headquarters Hospital, Krishnagiri by utilizing the Government of India funds of Rs.3.00 crores, during the current year.

3.10. Provision of C.T.Scan facility:

In order to provide C.T. scan facilities to the rural public, the Government have sanctioned the provision of C.T.Scan facilities to six Government Hospitals at Thirupathur, Vellore District, Palani, Dindigul District, Aruppukkottai, Virudhunagar District, Athur, Salem District, Tambaram, Kancheepuram District and Aranthangi, Pudukkottai District.

3.11. Provision of MRI Scan facility:

A MRI Scan will be provided to Government Headquarters Hospital, Erode, shortly.

3.12. Opening of Dental Clinics:

The Government have sanctioned staff for the 39 new dental clinics (i.e. Dental Assistant Surgeon, Staff Nurse, Dental Hygienist, Hospital Worker for each Hospital) at a total cost of Rs.2.45 crores. Dental chairs to an amount of Rs.78 lakhs was supplied. Dental doctors will be appointed through the Tamil Nadu Public Service Commission shortly.

3.13. New Schemes for the year 2008-2009:

- a) Construction of building with the provision of 75 KVA Generator at the Government Headquarters Hospitals, Krishnagiri and Padmanabhapuram at a cost of Rs.42.00 lakhs.
- b) Provision of Telephone facility to the newly formed Office of the Joint Director of Health Services, Krishnagiri at a cost of Rs.0.05 lakh.
- c) Provision of Cell Phones to Director, six Additional Directors and all the Joint Directors of Health Services of the Districts at a cost of Rs.2.10 lakhs.