

VISIT NOTE TO SULKAPARA RURAL HOSPITAL IN NAGRAKATA BLOCK, DISTRICT – JALPAIGURI

Myself visited Sulkapara Rural Hospital on October 2, 2022. The BMOH, Dr. Burman was present on the occasion. The basic statistics regarding hospital is as follows :-

2. It is a 30 (thirty) bedded hospital (10 male, 10 Female, 10 labour including 3 pre-natal). There is one doctor who is working as BMOH and 5 other G.D.M.O. (all MBBS). There are no specialists in any area or Female doctors. There is a total of 11 Nursing staff with one Sister-in-Charge (No vacancy). The Sister-in-Charge is B.Sc. Nursing while rest are GNM. No X-Ray, CT or MRI are available. Regarding blood investigation a semi-auto analyzer is available but no pathologist. Following deficiencies were noted against which recommendations are given below :-

i. Wards are located in pucca cemented buildings but the Administrative building is located in a bamboo-structure. This is very old and needs replacement by a concrete structure.

ii. There is no pucca roads inside the campus and no landscaping done. As a result, there is lot of water-logging. It is recommended that ASPHALT roads be made inside the campus with landscaping.

iii. I found that in the Male Ward there were 3 patients whereas 7 beds were empty. However, in the Female Ward over 30 patients were admitted which led to overcrowding. Several patients were placed in same bed (bed sharing). Dengue/non-Dengue patients were sharing same bed and no mosquito nets were being used. Bed linens were very dirty and needed washing. No hospital gowns were being issued to admitted patients with the result that the atmosphere had a foul smell. Further, this is very unhygienic and can cause cross-infections. No BHTs were found attached to bed. This caused difficulties in monitoring the condition of individual patients. Thus, it is recommended that admitted patients be issued hospital gowns, bed linens be washed regularly, floors be sanitized daily and cleanliness condition of wards upgraded. As far as possible single bed be issued to single patient and dengue – now dengue patients be segregated.

IV. No surgeons, anesthetics, gynaecologist or pathologist are available here. Therefore, in most of such cases have to be referred to North Bengal Medical College & Hospital or Jalpaiguri Medical College (located at a distance of 70 kms.). I was informed that low level

surgical interventions were being carried out viz., Ligation, abscess removal etc. However, in absence of specialists such surgical intervention could lead to serious mishaps. It is recommended that at least ONE Gynaecologist and one Surgeon be posted since it is a rural hospital catering to the population of entire Nagrakata block.

v. Over 30 percent cases are referred from this Rural Hospital to bigger / referral hospitals. These involve patients of CVA STROKE, SNAKE BITES, NEPHRO PATIENTS, SUICIDE ATTEMPTS, AMI/Stroke, Cancer, Neuro patients. Six (6) Ambulances (patient carriers) are available with the Rural Hospital. No Ophthalmologists or physio are available. As such, even simple cases of cataract have to be referred.

vi. This hospital has no female doctors. Therefore, examining Medico legal cases (rape, sexual molestation) is very difficult and against established norms. Thus, posting of a female GDMO is strongly recommended.

vii. The hospital is facing security issues. Thus, it is recommended that security guards be posted to increase security in the Rural Hospital.

viii. As this is a big Rural Hospital and referral hospitals are at a distance of nearly 100 kms. it is recommended that specialist in Surgery, Gyanecology, Cardiology be posted. Also some basic investigative equipments like USG / X-Ray are recommended. Cleanliness / basic patient hygiene are to be maintained.

Special Secretary, West Bengal Human Rights Commission is directed to send authenticated copy to Principal Secretary, Health & Family Welfare Deptt., Govt. of West Bengal with copies to D.M./C.M.O.H., Jalpaiguri and B.M.O.H., Sulkapara Rural Hospital.

Principal Secretary, Health & Family Welfare Department, Govt. of West Bengal to send ATR within 3 months time.

Ld. Registrar, WBHRC to upload in website.


(N. Mukherjee)
Member

West Bengal Human Rights Commission

Encl : Photograph of the Rural Hospital

13/10/2022