

FOR WEBSITE

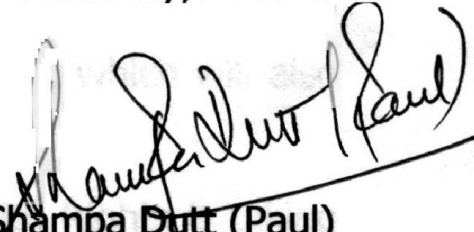
On 22.04.15, the Registrar, West Bengal Human Rights Commission along with Secretary, District Legal Services Authority, Kolkata visited Calcutta Pavlov Hospital.

It was seen that the premises of the Hospital including the Halls where the inmates have been housed, was very clean and well maintained.

The Superintendent, Pavlov Hospital stated that they are facing severe problems releasing patients who are fully cured, due to the reluctance of family members to accept them. There being no proper person/guardian to whom the cured patient can be handed over (as proper after care/ medicine is required), the patient remains in the hospital indefinitely.

- It was noticed that the provision of the Mental Health Act are not diligently followed during reception and detention of the inmates.
- There is no follow up by the concerned Court of Magistrates passing reception order as per the provision of Sec. 24 of the Act.
- Sec. 37 & 38 of the Act regarding monthly inspection by visitors appointed as per the Act is not followed.
- **A permanent Social Welfare Officer needs to be appointed at Pavlov Hospital for ensuring the legal and social rights / welfare of the inmates.**
- Some of the inmates are very talented (singing / acting / painting) and as such necessary steps can be taken to nurture their talent, which will also ensure the better overall health of the inmates.
- 'ANJALI' an N.G.O. working in the field of Mental Health Rights is taking serious & positive initiative in rehabilitating the cured inmates.

- The sanctioned strength for inmates is 250. But presently there are 418 inmates. There are only 30 nursing staff against a sanctioned strength of 54 (ALL FEMALE).
- Be it noted that in cases of mental patients, the more the staff, the more can be provided as these patients require the most care in our society.
- But in spite of the shortage of staff – we found all the inmates very well cared for and their living conditions very clean & hygienic.
- Male nursing staff should be recruited to handle the male inmates.
- The Superintendent was requested to see and follow the website of NHRC, India - at [nhrc.nic.in](http://nhrc.nic.in) <home<library - where the judgment of Supreme Court / High Courts on disability and mental health are given.
- **Regular Training and Workshops** should be held for the staffs handling mentally ill patients to update them regarding the latest rules / procedures / laws and their applicability in dealing with these patients.
- Registrar General, High Court may be requested to move the Hon'ble Court to give necessary directions to the Magistrates / Judicial Officers of the state for strict compliance of the relevant provisions of the Mental Health Act as these patients once sent are being totally forgotten.
- The cases relating to the mentally ill inmates are getting neglected as they have none of their own to pursue to their case. It is the good gesture of N.G.O.s & officers / staff of the hospital that the patients are being looked after well. As such a social welfare officer, appointed by the state is urgently required at these hospitals.
- These observations may be sent to the concerned authority, Health Department for their immediate action.

  
Shampa Dutt (Paul)  
Registrar,  
WBHRC