

REPORT OF THE WORK DONE BY THE II MEDICAL TEAM: by DR.(MRS) PADMINI URS

541/1143 I. We took over from the I team on 13th Dec. '77 night and started working from 14th Dec. '77.

II. The tables appended hereby (day to day statistics) and the graphs show the number of cases treated in various centres.

The earlier team had started a Clinic at the base camp and one at Mandapakala. As the tidal wave had hit a vast area, the II team decided to start a few more centres. The Mandapakala centre was re-organised and 2 Doctors and 2 Nurses lived in that centre to serve round the clock. This centre covered more than 6 to 7 villages.

Another centre was opened at POTTUMEDDA and this covered another 7 villages.

As GEORGEPETTA consisted of a few inhabitants, who started coming back, the services rendered were greater at Pottumedda.

In addition, to these the ROVING TEAM, consisting 1 doctor, 1 nurse and 1 helper went on foot from hamlet to hamlet, taking medical aid to the houses.

The Medical Service was orientated in THREE ways:

1. Preventive
2. Curative and
3. Imparting Health Education.

We carried out TABC inoculation in interior hamlets, including TETVAC inoculations at times. The fly population became a great problem and we had to drain off the stagnant water and helped the villages to keep the surroundings clean and also sprayed bleaching powder and lime around the villages.

The curative aspect showed initially a high incidence of Respiratory infections. This was due to lack of shelter, exposure to cold, dust and fumes. This aspect was stressed in the meeting held on 17.12.'77 midnight at AVANIGADDA hospital and a plea for the construction of huts immediately was sought. As this was being done and because of the increase in the fly menace the incidence of DIARRHOEA AND DYSENTERIES went up. The District Medical Officer and the Rural Development Officer were briefed regarding this and they were very co-operative and helpful. They provided us with bleaching powder, D.D.T., and lime and other accessories and sent the fly killing squad. They personally came to inspect the villages that were covering and assured us all help.

III. In the above meeting, it was felt that there is an urgent need of training the village girls (who have basic education) in Basic Health Education (bare foot doctor?)

We were also teaching the villagers regarding how best to clean the water for drinking purposes, that the bore-well water through the pipe is not a pure one and little babies to be given boiled - colled water, etc. We advised them regarding Breast-feeding.

As most of the villagers had lost some kith and kin or other, we had to look after their mental health also. Most of them were in shock, dazed or in great depression. Many of them wanted a sympathetic ear to listen to. More than drugs, this is what helped them most. As we opened more centres and stayed on the spot day and night, the villagers came and told our team members, that if it was not for them, they would not have come to these villages.

- IV. The relief work was almost 75% complete and is still going on and plans for rehabilitations have started. Hence these centres that we have started could well form the nucleus of the future Primary Health Centre in the respective villages.

In this regard, I take this opportunity of thanking the Medical Officers of Avanigadda, who raised to the occasion and supplied us with fantastic amount of drugs as and when we asked for them. Hence we were in a position to leave enough of medicines for another 2 or 3 weeks to be used by the next team.

Our team has been interviewed by the All India Radio, Hyderabad, regarding the work carried out by us. Also we were interviewed by one 'Ladies' magazine - probably Femina.

We were relieved by the III Team on 28.12.'77.

The Team acknowledges with gratitude the opportunity given by St. John's Medical College Cyclone Relief Organisation and the Catholic Relief Organisation to serve these people in utter distress.
