

Hospital Emergency Preparedness (HOPE) and Fire Safety: GMERS Medical College, Junagadh

Background

Hospital Incident Response and Fire Safety is the essential part of Hospital Preparedness for Emergencies. In this regard, earlier HOPE training programme has been conducted. However, in post-Covid 19 scenario public health emergency incidents have emerged as significantly important sector with more responsibility and burden on the hospital and health institutions. In this regard, it becomes important for us to enhance the hospital emergency incident command system available in the hospitals and build capacity to develop contingency plan for critical services continuity.

In recent reports it has been observed that hospital safety preparedness has not been regularized and fire safety along with earthquake emerged as a major concern in different hospitals in Gujarat¹. Incidents of fire hazards came out in private hospital and clinics in Rajkot leading to significant losses² which may create crisis due to bursting out emergency store. In this regard, it becomes necessary to enhance the hospital incident response system that is to be developed in every hospital under the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) guidelines of 'Hospital Safety' of 2016. The outreach programme will discuss on how to build capacity through different preparedness methods and making critical hospital services continue during emergency.

Hospital fire safety is another concern and needs to build capacity on regular basis. The mentioned capacity building training programme is to build hospital fire safety and make awareness of safety equipment. In this regard, the programme will demonstrate hands on exercise of hospital fire safety.

Why to Improve Hospital Incident Response

- HIRS is fundamental component in health institutions to quickly respond during emergencies. It is to be established in each hospital in accordance to NDMA guidelines on Hospital Safety.
- Post Bhuj earthquake in 2001 and in post-Covid scenario public health institutions are emerged as crucial service point for human sustenance and capacity building has become a major concern to reduce the risk or prevent the disaster.
- Gujarat has witnessed of different hazardous events affected the hospitals externally and internally and all the hospitals are not equipped for continuity during surge capacity. Therefore, it is required to enhance the capacity of the hospitals and highlights the roles and responsibility of different stakeholders of the health institutions as per NDMA guidelines during emergency situation.
- Major and severe health epidemic outbreaks including Mucormycosis, Rubella has affected the state leading to potential threats to large scale population of the state. Considering the increasing PHEs it is significantly important to build the capacity of

¹ Available at-

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significantly important component of Hospital Safety.

Objectives

- Developing understanding of Hospitals Emergency Preparedness (HOPE) & Fire Safety scenario,
- Discussion of the significance of each component of HIRS,
- Capacity building through sharing of knowledge and case study based analysis to respond quickly during fire hazard and mass casualty management,
- Developing understanding of Risk Assessment and Mitigation with practical exercise.

Target Department

All the CDHOs, RMOs, Doctors and EMTs, of the Hospital are invited for the programme.