



## **MAHATMA GANDHI INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES, SEVAGRAM**

### **Institutional efforts and initiatives in providing an inclusive environment**

The Institution has taken various efforts/initiatives in providing an inclusive environment i.e., tolerance and harmony towards cultural, regional, linguistic, communal socio-economic and other diversities. These are done by department of community medicine through various camps. Our institute has regular community prayer at Babu kuti ashram and every Friday at community hall in the campus.

Our institute has leveraged its location for the services of the community to the rural area of Melghat at taluka Dharni through Dr Sushila Nayar hospital. Melghat is a tribal area in Dharni and Chikhaldara of Amravati district. Located 250 Kms north-west from Sevagram, this area attracted wide media coverage because of malnutrition-associated deaths in the last decade. Three- fourth of the population is tribal- inhabited by Korku Adivasis. Most people, poor, illiterate and struggling to make both ends meet, live in dark ages and have little or no access to health care facilities, education and communication channels. To access specialized neonatal care most people have to travel 160 Kms on a difficult and hilly terrain. Men, women and children trapped by the grimmest poverty and are further hit by inequality of health services. Children, in particular are the worst sufferers. Most of the sickness and deaths are due to malnutrition, pneumonia, malaria and diarrhoea. Kasturba Health Society has been providing health facilities in this region through the Mahatma Gandhi Adivasi Hospital and Dr Sushila Nayar Netralaya since the last 17 years. A multispeciality hospital was commissioned on the site on 4 Feb 2016, and 7.5 acres of land was acquired for the purpose. A team of obstetrician-gynecologists, pediatricians, anesthetists, medical officers, interns, administrative officer and nurses work at Utawali hospital round the clock and manage emergencies, outpatients and inpatients. The team soon realized that more than ill-health, they had to battle the social circumstances. The tribal folk had their unique beliefs, superstitions and cultural practices. Coupled with these prejudices, poverty and illiteracy, it has been an uphill task to counsel patients and ensure compliance.

The area is prone to load shedding, and hence a new 7.5 KV generator has been installed in the hospital. A pipeline has been laid from Utawali village to the hospital to counter the water scarcity. Arrangements have been made to enable proper waste disposal and sanitation. A total of 100 villages receive community based maternal, neonatal care in Dharni block of Melghat.

In 2020-21, a total of 12330 patients were seen in the OPD. 782 patients were admitted in the wards of the hospital. The numbers of patients admitted in each speciality are as follows: Medicine (10), Ob/Gyn (310), Pediatrics (180), Surgery (3) and Ophthalmology (279). 170 babies were delivered, 85 by Caesarian section. A total of 434 surgeries were conducted (Gynecology-62, Obstetrics-99, Ophthalmology-270, Surgery-3 of which, 370

were major surgeries. Medical officers examined 1599 patients in community clinics, while 281 patients were seen at the prenatal clinics. Academic updates and CMEs were conducted on Post-partum hemorrhage, Exclusive breast feeding and neonatal care, Management of shock (19 Jun 2020), Gestational hypertension, Sickle cell anemia, Basic life support (18 Sep 2020), the awareness of Laksh, Daksh, Kayakalp, Infection Control and Waste Management programs of Government of India (7 Jan 2021), Eclampsia Management (26 Feb 2021). A session on awareness of fire safety with drill was conducted on (9 Feb 2021)



