

Kangaroo Mother Care Unit at Kapadvanj Centre of Tribhuvandas Foundation

Tribhuvandas Foundation is a co-operative linked Rural Health Programme with focus on health of women and children. It is named after one of the pioneers of the 'White Revolution' and Founder Chairman of AMUL co-operative, Late Shri Tribhuvandas K Patel.

When Late Shri Tribhuvandas Patel, 'Tribhuvankaka' as he is fondly remembered, retired from the chairmanship of AMUL, milk producers from the erstwhile Kheda district of central Gujarat gifted him a purse of Rs 6 ¹/₂ lacs as symbol of respect for what he had done for the farmers. Shri Tribhuvankaka handed over this amount along with the sum he had received as a part of the Ramon Magsaysay award, to Dr Varghese Kurien, the brain behind the 'White Revolution', and requested him to use the same for improving the health of farmers particularly women and children. Thus, the Foundation came in to being and became functional in 1979 with initiation of its activities in village Hadgud. As of now, the Foundation has established its coverage in 861 villages of Anand, Kheda and Mahisagar districts (erstwhile Kheda district). It has its headquarters at Anand and 4 peripheral centres at Kapadvanj, Balasinor, Kheda and Tarapur. All the villages covered are clustered around these 5 centres to develop a decentralized approach.

Responding to the emerging community need for a place where women can deliver safely, a maternity home was started at Kapadvanj centre of TF in the year 2010. Over the years a pediatrics ward and a level 2 SNCU were developed. Recently, a KMC unit was initiated at Kapadvanj centre of TF with the help of a kind donation from Shri Harshadbhai and Smt. Jyotsanaben Trivedi, from Vadodara. In Gujarat, apart from few medical colleges, this unit is probably the first of its kind.

KMC is well accepted in the villages covered by TF. This has been proved conclusively by community based studies carried out in TF (ICMR study published in Indian J Med Res 145, January 2017, pp 51-57 and other independent studies carried out by KMCF) and also reflected in the annual MIS reports of TF. So initiation of a KMC unit was a logical next step. This unit is also linked with the community based maternal & child health programme of Tribhuvandas Foundation through the village health workers (VHWs) of TF. This will ensure continuation of KMC at home (Home Based KMC). In turn the practice KMC will be strengthened at both the facility as well as the community level. The KMC unit consists of a dedicated ward with separate trained staff and will cater to stabilized low birth weight newborns identified by the pediatrician.

One day training workshop on KMC

To help initiate the work properly, one day capacity building training workshop on Kangaroo Mother Care was held at Tribhuvandas Foundation, Kapadvanj Center on 28th of April 2019. The resource person for this workshop was Dr. Nikhil Kharod, CEO and Pediatrician, Tribhuvandas Foundation, Anand and Additional Secretary of the KMC Foundation, India. The objective of the training was to sensitize TF staff at Kapadvanj centre of TF and also develop their skills to help mothers provide KMC.



38 employees of Tribhuvandas Foundation posted at Kapadvanj centre of TF, attended the Training. The trainee group was heterogeneous consisting of Gynecologist, Pediatrician, Public Health Expert, AYUSH doctors and Nurses from Tribhuvandas Foundation. It also included Field Workers who are in continuous contact with the VHWs and villagers. The above training was also attended by ward attendees and helpers of Gynecology / Obstetric and Pediatric departments.

The training started with a pretest. This was then followed by interactive presentations on scientific basis of KMC, benefits of KMC, practical aspects of KMC, monitoring during KMC, feeding during KMC, KMC discharge and follow up. After these presentations video films on the subject were shown. This was followed by actual demonstration of KMC in the ward. The participants were then divided in to 4 groups for group discussion and presentation. The workshop concluded with post-test and feedback.

Inauguration Ceremony

Smt. Sumatiben Kantilal Trivedi Kangaroo Mother Care Unit, at the Kapadvanj centre of TF was formally inaugurated on 7th May 2019 through a simple ceremony attended by the Donor couple Mr Harshadbhai Trivedi and Mrs. Jyotsanaben Trivedi, Dr Harish Kundalia, President, Kapadvanj Kelavani Mandal and Dr Nikhil Kharod, CEO (TF) and other TF staff members.



Visit by Special Guests



It was a matter of immense pleasure for Tribhuvandas Foundation that Prof. Socorro De Leon-Mendoza, President KMC Foundation, Phillipines and President of KMC Network of South Asian Countries and Dr Shashi Vani, Managing Trustee of the KMC Foundation, India & Professor of Pediatrics visited the Kangaroo Mother Care Unit at Kapadvanj on 13th May, 2019. Prof. Socorro De Leon-Mendoza was in Gujarat on the occasion of International KMC Awareness Day (15th May). They were pleased with the set up and gave some useful suggestions after their visit. They appreciated the efforts of TF and

Kapadvanj Center and wished all the best for future. They were pleased with the set up and gave some useful suggestions after their visit. They appreciated the efforts of TF and Kapadvanj Center and wished all the best for future.



Encouraging early response

After the initiation of this unit the acceptance of Kangaroo Mother Care by mothers and their families is improving. Even sense of ownership is also developing among the staff and doctors. This is reflected in the following statistics –

Since the inception on 7th May 2019 up to 31st July, 2019 →

- No. of Live births – 316
- No. of Low Birth Weight Newborns (< 2.5 kg) → 101
- No. of babies admitted in KMC unit → 66
- No. of babies (out those admitted in KMC unit) referred to SNCU → 17
- Minimum duration of stay in KMC unit → 2 days
- Maximum duration of stay in KMC unit → 7 days

We have developed a reporting system and will monitor the quality of KMC at facility and community levels. Moreover, when a KMC baby is discharged the respective TF Village Health Worker is also informed to follow up the baby at household level. Slowly, we will work towards strengthening Home Based KMC in all the villages where TF is working.

Dr Nikhil M Kharod
Pediatrician and CEO
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