

Sensitization of Health Watch Members - Report

One of the most important initiatives under the QIPHS Project is the community based collective named Health Watch for the hospitals under the project. It is visualised as a community based monitoring mechanism which will bring more transparency and accountability in the functioning of government hospitals. Under the project we have formed Health Watch for CHC Vellanikkara, PHC Vaniyamapra and District Health Watch for Thrissur. We have identified members for the Health Watch intended for General Hospital Irinjalakuda and preliminary meetings were carried with them. But a general meeting in which it will be officially declared is yet to happen due to some politically motivated anti-health watch campaign. But we are quite confident that Health Watch for General Hospital will come into operation from the second quarter.

Regular sensitization of members of health watch is an important requirement to keep the momentum up and to retain the enthusiasm of the group. These health watch groups are mainly operating through the convenors who are elected from among the members. We are keeping regular contact with these convenors for implementation of the activities proposed through health watch. In order to keep other members active and enthusiastic the project proposed quarterly sensitization meetings for the Health Watch formed. During the reporting quarter we have organized two such sensitization meetings for the health watch members of CHC Vellanikkara and PHC Vaniyampara.

On 7th November 2019, 2 p.m a meeting of the health watch vaniyampara was convened by Mr. Joy Poovathingal, convenor of the health watch. Around 20 members of the health watch attended the meeting including the Vice President of Pananchery Panchayath, Mr.K.A.Aboobaker. Report of the previous meeting was read and approved. Mr.K.A.Aboobaker informed the audience about the new building plan approved for the hospital under ARDRAM Project. He also said that an ambulance is sanctioned to the hospital (108 Ambulance) under trauma care project of the government. Committee members requested Mr.K.A.Aboobaker to call a meeting to discuss the proposed plan for the hospital so that the members could propose suggestions before the work starts. He agreed to call a special meeting with representatives from NHM Office, Engineer from Nirmithykendra the agency which has taken the construction contract, Medical officer and LSG representatives. It is this meeting that has lead to the successful intervention from the health watch in bringing necessary changes in the proposed development plan. The meeting was concluded by vote of thanks extended by Mr. Joy Poovathingal.



Second sensitization meeting for the members of health watch of CHC Vellanikkara took place on 31st December 2019, 2 p.m. at Jananeethi. Around twenty members attended the meeting. Adv. Sunilkumar P gave an introduction and pointed out the importance of having regular interfaces to keep the momentum up. The present developmental initiatives of the CHC Vellanikkara and major drawbacks identified at the hospital by the health watch members were discussed. The idea of having a help desk at the hospital under the patronage of health watch was proposed and the idea was strongly supported by all the members. Convenors were assigned to list out the immediate needs of the CHC which could be addressed in the next One Day for Hospital initiative. Members also cautioned about the delay in handing over the land to hospital by Agriculture University as promised. It was decided to carry out a strong follow up in order to understand the actual situation going on with respect to the land issue. The meeting was concluded with vote of thanks extended by Ms. E .Jayasree, Project Officer, Jananeethi.
