

Compliance to WHO'S Strategic Preparedness and Response Plan 2019 (n-CoV): Success Story of Department of Indian Medicine, Tamilnadu

Ganesh S¹, Parthiban P¹, Kanakavalli K², Sathiyarajeswaran P³, Shree Devi MS^{3*}

¹Directorate of Indian Medicine and Homeopathy, Chennai, India; ²Central Council for Research in Siddha, Chennai, India;

³Siddha Central Research Institute, Chennai, India

INTRODUCTION

The World Health Organization declared COVID-19 as “public health emergency of international concern” on January 30, 2020 and called for collaborative efforts of all countries to prevent the rapid spread of COVID-19 [1]. This Operational planning guideline was developed to accompany the SPRP 2021, to provide countries with practical, high-level actions under each of ten preparedness and response pillars that can be adapted as appropriate and implemented at national and subnational levels [2].

The Strategic response plan towards mitigation of COVID-19 by WHO is a capsule of the activities to be done by the authorities in administration right from the head of the nation and to all the stake holders involved in the mitigation. The strategic plan has ten pillars and understanding the effectiveness of these action points, Commissionerate of Indian medicine had followed every single action point in collaboration with the mainstream health stake holders, district magistrates and administrators of disaster management.

The key actions outlined in this document are quantitative and qualitative evaluation of response on par with ISM Department of Tamilnadu are as follows:

KEY ACTIVITIES

Activate multi-sectorial, multi-partner coordination mechanisms to support preparedness and response

A Multi sectoral team involving Taskforce of Tamilnadu and Various officials a team has been formed for Mitigation by ISM. All the district level officers have been instructed to act in prevention, containment, and treatment. The guidelines issued by Ministry of AYUSH [3] are followed and a separate G.O. (no. 201/ 23/04/2020) has been issued. Based on this G.O.19000 cases were treated in Siddha Covid Care Centres which reduced

the burden on IP Beds in Govt. hospitals by admitting the needy only in the first wave. Siddha based Interventions are used is a big support to AYUSH system. 1,78,43,773 members (44%) have taken Kabasura Kudineer as Prophylaxis in Chennai alone. 11,08,875 in home quarantine 20,52,892 people in containment zone were benefitted with Kabasura Kudineer and Nilavembu Kudineer – Siddha Formulary drugs [4,5]. In this process 1050 Siddha manpower has been utilised.

Risk communication and community engagement

Directorate of Indian medicine has worked in collaboration with Disaster team and periodically communicated the benefit and limitations of Siddha intervention during the Camps and community meetings. All the containment zones were provided with Kabasura Kudineer as prevention.

Surveillance, rapid response teams and case investigation

Certain cases returned from a single cluster point has been quarantined and given medication. People who turned positive has been treated in Integrative manner. People who have been isolated, who were in Quarantine centres (Melapalayam) have been taken proper care by giving Siddha Interventions and watching them for symptoms and contained properly.

Points of entry, international travel and transport, and mass gatherings

Contact cases identified *via* tracing arising from the clusters have been isolated and treated successfully. As an example a single case (Female) belonging to Krishnapuram who has been a contact of particular cluster has been traced, quarantined and treated and parallelly entire village have been treated with prophylactic intervention and observed for recurrence of disease.

Correspondence to: Shree Devi MS, Siddha Central Research Institute, Chennai, India, E-mail: shreemd@gmail.com

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Laboratories and diagnostics

Directorate of Indian medicine has established contacts with the Covid-19 testing centers (Govt. and Govt. Approved) and was utilizing their services to admit patients with RTPCR positivity who are debounded with in Asymptomatic and mild category. The standardization of interventions (Kabasura Kudineer) used have been tested in State and Central laboratories for their standards.

Infection prevention and control, and protection of the health workforce

Almost all the front-line workers including police personnel had the opportunity to take Kabasura Kudineer intervention. Aarokyam Android Mobile application has documented 4443 records of the Front-line workers, who feels better in health status.

Case management

Cases were treated in three different category, Home quarantine, Isolation wards and Covid Care Centres. 29 Covid centres have been opened exclusively for Siddha. All home quarantined individuals received Kabasura Kudineer along with regular Siddha Standard of Care. Certain Medical college Covid Care distributed Kabasura Kudineer along with Allopathic Standard of care. Around 28,000 cases have been treated in Siddha Covid Care Centre and discharged.

Operational support and logistics, and supply chains

Interventions for all the Siddha Covid Care Centres were supplied by Tamil Nadu Medicinal Plant Farms and Herbal Medicine Corporation Limited (TAMPCOL) and a strategy of

bulk production is planned which is periodically monitored by Honorable Health Minister of Tamilnadu [6].

CONCLUSION

Trials were conducted following ethical guidelines including MEURI to check the efficacy of the drugs in Prevention therapeutics and as integrated medicine. Introduction of simple but effective Managements like Mooligai thiri pugai (Herbal Fumigation), Oma pottanam (Ajwain/Carom Seeds Medicated Pouch/Packs), and herbal masks are some of the innovations happened. They have also adopted international R&D blueprint guidance and WHO protocols for special studies (companionate use, Monitored Emergency Use of Unregistered and Investigational Interventions) to investigate additional epidemiological, virologic, and clinical characteristics; designate a clinical trial or study sponsor.

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