

How a teacher's call added 10 Covid ICU beds in Modasa hosp

People Raise ₹18.5L In A Day To Help Critically Ill

BHARAT.YAGNIK@TIMESGROUP.COM

Ahmedabad:

It was a phone call by a schoolteacher on Covid-19 duty for inquiring about a patient's health that became a people's drive for raising funds to help save the lives of people who require critical care. The result is an increase of 10 intensive care unit (ICU) beds at a government hospital in Modasa using Rs 18.45 lakh that were raised in less than a day's time.

Earlier this month, Rajiv Darji, a teacher in Varthu Primary School in Modasa, called up Krishna Kharadi, a young girl living in Isari village of Mejrati taluka in Aravalli district. It was part of Darji's Covid duty to call up patients who are home quarantined and inquire about their wellbeing.

The girl said she was alright and recovering but her voice seemed to tremble and was heavy with some forlorn concern. When the teacher inquired further, she said that her father too had tested positive and that the doctors have advised to get him admitted to a hospital. The father, Jagdishbhai Kharadi, working with the state electricity board, was critical with poor oxygen levels. But there were no beds available, she said.

The teacher, who had been tele-calling patients for the last few days, felt it was time to do something. "He came to me the next day and said that we all are so helpless in this unusual crisis but we should do something about it," recalls Smita Patel, District Primary Education Officer, Aravalli.

The issue was discussed at the block resource centre and cluster resource centre of the state education department. Soon help poured in from all sides as word spread that money was required to set up more ICU beds in the area. Townsfolk and villagers opened their purse strings and contributed money.



Sarvajanik Prathmik Hospital where funds were used to add ICU capacity

Teacher wakes up society, babus

In a span of 24 hours, about Rs 18.45 lakhs were raised,” Smita Patel, District Primary Education Officer, Aravalli said.

Rakesh Patel, office superintendent of Sarvajanik Prathmik Hospital where funds were used to add ICU capacity, said that 10 new ICU beds have been readied and will soon start taking patients for them.

The hospital has a capacity of about 120 beds presently of which 16 are with ICU facilities having bi-level positive airway pressure (BiPAP) machines. With the new additions, there are presently 26 ICU beds.

Krishna Kharadi, who lost her father recently in his fight against Covid-19 after he was moved to a hospital, said the new hospital infrastructure facility in Modasa is much needed in these critical times for saving human lives.