

Rishi Valley Rural Health Center Report 2013

Project stewards: Sumana Reddy and Kavi Duvvoori

For background on this project, see earlier reports.

Rishi Valley site visit conducted on December 27, 2013. According to Doctor Karthik Kalyanram, funding from Asha has funded the continuing operation and particularly diabetic care by the Rishi Valley Health Center.

Excerpts from annual report:

Usage

The year past has kept the RHC as busy as ever, with 19651 accessing the the health centre. In our 12th year of functioning 154, 867 patients have been treated at the RHC.

Diabetes

Diabetes in particular is a debilitating illness with significant attendant morbidity. The cost of health care (medicines, particularly Insulins, investigations), loss of wage earning capacity; hits where it hurts most. Many families struggle to cope with the burden of this disease. We need to find ways to subsidise the economic burden of this disease on the rural poor.

Laboratory

The laboratory serves the needs of investigations for the population that accesses the Health Centre. As is evident, the bulk of the work is from Hematology, Biochemistry and routine urine examinations (about 26000 tests). Biochemistry has shown a marked increase primarily due to the manifold increase in Diabetics accessing the centre for treatment. The centre added an automated Urine Analyser and a table top HbA1C analyser to meet the increasing demands.

Under 15s Clinic

(a) Inception: 2007 – 08

(b) Objectives: To provide free / subsidised investigations and treatment to children.

(c) Funding: Heart and Hand for the Handicapped, USA

(d) More than 1800 children have benefited, this year alone. These included children with diagnoses as varied as Mental Retardation, Down Syndrome, Type I Diabetes, Thalassemias etc. who were treated at the RHC.

Vascular Diseases Project

This project in partnership with Epidemiology and Prevention Unit, Southern Clinical School, Monash University, Melbourne, Australia and Christian Medical College, Vellore is going well. The following studies are in progress

1. Case Control Study
2. Birth Cohort Study
3. Controlling Hypertension in Rural India (CHIRI):

<http://www.gacd.org/projects/current-projects/hypertension/project-pages/project6>