

# Scope And Potential For The Community Hospital Promotion In Vilathikulam, Tamil Nadu

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**Abstract-** Hospital and health service facility are the basic requirement of any individuals in the world. It is globally known as "Health is Wealth". To understand the health services and facility in the Vilathikulam Block of Thoothukudi District, Tamil Nadu this research was done. Major focus of this study all House Holds covers are poor. Their socio economic status is considered in this report to understand the basic characteristics of the selected samples. Most of the household having their annual income less than 1 lakh. For this study covered 80 Samples. To make study error free and reaching closure to the expected outcomes did PRAs among them and conducted 4 FGDs with them. For this study area selected is around 10 km radius of Vilathikulam with 4 different panchayat in 5 villages including Vilathikulam model town. The findings are described elaborately in the paper.

**Keywords-** Community Hospital, Health issues, chronic Disease, Poor, Health Expenditure Pattern, Health insurance.

## I. INTRODUCTION

The WHO defines community health as: environmental, social, and economic resources to sustain emotional and physical well-being among people in ways that advance their aspirations and satisfy their needs in their unique environment. A community health needs assessment is a systematic process involving the community to identify and analyze community health needs. In the case of rural India health is a very negligible dimension. Khan & Tripathy (2020) mentioned in their study of two villages in Odisha said the rural people there do not have faith on the main stream health system but the local indigenous healers. The inaccessibility make the people behavior like this.

The concept of community hospital comes out from UK over 150 years ago. On the same concept Indian government made PHC for the accessible health care services to the poor people and those who use to live in remote area. Here people think health issues are only means illness. But actual definition of health is slightly different their impact is in vast. It impacts more or less at all but poor's have to pay major. Due to health issues they have to pay in all aspects in their life. Apart from physical illness or problem they suffer in

so many aspects like social sector people started to ignore him/her and observe from different view point. According to Rema(2018) 55 million population of our country goes to poverty out of that 38 million people goes to BPL category because of their health expenditure every year. 86% rural population and 82% urban population of our country are not covered by any type of health care security. Tripathy & Khan (2018) stated in their study of a village of Madurai district of Tamil Nadu, that the accessibility of health system is very low. In this research majorly focus on the poor of Vilathikulam and their surrounding village under 10km in Thootikudi district, Tamil Nadu. Most of the household having their annual income less then Rs.1 lakhs. It is about Rs.70, 000 per annum. Most of them got their House under Indra Awash Yojana and toilets they have in their house are constructed under swachh Bharat Mission. 23% household having no toilets in their home because of lack of space and scarcity of water. Uniqueness of this area is Female sex ratio is more as compare to male. According to the study out of total population 51% are female and 49% are male population in this area.

In such circumstances the present study was done by focusing the objective mentioned below –

1. To assess the disease and health expenditure patterns.
2. To document the health care services available and the utilization of services/resources available at local level by the community.
3. To explore the willingness and interest among the community regarding the community hospital promotion.
4. To identify the sustainability of the community hospital in Vilathikulam block of Thoothukudi district.

## II. STUDY AREA AND METHODOLOGY

The study was conducted in Vilathikulam block of Thoothukudi district, Tamil Nadu. Vilathikulam owes its name to a temple pond "Vila" + "Athi" + "Kulam". The Meenakshi Amman Temple has a temple pond, which had a "Vila" tree and an "Athi" tree and hence, the name is given as

Vilathikulam. It is located in the KarisalKaadu region of Thoothukudi District of Tamil Nadu. It is a small town near the southern tip of mainland India. Vilathikulam is a peaceful little town, on the northern bank of the vaiper River, which has water flowing only 15 to 25 days per year. It is situated at longitude of 9.131586 North and 78.164580 East. It has an average elevation of 31 m (102 ft.).

The State, district, and the block was purposively selected due to the need of research from host institute (The DHAN Academy & SUHAM Foundation). And the villages are selected by the criteria of accessibility during the national lockdown period. This methodology is adopted from the thesis Tripathy (2020) on farming system and migration. The research was mainly done by interview schedule. A sample size of 80 was taken by stratified random sampling in the Vilathikulam model town panchayat, Kathalumpatti village, Reddhipatti village and Puliyanikulam village. Among the samples 60 respondents are the members of SHG and 20 respondents are their neighborhood non-SHG members. For understanding of the intangible factors in the health some PRA tools, FGDs and case studies were done. According to Tripathy & Khan (2020) PRA is the best tool for understanding the intangible factors of the society.

### III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Diseases are divided in two category here one is general illness pattern and another one is Chronic lifestyle disease. In general illness pattern, 33% people of Vilathikulam faces normal health issues. These health issues are common for everyone and it can be cured at local clinic medicine sometimes for these disease people use to do self-medication as well as traditional treatment. People who suffered from most of the diseases are like fever, cough and cold, pain and so on.

#### Basic Health Issues

People who suffered from common diseases in that 31% are suffered from Joint pain and pain, 27.27% people are suffered from normal fever, cold & cough. 9% people are suffered from the different mishappening like road accident and any other injuries like hand cut, leg cut because they use to cut trees in that area for the charcoal making. According to PRA majority of these common diseases are faced by children and women their contribution in these disease are 60% rest 40% are men and youngsters.

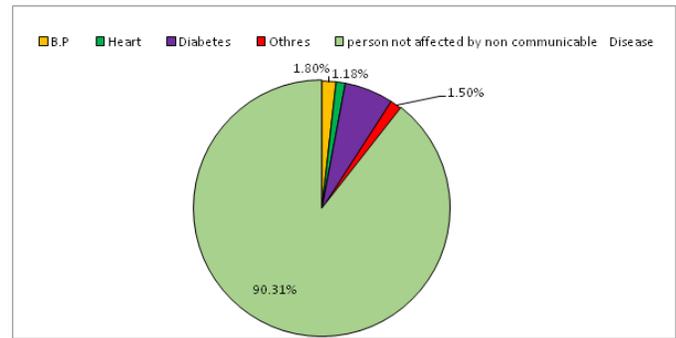


Chart 1 Life style chronic Disease

In chronic life style diseases people who crossed 40 year are suffered from these diseases. In the study of 80 households covered 338 people. 10.65 % people out of 338 currently faces different lifestyle disease. 21 patient which is 6.21% of the total sample covered under interview schedule are suffering from diabetes. Most of the people who suffered from the chronic diseases are suffered from diabetes. Their contribution in overall chronic disease is 58.33% out of the total who suffered from life style disease. 19.44% people are suffered from High and Low Blood Pressure. 11.11% people are suffered from Hurt diseases. Rest 11.11% people those who have chronic life style disease are suffered from other chronic disease like lungs, kidney etc.

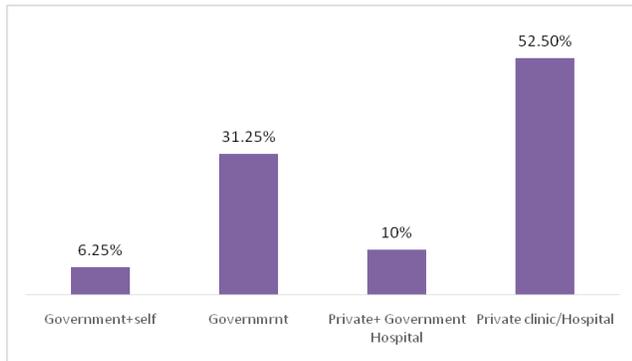
#### Health Expenditure pattern

Since their annual average income is Rs.70, 000 their expenditure on health matters on their family economy. It effects on their standard of Life. Out of total 80 sample 70% HH suffered from health issues they spent on an average Rs 11,674 which is about 16.66% of their total annual income. 40% HH facing chronic lifestyle diseases and they spent Rs 14,396 which is 20.56% of their annual average income. 12.5% HH faces both diseases they spent more than 30% of their annual income. 58.75% HH spent Annually Rs 2024 on self and traditional treatment. Generally if one time becomes ill they have to spend Rs 421 for their checkup. 40% HH claims that private clinics and hospital treatment cost is very high and unbearable afford it easily. 36% people accept private treatment cost is very high but they can manage and get better treatment because they lose their trust on government hospital in their locality. 14% people claim it is average and normally they pay it generally.

#### Basic Health Care Facilities and their utilizations

Basic health care facility is necessary for the people in the locality. Generally people use to come Vilathikulam for their initial treatment. In emergency and critical situation they use to go kovilpatti or Thoothukudi. In vilatghikulam not

enough basic health facility is available. There is only 2 small general private hospital, 5clinics, 8 medical shop, 2 labs and one government Hospital is available for people. It covers whole Vilathikulam as well as their surrounding villages which is very less as compare to population in that area. Since people are generally poor in that area they are generally using clinics and medical shop for purchasing medicine.

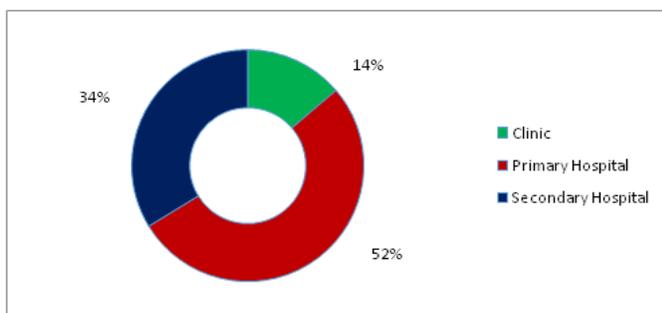


**Chart 1 Community preference for Treatment**

Satisfaction of the people matters especially for the basic requirement like health and education. 70% people are satisfied in Vilathikulam by the private clinics and their treatment 30% people are not satisfied with them. Only 31% people are satisfied from the government facility and services in that area. Overall services and facility what they got in that area are not sufficient for them and they are not satisfied, only 30% people are satisfied with the services and facility they are getting now rest70% are not satisfied. 23% of people took health loan mostly from the money lenders or friends and family.

**Willingness and interest among the community regarding the community hospital promotion**

Community hospital plays a major role in the life of poor. It decreases their health expenditure of poor and play a major role in the in the increment of their standard of living.



**Chart 3Expectation for type of community Hospital**

According to the interview schedule question 99% respondent are interested in the opening of communityhospital in the vilatikulam. 52% population shows interest in general primary hospital with all basic facility in one place. 34% person shows interest in the multi-specialty hospital with all facility in one place even surgery. 14% people show interest in general clinic with proper quality of treatment. They also want less waiting time for their treatment because people who come with patient can do half day work. Now a day’s health insurance is one of the basic needs of the people. Government is also focusing on it and launched different types of health insurance state as well as central government both. There is so many private agency that is providing insurance for health but they charge high. It is unbearable for the poor 87% people shows interest in the health insurance at affordable range. 13% people didn’t show interest in the health insurance because they think it’s only waste of money. In the FGD people shows interest in the regular health camp in the village. Health camp can give two way benefit one side promotion of hospital another one is villagers directly get benefited from the instant check-up without wastage of money as well as time.

**Sustainability of Community hospital**

To run hospital in a sustainable manner for long time there is need of financial as well as strategically support. In Vilathikulam federation overall 4500 SHG members on an average for the membership they are ready to pay Rs 322 as yearly subscription for the utilization of hospital personal as well as their family well-being. Out of the total respondent people are ready to pay amount in different range according to their comfort and affordability. 54% people are ready to pay in the range of Rs 0-300, 29% population are ready to pay in the range of Rs 301-500, rest 16% people are ready to pay more than Rs 500. To make hospital financially stable on at around Rs 14,49000 can be accumulated from the 4500 community members rest amount can be collected from patient who is non-member will come from treatment. Strategiacally before starting hospital we have pre planned . Members are ready to do voluntary work for hospital and ready to do sham Dana.

**IV. KEY FINDINGS**

- Almost whole community shows interest in the community hospital according to the interview schedule questioneries 99% respondent shows interest in Community hospital in Vilathikulam.
- Now a days according to the situation people are more aware and conscious about their health according to the interview schedule 87% shows interest in Health Insurance. To strengthen the interview schedule during

the FGD and personal interview asked question related to health insurance.

- In Vilathikulam federation more than 4500 Valayagam and Kalanjiam members are there. On an average they are ready to pay Rs 300 for membership as a subscription for hospital.
- People are not satisfied with the present medical facility they are getting. According to the interview schedule questioner 70% people are not satisfied from the Health services in that area they got.
- Community always aspects more what they already have. According to interview schedule questioner 86% people shows interest in primary and secondary hospital.

## V. CHALLENGES FOR COMMUNITY HOSPITAL

There will so many challenges faces before and during the running time of hospital

- Sustainability of Hospital for long time without any break.
- Availability of doctor in that area.
- Fulfilment of all aspection of community and providing facility according to them.

## VI. CONCLUSION

This study focuses on the chances of sustainability of community hospital if open for poor in Vilathikulam. It also focuses on where poor spent money and how much amount they spent on their treatment when they fall sick. Study emphasizes role of community hospital among the community. It shows that if community own hospital will be there then it impacts more on their lifestyle and changes in their life. They can get it easy access to the healthcare facility at affordable rate and easy access. In the initial stage itself they will get better treatment at low price. They save their lot of their hard earnings and use that amount in their standard of living. In Vilathikulam through the interview schedule 99% respondent shows their interest in the community hospital. There is lack of health care facility available in that area. They are also interested in the health insurance and other health related products at affordable rate. They are expecting quality and fast treatment.

## VII. WAY FORWARD

Hospital and health services are the basic needs of the people but before starting hospital we have to know about the area and health issues regarding that area. We also have to focus where they are going for treatment in any types of health issues them faces and what are their expenditure patterns on

their health. Before starting hospital in Vilathikulam first we have to communicate with local peoples of that area and take their suggestions and inputs. They are actual in need, they will give genuine suggestions and make you more aware about that location.

Before opening hospital we have to make people aware about health and their benefits of health services. To make people aware we can follow strategy of conducting health camp in their surrounding village time to time and give demo to them. To make people aware we have to do different attractive activity like pad yatra, campaign, Nukkadnatak and so on to make community aware. After spreading awareness it will be easy to make people convince and made group of different age group like women's group, Mother group, child nutrition group and so on. To initialise hospital in location there is need of money. Since it is community hospital it have their own rights they have to pay as donation for the establishment of hospital. Make them assure about it is for them and you will get priority. Everything is yours

## VIII. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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