



Vision

In spite of the achievements made by Kerala with regard to health indicators, the public health care scenario in the State was in a state of crisis when this Government took over. Poor infrastructure, inadequate staff, lack of resources and absence of a coordinated policy approach to tackle the problems and the flaws in leadership were some of the major lacunae facing the sector. LDF Government started with the objective of revamping the public health institutions and initiated short-term and medium-term measures to address the problems. In the last three years, we have been successful in providing a sense of direction to the public health sector and in putting the departments back on rail. We hope to consolidate the efforts made so far and complete the implementation of the projects in the coming years.

Social Welfare department is in the forefront of implementing the new vision and thrust of the LDF Government in providing Social Security for weaker sections of the society and ushering in a more gender-responsive and inclusive development path.

P K Sreemathi Teacher



Infrastructure Healthy

MAJOR PROJECT
on the Anvil

One of the major initiatives for the next year is the implementation of quality systems in 19 selected hospitals and 350 laboratories in 14 districts with the help of Quality Council of India to enable them to obtain national level accreditation. The new Super Specialty Block, Out Patient Block and other facilities in the Government Medical College, Thiruvananthapuram will be commissioned this year. Advanced MRI Scan facility will be set up in the Medical Colleges at Kottayam, Alappuzha and Thrissur in collaboration with HLL. New

Panchakarma hospital attached to the Government Ayurveda college will be commissioned in Poojappura, Thiruvananthapuram. Kerala Emergency Medical Services Project will be launched to provide 24-hour accident and emergency transportation and care. Kerala Medical University will start functioning in the new campus to be constructed at Thrissur. Malabar Cancer Centre will be developed as a Specialty cancer care centre with modern facilities. Health Insurance Scheme will be extended to all districts to cover BPL and APL families and Gender Auditing of State Budget will be introduced and steps will be taken to ensure 10 per cent of allotment of funds for the Women's component programmes and schemes. School Health Clinics and Psycho-social counselling centres for adolescent girls will be extended to all the Blocks.



Supply of essential medicines to the Government hospitals was streamlined through Kerala Medical Services Corporation, ending the era of shortages and delays of yesteryears.

Upgradation of 115 Community Health Centres as Model hospitals complying with the Indian Public Health Standards was mostly completed with enhanced facilities, providing new equipments and staff.

All the vacancies were reported to KPSC and appointments were made. In addition, Doctors, Nurses and Paramedical staff were appointed on contract basis to provide better patient care.

Public Health wing was

reorganised and a State Disease Control and Monitoring Cell was constituted to provide more effective surveillance and reporting of communicable diseases.

Excellent achievements were made in meeting the targets of National health programmes including National Rural Health Mission.

Over 3 lakh pregnant women were provided financial assistance.



Post Graduate Residency System was implemented in the 5 Government medical colleges giving a tremendous boost in providing 24-hour specialist care to the patients.

State Women's Policy was updated and published. Gender Advisory Board was constituted to coordinate and monitor the implementation of Gender empowerment and

Women's development programmes of various agencies under the Government.

Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act was adopted in the State and comprehensive policy initiatives were launched for the care of elderly.

Kerala Social Security Mission was formed with a corpus of Rs.65.0 crore with the objective of providing care and support for destitute, chronically ill and elderly people. Two novel schemes launched by the Mission are:- Free Cancer treatment for children and Hunger free city project in Kozhikode for providing meals to the patients and bystanders in Medical college and other hospitals.



Better Facility

Public health has been a neglected area in yesteryears with inadequate funding and lack of direction of the State Government. The earlier policy was one of withdrawal of the state from the duty to provide public health care and encouraging the private sector. On the contrary, this Government has increased the investment in public sector many times and taken measures to provide better facilities and care to the poor patients coming to the Government hospitals. While the earlier policy was opening the floodgates for self-financing colleges in the medical education sector, this Government has adopted a balanced approach of social control of self-financing colleges, for ensuring merit based admission and concession in fees for 50 per cent students.

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Empowering WOMEN

Jagratha Samithis in local administrative bodies are slowly turning into sanctuaries of justice for Kerala women. The Samithis help solve many issues at the grass-root level itself. The committees have come up in 832 local

administrative bodies out of around 1,200 in the State.

A committee that is led by the panchayath president has nine members, including women panchayath members, a

sub-inspector from the local police station, women social workers, a woman advocate and the doctor from village health centre. At present Kerala has around 120 active committees.

The vigilance committees take up cases of atrocities against women and children and help them get justice. They proactively involve in issues connected with women. The State Women's Commission is the apex body which monitors the functioning of the committee. In the





last three years it could settle around 600 cases. A highly planned intervention to prevent atrocities against women have also been formed by the Government in the State. The new concept is equipped in such a way that there are no loopholes for miscreants to escape. At the initial stage women police from the stations will be put together to form a committee. The convenor will be a lady police. Women folk will be empowered to make use of the system to protect themselves through Kudumbasree units, voluntary organisations, panchayaths and corporations. It will provide an open forum for the ladies to present their problem.

Y School Health Programme

R The School Health Programme, a National Rural Health Mission initiative to monitor and promote the physical and mental health of the school students has been introduced well in the State. The students from pre-primary to higher secondary are included in this programme. The first of its kind in the country, the programme will help in making health a part of curriculum, ensuring that the younger generation develop good health behaviour.

O Initially, the programme is being implemented in 1100 schools across the State. Within two years it will be extended to all schools. The Health, Education, Sports and Local Self Government departments will join hands to implement the programme.

S Under this programme, timely check-ups will be done for the students by efficient doctors and one junior public health nurse will be appointed for every five schools to generate and record the health data. The health record will be maintained in the school till a child leaves school. The TC - Health record will be a valuable document which tells the complete health data of the student. Training will also be given to teachers, doctors and nurses to familiarise them with the programme.

S Health cards to children

E Billed as the first in the country, Kerala Government will provide health cards to children studying in Government schools in the State that would grade them in four categories depending on their fitness.

C Through this path breaking initiative, the Government intends to ensure that the health and physical well being of children is taken care off, right from class I onwards. The aim of the programme is to see that once the children are classified according to their fitness, government will strive to improve their fitness to the nearest grade, through monitoring.

C Counselling programme for adolescent girls

D With the help of Education and Health Departments, the Social Welfare Department has implemented a school, health\clinic counselling programme, for the adolescent girls, who study in Government High Schools in the State. The programme aims to make the girls capable of facing the problems occur in the adolescent age, to improve their mental and physical health with the guidance support and counselling of efficient psychologists.

