

## COVID-19 CRISIS MANAGEMENT AT TMC – BAGEPALLI TALUK, KARNATAKA

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### ABSTRACT

In India around second week of march covid virus spreads at large especially in city side, then government has taken decision of lock down to cut the chain of mass spread of viruses and covid – 19 comes under national disaster management Act and a great challenge arises to everyone to face this crisis. Through this paper as a nodal officer to the Ward Level Task Force Committee for controlling and creating awareness of this Covid Crisis at ward level I am sharing my experiences that what are all the programs, initiatives and measures were taken at taluk level to counter this Covid – 19 virus, as a result there is a less in number of positive cases and death rates in the ward.

### INTRODUCTION

Covid – 19 virus is considered as one of the main crisis in 2020 and it declared as emergency and covered under Disaster Management Act, to counter to this viruses government has been issuing guidelines from time to time. It duty of every citizen to follow the guidelines which was given by government and most of us have been followed hence in our country the positive cases and deaths rates are much lower as compared to other countries. During this pandemic situation almost all activities were shut, no production, distribution gets affected, more unemployment, many lose their jobs, many of them worked from home, schools and colleges were closed, many institution services affected, more stress those who runs hospital and other health related areas, heavy work load for doctors, and other staff of health department and other officers who deputed to covid-19 work and health warriors, public transportation system gets most affected and due to all these there is a huge decrease in revenue to the government. In order to overcome this crisis what are all the measures taken to tackle this issue is shared by me through this paper in TMC – Bagepalli Taluk, Karnataka.

**Keywords:** TMC – Taluk Municipal Corporation, WLTFC – Ward Level Task Force committee, VWLTFC – Volunteer Ward Level Task Force Committee, SHG – Self Help Group, ILI – Influenza like Illness, SARI – Severe Acute Respiratory Infections, RT-PCR – Real Time Reverse Transcription Polymerase Chain Reaction Test

### OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

- 1) To know the geographical boundaries of the taluk
- 2) To know the total population in the taluk
- 3) To know the availability of medical services availability in taluk
- 4) To know the number of houses situated in the taluk
- 5) To know the number of commercial shops established in the taluk
- 6) To know the number of educational institution were operating in the taluk

### SCOPE OF THE STUDY

The scope of the study is confined to only TMC of Bagepalli town, Bagepalli taluk, Chikkaballapura district, Karnataka. It comprises only 23 ward and not any other geographical area.

### RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Field survey method has been adopted for the survey and collected the data from the respondents. Nearly 8000 houses, 2000 shops, 15 financial institutions and 50 educational institutions were found in the survey.

### LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

The main limitation of the study is that while collecting the data from the respondents some of them have not given accurate data regarding their health issues especially relating to Covid – 19 symptoms, relating to their business and service performance.

### MEASURES TAKEN TO COUNTER CRISIS

- 1) Establishment of Ward Level Task Force Committee for each ward, which comprises a team 6 members headed by nodal officer who is from government servant, general secretary from health department, BLO of the ward, Anganawadi assistant, ward elected counselor and police constable. The duties of this committee is to create awareness, conducting of the programs, giving moral

strength to the positive cases person and their family members in the ward and reporting to higher authorities.

- 2) Establishment of Volunteers ward level task force committee for each ward, which comprises 4 members headed by BLO of the ward, two member from the ward who is having service motto to help and anganawadi assistant. This committee is set up to assist the WLTF as well as to co-ordinate with local leaders and to help the positive case patient and their families by providing daily needs to ensure that they are not out of their homes up to home quarantine period.
- 3) Seal down of the area/house or putting posters to ensure that positive patient and primary contact are not out of their house.
- 4) Ensuring the disinfection such as sanitization is made at near positive case patient house.
- 5) Regular visits by WLTF/VWLTF teams in the ward to check the health condition of the vulnerable groups.
- 6) To identify and ensure the health condition of ILI and SARI.
- 7) To provide moral strength to the positive case patient and their family members.
- 8) To educate the neighboring of the patient house to treat them positively.
- 9) To conduct RTPCR or Antigen test near the positive case house to check and cut the chain of mass spreading of virus.
- 10) To ensure that commercial shops are maintain the government guidelines regarding social distance, using of sanitization, making circle in front of the shop, using thermal scanning before entering.
- 11) Many of the commercial shops voluntarily through the decision of their association work between 07.00 am to 2.00 pm though government guidelines are not there for this.
- 12) Informed medical stores not give any medicines without prescription through these committee.
- 13) A separate committee is established for collecting fines from the public who becomes default in following government guidelines with respect wearing face mask, maintaining social distance, spitting in public places etc.
- 14) A separate guideline is issued for the celebration festivals and functioning of temples.
- 15) WhatsApp group is created in each ward where all the active numbers in ward which includes both house as well as business establishment were added and in this group concerned officers were also added for quick action.
- 16) A separate committee from taluk municipal corporation is set up to ensure and check the cleanliness in the ward, as viruses spread quickly if you are not keep cleanliness in the ward.
- 17) A regular review meeting was conducted to check whether committee performing their assigned duties or not.
- 18) Outdoor campaign was conducted through autos, hoardings, banners, wall painting and pamphlets to create awareness programme.
- 19) Free face mask and sanitization issued to the ward people with the help of donors.
- 20) With the help of donors and local leaders free essentials were supplied to poor people during the lock down period.

#### Activities undertaken to counter crisis:





### **FINDINGS OF THE STUDY**

1. Most of the respondents have given their family details and as well as their health status during the survey.
2. Most of the respondents have given their active number for WhatsApp group creation in all the wards.
3. All most all the respondents are very serious about covid – 19 virus during the awareness programme in all the wards.
4. All the parties such as volunteer, local leaders, counselors, SHG, Anganawadi helpers etc are very co-operative during campaign of covid – 19 disease awareness programme.
5. Covid-19 symptom identified during survey and same is reported concerned officer and ensured that necessary action has been taken.
6. Its ensured that no family members are out of home quarantine till they finish 14 days at home and necessary arrangements has been made for them.
7. Its ensured the health conditions of ILI and SARI
8. It is ensured that when people are out of their houses they were using face mask and sanitization themselves otherwise cautioned about fines and penalties imposed by local authority.
9. It educated the neighboring houses of containment house to treat them as positively by helping them with proper measures.

### **CONCLUSION**

With mass spread of covid – 19 viruses, increase in positive cases and death rates in the country, government has issued guidelines from time to time to counter the covid crisis. Therefore in Bagepalli taluk, Karnataka also taken various initiatives by setting up various committees to face this crisis. After ensuring strict guidelines followed in the taluk, there were less report of positive cases and death rates in the taluk.

### **REFERENCES**

1. *Reading material of Urban Development Department, Government of Karnataka*
2. *Field survey reports*