

Rehabilitation and Palliative care
– Virtual Meeting
Global reach, 16 July – 1PM (IST)

Issues; Way Forwards

Issues and Challenges

- **Dr. Mek** – neglected areas; **require multisectoral; huge unmet needs;**
- Only approx. **50% of counties** have Rehab services in their National COVID plans
- **Impact** of COVID-19 on rehabilitation services - **2nd most frequently** reported (73); **Cancer services – 9th most** frequently (Survey Results)
- **Ms. Pauline** – **many needs for Rehab because of COVID itself**
- **Dr. Mathew -Challenges/ Barriers** – Supply chain; PPE; Inadequate social support; Access issues; public transport and taxies ; FEAR about getting Corona infection **Psycho-social issues**, Disability certificates; **40% children** could not access;
- **Assistive Technologies** -Repair of aids, prosthetics, orthotics and adaptive assistive aids & glasses, hearing aids affected
- **Dr. Yadu** – **Counselling skills provided; Overshadowing of palliative** care vs high risk; Closed or skeletal services; Stigmatized
- **Alternatives used: tele-health, help lines**, task-sharing, improvising old material; upskilling and transdisciplinary teamwork
- **Participants / Chat box** – info; queries, personal experiences, Access to health care; **to improve quality of care, Info toxicity, social distancing difficult in homes**, No treatment for MH issues, No repairs for AT

Way forwards

- Continuity in Rehab and Palliative services for both Non-COVID and COVID+ patients is crucial
- Required along the continuum of care for COVID – Acute, Post- Acute, Long Term
- Utilize lessons learnt, strengthen collaboration; donor prioritization; resources,
- Inclusive service delivery, capacity building, better management;
- Opportunity to harness telehealth for longterm; continue helplines; task sharing
- Access to food and medicines (Home delivery)
- Non-physical Labour employment Guarantee /Social security
- To take care of Protection of Health care workers –PPEs; Negative air pressure;
- Inclusive care - personalize care – especially for PwDs
- Nepal – shown leadership by including Rehab and Palliative care; community care
- Myanmar – mobile vans to provide prostheses and services

Health services should be robust.