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PROFILE OF AN MMU OF SUNDERBANS

- Anowar-ul Alam (Programme coordinator, SHIS)

It was a very wonderful and satisfying experience for myself and my colleague from SHIS administration wing (PA to Director) Arijit Sengupta, on December 5, 2012, as we made an on-the-spot survey of the Mobile Medical Unit (MMU) activities in the Namkhana, Kakdwip and Sagar Blocks of South 24 Parganas.

The idea was to apprise ourselves not only of the working of the MMUs but to finetune them, if necessary. After all, this very project, a part of National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) has virtually changed the face of rural health care scenario in the Sunderbans as people are getting free treatment by qualified doctors and medicine as well getting pathological samples examined and X-ray done free of cost.



We saw long queues of patients at the Palatghat clinic at Kakdwip. They were mostly women. Dr. Pulin Behari Das had his hands full. He was being helped by Nurse Pritikana Giri. Ananda Kumar Jana was busy with drawing blood samples and putting them on the slides. Pharmacist Sandip Ojha was dispensing medicines.

Any one from outside would take this clinic for a mini hospital, in view of the number of patients and level of health care activities. We saw unit manager Sarat Patra and his assistant Debjit Maity escorting some women from the clinic to the anchored launch nearby for having their X-ray done. Incidentally, while the doctor examines the patients at the MMU clinic in the river bank, X-ray and clinical tests are done in the boats.

About 1200 reproductive cases as well 5857 curable cases were examined in five months of the MMU inception since August 2012. Two hundred Seventy five patients had their X-ray done and 437 units of pathological test conducted.

SHIS BOYERMARI MATERNITY UNIT

- Own Correspondent

With just one doctor, one nurse and five beds, SHIS Boyermari Matrisadan (Maternity hospital) has been doing wonders. It came out 700 deliveries and over 500 ante-natal check-up over a year on an average. It is comparable with any Block Primary Health Centre (BPHC) where there are four doctors, weight nurses and 20 beds. Monitoring of expecting mother starts from their very first visit to the Matrisadan. Counselling for mothers and their relatives begins. Village maturing are trained every week and every stakeholder alerted against any violation of norms so far as the diet, medicines and physical movement of the pregnant women are concerned. The infant mortality rate IMR at Matrisadan is 16 per 1000 against the all-India average of 32-35 claimed, M.O in-charge Dr. Madhab Banerjee.

