

Changing paradigms in rehabilitation of unknown/lost memory patients



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A Presentation by:

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All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS)

- Established in 1956 as an Institution of National Importance
- Comprehensive Facilities for Teaching, Research and Patient Care
- Teaching and Research conducted in 42 Disciplines
- 25 Clinical Departments including 4 Super Speciality Centres - Manage practically all types of Disease Conditions



Neuro-Sciences Centre, AIIMS

- 180 Bedded Centre
- Handles Accident cases involving Head Injury
- In many cases leads to Loss of Memory, either partially or fully
- Majority of cases are on account of Road Accidents
- Rehabilitation of such patients is a major Challenge



Rehabilitation of Unknown/Lost Memory Patients

- A Difficult Task because such patients are unable to identify themselves
- Such patients continue to occupy the hospital beds for long durations, even after reaching the stage of discharge
- Block admission of other needy patients
- Unnecessary stay in Hospital entails a very heavy expenditure



10 Year Data Regarding Rehabilitation of Unknown/Lost Memory Patients

Relatives came and identified the patient	Patients taken and left at their home in an ambulance	Expired as Unknown	Rehabilitated in a home for the destitutes	Absconded from the ward	Total
566	81	176	51	12	886



10 Year Data Regarding Age Profile of Unknown/Lost Memory Patients

Below 20	21 - 30	31 - 40	41 - 50	51 - 60	61 - 70	71 and above	Total
63	347	263	108	61	39	5	886



10 Year Data Regarding Occupation of Beds by Unknown/Lost Memory Patients

1 Week	1 Month	3 Months	6 Months	1 Year	More than 1 Year
738	89	46	12	Nil	1



Role of the Medical Social Service Officer

- As soon as an unknown patient is admitted in the Centre, the first task is to have his /her photograph taken for getting it flashed on Television.
- The local police, under whose jurisdiction the accident has occurred is contacted and joint efforts are made to establish the patient's identity.
- When the patient is conscious and is able to tell his/her name and address, the patient's family members are informed.
- In case no positive result comes out of these measures, efforts are made for admission of such patients in a Rehabilitation Home.



Possible Solutions

- **Setting up of Half -Way Homes**
 - Patients can stay in short-stay/half-way homes till they are identified and located by their families

- **Using Information Technology**

(Identification of Patients)

 - **Setting up of Community Service Centres (CSCs) under National e-Governance Programme**
 - **Web Site of All India Institute of Medical Sciences**



Results/Outcome

- **The author involved the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA), set up under the aegis of “The Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987”, an Act of Parliament of India to constitute legal services authorities to provide free and competent legal services to the weaker sections of the society to ensure that opportunities for securing justice are not denied to any citizen by reason of economic or other disabilities, in the rehabilitation of unknown/lost memory patients.**
- **In association with NALSA and Shramik Referral Centre (A home for displaced labourers), supported by NALSA, a mechanism has been operationalised by means of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Neurosciences Centre of AIIMS, as per which they shall accept our unknown/lost memory patients in their home, on reaching the stage of discharge.**
- **AIIMS is providing all support to the Shramik Referral Centre in managing such patients and a programme has been initiated to provide specialized training to the staff of Shramik Referral Centre in the Neurosciences Centre of AIIMS, to handle these cases.**



Challenges Faced

- Lack of Rehabilitation shelter homes
- Lack of financial resources
- Lack of networking support and inter-departmental coordination
- Lack of awareness
- Scarcity of rehabilitation social workers
- Lack of knowledge of legislations
- Police Apathy and Need of Sensitisation of Judiciary
- Scarcity of humanitarian social workers
- Scarcity of volunteers



Expected Outcome

- Increased number of capacities for shelter of abandoned citizens.
- Prompt service of Police, Social Welfare and Judiciary.
- Increased level of participation of citizens in rescue and rehabilitation.



Case Studies

(To be presented Orally)



THANK YOU
