

IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT

Pediatric cancer support staff project for reduction in abandonment of cancer treatment

01 Project Details

Project Number:	10154
Project title:	Pediatric cancer support staff project for reduction in abandonment of cancer treatment
Project duration:	Feb 2018-Jan 2021
Approved Budget:	Rs.200 lakhs
Major stakeholders:	Patients and their families
Location:	Mumbai, Maharashtra
Implementation Agency:	Tata Memorial Hospital
Assessment Agency:	impactDash

Cancer is a formidable adversary that relentlessly affects lives across the globe, and India is no exception to this formidable challenge. While remarkable progress has been made in the realm of cancer treatment, a deeply concerning issue has emerged within the Indian healthcare landscape - the abandonment of cancer treatment. This phenomenon, shaped by a complex interplay of socio-economic factors, compels individuals facing a cancer diagnosis to prematurely discontinue or altogether forgo life-saving treatments. Compassionate patient care remains the major focus of Tata Memorial Centre, with eleven Disease Management Groups (or multidisciplinary teams) breaking departmental silos and providing optimal care for every patient.

The Pediatric Cancer Support Staff Project is intended to bolster the efforts of the Tata Memorial Centre's team by funding the salaries of staff, thereby enabling them to effectively tackle the myriad challenges faced by lower-income families throughout the course of cancer treatment. This encompassed providing financial assistance to children and families from economically disadvantaged backgrounds who couldn't afford treatment costs, accommodation, or other essential expenses while seeking care at the Tata Memorial Hospital in Mumbai. Additionally, the initiative sought to extend crucial support services such as blood product provision and nutrition aid to both children undergoing treatment and their families. Education on infection control during chemotherapy and active surveillance for drug-resistant organisms were also integral parts of the endeavor. Lastly, the project emphasized the importance of maintaining comprehensive patient data, including demographics, disease information, treatments, and outcomes, to inform future interventions effectively.

02 Key Activities

Hiring of staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Recruitment/Deployment of staff
Financial support for children with cancer and their families:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Guidance session for accessing fundsConstitution of 3 types of funds- Treatment Fund, Adoption fund, and Survivor's fund
Accommodation support	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Interactions with family to understand accommodation-related needs
Knowledge and awareness of Infection control	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Education sessions for parentsConduct active surveillance for multidrug resistance organisms and isolation of the same

03 Key Impact

Staff assistance for accommodation

- Accommodation support significantly decreased the financial, physical, and mental burden for families.
- Accommodation services were availed by **4077 families** in the project duration with the help of social workers who provided counseling to them while they got their patients admitted to the hospital.

Staff assistance for nutritional support

- The staff assistance for nutritional support educated families about the importance of nutrition during hospitalization.
- As a result, families were better equipped with knowledge about dietary choices, portion control, and other nutritional aspects of patients.

NO. OF INDIVIDUALS PROVIDED NUTRITIONAL SUPPORT IN THE PROJECT PERIOD			
	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
MID DAY MEALS	79518	48180	77510
COUNSELLING	36255	30221	21018

- The project further involved providing mid-day meals to **205,208 individuals** and counseling sessions with patients and their families on nutritional intake.

Staff assistance for financial support

NO. OF FAMILIES PROVIDED FINANCIAL SUPPORT IN PROJECT PERIOD		
2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
2036	1606	1320

- **4962 families** were supported with financial support during the project duration. However, from 2018-19 onwards, there is a decreasing trend observed here due to the advent of Covid-19 where the healthcare system saw a considerable fluctuation from normal operations and functions due to diverted efforts, resources, and human power into combating COVID-19.
 - A separate team of TMC guided accessing financial aid. Three kinds of such aids i.e. Treatment Fund, Adoption Fund, and Survivor's Fund were provided for patients requiring funds on different grounds.
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Staff assistance for psychological support

- Enhanced Patient Experience: Patients received psychological support from hospital staff and had a positive experience.
 - Improved Treatment Adherence: Patients felt supported and understood by hospital staff were more likely to adhere to treatment plans and medical advice.
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Staff assistance for infection control

- **4256 families** were provided infection control training in the project period.
- Hospital staff played a pivotal role in preventing the transmission of infectious diseases, not only from patient to patient but also from patient to staff and vice versa.