

KIMS NICU lacks sufficient beds, nurses

ADM donates medical equipment worth Rs 38 lakh to KIMS

HUBBALLI, DHNS

Though the Karnataka Institute of Medical Sciences (KIMS) in Hubballi, the lifeline of entire North Karnataka region, is flooded with donations of medical equipment since last two years, the NICU (Neonatal Intensive Care Unit) which takes care of newborns in trouble, is not equipped with sufficient number of neonatal beds and nursing staff.

Being the tertiary or referral hospital in the region, other hospitals in the region refer serious patients to the KIMS, and the KIMS has to treat them, without sending them elsewhere. Naturally, NICU, more than one newborn has to be treated on a single bed sometimes. Though equipment are there now, shortage of nursing staff and beds is a problem.

This issue came to the fore during a interaction at the Karnataka Institute of Medical Institute (KIMS) here on Friday, when ADM Agro Industries India Private Limited handed over medical equipment worth Rs 38 lakh to the KIMS.

"As more beds are essential, one bed has to be used for three babies sometimes. There is shortage of nursing staff also, and sometimes one has to look after several babies," said Neonatologist Marthandappa DH.

The NICU has 42 beds, and 32 nursing staff, which are not



HDMP Commissioner Gopal Krishna B symbolically (virtually) hands over medical equipment donated by ADM Agro Industries India Private Limited to the Karnataka Institute of Medical Sciences (KIMS) in Hubballi on Friday. Rajashri Jainapur, Vivek Pawar, Hemant Kumar Saraswat, Arunkumar C, and others are present. DH PHOTO

sufficient, he added.

"However, we have been giving the best care, with high-tech equipment, and utmost care. Neonatal mortality rate has come down from earlier 18% to less than 10% now, and the target is to bring it to 5%. Anaesthesia usage has also come down drastically," he added.

KIMS authorities clarified that the process has begun to recruit the staff required. More number of staff at KIMS were also infected with Covid, they added.

KIMS Deputy Medical Superintendent S Y Mulkipatil informed that a total of 36 Covid patients are admitted at KIMS now, and only five unvaccinated persons are on oxygen support. The challenge now is to take care of patients under home-isolation as their number is huge, he added.

Donations

ADM Agro Industries India Private Limited, in association with Deshpande Foundation, handed over one high-end

anaesthesia workstation with monitor, eight neonatal warmers, and 10 probes.

Surgery Department Professor Narayan Hebsur explained the importance of high-end anaesthesia workstation with monitor.

Hubballi-Dharwad Mahanagara Palike (HDMP) Commissioner Gopal Krishna B symbolically handed over the Covid-19 relief equipment, and spoke on the importance of child care and reducing neonatal mortality rate. Experience offered by previous waves of Covid helped us to upgrade the medical infrastructure, he added.

KIMS Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) Rajashri Jainapur spoke on the success of plasma therapy at the KIMS.

KIMS Medical Superintendent Arunkumar C, ADM Agro Industries India Private Limited technical plant head Hemant Kumar Saraswat, deputy manager (commercial) Shankar Reddy, Deshpande Foundation CEO Vivek Pawar, and others were present.