

Aardram – Patient-friendly healthcare initiatives

The government has designed various strategies to provide effective healthcare system with better infrastructure and quality services. Aardram, the Government's ambitious project in the healthcare sector, envisages radical changes in this field.

The objective of 'Aardram' mission is to deliver patient-friendly, quality healthcare services in Government hospitals and to add speciality and super speciality facilities in District and Taluk Hospitals. It also envisages to develop Primary Health Centres (PHC) into Family Health Centres (FHC), capable of meeting the healthcare needs of all members of the family and to address the preventive, promotive and rehabilitative healthcare interventions of local community. When fully functional, this will enable web-based appointment system, patient reception and registration, improved amenities in the waiting areas, etc. The Medical College Hospitals and District Hospitals will also be transformed into more patient-friendly with many enhanced facilities through the Aardram mission.

As part of the Aardram programme, as many as 14 primary health centres (PHCs) of the district have been raised to the level of Family Health Centres (FHCs) in 2017-18. Mazhuvannur, Vazhakkulam, Kodanad, Payipra, Kuttampuzha, Cheranalloor, Eror, Karumaloor, Chowvara, Nayarambalam, Thirumarady, Manjapra, Chellanam and Gothuruthu are the fourteen centres which had been transformed to FHCs. Plans are afoot to develop 40 more PHCs into FHCs.

Apart from the regular OPs, FHCs will focus on primary prevention of communicable as well as non-communicable diseases. Maternal and child-care services, prevention of infectious diseases and proper control of lifestyle diseases will be the responsibility of the FHCs. Counselling facilities too will be available at FHCs for teenagers, couples, elderly and the drug-addicted.

Outpatient wing of FHCs will function from Monday to Saturday (9am -6pm) and on Sundays from 9am to 1.30 pm. Laboratory facilities will be available from 8am to 4pm.

All healthcare services implemented by the State as well as the Central government will be delivered through FHCs. Various committees have been formed at the panchayat and district level to manage and run the health centres. Enhancement of social factors that in turn give a fillip to the healthcare system will also be implemented through local self governments, along with the help of various departments.

Patient-friendly initiatives have been undergoing at various hospitals in the district including the renovation of OP at the Medical College, Ernakulam. 45 % of the work has been completed of this project which is estimated to cost Rs 3.41crore. Administrative sanction has been accorded to the renovation of General Hospital, Ernakulam, (estimated cost is Rs 2.54 crore). The DPR for the same is being prepared.

Under the scheme Aardram, administrative sanction has also been accorded to the renovation of Govt Homoeo Hospital (for Rs 42.18 lakh) and for Govt Ayurveda Hospital (Rs 1.35 crore). Renovation work, which is estimated to cost Rs 2.08 crore, is undergoing at OP at Govt Hospital, Kothamangalam.