

Programme Report

Programme Title : Need Assessment for dialysis patients of Gelephu Hospital

1. Background

Of the three existing dialysis centers in Bhutan, Central Regional Referral Hospital (CRRH), Gelephu under Sarpang Dzongkhag is the only center with no shelter or a welfare house for the patients particularly for those undergoing dialysis.

2. Tour Objective

- Explore measures and alternatives to provide access to quality health services through right intervention and support.

3. Approach

- ✓ A consultative meeting was organized between the BKF, BKF-ZJD and CRRH management comprising Medical Superintendent, Nursing Superintendent and dialysis staffs.
- ✓ A separate meeting with dialysis patients and their families/attendants was also organized to prioritize the need identified.



Findings (intervention required immediately):

The meetings concluded a pressing issue of **“Accommodation Problem”** and found out that the hospital do not have space to spare for the construction of Patient Guest House.

4. Issues Identified and Measures:

4.1 Accommodation: 1 out of 4 patients suffer extreme housing problem. While some managed to depend on their relatives residing in Gelephu town, the nature of disease and its treatment has left a discomfort being dependent. As a result of these issues, kidney patients who receive dialysis twice a week compromise their treatment requesting to reduce their dialysis frequency.

(The BKF listed and registered genuine cases to be followed-up upon exploring prospective solutions)

4.2 Shortage of Blood for the patients: The dialysis patients’ Hemoglobin (HB-Blood count) remains low most of the time. The patients requiring blood donation undergo lot of difficulty in looking for blood donor as the hospital do not have adequate blood in store. Patients addressed this need as a stressful issue.

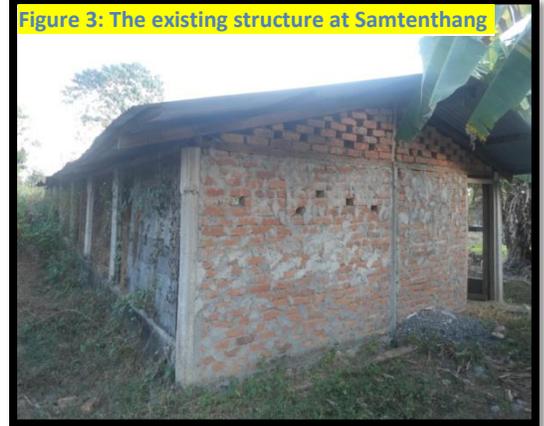
(The BKF established a network in Gelephu comprising existing members of the Foundation’s network BKF-ZJD. This network started mobilizing and coordinating volunteers to donate blood in such incident. So far 4 volunteers donated blood to 3 dialysis patients). Further, 2 volunteer blood donor have registered to donate as and when the patient required)

5. OPPORTUNITY:

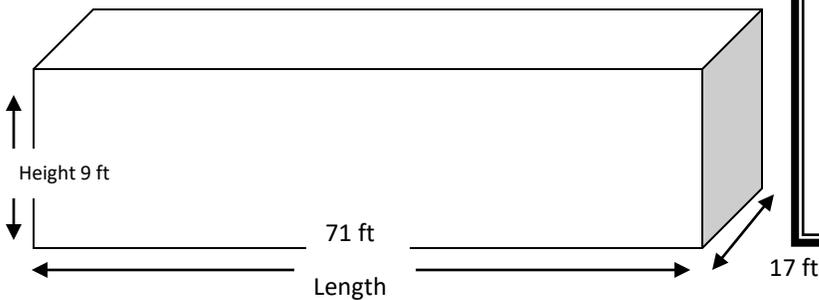
5.1. Establish a Kidney patients Guest House: As per our observation, there are chance of proposing the Gelephu Thromde to spare a small building to accommodate 20 dialysis patients near by the hospital.

Establish temporary shelter:

1.1. As an alternative measures for immediate action, Mrs. Chening Zangmo, a senior dialysis nurse of the GRRH offered a structure in her land as a shelter for the needy patients. A The BKF along with the coordinator of its network BKF-ZJD visited to site for physical verification. Details below:



Name of the village (site): **Samtenthang** | Gewog: **Samtenling**
| Dzongkhag: Sarpang
Distance from the nearest road : 15 minutes walk
Distance from hospital to the drop point : 7 Kilometers
Mode of transportation : Taxis (Nu. 40/- per head on one way)



- ✓ The existing structure has the capacity to accommodate 8 patients.
- ✓ The structure requires complete portioning and major maintenance.
- ✓ BKF will work closely with its network BKF-ZJD for the sustainability of the welfare house.

Figure 5: Diagram on structure's measurement

2. Conclusion

Comprehending the difficulty undergone by the patients, a guest house for the patients in Gelephu is seen as an important and immediate requirement. The project to establish a Patient Guest House will immensely benefit the patients in accessing quality treatment and lead a normal life. The shelter will be sustained by the Bhutan Kidney Foundation/ Bhutan Kidney Foundation's official network.

Further through the Foundation's awareness talk, patients and their families were educated on living healthy life through strict diet habit, maintaining sanitation and the importance and significance of kidney transplant.

Submitted by: **Bhutan Kidney Foundation**