



WEBINAR REPORT

COVID 19 & DISASTER PREPAREDNESS – ADDRESSING COMMUNITIES WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

Organized By : Kerala State Disaster Management Authority in Association with
Thanal Paraplegic Society

Date : 20 August 2020

Time : 4.30 pm to 6.00 pm

Mode of Meeting : Google Meet

No. of Participants : 45

Opening Remarks &

Inauguration : Dr. Sekhar L Kuriakose, Member Secretary KSDMA

Moderator : Mr. Joe John George, State Project Officer, KSDMA

Speakers

Elderly Care : Mrs. Annie George – Former State Coordinator UNDP

Locomotor Disability : Mr. Rajeev Palluruthy, Secretary, Kerala Wheelchair Rights Federation

Palliative Care : Mr. K K Basheer, General Secretary, Thanal Palliative Care Society

The Kerala State Disaster Management Authority conducted a webinar for elderly and paraplegic on the topic “Covid 19 & Disaster Preparedness, in association with Thanal Paraplegic Society. The programme started by 4.30pm with inaugural speech of Dr. Sekhar L Kuriakose, The Member Secretary KSDMA. He explained the major activities implemented by KSDMA for the disabled persons like Disaster Inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction (DIDRR), training conducted for

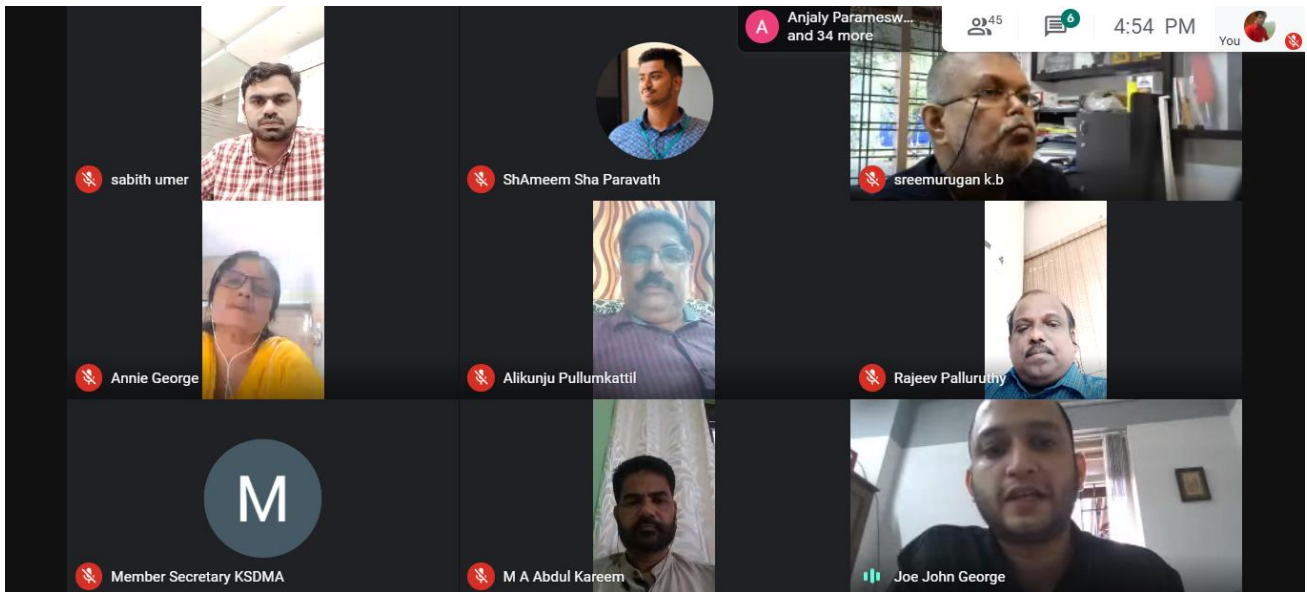
differently abled persons with the association of IUCDS Kottayam. He shared on this occasion that the DIDRR prepared by KSDMA in English and Braille language received special comment from the UN Organisations. He concluded his session with pointing out the need for new ideas and technological innovations which can bring changes in the life of differently abled. Following this, State Project Officer Mr. Joe John George commented that, state's DIDRR policy is a model for our nation but he reminded that it is not the end but a beginning to improve further.

The first session by Mr. Rajeev Palluruthy, General Secretary, All Kerala Wheelchair Rights Federation, shared various problems faced by differently abled people. He suggested that the government should introduce a package for the physical and mental safety of such people including their family and livelihoods as an inclusion of differently abled. He also mooted for setting up disabled friendly covid care centres in every panchayat or arrange special covid care treatment centres for those who are suffering with locomotive disabilities.

Followed by a session on Geriatric Care by former UNDP state Coordinator Mrs. Annie George. She described significance of elderly care in the corona era. She mentioned that continuing social distancing instead of physical distancing causes a lot of psychological distress to the elderly. And she suggested that clubs, organizations like kudumbasree, and CBOs should take up initiatives addressing the above said issue and also put forward other suggestions like, creation of enabling environment, participatory decision making on aged people's needs and wants, promotion of mobile geriatric care units, financial, food and other services at door steps, young elderly concept etc.

In the third session on palliative care, Mr. K K Basheer, the general secretary of Thanal Palliative Society spoke about the plight of bedridden patients and the hardships they experience during disasters. He emphasized the importance of interventions during a disaster to be included in the palliative care policy. He also explained the need of inclusion of palliative care in curriculum and providing training for volunteers in palliative care support. Then he suggested that facilities to be provided in camps during disasters especially during flood, camp management team should ensure that the availability of medicines, counselling, disabled friendly toilets, assistive devices etc. for these people.

After the lecture, participants shared their experiences, doubts and problems. Representatives of some CBOs said that they have been trying to resolve the issues by interacting with them through video calls. Lack of medical equipment is another problem. As a temporary solution, it was suggested to contact District Level Intervention Centers. The event ended by 6pm after discussions.



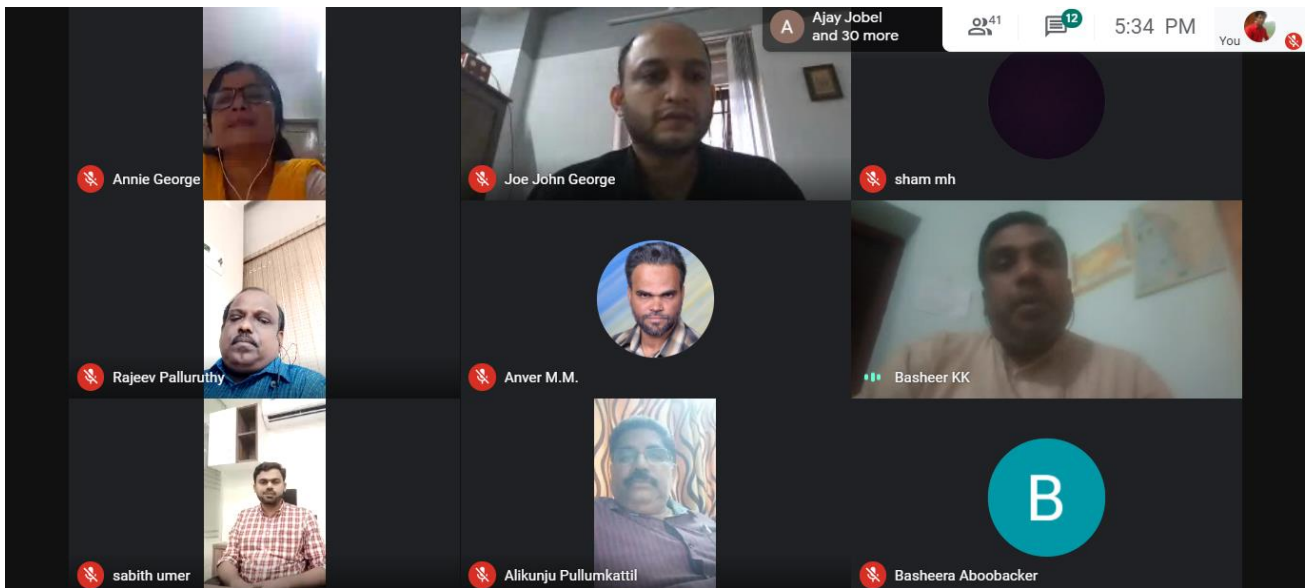
M Member Secretary KSDMA is presenting

Kaveesher Krishnank... and 30 more

5:25 PM

Medical Care


- Most elderly visit hospitals for routine attention of chronic illnesses- Cardiac, Diabetes, Arthritis, etc.
- Introducing Mobile Geriatric Health Care facilities on a weekly basis for those requiring such routine but regular consultations – Training para-medicals like ASHA workers on routine tests like BP, Blood Sugar etc.
- Transportation for Emergency Hospital Visits
- Specialised Home Care facilities for those requiring basic supports at home
- Zoom calls on a periodic basis where Specialists speak with them- offer them reassurance



M Member Secretary KSDMA is presenting

Post- Covid Scenario


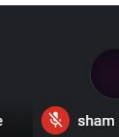
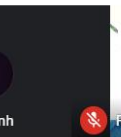



- Fear Syndrome created through over-emphasis on protection of elderly, Reverse Quarantine - Affecting the mental well being of the senior citizens
- Social/ Physical distancing impacting the mental and physical well-being of the elderly
- Lack of meaningful interaction can lead to decrease in Cognitive functioning,
- Decrease exercise can lead to decrease in in heart and lung capacity
- Lot of elderly in Kerala are staying by themselves
- Usually travel outside the house for medical care, banking, procurement of household material
- What are the alternatives in place, especially for the elderly who are immobile, require physical support, require home based care and support, require palliative care



Meeting details X

People (44) Chat (10)

- Tinoj John (You)
- ABDULMAJEED MV
- Ajay Jobel
- Alikunju Pullumkattil
- Anandakumari Karuvally
- Annie George
- Aswathi P
- Babu Abraham

-----End -----