

e-Consultation for Self Health Governance @ Thethampatti Village

Thethampatti is a small hamlet in the Parali Pudur Gram Panchayat of Natham Block in Dindigul District, TAMIL NADU, INDIA. Thethampatti is isolated from the Gram Panchayat. It is like an island where 3 sides of the village are covered with Mountain called "Alagar Hills". An Alagar hill is the only way to enter to the village Thethampatti. Though, it belongs to Natham Block of Dindigul District. There is no direct bus facility from Natham Block headquarters. Thethampatti has bus facility from Madurai Periyar Bus stand once in the early morning and in the late evening. Thethampatti has around 500 households with more than 2000 Population. Major occupation of the villagers is Agriculture. Mango and Coconut farming Farmers are high in numbers in this village. Women are involved in Coconut by products productions like Rope Making within the village itself. The village has Primary School upto 5th Standard, for the higher studies, students are visiting Natham through Share Autos or Vans.

Community Resource Centers (CRC) @ Thethampatti

DHAN Foundation has identified Thethampatti as one of the village for establishing ICT enabled Community Resource Centers. The Community Resource Center at Thethampatti is enabled with Information & Communication Technology infrastructures like Desktop, Printers, Photocopy, Scanner and with Internet Connection. Thethampatti is one of the villages where it is very difficult to get strong mobile signals and high speed Internet Connectivity. However, Since, Thethampatti is isolated from Gram Panchayat and don't have even enough bus facility, DHAN Foundation has established a Center and try to bring high speed Internet Connectivity in Thethampatti.

The CRC at Thethampatti is managed by Mrs.Divya who is 12th Standard Qualified married women from the same village. Mrs.Divya has completed Diploma course in Computer Application and experienced as Computer Operator in local Cooperative bank for few years. The Thethampatti CRC offers wide range of ICT enabled services like Short term Computer Courses for youths, Computer Aided School Education for School Going Children, Online Applications for Land records, Grievances, Mobile Recharge and Patta, Chitta, Encumbrance Certificate, e-Consultation with Experts, Scanning, etc.

Health Access Scenario at Thethampatti

During the initial meeting with Thethampatti while establishing the CRC, it is observed that Thethampatti has very less Health Facility Access which is one of the development issues in the village. Even the Gram Panchayat Parali Pudur has visiting Nurse on every Tuesday to attend & give pills for the small kids and pregnant women. Hence, Thethampatti villagers has to access Health facility only on Tuesday at the Panchayat level which is about 5 Kms from the village and for other emergency purposes, the Thethampatti villagers visiting Vathipatti, the nearby Panchayat which is about 12 KMs distance from the village. For the most emergency and good health access, The Thethampatti villagers are visiting Natham, the Block Head Quarters that is about 25 KMs from the village.

Hence, there is a need for alternative support system to get Health Access in Thethampatti. Information & Communication Technology can play a vital role in bridging & connecting the

health experts and the Thethampatti Villagers. With this hypothesis, DHAN has established and run the Community Resource Centers at Thethampatti.

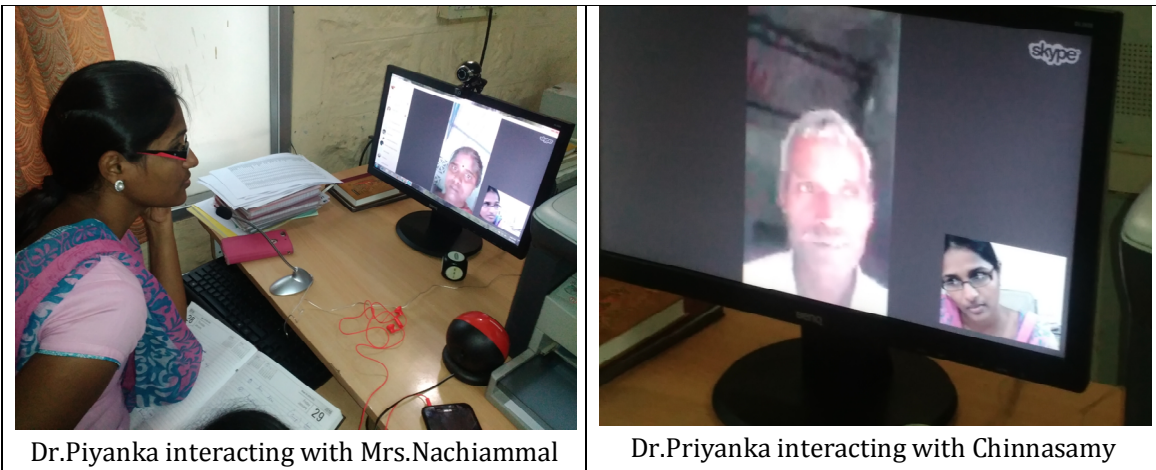
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DHAN has launched an e-Consultation (Videoconference) service through CRCs on August 15, 2016. With the support of SUHAM Hospital, a multi specialty hospital in Madurai which is also working in rural area. DHAN has launched the first Health e-Consultation facility on August 15, 2016 with Thethampatti and Mathukaranpatti Villages of Natham Block.

The Doctor is available at the Hospital and the Villagers are organized at the Community Resource Centers (CRC) with the support of CRC operators. It is an initial consultation and helps to have early diagnosing of diseases. [The purpose of the e-Consultation is to encourage the rural poor to have Self Health Governance with the facilitation and support of Technology.](#)

@ Thethampatti Village	
Video Conference (e-Consultation) on	: 15.08.2016 - 15 Participants
Village level Health Camp on	: 27.08.2016 - 106 Participants

Dr.Priyanka from Madurai SUHAM Hospital interacted with two village people through Videoconference. During conference about 15 villagers from Thethampatti has interacted with doctor. Most of the women are expressing that, they feel joint pains and not able to work effectively, Most of the them were identified as Diabetes, but not taking regular medicines. Few of the women also expressed women specific issues like Irregular periods, etc.



During the consultation, the doctor prescribed some medicines, which were sent as a scanned copy to the Center. During the e-Consultation most of the Women were seeking for a follow up health camps at the village.

Based on the demand expressed by the women through videoconference, a Village level health camps was organized @ Thethampatti on 27.08.2016 with the support of SUHAM Hospital. About 106 participants were participated in the Camp. The Thethampatti CRC was provided

with Blood Test and BP Test Apparatus. The CRCs are testing Sugar and BP at the Center and at the villagers' doorsteps.

The Following are the inferences observed from the Video Conference and Village Level Camps



- ☑ Total 106 villagers were participated in the camp
- ☑ 67 Women were participated in the camp out of which 7 were adolescent camps.
- ☑ 39 Men were participated in the Camp in the camp.
- ☑ All participants were given medicines at free of cost.
- ☑ Some of the unavailable medicines were prescribed to outside pharmacy.
- ☑ Around 26 members were checked their Sugar and HB count at free of cost on the camp
- ☑ **Out of 22 women Patients checked their Sugar and HB at the CRC.**
 - Around 13 members (more than 50%) are Anemic with very less HB count.
 - Around 4 members were observed as high Diabetes patients
 - A Peculiar Women Herinya Case was identified
 - An adolescent girl was observed with a swelling in leg, which is also taken as follow up case.

Out of the Videoconference and Village level camps the following patients were identified as referral cases and who needs immediate follow up treatment

Sl.No.	Name of the Patient	Observation	Mobile Number
1.	Mrs.Muthulakshmi	Herinya	9094679731
2.	Mrs.Sarasu	Diabetic (Very High Sugar)	9751814013
3.	Mrs.Nachammal	Diabetic (Very High Sugar)	9787791795
4.	Ms.Yogarasi	Cyst in Leg	9787762612
5.	Mr.Maharajan	Lung / TB	8940774144

The above said patients were given first aid medicines and referred to Madurai Hospital for further treatment. It is also proposed to have another Video Conference during the first week of September to have follow-ups with the patients participated in the camp and taking prescriptions.

Changes Observed / Outcomes

- Now the Thethampatti have weekly health access through CRC Video conference and a Self Health Governance system has been established.
- The Villagers are able to check their BP, Sugar diagnosis at their doorsteps / at the Village level CRC.
- The Thethampatti CRC has video conference and health camps as alternative follow-ups methodologies to bring health access.
- Women are encouraged to give importance for Self Health Governance.
- Women are started asking openly about women related queries through Video Conference

Way Forward

Since more than 50% of the women participated and checked their HB count were observed as Anemic, which is giving more implications in the women life like – Women are getting early Monopus, Always feeling tired and not losing their working Man Days, Problems during pregnancy, etc. **Hence,**

- It is proposed to have complete screening for Anemia in the Thethampatti Village*
- Special awareness and Care system will be established at the Thethampatti CRC.*
- It is proposed to form a User group among the women users of Video Conference & camps.*
- Video Conference will be regularized*
- Regular follow-ups will be ensured by the CRC and changes will be documented.*
