

# **A HEALTHCARE PROJECT FOR NORTH EAST INDIA**

## **- A SHORT OUTLINE**

### **1. The people with a vision and a mission:**

A group of doctors from Assam (based both in and outside Assam) has taken the initiative to set up a unique and trendsetting modular healthcare structure in Assam with the central module based in Guwahati and the satellite centers to be set up in various places in Assam and the North East region.

### **2. Mission Statement:**

To create a Healthcare model that will integrate Primary with Secondary & Tertiary Healthcare & make it accessible & affordable to Urban as well as rural Assam and the North East.

To create a state of the art tertiary healthcare institute which in the next 5-10 years will be counted upon as amongst the best multi-specialty institutes in the country and can attract patients from all over the region and can also play a pivotal role in developing Medical Tourism.

### **3. Back ground Observations:**

In spite of a spurt in the number of healthcare setups in the private / corporate sector in the NE region in the last decade, we still have observed that:

- Most people who can afford still go outside this region for specialty healthcare needs – huge outflow of resources, many people who do not have the resources borrow / sell off their assets to go out of the state for specialty healthcare.
- People who cannot afford have no option.
- Quality & effective healthcare facilities are yet to penetrate into many areas
- Medical treatment is still very expensive in this region.
- Focus on academic research is still very less – Very few research publications in national / international medical journals /periodicals.
- It is a matter of serious debate as to whether we have been able to reach standards comparable to institutions in many other parts of the country.

### **4. As a result there is:**

- Lot of scope for development in specialty secondary & tertiary healthcare
- Quality specialty healthcare is still not affordable & accessible to all
- Inability to attract / retain quality manpower
- A huge scope for development in many specialty & super-specialty areas like  
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  - Medicine Subspecialties : Chest Medicine, Rheumatology, etc
  - Surgery subspecialties : Laparoscopic surgery, GI surgery, Colo-rectal surgery, etc.
  - Oncology & Oncosurgery

- Infectious diseases in children
- Neonatal & Pediatric intensive care
- Burns
- Plastic & reconstructive surgery
- Haemato-oncology
- Cardio-thoracic & vascular surgery
- Neurology & Neurosurgery
- Orthopedics, Arthroscopic Surgery, joint replacement
- Interventional cardiology
- Interventional radiology
- Transfusion medicine
- Geriatric care
- Physiotherapy, Rehabilitation
- Organ transplantation, etc

### 5. The proposed model:

A “**Not for Profit**” healthcare model to be run by a “Foundation / Trust” with a 3-tier approach :

- **Paid facilities** (30% beds) :: For those who can afford
- **Subsidized facilities** (50% beds) :: For economically weaker sections of the society
- **Free facilities** (20% beds) :: For people below poverty line
- Same pattern to be followed in all diagnostic services also.  
(A healthcare model based on a pattern very successfully adopted by institutes like LV Prasad Eye Institute, Hyderabad; Aravind Eye Institute, Madurai ; Sri Chitra Tirunal Institute of Medical Sciences & Technology, Trivandrum etc.)

### 6. Proposed operational structure:

- **A 500- 600 bed multi-disciplinary state of the art central institute** offering the best healthcare facilities based in / around Guwahati to be set up in 3-4 phases (1<sup>st</sup> phase – 150 beds & the balance to be added in 2-3 more phases) with **an attached Nursing/Para-medical training Institute** in collaboration with a National / International University of Repute
- **Rural outreach modules** to be spread all over Assam in phases offering at least 2 times a week Out Patient Consultations , Basic Diagnostic facilities, Minor Operation facilities, Screening of educational aids to promote preventive healthcare, etc using state of the art mobile facilities
- **Rural small hospitals & telemedicine modules** connected to the central institute in phases

### 7. Manpower:

One of the biggest constraints in the Healthcare sector in Assam and the North East is a lack of adequate manpower in specialty / super-specialty areas. The shortage in manpower would be covered by:

- A team of committed doctors who have significant experience in their respective fields and are presently working in various hospitals around the country ( many such have already expressed their interest & confirmed participation); also attract manpower from various reputed institutions around the country on a periodic basis ( in touch with several such groups who have committed their participation).
- A freedom to the professionals involved to innovate, strategize and implement their ideas & concepts.
- The doctors will be given a full role in participation, planning, development of their respective departments, future expansion etc of the project.
- Continuous manpower up gradation and development in collaboration with leading medical research institutes in the country / abroad.
- Full facilities for academic research with an attached full-fledged R&D center in technical collaboration institutes of repute for research in development of cost – effective medical aids / technologies, bio-medical research, etc.
- In a pilot project involve different NGOs working in the rural areas in the rural outreach modules.

#### **8. The Trust/Foundation:**

- A trust/foundation to be set up comprising of people from various fields who have a common motive in creating something which will be of everlasting value to this region.
- Philanthropists who would like to participate in a social cause of this magnitude.
- Medical specialists of repute from around the country & abroad who would be willing to contribute their experience, expertise, investment, etc in development of this institute.
- A National & International Medical Advisory Board comprising of Eminent Medical Specialists in different specialties from around the country / abroad

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