

Reaching Impact, Saturation and Epidemic Control (RISE)

Case Study Discussion

PARTICIPANT HANDOUT- 4.1.1

Case study discussion: Oxygen tank leaks at a hospital; 24 patients die

Twenty-four Covid-19 patients died at the Government Hospital run by the Municipal Corporation on Wednesday morning after the main liquid oxygen storage tank malfunctioned and leaked oxygen. The leak led to a drop in oxygen pressure for patients on high flow ventilators.

Among over 160 patients, 24 were on ventilators when the tragedy happened. Before the toll went up to 24, health minister said 11 of the dead were men and 11 women. The incident happened when oxygen tankers were about to refill the storage tank.

District collector told journalists that an outlet of the storage tank malfunctioned and began leaking. Though the hospital officials called the fire brigade and technicians, it took almost an hour to restore the supply, by which time 22 patients died. Two died later in the day.

A liquid oxygen tanker was stationed near the oxygen tank to refill it. The leak was at the outlet of the tank which is connected to the hospital oxygen pipe. According to civic authorities, the leak was noticed around 12:30 pm. The fire brigade was called and repairs to the tank were immediately undertaken. Oxygen supply from the tank resumed sometime around 1:30 pm to 1:40 pm. The civic body arranged oxygen cylinders for patients in the meantime.

Discuss:

1. Discuss the above case on oxygen leakage.
 - What went wrong?
2. Discuss the possible solution to the leakage.

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