

HOLY CROSS HEALTH CENTER

We began with a small dispensary where a few people used to come in 2001. Normal deliveries are carried out at our centre but when they are complicated cases we have to refer them to the main hospital. Thanks to the efforts of our sisters who worked very hard to establish contact with the people as they used to visit them in their homes, the number of patients has increased gradually but the infrastructure remains the same with a few rooms and few staff. In Kikyusa there is high illiteracy, morbidity and mortality rate in the area. Due to lack of transport and poor roads people have to walk long distances sometimes even more than 25 kilometres on foot. At the same time we too cannot reach them in their villages because of the roads and limited number of staff.

Pregnant mothers are referred to our health center from the village health attendants who are not trained and the other clinics and health centers. When they reach our center they are in critical condition and we too do not have enough facilities and doctors to help them. Our Health Center has become a referral center but we too have to refer them to big hospitals which are 40 to 70 kilometres away. Sometimes they come in the night and in a critical condition and we are not able to care in such emergency situations. When they are referred some of them do not want to go away because of economic restraints and some know the condition is too critical. So they either go back home and some end up with complications and die; some go into witchcraft to try their luck.

When they are referred to the main hospital they have to go through murram road which is often not in good condition especially during the rainy seasons wherein the mother and child have to struggle for their survival.

People are poor and some are not able to pay for medicines and transport which we have to support them with. Hence the payment of the staff becomes difficult for us. We began here with a small dispensary where a few people used to come in 2001. Normal deliveries are carried out at our centre but when they are complicated cases we have to refer them to the main hospital. Thanks to the efforts of our sisters who worked very hard to establish contact with the people as they used to visit them in their homes, the number of patients has increased gradually but the infrastructure remains the same with a few rooms and few staff.