

Executive Summary

of Paediatric Cancer Support

The Paediatric Cancer Support (PCS) Project was designed to address critical gaps in paediatric oncology care, ensuring that children diagnosed with cancers receive uninterrupted and comprehensive treatment.

Kasturba Medical College (KMC) implemented the project to provide financial assistance, emergency medical support, central line funding, and palliative care. The Manipal Academy of Higher Education (MAHE) trust was established in May 1993. Kasturba Medical College (KMC) is one of the key divisions of MAHE.

The project targeted underprivileged families who were ineligible for government schemes like Ayushman Bharat. It aimed to eliminate treatment abandonment, which is a major challenge in India due to high out-of-pocket expenses, limited insurance coverage, and financial distress, among low income families. The project followed a structured and simple selection process, ensuring that support reached the most deserving beneficiaries by verifying socio-economic condition and financial need assessments.

The impact assessment study was conducted for the year 2022-23 by NuSocia to evaluate the impact on the target beneficiaries, identify best practices and suggest any area of improvement.

Key Findings

- Provided full financial support for **54 children (37% are girls) covering treatment cycles** including diagnostics, chemotherapy, medications, and nutrition support.
- **95% of the beneficiary families belonged to lower-income** categories(farmers, daily wage workers, drivers, barbers etc)
- Ensured **treatment adoption for 18 children**, offering up to 2.5 years of uninterrupted medical care.
- Reduced treatment **dropout rates from ~8% to ~2% at KMC due to financial assistance** and awareness initiatives.
- Improved paediatric cancer **survival rates from ~30% to 80-90% in the project region**.
- **Central line funding was provided to 4 children**, ensuring chemotherapy administration and reducing infection risks.
- The **project incorporated palliative care**, ensuring children in advanced cancer stages received pain management and end-of-life support.
- **Bridged financial gaps by aligning with government schemes** such as Ayushman Bharat, ensuring that uncovered children still received necessary aid.

Impact

Outcomes	Details
Improved Psychological and Emotional Well-being for Families	The Project has helped families cope better with the emotional strain, by providing financial security, medical guidance, and psychological counselling. It fostered a more positive and hopeful outlook.
Better Healthcare Infrastructure for Paediatric Oncology	. The introduction of central line funding, palliative care support, and emergency seed funding have enhanced the hospital's capacity to provide high-quality care, making it a centre of excellence for paediatric cancer treatment in the region.

.Paediatric Cancer Support project has set a benchmark in paediatric oncology care by ensuring that no child is denied life-saving cancer treatment due to financial constraints.

It provided comprehensive medical coverage and addressed logistical, psychological, and socio-economic barriers through its holistic approach. The project has significantly improved treatment accessibility and survival rates with respect to paediatric cancer affected.

SDGs Covered :

