

Lessons to learn and unlearn

Every disaster has taught us some lessons. AMRI tragedy does the same.

Lessons we need to learn are:

- The starting point should be a checklist provided by World Health Organisation. (SAFE HOSPITALS IN EMERGENCIES AND DISASTERS: 2009)
- There should be zero tolerance for items which compromise patient safety in the hospital.
- All tertiary care hospitals should have a mandatory disaster management policy which should be submitted to DGHS locally.
- All hospitals should do drills with police and fire department (as appropriate) around scenarios which involves the hospital building itself. The report of such drills should be submitted to DGHS locally.
- Safe hospital should be incorporated as a patient right.

Lessons we need to unlearn after the disaster are

- Hospital has to be aesthetically beautiful before functionally safe
- The hospital is only run by clinicians and their job is to treat patients and nothing else.
- In case of fire everybody can run out of the hospital
- Disaster usually do not affect hospitals

Dr Tamorish Kole
Adjunct Assistant Professor (Emergency Medicine),
George Washington University Medical Center
Director of Emergency Medicine Program, Institute of Trauma and
Emergency Medicine, Max Healthcare, India,
Regional Faculty, American Heart Association (Asia pacific),
Chair, Academic Council, Society for Emergency Medicine in India