

THE CASE FOR MASS TESTING AND PREVENTION OF STAGE 3 TRANSMISSION OF SARS COV2

1) PROBLEM STATEMENT

- The current mechanism of testing by identification of travel history and symptoms has certain shortcomings as mass transmission can make the exercise futile and in many cases the infection is asymptomatic in the initial 5-6 days.
- Difficult to identify the infection hotspot regions resulting in insufficient quarantine.
- Failure to identify infected persons undergoing long migrations.

2) POSSIBLE SOLUTION

In this strategy, pools of 16, 32 or 64 swab samples can be tested at one go. This can be done by using different kits developed by different Biotech companies

The strategy has been effectively used in countries like Germany south Korea and the UK where up to 50000 tests can be done in one day. The kits can give results in 6-7hrs with 80-85% accuracy idea is threefold

- 1) identify companies who are ready with their innovations and kits. Ex Bione, Abbot, etc
- 2) Create a vertical for regulatory clearance within a week and start importing or tie-up with Indian companies for mass production. USA regulatory mechanism took a long time to respond and hence damage was done.
- 3) Give incentives to the companies in the form of seed money and tax-free resources.

Strategy

- 1) identify hotspot regions using mobile network tracking and google.
- 2) Go for mass testing or pooled testing using kits produced in these companies
- 3) quarantine the areas where positive results come to effectively reduce stage 3 city transmission.
- 4) Isolate the city from villages to effectively reduce spread to villages.

DIBYA JYOTI PARIDA(2016batch)

Municipal Commissioner Rourkela