** POSITION PAPER:**

**NAME OF THE DELEGATE** : DHANYA SHRI . S. S

**COUNTRY**  : FIJI ISLAND

**COMMITTEE**  : WHO

**AGENDA** : IMPROVING ACCESS TO IMMUNIZATION AND HALTING THE SPREAD OF VACCINE- PREVENTABLE DISEASES.

**INTRODUCTION:**

 According to World Health Organization Fijians are living longer with life expectancy at 67 for males and 73 for females. Even though, the emerging and re-emerging of certain communicable diseases and non- communicable diseases the Fijian people faces the major Health problems.

**HEALTH CHALLENGES**

The major health challenges facing Fiji, according to the Ministry of Health’s 2020-2025 Strategic Plan, and the WHO, Include:

* Diabetes, heart disease, stroke and respiratory diseases.
* STIs, especially HIV and AIDS, which represents a national challenge.
* Dengue fever, which remains a threat.
* The emergence of bugs and bacteria that is resistant to antimicrobial medicines.

In 2012, **Leptospirosis** disease has its largest outbreak was reported.

Fiji experienced **Meningococcal** disease since 2016; this has increased three-folds of its population. But Fiji had found out the anti-microbial medicines and vaccines for the infectious disease.

The current COVID – 19 pandemic in Fiji is part of the ongoing world -wide pandemic of corona virus diseases (COVID- 19) caused by severe acute respiratory syndrome corona virus (SARS – COV -2).

**ABOUT THE COUNTRY:**

 **Fiji** is an Island country in **Melanesia**, part of oceania in the **South Pacific Ocean**. It has two major Islands **Veti Levu** and **Vanua Levu**. Fiji has one of the most developed economics in the pacific through its abundant forest, mineral and fish resources. During this COVID – 19 periods, the government takes effective steps for that the death rate is very low in Fiji. Nowadays, Fiji reached **Zero Active Cases** and the Fijian’s gets vaccinated. During this COVID -19 Period like other countries, Fiji country faces the Economic falldown, because of Nation-Wide curfew. Its economic effects are being felt much more in the tourism, finance, trade and retail trade sectors.

**CURRENT SITUATION (POLICY PROPOSED SOLUTION)**

 In the early stages of the pandemic Fiji imposed travel bans on highly affected countries. As the pandemic worse, Fiji closed all borders and ports to non-residents.

 Recently, the Fijian government imposed lockdowns in the two largest cities of Lautoka and Suva and developed a **“Contact tracing app named CARE FIJI”.**

 The government established a centre for Disease control for COVID – 19 testing and built fever clinics nation -wide for temperature checks. Such measures have helped eliminate local transmissions of the virus for more than a year.

 Fiji Implementing lockdowns, contact terracing social distancing, and basic Medical Interventions also resorted to self- Isolation.

 The pandemic forced Fiji country economy is expected to contract after decades of economic growth due to the pandemic’s impact on tourism, retail manufacturing and trade. The International Labour organization and the Assian Development Bank issued reports about workers being affected and warned about the rising youth unemployment rate and child labour. The impact has also prompted residents to leave the country for the short employment overseas.

**WAYS TO IMPROVE THE IMMUNITY AND HALT THE SPREAD OF DISEASE:**

**Improving the Immunization in Fiji**

 The capital **Suva-Fiji** became the first country in the pacific Islands to receive COVID -19 vaccine doses shipped via the **COVAX** facility, a partnership between CEPI, GAVI, UNICEF and WHO . Fiji also received its second batch of **Astrazeneca** COVID-19 vaccine doses will be used to inoculate the remaining Fijians.

 As a tradition the Fiji people follows the **Sea Food** to gain their immunity. As well as the Fijian people of pacific depends on **Traditional Medicinal Plants** to treat large number of illness.

**HALT THE SPREAD OF DISEASE**

 Domestically the Fijian government responded by imposing a national curfew, restricting large gatherings and closing down schools and non- essential services

 Covid-19 crisis management in Fiji and possible innovations that could be embedded in those initiatives to better mange a future situation the ways through which they could be improved are

* Self – isolation
* Contact terracing for the affected people by using Fiji app named **CARE FIJI.**
* Self- Isolation have been properly supervised and its Isolation centres. Fiji has outer Isolated Islands that could have been used as Isolation centres to physically exclude the affected persons and visitors from the local population.
* Public-health education The health ministry should have had vigorous information sharing and advising facility for the public. Everyone is taking precaution seriously – this is noticeable by the number of people wearing masks and gloves and gets vaccinated. So, the less-worrisome attitude of people is dangerous in the second wave.
* Scheduled lockdowns.
* Scandalized social distancing. Some shops, public facilities and malls have 1.0, 1.5, 2.0 meter marks, depending on space. Fijian government is following all these steps effectively Fiji still maintains strict level restrictions to date for foreign visitors.

**CONCLUSION:**

 **Prime Minister Bainimarama** added that Fijian’s health and well being is through being vaccinated along with the rest of the world. Moreover, under the digital Fiji umbrella, an **Online Registration Portal** will ensure a smooth nation wide roll out of the vaccinations.

 Because of those online portal registrations, Fiji becomes the role model to other countries. The Fijian government is doing its best to extend financial assistance, where possible. They made **COVID -19 Supplementary Budget** for their people’s initiatives and funding. Like wise other countries can follow these initiative steps to support their citizens. We can save ourselves and our country by **Self- Awareness and by Public Health Education.** Recently, In addition to that some Mammalian animals like **Elephant, Tiger, Panda** are being infected by COVID – 19 in zoological Park . They are also being taking care by Veterinary Doctors throughout the world countries.