

Engineering Students develop V2 BUDDY - The Nursing Robot at Vinayaka Mission

- Robot to minimize Nursing interference in COVID-19 treatment
- Developed at Ganesan Innovation & Incubation Center at AV Campus, Vinayaka Missions Research Foundation

20th April 2020, Salem: There is a growing concern over the spread of the novel coronavirus among medical professionals and frontline healthcare workers. To address this issue a group of Electrical Engineering students and faculty from AVIT (Aarupaadaiveedu Institute of Technology) Chennai, Vinayaka Mission's Research Foundation, Deemed to be University along with duo entrepreneurs Mr Premnath and Mr Subramanian have developed a robot called "**V2 Buddy**" at the "**Ganesan Innovation and Entrepreneurship Centre**". This helps to reduce contact between frontline healthcare nursing staff and Covid-19 patients.

"**V2 Buddy**" was today demonstrated at Vinayaka Mission's Super Speciality Hospital "VIMS" at Salem and deployed in Vinayaka Missions Medical Colleges at Salem, Puducherry and Karaikkal.

"**V2 Buddy – the Nursing Robot**" can replace nursing interface by checking COVID-19 patient's temperature, dispense sanitizing hand rub, deliver medicines and food, assist the nursing staff to interact with COVID 19 patients remotely through video and audio interface from their nursing stations. This helps to minimize the nursing staff exposure to infection.

V2 Buddy can be controlled from the nursing station remotely through an app downloaded on a smartphone. Another feature is Voice enabled "Nursing Call facility" through "**V2 Buddy Call**" where the patient in the isolation ward can speak to the staff in the nursing station for their specific needs, clinical support and counselling.

Mr Premnath, one of the developers said, "**V2 Buddy**" was created after considering the inputs given by the medical and nursing teams of VIMS, Salem, the Super Speciality Hospital unit of Vinayaka Missions Group. They provided guidance on the day-to-day operations and activities of nursing staff in an isolation ward which was attempted through this robot."

Mr Subramanian, the co-creator explained, that the new-age gizmo "**V2 Buddy**" will be operated using Bluetooth technology and remote sensors from a control console which will be in the hands of the nurse, who will be able to talk to the patient directly.

"The **Ganesan Innovation & Entrepreneurship Center (GIEC)** at VMRF provided us an ideal platform to build this robot with access to resources, technical support, working space and financial aid" said, Prof. Dr.L.Chitra, HOD Electrical and Electronics department, member of steering committee for GIEC, AVIT Chennai and guide for nursing Robot project.

Dr. Meenakshi Sundaram, Medical Director, of Vinayaka Institute of Medical Sciences (VIMS) said "**V2 Buddy**" is akin to a remote bomb disposal device as it helps us achieve minimal

*contact from confirmed COVID-19 patients and still providing adequate care to them. We are glad that we have **"V2 Buddy"** which is the "real need of the hour."*

Dr.A.S.Ganesan, Chancellor, Vinayaka Missions Research Foundation said "The vision of the GIEC's Business Incubator is to identify and support potential entrepreneurs and students in developing the Minimum Viable Product (MVP). This helps our young talents in India to fulfil their dreams as entrepreneurs and also support indigenization of products in line with "Make In India" vision of Government of India.

VMRF is planning to donate two **"V2 Buddy" nursing robots** to Rajiv Gandhi Government General Hospital, Chennai and Indira Gandhi Government Hospital, Puducherry. The production and capacity of **'V2 Buddy'** will be scaled up according to the demand in the market.