

## **Minutes of Zonal Task Force Workshop North Zone 2015**

Zonal Task Force Workshop for North Zone was held at KGMU, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh on 18-19 November 2015. The meeting was honoured by presence of Dr.V.N.Tripathi, DGME (UP) and Dr.Gautam GM, NHM, UP. 178 delegates participated from 8 states/UT (Uttar pradesh, Uttarakhand, Delhi, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, Punjab, Chandigrah, Jammu & Kashmir) of North Zone.

### **Inaugural session:**

**Address by Dr D Behera, NTF Chair:** He said that medical colleges need to give constructive criticism as they have an important role in care delivery and technical support. He requested the STOs to have a cooperative attitude towards STF Chairpersons and work together for improvement of TB care services. He urged the medical college faculty to think out of the box and to adapt the strategy in view of the End TB Strategy. He recognised the stewardship of the national institutes in the RNTCP.

### **Address by Chief Guest Dr V N Tripathy, DME Uttar Pradesh:**

Dr Tripathy said that the government and private sector need to move together towards a vision of a TB Free India. There should be coordinated efforts and the task force mechanism is a good initiative.

### **Welcome address by Dr Suryakant, STF Chair Uttar Pradesh:**

Dr Suryakant said that there should be a standardised curriculum for medical teaching as in other countries. He further added that the teaching curriculum needs to be redesigned. He said that we should put increased focus on rapid diagnosis for early case detection and treatment.

### **Technical updates**

Inaugural session was followed by Technical updates. Following presentations were carried out and deliberated upon

1. Updates on RNTCP presented by Dr Devesh Gupta, ADDG-TB, CTD, New Delhi
2. Updates on Pediatric TB delivered by Dr Rohit Sarin, Director, NITRD, New Delhi
3. RNTCP Laboratory Network and utilization of CBNAAT presented by Dr Vineet Chadha, Epidemiologist, NTI, Bengaluru

### **State Presentations**

Technical update session was followed by the State presentations in which following issues are discussed.

- **Delhi:**

- Core committee to be formed in remaining four medical colleges
- Feedback for referred out patients should be improved from existing 60%.
- STF level human resource and fund constraint are bottlenecks in data gathering, translating into information, providing supervisory support and inter medical cooperation led to activities not being conducted due to shortage of funds

- **Haryana:**

- STO Haryana and representative couldn't participate in the ZTF meeting.
- Large number of vacancies in post sanctioned from RNTCP to medical colleges. Khanpur, Mewat and Faridabad medical college have no RNTCP staff.
- Core committee meetings are held infrequently in the absence of sufficient staff. STF meetings are not happening regularly and needs to be streamlined
- DRTB center at Mewat and Sonapat Medical college has been approved in PIP and should be made functional by 2016
- Patient Referral feedback is very poor (Only 15 percent for the year 2014-15) and needs improvement.
- Medical colleges participation in State Internal evaluations is nil and needs immediate attention by State Task Force.

Dr K B Gupta requested the chairperson for issuing letter for consideration of STF/ZTF participants on duty during participation in RNTCP meetings. Dr Sarin mentioned that CTD issues letters to state and not to individual medical colleges and state officials have to percolate the instructions at their discretion. Such instructions from center can be shared with STF by email but the state has to implement the directions as per their own decisions.

- **Punjab:**

- Feedback for referred out cases needs to be increased from existing 66%.
- Out of 9 post of MO, 3 positions are vacant and needs to be filled up.

- **Himachal Pradesh:**

- Efforts for improving conduction of operational research in the state were applauded by all
- Laboratory consumables supply is delayed due to procedural issues. Drugs like prolongation pouches, Inj. Streptomycin required in Medical colleges are not adequately supplied. The logistics management needs to be streamlined.
- DR-TB centre sanctioned for IGMC Shimla is yet to take off due to space constraints

- **Jammu & Kashmir**
  - No STF meetings were conducted in the year due to funds constrain
  - State needs to resolve financial gap in carrying out medical college related activities, if required to coordinate with CTD
- **Chandigarh:**
  - Vacant posts of MO /& DR-TB MO and DR-TB counsellor should be filled up
- **Uttarakhand:**
  - STF Chair and STO was not present in the meeting
  - AIIMS is not involved. STF and State team need to be put in efforts for involvement.
  - Funds for STF activities are not released. Fund flow for medical college activities need to be regularized.
  - STF needs to ensure regular core committee meetings.
  - Getting free investigations for DR-TB patients is an issue.
- **Uttar Pradesh:**
  - Contribution of medical colleges to case detection of all forms of TB in the state is very low. Needs to review the process and streamline.
  - Irregular reporting from medical colleges. Core committee meetings are not conducted regularly.
  - 9 medical colleges do not have a DMC LT and 7 do not have TB-HV placed in medical colleges. The recruitment process for medical college HR is to be expedited.
  - Services for DRTB patients at AMU and BHU need to be free of charge including the pre-treatment evaluation.

**This was followed by Panel discussions on Pharmacovigilance and STCI.** The key deliberations were as under:

#### **Pharmacovigilance:**

- There should be institution of a Pharmacovigilance committee in each medical college.
- There should be appropriate recording and reporting system established and training for same to be imparted by RNTCP on adverse drug reaction.
- The pharmacology department of the medical colleges should be an integral part of the core committees and task force meetings.

#### **STCI Panel:**

- The medical college faculty needs to be trained as trainers for STCI for further training the students.
- Use of the STCI should be promoted among all during the core committee meetings

- Copies of the STCI should be circulated to all medical colleges and links shared with all.

### **Group Work**

The participants were divided in groups with following five thematic area.

- Strengthen linkage for case finding and clinical management
- Monitoring & Evaluation
- Trainings and capacity building
- Operational Research
- Infection control

This was followed by presentation on challenges faced in each of the area and how best medical colleges can contribute to address these issues.

### **Core committee meeting:**

Participants: NTF Chair, ZTF Chair, STF Chairs, STOs, State HQ Consultants, CTD Representatives, Representatives of National Institutes,

- Dr A K Bhardwaj to continue as ZTF Chair for another two years
- Dr Jaikishan to be the Zonal OR Chair
- The next ZTF meeting to be held in Jammu & Kashmir
- The next Zonal OR Workshop to be held in Haryana.
- It was stressed that the OR should be pushed as and when the funds are available.