

Minutes of Zonal Task Force Workshop East Zone 2015

Zonal Task Force Workshop for East Zone was held at R. G. Kar Medical College, Kolkata, West Bengal on 26-27 November 2015. The meeting was attended by delegates from 5 states (Bihar, West Bengal, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Orissa) of East Zone.

The workshop started with the inaugural session with the dignitaries on the dais sharing their views on the involvement of medical colleges under RNTCP.

This was followed by the technical presentations and discussions on the following topics:

Technical presentations:

1. Updates on RNTCP by Dr D. Behera, National Task Force Chairperson
2. Updates on Pediatric TB by Dr Rohit Sarin, Director, NITRD, New Delhi
3. RNTCP Laboratory Network and utilization of CBNAAT by Dr Vineet Chadha, Epidemiologist, NTI, Bengaluru

State Presentations

After the technical update session, STF chairperson presented status of performance of medical colleges for TB Control. Following issues were highlighted and deliberated upon.

• Jharkhand:

- Only 1 STF Meeting held in a year.
- Post of RNTCP Medical officers vacant at RIMS Ranchi & MGMCH Jamshedpur and need to be filled urgently.
- DEO for STF needs to be recruited.
- Zonal OR not held due to lack of funds. It would be now done in the next year.
- No visits to any college in a year by STF chair.
- Poor feedback (61%) of referred cases. The referral feedback mechanism should be strengthened to improve feedback.
- CDST lab in medical college should be RNTCP certified.
- No training of DRTB Committee members in National PMDT guidelines. The training should be ensured at the earliest.

• Bihar:

- Eight out of 14 medical colleges are involved. Efforts should be increased to engage medical colleges.
- Only 1 STF Meeting held in the year. It is important to have more frequent STF meetings especially when the involvement is poor and activities are not going on as required.

- DEO for STF should be appointed soon.
- No visit to any medical college by STF Chair/ representative. This is important for active involvement of remaining medical colleges.
- Poor feedback of referred patients (53%) which needs active intervention and follow up.
- Very poor in OR with no ORs or thesis conducted in a year. An OR workshop needs to be planned at the earliest and fund allocation should be made accordingly.
- STO to plan and ensure funds to sustain activities from medical colleges.
- **Chhattisgarh:**
 - Two medical colleges are not involved with RNTCP. Non-involved medical colleges need to be sensitized and involved at the earliest.
 - No college visited by STF Chair/ representative. Supervision should be ensured.
 - Feedback of referred cases needs to be improved from existing 65%.
 - No OR meeting or proposals. An OR meeting should be planned to sensitize and encourage OR in the state.
 - The state has given 3 of the 5 medical colleges given funds directly to dean with financial guidelines as per the programme. State need to monitor this process and evaluate with recommendations on these measures. This may guide programme in future to adopt or reject such procedures.
- **West Bengal:**
 - Large number of vacancy in staff provided to medical colleges under RNTCP. This includes 2 LT, 2 TBHV, 2 Sr.MO for DR-TB Centres, 4 Medical Officers, all posts of Counselor for DR-TB Centres.
 - Long delays in fund processing leading to lack of interest and affect medical college engagement process.
 - Very poor feedback (53%) of referred out patients. The process of referral and feedback should be improved.
 - The State OR committee was requested to clear the pending proposals at the earliest.
 - All medical colleges are not reporting routinely to the STF and not uploading quarterly reports in districts. This clearly indicated and affects indicators of performance of medical colleges.
 - The DEO of STF Chair not requited.
 - Five out of 13 medical colleges visited by STF Chair/ representative. This can be improved. Medical colleges not participating in routine program evaluation.
- **Odisha:**
 - Only 3 out of 7 medical colleges are submitting quarterly reports. STF Chair and STO need to review quarterly and provide feedback.

- ZTF Chair was requested to support in involvement of Hi-tech medical college.
- Very poor feedback of referred out patients – 41% - STF Chair and STO to ensure increased feedback through regular coordination.
- Medical colleges did not participate in any internal evaluation in the state.
- Medical colleges have more potential for contributing to smear negative TB cases in the state.

This was followed by Panel discussions on Pharmacovigilance and STCI:

Pharmacovigilance:

The key deliberations were:

- Requisite guidelines need to be sent from CTD to the States so that the same is communicated to all.
- Pharmacology department should be an integral part of the core committees and the STF and ZTF meetings.
- Trainings to all need to be provided to ensure that all are sensitized about the process and identification of side effects.
- A system of recording and reporting needs to be established and the department of pharmacology should lead the initiative.

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 in following five thematic areas. Following this, presentations were made on challenges in these areas and their solutions as recommended by the group.

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

Core committee meeting:

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

- It was decided that the next zonal OR workshop will be conducted in Jharkhand.
- Next ZTF Meeting will be held in Jharkhand.
- Dr M R Pattnaik was elected as new ZTF Chair.
- CTD to share the annual training calendar of the National Institutes with the NTF/ZTF and STF Chairs
- DEO for STF Chair not recruited for States. Same to be followed up by the CTD.
- Low number of visits of the STF and ZTF Chairs to the medical colleges.
- State level or workshops need to be conducted.
- Newer medical colleges need to be involved