

Minutes of Zonal Task Force Workshop North East Zone 2015

Zonal Task Force Workshop for North East Zone was held at Government Medical College, Agartala, Tripura on 07-08 December 2015. The meeting was attended by delegates from 7 states (Assam, Tripura, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Manipur, Nagaland, Sikkim) of North 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.

Technical Updates:

The inaugural session was followed by the technical presentations and discussions on the following topics:

1. Updates on RNTCP
2. Updates on Pediatric TB
3. RNTCP Laboratory Network and utilization of CBNAAT

State Presentations

The technical updates session was followed by the State presentations:

- **Assam:**
 - Only one STF meeting held during the year. This needs to be improved.
 - Funds for planned activities not available due to which many proposed activities could not be carried out.
 - Feedback for referred out patients is less than 50%. This needs to be improved with active follow up and better coordination between district TB centre team and medical college RNTCP cell.
 - The use of IT for enhancing treatment support was applauded.
- **Manipur:**
 - JNIMS still not having a DOT centre which should be the priority for the State. Requirement for staff for JNIMS needs to be expedited.
 - No core committee meetings being held.
 - No funds for doing routine activities for medical colleges. Irregular salaries of contractual staff due to fund constraint
 - Good feedback for referred patients.
 - No OR being submitted which needs to be focussed.
 - TB Culture without DST at JNIMS – process needs to be expedited for better case management.
 - Innovations like Installation of intercom facilities in DMCs & ICTCs to reduce loss of patients is a good initiative
- **Meghalaya:**
 - Active intervention of AIC measures a welcome step.

- Funds for training/sensitization programs usually available only after October-November
- Zonal OR Workshop could not be held due to non-availability of funds.
- **Sikkim:**
 - CME on pediatric TB was conducted for all faculties
 - Delay in receipt of funds leads to delayed activities. Sensitization program could not be done due to shortage of funds.
 - Very good feedback of patients referred out.
 - One of the five states chosen to implement daily regimen. Trainings on daily regimen were held in November 2015.
 - Difficulty in recruiting medical officer for medical college due to low salary.
- **Tripura:**
 - Trainings for faculty members not held due to fund constraints.
 - Process of certification of AGMC Microbiology department needs to be expedited and followed up.
 - No state OR meeting held. Efforts to promote research needs to be carried out in the State.

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

Pharmacovigilance:

- A system of recording and reporting of adverse drug reactions needs to be established and the department of pharmacology should lead the initiative.
- Trainings to all need to be provided to ensure that all are sensitized about the process and identification of adverse drug reactions.
- A Pharmacovigilance committee should be formed in each medical college.
- Pharmacology department should be an integral part of the core committees and the STF and ZTF 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 Representatives, ZTF Chair, STF Chairs, STOs, State HQ Consultants, CTD Representatives, Representatives of National Institutes,

- Dr S. K. Baruah, Prof. Of Medicine, Guwahati Medical College, Guwahati, Assam to be the ZTF Chair.
- Next ZTF to be held in Assam – venue to be finalized.
- Next Zonal OR Workshop to be held in Meghalaya.
- It was stressed that the OR should be encouraged as and when the funds are available.