

## **Minutes of the Zonal Task force Workshop South Zone 2- 2015**

Zonal Task Force Workshop for South Zone 2 was held at Hotel Uday Samudra, Kovalam, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala on 23-24 November 2015. The meeting was attended by delegates from more than 75 medical college of 3 states/UTs (Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Puducherry) in South Zone 2.

### **Inaugural session:**

**Welcome address by Prof. Thomas Mathew, ZTF Chair.** He briefed about the task force mechanism and elaborated on the activities being conducted by the medical colleges under this mechanism. He further focussed on the trends in TB control activities and the challenges being currently faced in TB control.

**Address by Shri K. Ellangovan, Health Secretary, Government of Kerala:** He welcomed all to Kerala and the workshop. He talked about the stigma attached with TB as well as the socio-economic issues related to TB and how to target them. Stressing on the role of tertiary level institutes in the management of TB, he talked about the role to ensure rationale use of antibiotics to prevent development of drug resistance. He informed that in Kerala, antibiograms were being developed. He requested the medical colleges to take lead role in addressing issue of drug resistance right from beginning of training of medical students.

He informed regarding initiatives being taken by the State of Kerala like putting 3% cess to procure cancer drugs and the implementation of Practical Approach to Lung Health (PAL) in three blocks of Kollam District and the pre-elimination package to be rolled out.

This was followed by the lamp lighting ceremony.

**Address by Hon'ble Health Minister, Kerala Shri V. S. Sivakumar:** He briefed about the history of TB control and the focus which is required for reaching the missed cases from the private sector. He appreciated the focus being given to TB and comorbidities. He stressed on the medical colleges involvement for dissemination of the need for TB notification in the private sector. He ended by informing that various measures for social support for TB patients in Kerala were being implemented successfully. He then inaugurated the ZTF Workshop.

**Address by NTF Chairman:** Dr Behera stressed the importance of medical colleges and elaborated the journey from initial engagement to current about 400 medical colleges being involved. He informed the house regarding the contribution of medical colleges being almost 20% of all registered cases under RNTCP.

He added that research is an area of priority for medical colleges. He appreciated efforts of the RNTCP to roll out newer diagnostics like GeneXpert. He urged that role

of medical college need to be redefined and focus to be laid on GeneXpert, Bedaquiline and the involvement of private sector. He applauded Kerala for being a path shaver for many initiatives and appreciated the implementation of PAL in Kerala

**Dr Rohit Sarin, Director NITRD, Delhi** talked about Kerala's efforts in the newer initiatives for elimination in lines with End TB strategy and congratulated the Kerala team on their hard work and efforts towards making the meeting possible.

**Address by DHS Kerala** stressed on the importance of a structured mechanism of involvement of the medical colleges. He further stressed on the challenges on DRTB, TBHIV and TB Diabetes. He requested all to focus on the need to work on the socio-economic issues in public health.

**Dr Sunil Kumar from NHM, Kerala** then thanked everybody for their presence and said that we need to work on a model of engagement of all private practitioners on priority basis.

**Dr Anil Purty, NTF Vice Chair** thanked all who had come for the meeting despite their busy schedule and hoped for a successful conduct of the workshop.

**STO Kerala** then welcomed all and stressed on the need for newer initiatives to be rolled out for all.

Vote of thanks was given by the STF Chair.

### **Technical Updates**

Inaugural session was followed by technical updates on programme activities. Following presentations were delivered and discussed.

1. RNTCP Update was presented by Dr D Behera
2. Updates on Pediatric TB was given by Dr Rohit Sarin
3. Optimum Utilization of CBNAAT was delivered by Dr Vineet Chadha

### **State presentations:**

The technical update session was followed by the presentations by respective state representatives. Key issues discussed on performance of the states were as follows:

- Kerala
  - Irregularity in fund release leads to delay in activities.
  - Only 2 OR proposals were received by the State OR committee in entire year and no OR is conducted ;
- Puducherry
  - Feedback of referred out patients is currently 73%. This needs to be improved.

- DEO to the STF is not yet filled up. State needs to expedite the process.
- The STF Puducherry has been using a letter pad to communicate to all Medical Colleges; appreciated
- Tamil Nadu
  - Human resource vacancy is a major concern. Out of 37 posts, 9 LTs and 13 TBHVs were vacant. Process of filling of posts should be expedited.
  - Delay in funding for OR leads to delay in OR.

Dr Behera said that no Zonal OR Workshop was held and even the Zonal OR Committee Meeting was not held. He informed that the Zonal OR Workshop was planned in January 2016. He further added that there is need to involve all specialities in the ZTF

### **Panel discussion**

**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.

**ZTF Core Committee Meeting:** key discussions and decisions:

- Newer private medical colleges need to be involved
- State level operation research workshops need to be conducted.
- Dr Thomas to continue as the ZTF Chair
- There was a demand for Nikshay IDs for individual medical colleges for focussing on tracking individual departments reporting.
- Dr Nalini to continue as Zonal OR Chair for one more year.
- Next ZTF meeting venue – Puducherry
- 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 any State. Same to be followed up by the CTD.
- Low number of visits of the STF and ZTF Chairs to the medical colleges.
- Next Zonal OR Capacity building workshop in Tamil Nadu.