

Through: E-Mail

T-18016/03/2019-TB-Part(1)  
Government of India  
Ministry of Health & Family Welfare  
(Central TB Division)

Nirman Bhawan, New Delhi  
Dated: The 4<sup>th</sup> February, 2020

Sub: Minutes of the Zonal Task Force (ZTF) workshop of West Zone convened on 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> January, 2020 at SPMC, Bikaner, Rajasthan for the involvement of Medical Colleges under RNTCP- reg.

The undersigned is directed to forward herewith a copy of minutes of the Zonal Task Force (ZTF) workshop of West Zone convened on 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> January, 2020 at SPMC, Bikaner, Rajasthan for perusal and compliance with a request to send the Action Taken Report on the same.

Encl: As above

Yours faithfully,

  
(Dr. Raghram Rao)  
Deputy Director (TB)

To,

The NTF Chair/NTF Vice Chair/ZTF Chair (West Zone)/Other office bearers of State Task Force (STF) Chairs/OR Chairs of the participating State/UTs

Copy to: For Information and necessary action.

1. DDG-TB, MoHFW
2. Nodal Officer In-charge and Consultant (Medical Colleges) at CTD, MoHFW

**Minutes of the ZTF (West Zone) Workshop held on 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> January, 2020 at S.P. Medical College, Bikaner for the involvement of Medical Colleges under NTEP**

Systematic involvement of Medical Colleges under the NTEP through the Task Force is one of the unique mechanisms in the public health interventions in India. Since inception of NTEP, the Medical Colleges play important roles in service delivery (particularly drug resistant TB services), teaching and training on the national guidelines of TB management, technical inputs in preparing guidelines and operational research.

Under the National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme (NTEP), the medical colleges are involved through a mechanism of Task Forces at the National, Zonal and State levels and through core committee at the college level.

The Zonal Task Force (ZTF) workshop of West Zone was convened on 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> January, 2020 at S.P. Medical College, Bikaner, Rajasthan. There were detailed deliberations and had ten technical sessions with presence of Dr. Sudarsan Mandal, Addl.DDG (TB) from CTD, Dr. D. Behera, NTF Chair, Dr. Anil J Purty, NTF Vice Chair, Dr. Salil Bhargav, ZTF Chair (West Zone), Dr. A.K. Bhardwaj, ZTF Chair (North Zone), Dr. Rohit Sarin, Principal Adviser- CTD & Ex-Director, NITRD, New Delhi, Dr. Radha Munje, ZTF OR Chair (West Zone), CTD Consultants, STOs & WHO Consultants of Western Zone States including other Chairs & office bearers of State Task Force (STF) of 5 participating Western Zone States viz. Rajasthan, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra & Goa and Faculty Representatives from the Medical Colleges of all 5 States of the region. (*List of participants is placed as Annexure-I*)

The ZTF Workshop (West Zone) Inaugurated by Sh. Bhanwar Singh Bhati, Hon'ble Minister of State for Higher Education Dept. (Independent Charge) & Revenue Dept., Colonization Dept., Government of Rajasthan as a Chief Guest. He welcomed all the participating States and pressed upon the importance of organizing such scientific deliberations, and highlighted that how improved sanitation, good nutrition, awareness among the general public can help to curb the Tuberculosis. The associated social stigma needs to be addressed well, further he called upon all the striving medical fraternity and programme people to end TB by 2025.

Dr Sudarsan Mandal, Addl. DDG – TB, Central TB Division stressed upon more engrossment and participation from the medical college faculties who are considered as pool of talents for TB. He also mentioned that now it's high time to look beyond the direct determinants of TB, i.e. combating the modifiable risk factors like overcrowding (population explosion), undernutrition (poverty), IAC etc has become vital. Other speakers also focussed on the role of Task Forces in NTEP.

**Key issues highlighted and recommendations made in the meeting are as under:**

1. The Opening Session of the Workshop started with Welcome of all the participants and Dr Salil Bhargava, ZTF Chair (West Zone) presented performance analysis of all five states of the western region. He added that Medical college contribution in TB notification ranges from 8.7% in Madhya Pradesh to 51% in Goa, to which it was clarified by State of Madhya Pradesh that contribution in terms of absolute numbers, has increased but proportional contribution shows decline due to tremendous scale up in private sector notifications.
2. Dr D. Behera added that STF meetings & Medical College Core Committee (MCCC) meetings are not being conducted as per mandate, which should be held regularly. He said that paediatric TB and EP TB cases are not getting notified appropriately and are being missed. It needs to be monitored by the medical college core committees, sincerely. For which it is necessary to hold the meetings at regular interval and issues get flagged to resolve, timely. Further, all paediatricians need to be updated with programme guidelines. All the departments of MC's should be involved and have representation in MCCC and should be trained & sensitized in NTEP.
3. The minutes of the MCCC meetings should be shared with respective STF & ZTF Chair; else it will be counted that No MCCC meeting conducted in that Medical College & all such minutes to be circulated by the Chair/Nodal Officer of MCCC to respective DTO & STF chair. Further, all compiled details of MCCC meetings held, minutes circulated and Action Taken Report (ATR) to be shared with respective STF, STO, ZTF, NTF & CTD in a timely and hierarchical manner, on periodic/quarterly basis, mandatorily.
4. Various speakers deliberated on TB for two days to enlighten the audience on various technical issues e.g. Policy Update in NTEP and DBT by Dr. S. Mandal, Update on TB Diagnostics & laboratory management by Dr Tarun Patni, Injection free regimen (Previously Treated TB management and INH Mono-Poly TB Treatment) by Dr. Tripathi, Paediatric TB Revised Guidelines by Dr. Sangeeta Sharma, Injection free regimen for MDR/RR-TB – Management of DRTB patients as per revised guidelines for PMDT in India, 2019 and

Experience Sharing of Newer Drug Containing Regimen by Dr. Rohit Sarin, Decentralized Management of DRTB Services at Medical Colleges by Dr. D. Behera, Notification, Transfer & Feedback and Use of NIKSHAY by Dr. Deepak.

5. During STF presentations & review, some key issues highlighted, are as under;

5.1 Goa:

5.1.1 The State had 2 MCCC meetings in last four quarters, and minutes of these meetings were not shared with ZTF chair, so always it should be shared as mentioned in para 3 above.

5.1.2 The position of M.O & Sr. M.O - TB are laying vacant, No. of patients not put on treatment is high, i.e. 17% which need to be addressed well.

5.1.3 During F.Y 2019-20 there was no OR proposal in the State.

5.2 Madhya Pradesh:

5.2.1 All medical colleges need to establish DRTB centre mandatorily, as per provisions and mandate under MCI

5.2.2 Many positions of M.O-TB & Lab Tech are laying vacant, and expenditure occurred in medical colleges also very poor. i.e. Rs. 5.3 lakhs against sanctioned budget of Rs 37.26 lakhs.

5.2.3 Trainings are not appropriate and constrained to Dept. of Pulmonary Medicine & Microbiology only, which need to be improved and all the faculties at Medical college needs to be sensitized and trained under NTEP.

5.2.4 Contribution of Medical colleges in TB notification in the State is very low, i.e. 8.7% only.

5.3 Rajasthan:

5.3.1 List of STF and MCCC members has not shared with ZTF/NTF, which need to be shared as per mandate.

5.3.2 There are only six Medical colleges have functional DTRB centres out of total 23 medical colleges, and only seven Medical college had conducted MCCC meetings in last 4 Qs.

5.3.3 Majority of positions of M.O & Sr. M.O - TB are laying vacant, No. of patients not put on treatment is very high, i.e. 24% for which State has mentioned that referrals for treatment with pending feedback is very high (50%), upon which STF Chair/STO asked to address the issue.

5.3.4 Upon vacancy position, State officials highlighted that this is because of some administrative issues at State level exists. For which Dr. S. Mandal, ADDG-TB suggested that State should write



to CTD and the matter will be taken up by the CTD, MoHFW and DO may be issued to State MD, NHM to resolve the issue of vacancy positions.

5.3.5 Expenditure occurred in medical colleges also very poor. i.e. Rs. 2.27 lakhs against allotted funds of Rs 34.20 lakhs during 2019-20.

#### **5.4 Maharashtra:**

5.4.1 The STO & STF couldn't attend the ZTF workshop due to some administrative issues and there was many medical college representatives also couldn't join the workshop due to some constrained approvals of travel by Air at State level.

Upon which Dr D. Behera, NTF Chair shown his deep concerns before CTD officials that State representatives from Medical Colleges needs a Hon'ble partnership through this existing mechanism under NTEP, for which he requested that CTD may reconsider to provide the travel support to all the ZTF participants for making such events successful.

5.4.2 Further, it was suggested that all the departments at MC's should be involved and have representation in MCCC. The list of all MCCC members should be updated periodically and provided to STF/ZTF, including the minutes of meeting of MCCCs.

5.4.3 Contribution of Medical colleges in TB notification in the State is low, i.e. 17%, among the notified cases 19% of patients not put on treatment.

5.4.4 There are only 20 Medical colleges have functional DTRB centres out of total 45 medical colleges in the State.

5.4.5 Expenditure occurred in medical colleges also very poor i.e. Rs. 7.47 lakhs against allotted funds of Rs 60.41 lakhs during 2019-20.

#### **5.5 Gujarat**

5.5.1 Gujarat STF has collected and compiled department wise TB notification, upon which Dr. Anil Purty, NTF Vice Chair appraised the efforts and asked all the States to replicate this practice in their respective State to make the review more rational.

5.5.2 Gujarat state had presented that they have functional MCCCs in all 29 Medical Colleges in the State, among which 25 medical colleges have functional DRTB centres.

5.5.3 Gujarat State has conducted two OR committee meeting during last 4 Qtrs.

Upon the issue of limited OR proposals from the States, Dr. Rupak Singla, NITRD suggested that some mentors may be identified from State/National level for mentoring and monitoring the research proposals.

6. On the issue of poorly conducting the core committee meetings at medical colleges, it was stressed by the NTF Chair and CTD Officials that the programme is moving at high pace and newer policies, guidelines are being introduced rapidly; therefore, it is very crucial to disseminate the information pertaining to changes and developments taking place under NTEP in a timely manner.
7. All medical colleges need to establish DRTB centre & management services for DRTB patients.
8. Dr A.K. Bhardwaj discussed draft medical college and STF level revised quarterly reporting formats for NTEP implementation in MCs and he further invited suggestions from participating States by end of Jan/Feb 2020. Suggestions may be sent to NTF vice chair, Dr. Anil Purty, reporting formats will be finalized by CTD after consultation with NTF members. The final reporting formats will be made available on NIKSHAY platform after due approvals.
9. It was requested that all updates pertaining to programme needs to be percolated through Core Committee meetings in all Medical Colleges. All National, Zonal and State Task force representatives congratulated CTD for taking many newer initiatives on large scale in very short duration. Further, Dr Anil Purty, NTF Vice-chair called upon all the STO/STF chairs to disseminated the technical updates among all the members of MCCC in their respective State.
10. Upon the issue of some special situations when District DRTB centres facing challenges in management of ADR during treatment initiation of DRTB patients, required handholding by Nodal DRTB centres. Further, it was suggested that some mechanism may require establishing to address the issue at national level.

**Key issues highlighted and recommendations made in ZTF Core Committee meeting held on Day-1, are as below: -**

**ZTF West Zone Core Committee meeting was held on 09th January, 2020 at 09:30 PM**

The said meeting was attended by 15 Officials from Central TB Division, NTF, ZTF, STF, State OR Chairs/Office bearers. (List of participants appended as Annexure-I)

**Agenda 1.** The NTF Chair & vice chair raised their concerns for not attending the ZTF meeting by other zones ZTF chairs, and called upon that all ZTF Chairs should attend all six zones ZTF



workshops. Upon which, Dr Rohit Sarin suggested that NTF Chair may write to all ZTF chairs about this issue and hoping that all will be there in remaining ZTF meetings.

**Agenda 2.** OR proposals need to be submitted timely & should be proposed in SPIPs in a timely manner so that inclusion may be ensured & approvals, accordingly. The proposals which requires the approval of ZTF OR Chair, should come through STF Chair and STO of the respective State and it should be co-signed by both of them. Proposal below Rs. 30000 may be approved by State OR level and more then that may be approved at Zonal OR level.

**Agenda 3.** The Zonal OR workshop held in Goa two years ago, now as the decision taken earlier, the Zonal OR workshops being conducted by the National Institutes. Therefore, Gujarat may provide mentorship, if required, for OR workshops.

**Agenda 4.** NTF Chair, Dr. D. Behera concurred upon the proposal of extension of Dr. Salil Bhargav & Dr. Radha Munje for one more term as ZTF Chair & ZTF OR Chair for the West Zone, respectively. It was insisted that there should be one or two Vice-Chair/s for the zone to strengthen the mechanism. Further, the STF & State OR meetings should be conducted on regular basis, as there are a smaller number of meetings conducted in the region, in last one year.

**Agenda 5.** STF Vice chair elections are due in some of the States, viz. Rajasthan, Maharashtra etc., OR if the elections of STF Chair are due in some States, the same needs to complete within period of one month. Further, Dr. Anil Purty asked that whenever a new nomination/ election of STF Chairs takes place, some outside task force office bearer should be invited as an observer. If physical attendance is not feasible, at least Video conference may be held. In all such elections ZTF chair should be there and minutes to be circulated with ZTF/NTF and CTD as well.

**Agenda 6.** Dr. D. Behera, NTF Chair raised his concerns before Dr. Sudarsan Mandal Addl. DDG-TB about poor participation of the Medical College representatives/ STO/STF/ZTF office bearers due to denial by the State/s to bear huge travel allowance of the State participants, specifically the Air Fares. The matter of the Travel Allowance (TA) may be looked into by the CTD.

**Agenda 7.** Dr. Anil J Purty, NTF Vice Chair said that list of members of MCCC has not been updated since a long and has become old now, therefore it should be updated, revised and circulated with ZTF/NTF soon.

**Agenda 8.** TB Notification from every department of medical college should be collected, compiled and reviewed as well. Treating latent TB is another area of focus for medical colleges.

**Agenda 9.** Sensitization and regular CMEs for Medical College faculties should be conducted by all the medical colleges in the zone. Also they need to strengthen IEC on TB at all medical colleges, including displaying the TB Help line, i.e. 1800 11 6666 on all prominent places of medical college/hospital campus.

**Agenda10.** The Award to Best Performing STF was conferred upon to the STF team of Gujarat based on the performance data.

**Agenda 11.** The next ZTF meeting of West Zone will be hosted by State of Goa.

The two days ZTF (West Zone) Workshop ended with vote of thanks to the organizers and all the participants.

\*\*\*\*

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of stylized, overlapping loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.