**Minutes of the ZTF (East Zone) Workshop held on 18th – 19th February, 2020 at AIIMS, Raipur (Chhattisgarh) 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 East Zone was convened on 18th – 19th February, 2020 at AIIMS, Raipur (Chhattisgarh). There were detailed deliberations and had ten technical sessions with presence of Dr Somenath Karmakar, Consultant SAG and Dr. Raghuram Rao, Deputy Director (TB) from CTD (MoHFW), New Delhi, Dr. D. Behera, NTF Chair, Dr. Rajendra Prasad, NTF Vice Chair, Dr. Anil J Purty, NTF Vice Chair-2, Dr. S.K. Shahi, ZTF Chair (East Zone), Dr. A.K. Bhardwaj, ZTF Chair (North Zone), Dr. Rohit Sarin, Principal Adviser- CTD & Ex-Director, NITRD, New Delhi, Dr. Manoranjan Patnaik, ZTF OR Chair (East Zone), CTD Consultants, STOs & WHO Consultants of East Zone States including other Chairs & office bearers of State Task Force (STF) of 5 participating Eastern Zone States viz. Bihar, Jharkhand, Odisha, West Bengal & Chhattisgarh 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 (East Zone) Inaugurated by Ms. Niharika Barik Singh, IAS, Secretary (H), Govt of Chhattisgarh as Chief Guest. She welcomed all the participating States and pressed upon the organised efforts to fight against TB and emphasized to Eliminate TB in Chhattisgarh by year 2023, she asked the state officials to break down this target in manageable yearly goals with finding the strengths and weakness. During the inaugural session Dr Priyanka Shukla, IAS, MD-NHM & Director (HFW), Govt of Chhattisgarh, Dr. Nitin M. Nagarkar, Director, AIIMS Raipur, Dr. S.L. Adile, DME, Govt of Chhattisgarh were also present and addressed the participants and called upon all the striving medical fraternity and programme people to end TB by 2025 in India.

**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. S.K. Shahi, ZTF Chair (East Zone) presented performance analysis of all the five states of the Eastern region. He added that Medical college contribution in TB notification in the zone is 12%, which ranges from 5% in Jharkhand to 21% in Odisha. He added that Medical Colleges has great contribution in notification of EP-TB cases. There are only 28 Medical Colleges have DRTB centres among total 60 MCs in the zone, and 9 MCs doesn’t have MCCC and 18 MCs have not conducted any Core Committee meeting in the zone in year 2019. In Bihar only 77 % of TB patients notified from Medical Colleges initiated on treatment.
2. Dr Rajendra Prasad raised his concerns that functionality of MCCCs needs to be ensured with having regular MCCCs meetings. Further, Dr. Anil Purty added that SOP & ToR for STF/MCCC members and functionaries has been developed and it will be shared again by him to have uniform system throughout the country. Since, STF meetings & Medical College Core Committee (MCCC) meetings are not being conducted as per mandate, which should be held regularly so the issues get flagged to resolve, timely. If required, take help from Dept of Community Medicine in preparing the reports/ minutes etc.
3. Dr. A.K. Bhardwaj, added that ideally the Nodal person for MCCC is the HoD of Dept of Pulmonary Medicine and HoD, Community Medicine is the member of MCCC. Therefore, it should be ensured that there is a member in MCCC from the Dept of Community Medicine, including the representation from all the Departments of Medical College. Since, elimination of TB is a collective responsibility and it’s not limited to the Dept of Pulmonary Medicine, alone.
4. Dr. D.P Singh STF Chair, Bihar said that involvement of Dept of Medicine is very crucial; therefore their involvement needs to be augmented well.
5. Dr Anil Purty, NTF Vice Chair appraised the STF functioning in West Bengal State and he asked the STF Chair to share the success story, upon which STF Chair shared that they have built a structural functioning, and always interact and keep communication with STO, work together interacting regularly with Medical College faculties, any deficit is discussed. Hence, holding regular MCCCs meetings is the backbone of a successful mechanism. Further, Sh Devasish Bhattacharya, DRME, West Bengal requested that all STF functionaries should work as a team, cohesively.
6. Upon raising concerns from participants over support from CTD (MoHFW) for establishing DR-TB Centres at Medical Colleges; Dr Raghuram Rao, DD-TB, CTD said that as per new regulations of MCI, every Medical College is required to have DR-TB Centre mandatorily for getting recognition of MCI. For any specific critical support required, state may propose in the SPIPs and the same will be discussed during the NPCC meetings.
7. **During STFs presentations & review, some key issues highlighted, are as under;**

**7.1 Bihar:**

7.1.1 There are 11 medical colleges in the State having functional MCCCs, out of total 14 Medical Colleges and among 11 M.Cs only 5 M.Cs held MCCC meeting in last 4 Qtrs. Only two STF meetings held during last 4 Qrts.

7.1.2 Almost 50% of position of M.O/L.T/ TB-HV posts at M.Cs are laying vacant, Number of patients not put on treatment is very high, i.e. 23%, which need to be addressed well.

7.1.3 During F.Y 2018-19 no OR proposal approved and only one OR committee meeting held in the State of Bihar.

7.1.4 Dr Anil Purty asked that STF Chair may be rotated in b/w the M.Cs of the State and Bihar State need to conduct next STF meeting within one month; he further said that minutes of STF meeting was not shared with ZTF/NTF. Expenditure occurred in M.Cs during FY 2019-20 is reported to be poor, i.e only 23.5 %, which need to be improved.

7.1.5 Dr. Rajendra Prasad, NTF Vice Chair mentioned that STF mechanism is mandated to have Teaching & Training, Advocacy, Research and Patient care. He further added that STF mechanism is not working properly. For improving that, more proactive efforts are required to be done with due commitment.

**7.2 Jharkhand:**

7.2.1 There are 7 medical colleges in the State among which 4 are new, all 3 old M.Cs having functional MCCCs, but only one M.C has functional DR-TB Centre.

7.2.2 Only one STF meeting held during last 4 Qrts, which needs to be held regularly and reports to flow well. Contribution of Medical colleges in TB notification in the State is very low, i.e. only 5%, and 6% of paediatric TB cases. Expenditure occurred in medical colleges also very poor i.e. only 7.2 % of funds allocated to medical colleges. Upon poor expenditure, Dr Anil Purty said that funds should be utilized well by M.Cs for all the earmarked activities. Further, he raised his concerns over discrepancies in data presented by STF, that, without booking expenditure how the state has conducted trainings for Medicos and Para Medics.

7.2.3 No OR proposal received & approved in the state during last two years and no OR committee meeting held in the State since last two years.

7.2.4 Upon issue of utilization of funds for DRTB ward, Dr Raghuram Rao asked that beds for DRTB ward may be earmarked from TB Chest department.

**7.3 Odisha:**

7.3.1 In Odisha there are 11 Medical colleges, all M.Cs have functional MCCC and 7 M.Cs have DR-TB centres.

7.3.2 Majority of the positions except LTs are filled in M.Cs and 3 STF meetings held during last four qtrs.

7.3.3 Contribution of Medical colleges in TB notification in the State is quite well, i.e. 21%. Notification of Extra-pulmonary TB and Paediatric TB cases reported to be 36% and 11%, respectively.

7.3.4 Expenditure occurred in medical colleges is poor i.e. Rs. 2.96 lakhs against allotted funds of Rs 14.31 lakhs during FY 2019-20.

7.3.5 During year 2019 one OR proposal received but not approved; However 4 thesis initiated with NTEP as a topic. During last one year three OR committee meeting held in the State.

7.3.6 STF/STO Odisha submitted that AIIMS, Bhubaneswar is having MCCC but no meetings taking place, since Med. Supt. is the Chair of MCCC and he is unable to spare time and commitment for the MCCC meetings. Upon which it was suggested that Nodal person should call the MCCC meetings & a senior person will be only the Chairman, as like in case of AIIMS, Bhubaneswar. For which the high level commitment, cooperation and coordination with leadership is required to ensure smooth functioning of MCCCs.

**7.4 West Bengal:**

7.4.1 There are 16 medical colleges in the State having functional MCCCs, out of total 17 Medical Colleges. Only 8 M.Cs have functional DR-TB centres.

7.4.2 Almost 70% of position of Sr.M.O/L.T and 30% of posts of M.O at M.Cs are laying vacant. Upon the issue of vacancies of Sr. M.O post in the State, it was requested by the STF officials that the salary may be enhanced by the CTD, as non availability of suitable candidate is an issue due to less salary structure.

7.4.3 One OR proposal approved and three Thesis initiated with NTEP as a topic, during last one year.

7.4.4 Contribution of Medical colleges in TB notification in the State is 13.1%, Notification of Extra-pulmonary TB and Paediatric TB reported to be 24% and 27.3%, respectively.

7.4.5 Expenditure occurred in medical colleges is poor i.e. Rs. 1.26 lakhs against allotted funds.

7.4.6 Dr Anil Purty, NTF Vice Chair-2 asked the STF officials of the State of West Bengal to have Vice Chair for STF, as for the 10 M.Cs ideally there should be one STF Chair and then supporting Vice Chair vice-versa.

**7.5 Chhattisgarh:**

7.5.1 All 11 medical colleges in the State having functional MCCCs, but only 6 M.Cs have functional DR-TB centres. During last four qtrs two STF meetings was held.

7.5.2 Almost 50% of position of M.O/Sr.M.O/L.T and 30% of posts of TB-HVs at M.Cs are laying vacant. Upon the issue of support from WHO Consultant to the O/o STO, Dr Raghuram Rao, DD-TB, CTD clarified that WHO Consultant Network is for the technical support exclusively, not for the day to day routine affairs of O/o STOs.

7.5.3 During year 2019 three OR proposal received and approved by the State OR Committee and one proposal is pending for approval at Zonal OR Committee level.

7.5.4 Contribution of Medical colleges in TB notification in the State is 12%, Notification of Extra-pulmonary TB and Paediatric TB reported to be 22% and 16%, respectively.

7.5.5 Expenditure occurred in medical colleges during FY 2019-20 is reported to be poor, i.e. Rs. 2.84 lakhs against the allotted funds of Rs 11.50 lakhs.

7.5.6 Though, majority of the M.Cs (8 M.Cs among 11) reported to have conducted 3 to 4 MCCC meetings during year 2019, but Minutes was not shared with STF Chair.

1. 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.
2. For which it is necessary to hold the MCCC meetings at regular interval and issues get flagged to resolve, timely. Further, all the departments of MC’s should be involved and have representation in MCCC and should be trained & sensitized in NTEP.
3. Upon the issue of ‘Live Updates on TB’, it was suggested by the participants and agreed by the NTF and CTD Officials that the Central TB Division may take this further to update its website/portal with newer developments and guidelines on TB.
4. 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, and further in a compiled form to NTF & CTD as well in a timely and hierarchical manner, on periodic/quarterly basis, mandatorily.
5. 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. Raghuram Rao, Update on TB Diagnostics & laboratory management by Dr Sachin Chandrakar, Injection free regimen (Previously Treated TB management and INH Mono-Poly TB Treatment) by Dr. Ravichandra, Paediatric TB Revised Guidelines by Dr. Sanwar Agarwal, 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, Revised Records & Reports by Dr. A.K Bhardwaj, Transfer & Feedback and Use of NIKSHAY by Dr. Sandeep Rathod.

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

The ZTF (East Zone) Core Committee meeting was held on 18th February, 2020 at 06:45 PM

The said meeting was attended by 25 Officials from Central TB Division, NTF, ZTF, STF, State OR Chairs/Office bearers. (List of participants appended as Annexure-I)

**Agenda 1.** Medical Colleges should be more focused on improving service delivery with augmenting the spread of knowledge & adopting district/town for improved diagnosis and treatment for Elimination of TB.

**Agenda 2.** Linkage to TB diagnosis and treatment to be strengthened and all the STF Chair to ensure that policy update on TB get transitioned at all medical college level. For which leadership at ZTF/STF level is expected, without any additional monetary incentives. However, coordination b/w STF and STO is very crucial for improving the Medical College Task Force Mechanism.

**Agenda 3.** The MCCC, STF and State OR meetings should be held regularly and minutes should be circulated timely and mandatorily with all concerned, in a hierarchical manner. Before forthcoming NTF meeting of FY 2019-20, all the States in the Zone may hold the STF meetings, maximally.

**Agenda 4.** TB Research is not confined to Medical Colleges only, ICMR also having good proposals but due to lack of researchers their capacity is limited, for which it was suggested that Medical Colleges should come forward and take the lead. To augment this, the State/Zonal OR meetings need to be held periodically. Further, the ZTF East zone may provide the comments on Compendium on OR mechanism.

**Agenda 5.** The List of MCCC members has not been updated since a long throughout the country, which requires immediate updation, and NTF Chair should be kept in loop while disseminating the updated information with all concerned.

**Agenda 6.** It was informed to all STF Chair that their E-mail account needs to be active, checked and used regularly. STF Chair Jharkhand said that his NTEP mail Id is not receiving emails.

**Agenda 7.** Dr Raghuram Rao, DD-TB asked that all the STF Chair needs to ensure that patient transfer-in and transfer-out to PHIs in NIKSHAY takes place in a correct manner, as referrals always should be specific, comprising complete details. It was also suggested that an e-mail may be followed up to the concerned after transferring out the patient.

**Agenda 8.** Dr. D. Behera, NTF Chair concurred upon the proposal of extension of Dr. S.K. Shahi & Dr. Manoranjan Patnaik for one more term as ZTF Chair & ZTF OR Chair for the East Zone, respectively.

**Agenda 9.** The Award to Best Performing STF was conferred upon to the STF team of West Bengal based on the performance data. The STF Odisha and Chhattisgarh held second and third position, respectively.

**Agenda 10.** The next ZTF meeting of East Zone will be hosted by State of Odisha, then subsequently by State of West Bengal before starting a fresh rotation.

**Key issues highlighted and recommendations made in ZTF OR Core Committee meeting held on Day-2, are as below: -**

The ZTF (East Zone) OR Core Committee meeting was held on 19th February, 2020 at 11:15 AM

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.** It was submitted by the STF OR, Chhattisgarh that one OR proposal from Medical College, Raipur is under approval and one proposal from AIIMS, Raipur has already been approved. It was clarified that if proposal is <2 lakhs then the STF OR may approve, and if the proposal is >2 lakhs then it may be approved at Zonal level.

**Agenda 2.** It was suggested to all STF OR to use thescoring sheet to keep the evaluation more objective and worthy. The NTI/NITRD may be taken in loop for clinical and ethical clearances of the research projects.

**Agenda 3.** The research proposals should be discussed and inputs from State/Zonal level should get. The proposal may then be amended/ corrected accordingly before final submission. The duration in review process should be reduced and may be kept 4 to 6 weeks.

**Agenda 4.** It was suggested that research priority areas should be identified and disseminated to all, so the proposals may get submitted with that relevance. Upon which Dr Somenath Karmakar, Consultant SAG, CTD clarified that OR priority areas have been revised at Central level with keeping in mind the State specific, tribal and nutritional intervention issues. Further, it will be circulated to all the States for State specific inputs and comments to refine the guidelines, further.

**Agenda 5.** It was highlighted that the research proposals are not that much of good quality. The research studies should be multi-centric, statistically well designed. Currently, the research studies are majorly observational one but Case control studies also should be undertaken as per protocol aligning with all thematic and priority areas.

The two days ZTF (East Zone) Workshop ended with way forward session in presence of Sh. Neeraj Kumar Bansod, IAS, Director, DHS, Govt. of Chhattisgarh as Guest of Honour and vote of thanks to the organizers and all the participants.

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