

Title: Regional Resource Training Centre (RRTC): Doctors Mentoring Program

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Abstract

Objective:

Uttar Pradesh, India's most populous state has a maternal mortality ratio of 167 per 100000 live births and accounts for 35% and 31% of maternal and new-born deaths occurring in the country. To improve these health outcomes, we established a Regional Resource Training Centre (RRTC) network of medical colleges to enhance the confidence and competencies of First Referral Units and District Hospital teams to provide Comprehensive Emergency Obstetric and New-born Care (CEmONC).

Methods:

Sixteen Medical College faculty teams of obstetricians, pediatricians and community medicine train, offer periodic on-site mentorship and facilitate continuing medical education (CME) for doctors and healthcare teams covering public sector hospitals in 75 districts in Uttar Pradesh. Skills and drills, simulation on mannequins and hands-on techniques are used during training, mentoring and CME sessions. WhatsApp groups were created between mentors and mentees to enhance communication. We use technical (Objective Structured Clinical Examination-OSCE) and facility (checklist) scores to evaluate the impact of our intervention.

Results:

Post-mentoring, doctors mean OSCE scores increased from 49% to 73% and the proportion scoring <50% reduced from 19% to 4%. Among pregnant women with complications, proportions of out-referrals decreased, women received pre-referral care and delays were reduced. National Surveys indicate increase in Caesarean-section rates from 10% to 17% of all deliveries and a 29-point reduction, between 2015-16 and 2019-21.

Conclusion:

The RRTC model is a unique example of sustainable collaboration at scale between departments of medical education and public health to improve maternal and new-born health outcomes in India.

Biography:

Obstetrician and Gynecologist by profession with more than 35 years' experience in Maternal Health. I am National expert for Basic emergency obstetric care and Comprehensive Emergency Obstetric and New-born Care training, advisory to Government of India for framing guidelines in Maternal Death Review, Comprehensive Emergency Obstetric and New-born Care /Life Saving Anesthesia Skills etc. I have contributed in Family Planning Services by supporting organizations like Family Planning Association of India, Population Services International, Foundation for Reproductive Health Services India & Urban Health Initiative etc. Received letter of appreciation from Bill Gates for contribution in Family Planning Services. I have been awarded for extraordinary services for Human Race by Lords of Planet. Awarded for supporting Women empowering at community level by "Water for People". Currently, I am leading RRTC Program at UP-TSU as Deputy Director Clinical Programs FRU Strengthening/ Regional Resource Training Center at 16 Medical colleges of Uttar Pradesh, India.

Recent publication:

1. Tandon S (2023) Completeness and legibility of obstetric referral documents from peripheral public health facilities to a tertiary care facility in North India- a cross-sectional study <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cegh.2023.101342>

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