

Report on

State Level Review Workshop

PCPNDT Cell

at



State Institute of Health and Family Welfare, Jaipur

(An ISO 9001: 2008 certified Institution)

September 24-25, 2009



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State Level Workshop on PCPNDT Act: Sept. 2009

The declining sex ratio in India, particularly in the age group of 0-6 years, is a matter of grave concern. It is unfortunate that for one reason or the other, female feticide still prevails in the society. Amongst the various reasons attributed to the declining sex ratio, female feticide is the most predominant. The Government has taken a number of initiatives to implement the Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Technique Act (PC&PNDT) and to spread awareness on the issue through Information, Communication and Education (IEC). The traditional system of killing the girl child after her birth has now given way to the more modern techniques of sex selection and female foeticide.

PNDT Act passed by the India Parliament came into force in 1994 for regulation and prevention of misuse of the diagnostic techniques. Subsequently, following a Supreme court order on its proper implementation certain amendments were made to the Act. It was expected that proper implementation of the PCPNDT Act would check the pre-natal sex determination and elimination of the female foetus within the womb at least to some extent. However, although there has been ample time for implementing the Act, there is no sign that the decline in child sex ratio has been halted.

A two day review workshop on “Save the Girl Child and Implementation of PCPNDT Act in Rajasthan” and “Gender, Sex-selection and Safe Abortion Services in Rajasthan” was organized in State Institute of Health and Family Welfare, Jaipur on the 24th and 25th of September, 2009. 33 District Coordinators participated in the two day workshop.



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Day One: “Save the Girl Child And Implementation Of PCPNDT Act in Rajasthan”

Dr. Jal Singh, Health Manager, State PCPNDT Cell, Jaipur, extended a warm welcome to all the PCPNDT District Coordinators followed by a round of self introduction by the participants. The first day of the workshop focused on the implementation of PCPNDT Act in Rajasthan.

Dr. M. L. Jain, Director RCH & State Nodal Officer (PCPNDT) gave a presentation on the implementation of the Act in the state. He stressed on the fact that the main purpose of the Workshop was to review of the work and to make an Action Plan for 2009-10. In his presentation he gave a status of the implementation of the Act, the total registrations under the Act, complaints, FIRs, search & seizures and inspections. Funds sent to the districts for the two workshops to be held in a year and for IEC activities. He also said that the State PCPNDT Cell is working in collaboration with Indian Medical Association (IMA), Rajasthan, to hold workshops on **“Stop sex-selection - Doctors can make a difference”** in all the districts to discuss on PCPNDT Act and to extend active support to the implementing authorities in identification & denouncing of centers involved in the malpractice.

State PCPNDT cell is also working on a program supported by UNFPA with National Law University, Jodhpur on issues related to Gender, Reproductive Rights, Sex Selection and Gender based Violence through the training of young lawyers, judicial



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officers, District PCPNDT Coordinators, Bar council, Bar association, focusing not only on the PCPNDT Act but also on the other acts related to violence against women.

Dr. M. L. Jain also mentioned about the survey of the centers done by the Cell to gather updated information about the centers like number of machines, model & make of equipment, name & qualification of the person conducting ultrasound etc. and listed out the findings of the survey. Some of the districts especially Jaipur, Jodhpur and Kota, which have more than 40 machines, are violating the Act on a large scale.



He also came up with certain points as Action Plan to be taken up for 2009-10 like:

- State Level Workshop with PRIs.
- Regular Inspections of Centers.
- Implementation of “MUKHBIR YOJNA”
- Establishment of 24*7 Control room
- On line submission of Form-F.
- IEC campaign with MNGOs.
- Implementation of Annual work plan.
- Convergence with Other Departments as per work-plan.



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- Feedback Study of implementation of PCPNDT activities.
- Annual Report on implementation of PCPNDT Act 1994 in Rajasthan

Proposals

- State Level Workshop with PRIs.
- State Inspection Team.
- Annual Report on implementation of PCPNDT Act 1994 in Rajasthan.
- On line submission of Form-F.
- Action against the centers as per the findings of survey of Centers.
- IEC campaign with MNGOs.
- Approval of Annual work plan.
- Convergence with Other Department as per work-plan.
- Feedback Study of implementation of PCPNDT activities.

The Coordinators came up with some problems on implementation of the Act; some said that they do not get support from the CM&HO and other officials regarding conducting workshops and meetings. Director RCH urged them to send the report on the utilization of funds allocated for the workshops and IEC activities regularly and timely. The meetings of PCPNDT can be merged with that of the District Health Society so that it can be held regularly. He asked them to make an Action Plan for the next three months for the effective implementation.



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Dr. Jal Singh stressed on the proper utilization of the money allocated especially for IEC.

Dr. Akhilesh Bhargava, Director SIHFW, expressed hope that the workshops would be held regularly at the districts and should also give the monthly reports. He pointed out that had the coordinators been a little more concerned and diligent, the situation would have improved and the unspent balances accrued over time would not have been there. Further, he urged the participants to ensure effective implementation of the Act for the much desired correction in sex ratio.



In the following three sessions presentations were made by all the District Coordinators on the implementation of the Act in their respective districts. All of them shared the information on govt. and private registered centers in the districts, number of cases and complaints, etc. In most of the districts the two workshops to be conducted for the year 2008-09, were not held. Many districts faced the problem of lack of computers and those districts which had computers did not have internet connection. The areas of concern were-



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- Lack of computers and internet connection
- Problems faced during inspection
- Dispute regarding the qualification of the center in charge
- Problem in checking the “F” form as it is not filled properly
- No mechanism to track the mobile sonography machines
- Existence of certain centers without registration
- Prompt action needs to be taken against illegal centers
- A tracking software needs to be developed on an urgent basis, which is being done by UNFPA

While addressing the issue of on the online submission of the “F” form, Dr. Jal Singh pointed out that the forms that are sent are not completed and stressed on cross checking of the forms. An audit of the “F” form is being done by CFAR in ten districts of the state and was found out that proper reporting is not being done as similar names were found repeated.

Another session on Planning 2009-10 and Reporting System was taken by the Legal Advisor, PCPNDT Cell where he emphasized on coordinating with different departments like Department of Women and Child Development, Education, Panchayati Raj, Information and Public Relation etc. he also mentioned that the District Coordinators will interact with the target groups consisting of at least 50 members both from rural and urban areas and at the end of the month analyze the monthly discussions. These discussions will at the end culminate in a workshop. He also explained in great detail the procedure of reporting.



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After the session the participants were asked to list out the problems faced by them in the implementation of the Act. They were asked to do so and submit it the next day.

Day Two: “Gender, Sex-Selection & Safe Abortion Services in Rajasthan”

The second day of the workshop was totally dedicated to the MTP services in Rajasthan as the District PCPNDT Coordinators have been assigned with additional responsibility of reporting on the MTP also.

In the first session all the Coordinators gave presentation on the status of the implementation of MTP Act 1971 in their respective districts. It was decided that monthly reporting of MTP needs to be done and an MTP Committee should be formed and regular meetings held.

Since the Coordinators would also report on MTP, they were made familiar with certain concepts on “Gender, Reproductive and Sexual Rights, Human Rights and Safe Abortion” by Dr. Renu Khanna from SAHAJ, Vadodara. She acquainted the participants with six concepts and for this she gave a group activity to them and divided them into six groups, each group to discuss one concept – Gender, Reproductive Health, Sexual Health, Human Rights, Reproductive Rights and Sexual Rights.





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After the discussion within the group one member of each group was asked to present what their definition of the concept was. Dr. Renu Khanna then dealt with all the concepts which are frequently and interchangeably used as all these concepts are an integral part of abortion. Certain issues and principles related to gender, human rights, and reproductive health etc. were dealt with and queries of the participants answered.

In another group activity they were given three cases studies of “Sulochana”, “Muneja” and “Anita” in which they had to bring out the issues on gender, reproductive health, sexual health, human rights, reproductive rights and sexual rights after reading the stories of the three females. The studies were very well analyzed by the participants.



In the last session, Dr. S.D.Iyengar from ARTH, discussed on safe and modern abortion techniques and the implementation of the MTP Act. He stressed on the formulation of an MTP Committee to keep a check on the illegal increase of abortion practices.

The two day workshop was brought to an end by Deputy Director RCH who applauded the efforts of the State PCPNDT Cell and urged the Coordinators to work with concerted efforts towards the goal.