MINUTES OF ONE DAY STATE LEVEL REVIEW MEETING CUM TRAINING WORKSHOP OF DISTRICT APPROPRIATE AUTHORITIES AND DISTRICT PNDT PERSONNELS UNDER PC-PNDT ACT.

Date: 10:30 AM on 4th March'2015.

Venue: Conference Hall of the Directorate of Health Services (FW), Assam, Swasthy Bhawan, Hengrabari, Guwahati.

Mission Director, NHM, Assam could not grace the occasion and preside over the meeting due to his sudden preoccupation. DHS (FW), Assam also could not attend and preside over the meeting due to urgent participation and attending of an UNICEF meeting outside the state.

Dr. S. N. Hussain, Jr. DHS (MCH), Assam cum State Nodal Officer under PC-PNDT Act chaired the Review Meeting cum Training Workshop. After self introduction of officer and district officials the chairman welcomed all and requested to co-operate and take part in the deliberations and hoped for grand success of the meeting.

Mr. Dilip Baruah, Asstt. Editor, cum Manager, State Inspection and Monitoring briefly explained the objectives of the review meeting cum training workshop and he informed that this year only one meeting could be held due to paucity of fund although two meetings are to be held per year. Now, that fund is made available so Training Module of AA PC-PNDT Act and Rule, (Bare Act) of MTP Act are reprinted and would be distributed to all the districts. He also stated that main objectives of the review meeting and training workshop is to achieve effective implementation of the PC-PNDT Act and for which due instruction have been issued on this behalf. He further stated that purpose of this meeting is to discuss openly about the problems faced by the districts and to resolve the same in the interest of proper implementation of the Act and the Rules. That the participants would like to speak frankly and ventilate grievances if any so that required steps could be made available for resolutions. He also explain about new Birth Tracking & abortion/ MTP Tracking works and reporting of the from Block level to District level & State level.

Dr. Bidyawati Das, Retired Addl. DHS (Hills). Assam attended the meeting as a special invitee. She mentioned as to how first the Act came in to being. That sole aim and objectives of the Act is to regulate and improve the child sex ratio for which it is to be strictly and ruthlessly implemented. That it would be boundant duty of each and every one of us to prevent sex selection and abortion of female foetus. She also referred to the spirit and working of such Act in 1988 in the state of Maharashtra although PC-PNDT Act was yet to be enacted and stated that it became possible due to initiation of ardent activist in the line Advocate Varsh a Desh Pandey and Dr. Sabu M George, who also attended last state Sensitization Conference organised at Guwahati in collaboration with state Legal Service Authority which Hon'ble Judges of Guwahati High Court graced the occasion and the officers of Judiciary, Doctors, police officers and members of public attended and achieved desired success. She also referred to setting up of various state level and district level committees to work for successful implementation of the Act. That Ultra Sonography Machine must not be used for sex determination and MTP to be totally prohibited on this ground and therefore, the mandatory provisions of the law is to be enforced and violators are to be brought to the court by filing appropriate cases. She also referred to maintenance of records and Form F particulars are to be mandatorily submitted. She also spoke as to how “MANU SMRITI” provided and upheld the right, status and position of girl child and women and how in the present day the position deteriorated. That our mind set to be changed towards girl child and woman in all respect to build our future progressive Indian society and time has come to contribute in this regard.
Prof. Chanakya Das, Retd. HOD, O&G Dept. Guwahati Medical College Hospital attended as a special guest. He said that our main aim is to save girl child. We all know about declining of sex ratio. We must change our mind set. Earlier, girl child was unwanted. Might be due to not becoming earning member of the family, unable to do hard work etc. But present scenario in our society totally changed. We must stand for woman empowerment through proper education, employment etc. Better education to all girl child is a must. That prevention of sex selections is important in the PC-PNDT Act and all violation/ contravention of the provision of the act has to be strictly prevented. By all people, business man, doctors, other health workers, company etc. This prevention would certainly bring a step forward to prevent sex determination and therefore Act implementation authority must be very strict so that misuse of the modern mechanism totally stopped. He insisted that care at individual level also highly necessary through much awareness to protect and save the unborn girl child.

He also referred to medical termination of pregnancy (MTP 1971) Act and said that early marriage and giving child birth is also a problem for which termination of pregnancy is opted. We must be careful and strict in implementing MTP Act and regular reports is a must. It would be an effective tool to find out whether termination of pregnancy is due to sex determination, immature and unwanted pregnancy or due to disease or other health ground. He also insisted on wide publicity of slogans highlighting girlchild as mother, a Devi in Indian context and save girl child etc. He expressed satisfaction that holding of this type of meeting and awareness workshop would help all of us to implement the various programmes. And it would produce more effective and fruitful result when this awareness is made at rural level involving mass people in our society.

Mr. U. C. Gogoi, Legal Advisor, State PNDT Cell of the Directorate spoke briefly about legal procedure and court cases. He has stated that the PC-PNDT Act, sufficiently empowered the Appropriate Authorities and they can or any other person authorised in this behalf may submit offence report filing complaint u/s 28 of the Act for punishment as provided u/s 25 of the Act, if anyone is found contravening the mandatory provisions of the Act. The procedure is that in due discharge of duties at own accord or on specific complaint or as routine work the AAs are empowered to inspect any USG clinic within the district and have effective checking and in case of any violation of the Act case should be filed and Addl. Public Prosecutor or Asstt. Public Prosecutor, as the case may be, shall take charge and prosecute the case on behalf of the government. That any contravention of the violation of the mandatory provision of the PC-PNDT Act, the relevant documents, i.e. Registration Certificate, Publicity documents, notice boards, USG machine, records, incomplete “F” Form reports, doctors certificate, whenever necessary may be seized in compliance to provision of sec.100 Cr PC in presence of two trustworthy, independent, disinterested witness recording their full particulars and address so that court can summon them as witness to support the seizure and the prosecution case. Such seizure to be immediately informed the concerned court. The AA’s are further empowered to cancel registration certificate, doctors licence etc informing state Medical Council & required which are important steps. That for any action under the Act taken in good faith is protected u/s 31 of the Act. He also appealed to all the District Appropriate Authorities to act accordingly without fear and favour for proper and strict implementation of the Act towards prevention of sex selection.

Dr. Shyam Barua, Senior Radiologist cum SIME member also spoke about in the workshop meeting. He requested that the technique of radiology should not be misused against the provision of the Act.

An effective interaction also took place through district participations from all districts as to working and functioning of the Act and difficulties being faced by them and by way of obtaining on the spot clarification.
The Chair person informed and spoke that a draft amendment to MTP Act is under consideration by government of India to which comments and objections submitted from our side.

District Appropriate Authority, Hailakandi informed that their poor reporting is due to shortage of man power. District Appropriate Authority, Bongaigaon raised the matter of closure of USG centre. It was stated that closure notice by the Authority is a must and certificate must be surrendered. DAA, Dhubri stated detailed position of USG Centres etc. DAA’s of, Cachar, Dibrugarh, Jorhat, Sivasagar district also displayed their position through Power Point Presentation. Goalpara stated that their MMU is not registered. Similarly the DAA of NC Hills, Sonitpur also informed that MMU’s are not yet registered. The DAA of Nalbari District said that in advice of Deputy Commissioner one USG machine installed without getting registration in Nalbari Civil Hospital USG machine was registered.

The Chair person expressed that no USG machine to function without due registration under the Act and anybody contravening the mandatory provision of the Act to be booked and proper cases to be filed before the court and such Centre to be immediately sealed and closed. Chair person also expressed happiness for required attendance and participation in the review meeting cum training workshop by all the District Appropriate Authority and the officials attending the meeting.

**Resolutions taken in the meeting**:

1. All SSB, SAC, SIMC/DAC, DIMC meetings to be regularly held.
2. IEC Maternal distribution installation permission to be taken from district Authority to be monitored by DAA’s
3. Regular Training/Awareness Meeting to be held.
4. Addl. PIP to be prepared and submit to the Govt. & MD, NHM, Assam
5. Regular reporting of Birth Tracking & Abortion/ MTP tracking to be done by every district in time.

Dr. Preeti Chowdhury, Asstt. to DHS (FW) Assam offered vote of thanks to the chair person of the state level review meeting cum training workshop and for his guidance to all present in the meeting. She further offered her vote of thanks to all the District Appropriate Authorities and other officials attending the meeting cum workshop and for their active participations which achieved the desired success and fruitful conclusion of the review meeting and training workshop. The meeting concluded with vote of thanks to all concerned.

(Dr. S.N. Hussain)
Chairperson
Jt. Director of Health (MCH), Assam
cum State Nodal Officer PC-PNDT Act.

Sawasthya Bhawan, Hengrabari, Guwahati-36
Guwahati the 24th April 2015

Memo No. HFSW/PNDT/Meeting-workshop/42/2014/ 17485 – 52

1. The Principal Secretary to the Govt. of Assam, Health & FW Deptt., Dispur, Guwahati-6.
2. Commissioner & Secretary to the Govt. of Assam, Health & FW Deptt., Dispur, Guwahati-6.
3. The Mission Director, NHM, Assam, Saikia Commercial Complex, Sreenagar, G.S. Road, Christian Basti, Guwahati-5.
4. The Director – PNDT, Govt. of India Ministry of Health & FW, Nirman Bhawan, New Delhi.
5. The O.S.D. to the Hon’ble Minister Govt. of Assam, Health & FW Deptt. Dispur, Guwahati-6 for kind notice of the latter.

(Dr. S.N. Hussain)
Chairperson
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