

CONTINUING MEDICAL EDUCATION FOR STRENGTHENING CORE COMPETENCIES OF MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS

Activity under the Regional Resource Training Centre Program



BACKGROUND

With a population of roughly 200 million, Uttar Pradesh (UP) is India's most populous state, accounting for approximately one-sixth of India's population. Maternal, neonatal, infant and child mortality rates are substantially higher in UP than in India. The maternal mortality ratio (MMR) in UP that was estimated at 285 per 100,000 live births for the period 2011-13 is at 197 per 100,000 live births for the period 2016-18. One of the key strategies to reduce maternal and newborn deaths is to ensure the presence of a skilled birth attendant for every delivery. Planning and preparing mothers for institutional delivery is a critical activity that will ensure care, detection and management of complications during the delivery process.

Strengthening the core competencies of doctors in the First Referral Units (FRUs) in UP to ensure the quality of Comprehensive Emergency Obstetric and Newborn Care (CEmONC) services is important to improve maternal and newborn health outcomes.

REGIONAL RESOURCE TRAINING CENTRE PROGRAM

Uttar Pradesh Technical Support Unit (UP TSU) - a Unit implemented by India Health Action Trust (IHAT) in partnership with the University of Manitoba assisted the Government of Uttar Pradesh (GoUP) in developing an initiative called Regional Resource Training Centre Program. Under the program, faculty members of government medical colleges conducted clinical mentoring of government doctors (MBBS and Specialist doctors) on CEmONC services in FRUs in 25 High Priority Districts (HPDs) of UP. Each of the eight medical colleges was designated as a "Regional Resource Training Centre" (RRTC).

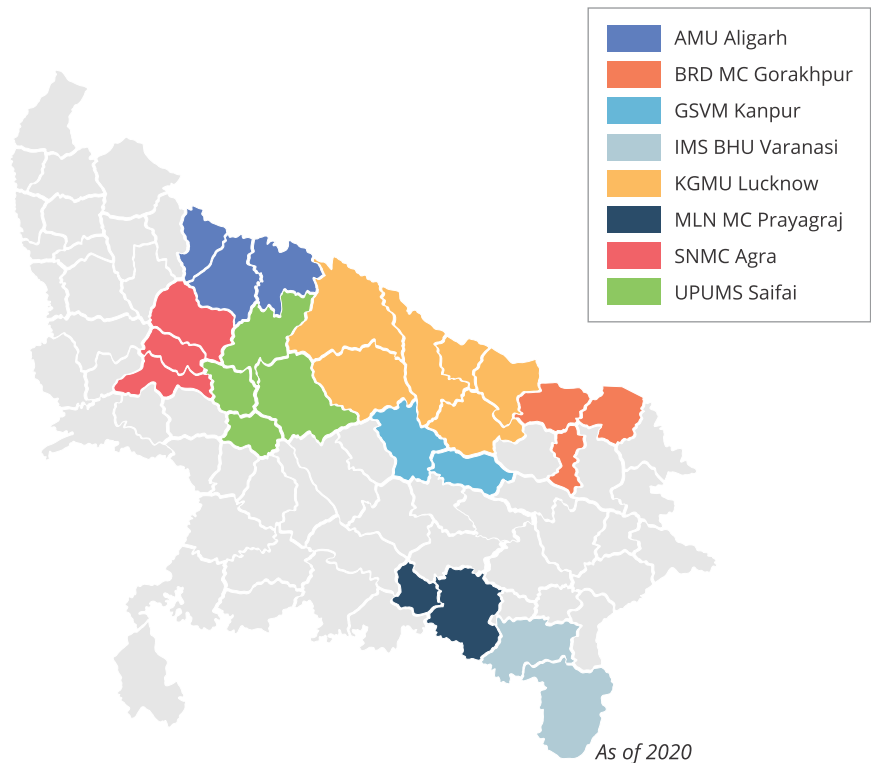


Figure 1: Existing RRTC Landscape: 8 Medical Colleges in 25 HPDs

¹Matra Evam Shishu Swasthya Sanrakshan Abhiyan-2015, National Health Mission (<http://upnrhm.gov.in/Home/MCHCampaign>)

²The MMR Bulletin 2011-2013 (https://censusindia.gov.in/vital_statistics/mmr_bulletin_2011-13.pdf)

³Special Bulletin on Maternal Mortality in India 2016-18 (https://censusindia.gov.in/vital_statistics/SRS_Bulletins/MMR%20Bulletin%202016-18.pdf)

⁴Health facilities providing comprehensive emergency obstetric and newborn care services including deliveries by Caesarean section surgery and blood transfusion services are designated as First Referral Units in India

CONTINUING MEDICAL EDUCATION



Regional Training at each medical college: All the GOUP medical officers including specialist obstetricians and paediatricians posted in FRU health facilities were initially invited for a 2-3 days training at the RRTC medical college.

Clinical Mentoring visit / Online mentoring by medical college faculty of FRU doctors: A team of faculty members from RRTC medical college made onsite in-person visits to the FRU health facility for mentoring of doctors in management of complications of pregnancy and new-born care. During initial visit, gaps in knowledge were identified during onsite mentoring of doctors using objective structured clinical examination (OSCE) checklists for appropriate treatment protocols of maternal complication management. Simulation of emergency drills by a team of doctors and nurses was also done and assessment done. Medical College Faculties (Gynaecologist, Community Medicine, Anesthetist and Pediatrician) conduct quarterly visits to the identified 87 FRU health facilities in 25 HPDs.

Although they were mentored onsite, a need was felt for enhancing their knowledge, skills and professional performance through separate capacity building sessions. This was found necessary in the case of doctors with Technical Scores less than 70% in specific topics.

Thus CME catch up sessions were initiated at each RRTC Medical College, facilitated by the RRTC faculty and UP TSU. Participants in the CME sessions included doctors who scored <70% and newly recruited doctors posted at the FRUs or absentees at regional training and/or during faculty mentoring visits.

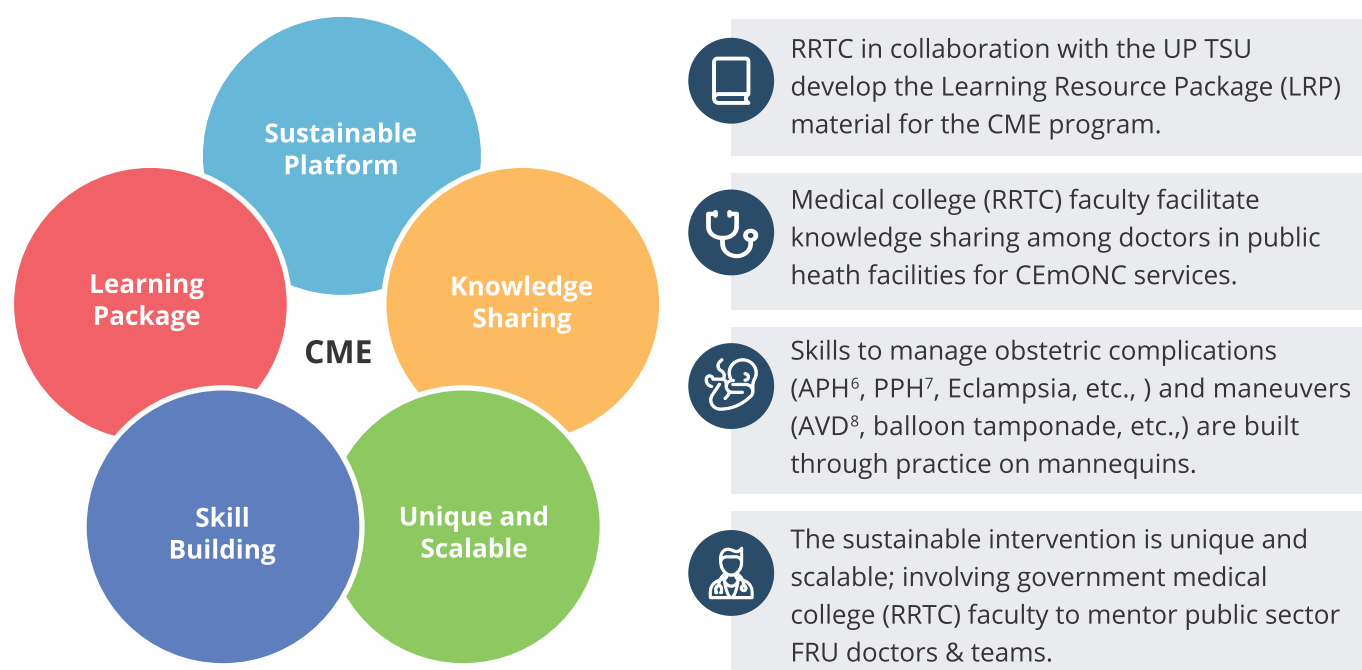


Figure 2: Features of CME

Onsite CME at the RRTC Medical Colleges

A day-long CME is held at the Medical Colleges. Half a day is dedicated to PowerPoint Presentations on common maternal complications and their management protocols according to Government Guidelines. The second half of the day is dedicated to hands-on, simulation-based clinical mentoring on complication management to build practitioner confidence.

- Management of PPH (Medical, Compression, surgical and newer techniques on management)
- Management of Severe Preeclampsia / Eclampsia (Magnesium Sulphate and Antihypertensive)
- Management of Prolonged/Obstructed Labor (Induction of labor, Assisted Vaginal Delivery and C-section)
- Management of Anemia (Iron Sucrose infusion and Blood Transfusion)
- Breech Delivery, Shoulder Dystocia, Twins, Premature Rupture of Membranes, Pre-Term labor, Shock, Cord Prolapse and Fetal Distress.

Online CME

The RRTC program envisages the concept of onsite in-person CME at Medical Colleges; however, due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, the CME sessions were conducted online. The platform for online training: Video Communications Application – Zoom. The resource package for online CME includes case studies, presentations, maternal complications related videos and online demonstration by Faculties.

1. Implementation Strategy:

- Contact Nodal Office at Medical College & Issue of letter to CMO and CMS of districts
- Identification of Medical Officers/Specialists from each district
- Finalization of the list of participants from each district with CMO/CMS
- A batch of 10 participants is formed for online CME sessions
- The resource package for these sessions is a case study, videos and checklists of various topics.

2. WhatsApp groups are created to share online session links, topic-wise participants list, date & time, session topic and other relevant information

3. Evaluation (Scoring): One-to-one OSCE scoring of all the doctors during CME is done using the OSCE checklist.



Online Demonstration by the Faculties



One-to-one mentoring by the RRTC Faculties

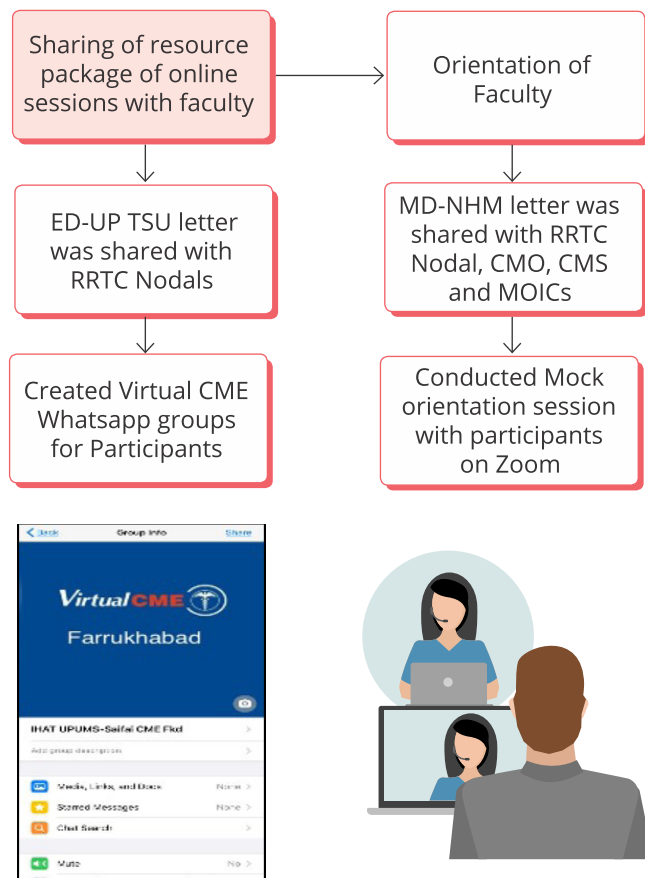


Figure 3: Roll out of On-line sessions

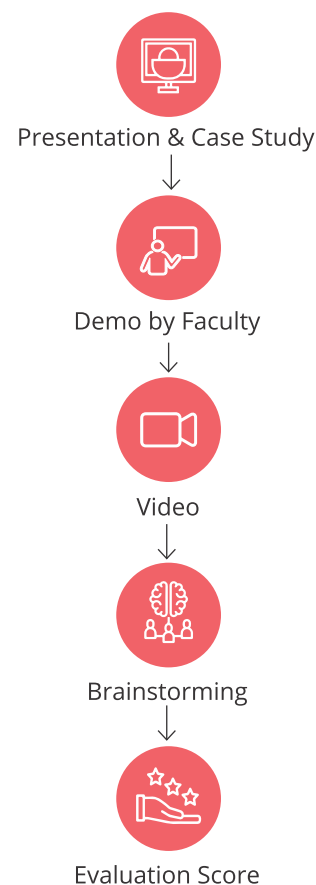


Figure 4: The flow of virtual mode of CME sessions

The RRTC programme supported by UP Technical support unit responded and adapted swiftly to the challenge of first Covid-19 wave by creating online modules for clinical mentoring of FRU doctors in the 25 high priority districts. This ensured continuation of clinical mentoring of government doctors by RRTC medical college faculty members from July 2020 onwards till date. The professors and faculty members of KGMU, AMU, MLNMC, BHU, BRDMC, SNMC, GSVM, UPUMS medical universities/colleges of RRTC network in Uttar Pradesh displayed exemplary commitment to continue mentoring activity in spite of challenging situation due to COVID-19 and clinical duties in hospitals.



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India Health Action Trust

"VK Commerce", No.8, 3rd Main Road,
KSSIDC Industrial Estate, Rajajinagar,
Bengaluru – 560 010, Karnataka, India
Phone: +91 80 2340 9698
Email: contactus@ihat.in
Website: www.ihat.in



Uttar Pradesh Technical Support Unit

India Health Action Trust
404, 4th Floor,
Ratan Square No. 20-A,
Vidhan Sabha Marg,
Lucknow-226001, Uttar Pradesh, India
Phone: +91-522-4922350 / 4931777